

THE STUDENT VOICE

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Freedom Day In Hattiesburg, Miss.

150 TRY TO REGISTER

HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI—More than 150 Negroes stood in a futile attempt to register to vote.

The Negroes braved rain and lines of policemen. Three voter registration workers from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) were jailed.

On Tuesday night, SNCC worker George Greene was jailed on a traffic charge. SNCC worker Robert Moses, head of SNCC's Mississippi vote drive and program director for the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) was jailed and is being held on \$600 bail. SNCC worker Oscar Chase,

jailed last week when he entered the Negro side of the Hattiesburg bus station, was arrested again on Wednesday as he was picketing the court house.

From the jail, Moses dictated a telegram to Justice Department official Burke Marshall, asking Marshall to file a civil suit against the arresting officer and to file for an injunction against Hattiesburg officials, prohibiting them from interfering with voter registration activity.

More than 50 ministers and rabbis were in Hattiesburg for Freedom Day, representing the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity and the Commis-

sion on Religion and Race of the United Presbyterian Church.

Police officers cordoned off sections of the street and allowed no traffic to pass.

SNCC Chairman John Lewis and Executive Secretary James Forman, in Hattiesburg for Freedom Day, protested the arrests to local FBI agents.

The Hattiesburg - Forrest County Registrar, Theron Lynd, has been involved in litigation with the Justice Department since 1960, because of his refusal to register qualified Negroes.

"We are trying to get people registered to vote," said Lawrence Guyot, head of voter registration here for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO).

"The only way this can be done is with Federal intervention."

The case against Registrar Lynd dates back to 1960, when

Justice Department officials first tried to gain access to his records. He refused, and since then has been found guilty of contempt. The United States Supreme Court refused to review his conviction on January 6, 1964.

SNCC worker Guyot said if Negroes making the vote attempt are arrested, they will remain in jail. "We feel the Federal Government will support the guaranteed rights of the United States Constitution," he said, and "therefore, have no plans to post bond."

Negroes here decided on the Freedom Day, Guyot said, "because of the inactivity of both the Justice Department and Theron Lynd. We can't ask people to go down and take a test given by a man who has no regard for Federal court orders." "The only recourse," Guyot said, "is Federal intervention or community action."

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SNCC Backs Boycott

ATLANTA, GEORGIA -- The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) announced its support of a planned multi-city boycott of schools in February.

John Lewis, SNCC Chairman, said the anti-segregation group would "support and aid" efforts to call attention to "a serious crisis in the nation's schools."

As many as 11 cities may join in the boycott, called to protest overcrowding and segregation in Negro schools.

Representatives from Atlanta, New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Boston, and Philadelphia met in New York last weekend to plan for the boycott. A similar boycott in Chicago last year involved 250,000 students who left their classrooms for a day and attended "Freedom Schools."

Chester, Pennsylvania; Cambridge, Maryland; Cleveland, Ohio; Gary, Indiana; Indianapolis, Indiana and Wilmington, Delaware have also considered school boycotts.

Lewis' statement read:

"The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) announces its support of a planned

multi-city boycott of schools. This boycott, like the Freedom Day Boycott in Chicago last year, should serve to remind the nation as well as local school boards across the country that conditions in Negro schools, North and South, are still separate and unequal, as they have been since and before the Supreme Court's 1954 decision, long years ago.

"Decent education is basic to our struggle. We are jimmied first in the classroom, in the first and second grades where overcrowding and poor facilities conspire to rob us of jobs and other opportunities in later life.

"Whether racial imbalance - the polite term for segregation - or simply the reluctance of school officials to admit and correct the deplorable conditions that exist in the nation's schools is at fault, this situation must be remedied.

"We call upon all Americans and all groups working to improve America to join with us and other sponsoring organizations to make the multi-city boycott a successful demonstration of Negro discontent."



DEMONSTRATORS FACE KLAN at Krystal's restaurant in Atlanta.

SNCC vs. KKK

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RESTAURANT CHAIN INTEGRATES

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE - Dobbs House and Toddle House snack bars and restaurants, a target of demonstrations in Atlanta led by SNCC, have integrated here and in other Southern towns, the company president announced this week.

But J. K. Dobbs, Jr., president of Dobbs House, the firm which also operates Toddle Houses, said there were no plans to lower racial bars in all Dobbs House operations.

"We have integrated in Atlanta and in some towns in Tennessee and Texas," Dobbs said.

