

Student
Nonviolent
Coordinating
Committee

NEWSLETTER

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Atlanta 14, Georgia
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA --- SNCC executive Secretary, James Forman, was hospitalized with a bleeding ulcer January 12. Forman, who devoted the last two years to SNCC, had transfusions of eight pints of blood, but is recovering rapidly and scheduled to leave McClendon Hospital shortly. Friends of SNCC should be on call if more blood is needed. Blood may be donated through local Red Cross chapters; be sure to give name of recipient.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA --- Protests have continued here against Atlanta's "Berlin Wall," erected by the city on December 18 to act as a buffer between an expanding Negro community and a white neighborhood. SNCC, as part of the All Citizens Committee for Better City Planning, is asking that protests be sent to Ivan Allen, Jr., Mayor of Atlanta, and to the Editors of the Atlanta Constitution and Journal.

RULEVILLE, MISSISSIPPI --- SNCC Chairman Charles McDew, in a telegram to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, charged that the Mayor of Ruleville "wilfully beat a 14-year-old Negro youth on December 18." McDew charged that incidents of beatings and harassment are common in Mississippi, and are "direct attempts to intimidate Negroes who want to register to vote."

WASHINGTON, D.C. --- Seven field workers for SNCC asked a Federal District Court here to force Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to act against local authorities in Mississippi who, the plaintiffs said, had failed to protect the rights of Negroes. All of the seven work in SNCC's Mississippi vote drive, and all have been threatened or otherwise harassed by Mississippi law enforcement officials.

SASSER, GEORGIA --- A Sasser policeman, D. E. Short, has been charged by the Federal Government with violating the civil rights of three SNCC workers by forcing them to leave town. The three: Ralph Allen, Prathia Hall, and Willie Paul Berrien. Short faces one year in jail and/or \$1000 fine.

CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI --- Two Michigan State University students, one a SNCC worker, were arrested here on December 28 after police searched a caravan of food and clothing they were transporting to dispossessed Negro families in the Delta. Police discovered a medicine used by middle-aged women, and charged the two with "illegal possession of barbituates." Their original \$15,000 bond (each) was reduced to \$1500 (each), and they were released on January 7. Since then, the two --- Ivanhoe Donaldson and Ben Taylor --- have gone back to Clarksdale and successfully delivered 2 tons of needed clothing.

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA --- SNCC field secretary Bob Zellner was arrested here on January 8 and charged with "vagrancy" and "false pretenses." Zellner, white, was arrested on the campus of Huntingdon College, where he was an honor graduate in June, 1961. The "false pretenses" charge was added at Zellner's trial for "vagrancy" and involved a check Zellner had written on the day of his arrest when there were not sufficient funds in the bank. However, funds were deposited the next day (in time for the check to have cleared). Police held the check and never let it go through at all.

PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS --- William Hansen and Ben Grinage, SNCC workers, and Leon Nash, a student at Arkansas A. M. & N. College here, were arrested on January 10 and charged with "vagrancy" and "suspicion of passing bad checks."

ATLANTA, GEORGIA -- SNCC launched its "Operation U" on January 9. The program is designed to increase employment opportunities for Negroes in utilities systems -- telephone, telegram, water, gas and light companies.

CHARLESTON, MISSOURI -- Sit-in charges against John O'Neal, SNCC worker, and 20 other demonstrators arrested here last summer, were dropped on January 14.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA -- With the inauguration of its first Negro Senator in the 20th Century, the State of Georgia abolished racial segregation in the House and Senate galleries. SNCC and the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights -- the Atlanta student group -- had staged sit-ins and other demonstrations in the galleries last year.

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA -- SNCC field secretary Bob Zellner was sentenced to 30 days in jail on charges of "vagrancy" after his arrest here on January 8. His trial for "false pretences" comes up January 23.

NEW YORK CITY -- After successful engagements in the Chicago area, the Freedom Singers plan appearances in upstate New York before their Carnegie Hall debut on February 1. Persons in the New York area may obtain tickets and information from the NY SNCC office, Suite 1025, 5 Beekman Street, NYC, CO 7-4592.

C O N F I D E N T I A L -- Lunch counters, hotels, and a bowling alley in a large mid-Southern city have integrated after sit-ins and negotiations.

FROM A FIELD REPORT: Mrs. _____, the lady who was put off the Marlowe Plantation for trying to register, is letting us use her home to hold meetings. She doesn't have a job and her husband doesn't work. She has just been getting by. She has a daughter in school. W. D. Marlowe who owns the plantation told Mr. _____ if he got his wife to withdraw her name she could come back. She is very interested in the program and through her we have been able to get people from the plantation to meet with us and two have gone to register. What can be done to help her?"

from Charles McLaurin in Ruleville, Mississippi

FROM A FIELD REPORT: "...people received no money and had to tell their kids that Santa Claus was sick. One lady and her family made ten bales of cotton and cleared \$60 and the man wants to put her and her seven kids off the land. I remember one day when we had 78 people to carry down to register and had no transportation, no money to hire a cab and it was too far to walk... We went to ten people's houses in a little alley...they had little babies who had no shoes to put on their feet in that cold house...the babies had no milk."

from Sam Block in Greenwood, Mississippi

FROM A FIELD REPORT: "I was told that a Negro was beaten to death last week...A schoolteacher tells us that she will register...She had applied last year and was notified that she would not have time, during the school year, to take the registration test..."

from Jack Chatfield in Dawson, Georgia

TO EVERYONE: Another reminder: the Greenville VEP office needs: good typewriters, a good electric mimeograph machine and related office supplies; a 16 mm movie projector; cots, sleeping bags, college-level paperback fiction, non-fiction, and economic and social texts. Send them c/o Bob Moses, 901½ Nelson Street, Greenville, Mississippi.