



Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

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William Thomas
428 St. Augustine St.

William Thomas worked at the Vigrol Grocery Store prior to his arrest and earned \$45.00 per week. He lives with his mother, his father is in California. His mother does not work and he helps to support her. He has seven brothers and four sisters; most of his brothers work. He had worked at Vigrol approximately six months and had also worked in New Orleans.

While at Macombo #2 he heard an explosion and went looking for the place which he thought had been bombed and when he arrived at Mrs. Quin's home, he found approximately 200 people there. The police had not arrived and he went into the house. He left the house but stood around outside and estimates that it was approximately 45 minutes after the explosion until the police arrived. He returned to the cafe and stayed there for approximately 20 minutes and then went back to the scene of the bombing and people had begun throwing bricks and other objects. He remained there talking and looking for sometime and then went home about 1:30 a.m. Police drove through the area the night.

Thomas was arrested Wednesday night at about 5:00 during working hours when he was driving a truck and was stopped by policeman Eddie Smith. The policeman told him, "You must have thought I forgot you." He asked for Thomas' drivers' license. Thomas was told they wanted to question him at City Hall. At City Hall, he was questioned about 15 or 20 minutes and then taken to jail. He was not told that he was under arrest or what the charges were against him. He was not allowed to see his mother until the following week in the Magnolia jail. He first learned of the charges when Atty. Carsie Hall saw him in jail and told him he was charged with criminal syndicalism.

Thomas has had no prior arrests.

"One Man, One Vote