



# Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

Race/US

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TO: ALL NEWS MEDIA  
FROM: JOHN LEWIS, CHAIRMAN, STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE (SNCC)  
SUBJECT: PROPOSED "STALL-IN" OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON ROAD TO WORLD'S FAIR

WE OF THE STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE RECOGNIZE THE NECESSITY TO BE CONSISTENT TO PRINCIPLES OF MORALITY AND NOT BOW TO THE PRESSURES OF POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY.

WE ARE COMMITTED IN OUR PRACTICE TO THE USE OF ANY TACTIC OR STRATEGY WHICH IS NONVIOLENT, AND WHICH WILL DRAMATIZE THE PLIGHT OF NUMBERS OF NEGROES IN THE GHETTOS OF THE NORTH AND IN THE SOUTH, SO LONG AS THESE ACTIONS DO NOT ENDANGER INNOCENT LIVES NOR CAUSE THE GRATUITOUS DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY. WE ARE NOT CONVINCED THAT THE PLANNED "STALL-IN" VIOLATES ANY OF THESE QUALIFICATIONS.

FOR THIS REASON WE CANNOT AT THIS TIME SUMMARILY CONDEMN THE "STALL-IN" WITHOUT MORE CAREFUL STUDY OF THE PLANS AND SIFTING OF THE ISSUES AND POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS ACTION. TO ARBITRARILY DO SO WOULD BE TO ACT IRRESPONSIBLY AND WOULD REPRESENT A REPUDIATION OF THE TIME-HONORED TACTICS OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE.

THEREFORE, UPON REFLECTION AND IN GOOD CONSCIENCE, I MUST WITHDRAW MY NAME, AND THAT OF THE STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE FROM THE LIST OF NEGRO LEADERS WHO YESTERDAY DENOUNCED THE PLANNED "STALL-IN" OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON ROADS LEADING TO THE NEW YOUR WORLD'S FAIR.

AFTER OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF APRIL 18th AND 19th, WE SHALL ISSUE A STATEMENT OF SNCC'S INTENTIONS TOWARDS THE PLANNED "STALL-IN", AND WHETHER OR NOT WE SHALL SUPPORT, PARTICIPATE IN OR CONDEMN THE PLANNED ACTION.

JOHN LEWIS, CHAIRMAN  
STUDENT NONVIOLENT  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
(SNCC)

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
APRIL 17, 1964

NOTE: THIS STATEMENT IS TO BE USED IN ITS ENTIRETY OR NOT AT ALL.