

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

6 RAYMOND STREET, N.W., ATLANTA 14, GEORGIA . 688-0331

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(STATE OF MISSISSIPPI (COUNTY OF PIKE (CITY OF McCOMB

L.S. Allen 723 Summit Street Student, Burgland High 18

At the night of the bombing, September 20, 1964, I was in Magnolia, in the "Playhouse". When I returned, to McComb, it was long after the bombings; around midnight. I first went to the Mocombo and then walked b Mrs. Quinn's house. There were still people around the house; I talked with Willie Caston and with L.S. Allen (and others - somebody gave me a bottle filled with kerosene or gas and I put it into the car.) I drove with six other boys in the car to the Mocombo. There we were searched by the police and all arrested. There was Willie Caston, L.S. Allen, Sylvester Lewis were kept in jail for thirty days; Williams Quin, James Odgoe (7) were released. I had had no intention of throwing that bomb.

On Thursday, the day when Dennis Sweeney got out, the police questioned all of us. When I was questioned, they said that C.O.F.O. was there teaching us all how to throw bricks and be violent. I said that I knew nothing about them because I was back at MCComb only for one week. The policemen, two in plain clothes, told me that I was doing all the bombing. The same day, later in the day, thirty minutes before Dennis was released, they questioned me again. They asked me whether I knew Dennis and I said that I didn't. "He is on of them C.O.F.O. C.O.F.O. is the one who is starting all this trouble. They should go back up North and leave us along," one policeman said.

Then they asked me to follow them outside. Dennis was already outside the jailhouse. Then they took me outside and put us in seperate cars and took us to McComb. I never talked with Dennes. I went first into the Justice of the Peace office. They asked me to sit down; then they brought in Dennis; Dennis asked if he could go and wash up and they said yes. Then they asked me to come outside. And then asked me, "That is one of them C.O.F.O. workers; we know that he was up there doing the bombing; they are the ones who are starting all this confusion. As soon as they get everything messed up, they are going back to their homes, and then you are the ones who have to live here. If you tell what you know thout them, you will be able to go



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home." When the policeman said, "Alright, you keep on holding back, I am going to send you up to Parchment for fifteen years."

Then t ey brought me back inside, where Dennis was still sittin'. The officer said, "This nigger won't testify against him; we are gonna get one of them miggers to testify against him."

And then he said to Dennis, "Boy, youbetter get yourself a good lawyer, because we are going to get you yet on this charge." After that, they took me back to Magnolia and I was in jail for thirty days.