

SNCC CHARGES HOOVER, FBI, AID RACISTS

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 looking for 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 the 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.

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ELEVEN NEGROES ENTER NORTH CAROLINA RACES

ENFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA --- Eleven Negroes have filed for political office in Halifax County and will be listed on the ballot in the Democratic primary election May 30.

The eight men and three women are sponsored by the Halifax Voters Movement, a county-wide organization currently aided by SNCC worker J.V. Henry, 21.

A. Reed Johnson, of Enfield, filed for office of state senator in the 8th District, which includes Halifax and Warren counties; Thomas Cofield of Enfield filed for state representative; five persons filed for Halifax County School Board; three for county commissioner, and one for county coroner.

A. C. Cofield of Weldon, chairman of the Halifax county vote group, announced his candidacy for U.S. Representative from the 2nd Congressional District several weeks ago.

Registration of Negroes to vote in this black belt county is low due to fear of economic and physical reprisal and alleged discrimination by vote registrars. Registration books are open only three Saturdays prior to each primary and general election.

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