

THE STUDENT VOICE

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Brutality Scored By SNCC Workers

Urge Boycott Of
Danville Food Drive

DANVILLE, VIRGINIA --- Police brutality, legal maneuvers, and white intransigence are marking the civil rights movement in this Southern Virginia mill town.

After weeks of protesting and demonstrating, Negroes have been beaten mercilessly by police, arrested under ordinances and injunctions, and beaten in jail, and still white leaders refuse to either desegregate public facilities or increase job opportunities.

Led by the Danville Christian Progressive Association, Negroes here began to march downtown to protest injustices May 31. At least 250 persons have been arrested in a two-month period. Local leaders of the DCPA, an affiliate of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, are under several indictments, and in some cases are out on bonds of over \$10,000 each.

After appeals for aid from DCPA leader Rev. Lawrence Campbell, field secretaries of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee came to Danville, led marches and workshops, and were arrested.

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In Cambridge, Md.

Desegregation Pact Signed After 18-Month CNAC Protest



CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND -- In one of the first signed desegregation agreements in the history of the civil rights movement, leaders of the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee and white officials mapped out plans July 23 for desegregation.

The agreement, witnessed by Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and his assistant, Burke Marshall, came after 18 months of continuous protests in this small Eastern Shore fishing community. It provides for:

1. The hiring of a Negro in the Cambridge office of the State Department of Employment.
2. Desegregation of all grades of all schools.
3. Speedy action for a low-rent public housing project to ease housing conditions for the Negro community.
4. Continuation of a seven-man biracial committee to work on employment.

Reginald Robinson, a field secretary for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, said also that

two juveniles, who have been in state reformatories for alleged "juvenile delinquency" growing out of civil rights arrests, will be released soon.

Under the leadership of CNAC chairman, Mrs. Gloria Richardson, the group said it would suspend demonstrations "indefinitely." Both sides agreed to view the document as a "moral obligation."

Mrs. Richardson and her group, an affiliate of SNCC, have been working steadily since the winter of 1962 to ease segregated conditions in this town of 12,000.

CNAC led the protests for the following demands: equal job opportunities, equal public accommodations, complete desegregation of schools, and the need for a low-rent housing project. During the 18 months, two negotiating committees were called into existence, talked, and then dissolved without producing any concrete re-

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Lewis Elected as SNCC Chairman



JOHN LEWIS

The third chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee is John Lewis, former leader of the Nashville Nonviolent Movement. Lewis was selected by acclamation at the June, 1963 meeting of the Coordinating Committee.

The members of the Coordinating Committee accepted the resignation of Charles McDew, former SNCC chairman, who had decided to return to college in September.

Lewis, 23, has been arrested 24 times since he became involved in the ci-

vil rights movement in November, 1959. Seventeen of these occurred in Nashville alone. He was also savagely beaten in Montgomery, Alabama, when he and other Nashville students continued the Freedom Ride into Mississippi after a Greyhound bus was burned in Anniston, Alabama.

After accepting the chairmanship, Lewis toured SNCC projects in Alabama, Mississippi, Maryland and Tennessee. He was present at the signing of the Cambridge desegregation agreement on July 24.

Danville

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ed themselves. At least 15 SNCC field secretaries have worked in Danville since the protests began.

Police charged a protest demonstration at the city jail on June 10, turned fire hoses on the demonstrators, and clubbed them. Of the 65 protesting that night, 40 received medical attention. A list compiled from hospital records showed that demonstrators had to be treated for lacerations of the scalp, twisted wrists, and facial wounds.

Three days later, a demonstration at city hall was broken up when police threatened to use three high-pressure hoses on demonstrators who had planned to stay all night on the city

hall steps until they could see the Danville Mayor, Julian Stinson.

On June 21, 14 persons were indicted under a Virginia statute providing for criminal prosecution of those "inciting the colored population to acts of violence and war against the white population." The statute, written in the 1830's after a slave uprising, was used to hang John Brown after he raided Harper's Ferry.

On June 22... three SNCC workers, Robert Zellner, Avon Rollins, and Daniel Foss, were arrested on the indictment in a church after police jimmyed open the lock on the front door, and kicked in another door to the church office.

