

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HATTIESBURG, MISS. VOTE PUSH CONTINUES

HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI - Over 500 Negroes have tried to register to vote in Forrest County since a January 22 "Freedom Day."

"The campaign thus far has been a success", according to John Lewis, Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Lewis, who was here for the January 22 "Freedom Day" said civil rights groups "won the right to organize and run a voting campaign in Hattiesburg through the Freedom Day techniques."

The Freedom Day campaign has been highlighted by the presence of more than 100 ministers and rabbis from the United Presbyterian Commission on Religion and Race, the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity, and the Rabbinical Association of America. Their participation in the vote drive is sponsored by the National Council of Churches, in cooperation with the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), a state wide coalition of local and national civil rights groups.

The vote drive has not been without its setbacks, however. A number of vote workers, including nine ministers, were arrested. The first to be jailed was SNCC worker Robert Moses, COFO Program Director.

Also jailed was Lawrence Guyot, arrested for "contributing to the delinquency of a minor" and Peter Stoner, jailed when he tried to visit Guyot in the jail. Both are SNCC workers.

Out of 7,406 Negroes of voting age in Forrest County, only 12 are registered voters, according to the United States Civil Rights Commission.

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SNCC ASKS PROBE OF TERMINAL JIM CROW

MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI - "Mississippi is the only state in the Union that refuses to abide by the Interstate Commerce Commission's ruling" SNCC Chairman John Lewis said in a March 2 letter to ICC Chairman A. M. Goff.

Lewis told Goff SNCC worker Clifford Vaughns had been ordered out of the Meridian bus station on February 27.

Vaughns said he was ordered out of the station by the assistant manager.

Protests were also sent to the United States Commission Civil Rights.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, an independent anti-segregation organization based in Atlanta, Georgia, conducts nonviolent protests against segregation and voter registration campaigns in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Arkansas, North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland.

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