

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

6 RAYMOND STREET, N.W., ATLANTA 14, GEORGIA • 688-0331

702 Wall Street
McComb, Mississippi
39648

(601) 684-9414

COPY OF AFFIDAVIT

{ STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
{ COUNTY OF PIKE

Willie Ray Knox
1143 Summit Street

Quit school in 9th grade. Worked at Blue and White Grill service station until the arrest, when he lost his job. He had worked there for about one month. Previously he worked at Western Auto for a year and at Seagull Station approximately a year and a half. He is self supporting.

When he was sitting on a neighbor's porch talking at about 11:30 p.m., September 20, 1964, he heard a loud noise and went to see what had happened. He saw people coming. It was about 30 minutes before the police arrived. By that time, the crowd had become angry. There were approximately 300 to 400 people in the street. He was just standing there looking when people began throwing bricks. A couple of bricks hit a car. His mother told him to go home and took him by the hand and he left and went home and sat on the porch until about 1:30 a.m., then went to bed.


He did not throw any bricks. He remained at the scene of the bombing for approximately 30 minutes.

Monday night, while sitting in front of Macombo #2, he saw the highway patrolmen stop in front of his home. They went across the street and got another boy, Robert Tate. He left the Macombo and went down the street and then went home. His mother told him the police were looking for him.

Tuesday morning at 7:30 he opened the door and policeman Eddie Smith told him he was under arrest. Another policeman was with Eddie Smith know only as "Bobby". They were both in uniform. The policemen showed him no warrant. They asked if he knew any of the people on a list of names which they had.

He was taken to City Hall and questioned. Four officers were present, "Bobby", and another policeman, a highway patrolman and another person believed to be an F.B.I. agent. He was not told what he was charge with, was not warned of his right to remain silent. He was asked if he threw bricks, whether he saw anyone throwing bricks, what time he went home and how long he remained on the scene. The questioning lasted about 15 minutes and he was placed in a cell. He was transferred to the Pike County

"One Man, One Vote"



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jail at Magnolia at approximately 3:30 p.m.

He did not see his mother until the following Tuesday. He does not know how many police arrived after the bombing. He did not remain there long enough to see whether police left after bricks were thrown.

He was arrested in 1963 for accidentally setting a boy afire. He was in jail for about 20 minutes when the charges were dropped.

He has no money in the bank, no property. His stepfather owns home. He first learned of the charges when Atty. Carsie Hall came to jail and informed then they were charged with criminal syndicalism and that bond was set at \$500.00. He has never been involved in civil rights work.

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