

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF MADISON

I, Mr. James Bennett, 38 years of age, resides at 211 West Center St. (Old Jackson Road) Madison County, Mississippi, being duly sworn depose and say to: to wit:

On Saturday, 23rd day of May, 1964, at or around one forty-five P.M., I was driving my Rambler-station wagon. I had left Canton, Mississippi, with the automobile full with my wife, Rossetta Bennett, my neighbor, Mr. Lewis, and four teenagers, which included Alex Devine, and ~~Deborah~~ Adams. I had just arrived in Sherren, Mississippi, about six miles from Canton, when I was stopped by the deputy sheriff.

When he stopped me, he said "let me see your drivers' license boy". I gave him my license. He later called me and asked me: "who are those three punks sitting on the back of the station wagon?" He asked me their names and I wouldn't tell him. He then walked over to ask them their names and I told them "you don't have to tell him your name if you are teen-agers. But give him your name if you want to." The deputy shoved me by my shoulder against the car and said, "shut up! I will put a bullet in your head" *right now.*

He then left me to go, and I had just gone half-mile to the picnic where the National Chairman of CORE was speaking, and had unloaded my passengers, and then turned around to pick up more when I was given a ticket for reckless driving by another deputy sheriff, J.W. Evans, who were working together with the other sheriff. Deputy sheriff's were on this occasion all over the picnic area intimidating the guests and public invited to the picnic. I have been working in voter registration, driving people to register and these same people have been intimidated by these same deputy sheriffs in Madison County and surrounding counties.

signed James Bennett
23 day of May, 1964

signed John Dorsey Bate Jr.
Notary Public