

SNCC REPORTS "MORE THAN 50" MISSISSIPPI  
BOMBING AND BURNING INCIDENTS

ATLANTA, GEORGIA - The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) has reported "more than 50" bombing or burning incidents aimed at civil rights workers and local Negroes in Mississippi in a four-month period.

The Atlanta SNCC office said arson and dynamite attacks had leveled 21 churches and other structures, and had partially destroyed 31 other buildings between June 16 and October 4.

Firebombings and molotov cocktails were reported in Brandon, McComb, Moss Point, Tuleville, So So, Canton, Vicksburg, Natchez, Laurel, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Meridian, Summit and Sharon.

Early attacks by nightriders were directed at churches, homes, offices or businesses associated with the Mississippi Summer Project, but later church bombings seemed to occur at random.

The only injuries reported despite the heavy bombings were on September 20 in McComb when two children were hurt in the bombing of the home of a local rights leader, and in Vicksburg on October 4, when two civil rights workers sleeping in the Vicksburg Freedom House were cut by flying glass after an explosion.

Mississippi whites also received some attacks. A church pastored by a white man was burned on June 26 in Clinton after the minister spoke to a Negro Bible class. On August 27, the office of a white moderate newspaper in Jackson was bombed, and two offices owned by Natchez Mayor John Mosser were bombed September 14. Mayor Mosser's home was bombed September 25, and a Sharon store and postal station managed by whites was bombed September 26.

11 white men have been arrested for the McComb bombings. Two of them entered pleas of innocent October 13, and the Pike County Grand Jury is expected to reconvene October 19 to consider further evidence in the more than 16 bombings in the McComb area.

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PICTURE OUTLINE

THE BOMBED-OUT INTERIOR OF SOCIETY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH in McComb, Mississippi, destroyed by a dynamite blast September 20. Society Hill is one of 21 churches destroyed or damaged by fire or explosives during last summer.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: photographs of people, places and scenes in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and Arkansas are available on request or assignment from:

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