

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

Voting

UNITED STATES v. DALLAS COUNTY

Subpoenas

Subpoenas - V.S. & Dallas County, Ala.
(Dallas County, Ala.) 1977-62

72-3-45

13,728

we accepted him to work as a
negotiator. likely with ^{APPT} an committee in other reg.

will name
responsible ones
category of meeting

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Been to first meeting at Torsenah - May 17
Been to meeting and follow from May 17 - 1st. Bysted
Been to meeting who have been 1st
1st Monday - Torsenah 1st Bysted

[REDACTED] said opening page

[REDACTED] John taking because of later.

1st meeting - did not know John from my name

There did not seem to be any reason for this.

Sather
July 20, 1963

[REDACTED]
Selma, Alabama

BACKGROUND

Age - 69
Born - Jasper, County, Mississippi
Residents - Selma since July 1926
Occupation: Public Relation Officer for Selma University
Education: College graduate of Selma University and Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee.
Marriage: Married and 3 children
Arrests: Never arrested except for one traffic incident.
Registered Voter Parent - Registered in 1928 in Dallas County.
Is member of Tabernacle Baptist Church and a member of its board of Deacons. This is the Church that Rev. L. L. Anderson pastors.

REGISTRATION ACTIVITY

The interviewee has been active in registration activities in Dallas County in the past. He is Chairman of the Voters Registration Committee of the Voter Registration League until about one year ago. He is still a member of the committee for instruction of prospective applicants. This committee is headed by [REDACTED] and it meets every Tuesday and Thursday. The interviewee stated that he is too busy and has not been able to participate in this committee's activities.

[REDACTED] stated that while he was chairman of the committee he used to help people to come down to apply. Registration has been at a standstill until recently. ~~Those~~ ^{Those} who are clearly capable of registering, such as the teachers and businessmen, usually work for white people and were ~~afraid~~ afraid thru fear of economic retaliation to try to register. He stated that there is a great deal of fear in the community among the Negroes that they would lose their jobs if they attempt to register.

Interviewee attended the first mass meeting held in May at the Tabernacle Church. He has attended 3 of the 5 mass meetings. He lives several blocks from the church and walked to it, 2 and one-half blocks away, at about 7:15 evening. He is alone and arrived before the meeting started. It was scheduled to start at 7:30.

At the church he noticed nothing out of the ordinary. People were parking cars and going into the church and it appeared to be like a normal church service. He did not see any police in the vicinity.

When he entered the church he found it about one-half full and estimate that there were about 150 or 200 people there when he entered. He stated that the church held about 450 people on the first floor and another 150 to 200 people in the balcony. He does not believe any body sat in the balcony that night and if so only a few. He estimates that there were between 400 and 450 people at the meeting when the largest group was there.

The interviewee stated that they have not filled this church for sometime and that this was about the largest group that had ever been there for the past 4 or 5 years. However in the past there have been many times when he has seen the church filled up. This was particularly when they have held the Mid-Winter State Board of Baptist Meeting at the church. In about 1957, before the NAACP ban, they had a large NAACP meeting at the church. On this occasion the church was filled up and there were more there than on this mass meeting. It was at night time. The interviewee has never seen police present at that church before on any of the previous large meeting including the NAACP meeting.

After entering the church on this occasion he ~~xxx~~ said hello to a few people and then proceeded to the office where he found 2 or 3 people setting. The office appears to be in the back of the church near the platform. During the meeting he was in and out of the office as he was answering the telephone when it rang in the office.

After the meeting had opened and before the main speakers had begun he answered the telephone after ~~rang~~ rang on one occasion and the person at the other end said "is this the Tabernacle Church". He stated "yes", ~~speaking~~. The person at the other end said "I am a friend and I am not giving you my name but I simply called to say that you are surrounded by white people in cars who seem to have guns, clubs, and baseball bats". Again ~~asked~~ asked who she was and the person merely replied "just a friend, and thought I would call you". She stated that there were 15 or 20 cars around there on Small Street. She further stated that from what she could see it appeared ~~that there~~ on every corner within 2 blocks of the church. ~~asked~~ asked her what they were doing and she said they were doing nothing but standing out by their cars. He thanked her and hung up.

~~said~~ said he did not become overly excited about this because he thought it was probably part of the posse and suspected that it had something to do with the Sheriff's Office and was within knowledge and under his control. Shortly after this he received 2 more similar phone calls.

After these other phone calls the interviewee decided to go outside and see what was happening. He went out the back door of the church and walked over to Minter Street and up a few paces towards the corner of Lauderdale and Minter Streets. It was at night, about 8:15, and there was a light on the corner of Minter and Lauderdale. He was standing about one-half way down the block from Broad Street to Lauderdale Street and could see 8 or 10 persons on the corner of Lauderdale and Minter. It looked ~~fixx~~ like they had night sticks and that some of them had guns, rifles, and shotguns, and pistols. He saw a car parked up at the corner but was unable to see if it was a police car, or whether any of the people at the corner had a uniforms on.

He then walked down Minter street to Broad Street. He could observe in every direction down Broad Street and he saw law officers in all directions. Some of them had white helmets on and some had arm bands on which he believed white with letters in blue or black. He does not know what the letters were on the bands. The law officers were scattered in small groups of 4 or 5 along the street. He did not see any dogs but he did see that some of ~~the~~ of the officers had guns and night sticks. There were several Police Patrol Cars parked on Broad Street but did not see the Sheriff's Car. He estimated that he could see about 25 or 30 law officers standing around on the street including ~~those~~ on the corner of Minter and Lauderdale.

He stated on the other side of Broad Street across from the church there were a group of white people who had congregated, which included men, women, and some children. They seem to be quiet and appeared to be merely watching and observing to see what was going to happen. There were no shouts from this group and they looked very peaceful. At first he estimated about 70 white people in this group and later would only commit himself to that there were around a good group of people. While he was out observing it took him about 10 minutes and then he returned to the church.

He went back into the back of the church thru the office and sat down in the front of the church next to ~~the~~. He whispered to the doctor that there was a large number of police around on all the corners around the church.

The interviewee saw about 2 law officers in the meeting and they stood just inside the door on the Broad Street entrance side of the church. They were near a large column in the church about 10 or 15 feet inside the church. One of the men had a walkie-talkie and he appeared to have a kiki uniform on. The second person ~~with~~ with him did not look like a news man, although there appeared to be one over there with them, and he seem to be with the policeman. There were no facts to prove this, this was the impression ~~the~~ received.

He first saw these officers a few minutes before the meeting started. They didn't seem to be hiding and they were not blocking the entrance. They were quiet and ~~xxx~~ merely seem to be observing what was going on. One of them had a walkie-talkie and it appeared to ~~the~~ that this person would put his mouth down and talk into it every time something different seem to happen in the meeting.

During the meeting only voter registration and related subjects, such as political influence, etc., were discussed. The main part of the meeting was devoted entirely to going down and registering and if not why people didn't ~~go~~ go down to register.

Before they dismissed ~~the~~ told them they should go home quietly. After the meeting everybody left and the interviewee stayed until the church was almost empty. He left the church and went directly up Minter

Street to his home. On the way he saw several officers at the corner of Minter and Lauderdale. These seem to be members of the Sheriffs Posse.

