The Mississippi Civil Rights Movement Through the Work of Medgar Evers Resource Packet

Table of Contents **Page Number**

Activity Packet 1 *(5 documents)*	3
Activity Packet 2 *(3 documents)*	11
Activity Packet 3 *(3 documents)*	18
Activity Packet 4 *(5 documents)*	27
Activity Packet 5 *(5 documents)*	35
Activity Packet 6 *(3 documents)*	42

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NAME_____ **DATE**_____

Primary Sources Guided Questions

Using the* Medgar Evers Resource Packet *answer the following questions.

1. What is the purpose/subject of each primary source in your packet? _____

_____

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2. What types of primary sources are located in your packet? _____

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3. Based on the documents in your packet and your understanding of Mississippi society, what repercussions do you think the individuals discussed will face? _____

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4. Choose one primary source to examine and explain the role Medgar Evers played in the event featured.

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Activity Packet 1

(5 documents)

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HATTIESBURG AMERICAN
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Friday, December 6, 1958

RE: Letter to Editor

SUBJECT: Mixing

Editor, The American,

It is interesting to me that subjects which are most widely discussed are those which seem to be least understood by the public whom these discussions are designed to inform.

It would not surpirse me if more words had not been spoken and written on integration and segregation in the last four years than on any other subject, especially in the South.

In our state the officials spend much of their time and perhaps much of our money trying to convince the integrationists, and reassure the segregationists, that the policy of perpetual segregation is the wisest course for us to pursue, in spite of the tremendous cost of duplication.

Somehow I feel a great sympathy for the people who truly believe that the interest of both the White and Negro people would be served best by a system of complete or partial segregation. Although I am integrationist by choice, I am a segregationist by nature, and I think most Negroes are. We prefer to be alone, but experience has taught us that if we are ever to attain the goal of first class citizenship, we must do it through a closer association with the dominant (White) group.

Now it is this "getting closer" attempt by the Negro group that has aroused too much attention throughout the world, and no doubt a temporary animosity between the two groups.

There are two schemes for the solution of the present race problem. The first, spearheaded by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and given authoritative backing by the Constitution of the United States, as interpreted by the Supreme Court in its 1954 decision says that Negroes are American citizens and are entitled to the same rights and privileges; the same opportunities and duties as any other citizens; and that the best way to secure these rights and duties on a fair and equal basis, would be to (in all things public) subject both races to identical conditions of life.

The second scheme, championed primarily by the Southern States, says that Negroes are American citizens and are entitled to the same rights and privileges, the same opportunities and duties as any other citizen, and that the best way to secure these rights and duties on a fair and equal basis, would be (in all things public and private) to subject both races to different conditions of life.

Letter to the Editor by Clyde Kennard, page 1 of 2. MDAH Archives and Records Services.

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As the public schools are the essential organs for general intellectual discipline, and the preparation for private life and public service, let us superimpose the plan of separate but equal on the public school system.

It is my understanding that separate but equal means that in matters where public funds are involved every time a dollar is spent for the development of Negro students, a dollar will be spent for the development of White students, and vice versa.

This plan is to be followed through Junior college, Senior college, medical schools, law schools, divinity schools, graduate schools and all supported by public funds.

After our paralleled graduate schools, where do our parallels of separate but equal go? Are we to assume that paralleled hospitals are to be built for the two groups of doctors? Are we to build two bridges across the same stream in order to give equal opportunities to both groups of engineers? Are we to have two courts of law so as to give both groups of lawyers the same chance to demonstrate their skills; two legislatures for our politically inclined, and of course two governors?

The folly of such a conclusion is perfectly obvious. Yet, the question remains, what is to become of the doctors who are not allowed to treat their patients in public hospitals? What will the engineers do when there are no roads or bridges for them to build? How must the lawyers occupy their time when the state courts restrict their opportunities to practice? How shall young statesmen, who can't even get their names on the ballot, ever hope to be elected to the legislature?

Segregationists whose convictions are based on reason rather than passion might agree that the most honorable and actually the only path to our goal, would be to allow integration at some level, if not on the school level, then surely on the "job" level.

In utter desperation, I can see one other possible solution to which segregationists might resort, short of integration. They could do in theory what our state now does in fact, namely, raise and educate young people for the benefit of other states. While they get richer we get poorer.

The integrationists offer a program which at first seems if not cruel at least awkward. We admit to bring two groups of people together who have different social and ethnic backgrounds presents certain adjustment problems. We should expect that and any intelligent program must allow for these adjustments.

Letter to the Editor by Clyde Kennard, page 2 of 2. . MDAH Archives and Records Services.

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

Office Of Director Of Admissions

Station A . Box 11 . Hattiesburg, Mississippi

September 14, 1959

Mr. Clyde Kennard
Rt. 1, Box 70
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Dear Sir:

You are denied admission to Mississippi Southern College because of deficiencies and irregularies in your application papers as follows:

a. A copy of the transcript of your work at the University of Chicago has not been received, and that omission prevents our evaluating your scholastic eligibility to be admitted to Mississippi Southern College. On the basis of information available, you do not appear to be eligible to enter Mississippi Southern College from an out-of-state institution of higher learning.

b. All persons who are admitted to Mississippi Southern College must be of good moral character. The medical certificate filed by you on the date of September 2, 1959, appears to be false and fraudulent. This is indicative of a lack of good moral character.

c. From an investigation conducted at the University of Chicago, it appears that your record is such that you have been denied re-admittance there. A student who can not return to the last institution of higher learning attended is automatically excluded from Mississippi Southern College.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Aubrey K. Lucas

/t/ Aubrey K. Lucas
Director of Admissions

AKL:glm

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COPY

September 16, 1959

Mr. Robert Carter
General Counsel
20 West 40th Street
New York 18, New York

Dear Mr. Carter:

I am writing you in regards to Mr. Clyde Kennard's attempt to enroll at Mississippi Southern College, a state supported institution, and was denied admission. This attempt by Mr. Kennard is a mere repetition of two previous attempts to matriculate Mississippi Southern -- once in 1956, and later in January, 1959. In his earlier attempt, in 1956, our lawyer at the time, Mr. Hall, gathered and forwarded relative data to the Legal Defense office, however, no further legal action was taken at that time.

