COMMITTEE FOR STUDENT RIGHTS
P.O. Box 651
East Lansing, Michigan

April 29, 1965   FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

        50 students protested discrimination in the
rental of housing today by picketing the East Lansing
residence of Mrs. Walter Gibson.

        The students, representing The Committee for
Student Rights, M.S.U. Friends of S.N.C.C. and the
M.S.U. N.A.A.C.P. , cited Mrs. Gibson for refusing
to rent an apartment to Miss. Sandra Jenkins, Alabama Jr,
on the basis that Miss Jenkins is a negro.

        Byron Peterson, spokesman for the students
said " The discrimination practiced by Mrs. Gibson
against Sandra Jenkins is not an isolated incident;
it has occured with alarming frequency in East Lansing
in the past and it continues to exist now. Meanwhile
the City Council and the Human Relations Commission
of East Lansing either pretend that no problems exist
or that those problems which do exist are not serious
enough to warrant action. We feel that the problems
are serious and warrant immediate and significant
action with regard to an open housing ordinance for
East Lansing.

        At present East Lansing has no such ordinance
however the students plan to present a proposal to the
City Council next monday night.

LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

56 STUDENTS ARE STANDING TRIAL FOR
CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE.
THEY NEED YOUR HELP.

CIVIL RIGHTS RALLY

HEAR

THE ARRESTED STUDEN.

SEN. COLEMAN YOUNG

OTHERS

THUR. JUNE 3

UNION BALLROOM

8 30

74 STUDENTS JAILED

CIVIL RIGHTS REPORT

EAST LANSING, Michigan   May 26, 1965

More than 70 persons, almost all MSU students, are in jail today, waiting to be arraigned for obstructing traffic on Abbott Road last night. They staged a sit-in there, in front of the East Lansing City Hall, to protest the city's inaction in eliminating housing discrimination. They were dragged off after Mayor Gordon L. Thomas told them they would not be allowed to interfere with the free flow of traffic in East Lansing.

A speech by Mayor Thomas earlier in the evening sparked the demonstration. Thomas spoke to an overflow crowd at an NAACP meeting in the Union on East Lansing's progress toward ending discrimination. He defended the city's reluctance to take special action and hold emergency meetings to help speed up the process of investigating and passing on anti-discrimination measures. Following Thomas' appearance, students in the audience decided action was needed right away to protest the Mayor's lack of action and failure to meet what it considered promises he had made.

Thomas told members of the Civil Rights Advisory Council, the coordinating body for the East Lansing campaign, that he would know Monday or Tuesday whether a move to make non-discrimination mandatory for landlords renting rooms would be considered legal. He said Tuesday night he would not know until June 2. He said the council was to meet informally tonight to discuss other business, despite his earlier statement that it could not meet at all this week because members would be out of town. Thomas appeared to the group to be hedging on the real issue—whether East Lansing was willing to face its discrimination problem and act to end it.

The group decided to move and sat in the street for about two hours, until East Lansing police dragged off the men and carried the women away on stretchers, to be booked in East Lansing and then brought to Ingham County Jail in Mason for the night. Hecklers jeered and police joked as they were hauled in.

Today it is your turn to cheer them as they are brought back to East Lansing for arraignment. They will be brought back this morning. Marchers will be at City Hall all day as the students are arraigned to join them in protesting closed housing in East Lansing.

If you want to march to protest East Lansing's inaction in civil rights, COME TO THE CITY HALL ON ABBOTT ROAD ANY TIME TODAY. Marchers will begin picketing at 8:30 a.m.

National leaders are being contacted. Several have already pledged support of the East Lansing action program. WILL YOU JOIN THEM IN SUPPORTING AND AIDING THE FIGHT TO END DISCRIMINATION IN EAST LANSING?

M A R C H   T O D A Y   T O   P R O T E S T   C L O S E D   H O U S I N G