

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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SNCC WORKER SUES WALLACE FOR \$200,000

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA - A white Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) field secretary has filed a suit in federal court seeking \$200,000 in damages against Alabama Governor George Wallace.

Also named in the suit, filed July 23 by SNCC staff member Robert Zellner, are Alabama Public Safety Director Al Lingo, Circuit Judge William Thetford, former Deputy Solicitor Maury Smith, Montgomery City Recorder D. Eugene Loe, Detective Jack Snows and state investigator Willie Painter.

In his suit, Zellner charges them with false arrest and malicious prosecution. He was arrested January 8, 1963 on "vagrancy" charges, while visiting the campus of Huntingdon College, his alma mater. Zellner said in his suit he was visiting "old friends and acquaintances" on the college campus when Painter and Lingo pulled up and placed him under arrest.

He was charged with "vagrancy" and sentenced to 30 days in jail. The charge was dropped when he appealed his conviction to the Circuit Court.

Thetford, then circuit solicitor, and Smith then prosecuted Zellner on charges of "false pretenses." He was charged with giving an \$85 check to a Montgomery pawnshop to purchase a camera when he didn't have enough money in his Atlanta bank to cover the check.

He was bound over to a county court and indicted by a grand jury. The case ended in a mistrial.

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STATE COURTS TO HEAR ALABAMA FREEDOM WALKER CASES

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA - The United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld a District Judge's decision to let Alabama courts have a first chance at trying ten Negro and white "Freedom Walkers" arrested after they crossed the Georgia - Alabama state line last year.

In an order handed down July 21, the court affirmed U. S. Judge Frank Johnson's decision in a case involving Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) field secretary Robert Zellner. Zellner, four other whites and five Negroes, were arrested on breach of the peace charges when they crossed the Georgia line into Alabama May 3.

The group, composed of SNCC and CORE workers, was retracing the route taken by white Baltimore postman William Moore, slain near Attalla, Alabama on April 23, 1963 while he was walking from Chattanooga to Jackson, Mississippi. His murderer is still at large.

The marchers were convicted in state court and fined \$200 each. After spending 30 days in jail - most on death row at Alabama's Kilby prison - they appealed their convictions and were released on bail.

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