After the meeting was over the man with the walkie-talkie came over to [REDACTED]. He told him "I want to thank you for the statement you made". This was referring to the statement made by [REDACTED] "that all white people are not bad, and some of the negroes are bad".

(cont. Churchill Hotel.)

W. J. Churchill
July 19, 1963

Interview Part II

Selma, Alabama

REGISTRATION ACTIVITY CONT

*Spoke
city police
man.*
The next meeting I attended was held in the First Baptist Church on Sylvan Street. I went alone in my car, a 1961 Plymouth Valiant. I arrived there about 7:45 P.M. The meeting was suppose to have started at 7:30 P.M. I pulled into the church parking lot by the side of the church and parked my car. There were 15 to 20 cars on the parking lot already. I got out of the car, said hello to 8 or 10 negroes none of whose name I remember who were standing there, when an officer's car pulled into the parking lot. There were two white people in the car. The driver of the car stayed in it and the other officer got and I saw that he was carrying a walkie-talkie. He shined a flashlight on my license number and read the number into the walkie-talkie. Then he got back into the car and they both drove off.

Several of us went into the church together. I went up near the front, ~~XXXXXX~~ to the first or second row of seats, and sat on the right hand ~~XXXXXX~~ aisle of seats entering the church by the northeast door. The meeting was just getting started. They were singing. The church seats about 800 people and was at least half full.

When I got inside I saw 3 white men standing in back of the part of the church we were using. They seem to be the same 3 men of the other meeting. One white man had a walkie-talkie; another man was with him and the third man was taking notes. They were about 5 to 10 feet just inside the door. They were in view of everybody in the main section of the church. I saw the man with the walkie-talkie talking into it from time to time. The meeting was about voter registration, and how to get people to go down to register to vote.

The meeting was over about 10:00 P.M. I left possible a little bit after the rush. When I got outside I drove off the lot. I was going west on Jeff Davis Street just off from the church when I passed a patrol car which seem to have just pulled away from parked car with a flat tire. They passed and I came straight on home.

While I was at the meeting I saw ~~XX~~ Gildersleeve, ~~XXXXXX~~ I believe ~~XXXXXX~~ and possible ~~XXXXXX~~

I missed the next meeting but went to the one after that back at the First Baptist Church. It was announced at this meeting that 900 and 4 people were present. At the meeting, I saw what appeared to be the same 3 white men, one with the walkie-talkie, another with him, and a third one taking notes. Most of the time they stood in the back of the church as you face the front. Towards the end of the meeting the white man with the walkie-talkie and another one of the other 2 with him walked up the right hand aisle as you face the front and came up to the platform. They stopped in front of the ~~XXXXXX~~ a white Catholic Priest on the platform. But before they could say anything, I heard Mr. Gildersleeve say to them "I asked you not to come here". At that ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

the white men just turned around and went back down the aisle and Gildersleeve followed them. ██████████ had said the opening prayer that night.

I didn't see any other police officers or deputies or anyone like that all that night.

All 3 meetings I attended were sponsored by the Dallas County Voters League.

① Kaki was from: Shute + Thomas

you
Corynors -

Can't remember name

Couldnt remember the

or Don't know if that is Shuffi of the

Charles

[REDACTED]

Says he knows them

when he was in

Says he never
saw it was

[REDACTED]

The other fellow who was with me ~~with~~ when we
talked to Saton was a fellow named
He was at my home.

Ben

Not a close friend.

Just came by.

Sather
July 20, 1963

[REDACTED]
Selma, Alabama

BACKGROUND

Age - 29

Birth: At Selma, Alabama and has lived there all the time except for 1961 to 1963 when he was in school.

Education: B.A. Degree from Alabama State College where he attended from 1957 to 1959. He has a B.F.A. (Bachelor of Fine Arts and equivalent to a Masters Degree) from the Layton School of Fine Arts at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Here he majored in sculpturing.

Occupation: Teacher. He taught at the University of Wisconsin Extension in Milwaukee from March 1963 to April 1963. He taught sculpturing and the credits received by the students for this course were not recognized as graduation credits. He also substituted as a teacher at Messmer High School in Milwaukee during 1963. He plans to teach at a college in Louisiana beginning this fall. *Messmer H.S.*

Marriage: Is married but has no children.

Military: None

Convictions: Never arrested or convicted.

Registration: Was registered to vote in Milwaukee and voted there.

Telephone Number; [REDACTED]

REGISTRATION ACTIVITY

The interviewee went down to apply for registration in the early part of May 1963. He went to the courthouse in Selma along. He arrived there right after dinner at about 1:20 PM. There was a line of Negroes waiting to apply for registration. He had estimated that there were about 20 or 25 negroes in this line. The line was along the wall and extended back from near the Registrar office towards the Sheriff's office. When he joined the back of this line ~~there were~~ ^{he was} about 4 or 5 feet away from the Sheriff's office. The Negroes in this line were quiet and did not seem to be talking. He felt that it was a little tense and he felt a little tense himself. (See below). The only other person he knew in this line was [REDACTED]

There were 2 law officers in the hall way and they were walking back and forth out the hall way and appeared to be Deputy Sheriffs. He stated that they had Kaki uniforms on and had large ~~xxxx~~ hats like a ten gallon hat, and had a gun on. He thought they were deputysheriffs or possible even the Sheriff.

Just opposite this line on the other side of the hall way there were about 7 or 8 white people who were standing watching the line. They were in a group and were directly across from the line. The men in this group were dressed conservatively, in suits, and appeared to him to be businessmen or possibly officials in the court house. They looked like they were of some importance and not just common people. There also were 2 law officers in the hall way and they were walking back and forth out the hall way and appeared to be Deputy Sheriffs. He stated that they had Kaki uniforms on and had large ~~xxxx~~ hats like a ten gallon hat, and had a gun on. He thought they were deputysheriffs or possible even the Sheriff.

He waited in the line for about X 5 minutes and nothing happened. White

people were not saying anything and just stood around watching. At the time he was wearing dark glasses and a dark brown with black shoes and a blue sport shirt. He had no tie.

He did not observe any white people in the line.

After about 5 minutes he heard a white person who was back down the hall way (In the directions toward Probate Offices) say "there he is". He said it very loud almost like a shout, when this statement was made some of the people in the group of white people across the hall turned toward the interviewee and nodded towards. Right after this 2 officers the 2 officers who had been around in the hall way stepped up to him and asked if he was Lafayette. He told them he was not. These officer again asked him if he was Lafayette and again he told them no. The officers were speaking in a moderate tone and appeared to be no threat threat to the interviewee except that he was very scared. The 2 officer than left and went into the Sheriff's office which was right by the interviewee.

Immediately following this 2 men of 40 or 45 years old, dressed in suits, and were among those who had been standing in the group across the hall came over to him and they asked him if he was Lafayette. He said no. They than asked him who he was. He told them his name was [redacted] They stood there and when they talked to him he said they talked to him very coolly and very point blank. At this time [redacted] who was about 5 or 6 persons ahead of the interviewee in the line came over to where the interviewee was and told the men that this was not Lafayette. The white men than walked behind the interviewee and he is not sure whether they walked into the sheriff's office or went out the door to the outside of the courthouse. He said that he was scared and just kept facing straight ahead in the line.

