

Bobby Lee Jones, being duly sworn deposes and says:

I am 19 years old and I spent the period between July 19 and September 12 in jail. After my arrest I was first put into the City Jail of Americus. The room was about 12x36 and was occupied by about 40 people. There were 8 bunks and so we had to sleep on the floor and take turns using the bunks. There was no other furniture in the room. We had a fan which was often cut off when we began to sing or began being noisy. There was a shower which was dirty since the drain was stuffed with paper and food.

On Monday they told us to begin to work. We refused to work and so they put us in the hole. They had wanted us to dig ditches. The hole in the city jail is a room of about 8x10 and very very cold. We tried to stuff up a hole with tissue paper so as to block the wind. The room has no furniture and we had nothing but our clothing with which we could cover ourselves. We slept on the concrete floor. We were given one piece of bread at 7 a.m.; that was the only food which we were given. In the other part of the jail where we first were, we were given one cold hamburger at 10 a.m. and another at 8 p.m. We drank water from a sink; the water had a bad odor. There were no toilet facilities in the city jail hole nor was there any water. We got some food and water from some of the other kids.

We were then taken, after two days in the City Jail hole, to the county jail hole. The conditions were the same in the county jail hole as in the city jail hole except there were water facilities and toilet facilities in the county jail hole.

We told them that we wanted to work so they took us back to the regular jail room in the city jail.

The type of work which we did changed from day to day. We either cut grass, dug ditches, collected garbage, put pipes together, or cut bushes. We were asked to and had to work on private property. We had to cut bushes on the railroad property. We were also told to cut grass on an abandoned house's lawn. We knew about the law and said that it was private property. The guard told us that the City had worked out a deal so that they were getting paid for preparing the house to be rented.

We also had to work outside the city limits. We worked from Reese Park to the lower end of 280, about 100 yards from the city limit. On that same day we were told to cut grass on lawn of a project of a white project.

We worked for 8 hours a day, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Several times we worked overtime. We were told that this overtime would replace time on our sentence. Later on we were told that it could not replace time on our sentence for this would be in disobedience to a city ordinance.

Once I was collecting garbage and a girl who saw me coming put her German shepherd puppy into the garbage pail and when I took the cover off the pail and the dog tried to jump out at me, I quickly went away. That day I received taunts at many of the homes when I went to pick up garbage. During the last six days we had to lay 400 ft. of pipes weighing from 200 to 300 pounds each. We had to repair a road sweeper and got the steel of the sweeper in our hands, and we had to work at a sewage disposal plant. Sometimes when we were told to trim lawns and grass in other areas, our only tools were shovels.

....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.

One time they brought in some more students and although the boy was only 16, they decided to put him down as an adult since he was big and they thought that he was the leader.

When we were put in the county jail they took away our wallets and our cigarettes and said "If you are too sorry to work then you are too sorry to smoke."

On the first Monday after we decided to work, we were so tired that we blanked out when we began. They carried us to a doctor and the doctor said we were just weak from hunger and tiredness. I got sick to my stomach again that night. The next morning they took me to a doctor again and he gave me some medicine. Some times I have difficulty breathing and I have some medicine but they would not give it to me because they said I was a prisoner.

We were taunted a lot. For instance once we making a joke about the jail not being much like a hotel and the guard said, "Nigger, if you laugh again I will come in and rap this bill club over you."

Sworn to before me this 13th day of September, 1963.

John L. Barnum, Jr.

Bobby L. Jones

Notary Public Ga. State at large