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STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
360 Nelson Street S. W.  
Atlanta, Georgia

REPORT ON DRAFT PROGRAM

On Tuesday, August 16, 1966, at 6:30 a. m. eleven Black people gathered at 699 Ponce de Leon, headquarters of the 12th Army Corps and Induction Center for the Atlanta area. These black people had gathered to protest the drafting of Black men to fight in the racist illegal war in Vietnam. The demonstrators carried placards saying, "The Vietcong never called me 'Nigger'", a lynch scene from 1919 where a crowd of whites watched as an Afro-american chained to a log was being burned to death. Over this picture was a sign saying, "did the Vietcong do this?", "who is the enemy?" etc.

The demonstrators were jeered by white passersby who screamed things like "Niggers to back to Africa," "Kill the Black son-of-abitches," "Send all Niggers to Vietnam." A small crowd of white racists gathered and taunted the demonstrators. Racists army personnel threw lighted cigarettes from windows of the 12th Army Headquarters. They also spat on the demonstrators from the 2nd and 3rd floor windows. An unidentified liquid was thrown on the heads of the demonstrators from the windows of the 12th Army Corps Headquarters.

No major violence was experienced that day by the Black demonstrators. The protestors gave out literature to all Black men passing the Center. Enclosed is some of the material that was given out at the Induction Center to the Black men. One brochure entitled "WOULD YOU RATHER" was handed out along with "OUR PEOPLE NEED YOU" and a Freedom of Choice form. All of these are enclosed.

The protestors left the scene at approximately 10:30 a. m.

Wednesday, August 17, 1966:

At 6:30 a. m. 20 Black people gathered at 699 Ponce de Leon. This was the second day of protest against Black men dying in the racist war in Vietnam. The demonstrators carried the same signs as on Tuesday. In addition to already mentioned, there was a Black Korean Veteran who carried a sign saying, "I FOUGHT IN KOREA, I'M NOT FREE."

As on Tuesday, local white racists began to gather and jeered the demonstrators calling them "Niggers" and saying that they should go back to Africa, etc. Beginning approximately 7:00 a. m. army personnel began calling obscenities from the windows. The Army men began spitting down on the demonstrators. Lighted cigarettes were again thrown down on the demonstrators, one falling in a woman demonstrator's hair singeing it.

At this point, several of the male demonstrators went inside the Induction

Center to protest the spitting and cigarette throwing. The Military personnel said that the windows would be closed. The men came out and resumed picketing.

Approximately three minutes later, a pail of unidentified liquid was thrown from the 2nd floor window by a white man dressed in an army uniform. One demonstrator, Gwen Robinson, was thoroughly doused with the liquid. At this point, Mike Simmons, Larry Fox and several other male protestors went into the Induction Center and informed the officer in charge, "we are not going to take much more of this." "If the army could bomb Vietnamese villages over 100 times a day, killing men, women and children surely they could keep their own personnel from spitting, etc. on demonstrators. Mike Simmons then brought Gwen Robinson into the Center to show them what their personnel were doing. Again they said they would close the windows.

The windows were not closed and in approximately three minutes the protestors went back into the Induction Center. Mike Simmons informed the officer in charge that they were going to take seats until the "full force" of the military could be brought to bear on getting the windows closed and to keep the army personnel from spitting and dousing civilians. The military men milled around looking at each other. Then one man in a uniform came forward and said that they were not going to close the windows until we left the lobby. The protestors were told to get out. They then took their seats and Larry Fox said that until the "so-called greatest army in the world can get its personnel to stop spitting and throwing lighted cigarettes on women and civilians, we will remain seated." Again the personnel of the U.S. Army milled around looking at each other. Approximately three minutes later, we were told that we had to leave and that if we didn't we would be forceably removed.

The demonstrators informed them that this was government property, that the people had paid taxes and that they had the right to sit in the lobby of the U.S. Government's Induction Center. Again the military personnel milled around looking at each other. Then a man in uniform stepped forward and said, "You have to leave; or you will be forceably removed." The demonstrators replied, "Oh yes, we know how good you are about removing people who get in your way. You removed a whole race of people from the continent of North America, the American Indian, now you are systematically removing a people known as the Vietnamese." The group also told them that the window incident was but a link in the whole chain of lies and mistreatment that the white man has heaped upon the heads of Black people in this country.

