



Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

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Malcolm Campbell
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On Tuesday October 27, 1964, I was arrested on the court house parking lot in Magnolia, at approximately 3:45 p.m. I was with several civil rights workers and ministers who were accompanying some McComb Negro people to register to vote. We were confronted by state highway patrolmen, sheriffs, deputies and hangers on, who physically prevented us from crossing the parking lot. We were told that if we proceeded further we would block the doorway to the court house. While the sheriff's deputy was saying this, the doorway was blocked by onlookers from the court house. One of them told Mrs. Quin that she had already been down fourteen times. When we remained where we were after being told to go home, we were arrested and taken into jail and imprisoned.

I was one of five who were subjected to violent attacks by law authorities in the jailhouse. I was slugged on the face and knocked across the room by a State Highway Patrol investigator when I requested to take my two pocketbooks into the jail cell with me. Three sets of fingerprints were ordered by the investigator. I objected to being fingerprinted, since I had not been arrested on a felony charge. Although I did not resist, the Highway Patrol officer who was fingerprinting me threatened to strike me with the stamp he was using.

The Highway Patrol inspector at one point told me I had forgotten about the time I assaulted an officer in Canada. At another point he dared me to start singing again. I have never been assaulted a police officer.

I was later brought back to the office and told to take off my shirt and pull my pant legs up and told to identify any scars. One of the officers made some remarks about my having committed fraud. I again asked for my pocketbooks and was kicked from behind by a prison trustee. When I was first searched, the highway patrol investigator had made a point of hitting me in the genital.

We were released from jail without bond. Upon my release, the same Highway Patrol inspector refused to allow me to have the possessions which were confiscated when I was jailed.

"One Man, One Vote"