

Hollings Deplures Violence Asks Probe Of 'Riders'

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While deploring violence, Gov. Hollings yesterday called for an investigation of "Freedom Riders" whose presence in Montgomery, Ala., sparked violent mob action.

The governor guardedly told his news conference this was a "time to restrain comment. . . watch developments. . . and not add to the unfortunate publicity."

And he reiterated his former stand that "we're not going to have violence in this state."

He sought the investigation in a telegram to U. S. Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy. The wire was in reply to one sent him by Kennedy.

Kennedy wired the governor a copy of a telegram he had sent Gov. John Patterson of Alabama. It contained a copy of President Kennedy's statement on the violence issue.

It was preceded by the statement that the wire was sent "because this is a matter of some controversy."

GOVERNOR'S WIRE

The governor wired back:

"South Carolina deplures violence and will protect all citizens. However, while investigating incidents of violence involving self-styled 'Freedom Riders,' respectfully requests 'Freedom Riders' be investigated to determine their disobedience to law and order as evidence of premeditation of breach of public peace."

"One arrested in South Carolina, James Douglas Peck, official in the Congress of Racial Equality and editor of CORE newspaper 'Corelator,' has a record of eight arrests, including draft-dodging, disorderly conduct, picketing embassy, trespassing Nevada Test Site, and contempt of court."

'KNOWN JAILBIRD'

Charging Peck as a "known jailbird," the governor said Peck has been arrested in South Carolina for illegal liquor possession. This resulted in looking up his record, Hollings said.

Hollings said both races in South Carolina should be gratified for the state's "excellent law enforcement" and handling of race issues.

"I know of no need for U. S. marshals in South Carolina," he said, referring to the federal action that sent hundreds of marshals into Montgomery.

He said he felt such incidents as occurred in Montgomery and elsewhere make the issue "a state - by - state proposition" and that it was necessary to treat "cases individually as they arise."

He said he had not yet been in contact with other Southern governors regarding the Montgomery violence.

He said he wanted to hear from Gov. Patterson before making further comment.

He also refrained from making an appraisal of Atty. Gen. Kennedy's role in the Montgomery incident.