His attempt to enter in January, 1959, was met with promises of possible admittance, without litigation, in September if he would not press the issue at that particular time (January, 1959). Despite such promises by school officials and others, he was denied admission for the third straight time, which resulted in his coming to our office requesting again that we give him legal aid in getting into Mississippi Southern College.

The branch president, Rev. J. M. Barnes, members of the board of the local branch, and members of the board of the State Conference of Branches agreed to accept the case. In the conference that was held with Mr. Kennard, Tuesday night, September 15, was Attorney R. Jess Brown, who is keeping abreast of the legal developments surrounding his attempt to enter Mississippi Southern.

Because of Mr. Kennard's attempt to enroll as a normal student at Mississippi Southern, he was arrested, jailed and accused of reckless driving, possession of liquor and was later released on a $600 bond. His car was impounded, which has since been released to him. Mr. Kennard neither drinks nor smokes and admits not having been driving recklessly.

Page 1 of 2. MDAH Archives and Records Services.

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After talking today with Mrs. Hurley, our Regional Secretary, she suggested that I get in touch with you immediately with as many details as possible. If you desire more details from a legal standpoint, Attorney Jess Brown is well aware of the legal entanglements.

I am enclosing for your information a copy of the letter of denial issued Mr. Kennard by the school officials. We are very desirous of action in this case.

Sincerely yours,

Medgar W. Evers
Field Secretary

MWE:mes

Encl.

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Page 2 of 2. MDAH Archives and Records Services.

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NEWS RELEASE

FROM: MISSISSIPPI STATE CONFERENCE OF NAACP BRANCHES
1072 West Lynch Street, Jackson 3, Mississippi

CLYDE KENNARD, A YOUNG NEGRO WHO ATTEMPTED TO ENTER MISSISSIPPI SOUTHERN COLLEGE IN HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI IN 1959, HAS BEEN SENTENCED TO SEVEN (7) YEARS IN THE STATE PENITENTIARY ALLEDGEDLY FOR CONSPIRING TO BURGLARIZE THE FORREST COUNTY CO-OPERATIVE.

DESPITE THE OVER-WHELMING EVIDENCE IN KENNARD'S BEHALF AND THE SPLENDID HANDLING OF THE CASE BY ATTORNEYS R. JESS BROWN AND JACK H. YOUNG OF VICKSBURG AND JACKSON RESPECTIVELY, THE SEGREGATIONISTS ATMOSPHERE WHICH EN-GULFED THE COURT ROOM CONVICTED KENNARD.

THIS IS THE SECOND AND THUS FAR SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT, TO LEGALLY PUT CLYDE KENNARD "AWAY" SINCE HE ATTEMPTED TO ENTER MISSISSIPPI SOUTHERN COLLEGE EARLY IN 1959.

CLYDE WAS CONVICTED BY AN ALL WHITE JURY WHICH DILIBERATED ONLY TEN MINUTES BEFORE GIVING A VERDICT OF "GUILTY AS CHARGED" IN FORREST COUNTY (SITE OF TRIAL) APPROXIMATELY 15 NEGROES ARE REGISTERED VOTERS OUT OF A POTENTIAL OF 6095. NO NEGROES SERVED ON THE JURY WHICH CONVICTED MR. KENNARD.

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Delta Democrat Times Greenville, Miss
June 20, 1961

Farmer's Trial 'Mockery Of Justice'

Emmerich Say Kennard May Be 'Political Prisoner' Of State

JACKSON (UPI) — The State Times Monday agreed with an NAACP leader who called a Negro farmer's burglary conviction "a mockery of justice."

Editor Oliver Emmerich, in an editorial, said the conviction of Clyde Kennard raises the question, "what is a political prisoner?"

Kennard, who once tried to enroll at all-white Mississippi Southern College, was sentenced to seven years at Hattiesburg for arranging the theft of five sacks of chicken feed and buying them from the thief.

NAACP Field Secretary Medgar Evers called the case a "mockery of justice," and, as a result, was convicted of contempt of court at Hattiesburg. But the State Supreme Court last week overturned the conviction.

* *

EMMERICH praised the high court's decision but disagreed with chief Justice Harvey McGehee who said Evers intended to show contempt in issuing the statement. "We disagree with Chief Justice McGehee because we think emphatically that the case was a mockery of justice," said Emmerich.

"We think it is highly significant that the confessed thief . . was turned free while Kennard . . . was given seven years at hard labor in the penitentiary," wrote Emmerich.

"Within the past two years just 90 miles off the coast of Florida, the world has seen what can happen when the courts make political prisoners of men who refuse to conform."

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Activity Packet 2

(3 documents)

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1072 West Lynch Street
Jackson 3, Mississippi
February 10, 1961

Mr. Thurgood Marshall
10 Columbus Circle
New York 19, New York

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Enclosed please find: (1) Bullentin of the University of Mississippi (2) Copy of transcript of University of Maryland (3) Copy transcript Jackson State College, first semester 1960-1961 School year (4) Propose courses to be taken by Mr. J. H. Meredith of 1129 Maple Street Apartment 5D Jackson, Mississippi and finally, clippings.

Mr. Meredith, desires admittance to the University of Mississippi during the second semester of 1960-61 school year, if possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Medgar W. Evers

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Other courses taken by Meredith for which transcripts have been requested are: First Year Courses in English Composition and Speech, at the University of Kansas.

A first year course in basic Political Science, Washington University, Topeka, Kansas.

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Proposed subjects for J. H. Meredith to the University of Mississippi Undergraduate school, Oxford, Mississippi. For the Field of Political Science.

Course	Number	page
Survey of English Literature	202	277
Principles of Economics	201	263
General Psychology	201	234
American State and local Government Administration	202	332
American Constitutional Developement	307	332

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
DIVISION OF STUDENT PERSONNEL
UNIVERSITY, MISSISSIPPI

May 25, 1961

Office of the Registrar

Mr. J. H. Meredith
1129 Maple Street
Apartment 5-D
Jackson, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Meredith:

I regret to inform you, in answer to your recent letters, that your application for admission must be denied.

The University cannot recognize the transfer of credits from the institution which you are now attending since it is not a member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Our policy permits the transfer of credits only from member institutions of regional associations. Furthermore, students may not be accepted by the University from those institutions whose programs are not recognized.