The officer then called for his men to come and remove the protestors. About 30 military personnel appeared from the rear of the building and began walking toward the protestors. They started with the men first; they began dragging them to

the door and then pitching them out onto the streets. After throwing out two of the men, the army personnel then picked up a woman demonstrator and began dragging her toward the door. Upon seeing this, the fellows remaining on the inside informed the army personnel that there would be no manhandling of Black women at this Induction Center today.

The Black men told the army personnel to take their hands off of the Black women or there would be trouble. As it was obvious that the Black men meant business, the officer in charge ordered his men to take their hands off of the women. The military men then began to pick up the chairs that the women were sitting on and carried them to the door. But once at the door, they would eject them causing one girl to sprain her ankle. At this point, all the men who were on the outside then pushed their way back inside. Once inside, they again informed the military that there would be no manhandling of Black women. The Black men then wedged themselves inside the door and helped the sisters out of the chairs as they were brought to the door by the military.

After every one was out, the men informed the military that we would take seats inside again if the military continued with their harrassment. The windows were closed on the second and third floor and the demonstration continued. The demonstrators left the scene at approximately 12 noon.

Thursday, August 18, 1966:

At 6:30 a. m. 30 Black people again gathered at the headquarters of the 12th Army Corps to carry on the protest against Black men dying the racist Vietnam war. The format of the demonstration was the same as on the other two days. The crown of local whites had grown considerably and the jeering was much louder and more menacing. Police were on the scene.

Michael Simmons, who had received an Induction Notice to report to 699 Ponce de Leon, 2nd floor, attempted to enter the building at approximately 6:45 a. m. The door was closed and several army personnel were standing at the door. One of the men at the door told Mike that he could not enter. Mike informed the man that he had business on the inside up on the second floor and to please get out of his way. The man at the door said in effect that Mike had no business there.

Mike reported to the group that the officers at the door would not let him into the building. At 6:55 (five minutes before he was scheduled to appear), Michael Simmons along with other protestors went to the door of the Induction Center and told them that Mike had business on the inside and had to get into the Induction Center. Again, Michael was refused entry.

At approximately 7:05 a. m., Michael Simmons along with several of the male protestors went to the door of the Induction Center. Michael attempted to enter

the Induction Center. An officer at the door informed him that he could not come in. At approximately 7:15 a. m., Michael Simmons and several of the protestors again went to the door of the Induction Center. Michael informed one of the officer that he had business on the second floor and to let him in the building. Again the officer at the door refused to let him enter.

Approximately twelve policemen were on the scene while the proceedings at the door were going on. On the fifth attempt by Michael Simmons to enter the Induction Center, the police moved to the door of the Induction Center and began pulling on Mike Simmons, Larry Fox and several other male protestors who were in the vicinity of the door. Simmons, Fox and the others told the cops to take their hands off of them and that Michael Simmons had official business with the Army and for them to stop interfering.

The police continued pulling on them. Simmons, Larry Fox and some others again told the cops to stop interfering with them and caught the door handle. The police continued pulling. During the struggle, policement held persons around the neck, by the ears, around the waist, by the arms and legs. Persons being held shouted that they were being choked, pinched and hurt by the police officers.

Paddy wagons pulled up and back doors were opened as the struggle went on. All the while, Simmons kept yelling that he had business there and for the police to turn him loose. The policemen began dragging people to the opened paddy wagons. Persons who were still attempting to demonstrate began yelling, "denial of constitutional rights by white racists police." Policemen were literally running through the picket lines chasing after certain people. Upon catching these people they would then begin dragging them toward the open paddy wagon.

Twelve people were eventually placed in the paddy wagons and driven off to the City Jail. Demonstrators left in the line began chanting, "racism runs this country" "die in Vietnam to support racism at home", and other things. The protestors were informed by Captain Redding, "anyone opening his mouth will be carried off to jail with the rest of them." When asked by one of the protestors if this was a denial of Freedom of Speech, he again said that anyone opening his mouth would go to jail.