The interviewee remained in the line for about 10 or 15 minutes but the line was moving very slowly so he left. When he left there were still the white men across the hall watching the line. Although there were no facts to show why they were there watching the line the interviewee was under the impression that these people were trying to recognize any one who was in the line or who came in to join the line.

The interviewee went back and applied again in the first part of July. He went to the court house in the Registrar office in Selma. It was about 10:00 A.M. in the morning and he was alone. When he got there there were two negroes ahead of him applying and a white boy who was also filling out a form. The registrars permitted only one person to fill out a form at a time. One negro had just come out after the interviewee arrived and the other negro went in ahead of him. The other white person was in a separate room filling out a form. The Negro who came out had just finished applying. The Negro ahead of him who went in was only in there about 5 minutes. The interviewee was not

aware of the exact conversation between the second negro and the registrar but he was under the impression that something happened in there and that it was this person's second application and that they did not ask him many questions as he came out very quickly. He did believe that he did fill out a form.

When this second negro left the interviewee walked in and sat down. They gave him an application form and the interviewee asked the person who gave him the form if he could ask a question about some of the questions on the form as they seem to be a little confusing to him. The registrar told him that it was his job to answer the questions and when he finished they would take it, he refused to help him with the questions. However, the interviewee did state that the registrars were diplomatic in talking to him.

When he finished filling out the form he gave it to one of the registrars. They asked him to go back into another room where there were two other men who asked him questions. These men asked him if he was "boy". He says that he was one of them. (The interviewee said that he hoped he didn't get his mother into any trouble because he had gone down and tried to apply and that they had found out that he was her son XXX). They asked him why he wanted to vote he told them he thought it was part of the duties of his good citizen. They asked him if he had been in Dallas a certain period of time. They asked him if he had voted before and he told them he had voted in the state of Wisconsin. They then told him that he had not been in the state of Alabama long enough and told him that he should come back next April. He later received a notice from the board which was postmarked July 16, 1963 and which XXXXXXXXXX stated that he was rejected. XXX commented all the notices sent out to the negroes did not have Mr. or Mrs. on them. I observe his was addressed XXX, Selma, Alabama".

The interviewee went to the first mass meeting at the Tabernacle Baptist Church in May 1963.. He went to the church about 7:45 PM and drove his stationwagon (1961 Chevrolet Parkwood) to the meeting. The meeting had already started when he arrived.

Prior to going to the meeting at about 7 PM he went to the laundry near the jailhouse. He stopped about 50 feet away from the court house and saw the Sheriffs Posse organizing at the County Jail. Altogether he saw about 30 or 40 men and from 9 to 10 cars, civilian. The cars would pull up to the jail house and the people inside would get out and go into the county jail. They had no weapons or clubs when they went in but he observed them coming out with billy sticks. He did not see them come out with any guns. Some of them had hamlets on but he saw no one with arm bands. Up at the county jail he also saw 2 large buses which appeared to be city buses. They had pasted large pieces of paper over the names of the bus, like City Transportation System, so that the buses could not be identified. (The interviewee felt that these buses were to be used for transportation for anyone who was arrested, as he does not believe the city has any paddy wagons.)

The Interviewee recognized some of the members of the Sheriff's Posse. He refused to provide these names until he received assurances that he would not be quoted as having given these white persons names or would be asked to identify them on the witness stand by us. I assured him that this would not occur and that we would have his prior agreement before asking him about them on the stand. Names of the persons he saw was a person by the name of [redacted] who owns a filling station on the corner of [redacted] and [redacted]. He was identified later as [redacted]. The interviewee also stated that the two sons of a [redacted] who run a grocery store on [redacted] were observed getting the billy sticks. There was a person called [redacted] (I am sure of spelling) who the interviewee states is a salesman for the [redacted] Company. There was also a [redacted] who works out at the Armory, National Guard, and who is identified as being at the third and first mass meeting. (FBI Agent [redacted] identified [redacted] but could not identify the other persons mentioned. [redacted] also stated that a [redacted] was seen by him as a member of the posse. This person runs the Selma [redacted] [redacted] recognized none of the other members of the posse that evening.)

At the county court house the interviewee saw 3 or 4 men in each car and about 8 or 10 ~~xxx~~ cars. He said the men seem to be excited as though something was going to happen. The interviewee also saw the deputies and the 2 buses parked by the fire station east of the Tabernacle Church later that evening. He saw [redacted] parked out side that evening in his police car and several policemen with him. ~~Now~~ Around the church he also ~~hexax~~ saw the deputies in civilian clothes and estimated that there were about 25 or 30. He stated that they surrounded the church and were all the way down to Small and Lauderdale Avenues from the church. He saw the largest group by the fire station and thought that they were both deputies and civilians in that group. He saw some women and other white people who were near the Gulf station across from the church standing and watching what was going on. The law officers did not appear to try to move this group. All the deputies had clubs. Some of the officers in uniforms ~~ix~~ had guns although the only type he saw were pistols. The interviewee doesn't know the Sheriff and could not identify him as ~~g~~ being in the group.

In driving to the church that evening the interviewee was alone. He drove down Philpot Avenue and turned right on to Broad Street. At the Gulf station ~~x~~ he saw a lot of white men. He also observed by the fire station some police cars and two police dogs. There were some loud speakers on the cars. There were also some civilian cars by the fire station. The witness turned right on Minter Street and then parked between the church and Catholic Good Will Store. As he parked he saw white people with pads who were writing down the license plates. They were deputies, members of the posse, but they had no helmets. They had flashlights and would shine it on the car tags of the cars parked around the church. He did not hear them making any statements when he got out of the car and went to the church. There were also law officers out in the street directing the traffic with their flashlights and arms.

After the interviewee parked his car he went to the mass meeting. When he entered he saw several white people in the meeting and one of them had a walkie-talkie and the other was taking notes. He believed them to be persons called ~~xxxxxxx~~ and ~~xxxxxxx~~. They appeared to be in plain clothes.

The interviewee sat about one-half way down in the church. The meeting was only about voting and its importance.

After the meeting finished the interviewee went directly home. When he left he drove down Broad Street to Jeff Davis Street and then came down to Lapsley Street. When he was going home around the church he saw men with lights waving cars by. The police people were still there and waving cars and other just standing with billy sticks. There was a large crowd by the filling station but they were ~~dispersing~~ dispersing when the people came out of the church. Everything appeared to be peaceful.

~~THE INTERVIEWEE~~

The interviewee also went to the meeting at the First Baptist Church at the Corner of ~~xxxxxxx~~ Sylvan and Jeff Davis. The witness got there about 8 PM after the meeting had started. Outside the church he saw the sheriff's car with deputies in it and it was parked in front of the church. He could not identify any as being the sheriff as he does not know the sheriff.

He went into the meeting and saw the same men in side ~~xxxxxxx~~ and ~~xxxxxxx~~. He did not observe any body taking license plates number at this meeting. He did not observe other posse members around the church at this meeting. The meeting was solely about voters registration.

