

NEWS RELEASE
STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30314

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BOMBING WON'T HALT SNCC DRIVE

McCOMB, MISSISSIPPI - Despite three dynamite blasts that rocked a Negro home here July 8 and a history of violence, a Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) voting and educational project will continue.

Ten voter registration workers in the home at 702 Wall Street here were not seriously injured. One, Curtis Hayes, 22, a SNCC worker, was cut by flying glass. Another, SNCC Mississippi Summer Project Volunteer Dennis Sweeny, 21, of Portland, Oregon, suffered a mild concussion.

Others in the home were SNCC workers George and Freddie Greene, 20 and 19, both from Greenwood, Mississippi; SNCC worker Julius Samstein, 25, of New York City; SNCC worker Jesse Harris, 22, of Jackson, Mississippi; SNCC worker Sherry Everitt, 19, from Pittsburgh, Pa.; CORE worker Pat Walker, from New York City; and summer volunteers Don McCord, 26, of Stafford, Kansas and Clinton Hopson, 26, of Asbury Park, New Jersey.

Samstein, Sweeney, McCord, and Walker are white; the others are Negroes.

Three Negro homes were bombed in McComb on June 23. This small southwest Mississippi town was the site of the first Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee voter registration project in 1961. SNCC worker Bob Moses, now Program Director for the state-wide Mississippi Freedom Summer Project, began work as the first SNCC field worker in August, 1961.

The drive three years ago was met with official resistance and terror tactics from local whites, as is the state-wide drive today.

Moses and other SNCC staff members, including Hayes, who joined the anti-segregation group's staff then, were jailed several times by local law officers. Moses was jailed in nearby Liberty on August 15, 1961, as he accompanied three people to the registrar's office there. On August 29, 1961, he was beaten by the son of Mississippi law officer on a Liberty street.

A local Negro supporter, Herbert Lee, was killed September 25, 1961, by a member of the state legislature, and a witness to that shooting was murdered on February 1, 1964.

The Ku Klux Klan and another racist group, the Americans for Preservation of the White Race (APWR) have begun organizational drives throughout Southwest Mississippi. Arsene Dick, APWR president, says his all-male, all-white group has chapters in 30 Mississippi counties and a membership "in the five figure bracket."

There are more than 15,000 Negroes in Pike County. Fewer than 164 are registered voters.

SNCC now has voter registration workers in each of Mississippi's five Congressional Districts.