

YOUTH SAYS VOTE WORK COST HIS JOB

GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI - A Greenwood Negro youth has charged in a sworn statement sent to the United States Department of Justice and the United States Civil Rights Commission he was fired from his job after he picketed the County Courthouse with signs urging Negroes to register to vote.

Willie Wright, 23, said a city policeman who observed him picketing on March 25 and 26 had approached him and asked where he worked. When Wright told him he was employed at a local restaurant, the policeman reportedly told him, "Well, we'll see what we can do about that."

"He left me and I saw him go in the cafe," Wright said in his sworn statement. The next day, the cafe manager told Wright "I will have to lay you off right now" and dismissed him.

Wright said he had worked at the cafe for two summers, and that the manager had asked him to resume working on March 7.

"I believe the sole reason that I was fired was this policeman telling my boss to fire me because of my voter registration activities," Wright said.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) has asked the two government agencies to investigate Wright's dismissal, "to see if any violations of his civil rights are involved." Federal statutes prohibit intimidation of prospective voters.

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NEGRO CANDIDATES CHALLENGE ANTI-PICKET LAW

HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI - The constitutionality of one of Mississippi's new anti-civil rights laws has been challenged by two Negro congressional candidates.

The Reverend John Cameron and Mrs. Victoria Gray filed a petition April 13 asking a United States District court to issue an injunction prohibiting enforcement of an anti-picket bill signed into law April 8.

Cameron, a candidate for Congress from the state's 5th Congressional District, was one of 44 persons who pleaded innocent in Forrest County Court April of violating the new law. The group was arrested in the first use of the new law within the state on April 10 when they refused to halt picketing of the courthouse.

The law forbids picketing of state, county or city buildings and public streets and sidewalks if it tends to interfere with normal business.

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Chairman John Lewis called the law "a police state measure."

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