The decision to integrate came after a series of sit-in demonstrations led by SNCC and comedian Dick Gregory in Atlanta. Gregory's wife was one of several demonstrators who spent Christmas in jail after being arrested at an Atlanta Dobbs House.

The SNCC workers added a new twist to sit-ins in Atlanta. Several of them purchased stock in Dobbs House and were arrested in what was in fact their own restaurant.

SNCC Chairman, John Lewis, one of the arrested stockholders, helped to negotiate the settlement.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., Jan 18 - Three students arrested at a Toddle House here today were returned to their seats after charges against them were dropped.

The demonstration took place in the wake of a recent announcement by Dobbs House, the parent chain of Toddle House, that their restaurants had been desegregated in Atlanta, Texas and Tennessee.

Three students at Philander Smith College here were the only persons in a group of 15 arrested. Members of the Pine Bluff Movement, an affiliate of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee also participated.



SNCC workers during demonstration in front of Toddle House prior to integration of the restaurant.

PROTESTS CALLED

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Washington SNCC office has called for nationwide demonstrations on January 31, the eve of the fourth anniversary of the sit-in movement.

The January 31 demonstrations - called for local court houses, employment offices, agriculture offices and other governmental offices - will demand food and jobs.

Six per cent of the nation's white workers are unemployed, the SNCC office said. More than 12% of the nation's Negroes are without work.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA - The Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee has called for nationwide action on February 1.

SNCC head John Lewis has asked protest groups, civil rights organizations and interested people to demonstrate on Freedom Day.

Lewis said the February 1 action in the South would be directed at city halls and Federal buildings in the South, demanding a strong civil rights bill, an end to police brutality and an "open community."

Northern demonstrations would seek passage of the civil rights bill and an end to police brutality, Lewis said.

In 1961 only 5% of the voting age Negroes in 100 key Southern counties were registered to vote. Two years later Negro registration in those counties had risen to only 8.3% of the potential, according to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission 1963 Report.



Demonstrators sit down in front of town hall in Chapel Hill shortly before arrest.

DEMONSTRATORS PROTEST ANTI-BIAS LAW VETO

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. Twelve arrests here January 18, and a march of 100 persons the next day climaxed a week of demonstrations over the defeat of a city public accommodations law on January 13.

Members of the Chapel Hill Freedom Committee and faculty members from the University of North Carolina have conducted a vigil in the town hall since January 13. One student has been there for five days on a hunger

fast.

J.V. Henry, a 20-year-old white field worker for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, was among the 12 arrested.

He was charged with disorderly conduct according to a spokesman for the Freedom Committee. Bond was set at \$200. On January 19, 100 persons marched to the town hall to continue the vigil.

'Show Force' Says Alabama Sheriff Clark

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA - An Alabama sheriff who raided a Selma, Ala. voter registration office told a conference of state lawmen that force "is the only way to contain demonstrations."

Dallas County Sheriff Jim Clark told the fourth annual conference of Alabama Circuit Solicitors "you don't have to use force but you have to show it."

Clark, Circuit Solicitor Blanchard McLeod, and five other lawmen raided the Selma SNCC office on December 16, 1963. The officers also roughed up a SNCC worker, confiscated records of the organization, and broke into a "Freedom House" used to house voter registration workers.

A Federal court had denied him permission to seize the records legally.

Although Negroes are 50% of

'LUDICROUS' PARADE LAW OVERTURNED

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA - A Danville, Virginia law regulating parades was attacked as "ludicrous" and unconstitutional before the Fourth United States Court of Appeals.

Among those jailed during anti-segregation demonstrations in Danville last summer were workers from SNCC.

Three attorneys representing Danville Negroes arrested under the law told the court the ordinance was "constructed to prevent the movement toward racial equality." The Negroes' lawyers said the ordinance breaches the 14th Amendment by curbing free speech and free assembly.

SNCC workers have been in Danville since spring 1963 at the invitation of local leaders.

the population of Dallas County, only .9% of the voting age Negroes are registered.

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HATTIESBURG

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The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Council of Federated Organizations have been conducting a voter registration drive in Forrest County.

Only 20% of the voting age Negroes are registered voters here, according to the United States Civil Rights Commission.

A white New York man jailed here has asked Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy to come to Hattiesburg to defend him.