Local leaders and SNCC workers have called for a



A YOUNG WOMAN shows the results of Danville police action June 10th. Photo by Lyon.

national boycott of all Dan River Mill products, one of the largest textile mills in the world. Negro leaders say

the mill, which employs 10,000 persons in this town of 50,000 could easily exert influence on local officials to persuade them to accede to Negro demands.

Friends of SNCC in New York City conducted a two-hour long protest demonstration July 17 in front of the Mill office in the city, supporting the boycott and urging that the mill use its influence in to ease the tense atmosphere here.

SNCC worker Avon Rollins said, "We urge all decent Americans everywhere to support the Danville movement, and to uphold the boycott." Rollins said that some of the Negro citizens arrested in demonstrations were being fired from their jobs and refused unemployment checks. He said, "We are asking for food and clothing donations to help this brave Negro community hold out despite economic reprisals."

SNCC and DCPA headquarters are located at 226 Union Street, Danville.

SNCC in Mississippi**Registrants Serve Time in Parchman; Students Launch Statewide Protests**

THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA AND OTHER AREAS --Despite a consent agreement to release SNCC voter registration workers arrested here last March, new intimidations have greeted potential registrants.

On June 27, 58 persons were arrested in Itta Bena, Mississippi, after they walked to the town marshal's office to protest the smoke-bombing of their registration meeting. Although 13 juveniles were released, the remainder were convicted of "breach of the peace" and sentenced to 6 months in jail and a \$500 fine each.

Robert Moses, director of SNCC's Mississippi voter registration project, has asked for a special Civil Rights Commission hearing to review all these arrests and to investigate four murders which have taken place in the last two months.

Moses also appeared at a Justice Department suit which asserts intimidation of potential voters in Leflore county.

In Greenwood, 23 Negroes, most of them full-time or part-time SNCC workers, were arrested June in the Leflore County Courthouse for "breach of the peace" when they refused to leave

the registrar's office. They have also been incarcerated in Parchman Penitentiary after they refused to work.

Meanwhile, in Greenville, at least 20 persons, including SNCC field staffers Charles Cobb and Charles McLaurin, were arrested in sit-in demonstrations.

Anti-segregation demonstrations also burst into the

press in Clarksdale, considered by some to be one of the worst cities in Mississippi. Lafayette Surney

reported that at least 185 persons were arrested in separate demonstrations at segregated facilities, all designed to show the need for a bi-racial negotiating committee.



AT THE GREENWOOD FOLK FESTIVAL: Theodore Bikel which Negroes in the Mississippi Delta know so well, SNCC field secretary Jesse Harris, right, sits with an 11-years-old hero of the Jackson demonstrations. The Festival brought 200 local citizens and visitors from Tennessee, Georgia and Arkansas to sing together in a field on Highway 82 near the spot where James Ray was shot last February.

Pine Bluff Project Reports Successes**In Seven Months**

PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS In six months of work here, field secretaries for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee have, with the cooperation of local students, desegregated most of the public and recreational facilities, registered over 900 Negro voters, stimulated interest in desegregating the public schools, and are moving soon to 11 surrounding counties to work on voter registration.

Rev. Ben Grinage, who with SNCC field secretary Bill Hansen, arrived in Pine Bluff in January, said: "All lunch counters desegregated in May, and as of July 27, all theatres, including two drive-ins, will be desegregated in the area. Two private restaurants have opened to all customers. In a five-week period, we have registered 970 new Negro voters.

"We are negotiating," Grinage said, "with the local school board to press for complete desegregation of the public schools.

Savannah Leaders Jailed; State Police Use Tear Gas

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA -- Demonstrations halted here temporarily after student and adult protest leaders were jailed on accumulated peace bonds -- a factor which some contributed to outbreaks of violence as the leaderless Negro community continued to assert its demands.

Hosea Williams, leader of the Chatham County Crusade for Voters, was jailed early July after several white individuals obtained "good behavior" warrants for his arrest at \$2500 bond apiece. Williams remained in jail days in lieu of \$30,000 bond. Two SNCC field secretaries, working with the Savannah Youth Strategy Committee, a SNCC affiliate, were jailed on \$15,000 bond apiece after they were arrested in separate demonstrations. Bruce Gordon and Rick Tuttle had both worked closely with Benjamin Van Clark, Savannah youth leader.

