NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FACT SHEET - GREENWOOD, LEFLORE
COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) began a voter
registration drive in Greenwood, Mississippi in August, 1962.  
AUGUST 26, 1962: Four SNCC staffers were forced to jump from a second
story window to escape a mob of white men carrying chains and pipes.  
OCTOBER, 1962: The Leflore County Board of Supervisors voted to drop
a surplus food program which had helped sustain some 22,000 Negroes,
most sharecroppers and seasonal workers.

FEBRUARY 20, 1963: Three Negro businesses near the SNCC office were
burned to the ground. SNCC worker Samuel Block charged the fires
were "an attempt to burn us out."

FEBRUARY 22, 1963: Block was arrested and charged with "making state-
ments calculated to breach the peace."

FEBRUARY 28, 1963: SNCC worker James Travis was machine-gunned by two
white men seven miles from Greenwood.
MARCH 5, 1963: Two white men were arrested and charged with the
Travis shooting. Their trial has been continued three times.
MARCH 6, 1963: Three SNCC workers were shot while sitting in a car
outside the SNCC office. No one was injured.
MARCH 24, 1963: The SNCC office was set on fire.
MARCH 26, 1963: Two shotgun blasts were fired into a SNCC worker's
home.

MARCH 27, 1963: Eight SNCC workers were arrested for "inciting to riot"
while they were escorting 100 Negroes to the courthouse to register.
MARCH 30, 1963: The United States Department of Justice moved for a
temporary restraining order, enjoining intimidation of voters and fur-
ter prosecution of those arrested March 27.
APRIL 2, 1963: Greenwood police arrested a SNCC worker and forcibly
ejected Negro comedian Dick Gregory from the courthouse lawn.
APRIL 4, 1963: The Justice Department withdrew its request for a
temporary restraining order and Greenwood officials released those in
jail.

MAY 17, 1963: SNCC worker Milton Hancock was held under "technical a-
rrest" and was beaten by a police officer.
JUNE 18, 1963: In nearby Itta Bena, 45 Negroes were arrested after a
voter registration meeting in a church was smokebombed.
JUNE 28 & 26, 1963: 22 Negroes were arrested outside the Leflore
County Courthouse as they tried to register to vote.
JULY 7, 1963: A tear gas bomb was thrown at a Negro cafe.
OCTOBER 25, 1963: Police arrested ten Negroes trying to register.

OCTOBER 27, 1963: Five workers were arrested for "obstructing the side
walk" after they set up a mock polling booth in Greenwood.
OCTOBER 29, 1963: SNCC worker Jane Stembridge was fined $100 on two
traffic charges.

FEBRUARY 7, 1964: The trial of Byron de la Beckwith, accused assas-
in of Medgar Evers, ends in a mistrial. Beckwith, a Greenwood native,
was supported in his contention that he was in Greenwood the night of
the murder by testimony from Greenwood policemen.

MARCH 24, 1963: Three crosses - one on the courthouse lawn, one a 100
yards from the SNCC office - were burned in Greenwood.
MARCH 25, 1964: Over 200 Negroes tried to register. Local people and
ministers from the National Council of Churches picketed the court-
house. That afternoon a "chemical" substance was placed on court-
house radiators, exuding an odor which caused nausea and made eyes
water. Two policemen stopped and questioned SNCC worker Dick Frey.
Fewer than 60 took the test.

MARCH 26, 1964: Two vote workers were given traffic tickets. George
Davis, 22, of Greenwood, was fired from his job after his employer
said a picture of him picketing had been shown at a Citizens Council
meeting.

MARCH 27, 1964: Two more traffic tickets were given to vote workers.
As a policeman wrote one ticket, a white man slashed a tire on the
ticketed car. Five students from Iowa State University were arrested,
fingerprinted, photographed and questioned. A Leflore County share-
cropper and mother of nine, Mrs. Betty Carter, was evicted because
she had tried to register on March 25.

MARCH 30, 1964: A white worker was arrested and released. Chief of
Police Lary told the group they could only picket the west side of the
courthouse.

MARCH 31, 1964: 14 workers were arrested for "disorderly conduct."
They have decided to remain in jail until the Justice Department se-
cures their release. Picketing will continue.