Oscar Chase, 23, of Queens, New York, asked Kennedy in a telegram from the jail to come to Hattiesburg to defend him.

Chase, a SNCC worker, was arrested when he entered the Negro waiting room in a Hattiesburg bus station. He was charged with "breach of the peace" and "vagrancy."

A 1963 graduate of Yale Law School, Chase has been doing legal research for SNCC. He was in Hattiesburg to gather information on the case of Theron Lynd, Forrest County registrar. Lynd has been convicted of failing to obey a Federal court order compelling him to cease discriminating against prospective Negro voters.

In Atlanta, John Lewis, Chairman of SNCC, asked Attorney General Kennedy to act to free the young rights worker. Other telegrams were sent to Senators Jacob Javits and Kenneth Keating of New York, and to Congressman Edward Rosenthal of Queens.

Another rights worker jailed in Hattiesburg for "possession of narcotics" and two traffic violations, has indicated he will stay behind bars also. SNCC worker Peter Stoner, 25, of Berlin, Pennsylvania, fined \$4.50 on each of the traffic cases Tuesday, January 14, after the "narcotics" charge was dropped, said he will stay in jail because "I am tired of Hattiesburg police harassing vote workers."

Stoner was arrested a second time on January 11 with 17-year-old Robert Plump of Hattiesburg. Stoner was charged with interfering with an officer and Plump with littering and failing to carry a Selective Service card, although he is too young to register for the draft. Another SNCC worker, Lafayette Surney, was jailed also.

During a "Freedom Vote" drive in Mississippi last fall, Hattiesburg arrested several SNCC workers on traffic charges.

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SNCC Meets Klan

SEVENTY-THREE ARRESTED

Brutality Protested

ATLANTA, GEORGIA - Seventy-three demonstrators were arrested here Saturday night in two demonstrations.

Police pushed, shoved and threw some demonstrators who tried to stop a paddy wagon from pulling away by lying down before the wheels.

Others went limp when police arrested them and had to be carried into the paddy wagon.

The protest began when students tried to enter a segregated Krystal's restaurant. Members of the Ku Klux Klan, robed and hooded, sat inside the locked eating place and refused to leave as a large crowd of Negroes gathered outside.

More demonstrators arrived. Singing freedom songs, they waited for the Klansmen to leave.

Finally, police jailed one demonstrator, who went limp and was carried to the paddy wagon. The other demonstrators lay down before the wheels of the wagon, and police arrested 25 more. Among those jailed in front of the Krystal's were SNCC Chairman John Lewis and Executive Secretary James Forman.

Later that same evening, college students staged a protest march across downtown Atlanta to the jail. They began singing freedom songs to the first group of demonstrators inside the jail and were invited to step closer by a policeman. Once inside a police station parking lot, they were arrested also.

Most of the demonstrators refused to cooperate with policemen, and gave names like "Super Snick", "Abe Lincoln" and "Freedom Now."

All were charged with "disorderly conduct" and "disturbing the peace."

Protesters were especially critical of police treatment here. SNCC sent telegrams to Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. and to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, protesting police brutality used against the demonstrators.

The demonstrations here are directed by SNCC and the Committee On Appeal for Human Rights (COAHR).

Twenty-one demonstrators were arrested at three different locations on January 11, and 16 more were jailed here Monday evening, January 13.

Among the 21 arrested Satur-



ATLANTA POLICE drag SNCC worker Debbie Amis to jail.

day night, January 11, at the Heart of Atlanta Motel were John Lewis, Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Reverend Wyatt Tee Walker, administrative assistant to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Lewis' arrest was his 29th.

"We want to make Atlanta an 'Open City,'" COAHR Chairman Larry Fox, said. "We want jobs, decent and integrated schools, and the right to eat or rent a room wherever we choose."

Seventy-nine high school students have been temporarily suspended from classes since demonstrations began, and several college students who have participated in demonstrations report their school's administration has threatened to expel active students.

Other protesters were arrested at two Krystal's restaurants after the managers took out warrants charging them with violation of the state anti-trespass law.

The demonstrators have succeeded in integrating 20 eating places in the Dobbs House chain and several smaller eateries since the campaign began here just before Christmas. The protest drive has also resulted in the admission of the first Negro to all-white Georgia Baptist Hospital, when a Negro SNCC worker, injured during a racial demonstration, was given treatment there.

The Holiday Inns - one the scene of SNCC-led demonstrations - have also announced they will integrate.

