

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
6 RAYMOND STREET, N.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314

FOR RELEASE April 25-64

ATLANTA, GEORGIA --- The Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), John Lewis, said this week Federal Bureau of Investigation Director J. Edgar Hoover is "merely seeking appropriations" and "giving aid and comfort to racists" in charging Communists have infiltrated the civil rights movement.

Lewis said FBI agents "could more wisely spend their time finding the bombers, midnight assassins, and brutal racists who daily make a mockery of the United States Constitution."

The text of Lewis' statement follows:

The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover, is merely seeking appropriations when he gives aid and comfort to racists and segregationists by charging the civil rights movement has been infiltrated by Communists.

We think Mr. Hoover and his fellow agents could spend their time more appropriately by extending aid and protection to the millions of American Negroes in the Deep South, to whom the FBI has become a spectre of mistrust and suspicion. Mr. Hoover's agents could more wisely spend their time finding the bombers, midnight assassins, and brutal racists who daily make a mockery of the United States Constitution.

Instead of finding Communists under every civil rights bedstead, Mr. Hoover might instruct his agents that they can make arrests when they see civil rights violations occur under Sections 3052 and 594, Title 18, of the United States Code.

Mr. Hoover's testimony, released at this time by coincidence, we are told, is all the more difficult to understand in light of a statement by Attorney General Robert Kennedy on July 23, 1963: "Based on all available information from the FBI and other sources, we have no evidence that any of the top leaders of the major civil rights groups are Communists or Communist-controlled." America's Negroes do not need J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI or anyone else to tell them they are oppressed and discriminated against.

#

"ONE MAN - ONE VOTE"