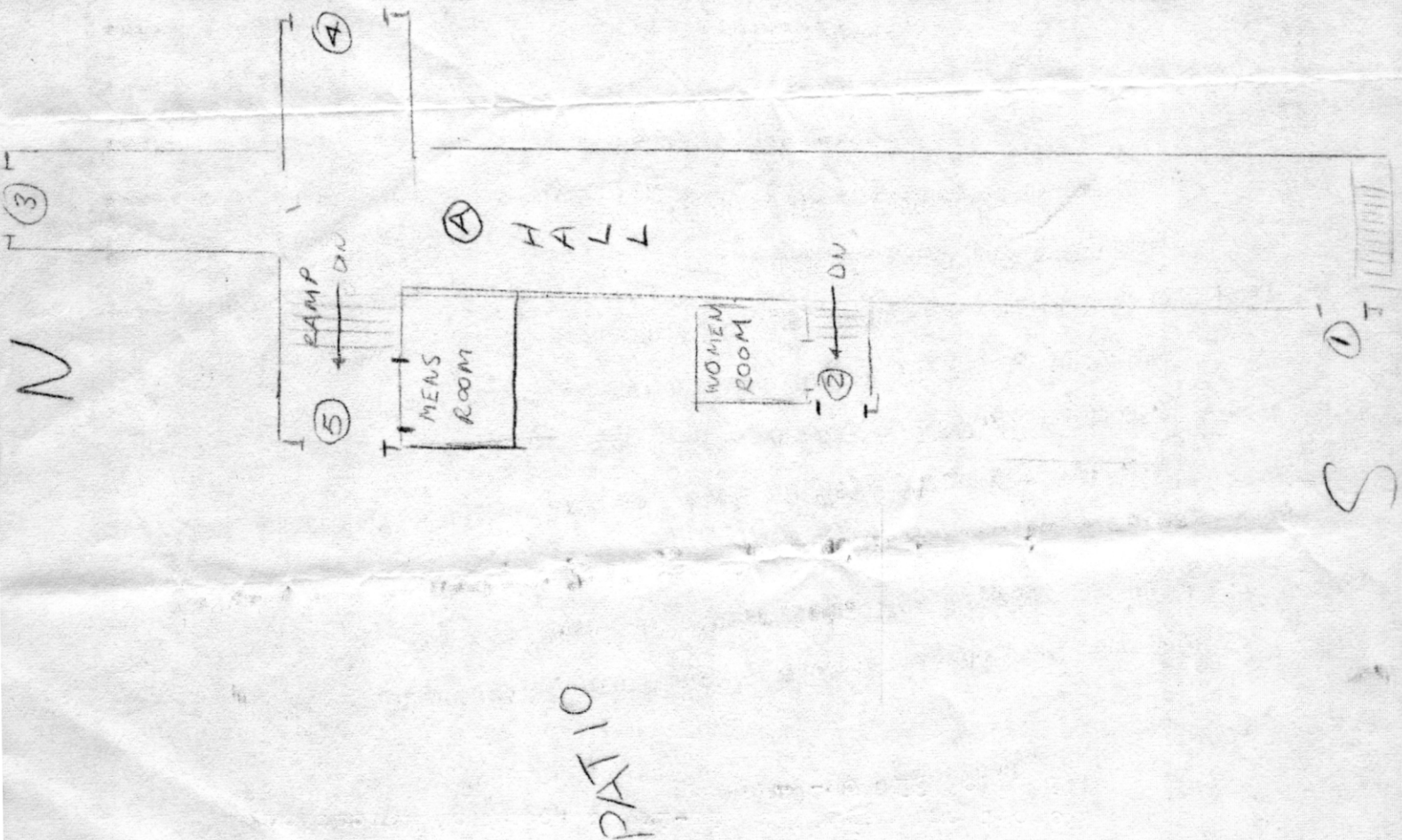


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Report on All Night Sit-in at Board of Education  
Night of 31 Oct- 1 Nov. 1963

My name is Bruce Hartford I was a picket Captain on the all night sit-in at the Baord of Education. The puppose of this sit-in was to protest De-fact school segregation in Los. Angeles. The sit-in was scheduled to start at 5:30 Thursday (OCT. 31 ) evening and last untill 6:00 A.M. Friday ( 1NOV. ) morning. The first sit-in'ers arrived at the Board at 5:30. We began sending them into the corridor of the Board of education building about 5:45. The sit-in'ers lined the hall (one group sitting along each wall) in the part of the hall marked A on my map.



By 7:00 P.M. we had about ~~2~~ 29 people linning the hall. Between 7:00 and 7:30 the security gaurds closed and locked the doors.

