

NEWS RELEASE

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. GOVT. GIVES \$1,500,000 TO MISSISSIPPI

ATLANTA, GEORGIA -- The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) said here that the Federal Government has granted or loaned Mississippi over one million dollars in recent weeks.

The largest grant was given by the Public Health Service of the U.S. Dept. of Health, Education, & Welfare totaling \$1,181,800 for the construction of medical and educational facilities in Mississippi.

The city of Guntown (Lee County), Mississippi was granted a loan of \$129,000 for the construction of a municipal water distribution system by the Community Facilities Administration of the Housing and Home Finance Agency (HHFA). The loan was announced in a telegram from Representative Thomas Abernathy to the mayor of Guntown.

A loan of \$5,000 from the Public Housing Administration has been granted to the city of Aberdeen (Monroe County), Mississippi which will enable the city to begin preliminary planning on its program for 25 low-rent housing units. The preliminary loan will allow Aberdeen to prepare a development program which will probably serve as the basis for an annual contribution between the Federal Public Housing Administration and the city Housing Authority.

Aberdeen Mayor Howell testified last February 14th before the state legislature that federal funds for urban renewal could be used to maintain segregation. Howell said, "if we tear down those slums and provide nice housing for Negroes we can prevent them from moving into our white neighborhoods". He went on to add, "As freakish as it may sound, we are using urban renewal to maintain segregation."

((end of release))

Aberdeen-- do you have any ideas on what to do about this? Do any other projects?