

ET CETERA:

SNCC

Marching Orders



SNCC Insignia

Things are rough all over. Some evidence of how rough things really are for Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee civil rights workers in Jackson, Mississippi, is supplied by the elaborate security regulations set forth in SNCC's **Security Bulletin**—issued to all Jackson workers.

SECURITY BULLETIN

1. *Communications personnel will act as security officers*

2. *Travel*

(a) When persons leave their project, they **must** call their project person to person for **themselves** on arrival at destination point. Should they be missing, project personnel will notify the Jackson office. WATS line operators will call each project every day at dinnertime or thereabouts, and should be notified of changes in personnel, transfers, etc. (If trips are planned in advance, this information can go to Jackson by mail. Phone should be used only where there is no time. Care should be taken at all times to avoid, if possible, full names of persons travelling.) Checklists should be used in local projects for personnel to check in and out.

(b) Doors of cars should be locked at all times. At night, windows should be rolled up as much as possible. Gas tanks must have locks and be kept locked. Hoods should also be locked.

(c) No one should go **anywhere** alone, but certainly not in an automobile, and certainly not at night.

(d) Travel at night should be avoided unless absolutely necessary.

(e) Remove all unnecessary objects from your car which could be construed as weapons. (Hammers, files, iron rules, etc.) Absolutely no liquor bottles, beer cans, etc. should be inside your car. Do not travel with names and addresses of local contacts.

(f) Know all roads in and out of town. Study the county map.

(g) Know locations of sanctuaries and safe homes in the county.

(h) When getting out of a car at night, make sure the car's inside light is out.

... Travel at night should be avoided ...

... try not to sleep near open windows ...

... If an incident occurs ...

... You must not drink ...

(i) Be conscious of cars which circle offices or Freedom House. Take license numbers of all suspicious cars. Note make, model and year. Cars without license plates should immediately be reported to the project office.

3. *Living at Home or in Freedom Houses*

(a) If it can be avoided, try not to sleep near open windows. Try to sleep at the back of the house, i.e., the part farthest from a road or street.

(b) Do not stand in doorways at night with the light at your back.

(c) At night, people should not sit in their rooms without drawn shades.

(d) Do not congregate in front of the house at night.

(e) Make sure doors to Freedom Houses have locks, and are locked.

(f) Keep records of suspicious events, i.e., the same car circling around the house or office several times during the day or week. Take license numbers, makes, years and models of cars. Keep records of the times these cars appear.

(g) If an "incident" occurs, or is about to occur, call the project, and then notify local FBI and police.

(h) Depending on project needs and circumstances, it may be advisable for new personnel to make deliberate attempts to introduce themselves immediately to local police and tell them their reasons for being in the area.

(i) A phone should be installed in each Freedom House, if there isn't one already. If a private phone is used, please put a lock on it. Otherwise, install a pay phone.

4. *Personal Actions*

(a) Carry identification at all times. Men should carry draft cards.

(b) All drivers should have in their possession driver's licenses, registration papers, and bills of sale. The information should also be on record with the project director. If you are carrying supplies, it might be well to have a letter authorizing the supplies from a particular individual to avoid charges of carrying stolen goods.

(c) Mississippi is a dry state and though liquor is ostensibly outlawed, it is available everywhere. You **must not** drink in offices, or Freedom Houses. This is especially important for persons under 21.

(d) Try to avoid bizarre or provocative clothing, and beards. Be neat.

(e) Make sure that prescribed medicines are clearly marked, with your name, the doctor's name, etc.

5. *Information to Police*

Under no circumstances should you give the address of the local person with whom you are living, his or her name, or the names of any local persons who are associated with you. When police ask where you live, give your local project or Freedom House address, or if necessary, your out of state address.

6. *Policy*

(a) People who do not adhere to disciplinary requirements will be asked to leave the projects.

(b) Security precautions are a matter of group responsibility. Each individual should take an interest in every other person's safety, well being, and discipline.

(c) At all times you should be aware of the danger to local residents. White volunteers must be especially careful.

LETTERS: *War in the South*

Sirs:

Your issue of June, with its special report, "The South at War," should do much to enlighten and (I hope) awaken our people all over the United States. I say, "our people" for this is truly the problem of every American, be he Negro or not, be he Christian or Jew, or no religion whatever.

I am the father of a 24-year-old son, an Engineering Graduate of Stanford, who chose to work for SNCC in Mississippi, rather than accept a lucrative job offer. His 15 months there have taught me the answer to my first question, "Why is it your battle, son?" And yet, with all of the arrests, beatings and even deaths that have occurred, I am constantly amazed by those who cannot or will not understand. For these are truly the leaders in this tremendous struggle.

The recent actions of our civic leaders, our clergymen, and of our government have only followed the dramatic, sometimes tragic results of their accomplishments.

We thank Ramparts Magazine for a valuable contribution to understanding, and hope that more people will support these young workers. After all, are they

not tackling the job that our generation has so unsuccessfully avoided?

Harold B. Light
San Francisco, California

Sirs:

Have just read "The South at War" (Ramparts, June). A magnificent expression of love-anger, beautifully crafted. I trust you saw to it that a copy made its way to the Oval Office in the White House.

You have my hope that Ramparts, like love itself, remains an enduring reality in our not best of all possible worlds.

Stanley Terra
Davis, California

Sirs:

Your June issue on Selma was very moving.

Whatever the details are on Archbishop O'Boyle, if he had not initially given his priests the OK to go to Selma there would have been far fewer Catholics there. I think his leadership in this act was crucial. It helped all of us a lot.

Mathew Ahmann
National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice
New Orleans, Louisiana

Sirs:

Your story mentioned priests and nuns in Selma and Montgomery. Why no mention of the role played by Catholic Interracial Councils?

Ramparts missed an excellent opportunity to remind its Catholic readers of a positive way to promote equal rights in their own parishes, in their own neighborhoods.

Norman C. McKenna
Prince George's County,
Maryland

Sirs:

Your June, 1965 issue "The South at War," is WONDERFUL! It is by far the best and most comprehensive reporting I have read on the Civil War in Alabama. I couldn't agree more that the South is still fighting the Civil War. They have never stopped fighting it.

The entire issue is exemplary. Perhaps a better word to describe it is "inspired." I particularly enjoyed Mr. Keating's Introduction although I did think he was too critical of President Johnson. Mr.

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