IN GREENWOOD

111 ARRESTS MARK MISS. FREEDOM DAY

GREENWOOD, MISS. - In what SNCC Executive Secretary James Forman described as "flagrant violations of the 1960 and 1964 Civil Rights Acts and the First Amendment," 111 local Negroes, SNCC workers, and Mississippi Summer Project volunteers were arrested here after a Freedom Day on July 16.

On July 17, the cases were removed to Federal court.

SNCC has been working in Greenwood since 1962. Greenwood's first "Freedom Day" was held March 25, and resulted in the arrests of 14 workers and local residents. A second "Freedom Day" was held April 9; 46 persons were arrested.

The jailings were made as integrated groups picketed the LeFlore County Courthouse, carrying signs urging Negroes to register.

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RUINS OF JERUSALEM BAPTIST AND BETHEL METHODIST CHURCHES in Kingston, near Natchez. The two churches are among 10 burned or bombed in Mississippi since the Mississippi Summer Project began.

GREENWOOD POLICE drag pregnant rights worker during a Freedom Day to increase Negro voter registration.

CHURCH BURNINGS STILL UNCHECKED

FLASH! At press time STUDENT VOICE learned that three more churches have been bombed in Mississippi. Details and pictures next week.

GREENWOOD, MISS. - Another church burning in Mississippi on July 17 raises the total burned or bombed to 10, SNCC reported this week.

The most recent burning occurred in McComb, July 17 when the Zion Hill Baptist Church burned to the ground. The church, located west of McComb on Route 44, had not been used for civil rights activity.

Two other burnings occurred.

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SELMA: TOWN IN A REIGN OF TERROR

An injunction prohibiting assemblies of three or more persons in any public place; more than 90 arrests in one week; continual official and unofficial intimidation and brutality; these have temporarily slowed the SNCC project in Selma, Alabama, but such obstacles are not new in Selma.

The first large voter registration drive in this Black Belt community began last September. It involved regularly held mass meetings at night, and marches on the courthouse during the day. Local officials regularly attended the mass meetings and took notes and photos. (At a rally earlier in the year, one official came with a walkie-talkie over which he reported events to County Sheriff James Clark. Around 100 deputies and possemen - Clark's brown-shirted army of deputized local citizens -- also were regularly massed outside the meeting halls.

On Sept. 23, 21 carloads of state troopers, close to 75 men, and one van-type emergency unit arrived in Selma at Sheriff Clark's request. The head of the state troopers, Col. Al Lingo, is an old friend of Sheriff Clark's and the two have assisted one another throughout Alabama. That night as Negroes left the mass meeting and marched to the Federal courthouse steps two SNCC workers who were carrying signs urging people to register were arrested by police. (The first, filed in April 1961, is against the registrar who was charged with "systematic discrimination against Negro registration applicants," according to Burke Marshall. Though the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals directed the district court to issue an injunction, this injunction has not had an effect on registration practices. The department has now filed for an enforcement proceeding and a hearing is set for Oct. 5.)

In June 26, 1963, the department filed a suit against Dallas County, charging its officials with "intimidation of voter registration workers by the sheriff and county prosecuting attorney by means of baseless arrests."

Then last Nov. 12 the Justice Department filed suits against the Circuit Solicitor Blanchard McLeod and against the Dallas County Citizens Council. It said the registration board rejected many qualified Negroes.

Dallas County has long had a plantation economy and even today the county is 49.9% rural. Two-thirds of the rural population is Negro.

Median family income is only $1393, 35% of that for whites. Median school years completed for Negroes is 5.8, 50% of that for whites.

In Sept., 1963, only 242 of 14,809 voting age Negroes in the county were registered, or 1.7%. In 1956, 275 Negroes were registered. According to a Justice Department suit, in the six years from 1954 to 1960 the Dallas County Board of Registrars registered more than 2,000 whites but only 14 Negroes.

The Justice Department has four civil suits pending in Dallas County. The first, filed in April 1961, is against the registrar who was charged with "systematic discrimination against Negro registration applicants," according to Burke Marshall. Though the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals directed the district court to issue an injunction, this injunction has not had an effect on registration practices. The department has now filed for an enforcement proceeding and a hearing is set for Oct. 5.

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BURNINGS

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near Natchez, in Kingston, on July 13, completely destroying the Jerusalem Baptist Church and the Bethel Methodist Church. Adams County Sheriff O’Dell Sanders said the blazes were definitely arson.

Only two days before the Natchez fires, the Pleasant Plan Missionary Baptist Church was burned in Browning, near Greenwood. SNCC workers said local policemen and firemen watched while the building burned to the ground. They said local whites had tried to buy the concrete building from Browning Negroes, but had been told the church was not for sale.

