

JONES COUNTY

At approximately 2 P.M. on July 11, 1964, in Laurel, Mississippi, I saw a group of six Negro children, including my son, Larry McGill, Calvin Hughs, Jessie Arrington, and three others who I am not acquainted with, enter the H. S. Kress store on Central Avenue. They took seats at the counter and waited to be served. One of the waitresses placed a large knife in open view behind the counter. A man in a yellow shirt went up to and spoke to the policeman who was in the store at the time. The policeman, who was wearing a white shirt, spoke the word "Now," and at this time the man in the yellow shirt and another man in a checkered shirt pulled baseball bats from paper sacks and began to beat the children. Larry was hit across the back with a bat. Jessie was hit in the face with the bat and his hand was cut badly. The children fled the store and I drove the injured boys to the hospital, where Jessie required stitches in his hand. The policeman did not make an immediate attempt to stop the beating and took action after the children fled the store.

SIGNED: *Bertie McGill*