

STUDENT NON-VIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE --Sunflower-Bolivar Counties
Ruleville Community Center
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SNCC WORKERS CALL POLICE BLUFF

Ruleville, Mississippi. July 7. Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) summer project workers thwarted yesterday an attempt by local police to harrass the project. The town's police stopped a semi-truck full of clothes and books donated from Chicago and attempted to gain entry into the truck. After SNCC project director Charles McLaurin, 23 year old Negro staff worker for SNCC, insisted that the police get a search warrant, the police gave up the attempt.

The incident took place at approximately noon today, as the truck stopped at the Ruleville Community Center to unload. The police ordered the two Indiana truck drivers not to unload and took away their drivers' licenses. The police then left, and returned in approximately half an hour; when an attempt was made to search the truck, McLaurin insisted that a search warrant be obtained. As the policeman left, he told the truck drivers "I've got lots of time, so I hope you enjoy the heat." The policeman returned in about an hour without a search warrant and told the drivers to unload.

Two hours after the incident, two FBI agents from the Greenwood office of the FBI were investigating the incident. SNCC workers suggested to the FBI that the police action was an unwarranted interference with interstate commerce and a part of the continuing attempt to harass civil rights work in this town.

McLaurin said of the incident, "The police don't know what to do when you insist that they follow legal or constitutional limitations. They are used to dictatorial methods."