As I am sure you realize, your application does not meet other requirements for admission. Your letters of recommendation are not sufficient for either a resident or a nonresident applicant. I see no need for mentioning any other deficiencies.

Your application file has been closed, and I am enclosing with this letter your money orders for $10.00 and $25.00 which you submitted to me earlier.

Sincerely yours,

Robert B. Ellis
Registrar

RBE:cw

Enclosures

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James H. Meredith
September 26, 1962

My Position

In this time of crisis I feel it appropriate for me to clarify my position as to my intention, my objectives, my hopes and my desires.

For several months, I have been involved in a struggle to gain my admission to the University of Mississippi. The prime objective, is of course, to receive the educational training necessary to enable me to be a useful citizen of my own home state of Mississippi.

There are those in my state who oppose me in my efforts to obtain an education in the schools of my state. They do this because I am a Negro - and Negroes are not allowed to attend certain schools in my state of Mississippi. The schools that we are forbidden to attend are the only ones in the State that offer the training which I am desirous of receiving. Consequently, those who oppose me are saying to me, we have given you what we want you to have and you can have no more. Except, maybe, they say to me, if you want more than we have given you, then go to some other state or some country and get your training. Pray tell me what logic concludes that a citizen of one state of the United States must be required to go to another state to receive the educational training that is normally and ordinarily offered and received by other citizens of that state. Further, what justification can possibly justify one state assuming or accepting the responsibility of educating the citizens of another state when the training is offered to other citizens of the home state?

We have a dilemma. It is a matter of fact that the Negroes of the State of Mississippi are effectively <u>not</u> first class citizens. I feel that every citizen should be a first class citizen and should be allowed to develop his talents on a free, equal, and competitive basis. I think this is fair and that it infringes on the rights and privileges of no one. Certainly to be denied this opportunity is a violation of my rights as a citizen of the United States and the State of Mississippi.

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Meredith - My Position cont'd

The future of the United States of America, the future of the South, the future of Mississippi, and the future of the Negro, rests on the decision (the effective decision), of whether or not the Negro citizen is to be allowed to receive an education in his own state.

If a state is permitted to arbitrarily deny any right that is so basic to the American way of life to any citizen, then Democracy is a failure.

I dream of the day when Negroes in Mississippi can live in decency and respect of the first order and do so without fear of intimidation, bodily harm, or of receiving personal embarrassments; and with an assurance of equal justice under the law.

The price of progress is indeed high, but the price of holding it back is much much higher.

Page 2 of 2. MDAH Archives and Records Services.

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Activity Packet 3

(3 documents)

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1028 Chrisman Street
Cleveland, Mississippi
May 20, 1957

Mr. Gloster B. Current
20 West 40th Street
New York 18, New York

Dear Sir:

The Cleveland Branch of the NAACP was organized three or four years ago. Mr. Medgar Evers came to Cleveland looking for someone to call the people together. Someone who lives here in the city directed him to me. I went from house to house in certain sections of the city and invited each person to come out, also the members of my church, New Hope. I also invited each minister. Sixteen ministers met at the first meeting. It was organized at the Peter Rock M. B. Church. Because of fear among the deacons we discontinued our meetings at that church and moved to the Solomon Chapel A.M.E. Church, of which Rev. E. A. Harrell was the pastor. He was also elected president of the NAACP branch. It was said that pressure was put on him and the members of his church. The members asked him to tell us to discontinue our meetings there. Most of his members are members of the faculty of the Cleveland Colored School, and I am sure you know that in Mississippi the hardest fight we have is the faculty of various schools, for if a teacher is found supporting the NAACP he or she will lose their job. We then moved to the Christ Temple Holiness Church and met there for seven or eight months. It was believed that they were secretly threatened because they said their church was subjected to be burned or bombed. The New Hope Baptist Church on Chrisman Street was our next and only place where the NAACP could meet in Cleveland. All other doors were closed to us.

After Mr. Amzie Moore became president for a year or more he informed me that the object of the White Citizens Council was to put the NAACP outdoors where they wouldn't have a meeting place. During this time Mr. Drew, member of the Clarksdale NAACP Branch, was threatened later on a certain day, to be killed. Mr. Moore was also threatened. Here in Cleveland most of our people are very poor and it was only a few people who took a stand. After Mr. Moore was threatened we were together day and night working for the NAACP. Many of our people were afraid to ride with him because his life was in danger and they knew that the Citizens Council was well organized and well armed. Only one or two Negroes took a stand.

A white man, from Jackson, Mississippi, name unknown, came looking for E. C. Smith. He told me that if I would give him the names of

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Page 1 of 3. MDAH Archives and Records Services.

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the members of the NAACP he would pay me as much money as I wanted. There was no amount mentioned. I asked him if he really knew me or did he have me mixed up with someone else. He told me no, and went and looked in his brief case and asked me if I was the pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church. I told him yes and that I wasn't hungry, did not need any small favors, and wasn't a traitor. He left without another word.

Our church was broadcasting over WCLD in Cleveland on an eleven month contract. A white man came to me, name unknown, and asked me if I would make a speech each Sunday on my broadcast for segregation. He said the money I would get would be unlimited. I told him that the broadcast was used for religious purposes only and that I had taken a stand in the defense of my people. I mentioned that we were employed by the whites and that if we didn't support their program we were fired from our jobs. He asked me what did the Negroes expect from the whites. I replied, "What belong to us." He asked, "What belong to you?" I answered, "First-class citizenship." Employers of some of our ladies, who are members of my church, have asked who the members of my church are, and if they were found out they would lose their jobs immediately.

A year ago I was advised by a white friend that the NAACP should discontinue their meetings at my church for the safety of my family and myself. I told him that I had taken a stand for my people. He replied that only one or two of us were taking a stand. I told him that there were quite a number of us standing together because ninety-five percent of the members of the New Hope Baptist Church were with me. A number of people have come to us advising us to stop supporting the NAACP. Pressure was applied to me from every angle. All of my creditors closed me out. I went to a loan company with good references and when it was found out that I was the pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church I was refused a loan. Many rumors were out that our church would be burned or bombed. I called my members together and asked if they were still going to support the NAACP. They cried out, "Brother Pastor, we are still with you in supporting the NAACP." Some said, "We may lose our jobs." Some said, "We have lost our jobs." Others said, "If we die let us die standing for our rights." Our church is the most popular one in Cleveland because of its welfare program. It is the only church that has a charity department which furnishes milk for babies and supports the less fortunate of our city.

