



## INTIMIDATION IN ALABAMA

ON PAGE TWO

# THE STUDENT VOICE

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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.

## 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 re-

ported 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

### IN GREENWOOD

## 111 ARRESTS MARK MISS. FREEDOM DAY

### FORMAN CALLS FOR FEDERAL PROTECTION

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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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

# 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; continuing 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 posmen -- 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 filed by some 100 posmen, 19 state trooper cars passed them, two troopers in each car, carbines protruding from the front window of each car.

During the day, Sheriff Clark had arrested close to 100 demonstrators and others who were helping in the vote drive. "We are going to put them in jail till it fills up," Clark explained.



*A line during Freedom Day in October.*

"Then we will put them in Camp Selma till that fills up. Then we will put them in Camp Camden." Clark was referring to two state prison road camps.

On Oct. 7, the vote drive culminated in a Freedom Day.

In the morning, Sheriff Clark and two posmen arrested on the Federal courthouse steps two SNCC workers who were carrying signs urging people to register.

By noon more than 300 Negroes stood in line, waiting to take the registration test. State troopers would not permit them to leave the line for food, water, or to go to the toilet.

In the afternoon, two SNCC workers attempted to bring food to the Negroes in the line. As they approached the line, state troopers attacked and beat them, knocking the two to the ground, and shocking them with electric cattle prods. Then they were dragged off under arrest. Two photographers who attempted to

photograph the arrests were attacked with nightsticks by police.

By 4:30, when the registrar's office was closed, less than 40 applications were processed.

In December, Sheriff Clark and other county officials tried to get a court subpoena to seize all of SNCC's records from their Selma office. A Federal court denied their request. But on Dec. 16 Clark, Circuit Solicitor Blanchard McLeod, and five other persons raided the SNCC office anyway, seizing records and affidavits from their files and also arresting nine persons. Then they broke into the Freedom House where SNCC workers live, and wrecked the place.

Selma is an old Southern city that was founded 40 years before the Civil War and became an important military depot during the war. War industries were established and the county furnished the Confederate army with 10 infantry, six cavalry and four artillery companies.

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.

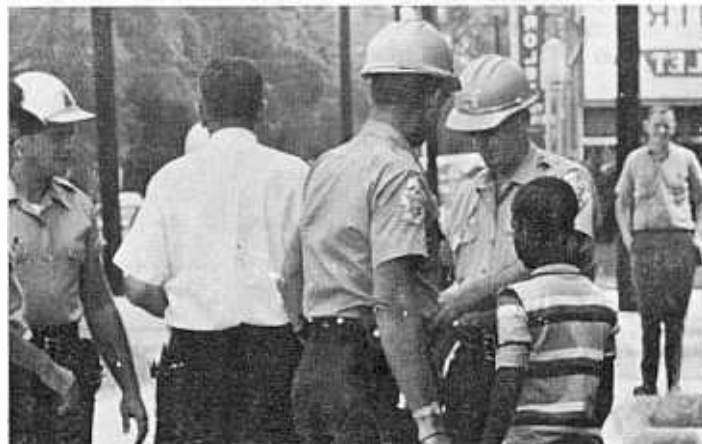
In Sept., 1963, only 242 of 14,509 voting age Negroes in the county were registered, or 1.7%. In 1956, 275 Negroes were registered. According to a Justice Department suit, in the six years from 1954 to 1960 the Dallas County Board of Registrars registered more than, 2,000 whites but only 14 Negroes.

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.

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



*Demonstrator is arrested by police in front of Dallas County Courthouse.*



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.

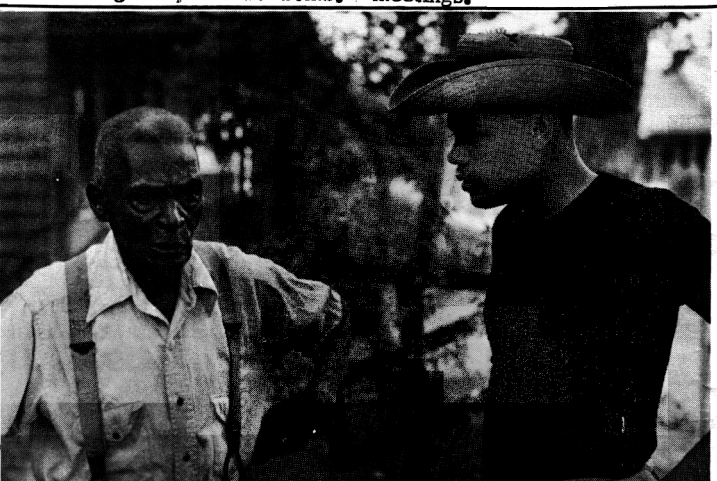
Only two days before the Natchez fires, the Pleasant Plan Missionary Baptist Church was burned in Browning, near Greenwood. SNCC workers said local policemen and firemen watched while the building burned to the ground. They said local whites had tried to buy the concrete building from Browning Negroes, 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.

