

# SEVEN NEGROES BEGIN CAMPAIGNING FOR SOUTHERN CONGRESSIONAL SEATS

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# THE STUDENT VOICE

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APRIL 28, 1964

## SNCC PROTESTS POLICE TERROR, ASKS SENATOR TO SPEAK OUT

ATLANTA, GA., -- The Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee has asked Senator Richard Russell (D-Ga.) to speak out against "police terror" in Southwest Georgia rather than calling for investigations of police brutality in other states.

A letter from John Lewis, Chairman of SNCC, had reference to a Senate speech by Russell, April 22, where he charged brutal police treatment of New York racial demonstrators.

Lewis cited the police shooting of 15-year-old Bobby Miller in Albany, Ga., April 18.

"He was shot down by police who later claimed he was a bur-

glary suspect. This was the sixth such death in the past two years, according to SNCC workers based in the Albany area," Lewis stated.

"Our position is becoming more and more strained in the community of Southwest Georgia as incidents of law officers shooting - and shooting to kill - at any Negro who appears in 'suspicious' circumstances, continues," Lewis said.

Don Harris, 23, director of SNCC's Southwest Georgia project, said in Albany that affidavits were being gathered from persons at the scene of the killing who "witnessed the fact there was no warning call or warning shot before the slaying."



SNCC WORKER DICK FREY is arrested by a Greenwood police officer after he and 13 others disobeyed police orders to restrict their picketing to one side of the Leflore County Courthouse. The state legislature of Mississippi has since passed a bill outlawing any picketing on state property.

## CURB ON PICKETS DEFIED, 44 JAILED

### LEGALITY CHALLENGED

HATTIESBURG, MISS. -- The constitutionality of one of Mississippi's new anti-civil rights statutes has been challenged by two Negro Congressional candidates.

The Rev. John Cameron and Mrs. Victoria Jackson Gray filed petition April 13 a U.S. District court to issue an injunction prohibiting enforcement of an anti-picket bill signed into law  
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### IN ATLANTA

## U.S. COURT FORBIDS STATE TO TRY SIT-INS; GA. COURT BACKS JUDGE PYE IN JONES CASE

ATLANTA, GA. - A Federal Judge here has issued a second temporary restraining order against state prosecution of sit-in demonstrators.

In a specifically worded order, U.S. District Judge Boyd Sloan commanded that no one in the Fulton County sheriff's office or the county solicitor's office prosecute the cases on the order of Judge Durwood T. Pye.

Attorneys for 42 demonstrators had filed a removal petition to place the cases in Federal court.

Judge Pye, a state judge, ruled he still had jurisdiction and prepared to try the cases. The Superior Court Judge - who specifically asked for the cases (misdemeanor cases are usually tried in criminal court) - has given  
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ATLANTA, GA. - A \$1000 fine and 18-month sentence - the maximum under Georgia law - imposed on a 67-year-old minister has been upheld by the Georgia Supreme Court.

The court said the sentence levied on the Reverend Ashton Jones "was within the limits provided by law."

Jones was arrested when he tried - with two Negroes to attend an all-white church here last summer.

He is free now on a \$5000 appeal bond, set by the Georgia Supreme Court. He had been unable to make the original \$20,000 bond set by Superior Court Judge Durwood T. Pye.

He has already served 188 days, but since this is "dead time" - time waiting for his release on appeal - it does not count against his sentence.

# CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES SPUR DEEP SOUTH REGISTRATION DRIVES

## SIX PUT ON BALLOT, ONE TO BE WRITE-IN

ATLANTA, GA. - Six Negroes in three deep South states have officially qualified to run for Democratic Congressional nominations as outgrowths of voter registration drives conducted by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Three Congressional seats in Mississippi are being sought by Negroes, and a Negro woman has qualified to run against Senator John C. Stennis (D-Miss.) in the Democratic primary. A Negro woman is running for Congress from Alabama, and a Negro lawyer will seek nomination in Georgia. They are the first Negroes to seek Federal office from their states since Reconstruction.

SNCC has conducted voter registration drives in rural areas of the Black Belt South since 1961 and has encouraged Negroes to run for office.

## FOUR RUN IN MISSISSIPPI



**Mrs. Victoria Gray**

Mrs. Victoria Gray, 37, of Hattiesburg, will run against Senator Stennis of Dekalb, in the June 2 Mississippi Democratic primary.

Secretary of State Hebert Lader accepted her qualification papers, saying "Well, things are in order so I guess I'll have to accept."

Mrs. Gray, 37, has instructed voter registration and citizenship classes in the Hattiesburg area for over three years. She has been active in SNCC's 5th Congressional District drive since SNCC workers first enter-

ed the area. Her campaign will center on issues of education in Mississippi.