The interviewee also saw ~~xxxxxxx~~ parked outside in front of the church and there was another person in his car.

The white persons in the meeting did the same as they did before. One had a walkie-talkie and the other person took notes. The interviewee did not observe any body taking down license plates at this meeting and he did not see any police other than those mentioned above around the church. After the meeting was over the negroes left peaceful and when he went home he did not see any police on the way.

The interviewee attended the next meeting at Tabernacle Church. He got there about 8 PM and on the way he saw patrol cars in the area driving around. He also saw the sheriff's car parked outside of the church. There were 4 men in it and although he does not know the sheriff he heard later that the sheriff was driving it. He did not know if any one took license numbers on this occasion.

Interviewee parked his car in front of the Milltown Drygood Store and went to the meeting. He found the same officers in the church again, ~~xxx~~ one with the walkie-talkie and another one taking down notes. After the meeting everyone went back peacefully. He went straight down/Jeff Davis

Street, on Broad Street, and turned right and went directly home. He did not see any police in the neighborhood other than those in the police cars when he went back to his house.

The interviewee recalled at this meeting that [REDACTED], a white priest, was in the meeting setting with the rest of the negroes. Gildersleeve asked [REDACTED] to set on the platform which he did. He did not observe the incident of the officers trying to talk to the Father during the program.

19.

Prior Arrang

- 1) Driving 4/10 business - spending a lot of time - mostly making deal with Gov. 10th 3 days -
2. Taking a bike - from which I was using for. Took bike to turn on lawn. from put in fuel - from paid for
- 3) study work ^{show new} ~~Chadwick~~ show - to find water. 29th

Time picked up for inspection - 5 days there 3 days
1) Study with country more. ^{prochoryn.}

got involved with Bruce - some business - course. asked him what I could do to get to see a new one.

went to see [redacted]

on Saturday evening.

V.P. of youth class - looking under

Douglas County Voters League [redacted]
arrived.

he had - some time in morning - [redacted]

check on the number of seats - both.

Me, [redacted] [redacted] two other days

About 2 months ago.
That's all -

Most of Time. Concerned with Vote registration

June 1- Deputy came up. What passing
Deputy bought. When I was only 20 and
I'm named ~~my~~ ^{my} daughter

Koki kungu.

give me a whole stock of them.

No injury as
to what he would for a 2nd

Called the boy over -
asked him his name.

10.

- Took [redacted] time. -

Called [REDACTED]

June 17- go down + check.

Sour Nam [REDACTED] Rame bely
re Shuff

what are you doing
waiting for Paul.

He said nothing more.
I told him

IV - should.

what was I doing with him
found him empty.

Longest, and lastly: had asked you to leave.
I left:

Saw [redacted] - [redacted] - you not find.

Went over a bit later

white room

colours

coloured by

for white

Thompson - what was he doing
his master. more. false name.

Research for

So I gave him a false name. [redacted]

So one guy at

chief Deputy. 1k pounds.

Didn't tell up to stay at 7th

I just come up to get some change

Shiff said. you really with that ~~big pile of money~~.

Asked to go to Bottom.
and no.

Hope I never do it right / there
make me look like a p.

Younger - go to Body
say with camera

good night, very much.

hell say with him
but he said not 7th.

[redacted]]

Quaternary Service Bn

I saw student. Last summer. Took him to see the way.
When around 20/25th Cam, I did request him to
work with us. This was at a voter design
meeting.

[redacted] has been trouble. very often. I am afraid
with any he will contact with people. We had pretty much
clinic before all medical came up.

I must had different in my report to me. This disturbed
me. Did not say try to report.
Said Sheriff Clerk said it was safe. Report that I saw
him out + asked Chief Deputy if it was safe to go.

[redacted] I was steady out in yard. [redacted] done up.
Said they are taking down license plates now.
not too quiet last.


STATE OF ALABAMA)

COUNTY OF DALLAS)

Before me, [REDACTED] official court reporter for the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Alabama, personally appeared [REDACTED], who, being by me first duly sworn, on oath deposes and says:

My name is [REDACTED] I am [REDACTED] in the Tax Assessor's office, and I was in the Tax Assessor's office on June 17, 1963, in the Dallas County court house. There are windows in the Tax Assessor's office that open out into the hall of the court house, and the Dallas County Board of Registration office is directly across the hall from the Dallas County Tax Assessor's office. After dinner on June 17, 1963, I saw three colored boys in the hallway of the Dallas County court house. I saw one of the boys walk up to the registration office door and try to open the door. The other two were with him. They stood there and had a conversation. One of these boys had a yellow pad in his hand turned sideways and was writing on the pad, and the other two boys were standing there talking to him as though they were dictating to him, and one of the other boys had a camera on a strap around his neck. I went on about my duties in the Tax Assessor's office, and then I saw a flash. I do not know what they were taking pictures of, but I knew there was a flash. In the voters' registration line there were colored people and white people. I saw [REDACTED] in the line, and she is a white lady. I have seen the boy that had the pad, but I do not know his name; and I do not know whether I have ever seen the other boys or not. I did not see the sheriff arrest any boy. I appeared in the Dallas County Court on July 11, 1963, as a witness in the case of the State of Alabama versus [REDACTED] I saw the boy in Court that had the cameras. I did not see the boy that had the pad in Court, but I saw him in the hall outside of the court room. I have seen an employee of the Dallas County Tax Assessor's office since October 1, 1931. Before the Dallas County court house was remodeled, persons desiring to assess property had to come into the Tax Assessor's office. After the court house was remodeled, it was constructed so that there are windows opening out on the court house hall, and the lines of people come up to these windows. In the fall of the year when there is a rush we have long lines in court house hall, and the Tax Assessor takes the persons that come to the windows in the order that they appear, regardless of race. During this time of year a deputy sheriff is usually present in the court house hall keeping the lines in order and seeing that they do not block the court house hall. At any time there are long lines in the court house there is usually a deputy sheriff in the hall. On June 17,

1963, I did not see a sheriff of Dallas County or any of his officers interfere in any way with the registration line. The only persons that I could say that were around the line, other than the persons that wanted to register, were these three negro boys.



Sworn to and subscribed before me on this the 23rd. day of July, 1963.


Official Court Reporter

UD

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

Voting

UNITED STATES v. DALLAS COUNTY

Investigation

5

Investigation - U.S. v. Dallas County, Ala.
Dallas County, Ala. 1 of 2

72-3-45

13,723

(5)

REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Dallas County, Alabama

1952 thru April, 1952

The 1960 population of Dallas County, Alabama is 95,667. The largest city is Selma, which has a population of 25,365.

In 1960, there were 14,000 white persons and 15,115 negroes of voting age in Dallas County.¹

As of May 2, 1962 there were 4,517 white and 242 negroes qualified to vote in Dallas County, Alabama.

From January, 1952 through 1960 the Board of Registrars of Dallas County registered 120 white persons, while registering 88 negroes, 74 of whom were registered prior to May 15, 1954. The registration statistics by race for this period are shown in the following table.

This includes an undetermined number of persons who reside at Great Air Force Base in Dallas County, but who are not eligible to vote in the county under the residence requirements.

