

THE STUDENT VOICE

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DECEMBER 16, 1963

Negro Testifies Later Arrested

WINONA, MISSISSIPPI -- A young Negro who told a federal jury last week that policemen "paid" him a pint and a half of corn whiskey to beat two civil rights workers was arrested in nearby Kilmichael for an offense supposedly committed while he was behind bars.

23-year-old Roosevelt Knox was one of two Negroes who were prisoners in the Winona jail when five Negro civil rights workers were beaten by police. Knox and another prisoner testified they had been ordered to assist in two beatings.

Knox's parents told SNCC workers in Greenwood the youth was charged with passing a bad check during the period he was held in the Winona jail.

His trial on the bad check charge, scheduled for December 10, was not held when charges against him were dropped.

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3000 MARCH IN ATLANTA



Marchers Brave Cold In Atlanta Demonstration

ATLANTA, GA., Dec. 15 -- More than 3,000 Atlantans, Negro and white, braved below freezing weather today to hear speakers from a variety of groups declare that some action must be taken soon to implement an integration plan presented by this city's Summit Leadership Conference.

Each speaker echoed the same theme: Atlanta, once a show-case city for the South and a model of "smooth" race relations, is lagging behind other Southern cities and even other Georgia cities.

While some encouraged a continuation of negotiations carried on by the Summit group, others called for direct action if Negro demands are not met soon.

James Forman, Executive Secretary of SNCC, told the crowd that overflowed Atlanta's Hurt Park here: "No one leader, no group of leaders can get your rights. You have to get them for yourselves."

Forman said, "We have two powerful weapons, the dollar and the vote."

The SNCC leader reminded the crowd of the up-coming presidential race in 1964. He called for consideration of an Easter Boycott here, and for a possible school boycott aimed at eliminating segregation and triple sessions in Negro schools. He called for a program to ease slum conditions in Negro neighborhoods, telling Atlanta Vice-Mayor Sam Massell, representing the city on the speakers' platform, "people are swimming in Eutawmilk Bottom" (a slum section of the city.)

Martin Luther King, Jr., featured speaker at the junior March on Washington demonstration, told the audience "time is run-

DEMONSTRATIONS BEGIN

FIVE ARRESTED IN DANVILLE



Danville Demonstration-Summer, 1963

DANVILLE, VA., Dec. 15 -- Anti-segregation protests resumed in this Southside Virginia city as five students were arrested at a Howard Johnson's restaurant December 10.

Sit-ins at Howard Johnson's, other restaurants and movie theaters are being conducted by students, most of them from Danville, as part of a drive to open the public facilities of this city.

A 22-year-old white SNCC worker from Chapel Hill, N.C., J.V. Henry, reported that hot ammonia had been thrown on the floor of one restaurant where a sit-in took place -- Staley's Restaurant -- "to get rid of us."

Henry stated that Danville students and SNCC workers were

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Danville
Va - 2519

MISS. RIGHTS GROUPS MEET

JACKSON, MISS., Dec. 15 — Close to 300 representatives of civil rights groups and civic organizations met here today at a state-wide meeting of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO.)

The meeting was called to discuss the organizational structure of COFO, and to plan the direction of civil rights activities in Mississippi for the coming year.

COFO is a federation of representatives from voting leagues and NAACP chapters, and staff members from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Congress of Racial Equality, who are working in Mississippi.

One item of business was the adoption of by-laws, in which the purpose of COFO is outlined as working for "total democracy, racial equality and economic justice" in Mississippi.

"The program of COFO consists of voter registration and citizenship education projects, political action — both mock and official, the implementation of government programs and general civil rights work," according to the newly amended by-laws.

"Mock" political action refers to the recent Freedom Ballot Campaign in which Aaron Henry, President of COFO, ran for governor and polled 85,000 Freedom Ballots from officially disfranchised Negroes.

Robert Moses, Director of SNCC's Mississippi vote drive since July 1961, was re-elected Project Director for COFO. CORE staff member Dave Dennis was elected Assistant Project Director.

"SNCC's wholehearted participation in COFO is part of our South-wide ONE MAN — ONE VOTE campaign aimed at breaking down all barriers to Negro voter registration except residence and age," stated John Lewis, Chairman of SNCC.

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ATLANTA

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ning out for Atlanta."

The SCLC head said, "If our words fail to move them (the power structure) then our actions must show them."

Other speakers were Larry Fox, Chairman of the Committee on Appeal For Human Rights; Dr. C.M. Smith, for the Atlanta NAACP; Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, for Operation Breadbasket; and the Rev. William Holmes Borders.

Two members of the National States Rights party, attired in Nazi storm trooper uniforms, picketed the gathering with signs reading: "Negro, your future is not here but in Africa."

The theme of the meeting was that Atlanta, despite its image as a city "too busy to hate," is still as segregated as many deep South towns.

Public schools are integrated tokenly; only lunch counters and a few restaurants downtown admit all comers. All movie theatres are integrated, as are the colleges in the area. But Atlanta Negroes are still shunted into slums and ghettos in the city.