Mrs. Gray is the mother of three children. Her husband, a plumber, has not been licensed by the city, allegedly because of his race.

In opposing Stennis, Mrs. Gray will challenge "the whole seniority system," SNCC workers said.



**Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer**

Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, 47, of Ruleville, opened her campaign against 2nd District Representative Jamie Whitten the day she qualified, March 20. She will continue to speak throughout the Delta - the heart of Mississippi's cotton-growing area.

Mrs. Hamer opened her campaign with a speech at a Ruleville mass meeting. She spoke at a Freedom Day mass meeting in Greenwood on Saturday night, March 22. She has since addressed rallies in Mound Bayou, Shelby, Cleveland, Charleston, Clarksdale and Marks.

The 2nd District, where Mrs. Hamer is campaigning, includes most of Mississippi's Delta, an area of high Negro population and low Negro voter registration.

Mrs. Hamer has announced she will challenge Representative Whitten's right to a seat in the United States House of Representatives if she is defeated.

Two campaign workers were arrested the day she qualified. A Freedom Vote campaign last November, which included Negro and white candidates for the state's top offices, resulted in over 60 arrests in 25 Mississippi towns. That campaign, like Mrs. Hamer's, was supported by the Council of Federated Organiza-

tions (COFO) a coalition of civil rights groups working in the state. COFO workers expect additional arrests and harassments during Mrs. Hamer's campaign, and have included a \$10,000 "harassment" item in her campaign budget.



**Rev. John Erle Cameron**

The Reverend John Erle Cameron, 31, also of Hattiesburg - scene of a concerted vote drive - will oppose Representative William Colmer of Pascagoula for the 5th District nomination. Cameron was jailed April 10.



**James M. Houston**

A 74-year-old retired furniture dealer in Vicksburg, James M. Houston, will run against Representative John Bell Williams in the 3rd District.

All four Mississippi candidates plan to challenge the rights of their opponents to the nomination if they lose. According to Government figures, about 400,000 Negroes are eligible to vote in Mississippi while only approximately 20,000 are registered voters.

## ALABAMA WOMAN RUNS

In Alabama, Mrs. Amelia P. Boynton, 52, of Selma, qualified Feb. 29 to run for Congress against incumbent Kenneth Roberts of the 4th District in the Democratic primary May 5.

An insurance agent and employment office operator here, she will oppose Representative Roberts under Alabama's "9-8" plan used to select Democratic nominees. Under the "9-8" system, each of the old nine Congressional districts nominates a candidate. The district winners will face a June 2 run-off to determine the eight party nominees. The candidate with the fewest votes in the run-off will



**Mrs. Amelia P. Boynton**

be eliminated. The other eight will have their names placed on the general election ballot against Republican or other opposition.

Mrs. Boynton is a native of Savannah, Ga. She attended the Georgia State Industrial School, Tuskegee Institute, Tennessee State and Virginia State. She has taught at Americus Institute in Americus, Ga. and at the Camden County Training School. She has been a Selma resident since 1930, and was formerly employed by the United States Department of Agriculture as a Home Demonstration Agent.

She was married in 1936, and has one son, Bruce Boynton, an attorney.

She is chairman of the Civil Liberties Department of the Alabama Temple Division State Elks Association; chairman of the Legislative Committee of the Alabama Association of Women's Clubs, secretary of the Women's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

## SOUTHERN CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES

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Club's 4th Congressional District Committee for Registration and Voting and the Dallas County Voters' League.

Negroes are 30% of Alabama's population. There are 860,073 white voters in Alabama and 66,009 Negro voters.

### ALBANY LEADER ENTERS

Attorney C.B. King of Albany, Georgia qualified April 4, to run for the Democratic Congressional nomination.

He is the first Negro to run for Congress in modern times from Georgia.

Attorney King, who has been active in civil rights cases throughout Southwest Georgia, will run in the Sept. 9 primary from the 2nd District. He will face one of his courtroom opponents, Maston O'Neal, solicitor general of the Albany Judicial Circuit, who has also filed to run for the seat now held by retiring Representative J.L. Pilcher.

King, 40, is a graduate of Fisk University, and was admitted to the Ohio bar after being graduated from Western Reserve University Law School. He returned to his hometown, Albany, and was admitted to the Georgia bar in 1953. He has practiced law in Albany for eight and one-half years, and handled most of the cases from the massive demonstrations in that city two summers ago. His brother, Slater King, is president of the Albany Movement, and was a candidate for mayor of Albany last fall.

In July, 1963, Sheriff D.C. "Cull" Campbell of Dougherty County (Albany) broke a walking stick over Attorney King's head. Campbell admitted striking King and said "I'm a white man and he's a nigger. Yes, I knocked hell out of him and I'd do it again."

