

Student
Nonviolent
Coordinating
Committee

NEWSLETTER

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GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI

MARCH 24 -- Robert Moses reported that the SNCC office in Greenwood had been set on fire. Neighbors saw two white men fleeing down an alley as smoke began to pour from a window. Most of the voter registration records were saved, but all office equipment and machinery completely ruined. The telephone was ripped from the wall.

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MARCH 25 -- Moses reported that two shotgun blasts had damaged the front door and side bedroom window of the home of Dewey Greene, Sr., father of George, 19, who was working with the SNCC voter registration drive, and Dewey, Jr., the second Negro to try to enter the University of Mississippi. George Greene said the house had been fired on "seconds" after he entered.

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MARCH 27 -- 150 Negroes went to the Leflore county courthouse to register. Accompanying them were James Forman, executive secretary, and Lawrence Guyot, a SNCC field secretary. Forman and Guyot were arrested near the courthouse as police set a dog on the group of Negroes. When they regrouped at a church, and prepared to get into cars to return to the courthouse, eight other SNCC workers were arrested: James Jones, Robert Moses (director of SNCC's statewide registration program), Curtis Hayes, Charles McLaurin, Frank Smith, Bobby Talbert, Willie Peacock, and Lafayette Surney. Robert Moses was bitten on the leg, and a Greenwood citizen, Mathew Hughes, was also bitten and required medical attention.

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MARCH 28 -- 50 Negroes went to the courthouse to register. After filling out the forms, police dispersed them with the aid of a dog at an intersection nearby. Rev. Tucker of the Turner Chapel AME Church was bitten on the ankle; Landy McNair, a SNCC worker, had his trousers leg torn by the dog. At the trial, charges were dismissed against an elderly Greenwood citizen, Henry Smith, and Hayes and Talbert were judged "not guilty." Forman and Guyot asked for a continuance until the next day. Moses, McLaurin, Jones, Surney and Peacock were convicted of "disorderly conduct" -- to be sentenced the next day. Mrs. Mildred Forman reported that she and seven other Negroes were prevented from entering the trial and were pushed off the sidewalk by Hinds County (Jackson) Sheriff Gilroy, who had a large policedog on a chain. Mrs. Forman said civil defense workers had been deputized.

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MARCH 29 -- 50 more Negroes went to the courthouse to register. Forman and Guyot were also convicted of "disorderly conduct." All eight were sentenced to \$200 fine and four months in jail. All eight refused bond and said they would stay in jail until the charges were dropped. Don Harris, a SNCC worker from Southwest Georgia, was arrested conducting a group of Negroes to the courthouse, and later released.

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MARCH 30 -- The Justice Department filed in Oxford, Mississippi for an injunction to restrain all intimidation against prospective Negro voters in Greenwood, and release of all imprisoned SNCC workers.

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APRIL 1 -- 35 Negroes went to the courthouse to register.

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PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS -- 48 students were arrested here after stand-ins at a segregated movie theatre. SNCC field secretary Bill Hansen reported that Ben Grinnage, also a field secretary, was one of those arrested and is in jail now. Hansen reported that bond for some of the demonstrators was up to \$1500 apiece.

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA -- Ruby Doris Smith, en route to Atlanta from Knoxville, was thrown against a brick wall by a policeman after she sat in the formerly "all-white" ladies lounge of the Union Terminal train station waiting for a taxi. In response to complaints from SNCC officials, Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. promised an investigation and said, "If this is a case that falls under the jurisdiction of the City of Atlanta we will see that it does not reoccur."

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ROME, GEORGIA -- Three SNCC staffers went to Rome, Georgia to extend aid to the 63 high school students arrested in two days of anti-segregation demonstrations which were completely spontaneous.

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ATLANTA, GEORGIA Washington High School students and SNCC staffers picketed a segregated roller skating rink for an hour. Police demanded names of all demonstrators and forbade three photographers from taking pictures. The group lodged a complaint at Police headquarters after the demonstration ended.

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SELMA, ALABAMA -- SNCC field secretary Frank Holloway reported that within the past two weeks, SNCC workers in the area had escorted the first group of Negroes to register and vote in fifty years in nearby Wilcox County. Holloway said that at least 27 persons had tried to register in Selma, where the SNCC group has its headquarters.

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HAMPTON, VIRGINIA -- In over three days of protests, including the arrest and manhandling by police of 10 sit-in demonstrators, a revolving stand-in line of 400, two marches of over 500 people, the Student Movement for Human Dignity announced the beginning of a determined campaign to completely eliminate segregation in Hampton.

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CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND -- Gloria Richardson, chairman, and ten members of the Cambridge Nonviolent Action Committee were arrested during anti-segregation demonstrations and sit-ins at City Hall asking for police protection. Ten of the demonstrators, who were charged with refusing to obey an officer, tending to incite a riot, and disorderly conduct, remain in jail.

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FROM A FIELD REPORT: "(At the stand-in demonstration) three cops immediately rushed over and grabbed Ben (Grinnage). One jerked the camera out of his hand. Another said, "You better watch who you're f---ing with, nigger." Then they bounced him off the side of a police cruiser and rskied him. When he asked what he was charged with, he was told to shut up. ...Finally Police Chief Norman Young showed up. He talked to Ben for a while and said he would let him go if Ben promised to behave himself. Ben asked him if behaving himself meant not to take any more pictures. The chief just said, "Behave yourself." Ben said he didn't know what he meant. The chief then said, "You're making a lot of white people made, Grinnage." ...

from Bill Hansen in Pine Bluff, Arkansas

URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT URGENT
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE EIGHT JAILED SNCC STAFF MEMBERS IN GREENWOOD, MISS.!

WE NEED: Three mimeograph machines, typewriters, stationery, paper, pens, pencils, mimeograph ink, typewriter ribbons, stamps, and money for a telephone to replace the equipment lost in the destruction of our Greenwood office on March 25.

WE NEED: FUNDS to continue our work in Mississippi despite the jailing of staff members.

WE NEED: YOUR SUPPORT, FINANCIAL AND MORAL, SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE WHAT WE STARTED IN GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI -- EUQUALITY AND DIGNITY FOR ALL.