

Student
Nonviolent
Coordinating
Committee

NEWSLETTER

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Vols. 17, 18 & 19 ----- May 21, 1963 -----

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA -- The Freedom Walkers, arrested May 3 after crossing the Alabama state line, are now in Kilby State Prison, Montgomery, Alabama. All have refused to make bond and intend to remain in jail as their witness for democracy in memory of William Moore. Attorney Fred Gray of Montgomery is working on arranging hearings on an injunction suit against Alabama officials for arresting all walkers on public U.S. highways.

Trial for the nine demonstrators -- Jesse Harris, a SNCC Mississippi field secretary, was released due to illness -- will be slated possibly in June. The five CORE men and four SNCC men are reported to be in good spirits. Eric Weinberger, 31, the director of a handicrafts project for evicted Negro sharecroppers in Haywood and Fayette Counties, Tennessee, is on an extended hunger fast.

Supporters of SNCC are urged to spread the word that the Freedom Walkers are -- at the time of this writing -- completing their 18th day in jail, now in a state prison which was once the "home" of the Scottsboro Boys. Books and letters may be sent to SNCCers Bill Hansen, Carver ("Chico") Neblett, Bob Zellner, and Sam Shirah at Kilby State Prison, Route 3, Box 115, Montgomery, Alabama. Prison regulations require the name and address of the sender on the envelope. All mail is censored.

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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE -- After days of demonstrations here, Mayor Beverley Briley is setting up a permanent Human Relations Committee, manned by white businessmen and Negro leaders. John Lewis, chairman of the Nashville Nonviolent Movement, reported that demonstrations -- in which there was some violence by whites and Negroes -- were touched off by William Moore's death, the Birmingham crisis, and events in Mississippi. Lewis said he "hoped" that the Human Relations Committee would come up soon with a plan to desegregate the entire downtown area and make Nashville a "true open city."

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ALBANY, GEORGIA -- Five SNCC staffers were arrested here in demonstrations against segregation May 20 and May 21. In the Albany city jail now are: Jack Chatfield, 20; Willie Ricks, 19; Prathia Hall, 22; Joyce Barrett, 22; and Joni Rabinowitz, 20. Chatfield and Ricks were arrested May 20 as they stood in a silent vigil in front of the Albany City Hall protesting the previous arrest of demonstrators. Misses Hall, Barrett and Rabinowitz were arrested May 21 as they and Dr. W. G. Anderson and Slater King passed out handbills across the street from the county courthouse urging Negroes not to vote for a bond issue. The Negro community objected to the bond issue because city officials refused to state flatly whether facilities would be desegregated in several new buildings.

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SLEMA, ALABAMA -- While SNCC executive secretary James Forman addressed a mass meeting here, 50 cars filled with hostile whites surrounded the Tabernacle Baptist Church. The mob dispersed after the meeting.

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CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND -- SNCC staffer Reggie Robinson reported that a truce was in effect in this Eastern Shore city after more than 100 Negroes were arrested demonstrating against segregation. Three generations of one family were jailed: Mrs. Gloria Richardson, leader of the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee, her daughter, and her mother, wife of a later city councilman.

(over)

LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI -- SNCC staffers Bob Moses, Hollis Watkins, John Ball, Lavone Hampton and farmer Hartman Turnbow were arrested here May 8 after Turnbow's home burst into flame in a gasoline-bomb attack. Moses was taking photographs of the burning house when he and the three other SNCC staff members were arrested. Turnbow was arrested later and all were charged with arson. Additional charges of "interfering with an investigation" were filed against Moses. The Justice Department filed suit May 11 to release the five immediately who, the Department said, were arrested on "false and baseless charges." Charges of arson were dropped against the five May 13 and they were released. The "interfering" charge against Moses is being continued.

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KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE -- Demonstrations resumed here against segregated movie theatres after a six-week fruitless truce. At least 150 students were arrested in this "All-American City" selected for awards by Look magazine. Marion Barry, Jr., SNCC executive committee member and leader of Students for Equal Treatment, was charged with assault and battery against a policeman after six officers picked him up and threw him into a police car. All demonstrators, including Barry, are now on bail.

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PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS -- Ben Grinage, SNCC staffer, reported that all lunch counter facilities here desegregated May 8 after a two-month long continuous campaign in which 10 students from Arkansas AM & N College were expelled. Grinage reported that some 25-30 merchants had agreed to remove all racial signs in the downtown area and in shopping centers.

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FROM A FIELD REPORT: (Prior to the massive demonstrations in Raleigh, N.C. in which over 1000 students were arrested.) "Tonight a rally of students was held on the campus of Shaw University. Students present were from Shaw, St. Augustine, and high schools. Spirit was high and enthusiasm great. As I walked in, they were singing, 'I Woke Up This Morning with My Mind Stayed on Freedom.' The students announced the decision for the night -- to march downtown. The Chief of Police and Mayor had spoken of the tension in the community and possibility of violence, finally asking them not to demonstrate. Being determined to go anyway, they organized groups of 'security squads' which were at intervals along the entire length of the line to stand between the marchers and on-lookers. Over 1500 students turned out."

from Ruby Doris Smith during a field trip to
Raleigh, N.C.

WE NEED

MORE PROTESTS...about the Freedom Walkers to President Kennedy, Attorney General Kennedy, the Civil Rights Commission and the Justice Department. Urge immediate and unconditional release of the Walkers, and guarantees that all citizens may walk on the public roads in Alabama in future without fear of arrest.

MORE DEMONSTRATIONS...supporting students in Raleigh, Greensboro, Durham, Nashville, Albany, the Negroes trying to register in Mississippi, the Freedom Walkers, and the young and old heroes of the Birmingham Movement.

MORE NEWS...about the Freedom Walkers. Take this newsletter to your local press and remind them that the Walkers are still in jail and will be -- for some time.

SUPPLIES...we are still in need of typewriters for the Atlanta and field offices, pens, pencils, paper, typewriter erasers, carbon paper, etc. SEE...enclosed memorandum on Freedom Cars and Stamps for Freedom.

AND, OF COURSE, FUNDS...