The other attacks were:

June 15, the recreation hall of the Rosary Catholic Mission in Hattiesburg was burned, SNCC has been conducting a voter registration drive in Hattiesburg for more than a year.

June 16, in Philadelphia, the Mount Zion Methodist Church was razed to the ground. A week before the burning, whites had attacked Negroes leaving evening services at the church. It was the ruins of the building that three missing rights workers had come to inspect the day they vanished.

June 21, the Sweet Rest Church of Christ (Holiness) in Brandon was damaged by a fire bomb.

SNCC worker Cordell Reagon talks to prospective Mississippi voter.

By mid-summer more than 900 full time workers will be engaged in the Mississippi Summer Project. There will be 31 Freedom Schools with an enrollment of over 2,000 students.

YOU CAN HELP. SUPPORT SNCC.

Williams Chapel Church in Ruleville, used as a voter registration meeting place, was damaged by fire that same day.

June 26, a church in Clinton, near Jackson, was set on fire. SNCC workers said the arsonists probably believed the church’s white pastor, a Rev. Yonkers was connected with civil rights activity. On that same day, arsonists attempted to burn the McRaven Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson.

The Knights of Pythias Hall in Moss Point was firebombed on June 23. The building had been used for civil rights activity. On July 6, whites fired into a mass meeting held there, injuring a Negro girl.

Elsewhere, police in Elm City, N.C., arrested two white men they caught trying to burn the First Presbyterian Church of Elm City. The Negro church is being renovated by an integrated group despite warnings from James P. Jones, Grand Dragon of the North Carolina Ku Klux Klans against integrated projects at the church.

In Southwest Georgia, three Negro churches were re-dedicated by SNCC workers and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., two weeks ago. They had been destroyed by fire two years ago after SNCC used them for voter registration meetings.

WADE HOUSE voter registration meetings, of using economic sanctions against Negroes, and of resisting Federal attempts to enforce the Civil Rights Acts of 1957 and 1960.

These last three suits are also still in the courts.

The Dallas County Citizens Council is the largest in the state. Last October it had 3,000 members.

MISSISSIPPI HARASSMENT

Clarksdale, July 11 - Jack Pratt, attorney for the National Council of Churches, was arrested here on two traffic charges.

Canton, July 11 - A small fire bomb was thrown on the lawn of the Freedom House here. No damage was done.

Laurel, July 11 - While police watched, local whites pushed and pummeled members of the NAACP youth chapter, testing the 1964 Civil Rights Act here.

Meridian, July 14 - Nine Negroes convicted of blocking a sidewalk have asked the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to reverse their cases to Federal court.

Mississippi youths not connected with the civil rights movement.

Natchez, July 12 - Two churches burned (see separate story).

Hattiesburg, July 13 - A young Negro, active with the movement, was released here after spending four months in jail on a rape charge. A grand jury refused to indict him. His lawyers indicated that this may be the first instance a Negro has ever been acquitted of a charge of raping a Mississippi white woman.

Biloxi, July 14 - The drivers of two carloads of civil rights workers were arrested on traffic charges here.

Young Mississippian is shown at one of the 31 Freedom Schools in the state.

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Send to: SNCC, 6 Raymond Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30314.

I pledge $ to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

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1pledge...
WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Justice Department was asked to "confess error" in its prosecution of nine civil rights leaders in a petition bearing 7,000 names, presented to Burke Marshall here this week.

The petition charges Negroes are systematically excluded from Federal juries in the South.

The nine were indicted by a Federal grand jury in Albany, Ga, last year on perjury and conspiracy charges. The government alleged that they had conspired to injure the business of a white man who had served on a jury that returned a favorable verdict for a south Georgia sheriff accused of shooting a Negro.

All the defendants have been convicted, and are appealing their cases.

One defendant is Joni Rabinowitz, a SNCC worker.

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The Atlanta-based integration group had previously been successful in getting National Aeronautic and Space Agency head James Webb; baseball star Stan Musial; musicians Gary Graffman, David Bar Ilan and Eleanor Steber; television stars of the "Bonanza" and "Beverly Hillbillies" shows; jazz trumpeter Al Hirt; Congressman Robert McClory (R. III.); and college teachers John Gassner (Yale), Walter Allen (Vassar) and Stephen Spender (Northwestern) to cancel appearances in Mississippi.

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The two - Daniel Perlman, 23, of New York City, and David Welsh, 28, of Detroit - had left the office of a white Philadelphia attorney when two middle-aged white men attacked them on the street.

Perlman received a large gash on his forehead from a chain, and ran to the office of Philadelphia Sheriff Rainey for help. The sheriff sent a deputy, who failed to make any arrests.

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MOBILE, ALA. - A Justice Department attempt to enjoin 28 white Wilcox County, Alabama landowners from banning Negroes from collecting insurance premiums from Negroes living on their property.

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