

STUDENT NON-VIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE -- Sunflower-Bolivar Counties
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SNCC WORKER THROWN OUT OF VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICE

Ruleville, Mississippi. July 8, 1964. The deputy registrar of Sunflower County threw a SNCC voter registration worker out of his office today as the worker accompanied a Negro who wanted to register; despite threats, the local Negro went ahead and filled out a registration application.

James Dann, 24, white SNCC summer volunteer from Los Angeles, accompanied Mrs. Maybelle Campbell, Negro, of Ruleville, to the Sunflower County Circuit Clerk's office in Indianola at approximately 9:45 this morning. The Deputy Registrar told Dann "Get out of my office" and an unidentified white man in the office grabbed Dann by the back of the neck and forcefully pushed him out of the room.

The Deputy Registrar then faced Mrs. Campbell, spoke to her in a loud and threatening voice, and waved his finger at her. He told her, "You have no right to be coming down here with this white trash. You can register alone, but you can't come here with these scalawags. He's not a resident of Sunflower County and he has no right to be in the Courthouse." Despite the threatening manner of the Deputy Registrar and the presence of three other white men in the room, Mrs. Campbell filled out the application for registration.

Dann protested the incident to County Sheriff W.I. Hollowell and received from him a recognition of Dann's right to be in the Courthouse. SNCC workers are protesting the Deputy Registrar's intimidation to the Justice Department.

SNCC workers also received reports of police and private harassment of Negroes because of voter registration work. SNCC workers are investigating three complaints about separate incidents for which Indianola City Police officer Ernest Sharp is reported to have told local Negroes not to have anything to do with "the agitators" and the "white trash". In one incident, officer Sharp told Miss Alma Dillard, Negro, 17, of Indianola, "I don't want you all talking to those people". The voter registration workers are also checking a complaint that local white businessman threatened to fire two Negroes if they had anything to do with "the voter registration people". Despite the harassment, ten Negroes from Drew, Indianola and Ruleville attempted to register yesterday and this morning. Approximately 60 persons were "Freedom Registered" today - registered for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, which is establishing a parallel structure to the regular Democratic Party on a non-discriminatory basis and which will be used to challenge the seating of the regular Party at the national convention in Atlantic City.

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