

STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 31, 1965

MAID STRIKE,
JOIN FREEDOM UNION

McCOMB, MISSISSIPPI - Striking maids at a Holiday Inn located here have joined the Mississippi Freedom Labor Union (MFLU) and have begun picketing the motel.

The MFLU, headquartered in the Delta and composed largely of farm laborers, pioneered in the strike of nearly 1,000 farm workers in large plantations in Mississippi.

The motel employees are requesting a \$1.25 hourly wage. They now receive 39¢ an hour.

Pickets last week were surrounded by city and county policemen placed there by the County District Attorney Joe Piggott "to protect the Holiday Inn."

"They will continue to strike despite threats of arrest", MFLU representative Miss Ossie Lee Barr said.

The strike began July 23 when nine maids walked off their jobs. McComb Policeman Eddie Smith escorted some strikers through the picket line on July 30. The strikers plan to appeal to the Mississippi AFL-CIO for aid.

In Selma, Alabama, more than 50 white and Negro employees at a Coca-Cola bottling plant will vote August 18 on whether a union will represent the plants workers. Willie Fuller, a union leader, said the workers would ask the company for \$1.25 an hour and a 40 hour work week. Presently company employees are paid \$32 a week and work 50 hours.

"I just don't see how a man with children can survive on a take home pay of \$29.66", Fuller said.

The Selma to Montgomery march and civil rights activity here caused interest in unions, an organizer for the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Workers union said.