

COMPLAINT AND AFFIDAVIT FORM - INSTRUCTIONS Fill out all the blanks and then give (1) Tell why you were there (2) What you did and what happened (3) State everything in direct quotations when possible, especially what you said and what the officials or others said (4) Fully describe all important people involved particularly police, and give physical descriptions when names are not known (5) Say why you think the people did what they did to you and to others (6) Tell what you or the other people involved have done in civil rights, especially in regard to voter registration (7) Be sure to have affidavit notarized whenever possible if notary public not available, have two witnesses sign. IMPORTANT Make two carbon copies file one, send the other with the original to COFO, 1017 Lynch St., Jackson, Mississippi. Thank you.

A F F I D A V I T

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
COUNTY OF Leflore

NAME Steven Roper

AGE 30

ADDRESS 121 17th Street North, Columbus, Mississippi

OCCUPATION ississippi

Being duly sworn deposes and says to-wit: I am a citizen of the United States of America and a white or colored male adult in civil rights and desegregation work. On July (day), July (month), 1964 (date), at about 10:30 time, the following happened:

In July, 1964, at about 10:30 in the morning, I left the COFO office to begin canvassing for voter registration on 9th Avenue North. I spoke to Negro people about going down to the courthouse to register, spoke to them about the Miss. Democratic Party, and Freedom Democratic Party, and about the Freedom Registration. Some people filled out Freedom Registration forms and read the material I had with me. All this took place within the house I was canvassing. At about 12:45 I, along with two other voter registration workers, Joel Bernard and Warren Galloway, went to a gasoline station on 9th Avenue and Military Road to get something to drink. We began speaking with the white gas-line station attendant. He was a middle-aged, Irishman, steady man wearing glasses. We spoke to him in a friendly manner about the work we were doing in Columbus. He spoke for about 10 minutes and then then said he would rather see us on the street. We left promptly. We then continued our canvassing on 10th Avenue North. At about 1:25 I was speaking to a Negro woman about voter registration when the police pulled a car in front of the house. One detective got out, walked up to me and asked if I was distributing leaflets without a permit. I told him I wasn't and explained to him just what I was doing i.e. voter registration work. At the time he seemed satisfied with my explanation and drove off in the car with the other detective. I then continued to speak with the Negro woman. About 10 minutes later (1:35) the police returned (the same two detectives), one got out of the car walked up to me and told me to get a car and that I was under arrest. I asked him what I was being arrested for. He said he suspected me for distributing leaflets without a permit. He searched me and took my folder of voter registration material. Then he told me to get in the car. The car circled area looking for Joel Bernard and Warren Galloway. They found Bernard first and arrested him on the same charge of illegal distribution of leaflets. They then began to look for Galloway. As the police circled the block a car, driven by a white man, pulled along side the police car. The man then said to the police, "The nigger's down that way", pointing down 10th Avenue. The police then went down the street and picked up Galloway, on the same leaflet charge. The police brought us to the city jail and we went through the usual booking procedure (pictures, finger-prints, personal histories etc.). We were then put in our cells. Bernard and I were put in one cell in the juvenile section, while Galloway was imprisoned alone in another part of the jail. We were in the cell about 1/2 hour when Bruce Shusterman, a fellow worker, came in to tell us that we were charged with trespassing, vagrancy, and distributing leaflets without a permit. He said that I personally was also charged with public profanity. He told us the bail was set at \$500 per charge. About 1/2 hour later three men walked by our cell. The first was one of the arresting officers, another was

Sworn to and signed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

I hereby certify that a notary public is not available to me and that the above is true to the best of my recollection, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_\_.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

No witnesses. \_\_\_\_\_

someone I had never seen before. But the third man was the gas station attendant  
we saw at the scene and spoke to earlier in the day. He looked closely at us he  
talked to. About an hour later a patrolman came in and presented Bernard and I with  
warrants for our arrest. Bernard received a warrant for trespassing and I received  
one for trespassing and one for public profanity. The policeman told us the bail  
is \$500 per charge. He let us look at the warrants but a moment and then took them  
back. The police treated us satisfactorily. One officer even was out and brought  
back some food. The only thing they failed to do was to grant us a phone call.  
We asked that many times to be allowed to make a call but they kept putting us off  
saying they were busy or some such thing. People from ODPD came to visit us the  
next morning (July 9). At about 12:30 we were bailed out. The bail turned out to  
be \$500 - \$100 per charge. We were given our belongings back but when we asked  
for copies of the warrants we were told to come back at 1:30. The lawyer was  
refused our copies when he came back for them.