

THREE INDICTED FOR BEATING SNCC WORKER

OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI - The first three persons arrested under the 1964 Civil Rights Act were indicted January 7 in the beating of a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) staff member.

The three - white, Greenwood, Mississippi plumbers - were charged with threatening and beating SNCC worker Silas McGhee, 21, on July 16 because he entered a white Greenwood movie theatre.

The indictment charged the three men "did unlawfully injure, oppress, threaten and intimidate Silas McGhee by striking and beating him because of his having exercised his rights and privileges."

All three are free on \$11,000 bonds.

McGhee told a preliminary hearing for the three he was forced into their car at gun-point and driven to an auto repair shop where he was beaten with a board and an iron pipe.

A month after the beating, McGhee was shot in the forehead by a sniper as he sat in his car in front of a Negro cafe in Greenwood.

Maximum penalty for the three - if they are convicted - would be ten years in jail or a \$5,000 fine or both.

-30-

CHARGES DROPPED IN TORSO SLAYING,
CIVIL RIGHTS BEATING

MEADVILLE, MISSISSIPPI - A District Attorney here has dropped charges against two white men in the torso slaying of two Negro college students and in Natchez charges were dropped against four other whites in the 1963 beating of two civil rights workers.

Charges were dropped here January 11 against Charles Edwards, 31, described by the FBI as "an admitted Klansman" and James Seale, 29, both of Meadville. They were charged with the murder of Charles Moore and Henry Dee, whose headless half-bodies were found in the Mississippi River last July.

An attorney for the two men said "these boys have been treated pretty badly."

In Natchez, charges were dismissed January 5 against four white men charged with the October, 1963 beating of George Greene, 21, and Bruce Payne, 22. Greene, a Negro, is a field secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Payne who is white, is a student at Yale University. The four men had been charged with "assault and battery with intent to kill." A fifth man implicated in the beating had been released after a preliminary hearing some weeks ago.

-30-