Georgia's 2nd District includes Baker, Dougherty, Randolph, Terrell and Worth Counties, in which workers from the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) have conducted voter registration campaigns.

King, a veteran, said he believed "affirmative leadership has been conspicuously lacking in Georgia's politics" and that he



C.B. KING

felt he had much to offer "white and Negro residents of the district."

Another Negro, A.C. Cofield, 55, of Halifax County, North Carolina, announced write-in candidacy for Congress in the May 30 primary.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is conducting voter registration drives in each of the areas where a Negro candidate is running.

## ARKANSAS COPS USING COURTS TO HALT VOTE DRIVE WORKERS

STAR CITY, ARK. - Law officers here are using traffic courts to halt SNCC voter registration workers..

One SNCC staffer, Bruce Jordan, was arrested on traffic charges on April 10, 15 and 23. SNCC's William Hansen, director of the Arkansas Project was jailed on April 16. State officials have also seized a SNCC car, charging Hansen failed to follow proper procedures when he got a 1964 license tag.

Jordan was first charged with having no light over his license tag and having an improper parking light. His second arrest came after Star City police charged him with making an improper left turn and having an improper parking brake. (The parking brake charge was dropped and substituted with a charge of auto theft and failure to exhibit the car's registration).

When Hansen came to Star City to secure Jordan's release, and to take possession of the im-

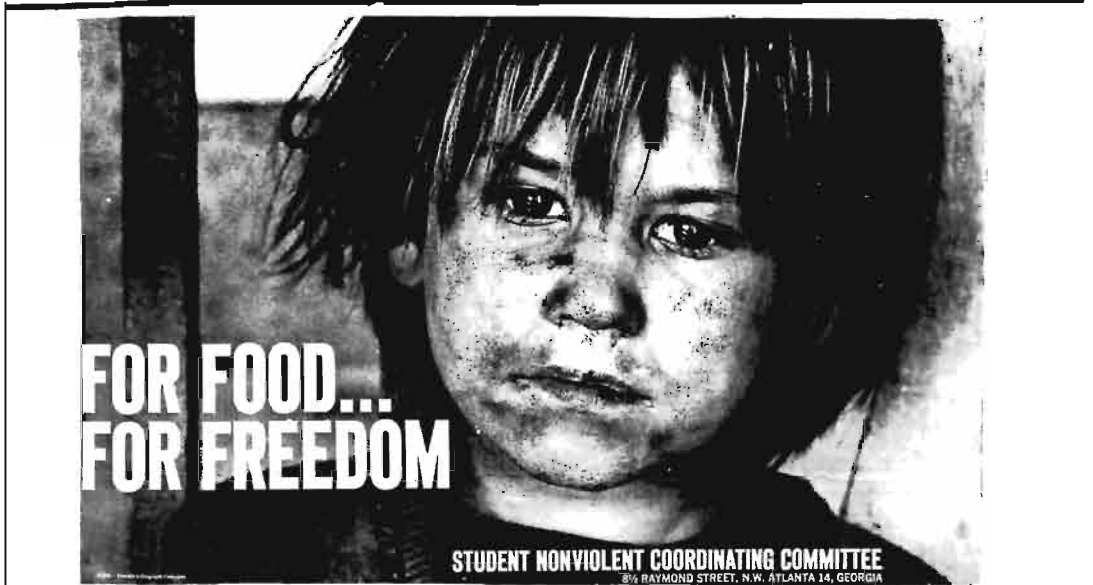
pounded car, he was arrested also. He was charged with violation of the state law that forbids lending a car to anyone and also lending the car's registration.

Jordan's last arrest came April 23 when he was arrested and charged with failure to stop speeding. His trial is set for April 30. He is being held under a \$200 cash bond.

Hansen charged Star City and Lincoln County officials with "legal car theft." "They have stolen our car and are using these traffic charges to stop our work in the county," Hansen said.

The arrests and continual harassment have been protested to the U.S. Department of Justice.

SNCC was invited into Arkansas by local community groups in the winter of 1962, and has conducted voter registration and direct action campaigns in Little Rock, Pine Bluff, Helena and Star City since then.



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# SOUTHERN NEWS ROUNDUP

IN JACKSON, MISS., SNCC, the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO) and Tougaloo College are sponsoring a Free Southern Theatre. For information, write to the Theatre c/o Tougaloo College; Tougaloo, Miss.

IN HATTIESBURG, MISS., a number of illiterate white persons testified they received assistance in registering to vote from registrar Theron Lynd's office.

IN DANVILLE, VA. - Rev. L.W. Chase, president of the Danville Christian Progressive Association (DCPA), has qualified to run for a seat on the all-white City Commission. Rev. Chase made a try for the same seat in 1960.

IN KNOXVILLE, TENN., members of Students for Equal Treatment (SET) are circulating a petition asking the University of Tennessee's Board of Trustees to adopt a policy of integration in recruiting athletes.

