

EXCERPTS FROM ELEVEN AMERICUS AFFIDAVITS

Lorine Sanders, being duly sworn deposes and says:

I was arrested July 19 with 42 others while on the way to the City Hall to protest the arrest of the seven people that were arrested for trying to purchase tickets at the Martin Theater. The group consisted of eighteen young adults and twenty-four adults...While the group was standing and singing, Chief Chambliss with three officers, Sheriff Chappell, and a number of state troopers; Chief Chambliss said: "All right, you people are under arrest." He had not told us to disperse. All of us sat down except two other people. A girl, Lena Turner, stood reading a bible and a boy knelt. Sheriff Chappell screamed to the boy, "Sit down, nigger, with the rest of the crowd." He then looked at the girl and said, "You sit down, too. You feel like a frog too. Jump, damn it."... I spent fifty-two days and fifty-three nights in the city jail of Americus..."

Robertina Freeman, being duly sworn deposes and says:

I am 13 years old and was in Leesburg stockade from August 21 to August 31...There were two toilets and they were stopped up when I got there. They wouldn't work. At first they had to use them because they had nothing else...But soon they were overflowing and couldn't be used anymore. Then the girls started urinating in the drain near the shower...The very next day the guards took away our remaining beds because we were singing and praying. So then we started sleeping on the floor with no mattresses, no beds, no blankets, no sheets, no nothing. The floor was wet with the waste material from when they had been dragging the mattresses out of the cell...

Lorena Barnum being duly sworn deposes and says:

I am eleven years old...The only water available came from the shower. There were two tin cups for the 32 children. The water was warm and sometimes hot. It tasted rusty and sometimes looked cloudy. The shower was so filthy where you had to walk with your shoes off that no one took showers when I was there...One late evening two of the girls were sick. One girl had a bad heart and the other a bad appendix. One girl was trembling so bad and the other was crying and asking for help so we called for the guard. He ignored us for about 15 minutes and when he came, he said that he wouldn't come again until the other white man would come home. We called again and after several hours the other man came. He said there was nothing wrong with the girls. He said "If they aren't dead by morning, we'll come and look at them again."

Bobby Lee Jones, being duly sworn deposes and says:

I am 19 years old... Several particular incidents occurred. When we were in the City Jail of Americus one night they brought in about 15 girls who had been demonstrating. They had been burned by cow prods and were sore from being hit. They put all the girls in a room about 8x12 where they were refused medical care and where they remained for about 2 days...