They had previously informed Woodrow Colman that they had a number of extra gaurds on duty that night. When they locked the doors thay announced that they would not let anyone else in except employees of the school system, press, and police.

They also announced that any one who left the building would not be allowed to return. They did not however tell wnyone of us in the building that we were not to open any door. We in the building knew that there would be people arriving after this time to join the sit-in. It was decided that we should wait an hour or so and see what the gaurd intended to do.

After about an hour and a half it was learded that about 10 people were outside who wished to join the sit-in. During this hour and a half ~~xxxx~~ we were in communication with the out side by mean of talking through the weomans rest room. The mens rest room was also used in the begining but the gaurds shut the windows to keep us from talking out of them. It was decided to simply go to one of the doors and open it for the people who were on the outside and have them walk in. Herbert Mann did this and he let two girls in (Ruth Greenbaum and Liz ~~XXXXXX~~ Clayman). The gaurds were very angry and there was a longe discussion between Jerry Farber and one of the chief gaurds, Mr. McCauly. McCauly said that ony CORE member who opened a door to let in any one would be arrestedd and that the person who came in would be arrested. He did not say it in that way however, but that was what he meant. He also said that we could open the door to leave. We decided that we should

do everything that we could in our power, as long as it was non-violent and within the bounds of the CORE philosophy, to get the rest of the demonstrators who wanted to join us into the building. Herbert Mann had let the girls in at door number 2 and it was there that the discussion between Jerry and McCauley took place. After this discussion the guard placed a tape recorder in the entrance hall. At about this time (9:00) ~~XX~~ a walkie-talkie was passed in through the women's rest room so that we could be in communication with the outside. We worked out a plan in which the outside people would go to the door numbered 3 and we would send out a girl who had to go home out that door. She would open the door to go and as she left the outside people would come in. There was no guards at the door when we decided on this plan. The guards however found out that the outside people were congregating at that door and stationed two guards on the inside of the door. As people would have pushed past these guards, a violent action, we abandoned this plan. At 10:30 we still had 29 people in the hall (10 having entered late and two having left).m

At about 10:30 we evolved another plan. We would all line up single file and march up and down the hall until we came to a door that was unguarded. We would then open the door and all of us would sit in the entrance. We would then pass the outside people through us or over us. This plan was explained to all the participants inside the building. We at this time stressed that it was to be totally non-violent. We then arose and began to walk single file and singing. We went past door #2 and we turned around at door #1, we then went to door #3 and turned around again, we then went into the entrance hall



of door #5, we turned around and went to door #4 were we again turned around and went back to door #5. When the front of the line reached door #5 (I was bringing up the rear) of the line) Jerry Farber and Scot van Leuvan opened the doors. They each sat down in front of the door that they had opened ( they were double doors) and kept them open by the presence of their bodies. Other demonstrators began to sit down in the door way. As soon as the doors were opened the security guards following the line charged towards the door. They kicked and stepped

on the sitting demonstrators and one of them slugged Danny Grant (who was also kicked in the face) many other people were kicked and hit. I was in the rear of the line. and I did not see ANY return violence of any sort, no one raised a hand to the guards. When the guards had brutally gotten up to the door they began to try to shut it. I did not see Scot arrested but I did see Jerry arrested. One of the guards said "get him" and as they grabbed him and threw him roughly to the ground another said "your pinched". A few seconds later

they arrested Mike Robinson who was in the way of the closing doors. One of the guards said as they arrested him

"all right you to". They then got the doors shut leaving us sitting in the entrance hall tightly packed together. We were all singing. Danny Grey was bleeding from a long cut on his forehead and Danny Grant was gasping because he had been kicked in the chest. After about 5 minutes Danny Grey signaled us to rise As we did so a guard picked up a chair and threw it, possibly trying to get it over our heads, the chair hit some people. When we were all standing Danny had us all turn out backs to the door and link arms. There were no guards on the other side of the door so we began to back

out the door. If there had be gaurds on the other side of the door we would not have done so as it might have been considered violence. When we had got the door open we lay down in the entrance way. The gaurds were pulling and shoving and kicking tring ~~the~~ to get the door shut. The front people then linked arms with the outside people and we all arouse. We then pulled the outside people into the building. As people would get back into the entance hall I sent them into the main hall to sit. When almost all of our demonstrators were inside some of the gaurds went after Herbert Mann. They grabbed him and started to yank at him. Danny Grey locked his arms around Herbie and some of us grabbed Danny. We were able to rescue Herbie from the gaurds. After this we all went into the hall and sat down. For the rest of the night we sang. We had 29 people in the building before we opended the doors. 3 of us were arrested and we were able to get 11 new people in. After the doors were closed the last time we then had a total of 37 people inside.