

APPENDIX

State of Mississippi

Thursday, July 30, 1964

County of Sunflower

Name - Eddie Laroy Johnson Age - 15 Address - 812 E. Reden,
Ruleville, Mississippi Occupation - Student Phone - 756-4623

Being duly sworn deposes and says: to-wit: I am citizen of the United States of America and during November of 1963 the following happened:

I am a student at Central High School in Ruleville. Last November I was in the 9th grade, A section. One day the Principal, H.R. Smith, announced to the teachers that the children should start going to the fields the following week. The teachers told us the principal had alerted them and that we should be prepared to go to the fields the next day or week. There was no complaint in our class because we had been going every year. I thought they would flund me if I didn't go to the fields to pick cotton. In fact I heard the teacher tell the class that if we did not go to the fields we would either have to pay a certain amount of money or flund. The teacher says this most every year.

In the next few days my class went to the field to pick cotton. We got to school at the same time in the morning and they drove us to the fields in trucks and busses. About 120 or more students went every day, and some students went twice.

We would get to the fields at about 8:30 and pick cotton until close to 12:00. Then they drove us back. They didn't provide lunch for us. From 1:05 until the end of the school day, we attended classes.

We did not get paid for our work in the fields picking cotton. I think the money went to the principal. When we returned from the field the teacher would go to the principal's office. I think the teacher gave the money for picking cotton to the principal. As far as I know the curtains in the gymnasium were the only things purchased with the money.

Everybody in the school is required to do this picking. There are about 1400 in the school.

Signed _____

Witnessed: _____