IN JACKSON, MISS., two Negro youths who tried to sit in the "white" section of the Mississippi Coliseum for an April 14 performance of Holiday on Ice were arrested on breach of the peace charges. SNCC had tried to get the group to cancel the segregated appearance.

IN WASHINGTON, D.C., SNCC Chairman Lewis asked President Lyndon B. Johnson to refuse to appoint a segregationist judge to fill the vacant seat of deceased Judge Ben Cameron, 5th Circuit Appellate Court.

IN ALBANY, GA., the SNCC registration drive will spread out to 22 Southwest Georgia counties.

A GREENWOOD, MISS. youth has charged he was fired from

his job because he picketed with signs urging Negroes to register to vote. SNCC protested to the U.S. Department of Justice.

IN WASHINGTON, D.C., the United Church of Christ has charged two Jackson, Miss. television stations with discriminating against Negroes.

IN JACKSON, MISS., the State Sovereignty Commission is circulating a list of old and new laws designed to halt racial protests in the state this summer.

IN LITTLE ROCK, ARK., a school boycott called by SNCC and a coalition of local groups was called off when the school board offered several concessions.

IN ATLANTA, GA., SNCC workers missed a fourth payroll, with most of the organization's funds going into operating expenses.

IN BOSTON, MASS., Comedian Dick Gregory and the SNCC Freedom Singers opened a month-long tour of the country to raise funds for SNCC.

IN WASHINGTON, D.C., six families engaged in a rent strike with the help of SNCC workers, foiled Federal marshals and left the apartment voluntarily when faced with eviction.

IN JACKSON, MISS., the cases of 13 persons who tried to worship at Jackson churches in interracial groups, were ordered held over in state courts by U.S. District Judge Sidney Mize.

The same judge issued an order enjoining Jackson police from arresting Negroes who defy laws requiring segregation. The case had been pending since 1961 following the arrests of the first of some 300 Freedom Riders into the state.

IN ATLANTA, GA., SNCC Chairman John Lewis said three college teachers - Walter Allen of Vassar, Stephen Spender of Northwestern and John Gassner of Yale, had canceled appearances at a segregated Literary Festival after protests from SNCC.

## SNCC WORKER IN JAIL SERVING 60-DAY TERM

BATON ROUGE, LA. - A young college student will leave the East Baton Rouge Parish Jail here after spending 60 days behind bars.

He is Dion Tyrone Diamond of Petersburg, Va., a student at the University of Wisconsin and former staff member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

Diamond was jailed here Feb. 7, 1961 when he urged students to boycott classes at all-Negro Southern University. After 59 days in jail, he was released on a \$7000 appeal bond.

The U.S. Supreme Court failed to overturn his conviction, and he began serving a 60-day-term on March 5.

## BUMPER STICKERS NOW AVAILABLE

SNCC ONE X ONE MAN X VOTE

BUMPER STICKERS READING "One Man - One Vote" are available for \$1.00 from SNCC 6 Raymond Street, Atlanta, Georgia.

## HATTIESBURG

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

April 8.

Cameron was one of 44 persons who pleaded innocent in Forrest County Court April 13 of violating the new law. The group was arrested in the first use of the new law within the state on April 10 and 11 when they refused to halt picketing of the county courthouse.

The law forbids picketing of state, county or city buildings, and public streets and sidewalks when it tends to interfere with normal business. SNCC Chairman John Lewis termed the law a "police state measure." Conviction could result in a \$500 fine or 60 days in jail or both.

Mrs. Gray is running against Sen. John Stennis and Rev. Cameron opposes Rep. William Colmer for the 5th District seat in the June 2 Democratic primary.

The two campaigns grew out of a concentrated vote drive, sponsored by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, underway here since Jan. 1964.

## FEDERAL COURT

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maximum sentences to the white persons arrested in racial demonstrations here.

The Federal - state showdown began when Judge Pye refused to surrender jurisdiction of SNCC worker Prathia Hall. She was held for 14 days under a \$4500 bail. Judge Sloan took her case and ordered lower bail set.

An April 27 hearing here will determine whether a white civil rights demonstrator will spend 18 months in jail. The youth, Thomas Taylor Tolg of Lambert, Ohio, began serving his time on April 20 after Judge Durwood Pye neglected to let his attorneys know a motion for a new trial had been denied.

Tolg is one of three white persons given maximum jail terms under Georgia's anti-trespass law.

## SUPPORT SNCC

ATLANTA, GA. - This is the first STUDENT VOICE SNCC has issued for several weeks.

For four weeks, SNCC has not met its payroll, and staff workers have been asked to forego their \$10 weekly subsistence.

We hope we will be able to continue sending you the VOICE on a regular basis.

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