SNCC workers on the scene said that frustrations in the Negro community were building up because of the failure in negotiations and because of the imprisonment of the movement's leadership.

About 400 persons were arrested here all told, SNCC worker Joe Eyer reported July 24:

NEW FUND-RAISING MATERIALS are available to aid SNCC's program in Arkansas, Alabama, Virginia, Maryland, Mississippi, and Georgia.

*Small buttons, about an inch across, are available from the Atlanta SNCC office for re-selling in supporter areas. The buttons are white with a black border around the SNCC emblem. Contact Sandra Hayden at the SNCC office in Atlanta.

*A film on SNCC's work in Mississippi has been produced in California by Harvey Richards. Entitled, "We'll Never Turn Back," Prints of the film -- for church, civic and social gatherings -- can be obtained from Harvey Richards, 14 Flood Circle, Atherton, California.

*Danny Lyon, SNCC photographer, is making exhibits which will be sent to Friends of SNCC groups in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Berkeley, and other areas. Exhibits may be lent to groups for fund-raising events.

SNCC Workers Arrested, Slugged in Selma Vote Drive

SELMA, ALABAMA ---- Despite the arrests of two SNCC voter registration workers and the beating of SNCC project director Rev. Bernard Lafayette, vote efforts are continuing in this White Citizens Council stronghold.

Lafayette, 23, was attacked by a white man June 11 outside his home. The man had asked Lafayette to "give him a push" and when Lafayette got out of his carto

see if the bumpers matched, the man jumped him and slugged him on the head three times "with a blunt instrument" causing "blood to fountain out of my head on to my shoes."

Lafayette said, "I fell to the pavement and as I started to get up he hit me on my head two other times. I began to stagger to the house and call my neighbor ... at this time the man who hit me jumped into the car and sped away."

About a week later, a SNCC volunteer was arrested inside the Dallas county courthouse as he was taking Negro citizens to register and vote. Bosie Reese, 19, was attacked by the Deputy Sheriff and yet charged with "resisting arrest" and "failure to obey an officer." He was released a week later on a \$1,000 property bond.

The next day, Lafayette himself was arrested on charges of "vagrancy." He spent one evening in jail and was released on bond.

Lafayette, who, with his wife Colia Liddell Lafayette, have been in Selma since February, have also started the first voter registration efforts in neighboring Wilcox county in fifty years.

He reported, "In spite of the deep fears among the Negro community, we have been able to move along with some degree of success. . . Many people who would be active have lost hope because of other pressures put on those who failed in the past. The Dallas County Branch of the White Citizens Council is an agent of the county government and is the birth-place of the White Citizens Council ..."



Rev. Bernard Lafayette, after he answered a white man's call for help.

Lafayette said that some of the fear in the communi-

ty had abated after several successful mass meetings featuring Rev. James Bevel of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and Miss Ella J. Baker, an adult advisor for SNCC.

Cambridge

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sults. SNCC workers on the scene said that houses were sprayed with gunshot bullets from cars driven by whites down the main street of the Negro community. One pointed out a hole left by a bullet which penetrated a metal parking meter and went through it completely.

Mrs. Richardson said, before the desegregation agreement was announced, "I've lived here all my life. Before the movement started here, the town had a lethargic, sleepy atmosphere. Now the Negro community is solidified. Now we know what we want."

And apparently the Negro community in Cambridge is getting some of what it wanted.

SNCC field secretary Robinson added that the Cambridge Movement meant a great deal to the whole Eastern Shore; voluntary desegregation has taken place in the surrounding towns of Easton, Denton, Chester-town, Pocomoc, and Snow Hill.



STUDENTS BLOCK main intersection in Atlanta July 26 protesting segregation at Leb's Restaurant, one of the main holdouts to restaurant desegregation. Protests at this establishment and the First Baptist Church continued here after more than 100 arrests in a month-long period. Despite the integration of 35 restaurants, bouncers at Leb's continue to attack students who try to enter the door. Photo by Lyon.

Gadsden Groups Urge Open School

GADSDEN, ALABAMA — SNCC field workers, recently released from jail where about 500 persons were arrested in massive demonstrations, reported they were organizing attempts to integrate the schools. (On August 3, about 650 Negroes were arrested.)

