

THE TOM AND JANET CANTERBURY COLLECTION

Papers, 1963-1966

1/4 linear foot

Accession Number 635

LC Number MS

The papers of Tom and Janet Canterbury were deposited in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in March of 1974 by Jerome Breslaw and were opened for research in March of 1984.

Tom and Janet Canterbury were active in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in Lowndes County, Alabama, in the mid-1960s.

SNCC was organized in Raleigh, North Carolina, in April of 1960 at a conference sponsored by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. It registered voters, staged picketing and sit-ins against segregated facilities, and organized blacks and whites into the movement for civil rights in the Southern states in the 1960s. SNCC also started "Friends of SNCC" groups on Northern campuses. The "Friends" collected money for Southern organizing drives, sent volunteers to the South, and organized solidarity demonstrations and picketing.

In early 1965, one of SNCC's major focuses was the registration of blacks in Lowndes County, Alabama. Lowndes County had a population of over 15,000, 81 percent of which was black: yet, in early 1965, there were no blacks registered to vote in the County. In March of 1965, the Lowndes County Freedom Organization (LCFO) was founded with a black panther as its symbol. Despite constant harassment, within a year the Organization registered 2000 black voters in the County. In May of 1966, the LCFO held a nominating convention and selected seven candidates to run in the general election in November. All seven LCFO candidates lost to their Democratic Party opponents; there was no Republican Party in the County.

The papers of Tom and Janet Canterbury reflect the activities of SNCC in building the LCFO and in registering voters in other Southern states, and the Committee's relations with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Important subjects covered in this collection are:

Julian Bond	Southern Christian Leadership Conference
Martin Luther King, Jr.	Stokely Carmichael
Lowndes County Freedom Organization	Vietnam War
Poll Taxes	Women in the Civil Rights Movement

An index to subjects will be found on p. 4.

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Box 1: Reports, maps, cartoons, leaflets and press releases
collected by Tom and Janet Canterbury concerning the Southern
voter registration drives organized by SNCC in the 1960s.
Most of the material is SNCC internal documents or leaflets;
there are also a few pamphlets and leaflets from other civil
rights organizations.

Non-manuscript material:

Nine SNCC and Lowndes County Freedom Organization
bumper stickers have been placed in the Archives
Audio-Visual
Collection.

Tom and Janet Canterbury Collection

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Series I
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, 1963-1966
Box 1

Reports, maps, cartoons, leaflets, press releases and other material collected by Tom and Janet Canterbury relating to the Southern voter registration drives organized by SNCC. The majority of the material is SNCC internal documents or leaflets; a small amount is pamphlets and leaflets of other civil rights organizations. In addition to voter registration, other subjects covered in this collection are SNCC's relations with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the candidacy of Julian Bond for Georgia State Representative, the role of whites and women in the civil rights movement, and the Vietnam War. The papers are arranged alphabetically by subject or by type of material.

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1. Alabama, Dallas County, Leaflet, May 1966
2. Alabama, Lowndes County, Pamphlets, 1966
3. Alabama, Lowndes County, Political Education Cartoons, 1966, nd
4. Alabama, Map of Black Population
5. Alabama, Newspaper Articles, 1966
6. Alabama, Pamphlets, 1963-65
7. Alabama, Press Releases, May 1966
8. Alabama, The Southern Courier, Nov 1966
9. Alabama, State Staff, 1966
10. Alabama, Sumter County
11. Alabama, Voting Rules and Regulations
12. Alabama, Wilcox County, 1965
13. California, "Friends of SNCC" at Cal. State College, 1966
14. Central Committee, Motions, 1966
15. Chicago, Notes and Comments, Apr 1966
16. Georgia, 1966
17. Leaflets and Pamphlets
18. Medical Committee for Human Rights, May(?) 1966
19. Mississippi, 1964, nd
20. News of the Field, 1966
21. Philadelphia, Press Releases, Aut 1966
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