A COTTON COUNTRY
COTTON COUNTRY

1921-1920

Year	Units	Value	Total per Year
1921	3.7	6	603
1922	192	2	197
1923	1,020	63	1,113
1924	179	2	181
1925	169	1	170
1926	246	1	247
1927	190	2	192
1928	120 1/2	1	121 1/2
1929	151	7	158
Total by Age	3,120	80	3,200

Production, 1921-1929, and the total for the entire
cotton country, 1921-1929, are shown in the table, showing
the general trend, and the distribution of the total for the
cotton country, 1921-1929, by age. The table shows that the
total for the cotton country, 1921-1929, is 3,200 units, and
the total for the cotton country, 1921-1929, is 3,200 units.

These figures are based on the total for the cotton country, 1921-1929, and
the total for the cotton country, 1921-1929, are 3,200 units, and
the total for the cotton country, 1921-1929, is 3,200 units.

Page 1 of 1, 11, 12

	<u>total</u>	<u>total</u>	<u>total</u>	<u>total</u>
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4	12	2	1	1
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7		2	2	
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DALLAS COUNTY ALABAMA
Voter Registration Records

INDEX TO REELS

Photographs Taken November 13, 1961

<u>Reel Number</u>	<u>Identification Number</u>	<u>Description of Contents</u>
1	1-125	Accepted Applications, 1961
1	126-171	Rejected Applications, 1961
1	172-189	Pending Applications, 1961
1	--	Registration Book, June 1961
1	--	Registration Book, 1960 (includes one application found in book)
1	190-215	Accepted Applications
2	214-484	Accepted Applications, 1953-60
3	483-486	Accepted Applications, 1958-60
3	487-514	Transfer Applications
3	515-746	Accepted Applications, 1953-60
4	746-773	Accepted Applications, 1960
4	774-797	Rejected Applications, 1953-60
4	1-51	Transfer Applications
4	--	Registration Books, Rural, prior to December, 1953.
4	--	Registration Books, Selma, prior to December, 1953.
5	--	Registration Books, concluded from Reel 4A.

Photographs Taken March 1 & 2, 1962

Reel Number	Identification Number	Description of Contents
1	1-260)	Accepted Applications, Female (city) Pr. 36, 1952-1958.
2	261-536)	
3	537-808)	
4	809-1086)	
5	1087-1192)	
5	1193-1361)	Accepted Applications, Male (city) Pr. 36, 1952-1958.
6	1362-1628)	
7	1629-1893)	
8	1899-2167)	
9	2168-2223)	
9	2224-2429)	Accepted Applications, Male (county) 1952-1958.
10	2430-2690)	
11	2691-2806)	
11	2807-2809	Registration Notices
11	2810-2961)	Accepted Applications, Male (county) 1952-1958, continued.
12	2962-3046)	
12	3047-3233)	Accepted Applications, Female (county) 1952-1958.
13	3234-3515)	
14	3516-3803)	
15	3804-4018)	
15	4019-4020	Miscellaneous Applications
15	4021-4035	List of all applications by Board of Registrars since taking office in June, 1961; list indicates police check. \
15	4036-4078)	Accepted Applications, November, 1961 to February, 1962.
16	4079-4319)	

<u>Reel Number</u>	<u>Identification Number</u>	<u>Description of Contents</u>
16	4320-4323)	Rejected Applications, November 1961 to February 1962.
17	4324-4351)	
17	4351-4367	Minute Book, June, 1961 - March, 1962.
17	4369-4373	Registration Book, June, 1961 - February, 1962.
17	4374-4515	Registration Book, County Seats, 1-35.
17	4516-4748	Registration Book, Selma, Beat 36.
17	4749	Index of Reels 1-17.

Photographs of May 17, 1962

This single reel contains photographs of records in the possession of the Clerk of the Court, United States District Court, Southern District of Alabama.

<u>Identification Number</u>	<u>Description of Contents</u>
1-49	Plaintiff's Exhibit C Rejected Applications-White
50-93	Plaintiff's Exhibit C Rejected Applications-Negro
94-153	Plaintiff's Exhibit D Accepted Applications
154	Plaintiff's Exhibit E Accepted Application of Mrs. Robert A. Fox.
155-188	Plaintiff's Exhibit 6. Book of Random Sampling Numbers, Arranged by L.H.C. Tippet H.Sc
189-206	Notes of F.B.I. Document Examined
--	Index to Reel

★ ★
THE WEATHER
Clear to partly cloudy
tonight and Thursday.

The Selma Di

(Published 1963)

VOL. 124, NO. 45

SELMA, ALA.

WEDNESDAY

May 15, 1963

Cooper Cleared

Voter Registration Rally Concluded Quietly Here

President Agrees
Local Handling
Of Riots Best

Newsmen Received
At Capital Session

Negroes Continued
By Local Pastor

Federal Court To
Hear Testimony
Entrance Still

Troops Use Charge
Made By Wallace

By JAMES L. HARRIS
The Selma voter registration rally, which began last night, concluded quietly here today. The rally, which was held at the Selma Civic Center, was the largest of its kind in the South since the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The rally was held in the presence of a large number of local and out-of-town leaders, including Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who was the main attraction. The rally was held in the presence of a large number of local and out-of-town leaders, including Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who was the main attraction. The rally was held in the presence of a large number of local and out-of-town leaders, including Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who was the main attraction.

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Negro Saves Life
GOLDEN GATE

13
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

TO : Mr. David Norman
Attorney
Civil Rights Division

DATE: 5/29/63

CWG:mhs
72-3-18 #317

FROM : Carl W. Gabel
Attorney
Civil Rights Division *cmg*

SUBJECT: Voter Registration Activity - Dallas County, Alabama

The following people were contacted to determine the action in the county in recent months.

1. [REDACTED] said that her husband died on Tuesday, May 14, 1963 and that Mr. J. C. Lawson assumed the office of president of the Dallas County Voters League. She did indicate that this was a temporary appointment and that a new president would be sought.

On Tuesday, May 14, the League, in connection with SNCC, conducted a meeting to raise money for the defense of [REDACTED] and to encourage registration. She estimates that about 100 policemen, sheriff deputies, and other deputized officers were used to line Broad Street between Griffin and Small Avenues, which is the area of the Tabernacle Baptist Church where the meeting was held. The police said that they were interested in maintaining peace. She heard that police dogs were present, but she did not see them. She did see night sticks and pistols on the police.

[REDACTED] said that the police did not bother the Negroes, except in one instance when two or three unknown Negroes were stopped at Small Street and who said that the church was too full for any more. The police were inside the church and used radios to keep the police on the outside informed. No one was arrested.

[REDACTED] briefly explained the situation in the case involving the [REDACTED]. He came to Selma about ten years ago and is an ex-member of the NAACP. A member of his church was recently arrested and [REDACTED] went to the police station to check on it, an act which the police did not like, and they indicated he should not be involved with such activities. Later he was driving his car when another car collided with it causing [REDACTED] car to hit and kill a Negro pedestrian. [REDACTED] was sentenced to ten years for manslaughter, which was remanded

for new trial. A new trial was acheduled for Wednesday, May 15, but at the trial was continued until the October term. [REDACTED] is free and is attending voter registration meetings and his church is used for some of the meetings.

