

FACT SHEET

The following events describe the Negro's desire to become a registered voter and the white man's desire for the Negro not to become a registered voter.

On January 17, SNCC Chairman John Lewis kicked off the voter registration drive at a mass meeting. Lewis repeated his earlier appeal for "One Man - One Vote." Dr. Martin Luther King and his staff arrived on January 18. A summary of the events that followed appears below:

JAN 18 - 500 march on the county courthouse led by Dr. King and SNCC Chairman John Lewis. They are made to stand all day in an alley, and none are able to take the voter's test. Later in the day, Dr. King is punched and kicked by a white racist in a newly integrated Selma hotel.

JAN 19 - 62 people - including SNCC Chairman John Lewis, SNCC worker Lafayette Surney and Frank Soracco and SNCC Alabama Project Director John Love - are arrested when they refuse to enter the courthouse by the alley entrance. Mrs. Amelia Boynton is pushed and shoved by Sheriff Clark. All are released on their own recognizance.

JAN 20 - 156 arrested including SNCC Chairman John Lewis, SNCC worker Terry Shaw, Frank Soracco, Gladys Freeman, Tom Brown - while marching to the courthouse. Sheriff Clark tells SNCC's Lewis: "You are an agitator and that's the lowest form of humanity."

JAN 21 - All those arrested 1/20 are released on their own recognizance. V.B. Atkins, Chairman of the Board of Registrars, rejects an appeal from the all-Negro Selma Teachers Association to open registration on January 22. Five Negroes and one white are arrested at a drug-store lunch counter for "trespassing" by city police when they refuse to leave.

JAN 22 - 125 Negro school teachers from every city school march on the courthouse to protest the closing of the registration office. Three times they try to enter the front door and three times they are clubbed back by Sheriff Clark and his men. Roger Daley, a white volunteer, is attacked by a white man on the street.

JAN 25 - Mrs. Annie Lee Cooper of Selma and SNCC worker Willie McRay are arrested at the courthouse. After a scuffle with Sheriff Clark four lawmen pounce on Mrs. Cooper and beat her with billy clubs. Sheriff Clark says later: "She's a negger woman and hasn't got a Miss or Mrs. in front of her name!"

JAN 26 - 34 arrested including SNCC Chairman John Lewis, SNCC workers Willie Emma Scott, Eugene Rouse, Willie McRay, Stanley Wise and Stokely Carmichael. Mrs. Cooper released on \$2000 bond.

JAN 27 - 24 arrested including SNCC Chairman John Lewis, SNCC workers Larry Fox, Joyce Brown, Frank Soracco and Dartmouth College volunteer Roger Daley and Hohn Liutkis. The Selma Times Journal reports: "In the nine days since the campaign began here, only 40 Negroes have taken the lengthy literacy test."

JAN 28 - Colonel Al Lingo of the Alabama State Patrol compliments local law officers. In Mobile, civil rights lawyers ask for an injunction against Sheriff Clark, Solicitors Blanchard McLeod and Henry Reese, and County Judges Hugh Mallory and Bernard Reynolds, barring them from interfering with the voter registration drive.

JAN 29 - Cases are removed to Federal Court. Local people are allowed to sign their own \$100 bonds.

JAN 31 - United States District Judge Daniel Thomas accepts jurisdiction of 54 additional cases and orders them released. He amended his earlier injunction to say that while only 100 applicants per day would be given numbers, more than 100 could wait in line. Sheriff Clark had interpreted the injunction to mean that all applicants over 100 could be arrested.

FEB 1 - 264 arrested - including Dr. King, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, SNCC workers Frank Soracco and William Hall, arrested for "parading without a permit" as they march to the courthouse. 450 high school students are arrested that same day on the same charge as they march to protest the difficulties their parents have in registering to vote.

-From Marion, SNCC worker George Bess reports over 500 Negroes stand in line all day for that city's first Freedom Day. Negroes are tested 7 at a time, and 115 take the test. Two drug stores and a movie theatre integrated by testing groups, but other businesses refused service to Negroes.

FEB 2 - SNCC Alabama Project Director John Love and SNCC workers Terry Shaw and Larry Fox are arrested in Selma for "contributing to the delinquency of minors" who participated in demonstrations of Feb. 1. 75 adults are arrested at the courthouse, as well as 60 more students. That night, Selma's Negro businessmen stage a march on the courthouse.

In Marion, SNCC worker George Bess and 15 others were arrested at a cafe which refused to serve them. They are charged with "trespassing."

FEB 3 - 850 arrested at the Perry County courthouse for "unlawful assembly" when students and adults marched to protest: the earlier arrests of Feb. 2, the fact that courthouse is only open on the first and third Mondays of the month, firing from jobs of people who attempt to register and protesting the lack of compliance with the public accommodations section of the Civil Rights Law.

FEB 4 - Injunction issued banning demonstrations "in and around courthouse" in Selma.

FEB.4 - SNCC staffer Stanley Wise arrested in Marion with 200 local people protesting yesterday's arrests. Wise was charged with "encouraging a riot" and cash bond was set at \$300. While in Sheriff's office, Wise was beaten. Local people are being held on \$100 property bond each.

- In Selma, U.S. Judge Thomas issued an injunction barring the Dallas County board of registrars from using lengthy literacy test which includes Constitution answer section. The injunction also prohibited the three-member board from processing fewer than 100 applications each registration day and failing to provide enough personnel and facilities so at least 8 applicants can apply for registration at one time.

- From Marion, 200 local people released from Camp Selma and reported these prevailing conditions: 300 men were housed in one cell and had to stand up all night long. There were nothing in the cell but wet, concrete floors. No blankets and heat was turned off. Only one commode which didn't flush. They received only one meal consisting of one piece of bread and a few peas. Many of the women have colds from being forced to sleep on damp concrete floors during the night.

FEB.5 - Dr. King released from jail. 78 adults carrying petitions addressed to Mayor Smitherman of Selma and the County Registrars asking their names be recorded as prospective voters are arrested. Minutes after their arrest, 450 students march in protest and arrested also.

In Marion, 225 adults marched past the Sheriff's office and the Perry County Courthouse singing. SNCC worker George Bess is still in jail.

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SNCC has plans of expanding its operations into other areas of the Black Belt Counties, which will include the States .. Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Arkansas and South Carolina. It is now time and need for students participation in these States if the Negro is to Overcome.

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