

AN APPEAL TO ALL CITIZENS OF AMERICUS & SUMTER COUNTY

Dear Parents and Students,

On Friday, August 27th, thirty-two of our children ; in a protest march around Staley Junior High were arrested. They were protesting the jailing and brutal treatment of other school children who were or are now being held in Leesburg, Dawson and Americus. All Negroes all over the world are fighting for equal opportunities to be first class citizens. This is a cause worth fighting for.

On Saturday and Sunday; August 27th and 28th, 13th of the smaller girls and boys, age 12 and under were released into the custody of their parents. This is the tear rendering report that they brought back to the outside world. There are almost a hundred of our girls and boys held in the Leesburg jail. This place was so filthy that the little ones begged for and finally were given a broom to sweep the floor. There are no mattresses, sheets, nor covers for those who are held there (the ones that were there were burned by the first group because they were filthy and were infested with bed bugs) all of the children—even the youngest ones are sleeping in their clothes on dirty concrete floors. The only drinking water available to them is that from a filthy shower which all of them refuse to use for baths. They hold their hands in cup-like fashion and drink the water from this shower. The toilets are stopped up and the smell is unbearable.

Four wrinkled up cold unpalatable hamburgers are thrust at them each morning and these must last until others are brought the following morning. As a result of this our children are suffering from upset stomachs, boils, constipation, sore backs, and many other ailments that are caused by poor diet and filth.

If there is any race pride in you, then, you will agree with the other Americus and Sumter County Negroes that it is time to act NOW. Our boys and girls from the 1st thru the 12th grades will stay out of school until every child who is in jail is free to go to school. If these boys and girls can sit in jail in pain and suffering, then, the others can sacrifice a few days or weeks or even months out of school to help the cause. Any gains or losses made by these acts will be for the whole Negro race.

If there parents who because of certain pressures cannot participate nor ALLOW their children to participate then, they can keep their children at home and make the Boycott 100 per cent effective. This effort is not aimed at the school, but is to convince those in authority that our people can "stick" together. It cost the State of Georgia and Sumter County money when our children stay out of school and it cost them money when our children fill the jails up. They do not want this so let's force them turn our children out and let them go to school. If you are willing to help fill the jails, come and March Tuesday. If you can't, then, stay at home and help the Cause.

P.S. On the last Saturday, Attorney C.B. King was in Americus negotiating with Judge James W. Smith in the Sumter County Court House. His car was parked in front of the Sheriff's Office. When he returned to his car, he found that mureatic acid (which is used to clean bricks, etc.) had been poured all over the part of the seat where he sits to drive. He has had to leave his car in Americus.