

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
360 Nelson Street S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30313
(404)-688-0331

February 25, 1967

Yesterday at South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, S.C. three students were dismissed for participating in a demonstration without the permission of the administration. The demonstration was called by the Student Action Committee Thursday night following the administration's refusal to act on student demands regarding college rules and the dismissal of two professors, Dr. Thomas Worth and Mr. Anthony Fanning. 500 students congregated on President B. J. Turner's lawn with a petition of grievances, and white city policemen, state troopers, and a special unit of Governor's troops, FIED, were called in to disperse the crowd. The outraged students boycotted classes Friday and continued to demonstrate.

The three students, Benjamin Bryant, Joe Hammond, and James Stroman, were called before the Disciplinary Committee Friday morning, which resulted in 800 students congregating outside the meeting in protest. Bryant, Hammond, and Stroman went into the meeting and demanded that Disciplinary Committee members come forth and accuse them directly and that they be allowed to cross-examine their accusers. No one came forth and finally the students were dismissed. They went outside and joined the demonstrating students, who then began to picket the campus at large. More and more students joined the demonstration as they walked around the campus. That afternoon Bryant, Hammond, and Stroman received suspension notices which ordered them to leave the campus by midnight and barred them from the campus until 1970; they were informed that they would be arrested if they returned to the campus before that time. 800 to 1000 students sat-in at the Student Union last night in protest. They plan to continue the sit-in and will boycott classes all Monday.

A SNCC worker was arrested for allegedly trespassing on State property while walking through the campus. He was taken to jail, beaten, and thrown in the hole, then released on \$100 bond.

Telegrams demanding the re-instatement of Benjamin Bryant, Joe Hammond, and James Stroman, protesting their dismissal, and supporting Student Action Committee (SAC) in its demand for academic freedom should be sent to:

Dr. B. J. Turner, President
South Carolina State College
Orangeburg, South Carolina

copy to:

Student Action Committee
c/o James Huggins
Rt. 5 Box 539
Orangeburg, South Carolina

Students and student groups who wish to join the demonstrators are welcome and invited.