NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 2, 1964

SELMA, ALABAMA- A civil rights worker has charged Selma Postal
Authorities here with "systematic violation of the security of the
United States mail".

In a letter sent last week to United States Postmaster John A.
Gronouski, Student Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Project Director
John Love listed seven incidents of tampering with mail, ranging from
the opening of packages to the losing of letters mailed from and to
Selma.

Love charged that on September 4th the national SNCC office in
Atlanta, Georgia mailed subsistence pay checks to Selma SNCC staff
members which were never received or returned. The SNCC office in
Atlanta reports the checks were never cashed.

Love, who directs SNCC activities here, reported further that
first class letters sent by him to Washington, D.C. and to local
Ministers in Selma were never delivered or returned.

Love said packages sent through the mails to him in Selma arrived
damaged or opened without explanation.

Selma and Dallas County--have been the scene of an intensive
SNCC voter registration campaign.

"MISSISSIPPI TOPS IN DEATHS & POVERTY"

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI- Mississippi has the highest infant death rate in
the United States according to latest figures released here.

The Mississippi State Board of Health reported that the infant
death rate for Mississippians was 15 percent higher than the District
of Columbia and 17 percent higher than Alaska, the second and third
ranking states in the United States.

A Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) spokesman
said here "that there was a direct connection between the high death
rate and poverty which Mississippians experience daily".

A recently released study by the U.S. Dept. of Health, Education,
& Welfare reported that the poorest county in the nation was in
Mississippi and that Mississippi was the most impoverished state in
the entire Country.

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