

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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SCRIPTO'S \$1/2 MILLION CONTRACTS UNDER
INVESTIGATION, SNCC TOLD

ATLANTA, GEORGIA - An Atlanta company under fire from Negro strikers and civil rights groups may lose one-half million dollars in federal contracts, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) said this week.

SNCC Chairman John Lewis said the General Services Administration (GSA), which handles purchasing for the federal government, was reviewing "all of the details" connected with two one-year contracts totalling \$514,000 held by Scripto, Inc. of Atlanta.

Lewis said GSA Acting Administrator Lawson B. Knott, Jr. told him in a December 24 letter "we are now collecting all of the details in connection with the contracts which we will make available to the President's Committee On Equal Employment Opportunity."

The SNCC Chairman said Ward McCreedy, Director of Contract Compliance for the President's Committee, told him in a December 23 letter that "a special review of the firm's compliance with its contract obligations for equal employment opportunity" is underway.

The two contracts, one for \$334,000 for mechanical pencils which expires August 31, 1965 and another for \$180,000 for china marking pencils which expires November 30, 1965, were awarded to Scripto through Charles G. Stott Company as prime contractor.

More than 700 Negro workers at the company have been striking for more than a month. Union leaders vowed this month to continue the strike "until all Scripto employees are offered a wage rate which will bring them up to the maximum 'poverty level' (\$3,000 a year) established by President Johnson's anti-poverty campaign."

The 700 striking workers represent almost 100% of the firm's Negro employment. Only 6 Negro workers at the pen and pencil company are listed as "skilled" employees.