

FBI

Statement of Arrest

Le Ann Faucette, task force  
Quincy Florida

January 29, 1965

At approximately 3:00pm, January 29, 1965, my car was parked in front of the Tallahassee City Hall. In the car was Mrs. Corine Cromeyer, whom I had driven to the city hall to register to vote. As I came out of the city hall I observed officer Lochee on a motor scooter preparing to write a citation for my illegally parked vehicle. Upon approaching the officer I explained that the occupant of my car was unable to walk and therefore I had made arrangements with the registrar of voters to come to the car and register Mrs. Cromeyer. He said that since I had sufficient reason to be so parked he would permit me to remain there.

Upon returning to the registrars office I was informed that Mr. Cook had ruled that the registrars could no longer go out to the car and register people who were unable to walk. I then went into Mr. Cook's office accompanied by Mr. Spiver Gordon. While waiting to see Mr. Cook I decided that due to the unexpected delay I would move my automobile. After moving my automobile I returned to the city hall and found that Mr. Gordon had received permission for Mr. Cook for the registrar to come out to the car and register Mrs. Cromeyer and one of his passengers who was also unable to walk. I then returned to my car and proceeded to drive back to the city hall. As I approached an intersection I observed officer Locke talking to another officer. The second officer (officer Merritt) followed me for a short distance before signaling on his horn for me to stop. Officer Merritt asked me for my drivers licence and asked me to accompany him to his vehicle which was parked immediately behind mine. He then asked several questions concerning my car, drivers licence, registration, ownership, residence, employment, length of time in the city and state etc. I answered his questions thoroughly. He then informed me that since I had been in the state since Tuesday he felt that I had had ample time to make the necessary arrangements concerning my licence and registration. Therefore he was going to sight me for improper licence

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and tag. He explained the procedure involved and asked me to follow him to police headquarters. Upon arriving at police headquarters he and officer Lochee made out two citations. Merritt then asked me to accompany him downstairs. When we reached a counter in the front office he stated that my bond would be \$50.00, \$25.00 for each citation, he then asked if I wished to make a telephone call. I said I would prefer to make a telephone call. I was then taken into a room where I called Stu Wichsler at the office in Quincy and informed him of what had occurred. I then went through the usual booking procedure. I asked if officer Merritt would accompany me to my car so that I could explain the delay to Mrs. Cromeyer. He agreed and after doing so I entered a patrol car and was driven to the jail. After waiting for approximately twenty (20) minutes I was given sheets, a blanket and a cup and lead to a cell in the white section. I remained there for approximately fifteen (15) minutes. The jailer then arrived and called me from the cell. I was then driven back to police headquarters where I was given my property and released.

Note: While being driven to the jail officer Merritt asked the officer who was driving the patrol car to stop while he took care of some personal business. While officer Merritt was out of the car the officer driving the patrol car and I engaged in conversation regarding the circumstances of my arrest. Upon telling him that I had only been in the state since Tuesday he expressed surprise by saying at least twice, "You have only been here since Tuesday?" His voice clearly intimated that my detention was a deviation from the norm.

Also during the time enroute to the jail officer Merritt made one derogatory statement concerning a prisoner, he referred to the prisoner as that "damn nigger with epilepsy".

At the time I was returned to police headquarters, one of the officers who had accompanied me gave me a form to sign, when I stated that I wished to read it prior to signing it he said "well I don't have time to wait while you read it", he then walked away. When I had finished reading the form, which was concerning my bond, I asked the officer behind the desk for a pen, he took one from his shirt pocket and threw it acrossed the counter. I signed my name and returned it in the same manner.

Due to the delay and detention by the police, the passanger in my automobile Mrs. Cormeyer was not able to register. In as much as this was the last day of registration, she is therefore unable to vote in the February 21, city election.

*Le Ann Faucette*

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