

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SELMA SNCC OFFICE,
FREEDOM HOUSE RAIDED

SELMA, ALABAMA - The sheriff of Dallas County, the County Solicitor and four policemen raided the office of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) here today and arrested nine people.

The same policemen also broke into "Freedom House" - a three-room apartment used to house SNCC workers here, and "completely wrecked" it, according to one SNCC worker.

Willie C. Robertson, 24, who was arrested in the SNCC office this afternoon, said Sheriff Jim Clark tore a telephone from the wall and pushed SNCC worker James Austin, 21, against a window.

Robertson said Sheriff Clark told Austin, "We've been after you for a long time."

The officers also confiscated materials and affidavits from the office files, including a large number of leaflets promoting a selective buying campaign in Selma.

Earlier this week, a federal judge had refused to allow Dallas County officials to subpoena the record of the organization.

Arrested were Frank Spivey, 18; Louise Johnson, 22; Joseph Pickett, 16; David Murray, 25; Alvery Williams, 21; and Austin and Robertson. Also jailed were J.D. Pritchett Sr., and J.D. Pritchett Jr., printers who prepared the boycott leaflets.

Miss Johnson and Murray were arrested in downtown Selma as they distributed the leaflets. Spivey, Pickett, Austin, and Robertson were arrested in the SNCC office. Williams was jailed in the "Freedom House" when he walked in on Sheriff Clark and the policemen there. They had broken into the house, Williams reported.

All were charged with "illegal circulation of literature promoting a boycott." All were released on \$500.00 bail.

SNCC has conducted an extensive voting drive in Dallas and Wilcox Counties since January 1963. Negroes are 57.7% of Dallas County's population. Only .9% of the voting age Negroes are registered voters according to the United States Civil Rights Commission. The U. S. Department of Justice has filed suits against Sheriff Clark, Solicitor McLeod and the White Citizens Council here charging them with intimidation of and discrimination against potential Negro voters.