

Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee---Sunflower-Bolivar  
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For Immediate Release

### MISSISSIPPI STATE PATROLMAN KILLS NEGRO

Doddsville, Mississippi. June 27. Mississippi State Highway Patrolman Bob Wallace shot and killed Negro Isaiah Taylor, 34, at 5:30 P.M. yesterday in Doddsville. Wallace alleged that Taylor refused to show any identification, drew a knife, tried to cut the patrolman, and threw a knife at him. Taylor had been released from a mental institution for less than a year; he had been treated for acute catatonia, a mental illness characterized by withdrawal and submissiveness.

Within 17 hours after the shooting, a coroner's inquest at Doddsville ruled the shooting justifiable homicide. Attorney Allen Nevas, Westport Connecticut, of the Lawyer's Constitutional Defense Committee, termed the coroner's action "unusually quick."

The police refused to allow the slain man's mother to see the body; the police turned Mrs. Maggie Taylor away from the scene of the killing with the words "Get that hollering woman away." Mrs. Taylor told SNCC workers "They drove me away like a dog, wouldn't let me stand up there and look at my child lying down there. Oh Lord help me, oh Lord help me."

Sunflower County Sheriff W.I. Hollowell carefully explained the police version of the incident to a SNCC group of six headed by Negro Charles McLaurin, 23, director of the Sunflower - Bolivar Counties Summer Project. (The Sheriff's interview took place at the Indianola Courthouse, the place where the White Citizens' Council was formed in 1955). McLaurin stated "We are concerned about this incident because it seems the man would not have been shot if his skin were white. What happened to Isaiah Taylor is part of a pervasive system which keeps Negroes terrorized and in line by provoking incidents and victimizing any Negro who steps out of line."

Taylor was born and raised on the plantation of Mississippi Senator James Eastland. He was killed on U.S. Highway 49W about a half mile from Sen. Eastland's plantation.