The morning of May 7, 1957 there was a telephone call made to the home of Rev. J. W. Fairman, who lives about a half a block from my house. Mrs. Fairman answered the phone. She was asked if she knew Rev. E. C. Smith and to give him the following message. "If he loves his family, church, and members, he had better discontinue the NAACP meetings at his church. If not he would be very sorry."

In the afternoon of the same day, May 7, the pastor of the Solomon Chapel A.M.E. Church and his members were having communion service at the home of Mr. Andrew Sanders, 1029 Church Street, about sixty feet from my home. They received a telephone call in the midst of their

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service asking Mrs. Bessie Mae Sanders if she knew Rev. E. C. Smith, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church. She said yes. "Tell him if he doesn't stop the NAACP from meeting at his church he and his family, church, and members will be in danger." Mrs. Sanders asked who was speaking and the party, believed to be a white woman, hung up without further comment.

The people of the city knew that ninety-five percent of my congregation was supporting the NAACP. They also knew that if my church was destroyed the NAACP would have no other place to meet in town. They further knew that we are unable to secure a loan in our state. We have been threatened of a foreclosure in June on a $1000 church mortgage.

On the same day my family, church, and members were threatened I went to see Mr. Amzie Moore, president of the Cleveland NAACP Branch, who believed that it was only a bluff. My father and many of my friends were terribly upset about the whole thing and until Thursday I couldn't rest. People came from all parts of the country advising me to leave town before I was killed like Rev. Lee of Belzoni. I had no one to tell me to stand up and I'll stand with you until Mr. Moore and a few others, including many of my members, came and said, "Brother Pastor, we are with you. The NAACP will meet Thursday night, May 9, despite all the threats." More than 200 persons were present at the membership drive.

The church was burned down Friday morning, May 10. The police said it caught afire from loose wire connections, but the switch was off. This investigation was made after a call was received from Jackson, Mississippi. The fire caught in the rear of the church and the switch was at the front. In this city we have a volunteer fire department. The alarm was not sounded or heard. We have lived here for many years but we have never knew of a fire, in town or out of town, that they didn't sound the alarm. We cannot say definitely if the fire was set because we have no way of knowing, but we know this, that there was no shortage in the wires.

We do not have one hundred and fifty people standing with us in Cleveland, but we have made up our minds to stand until we cannot stand, and then stand anyhow. Our church was insured for $2000. We have a $1000 mortgage on it. The question is now, how are we going to rebuild our church, and who are we going to ask for the loan?

Your advice in this regard will be deeply appreciated.

Yours truly,

E. C. Smith (Rev)
Pastor
New Hope Baptist Church

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December 29, 1961

COPY

Mr. Richard H. Whited
302 W. Locust Street, Apt., 10
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Mr. Whited:

Relative to your letter of December 18, 1961 I am happy to present the following: The NAACP has encountered in Mississippi a number of obstacles designed to hamper its operation.

Possibly the most widely used obstacle is that of discouraging individuals from joining the organization by means of threats of economic pressure against whomever dare take out membership..

A typical example is that of teachers having to sign statements indicating that they do not belong to any"subversive organization" meaning specifically the NAACP or similar organizations; not that the NAACP is subversive however, which I am sure you are aware.

Other examples of difficulty encountered would be that of physical violence, for example in 1955 the President of our Belzonia, Mississippi Branch of NAACP was assassinated by a car load of white men and later the man who assumed the

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presidency of this same Branch, as attempt to assassinate him was carried out inflicting wounds upon him from a shot-gun blast; respectfully the men were, Rev. G. W. Lee, and Mr. Gus Courts.

In the same year (1955) a blast from a shot-gun penetrated the home of Dr. A. H. McCoy, of Jackson, Mississippi who was then President of the Mississippi State Conference of NAACP Branches.

Also, during 1955 petitioners to integrate the public schools in Natchez and Yazoo City, Mississippi were driven from their homes by threats and the use of economic pressures.

Some of the methods used for blockading our drive for First Class Citizenship have been enactment of segregation laws by the legislature of Mississippi; during each legislative session since the 1954 School desegreation decision.

Deep rooted prejudices and fears also, have been responsible along with ignorance since Mississippi has the poorest school system in the nation.

Presently, there are suits pending in Federal Courts to desegregate the institutions of higher learning and transportation facilities in the state. We feel these decisions will be forthcoming early in 1962. We are able to aid individuals who have requested that we take legal action in other areas here in the State of Mississippi, we are working on that now.

Hoping this will be of some service, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

MWE:ll

Medgar W. Evers
Field Secretary NAACP

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AFFIDAVIT

COUNTY OF HINDS)
)SS.
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI)

I, Odic Milsaps, Star Route Box 4A, Vossburg, Mississippi make the following statement. I give my permission to use this statement in any legal way, to be read in any open meeting of the Mississippi Civil Rights Advisory Commission.

I have paid Poll Taxes for seven (7) consecutive years, in Paulding, Jasper County, Mississippi and have attempted to Register in order to Vote. I went to the Court house of Paulding, Mississippi, and asked a Mr. Mike McDewitt, who at that time was sheriff and tax collector, about registering. He told me to "go to Bay Springs, to the Circuit Clerk's office. When I got there, I was informed by a man that "The Circuit Clerk is sick, and you will have to come back later."

Within one month's time I went back to Bay Springs, and I was told that the Circuit Clerk was out, when I asked to register. On the third (3rd) trip he was there, helping a white man to fill out a registration application; he asked me "What can I do for you" I told him "I want to Register" he then asked "Do you think you can qualify"? I replied " I would like to try", he then gave me the blank, told me that "no one can help you" when he told me that, I said "I don't think I willneed help, I think I can make it." After filling out the application, I gave it to the registrar, who checked it over, wrote my

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Name on it, and wrote a "Yes" in a little block, and he also asked me if I was a member of the NAACP, and I reliped "No".

