

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POLICE FIRE OVER
PROTESTING STUDENTS

MONTGOMERY, ALA. - Police fired over the heads of a crowd of 400 demonstrating students here on the campus of Alabama State College for Teachers.

The students were protesting the arrest of civil rights worker Willie Ricks of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Over 20 students have been jailed since demonstrations began April 21, 1965.

The arrests grew out of student protests over the school administration's attempt to punish students who participated in rights demonstrations here. Some 9 students were suspended for taking part in direct action here.

Students faced police, throwing rocks and bottles. The all white police retaliated by firing over the students' heads.

One girl was reported injured when she fainted after being burned from the blast of a firing pistol.

On the previous night, 400-500 students sat in front of the president's house, where student leaders called for a boycott of classes.

The protests flared up after a faculty-administration committee hearing charged 17 students with insubordination, willful defiance of authority, and conduct prejudicial to the college and unbecoming a student and future teacher.

Thirteen students were arrested here earlier after a 13 hour sit-in at the office of the president.

Workers for SNCC helped organize demonstrations here protesting the lack of the right of free assembly, and police brutality in Selma.