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NEWSLETTER

6 Raymond Street, N.W.
Atlanta 14, Georgia
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February 8, 1963

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA -- An assistant circuit solicitor said here during a hearing on false pretenses charges against SNCC field secretary Bob Zellner that he had offered to drop that charge if Zellner would plead guilty to a charge of vagrancy. (The false pretenses charge is based on the fact that Zellner wrote a check for \$85 on the day of his vagrancy arrest thinking there was money in his account to cover it. Through a clerical slip, money was not in his account when he wrote the check, but was deposited three hours later. The check would have cleared during ordinary course of business and never was sent through the bank of marked "for insufficient funds.") State authorities plan to press the false pretenses charge -- a felony in Alabama with a 1-10 year sentence -- to the Grand Jury February 12. (SEE ACTION REQUEST.)

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA -- The SNCC office here announced that food and clothing drives for dispossessed Mississippi Delta Negroes are continuing. Groups in Louisville, Knoxville, Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Icwa City and other cities are underway.

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TALLADEGA, ALABAMA -- Joanne Grant and Carl Braden were dismissed from injunction hearings here February 8 on motion by Attorney General Richmond Flowers. Hearings will be continued February 11 against others named in the injunction, including the Talladega College student body, President Arthur Gray, Bob Zellner, and others. Assistant Attorney General John Bookout told reporters "we think it will strengthen our case to deal with the local situation only."

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LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS -- Public facilities in some hotels, a bowling alley, and several lunch counters desegregated peacefully here January 2, following sit-ins which saw SNCC field sec'y Bill Hansen and SNCC executive committee member Worth Long arrested.

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KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE -- Eight stores have agreed to upgrade Negroes to white collar jobs after negotiations conducted by the Knoxville Civic Improvement Committee, headed by SNCC member Avon Rollins.

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AMERICUS, GEORGIA -- SNCC field workers in Southwest Georgia called the trial of D. E. Short, deputy town marshal of Sasser, Ga. "a black mark." The Justice Department had filed a suit against Short for running three SNCC workers out of Terrell county at gunpoint last summer. Short was acquitted in 33 minutes by an all-white jury. SNCC workers also protested Justice Department lawyers handling of the case.

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GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI -- Comedian Dick Gregory will escort a cargo of food and clothing from Chicago to dispossessed Negro families here February 11. The goods were collected by the Chicago Friends of SNCC. (SEE ACTION REQUEST.)

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PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS -- Thirteen members of the Pine Bluff Student Movement staged this city's first sit-ins here on February 1, the third anniversary of the student movement. Participating were SNCC workers Bill Hansen and Ben Grinage.

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MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA -- State investigators, who followed SNCC field secretary Bob Zellner from here to his grandmother's deathbed and funeral in Mobile, have set off a storm of protest. SNCC, and the Southern Conference Educational Fund are asking other groups and individuals to protest "this desecration." (SEE ACTION REQUEST.)

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA -- The Freedom Singers have recorded a new album, "We Shall Never Turn Back," the title song written by SNCC staffer Bertha Gober.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS -- Clyde Kennard, the first Negro to apply to a white school in Mississippi, has been placed on indefinite suspension from his 7-year prison term. Kennard is here at the University of Chicago's Cancer Research Division.

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CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI -- Charges of "illegal possession of barbituate" were, in effect, dropped against SNCC worker Ivanhoe Donaldson and Ben Taylor when the Coahoma County Grand Jury refused to indict the two after they brought a 2-ton truck of food and clothing for Delta Negroes and were arrested.

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA -- The Spring Conference of SNCC will be held here Easter weekend, April 12-14. Write now for applications to Ruby Doris Smith, SNCC office. All requests for applications must be in by March 1.

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ACTION REQUESTS:

1. We are calling upon you to protest the inhuman treatment Bob Zellner and his family received from Alabama investigating officers. Call, wire or write one of the following, protesting the harassment and the false pretenses charged lodged against him: (1) Maury Smith, Assistant Circuit Solicitor, Montgomery, Alabama; (2) Richmond Flowers, Attorney General of Alabama; (3) Governor George C. Wallace; and (4) Al Lingo, State Director of the Department of Public Safety, all in Montgomery regarding the charges and the harassment by state agents. Write to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and the U. S. Civil Rights Commission in Washington.

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2. We are asking you to continue your aid to Mississippi. Needed: food, clothing, and paperback college-level texts: biography, social science, and fiction. Send materials to SNCC, 6 Raymond Street, N.W., Atlanta 14, or to Bob Moses, 901½ Nelson Street, Greenville, Mississippi.

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3. Need still persists for an automobile to aid the Mississippi SNCC field staff in covering their assigned voter registration areas. Please help -- any car in decent shape will be received with open arms.

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4. Money is badly needed to have the SNCC Spring Conference here in Atlanta. Last year's conference cost well over \$4000 and this year we are absolutely not in any position to stage such a costly venture. We welcome and ask for special contributions earmarked for holding the conference.

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

We are gathering documented information on indications that Clyde Kennard did not receive adequate medical attention when imprisoned in Parchman Penitentiary. Follow the NEWSLETTER for details and future action.

FROM A FIELD REPORT: "Thirteen students, all members of the Pine Bluff Student Movement (PEST), began the first sit-ins in the history of Pine Bluff on February 1.. ...the counter was closed and there were no arrests... Ben and I joined the second day... Chief of Police Norman Young told the students: 'You'll beg for mercy before this is over.' "

from Bill Hansen and Ben Grinage in Pine Bluff, Ark.