I asked him "Did I pass" he said "I don't know, that will be left to the Committee, but I think you did."

During the last Presidential election, I attempted to Vote; the man at my precinct told me, "Your name is not on the book" I told the man "I have registered," and then he said "Maybe it's at Cook's Mill" (which is another voting precinct). After going to Cook's Mill, I was informed that my name was not there, and on the way out of the building, a white lady said something, which I did not understand; when I asked her if she was talking to me, she said "I didn't say nothing to you, the best thing you can do is to get out of here."

At a later date I went to Bay Springs, and asked the Registrar, "Why is it that they can't find my name on the book, " he said, "If you have registered, that's all that you can do, you will have to take that up with the Chairman of the Election Committee." When I asked him who the Chairman was, he replied, "I don't know."

I have continued to pay poll tax since that time, and I am also a High School graduate, I have attended College at Alcorn A&M College and need only approximately

Page 2 of 3. MDAH Archives and Records Services.

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16 hours to graduate with a BS Degree.

I would like an investigation made into this matter so that I may be allowed to register and Vote, I also have Poll Tax receipts to show that I have paid my poll taxes.

Odie Milsap
Affiant

Sworn to before me this 16th day of April, 1962.

My Commission Expires April 7, 1965

Notary Public

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Activity Packet 4

(5 documents)

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SEGREGATED SCHOOLS IN RANKIN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI:

These outdoor toilets are the only facilities available to pupils at the Sweet Rest School for Negroes in Rankin County, Mississippi. The school, which incorporates grades one through eight, is in the same school district as Pearl Consolidated High School for whites, a spacious brick edifice.

According to a biennial survey of education in the United States conducted by the Education Office of the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare during the period 1952-54, the total annual expenditure for instruction per pupil in average daily attendance in Mississippi elementary and secondary schools is $98.15 per white pupil and $43.17 per Negro pupil. The average annual salary for members of the total instructional staff of Mississippi public elementary and secondary schools is $2,261 for each white teacher and $1,302 for each Negro teacher, according to the same government survey.

(1958) Credit: Armstrong

(One of a series of nine)

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2 1 56

To Whom It May Concern

This is to certify that I have been relieved of my employment at the Coahoma County Hospital. In my dismissal the Hospital Administrator, Mr. Reed Hogan, had me to know that there was nothing about my work that was unsatisfactory. He told me that because of my husband's activity with the N A A C P, and because he signed a petition asking that the recent supreme court decision outlawing segregation in the public schools be complied with, that he must let me go. He said that the pressure brought to bare against him by the Hospital Board and the White Citizens Council left him no alternative. If I am to be a victim of "economic pressure" because my husband displayed a spark of manhood and ask that Negro children be permitted to attend the best schools in the community, which every parent should desire for their children, then I accept it painfully but unashamed. My husband nor I will never surrender our desire for the best for Negro children. We shall never be satisfied until we have done our best to help make Negro children honorable in the sight of God and Man, without the stigma of inferiority stamped on their souls. Segregation, wherever we find it, if it is based on Race, Religion or previous condition of servitude, then it is Unamerican, Undemocratic, and Unchristian. I am deeply grateful to Mrs. Johnny Orridge for her expressed concern over my dismissal carried out in such and undemocratic fashion. If my dismissal can in any way make it easier for the other employees of the hospital that remain, I am grateful. I would like to call your attention to the following discriminatory practices still in effect at the Coahoma County Hospital:

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1. Help on first floor (floor where Negro patients are housed) is always inadequate. Other floors have plenty of help.

2. There is an extreme lack of courtesy extended to Negro patients by the White employees of the hospital and a resentment by the White employees if the Negro employees extend to Negro patients the basic principals of courtesy. It is the policy of the hospital for no one to refer to Negro patients with courtesy titles.

3. There is gross discrimination in the pay received by Negro and White employees even when each are doing the same work.

4. The quality and variety of food served on first floor (the floor where Negro patients are housed) is of less quality and variety than that served throughout the hospital.

In submitting this affadavit to the Coahoma County Branch of the N A A C P it is my desire that a copy of this affadavit also be sent to the National Office of the N A A C P, and to Mr. Marion B. Folson of the Department of Health, Education, and Public Welfare. I am anxious to see if they condone these practices.

Mrs. Lurleaner Johnson

Mrs. Lurleaner Johnson

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AFFIDAVIT

State of Mississippi
ss:
County of Lowndes

I, James M. Edwards, 1103 N. 5th Ave. Columbus, Mississippi, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

On August 23, 1955 at about 10:30 A.M. I presented myself at the Bell Lumber Company, Columbus, Mississippi, which is the location of my voting precinct. I was given the official ballot of the Mississippi Democratic Primary Election (2nd Primary) of state and local officers for the next four years.

~~My poll tax receipts for the years 1953 and 1954 were stamped on the back of the receipts as follows:~~

~~Voted~~
~~Primary Election~~
~~August 23, 1955~~
~~2nd Primary~~

I then went into the voting booth and marked the official ballot for the candidates of my choice. I then folded the ballot and gave it to the person in charge of the ballot box. Instead of placing the marked ballot into the box, the person in charge of the ballot box placed the ballot into an envelope, sealed the envelope, wrote my name on the outside of the envelope and placed the envelope on top of a table.

I stood inside of the voting place long enough to observe that several white citizens who voted in my presence had their ballots placed immediately into the ballot box and none were placed into envelopes and placed on the top of a table.

IDA Y. DIXON NOTARY PUBLIC LOWNDES COUNTY, MISS.

James M. Edwards
James M. Edwards

Sworn to before me this 25 day of August, 1955, at Columbus, Mississippi.

Ida Y. Dixon
Notary Public
my com expires July 31, 1956

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AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI)
)SS.
COUNTY OF HINDS)

I, Travis Britt, 702 Wall Street, McComb, Mississippi being first duly sworn according to law deposes and says:

On September 5, 1961, Robert Moses and I went to Liberty of Amite County, Mississippi, with four other Negroes in order that they may take the test for Voter Registration. The Registrar asked us to leave his office.

The registrar's name is Mr. Whittington. Mr. Moses, and I went out into the hallway and we were told by the Clerk, whose office is directly in front of the Registrar's Office, to get out of the hallway. This we did.

