

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF ORLEANS

Before me the undersigned authority personally came and appeared:

Henry Austin

who after first being duly sworn did depose and say:

That on October 20, 1965 I arrived in Bogalusa from New Orleans at about 8:30 p.m. On arriving in Bogalusa I went to the Labor Union Hall where a civil rights meeting was in progress.

That I left the Union Hall and went to a bar I later learned was called The Bamboo Bar and bought a beer.

That Deputy Sheriff Vertrees Adams came into the bar and stood staring at me. He grabbed me by the ~~arm~~^{ARM}, tearing the shirt and said in effect "come on boy". I did not resist him but asked him to get his hands off me.

That 2 more policemen came in then and Vertrees Adams started beating me with his night stick. The 2 other policemen then started beating me. I fell to my knees and then got back up. I was being hit over my head and back. I was hit in my stomach and when I doubled up was hit from behind and knocked to the floor again. I was then grabbed by the back of my shirt collar and dragged to the door with the police still hitting me with their night sticks. At no time did I resist or strike them back.

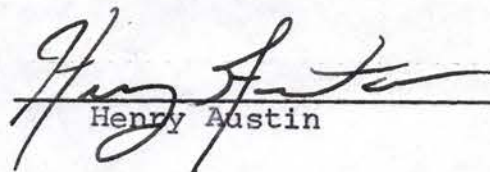
That when I was put on the school bus the driver hit me with his night stick. While on the bus a policeman who is always dressed in civilian clothes got on the school bus for a minute and said "I show you who rules this town". Vertrees Adams then got on the bus and said "You niggers ain't going to rule this town".

That at the police station I was booked and was told I was charged with disturbing the peace, that my bond would probably be \$300.00. I was placed in a cell and shortly thereafter was taken to the hospital by the police.

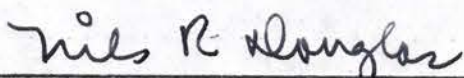
That while on the way to the hospital an officer unknown to me by name but known to me by face asked me what I had been doing. I answered "I guess you can't drink a beer in this town". He then asked me what happened and I said "Vertrees Adams beat me up". The officer replied "Goddamn Austin, I don't believe there is any such thing as a Vertrees Adams." He then repeated this statement getting up on his knees on the front seat of the car. He asked me why I was sitting up as I was and I told him my back hurt. He then swung and hit me twice with his fists. He reached for his night stick and another officer stopped him.

That on reaching the hospital the same officer who hit me in the car made taunting remarks in the hospital in front of the nurses and called me a "Goddamned Nigger Boy". The doctor in the hospital passed remarks and I refused to receive treatment even though my legs and arms were getting numb.

That I was brought back to the jail and permitted use of the phone. All the while the police were making harassing remarks. Upon my being released, Deputy Sheriff Buddy Lyons was laughing and said "You got what you deserved". Outside the jail I discovered no one was there to take me home so I went inside the jail to use the phone. At this point Buddy Lyons followed me inside cursing and grabbed at me. Captain Talley prevented Buddy Lyons from doing anything. Outside again, as I was leaving, Vertrees Adams shouted "We are going to get you yet." After my release I was told by my lawyers, that I was charged with resisting arrest and also with assaulting Vertrees Adams.


Henry Austin

Sworn to and subscribed before
me this 31st day of ~~November~~ ^{October}, 1965.


Notary Public