Today's "Pilgrimage for Democracy" was the first demonstration held here since President Kennedy's assassination.

The day before the large march, 275 Atlanta area clergymen — Protestant and Jewish, Negro and white — signed a petition supporting the aims of the Pilgrimage.

Leaders of the Summit Conference reported to the crowd on the progress of negotiations to implement their plan for total integration of Atlanta.

The Atlanta Summit Leadership Conference is composed of representatives from 10 civil rights organizations and representatives from "at least 75" other community groups, according to Summit Co-chairman Attorney A.T. Walden.

The group called a city-wide conference on October 19, 1963, where over 300 people, from a cross-section of Atlanta life, discussed and recommended action in the following areas: public accommodations, employment, education, registration and voting, health and social services, housing, political issues and law enforcement.

Since then, members of the group's steering committee have

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They Came.....



They Heard....



James Forman Say "You Must Get Your Rights Yourself"

Henry Suit Appealed



Dr. Aaron Henry

CLARKSDALE, MISS., - Dec. 3. A libel suit filed against Aaron Henry, recent gubernatorial candidate on the Mississippi Freedom Ballot, was appealed to the United States Supreme Court. The defamation suit, filed by the Chief of Police and the District Attorney, resulted from a press conference following Henry's conviction on a morals charge in 1962.

Henry, state president of the NAACP, was convicted in Justice of Peace Court, in Shelby, Miss., on March 15, 1962 on charges of making perverse advances on a white teen-ager hitchhiker. Henry stated that the charges were a complete fabrication, and presented an alibi supported by sworn witnesses.

When Henry later stated in a press conference that the prosecutor and the police chief, who figured in the trial, had conspired to frame him, Henry was sued by them for defamation.

The Mississippi State Supreme Court upheld the libel suit in a December 2 ruling, and awarded \$15,000 to the police thereby reversing an earlier decision.

Has No Authority Says Justice Dept.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA - A spokesman for the Department of Justice has told a California senator the government "has no authority" to intercede in the case of a 67-year-old white minister held in jail here since August 28.

The senator, Thomas Kuchel (R-Cal.), forwarded the letter to the SNCC office here.

The letter was written by Burke Marshall, Assistant Attorney General.

The elderly minister, the Reverend Ashton Bryant Jones, a native Georgian now residing in San Gabriel, California, is being held under \$20,000 bail on charges growing out of a protest demonstration at an all-white church here this summer.

Since Jones' conviction is being appealed, his time behind bars is "dead time" and does not count against his sentence.

"We Shall Overcome," the official recording of the August 28, 1963 March On Washington may be purchased by using the coupon on this page. Money collected from the sale of this record will be used to further civil rights activities.

THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON • ALVA OT 26TH 1963

WE SHALL OVERCOME!

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WE SHALL OVERCOME!

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WE SHALL OVERCOME!

Songs of the Southern Freedom Movement

WE SHALL OVERCOME!

Compiled by Gay and Cande Carawan for
The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee
SNCC PUBLICATIONS



WE SHALL OVERCOME is a new book of "songs of the Southern Freedom Movement." It is available from SNCC, 6 Raymond Street, Atlanta, for \$1.95.

BLIND CASHIER NIXES BIAS

TALLAHASSEE, FLA. -- The cafeteria of the Florida State Capitol Building was desegregated recently because its cashier is blind.

Several Florida A&M University students, along with SNCC field secretary Sam Shirah, went to the end of the line to pay, the cashier could not see to refuse their money.

This is the first time that a SNCC staff member has worked in Florida. A militant student action group here, which Shirah helped organize, has requested affiliation with SNCC.

"Most people don't realize that northern Florida is as rigidly segregated as Alabama in many places," Shirah stated. The 20 year old SNCC worker, from Atlanta, is a white native of Alabama.

Protest March

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

met with city, county, state and private groups in an attempt to negotiate increased integration here.

Cooperating groups include SCLC, NAACP, SNCC, Operation Breadbasket, the Committee on Appeal For Human Rights, the Gandhi Youth Society, the All Citizens Registration Committee and the Atlanta Negro Voters League.

SCEF Case In Federal Court

NEW ORLEANS, LA. -- A case challenging the constitutionality of Louisiana's communist control laws was taken under advisement by a three-judge federal court on December 9.

The Southern Conference Educational Fund and its executive director, James A. Dombrowski, original plaintiffs in the case, were joined by attorneys Benjamin E. Smith and Bruce C. Waltzer whose request for intervention was granted by the court.

Smith, who is the Fund's treasurer, and his law partner, Waltzer, were arrested along with Dombrowski on October 4th for allegedly violating the state anti-communist statutes -- as managers of a "subversive" organization and for distributing "communist" literature, -- and all SCEF records were seized. Conspiracy charges against the three men were dismissed by a Criminal District Court, but the records were not returned to SCEF.