Later, while in back of the Courthouse on the porch, we noticed a group of white people congregating in the hallway. Finally, one approached Moses and started a conversation. The crowd of white men grew larger. One man approached me and asked me what my business was. I told him I didn't have a business, then he started punching me. First, he hit me in the right eye, then on the left side on my chin and a right to my jaw followed by fifteen other punches. I counted them. This party attacked me was later identified as Bryant Jones. Before releasing me Bryant threatened to kill me. The Clerk of whose identity I do not know, warned us to stay away from

COPY

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the County seat, and stated that we had no business there and stay the hell'way from down here and that he'd better not catch us there again." We left and since that time no Negroes habe attempted to register.

I believe that this was done to stop Negroes from trying to Register.

_____
Affiant

Sworn to before me this
____day of _____, 1961

_____
Notary public

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1209 Rosemont Avenue
Jackson, Mississippi
October 13, 1961

Attorney Constance Baker Motley
10 Columbus Circle
New York 45, New York

Dear Attorney Motley:

I am Mrs. Lillie F. Bennett, of 1209 Rosemont Street, Jackson, Mississippi. Because Negroes are discriminated against and even denied the use of the zoo facilities, the golf course, Lake Hico, and many other park and recreational facilities; I would like to be a plaintiff in a legal action handled by the Legal Defense and Educational Fund of NAACP, to correct some of these injustices.

Please, consider my request favorably.

Sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Lillie F. Bennett

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Activity Packet 5

(5 documents)

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1955

AFFIDAVIT

I, MR. DAN SMITH OF ROUTE 2 BOX 238 OF TCHULA, HOLMES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI ON 28TH DAY OF DECEMBER IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY FOUR (1954), HEREBY AFFIRM THAT BECAUSE OF MY MERE MEMBERSHIP IN THE NAACP AND MY PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY, THERE EXIST A FEELING OF DISLIKE FOR ME BY SOME WHITE MEN WHO ARE IN FEDERAL AUTHORITY (F.H.A.) AND WHO HAVE ATTEMPTED TO MAKE MY PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY IMPOSSIBLE.

EXAMPLE: NO LOANS WILL BE EXTENDED TO ME FOR CURRENT OPERATIONS WHICH BEGIN IN MID-JANUARY.

A MR. WALTER E. STRIDER, SUPERVISOR FOR F.H.A. OF LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI THROUGH WHICH MY PROPERTY WAS PURCHASED WILL NOT MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO SECURE A LOAN FOR OPERATIONS THROUGH THE F. H. A. HOWEVER, A WHITE FRIEND OF MINE WAS ABLE TO RECEIVE UP TO $10,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT AND FOR OPERATIONS THROUGH THE F. H. A. AND MR. STRIDER.

MY HOLDINGS CONSIST OF 76 ACRES OF DELTA SOIL WITH TWO HOMES A BARNES AND 66 ACRES UNDER CULTIVATION WITH AN APPROXIMATE BALANCE DUE ON SAID HOLDINGS OF $2,600.

I, DAN SMITH, HEREBY REAFFIRM THAT THE ABOVE STATE- IS TRUE AND WAS VOLUNTEERED BY ME THIS 28th DAY OF DECEMBER 1954.

SIGNED Dan Smith

James H Ingram WITNESS

C Preston Holmes NOTARY PUBLIC

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Banks Warned: Grant Negroes Home Loans

Housing chief Albert M. Cole warned the Nation's bankers that if they don't start making home loans to Negroes available on the same terms as to whites the Government will step in and do the job.

Cole told the National Association of Mutual Savings Banks the Negro "has had, and still has difficulty, in obtaining funds to acquire a home on terms equal to those of other citizens . . . If private enterprise will not provide for them, then the Government proposes to assist him to get the home financing he needs on terms equal to those afforded others."

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FHA Officials Deny Loans for Negroes Are Turned Down

Two county-level officials of the Farmers Home Administration denied today that Negro applicants for loans were turned down because of their support of civil rights.

Walters S. Strider of Lexington and Shirley O'Neal of Greenville were named yesterday in affidavits filed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People claiming that four Negro farmers were refused loans because they supported the NAACP.

Strider called the charge "absolutely false" and said his Holmes County office made loans "regardless of color to any person who qualified and met the regulations" of the federal agency.

O'Neal, one of three Negro assistant FHA county supervisors in Mississippi, said he was "surprised" that the NAACP would claim discrimination in the rejections. He was transferred recently from Holmes County to Greenville in a mutual "swap" for another Negro assistant supervisor.

O'Neal said he was "never interested in whether applicants were members of the NAACP" and he never asked.

He said he had never talked to any member of the Mississippi Citizens Council, an all-white organization which has mentioned economic pressure as a weapon against Negroes who back civil rights movements.

Strider said his records showed four Negro farmers who applied for loans were rejected since last July because they failed to meet "ordinary requirements" of the FHA.

J. Francis Polhaus, general counsel for the NAACP, said in Washington that the NAACP is considering the establishment of credit at the Negro-operated Tri-State Bank of Memphis, Tenn., to be used possibly as a "counter boycott if it becomes necessary."

Medgar Evars, NAACP field representative in Mississippi, said about $500,000 was being deposited in the bank for loans "purely on a business basis" to Negroes who can show that they are being discriminated against.

***January 25, 1955. MDAH Archives and Records Services. Used with the permission of the* Jackson Daily News.**

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CHARLES CARPENTER, JR. - INTERNAL AUDITOR, FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE

A REPORT, AUGUST 15, 1961, TO: MINNEAPOLIS BRANCH, N. A. A. C. P.