One SNCC field secretary, Claudia Rawles, reported that 62 students had gone to file applications at the "all-white" school, but only six had actually received application forms. She said Deputy Sheriff Felton Yates stood in the schoolhouse door and told them to go back.

In other developments here, Landy McNair, a SNCC field secretary from Mississippi, was beaten savagely by ten State Troopers in open daylight July 15 after they accused him of having a "false" driver's license. McNair had a license from Mississippi.

Miss Rawles reported on July 18: "Earl Turner was arrested in front of the Princess Theatre. Reason for the arrest: he didn't have an ID card. Benny Luchlon, who was with Earl Turner, was also arrested. Reason for his arrest: he had an ID card. (You just can't win.)"

A negotiating committee was, at the time of this writing, working on setting up a bi-racial committee to possibly work out plans for desegregating public facilities here, all of which, excluding the bus line, are segregated.

Frustration, Bitterness Mount in Albany, Georgia



ELDERLY WOMEN ARRESTED in Albany, Georgia after futile attempt to buy tickets at the Tift Park Pond, owned now by James Gray, publisher of Albany's only -- and arch segregationist -- newspaper. Photo by Lyon.

SOUTHWEST GEORGIA -- SNCC workers in Southwest Georgia reported growing wells of frustration and bitterness in Negro communities here as rigid barriers of segregation continued to stand.

Twenty-two of 26 SNCC workers in the Albany project -- many of whom were summer volunteers from several Northern colleges were arrested in a one-week period in June, almost crippling the activities of the SNCC staff. The remainder sought refuge in a church for eight days to avoid wholesale arrests by the Albany police on charges ranging from "distributing leaflets without a permit"

to "investigation of suspicion of vagrancy."

SNCC workers, Prathia Hall and Joyce Barrett reported deep-seated anger and disappointment here that the white leadership has refused either to negotiate or to desegregate public schools, parks, lunch counters, restaurants, or movie theatres.

They also pointed out that recent police brutality -- steadfastly denied by Chief Laurie Pritchett -- has caused outbreaks of retaliatory violence. Miss Hall said, "We are afraid here. We are afraid that this community may explode."

A young demonstrator, Joanne Christian, 19, was reported to have been dragged by her hair, thrown on the ground, and slapped by police after she was arrested. Mrs. Christian, who had also been jailed previously, protested to the Justice Department and said she "feared for the safety of my daughter in jail."

Three young Negroes did succeed in swimming in the segregated Tift Pond on July 13 after they leaped over a fence. They swam the length of the pool and walked out, dripping, through the front entrance. However, seven Negroes who sought to buy tickets at the entrance were jailed.

Whites Attack Sit-In Students in Fayette Drive

SOMERVILLE, TENNESSEE -- Direct action demonstrations at segregated drugstores and a movie theatre have begun here in the area where Haywood and Fayette County sharecroppers were evicted three years ago for attempting to register and vote.

SNCC field secretaries, working with the Somerville Movement, reported that demonstrations began here July 20 when young people, students at the Fayette County Training School, began sit-ins at Rhea's Rexall Drugstore and stand-ins at the local (segregated) movie theatre.

On July 23, a demonstration of 150 Negro students was dispersed by tear gas when a deputy sheriff lobbed a grenade at the group. Just before this, 25 white hoodlums attacked picketers in front of the courthouse and tore up their signs in full view of city and county police.

The next day, after about 90 Negroes registered to vote at the courthouse, SNCC field secretaries were attacked by whites both in the courthouse itself and on a nearby highway.

Other incidents of violence were reported, SNCC field secretary Lester McKinnie said: "(At the movie theatre) a mob of about 200 whites had gathered around the demonstrators. One man said to the deputy, 'Let us get them.' The deputy nodded yes, but then changed it to no when he realized that one of the demonstrators had seen him. The whites kept talking among themselves and asking the sheriff to let them get the demonstrators. The sheriff turned his back on the mob and walked across the street ...

"As soon as the sheriff's back was turned, three whites grabbed James Carpenter, a demonstrator, and began beating him. A mob of twenty whites surged forward and pushed Carpenter against the wall. They beat him and knocked him to the ground ... The sheriff returned and did not say anything to the white mob ..."

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