At approximately 9:00 the demonstrators left the scene. One of the demonstrators who had been jailed, Dwight Williams, was severely beaten after he was in jail by two policemen. This was witnessed by defense attorney Howard Moore when he heard Dwight yelling for help as the police were trying to transfer him from the booking room to a cell. Dwight called the SNCC office to tell people of the beating he had received.

Friday, August 19, 1966:

at 6:40 a. m. eleven Black people gathered at the Induction Center at 699 Ponce de Leon to continue their protest against the racist war in Vietnam when Black people have no freedom, justice and equality at home. 25 to 30 plainclothed ops, with arm bands designating themselves as policemen were standing across the front of the Induction Center when the group arrived. TV camera men and newspaper men from all three networks and from the Atlanta radio and television stations were there also. The crowd of local whites had increased by ten-fold. Captain Redding was on the scene.

The protestors put on the signs, picked up their leaflets and began a deadly silent protest. A new addition had been made to the policement. There were two Negro cops stationed on the immediate entrance to the door. They too were dressed in plain clothes with armbands saying "police".

During the course of the demonstration that morning, there was a running conversation between one of the Black policemen and a white cop. The white policeman kept asking the Black cop why they couldn't get better looking girls on the line. The Black cop kept chuckling. One of the demonstrators kept rolling her eyes at the black cop and looking at him with disgust on her face. The white cop said to the Black cop, "I believe you got yourself a girl friend." The Black cop kept right on laughing and shaking his head. He was observed scratching his head a couple of times.

The Black cops shook the hands of all the Black men going into the Induction Center, grinned and wished them luck. (When the whites would go by yelling "Nigger", the white cops would nod their heads and the Black cops would nod their head and smile also.) Both of the Black officers looked well-fed and surprisingly didn't seem to be suffering from nausea or upset stomache.

The only voices heard while the demonstrators were on the scene were those from white people in the crowd who screamed out obscenities and said "Niggers should be sent back to Africa," and "let's take 'Niggers' off of welfare and let them starve to death." It was observed that the Black cats kept nodding and smiling; expressions not changing during the entire barrage of insults on the Black people. At exactly 8:05 the demonstrators left the scene.

At 8:30 a. m. in City Court the case of the City Vs. the twelve demonstrators was held with Judge T. C. Little presiding. (Report of the trial enclosed).

Saturday, August 20, 1966:

There was a press conference at 12:00 noon. (text of the statement given to the press is included).

Black girls wearing signs saying "Help get your Black Sisters and Brothers out of Jail" stood on the street corners in Vine City soliciting funds. In this poor



community \$250.00 was raised in 5 1/2 hours.

A vigil will continue until everybody is out of jail and the charge of Insurrection is dropped against Johnny Wilson. The vigil is showing a psychological effect on the poor black people in Vine City. The poor Black people of Vine City having been exploited from the time they left their mother's womb and issued their first cry of anguish are by nature against the war in Vietnam. They, like most poor black people in this society, are the least assimilated and hence in the white man's terms, the least socialized. Deep down within the self-conscious there is resistance to being called on to give anything to anyone. Deep down within, they know they have given too much and received too little in return.

One man came by the vigil last night to give his quarter to help get his Black brothers out of jail. The workers began to talk to him about the reason that the people were arrested in the first place. We gave him a copy of the "Would You Rather" brochure with a picture of a Black soldier with a gun stepping on a Vietnamese child. The man put the brochure on his chest and with tears in his eyes and a choke in his throat said, "My boy is over there," and stumbled confusedly away. It seemed that the thought of his son being there hurt him so deeply that he could not bear bringing the thought to the surface. Many people went by, especially Black women, saying "They don't have any business being there anyway," and other similar things.

These are the nucleus of your anti-draft movement. The people are best described as the "WAITING PEOPLE."

The psychological effect that the vigil is having on the power structure is fantastic. You have to understand that the power structure has been predicting that there is going to be a riot in Vine City. They have also been saying that SNCC will touch it off and that is our purpose for being there. We have not answered these charges. We have refused to talk to the press for about two months. The stories went on but we remained silent. Now they don't know what to do. At the street corner rally held right after the press conference, two squad cars with two black cops in each along with the paddy wagons pulled into the area. At the rally, Bill Ware, told the people that the black cops represent the white power structure in the neighborhood and that the white power structure had sent them down there to watch and report on the activities of Black people. He told the people of Vine City about how Black cops had beat him in the City Jail and how they are white men with black skins; how they are as much our enemy as any white Klu-Klux Klansmen.

