

[1964, July 29]

Mary Lee Dixon

I am a Negro participant in the civil rights movement, am 16 years old and resident at 807 Paul Edwards Ave., Clarksdale, Mississippi.

On or about July 29, 1964, at about 2:00 pm, I and five others went to the Resthaven restaurant on Highway 61 in Clarksdale, Mississippi. We drove up and a woman was waiting for us. There was a police car parked in the driveway watching us. As soon as the car was stopped, we all got out. During the time we were getting out of the car, she was saying, "You might as well get back in, because I'm not going to serve you." Mary Jane Pigea asked if she was going to comply with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act. The woman, who identified herself as Mrs. Woodrow Joseph, said, "Not until I'm forced to." We said, "Thank you," and left.

From there we proceeded to the Ranchero Drive-in on Highway 61. We arrived there and all of us started to get out of the car. I was the only one who was able to get out of the car because the others were forced back by Pearson. The door was nearly shut on one of the girls by him. Joe Davis nearly slammed the door on the girl who was sitting in front. I got back in the car and Ben Collins and other police drove up and asked what was the matter. Pearson said that we had refused to go after he had asked us to. By this time we were backing out of the driveway. Just as we drove out, Pearson shouted, "There's another drive-in just down the highway. It's called Thigpen's--they'll serve you. (Thigpen's is a Negro-owned establishment.) We drove back to Freedom House and parked. Ben Collins had followed us all the way back. He waited until we all got out of the car and started blowing his horn. We didn't know who he was calling, so we just went on down the street. Then he shouted, "Hey--that boy driving the car--come here." Roy went back while we all stopped and waited.

I request the Federal Government and the Naeop to institute legal action on my behalf.

Sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 1964.