The plaintiffs are now asking for a temporary injunction against state and city officials preventing them from enforcing the statutes, and prohibiting the Louisiana Joint Legislative Committee on Un-American Activities (LUAC) from turning over the seized SCEF records to the Orleans Parish Grand Jury.

CORE Worker Stricken

ATLANTA, GEORGIA -- CORE field secretary Zev Aleony was hospitalized here last weekend with a heart attack.

Aleony was one of the Americas Five held in that Southwest Georgia city for two months on charges of attempting to incite insurrection.

Aleony is 25 years old, and a native of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

KENYA CONGRATULATED

ATLANTA, GEORGIA -- The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee extended "heartiest congratulations" to Kenya Prime Minister Jomo Kenyatta on the evening that country achieved independence, December 12.

The SNCC cablegram from Chairman John Lewis and Executive Secretary James Forman called Kenya's struggle for independence "an inspiration for all freedom struggles."

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Please send me _____ copies of the authorized recording(s) of the March on Washington at the special Council price. I understand the proceeds from the sale of this record will benefit the civil rights movement throughout the country. I enclose \$3.00 for each record ordered.

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Raleigh Vote Drive Begins

ATLANTA, GEORGIA: A new SNCC voter registration project operating out of Raleigh, N.C., was announced here by John Lewis, Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

SNCC was invited into Raleigh by the Raleigh Citizens Association (RCA), a coordinating body of Negro organizations in that city.

SNCC field secretary Reginald Robinson, last based in Cambridge, Md., during this past summer's racial unrest there, will direct the project.

Officials of Shaw University and St. Augustine's College in Raleigh have offered their support.

Only 32% of the eligible Negroes in Raleigh and Wake County are registered, according to the 1961 Civil Rights Commission Report.

SNCC now has major field projects located in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi and Virginia, in addition to North Carolina.

Mississippi

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SNCC worker Dick Frey in Greenwood said the office there had lodged protests with the FBI about Knox's arrest.

Knox had testified at the trial of five Mississippi law officers who were accused of beating five Negroes in the Winona jail.

The five officers were acquitted by an all-white all-male jury.



MRS. CAROLYN DANIELS, whose Dawson, Georgia home was bombed last week after shots were fired at her house, has indicated she will continue trying to register voters in Southwest Georgia.

Danville

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now beginning to organize in Pittsylvania County and the outlying districts of Danville.

"SNCC was asked into Danville in early June 1963. Over 20 SNCC workers have since worked in this mill and tobacco town — which has seen some of the worst police brutality in the South," according to John Lewis, Chairman of SNCC.

"Danville is an example of an upper South city, assumed by most of the nation to be more liberal than the deep South. And yet we have encountered some of the greatest resistance of the demands of the twentieth century in this city," Lewis said.

"IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU

Stay Out Of Helena!

HELENA, ARKANSAS -- The Chief of Police of this Arkansas Delta town has threatened to arrest SNCC workers whenever they cross the county line.

Chief Roy Ross told SNCC worker James Jones, "whenever you cross that Phillips County line we've got you."

Ross told Jones to, "take that station wagon, that literature and all that 'snick' stuff and get out of here if you know what's good for you."

Jones was warned to, "tell your buddy (SNCC worker William) Hansen that everything I've told you goes for him."

Hansen and two other SNCC workers were jailed in Helena following the first sit-ins held here in early November. Two workers, John Bradford and Bruce Jordan, were jailed last

week with an East Helena minister on land adjoining a Catholic church.

On December 13, SNCC workers Bradford and Jordan were sentenced to 30 days in jail and fined \$500 each for "threatening to make a disturbance." They were held under \$1500 bail each.

Hansen, who directs SNCC's Arkansas project, said the two youths had been in Helena for only 6 hours when they were jailed.

Bradford and Jordan were working on a voter registration project in Phillips County.

Negroes are 53.9% of the county's population, according to the 1961 Civil Rights Commission Report on Voting. Only 28% of the eligible Negroes are registered voters, however.

Friends Ask Help For Chicago Boycott

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS -- Chicago Area Friends of SNCC (CAF-SNCC) has initiated a "STOP! Don't Shop Downtown" Campaign calling for the ouster of School Superintendent Ben Willis and for the adoption of a positive policy for integration by the Chicago School Board.



This action, supported by a growing number of community organizations, is the follow up to an Oct. 22nd FREEDOM DAY School Boycott, in which over 200,000 students and parents participated in the largest civil rights action in the country's history.

The purpose of the downtown boycott is to pressure business leaders, who have openly supported Willis.

CAF-SNCC has issued a call for volunteer help to make the boycott a success. It has asked college students to spend their Christmas vacation in Chicago working on the "STOP! Don't Shop Campaign." Chicago Friends of SNCC cannot provide subsistence wages but will find living accommodations for those who come. Those interested may contact CAF-SNCC, 765 E. Oakwood Blvd., suite 212-3, Chicago, Ill. 60653, phone 268-5077.

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