

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 24, 1966

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Despite complaints from workers from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and from Southwest Georgia Negroes, the United States Department of Justice has refused to send voting registrars into any Georgia county.

Complaints have been made by SNCC workers and Negro residents of Baker, Dougherty, Taliferro and Sumter Counties.

The Department, which has sent registrars into counties in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, maintains that the low incidence of Negro registration in Georgia's southwest black belt counties is not due to discrimination.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee began its first Georgia voting drive in August, 1961, in Albany, Dougherty County's seat. Since then, SNCC workers have begun drives in neighboring counties where Negro population sometimes totals over 50%.

Complaints from the Southwest Georgia area have forced the Sumter County registrars to maintain open registration hours five days a week.

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LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS -- Bill Hansen, long-time SNCC worker here, was arrested March 21 standing in front of the Arkansas SNCC office for allegedly being drunk.

Hansen, who lived and worked in Little Rock for almost three years, was approached by a policeman who asked him what he was doing on the street in the Negro neighborhood. "I work here," he answered.

After some interchange, the policeman arrested Hansen on a drunk charge, though three other SNCC workers were with him, and all were sober.

Hansen was released the next morning on a bond of \$19.75. This is his 28th arrest during five years of full-time civil rights work.

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