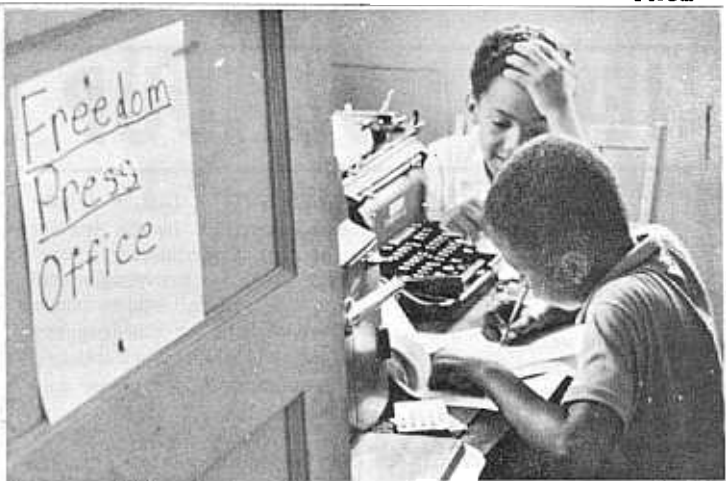
Williams Chapel Church in Ruleville, used as a voter registration meeting place, was damaged by fire that same day.

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 McCraven 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.



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

SELMA TERROR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

and said county officials threatened, intimidated and coerced Negroes "for the purpose of interfering with the right to register and vote."

The Citizens' Council was charged with preventing Negroes from registering and attending

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.

Mississippi youths not connected with the civil rights movement.

Shaw, July 11 - A Negro man was offered \$400 to blow up the COFO office here, SNCC workers report.

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

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

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.

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

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

Tallulah, La., July 11 - Two bodies - one headless, one apparently cut in half - were fished from the Mississippi River. Both were later identified as

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

I pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

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Contributors to SNCC receive a subscription to the Student Voice.

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

# NEWS ROUNDUP

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 Rabowitz, a SNCC worker.

MOBILE, ALA. - A Justice Department attempt to enjoin 28 white Wilcox County, Alabama landowners from banning from their property Negroes who participated in a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) registration drive was dismissed by a Federal judge here on July 9.

U.S. District Judge Daniel Thomas gave the government until July 30 to amend its original petition.

The complaint said the 28 white men had prohibited a Negro insurance agent, Lonnie Brown, from collecting insurance premiums from Negroes living on their property.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A six-month campaign by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) to prevent government officials and others from appearing before segregated audiences in Mississippi appears to have scored a major success.

White House Special Counsel Lee White circulated a memo this week ordering officials of all Federal agencies and departments to refrain from making speeches before racially segregated audiences.

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 Hillsbillies" shows; jazz trumpeter Al Hirt; Congressman Robert McClory (R. - Ill.); and college teachers John Gassner (Yale), Walter Allen (Vassar) and Stephen Spender (Northwestern) to cancel appearances in Mississippi.

PHILADELPHIA, MISS. - Two white men - one a summer volunteer - were beaten with chains a block from the city hall July 17.

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



SNCC WORKER Monroe Sharp is dragged to a Greenwood police bus.

## FREEDOM DAY

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ister to vote.

On July 17, 35 Negroes stood in line all day outside the courthouse. No one picketed, but those in line wore signs urging increased registration attempts.

"We are no longer satisfied with verbal support," Forman said, "We want a visible demonstration by the Government of the United States that peaceful voter registration activities will be protected and assured

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.

to those who want them."

Among those jailed were SNCC program director Courtland Cox, Second Congressional District project director Stokeley Carmichael, SNCC workers Frank Smith, Iris Gteenberg, Gwen Gillon, Eli Zaretsky, and Charles Neblett.

In June, 1963, the U.S. Department of Justice filed suits in Federal court to restrain Greenwood and Leflore County officials from using their arrest powers to interfere with voter registration activity. The suit is still pending.

Greenwood and Leflore County have a history of anti-civil rights activity. Aug. 26, 1962 the SNCC office here was attacked by white men carrying ropes and chains. In Feb., 1963, SNCC worker Jimmy Travis was machine-gunned by three white men. In March, 1963, three SNCC workers were shot at while they were sitting in a car. That same month, the SNCC office here was set on fire.

There are 10,274 whites and 13,567 Negroes of voting age in Leflore County. Ninety-five and one-half percent of the whites are registered voters, but only 1.9% of the eligible Negroes have been permitted to pass Mississippi's voting test.

In nearby Drew, at least 20 other civil rights supporters were still being held behind bars, in lieu of bail totaling \$3,500. They were arrested on July 15 after police ordered them from a church and a vacant lot. Summer worker Len Edwards reported that the White Citizens' Council had held a meeting in Drew shortly before the rights workers had been arrested.