

Press Release from Parents of Canton Negro Students  
September 3, 1964

We are American citizens complying with the Civil Rights Bill, Title IV, Sec. 401 (B) and 401 (C), which assures us that "Desegregation means the assignment of students to public schools and within such schools without regard to their race, color, religion, or national origin...". "Public school means any elementary or secondary educational institution, and public college means any institution of higher education or any technical or vocational school above the secondary school level, provided that such public school or public college is operated by a State, subdivision of a State, or governmental agency within a State, or operated wholly or predominantly from or through the use of governmental funds or property, or funds or property derived from a governmental source."

In Canton, Mississippi, a county with a population of 71.2 percent Negroes, the Civil Rights Bill has been ignored. There have been no moves on the part of the School Board to initiate any plans for desegregation of the public schools.

Today, September 3, 1964, we, the citizens of Madison County, intend to register our children at Canton High School because it is our constitutional right to do so and because Negro schools do not have adequate supplies. Curriculum isn't good enough to properly prepare our children for college, and classrooms are overcrowded. We feel that Canton High is better equipped and can provide a greater opportunity for our children to get a better education. We will use every legal means available to us at this time in order to exercise the right to an equal education for our children.