[REDACTED] indicated that the white people are worried that there will be Birmingham type riots in Selma. She said that on Saturday, May 18, 1963 there was a grade school graduation rehearsed at a church. Many Negroes filled the church. The police came to the meeting to see if a march was being organized and they remained until the rehearsal ended.

With regard to voting, [REDACTED] indicated that most of the applicants are being rejected. She said that applicants are being asked the Preamble to the Constitution and to name and describe the duties of the three branches of the government. She heard that 100 applied on a day recently. (See notes concerning [REDACTED] below for more accurate information.)

[REDACTED] also informed me of the harassment of [REDACTED], Route 2, Orrville. [REDACTED] see below, also mentioned these incidents.) [REDACTED] lives in the Beloit community, near the location of the old training school. On Sunday, May 5, 1963, while he was working with his cows near the road, a car with white persons approached and one of them drew a gun on him. He ducked and ran into the house after he took the license number. He called the sheriff who said he would investigate. Then on Tuesday or Wednesday, May 7 or 8, [REDACTED] left his 16-year-old son at his home. The boy was inside and heard noises outside. When he investigated, he saw 4 men with pillow cases over their heads. The men came up on the porch and told the son to open the door, which the son refused to do. Instead he got a gun and fired a shot out the front. The men left. The father returned and reported the incident to the sheriff who came on the scene about 3-4 hours later. At that time, the sheriff said that the license number given to him for the Sunday incident was for a stolen car. Later [REDACTED] found an empty tin can on his lawn, about 8" high with a diameter of about 4", which he believes was to be used as a bomb.

[REDACTED] also believes that there will be a reduction in the number of teachers for next year. She said that the reason given is that more schools will be consolidated. [REDACTED] heard that [REDACTED] had hired one of the discharged teachers but was told not to do so, so the teacher was fired.

██████████ indicated that Mr. James Gildersleeve, a vice president of the Voters League, was arrested on May 17, with about 5 others. ██████████ said that Mr. Gildersleeve was not arrested, but that this was a widespread rumor.

A ██████████ was arrested on about May 9 or 10 for assault on his grandmother -- on a 6-month old warrant, so said ██████████. He was released shortly thereafter. I attempted to contact ██████████ but he is at Talladega, and can be reached at Strickland's Funeral Home in that city.

2. I phoned ██████████ on the 20th of May from ██████████. He said that about 30 people applied to register on May 20, the date that the mass meeting of the 14th of May was for. (In a radio newscast, Col. Bibb, member of the board, said that 38 Negroes and 25 whites applied.)

On May 24, 1963, I contacted ██████████ at their home at ██████████, just off 1st Avenue (West). They indicated that there was no police brutality. They hold classes at which time practice forms are distributed and explained. Then when a person feels that he has mastered the practice form, he applies. They said that 180 Negroes applied recently, with only 8 being accepted. (See statement of ██████████, below, for different figures).

They indicated that the Catholic priest at the Good Samaritan Church favored their activity but that he said that he could not be too active because his bishop is a pro-segregationist.

The childrens' group of SNCC, called the Selma - SNCC or SSNCC, meet at the Catholic Canteen, behind the Tabernacle Church.

Adult classes are at 131 1/2 Franklin Street, Selma, above ██████████ agency. Meetings are held each Tuesday and Thursday at each location. On each Thursday or Friday, meetings are held at the Shiloh Baptist Church in Bogue Chitta, Alabama.

About June 1, 1963, about 40 new field workers will report to Selma for assignment in Lowndes, Wilcox, Calhoun, Marengo, Tuscaloosa, and Dallas Counties and in Gadsden and Anniston. Dallas County meetings will be expanded to Orrville and Beloit.

The Wilcox County Civic League is organized and meets on Friday nights to instruct people how to fill out the form. It meets, with SNCC leadership, at the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in the Boykin area. (Go South on highway 22 from Selma, cross a concrete bridge, take the first road to the left and continue on it after it becomes gravel. At the next intersection, turn left and continue to the church.)

A [REDACTED] was arrested while talking on a corner after passing out leaflets urging Negroes to register. He lives at [REDACTED]. (See separate attached interview.)

A [REDACTED], just out of jail and on probation, was picked up for not having his probation papers with him. He was active in the voter drive. I spoke with [REDACTED] who was with [REDACTED] and who related these events: They were distributing leaflets in Selma when a [REDACTED] of the sheriff's office called [REDACTED] and asked for his identification. [REDACTED] gave him his Social Security card and draft classification card. The deputy made notes of his name and address. The deputy then asked for the leaflets and said that he was told that they were being put on cars, but he was convinced that this was not the case. [REDACTED] said that [REDACTED] met with the deputy and [REDACTED] continued to distribute leaflets and then [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] returned to help him.

3. [REDACTED], of [REDACTED], Selma, is the new president of the Voters League. He is 73 years old and is the ex-principal of a school at Clayton, Alabama. [REDACTED] said that tension is high among white people as they are expecting another "Birmingham."

[REDACTED] said that there was either a D.J. attorney or an F.B.I. agent at the mass meeting on Tuesday, May 14. (A subsequent check indicated that there was no agent in the church, but one on the outside.) [REDACTED] said that they do not have any demonstrations planned. He said that the whites around the church were to direct traffic. At the meeting, Mr. James Foreman, SNCC, was the speaker. The firing of 37 teachers in May 1962 was discussed.

4. [REDACTED], one of the fired teachers, wrote the Department, c/o Mr. Flannery, asking whether she should apply for employment as a teacher for next year. I told her that the Department sees no reason why she should not apply and that an investigative action was inconclusive

and independent of their decision to seek employment. I also asked [redacted] to tell the other two signers of the letter.

5. [redacted] also signed the same letter as did [redacted]. She was told the same thing as [redacted]. She said she also wrote the President and the Attorney General but had received no answer. She had worked as a supply teacher last year.

6. [redacted] of [redacted] (Phone [redacted]) who works for [redacted] Jackson at his office above [redacted] on Franklin Street, has been compiling a list of Negroes attending class. She is a friend of the [redacted]. She will have a complete list by the end of the week of May 27 for our use. She expects either Sather or Gabel to stop by to get the list.

[redacted] conducts voter registration classes on Tuesday night.

Mr. James Austin, SNCC, studied how to conduct voter registration drives at a school in Dorchester, Georgia.

[redacted] also said that a [redacted] came with [redacted] but that he left.

Her statistics show that 81 separate Negroes attended class, but she does not know how many applied; this information she is gathering. Her records also indicate that only 8 or 10 were accepted since January, but she is not sure if the figures are accurate. She estimates that 35 - 40 Negroes were rejected. There is no complete record of those applying because she only knows of those who apply through her organization and others have applied.

[redacted] said that Negroes are being asked oral questions in addition to those on the form. Some of these questions are:

- (a) What is secular?
- (b) Name the departments (branches) of the government and state their functions.
- (c) What is the Constitution of the U.S. (or Alabama)?
- (d) What about the man in the street, not technically but sexually?

Also, applicants are not being aided, as they are in Wilcox County.

