



Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

6 RAYMOND STREET, N.W., ATLANTA 14, GEORGIA • 680-0331

702 Wall Street
McComb, Mississippi
39648

(601) 684-9414

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{ STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
{ COUNTY OF PIKE

Farley Pittman 54
Tylertown

A couple of days after the burning of Mount Canaan Church, a law enforcement officer came to my house and told me he had come to see my boy's pants. My boy had been hurt the night before. I showed him the pants and then he talked with my boy too.

He took us along with him to county jail in Magnolia. He didn't tell us why. I stayed in there from Friday night until about 11:00 on Saturday morning. They got me out of my cell and brought me down front for questioning. They asked me if I set the church on fire and I told them I did not, and that I was in town with the boy taking him to the doctor when the church was burned. They checked my story and then they turned me loose.

It is my belief that because the officer who made the original arrest had taken my boy out of his car and began shaking him at the jail, the boy, who is mentally deficient, told them that I had put a post in the window of the church to let the fire breathe. I saw these men shaking my boy as I was being taken into the court house that evening. My boy's name is Joe Curtis Pittman. They had us in different cells in the jail. I was put in to the bull pen and my boy was in a cell all by himself.

They never charged me with anything when they put me in jail. This happened on August 8, 1964.

"One Man, One Vote"