After visiting my mother, who was seriously ill at McComb, Miss., I was returning to my Minot, North Dakota home and employment. I was traveling via New Orleans, Louisiana. I boarded a Greyhound "New Orleans to Chicago Express" bus. This was on August 12, 1961, about 1:10 A.M. at New Orleans. I was seated near the rear of the bus, where I remained until about 9:15 A. M., when the bus arrived at Greenwood, Miss. for a rest stop. There was also a change of drivers at Jackson, Miss. I had not been approached by the bus operator to change my seat, nor had I created any disturbance at any time during this trip. After all passengers had returned to the bus, I took my same seat. There were still other vacant seats. Immediately behind me were two Negro women and two white Air Force men. There seemed to be no seating pattern for any of the passengers. Just before the bus departed, two police officers got on the bus and came directly to me. They demanded that I move to the rear of the bus. Before I could move from my seat, one of them jerked me by my arm, stating, "Come on, you are under arrest!" They took my lunch and brief case and rushed me to the police car. I was then taken to the police station and treated as though I had committed a crime. I was cursed and called a "Black Nigger", and was told that since I had been up North, I had been ruined. I was escorted to an identification room, finger printed and photographed. I was forced to tell where my relatives lived, their location in McComb, Miss. There were three officers storming at me all the time and making constant threats. I gave all the information requested of me and was then returned to the sergeant's desk, where I stayed under heavy guard until about 11:45 A.M. My brief case containing personal papers, was ransacked. I was subsequently released, and ordered to get the next bus out of town. This bus came about 3:57 P.M. The officers told me, this will teach you "Niggers not to try and mix with white folks down here".

I returned to the bus station, where the manager of the station showed some concern about my arrest and what happened to cause it. The whole incident was most embarrasing and humiliating to me. I was delayed in my travel to my destination. Also having to give the location of my relatives, gave me a scare and fear for their safety.

SIGNED:

Charles Carpenter, Jr.
Internal Auditor, Federal Civil Service
2028 - 5th Street N. W.
Minot, North Dakota

Employer:

Central Civilian Personnel Office,
2465TH Air Base Group
Minneapolis - St. Paul Int'l Air Port
Minneapolis, Minmesota.

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A F F I D A V I T

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI)
))SS.
COUNTY OF HINDS))

I, William E. Miller II, of 1503 West Pearl Street, Jackson, Mississippi, being duly sworn according to law, deposes and says:

On the 6 day of August, 1962 I drove my father, Dr. William E. Miller to the Jackson Municipal airport where he was to take the 7:45 A.M., flight to Washington, D. C.

After confirmation by the passenger representative that the flight would depart according to schedule and a concurrent check of the bags, we decided to go in the terminal restaurant for some refreshments. Upon entering the restaurant and walking over to the stand-up lunch counter and after standing there for about a minute waiting for service, we noticed a sign over the doorway which read in substance, "Reserved for employees only." My father suggested that we go through this doorway and see if we could get served. Just as we started through the doorway, the man, or the person in charge, (whom I later learned was Cicero Carr) asked us, "Are you employees?" We answered "no" (but all the people sitting at the tables in the so-called "patio", ie, reserved section were not employees either. We observed that some of the ladies in the reserved section had children with them.

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The man or the person in charge replied that he was sorry but we could not go beyond the reserved section. We said that we would like to be served and since other people, other than employees, were being served, "we see no reason why you should refuse us service." We reminded him that the I.C.C. ruling prohibits segregated restaurant facilities at the Jackson airport, and since he was not complying with this ruling we would report this incident to the Justice Department and the Civil Rights Commission. The man became very angry and adamant.

He exclaimed, "I don't give a damn about the Justice Department or the I.C.C. ruling. You can tell anybody you damn please, it dosen't matter." He further exclaimed, "We don't need your business" - pointing to the door. We replied that "It's no need of you becoming abusive."

The man then advanced toward us making threatening gestures and overtones and at that split second, we thought maybe he intended to inflict bodily harm or injury on us. As we retreated slowly, he passed by us hurridly and through the swinging doors into the looby, apparently looking for a policeman. Unable to find help immediately, he returned.

We left the restaurant without further incident or being served.

William E. Miller
Affiant

Sworn to before me this 10 day of August 1962.

My Commission Expires Feb. 18, 1965

Jas. H. Wilson
Notary Public

Page 2 of 2. MDAH Archives and Records Services.

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Activity Packet 6

(3 documents)

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STATEMENT BY Ellis Hull, Jr.

January 14, 1963

I, Ellis Hull, Jr. was released from active duty from the United States Army on January 10, 1963. I left Fort Lee, Virginia by Trailways Bus Line. When I got to Meridian, Mississippi on the morning of the 11th of January at about 7:30 A.M., I found that I had an option to go to Greyhound and get home two hours earlier or to go to Jackson on a Trailways and get home much later.

I went to Greyhound some 4 blocks away. I put my bags in lockers on the larger side of the station, and then walked 2 blocks and sent a Western Union home. I told my mother and father I would be home at 4:30 P.M., that mu bus was suppose to leave at 10:00 A.M.

I walked back to the Greyhound bus station, and ordered breakfast on the bigger side. After breakfast had been served I was distracted by three caucasians sitting at the counter. I was sitting at a table, one said "I know he is from the South," I am going to take a chair and break it over his head, and put him on the other side." The other asked, "are you ready?" I didn't move or say anything. The third one didn't have anything to say.

I was served breakfast about 8:35 A.M. Everything that happened between those men and me took place between 8:35 A.M. and 8:55 A.M. The three men left, two returned with a dog each. The dogs are similiar to Army k-g dogs. A little later after I had turned my back to them again, the man that did most of the talking came in the station and spoke to the ticket-agent. He shook his hand, and told him how bad his dogs were. His friend with the other dog was watinig outside. From the way he talked to the man in the ticket office he is well-known in the area. They were dressed in common street clothes and not very well groomed. He told the

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STATEMENT by Ellis Hull, Jr.

January 14, 1963

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I was served breakfass about 8:35 A.M. Everything that happened between those men and me took place between 8:35 A.M. and 8:55 A.M. The three men left, two returned with a dog each. The dogs are similiar to Army k-g dogs. They brought the dogs near-by an open door. They stooped down by the dogs. A little later after I had turned my back to them again, the man that did the most talking cam in the station and spoke to the ticket-agent. He shook his hand, and told him how bad his dogs were. His friend with the other dog was waiting outside. From the way he talked to the man in the ticket office he is well-known in the area. They were dressed in common

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ticket agent that some little business place that he was connected with had moved up the street from where they use to be.

