

GOVERNMENT, TEACHERS, CANCEL SEGREGATED MISSISSIPPI
ENGAGEMENTS

WASHINGTON, D. C. - The United States Department of Commerce and the Small Business Administration withdrew sponsorship of an April 8 Foreign Trade Seminar in Hattiesburg, Mississippi after the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) protested to United States Secretary of Commerce Luther Hodges.

In an April 2 letter to SNCC Chairman John Lewis, Jack N. Behrman, of the Department of Domestic and International Business, said the Department of Commerce and the Small Business Administration had withdrawn their sponsorship of the segregated meeting.

The gathering was set for the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. The school - all white - has refused admittance to one Negro, John Frazier, five times. An official of the Hattiesburg Chamber of Commerce, planned co-sponsors of the seminar, told SNCC workers Negroes would not be permitted to attend the meeting.

SNCC Chairman Lewis has also asked Joey Adams, President of the American Guild of Variety Artists, to cancel an April 14 - 18 appearance of Holiday on Ice in the Jackson, Mississippi city coliseum.

"The coliseum is a segregated facility and the audience will be segregated," Lewis told Adams.

Lewis said Walter Allen, a visiting professor at Vassar College, and Stephen Spender of Northwestern University, had informed him they would not appear at the segregated Southern Literary Festival at Mississippi State College For Women at Columbus, Mississippi on April 23 - 25. "You have my full sympathy in your fight for civil rights" Allen told Lewis. "I admire greatly the work of your committee" Spender told Lewis. The SNCC head said he had received no reply from John Gassner, head of the Yale University drama department, who is also slated to appear at the literary festival.

SNCC officials in Atlanta said the group had also asked Anthony J. Celebrezze, United States Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, to refuse to allow government officials to participate in an April 10 meeting of the Mississippi Dietetic Association in Biloxi, Mississippi. "The association is a segregated organization as is the hotel where the meeting is to be held," Lewis said.

The student anti-segregation group has been waging a successful campaign to halt segregated speeches and performances in Mississippi.