



Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

6 RAYMOND STREET, N.W., ATLANTA 14, GEORGIA • 680-0331

702 Wall Street
McComb, Mississippi
39648

(601) 684-9414

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(STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
(COUNTY OF PIKE

Evelyn Nelson
Algiers

I was arrested for trespassing. There were seven of us. We arrived at the Magnolia gourthouse about 12 noon, October 26, 1964. A patrolman met us at the door. He asked who was the spokesman for the group and Rev. Blackburn said he was. So he asked what we were there for. Rev. Blackburn said, "To register." He then asked if we knew that the door was closed for the day. The minister replied, "No." The patrolman then said, "You will have to leave or else wait for Sheriff Warren who will be back in thirty minutes." So the Reverend Blackburn replied, "We are here to register." After or before the one patrolman could finish his statement, one big man and about ten or twelve patrolmen came out and this big guy then says, "You are under arrest for trespassing." They told us we had a choice to be home or in jail so we preferred jail. They took us in and searched our pocketbooks and asked if I had any identification. I said, "No." So the jailer had me write my name and address on a piece of paper. I did. The jailer put his hand in my purse to see what I had in it. They then led each one of us separately to the cell. While being in jail, we overheard a phone call to a minister. The jailer cursed and called the Reverend a Jew. He also called Faye all sorts of names which I can't write nor say. One of the fellows, as I understood, says that Faye was in the hospital; her arm had been twisted and her dress torn.

While being in jail, Mrs. Alyene Quin and I along with the others were singing freedom songs. The jailer said for us to stop. If we didn't, we couldn't make phone calls and we didn't. The patrolman also said that the Circuit Clerk would be out of Court in about thirty minutes and we would wait. But we waited in a cell.

"One Man, One Vote"

U.S.