He went back out side and knoded on the glass window twiee to get my attention, and told me "if you don't get on the other side, I'll turn my dogs on you." He told me to come outside, then I told him to come inside. He came inside, He said"if you don't go on the other side, I'll turn my dogs on you," holding themone he had back about two feet from me. I told hom" I am from New Orleans." He said, "You are from New Orleans, you know better than that. You think you are as good as white people don't you?" I said "I am from New Orleans, we eat in Greyhound, trailways and the train stations there. I fight right besides you." (I had my uniform on) "You don't fight side me, you dont believe I'll turn these dogs on you, do you? I said "If someone had told me I couldn't sit over there, I wouldh ave moved or if someone had told me it was against the law. He said "We make our own laws," I told hom to keep him from turning his dogs lose on me, I'd go on the other side. As a police car came we he started outside. He greeted the policemen. After a few sec nds the policemen started in the door like he was just looking around. I said "Eh serg." He came over by my table. I said " I am from New Orleans, I eat in Trailwasy and Greyhound there. I told the policeman I would more to keep the man from turning his dogs on me. I asked the policeman could I sit overe there or not? He said "We'll see."

I left the table and went on the other side. As I was going on the other side he was telling this man something to the effect not to turn his dogs lose. I watched from the other side. Two squad cars and one dectective car had come. The policeman never did tell me whether it was alreight to sit on that side. We asked the ticket agent questions.

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Page 3

The policeman had a conference and left about 8:55 A.M., I sat and waited until 10:00 A.M. for my bus.

The above is true. Ellis Hull, Jr., may be reached at this address. 2516 South Tonti Street, New Orleans, Louisiana Telephone number 282-2701.

s/ Ellis Hull, Jr.
T/ Ellis Hull, Jr.

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AFFIDAVIT

State of Mississippi
ss:
County of Lowndes

I, Mrs. Ruby Mae Dupree, 1314 10th Ave. N. Columbus, Miss., being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

On August 23, 1955 at about 10:00 A.M., I presented myself at the Bell Lumber Co. Precinct, Columbus, Mississippi, which is the location of my voting precinct. I was given the official ballot of the Mississippi Democratic Primary Election (2nd Primary) of state and local officers for the next four years.

My poll tax receipts for the years 1953 and 1954 were stamped on the back of the receipts as follows:

Voted
Primary Election
August 23, 1955
2nd Primary
Bell Lumber Company

I then went into the voting booth and marked the official ballot for the candidates of my choice. I then folded the ballot and gave it to the person in charge of the ballot box. Instead of placing the marked ballot into the box, the person in charge of the ballot box placed the ballot into an envelope, sealed the envelope, wrote my name on the outside of the envelope and placed the envelope on top of a table.

I stood inside of the voting place long enough to observe that several white citizens who voted in my presence had their ballots placed immediately into the ballot box and none were placed into envelopes and placed on the top of a table.

Ruby Mae Dupree
(Mrs.) Ruby Mae Dupree

Sworn to before me this 25th day of August, 1955, at Columbus, Mississippi.

J. T. Alexander
Notary Public

My Commission expires 3-5-1957

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Voting

March 18, 1962
Rust College
Holly Springs, Miss.

(1)

My Name is Willie B. Peacock. I was born in Charleston, Mississippi (Which is the County seat of Tallahatchie County) in the year 1937 and the 5th day of September. My present address is Rust College; Holly Springs, Miss. My permanent address is 142½ North Pleasant St.; Charleston, Mississippi. My father and mother are, both, living together at the above stated permanent address. My fathers Name is George W. Peacock and my mothers name is Della Peacock. I started going to school in Charleston at the age of 6 years of age which was in the year 1943. upon finishing grade school, I entered high school at Charleston and I graduated from high school at Charleston, Miss. in the year 1958. upon graduation, I entered Rust College in the fall of 1958 as a College freshman. I am, now, presently enrolled at Rust, in which, I am a student of Biological science and a Senior.

On the Day of the 23 January 1962: I, Willie B. Peacock, being sound in mind and body, Did Purchase two money orders (U.S. Postal money orders) which were worth two Dollars each for the purpose of paying Poll taxes

W. B. P.

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(2)

On that same Day I sent the U.S. postal money orders to The Sheriffs Office, Tallahatchie County; Charleston, Mississippi. in which I enclosed a letter and stamped envelope (with the money orders U.S. POSTAL). This is the way the letter read: "Dear Sir: You will find enclosed in this envelope two $200 money orders which are payable to the Sheriff's office for the purpose of paying poll taxes for the year 1961, January and January, 1962. The former is for back taxes and the latter is for taxes now due, etc." In this letter sufficient information was given to inform the Sheriffs office that I am a citizen of the County Tallahatchie, and a citizen of the City of Charleston, Mississippi located therein. A few days later (10 or 12 Feb 62) I received and undated letter from Ellett R. Dogan, Sheriff and tax collector, Tallahatchie County; Charleston, Miss. The letter was post marked the 10 or 12 february 1962. Enclosed with this letter was the two money orders which I had, previously, sent to Sheriffs office. The letter was type written. The sheriffs signature ~~was~~ type written and not hand written. Her letter read like this: "We can not sell poll tax for but one year at a time. There are four precincts in Charleston and I do not know which one you are in. Yours truly, E.R. Dogan, Sheriff." This type of action gives me reason to believe discrimination is being practiced by the Sheriffs office to deny negro citizens of Charleston, Mississippi and Tallahatchie County

W. B. P.

Page 2 of 3. MDAH Archives and Records Services.

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(3)

the right, prinelege, and opportunity of paying their poll taxes as other citizens do. I, further, believe that my money orders which were for the purpose of paying poll taxes were rejected ~~of my~~ because of my being a Negro. I occuse the Sheriff's office of denying me the privilege and Right to pay poll taxes because of my being a negro citizen of Charleston, Miss. I further occuse the sheriffs office of willfully holding the money orders until the time for paying poll taxes had expired, and then sending the money orders back to me after it was to late to investigate the matter. I find the reasons given in the sheriffs letter for not accepting my poll taxes unconstitutional according to the Constitution of Mississippi and the United States Constitution

This is a true statement consisting of three hand written pages. Bear ye witness to my signature on this the 13 March 1962.

Willie B. Peacock

Witnesses
E. W. Davis
Neal Reeves
Otis Walker

Page 3 of 3. MDAH Archives and Records Services.

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