All this was said over a public address system with the cops parked right in front. One cop got out and began to direct traffic, blowing his whistle and telling people to move on (girls had blocked traffic for three blocks collecting bail money from motorists

driving through the area). Ware pointed out to the people that the cops didn't want us to be successful, that they never were on our side, that they were attempting to intimidate the motorists into refusing to stop for the solititors. The Black cop got back into his car and backed it up. The car then backed into a vacant lot. Several Black men who live in the community were called to the car by the cops. The guys put their heads in the windows and talked for a while. Soon after the same guys tried to take the microphone away from Bill Ware claiming that they had different viewpoints and felt they had the right to air them. The guys attempted to disrupt the meeting. The cops sat in their car and began to smile. Bill Ware then invoked the cops to keep law and order to protect those carrying out their constitutional rights. The cops were put on the spot. They got out of the car and told the guys to stop interfering with the meeting, patting them on the back and smiling.

Later on in the meeting, Bill Ware asked that main agitator set up a meeting for tomorrow (Sunday evening) and that he could use out public address system to give the people of Vine City his views. He declined the offer. In approximately 20 minutes the cops pulled, visibly, out of the area. No doubt they were told to retreat by the power structure. They only appeared every 30 minutes or so cruising through the neighborhood.

Later that evening, the Bar-b-que pit was brought out and the record player attached to the PA system and we had a dance and bar-b-que to raise money to get the brothers and sisters out of jail.

Sunday, August 21, 1966:

The vigil continued. Bill Ware slept on a cot on the scene.

We have begun the long haul. Space is being cleared to erect a tent. We've run extension cords from houses in the community and we've set up a tape so that we can record the opinions of people going by. We also brought a TV to the scene which not only helps to keep us informed but helps to give an appearance of stability and long range planning. No unusual incidents today; things going smoothly.

Monday, August 22, 1966:

The vigil continues.

At 6:30 a. m. nine black women and one Black man gathered to continue the protest of the drafting of Black men into the racist, illegal war in Vietnam. No incidents occurred. Two Black plainclothesmen were present. The Black cops continued to make fun of Black women with the other cops and reporters. At 7:45 the demonstrators left the scene.

The demonstrators were followed from the scene by the two Black cops to Houston Street. Their car was stopped and the women jumped out and surrounded the cops' car. The Black cops were told that they were a disgrace to the Black women of this country. They were asked how they could stand there and watch white cops make

fun of Black women who are protesting the killing of our Black brothers in a racist war. They were told that they are a disgrace to their Black mothers who suffered the birth pains to give them life. One of the cops began to cry and they drove off.

Tuesday, August 23, 1966:

The vigil continues smoothly.

At 6:45 a. m. demonstrators continued their protest of the war in Vietnam at the 12th Army Headquarters at 699 Ponce de Leon. Five black women dressed in dark clothing and heavily veiled gathered to protest the racist, illegal war. The women were accompanied by a photographer. They carried signs saying, " We Mourn the Drafting of Black Men;" over a scene of the lynching of two Afro-americans by a crowd of whites was a sign, "We Mourn the 400 years of Lynching and Castration of the Black Men in this Country," and We Wonder Why the White Man Feels the Necessity to Castrate and Lynch Black Men?" At 8:00 a. m. the black women left the scene.

At 8:30 a. m. , five shrouded Black women appeared downtown carrying the signs mentioned above. The women were deadly silent and walked slowly all over the down town area.

Between the hours of 6:00 a. m. and 10:00 a. m. thousands of Black women change buses to go into the white suburbs to work for "Miss ANN. These were the people that the shrouded women wanted to reach. The Black women in the streets were visibly shaken by the lynch scene.

One of the protestors, an employee of the Bell Telephone Co. , was harrassed by her supervisor this morning when she reported to work to the point that she quit her job.