

NEWS RELEASE  
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
6 RAYMOND STREET, N. W.  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314

# 18  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### REVEREND JONES RELEASED FROM JAIL

ATLANTA, GEORGIA - A 67-year-old white minister, held in jail here since August 28, 1963, was released Tuesday, March 3 on a \$5,000 property bond.

The minister, the Reverend Ashton Jones of San Gabriel, California, was arrested here July 1 when he and two Negroes tried to worship at all-white First Baptist Church. Jones was sentenced August 28, to twelve months in the common jail, six months at hard labor and a \$1000 fine and had been in jail since then. His bail was originally set at \$20,000 but Georgia's Supreme Court ordered it lowered. The time Rev. Jones spent behind bars since August - 188 days - is "dead time" and does not count against his sentence.

Reverend Jones is one of three white people given maximum terms in racial cases by Fulton County Superior Court Judge Durwood T. Pye. An 18-year-old Connecticut College For Women coed, Mardon Walker of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, was released from jail only last week under a \$15,000 property bond Judge Pye imposed on her after she was found guilty in a lunch counter sit-in case.

Judge Pye was appointed to the bench in 1955 by segregationist ex-Governor Marvin Griffin. Shortly after his appointment, he imposed a \$25,000 fine on the Atlanta branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, because of the group's refusal to comply with a request for its financial records from the Georgia Revenue Department.

In July, 1963, he instructed a Fulton County grand jury that the state's anti-trespass law - used to arrest sit-in demonstrators - had been "flouted, defied and violated." He ordered, and obtained, indictments against 101 persons arrested in racial demonstrations dating back to 1961. During the summer, he tried two cases, both involving white persons. One was Reverend Jones. The other, Thomas Taylor Tolg, a youth who worked for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) was also found guilty and is free on an appeal bond.

Judge Pye had refused to accept \$5,000 cash offered to free Rev. Jones.

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FREE AT LAST - The Reverend Ashton Jones of San Gabriel, California receives congratulations from John Lewis, Chairman of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) outside the Fulton County Jail in Atlanta. Jones had been behind bars since August, 1963 when he - and two Negroes - were arrested when they tried to worship at all-white First Baptist Church. With Jones (second from left) and Lewis (at right) are Attorney Howard Moore Jr, who defended the elderly minister, and Mrs. Jones. SNCC PHOTO.

(note to editors: see accompanying release)

