

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

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(STATE OF MISSISSIPPI (COUNTY OF PIKE

Rev. Ned Taylor Baertown

I am a United States citizen, age sixty and am a minister at the Summit Baptist Church, Summit Mississippi, Society Hill Baptist Church, McComb, Mississippi, Mount Olive Baptist Church, McComb Mississippi, and New Home Baptist Church, Pike County Mississippi.

During the past three years, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been conducting voter registration classes in the Society Hill Baptist Church. Members of the Council of Federated Organizations, both white and Negro, have attended the Society Hill Baptist Church during the summer of 1964.

Sometime in the middle of July, 1964, I received an anonymous phone call. The speaker said, "Don't let no white folks come into your church." On September 20, 1964, the Society Hill Baptist Church was destroyed by a bomb.

On September 23, 1964, there was an explosion in the area of my home around 10:00 p.m. Shortly thereafter, Sheriff Warren of Pike County came to my home, because he said he thought, my home had been bombed. Sheriff Warren left but returned in about a half hour. In the course of the second conversation, Sheriff Warren said, "bu damn niggers won't tell the truth and your a preacher too."

I was taken to the house of Mathew Jackson, whose home had been bombed in my pajamas. Sheriff Warren told a uniformed officer, whose name I do not know, to stay in the car and watch me. The latter officer ordered me to put up my hands and placed hand-cuffs on me. I was then taken to the McComb jail where the handcuffs were removed and I was permitted to dress, after I agreed to take a lie detector test.

I was taken to Jackson and locked in a cell for the night. The following day around 8:30 a.m., I was taken to have the test, but the operator of the lie-detecting machine said his wife was sick so he left. The test was finally given around 4:30 p.m. I was then taken home. At no time was I ever put under arrest and I have heard nothing further from Sheriff Warren.

"One Man, One Vote