

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

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COPY OF AFFIDAVIT

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General White
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On Saturday, July 18, 1964, between 8:00 and 9:00 I was at deacon Watson's home. The janitor's wife Edilia Heads, came and informed us about the bomb which her husband Gable Heads had found in the church. I went immediately to the church and looked. There was a heap of white powder piled up close to the pulpit and a fuse ran from the other room into the powder. A six foot span of the fuse had burned and when it got to the powder it went out. Deacon Watson called the sheriff after we went back to his house next to the church, Sweet Home Baptist Church, and deacon Swanigan called the F.B.I. We did not interfere with it and left it as it was. Sheriff Warren came with a number of deputies. They took some of the powder outside and tested it out with a match. It did explode and gave a great flame. They asked me what office I held in the church and I told them I was a deacon. I asked Sheriff Warren for permission to guard the church and he said, "Go ahead, do so. Don't put nobody out here though, who is not trustworthy, so that they don't shoot anybody." W.H. Tobias, our pastor, came after I called him. Sheriff Warren asked the pastor, "Who called you?" and the pastor said, "Deacon White."

I estimated about 100 people who had gathered around the church by that time. Most of the people were silent. The sheriff then said to the deacons present, "I am very anxious to catch the bombers because I want to stop all of this." The F.B.I. asked me if I saw any suspicious car the day before, when the dynamite had been planted there. The police removed the dynamite and took pictures and measured the tracks in the gasoline which had been put on the floor in the church. Sheriff Warren asked whether we had any C.O.F.O. meeting there and we said, "No."

"One Man, One Vote