

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HIGH COURT HEARS SNCC WORKER'S CASE

WASHINGTON, D. C. - The United States Supreme Court heard arguments on Thursday, February 20 in defense of a worker for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) charged with encouraging a student boycott at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

SNCC worker Dion T. Diamond was arrested February 1, 1962 after two days of speaking on the Southern University campus. He was charged with "trespassing, vagrancy and disorderly conduct". Charges of "criminal anarchy", carrying a maximum ten-year sentence, were later placed against him, and he was held for 59 days under a \$7,000 bond in the Baton Rouge Parrish jail.

Two SNCC workers who tried to visit him there were also charged with "criminal anarchy".

Diamond's case was to be argued by NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund attorneys James A. Nabrit III and Jack Greenberg of the Fund's New York office; Johnnie A. Jones of Baton Rouge; and Wiley Branton of Atlanta.

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COURT ASKED TO HALT POLICE HARRASSMENT OF KNEEL-INS

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA - The United States Fifth Court of Appeals has taken "under consideration" a request made last week to stop Jackson, Mississippi police from interfering with attempts to integrate all-white churches.

Attorneys for three students at Tougaloo College arrested in October, 1963 during kneel-in demonstrations argued that police powers cannot be used to enforce segregation.

The three, Bette Poole of Chicago, Ida Hannah of Carthage, Mississippi, both Negroes, and Julie Zaugg, white, of Lake Forrest, Illinois, were sentenced to a year in prison and fined \$1,000.

The defense attorneys argued that a church is a public place and the state cannot use its powers to enforce segregation there. A white native of Atlanta, Georgia, who tried to integrate a church there last summer, is still being held in jail under a \$5,000 bail. The Reverend Ashton Jones, a 67-year-old minister, has been in an Atlanta jail since August 28, 1963.