7. [REDACTED], who was threatened with a gun (see above), was in Birmingham for the weekend. He lives in the Beloit area. Proceed south of Selma on highway 22 and cross the Cahaba River. Ask for directions about a mile past the river. Carter is a route shoe salesman.

8. The interview of [REDACTED] is attached.

9. The [REDACTED] stopped by the house of [REDACTED] prior to their departing to a meeting in Wilcox County.

Dallas County, Ala.
May 24, 1963
Gabel

[REDACTED]
Selma, Alabama Phone: [REDACTED]

Residence: 7 years in area
Born: Dec. 19, 1940 ;in Dallas County
Education: H.S. graduate
Mil. Service: None
Occupation: Works for a [REDACTED], a real estate salesman;
he is a maintenance man and operates a tractor
and plants grass
Arrests: 5 or 6 arrests for disorderly conduct. He has
spent up to 12 or 13 days in jail after the
trial and has paid a fine up to \$29. His fine
was for cutting a person in July, 1962. He was
sentenced to 30 days in jail but served only 6.

[REDACTED], on May 13, 1963, with a [REDACTED]
and another Negro by the nickname of [REDACTED] were standing on
Griffin Street in front of the Skylines which is a cafe. It
was about 8:30-9:00 pm and they were talking about Mr. James
Foreman, SNCC, and about the Black Muslims. [REDACTED] at
that time had 2 or 3 registration leaflets in his hand. He
had previously been distributing them.

A white man, policeman, passed and asked told [REDACTED]
he was under arrest. [REDACTED] states he did not tell them the
reason for the arrest. The other two men left and [REDACTED] and
the white man (policeman) talked for a while. The policeman's
name is [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] to get in the
car and told him that he [REDACTED] talked too much and would
get somebody killed by his talking. The policeman, [REDACTED] told
[REDACTED] that he better not cause any trouble by his talk.

The policeman took [REDACTED] to the jail at the city hall
and at this time [REDACTED] still did not know the charge. When
[REDACTED] asked the policeman what the charge was the policeman
told him to shut up or he'd hit him. At the jail [REDACTED] was
told to empty his pockets and told not to ask any questions but
to stay quiet.

[REDACTED] was then taken to his cell by a person he
believes to be a jailer. Shortly thereafter the jailer came
down to the cell and told [REDACTED] that he was out on bond.
The jailer explained that [REDACTED], his employer, put him
on bond and that [REDACTED] would have to pay Hicks. [REDACTED]
told the jailer he did not want to pay [REDACTED] or anybody else
but he was content to stay there. Shortly thereafter a

lieutenant, Lieutenant [redacted] sent for [redacted] and [redacted] then told [redacted] that he would "stump him on the head if he didn't get out of there." This transpired at the desk in the city hall jail area.

[redacted] then left the jail and started walking home. He was followed home and noticed a policeman at about every corner. The police had previously told him to go straight home. [redacted] said he told the police that he was not going to pay anything and he was released without paying a fine or putting up bond.

While he was absent from his home his mother had called the jail and was told that the charge was "cursing," and that the fine would be \$14. [redacted] wife paid the fine as she was worried that something might happen to [redacted]. His wife sent a lady-by-the-way man by the name of [redacted] down to pay and he paid the fine.

[redacted] estimates that from the time of his arrest and discharge about one and one-half hours passed. He said he was in the cell in jail for about 35-40 minutes.

He was not asked about the leaflets nor the meetings while he was in custody, but he was just told by the policeman on his way to jail that he better not get anything started around the county.

When I spoke to [redacted] he had still not paid [redacted] but the following day, May 25, 1963, was his payday and he expected that if he was going to pay that [redacted] would subtract the money from his salary.

[redacted] exhibited a receipt issued by the chief of police of Selma, Alabama. It was Receipt No. 6608 and was made out to [redacted] for \$14. for full payment and cost of Case No. 10508, in Records' Court. That number was the case docket number.

[redacted] asked me the purpose of my interviewing him during the course of the interview and it was explained that it was to determine if there was any violation of federal law and particularly the Civil Rights Acts of 1957 and 1960.

JUN 13 PM

T. 6/13/63

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Burke Marshall
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

BM:DRG:ash
72-3-New

Intimidation in Registration and Voting,
Selma, Alabama

This will confirm the conversation between Mr. Owen of this office and Mr. Sullivan of your office on June 13, 1963 at 9:53 a.m., that we desire you to conduct a full investigation of the beating of [REDACTED] in Selma, Alabama, on the night of June 11, 1963, to establish a violation of 42 U.S.C. 1971(b).

This memorandum is being sent to you by special messenger.

62-13-2 PLN.

cc: Records
Chrono
Doar
Putzel
Trial File(Rm. 1140)✓
USA, Mobile, Ala.

June 13, 1963

John Doar

Bob Owen

Yesterday, at 2:00 p.m., I requested the Bureau to instigate an investigation of the beating of a SNCC worker in Selma, Alabama, on the previous night. I specifically asked them to interview the victim and take colored photographs of him. This morning Sullivan of the FBI called me at 9:55 a.m. and said the victim had been interviewed and the colored photographs taken. He, [REDACTED] is a SNCC worker who is working in Dallas County, Alabama.

On the night of June 11, about 11:00 p.m. [REDACTED] as he was going home, was asked by two unknown white men to give them a push. He came upon their car and thought it was disabled. He got out to see if the bumpers would lock and one of the white men attacked him.

The Bureau photographed the injuries which consisted principally of 3 cuts on the head of [REDACTED] 6 stitches were taken.

[REDACTED] could not identify any of the white men, though he gave a fairly good description of one and could describe the car--but no license number. He said that when he was attacked no words were spoken, but that he believes the attack was precipitated by the fact he is working on voter registration in Dallas County.

The leads they now have are description of the man and the car and possible fingerprints on [REDACTED] car which they are checking out. I asked if all leads would be checked out and Sullivan said that is up to us and they had some question about jurisdiction because all they had to go on was the opinion of the victim. He said it was kind of weak. I said I didn't think it was weak at all and for them to go forward with the investigation and find out who did it. He said that's fine.

This memorandum merely confirms our request for an investigation.

JUN 18 1963

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Burke Marshall
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

BM:SJB:arg 317

Dallas County, Alabama,
Voter Registration Drive

72-3-18

This will confirm an investigative request telephoned by Mr. Barrett, of this Division, to Mr. MacGowan, of your Bureau, on June 17.

This Division received a telephone call on June 17, 1963, from [REDACTED], Selma, Alabama. [REDACTED] is the victim in an investigation presently being conducted by your Bureau at our request. [REDACTED] advised that on June 17 he sent two of his coworkers in the Dallas County registration drive, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], to the Dallas County Courthouse to observe Negroes applying for registration. While the two men were in a corridor of the courthouse the deputy sheriff told them to move on. As they were leaving in compliance with this order the deputy struck [REDACTED] and placed him under arrest. Brown fled the courthouse and reported the incident to [REDACTED] who, in turn, reported it to an Agent of your Bureau in Selma.

[REDACTED] has been advised by the sheriff of Dallas County that [REDACTED] is charged with failure to obey an officer and resisting arrest.