HATTIESBURG FACT SHEET

HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI—the county seat of Forrest County, lies halfway between Jackson and the gulf cities of southeastern Mississippi, in the Fifth Congressional District. Forrest County has a population of 52,722 (34,989 in Hattiesburg).

Eighty-five per cent of the farm owners in Forrest County are white. The Board of Health lists malnutrition as a major health problem.

Of Mississippi as a whole, the Civil Rights Commission, in its report entitled, VOTING, 1961, says:

"In Mississippi, whites comprise 63.9% of the population 21 years old or over; non-whites 36.1% . . . In 13 Mississippi counties no Negroes are registered . . . In 42 Mississippi counties no Negroes are registered. . . In 1954 according to a survey made by then Attorney General J. P. Coleman, there were 500,000 voting-age Negroes, but only 22,000 (or 4.48%) were registered . . ."

Out of 7,406 Negroes of voting age in Forrest County, only 12 are registered voters according to the Commission report. Seventy-seven per cent of the manufacturing laboring force in Hattiesburg is employed by three firms: the Hercules Powder Company, employing 1,000 people; the Reliance Manufacturing Company, employing 1,100; and its wholly owned subsidiary, Stadium Manufacturing Company,

employing 325.

The city has a history of trade unions, and until 1948 -- when voter rolls were purged -- some Negro political activity.

Efforts by the Federal Government to force Forrest County Registrar Theron Lynd to register qualified Negroes as voters began in August 1960, when Federal officials tried to obtain access to Forrest County voting records. They were unsuccessful, and turned to the courts. Failing to get an order from District Judge William Cox, they appealed to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

In July 1961, the Government sued to enjoin Lynd from discriminating against Negro applicants. The suit met with delay in the courts, and a hearing was not held until March 1962, eight months later. The Government showed that:

- (1) Lynd had never registered a Negro;
- (2) Prior to January 1961, no Negro was permitted to apply; and
- (3) after July 1961, obviously qualified Negroes were rejected.

The Government then asked for a temporary injunction against such discrimination. The court refused to act and an appeal was made to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Fifth Circuit ruled the Government had made a clear showing and granted the injunction, barring Lynd from failing to register Negroes on the same basis as whites. This order was to become effective on April 1, 1962.

On July 15, 1963, the Court affirmed the temporary injunction. Registrar Lynd was convicted of contempt and given two

weeks to purge himself. That same month the Fifth Circuit found Lynd guilty of civil contempt and gave him 10 days to purge himself by:

- (1) Registering 43 named Negroes;
- (2) Ceasing to require Negroes to interpret sections of the Mississippi Constitution more difficult than those assigned to white applicants;
- (3) Halting the rejection of Negro applicants for errors or omissions on their applications if they had met certain other specified qualifications; and
- (4) allowing Federal agents to inspect his records.

Lynd appealed this latest order, and the United States Su-



LAWRENCE GUYOT, (lower center) peers from under bunk bed in Greenwood, Miss. jail, March 1963. SNCC worker Guyot heads COFO registration drive in Mississippi's Fifth Congressional District. Guyot says Hattiesburg Negroes have decided to call January 22 Freedom Day because of the "inactivity" of the Justice Department and voting registrar Theron Lynd.

preme Court refused to review his conviction on January 6, 1964.

Theron Lynd has to this date (January 18, 1964) not complied with the injunction or purged himself of contempt. In August, 1963, 10 of the named 43 qualified Negro applicants submitted affidavits to the Court that they were, despite the Court order, denied the right to vote and that their names had not been placed on the voting rolls.

It has been as difficult for voter registration workers to operate in Hattiesburg as it has been for Negroes to register there.

Police harassment of legitimate voter registration activity was especially evident during the "Freedom Vote" campaign for Governor, sponsored by the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) in November, 1963.

Police made arrests for "distributing leaflets without a permit," "parking too far from the sidewalk," and a variety of other charges. Five white students from Yale University were held without being charged for five hours. The Freedom Vote candidate for Governor, Dr. Aaron Henry, was followed by policemen as he walked through the streets. Police pressure caused two churches to cancel planned mass meetings; at one church, three fire engines and a police car -- with their sirens on -- remained outside during the course of a mass meeting.

The harassment did not prevent 3,560 Negroes from demonstrating their desire to vote by casting their "Freedom Ballots" in churches and poolrooms in Hattiesburg.



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