

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 28, 1966

HAYNEVILLE, ALABAMA- Members of an all-Negro political party here have told the United States Department of Justice they will protect their own political convention May 3rd, if the government does not offer protection.

In a letter to Assistant United States Attorney, General John Doar, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) worker Stokeley Carmichael said Negroes here will "look to such resources as they can muster to provide their own protection" if a request to federal authorities goes unheeded.

The political group, the Lowndes County Freedom Organization (LCFO), plans to hold a nominating convention in the county courthouse here May 3. Alabama law requires that such conventions be held "on the second Tuesday in May at or in the immediate vicinity of a polling place in the county".

Lowndes County Sheriff Ryals has stated that the Freedom Organization cannot use a vacant space near the courthouse building. Ryals said that such a meeting would "cause too much confusion" for voters in the Democratic primary which is being held that same day.

Following Ryals refusal, the group appealed to the Justice Department for protection.

The Freedom Organization intends to nominate a full slate of candidates for county officers here. Lowndes County Negroes are 81% of the county's population.

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