Please conduct the following investigation:

1. Interview [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for details regarding the incident at the courthouse. Also obtain the usual background information with particular emphasis on the nature of the work that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have been doing in Dallas County, and any prior contacts they have had with local officials which would have apprised such officials of the nature of their work.
2. Interview any other witnesses present at the courthouse who may have observed the incident. [REDACTED] advises that he can provide your Agents with the names of a

cc: Records Chron. Mr. Doar ✓ Mr. Norman Mr. Barrett

U.S. Attorney, Mobile, Ala.

number of Negroes who observed the incident while they were waiting to apply for registration as voters. In interviewing the Negro registration applicants, determine their knowledge of the connection of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] with the voter registration drive, and what effect, if any, the assault upon and arrest of [REDACTED] had upon such applicant's estimate of the official attitude toward his effort to register.

3. Identify and interview the deputy sheriff who arrested and is alleged to have assaulted [REDACTED].

4. Take color photographs of any observable injury to [REDACTED] resulting from the assault.

5. Determine the status of the charges against [REDACTED].

6/10/63
[redacted] Selma, Alabama
I, [redacted] do hereby give the following
voluntary, signed statement to [redacted] who
have identified themselves to me as [redacted].

[redacted] is an 18 years old and I reside at [redacted],
Selma, Alabama.

On Monday, 6/10/63, [redacted] and I went to
the Dallas County Court House in Selma for the purpose of
mounting the number of names who attempted to register on that
date. We were also to photograph these names, find out their
names and we were to do this upon the request of Reverend
[redacted], who is a member of the Student Nonviolent
Coordinating Committee, Atlanta, Georgia.

We arrived at the court house about 12:30 p.m. and
set down in front of the building. [redacted] is about four
feet tall, weighs about 150 lbs., has dark hair, is about 35 years
old, and is a native of Selma. He is a member of the Student Nonviolent
Coordinating Committee, Atlanta, Georgia. He took his picture
after getting in to the court house to register. [redacted]
took his picture after getting in to pass out his name on the
register. [redacted] asked for his name but I don't recall
it at that time. The two names were out to find and it is
no record left.

At 1:00 p.m. the registers opened up for registration.

At approximately 2:15 p.m. [redacted] left the court
house and I was standing in the office door when the re-
gistrars office of carrying the line at the registrars office con-
sisted of eight persons, including two negroes, a man and a
woman. Before I left and left [redacted] and the two negroes and
had obtained the names. I do not know the [redacted]
first name was [redacted].

At this time the Dallas County Sheriff, [redacted],
approached me and asked me for my name and identification. He
told me that he had received complaints about [redacted] in the
hall and he wanted me to leave because he stated I was
loitering.

I left the court house and set [redacted] on the street.
The two of us then returned to the court house entering the
east door on Boulevard Street and intending to walk through
the court house leaving by way of the south door on Alabama
Avenue. We passed the line at the registrars office and I
noticed that the two negroes were still in the line.

As we approached the south door, with [redacted] walking ahead I pressed in front of the Sheriff's door. As I did so [redacted] stepped out and seized me by the hand and the back of my neck. He stated, "I thought I told you to leave here." He then pushed me in to the Sheriff's office and pushed me into the down stairs office. There were five men in the offices including a plain dressed man, age 30; a highway patrolman, age 30; a deputy sheriff, age 31; Mr. [redacted], the Sheriff; and myself.

[redacted] pushed me into a chair and attempted to slap me although I was not hit in the face since I blocked the slap with my hands. The Sheriff then caught me, took my personal papers, and then struck me three times with a billy club on the head, twice in the stomach and once in the side. One of the blows knocked me down and twice in the stomach did not hurt. These I received on my head, but I did not become dizzy. I have no cuts or black and blue marks although my finger is sore where the Sheriff pulled it from the hand in the down stairs office.

The Sheriff and a deputy then took me to the County Jail in down town [redacted] and I was then brought to the County Jail where I am still in custody.

*Set up
Dallas 167*

June 19, 1963

Memo to the Files

From Carl Gabel

Re: Telephone conversation with Mr. Chestnut, Attorney,
Selma, Alabama concerning arrest of [REDACTED]

Mr. Chestnut, a Negro attorney in Selma, Alabama, phoned the Department at 11:30 a.m. on June 19 to inform us that [REDACTED] had been arrested. Mr. Chestnut said that [REDACTED] is now in jail and that he was arrested on a charge of vagrancy after leaving a voter registration meeting last night in Selma. Trial is scheduled for tomorrow morning before Judge Hugh Mallory.

Mr. Chestnut said that about 40 Negroes staged a sit-in at his house last night and that the Negro population is becoming very restless and he feels that demonstrations may occur in the near future. Mr. Chestnut spoke with the sheriff of Dallas County concerning [REDACTED] arrest and the sheriff was very adamant and Mr. Chestnut does not think that [REDACTED] will be released.

I informed Mr. Chestnut that Dave Harlin would be in contact with him this morning.

Mr. Chestnut can be reached at TR 2-3759. His office is on Franklin Street, at [REDACTED] insurance agency. Mr. Chestnut's home phone number is [REDACTED] and he lives at [REDACTED].

Phone call from [redacted] 6/13
Threat to worker.

S.W. [redacted]
working with SNCC. Threatened
with her life - white farmer
said to him life would
be in danger to her. Threat made
2 days ago

Economic boycott

Colonial Brand [redacted]

Foremost Milk

Clonker Brand Creamery

- Prosecution (X) in Dallas

Reason - key witness not in
jurisdiction of the court.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
ROUTING SLIP

TO		
NAME	BUILDING AND ROOM	
1.		
2. Dave Norman	Arkw- We have set up a	
3.	"B" file for these	
4.	accruals in Salina, Ala- or May 50 Co	
5.	Would you see that this is filed correctly	

<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PER CONVERSATION
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED
<input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE
<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> CALL ME	<input type="checkbox"/> YOUR INFORMATION

<input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF _____

REMARKS

Here is phone call I got from [REDACTED] He also mentioned in [REDACTED] presentation key witness in jurisdiction of court. - We should find out who this is

FROM		
NAME	BUILDING, ROOM, EXT.	DATE

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

June 19, 1963

Burke Marshall
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

BH:ORO:lvw

72-3-45
13,728

Intimidation in Registration and Voting
Dallas County, Alabama (42 U.S.C. 1971(b))

This will confirm the conversation between Mr. Owen of this office and Mr. McDonough of your office requesting that the Bureau make investigations of particular incidents in Dallas County, Alabama as may be requested by Arvid A. Fether and David H. Harlin, attorneys from this Division, who are in Selma, Alabama at my request to check into reports of the use of the criminal processes to intimidate Negroes or Negro registration workers and reports of economic reprisals by private persons to intimidate Negroes from registering to vote.

If you have any information with respect to either of these problems in Dallas County please make such information available to Mr. Fether and Mr. Harlin.

This memorandum is being sent to you by special messenger.

cc: U. S. Attorney

Records
Chrono
Doar
Trial File (Room 1140) ✓

Received by Bureau 6/20/63; 1:00 p.m. CJM