

PLACE: Selma, Alabama

FROM: Rev. B. L. Tucker

DATE: September 16-~~24~~, 1963

As the situation became progressively worse in Selma, Alabama this first week of September 16-24, 1963, more than 150 demonstrating Negroes were arrested. The Hudson High School attendance is about 1,500 and on September 24, the attendance had dropped to 450.

On September 23, the statement came out in Selma Times Journal, (time 2:30 p.m.), that Dallas County Sheriff's Department had posted warrant on the Rev. B. L. Tucker and charged him with contributing to the delinquency of minors. So after hearing this, I remained in First Baptist Church, (Sylvian Street), the rest of the night. On Tuesday September 24, Around 12:15 p.m., Sheriff James G. Clark came to serve the warrant. At this time I was inside the Church. First Sheriff Clark sent Worth Long, (staff), inside the church to get me, At this time I was in the back of the church. After Mr. Long told me what the Sheriff said, I told him to tell him if he wanted to see me, he would have to come in. After about thirty minutes, Sheriff Clark came into the church, at this time, I was in the pulpit praying. Also about 300 students were sitting and singing **We Shall Overcome**. Sheriff Clark didn't pay any respect to the prayer or the singing. He came up in the pulpit as I was praying, reached and got me back of the neck and pulled me away from the pulpit and carried Worth Long and me to the car.

About 25 policemen were standing on the outside, plus 6 news reporters. Three of the officers came into the church with Sheriff Clark. "We are going to put them in jail until it fills up", Clark said. "Then we will put them in Camp Selma till that fills up, and then we will put them in Camp Camden". Camp Selma and Camp Camden are state prison road camps.

On September 25, Rev B. L. Tucker went before Judge Renylonds along with Attorney Chesnut. Judge Renylonds read a statement saying I find you guilty and sentence you to 12 months in jail and \$100.00 fine. So the case was appealed at \$1000.00. State Solicitor McCold said "I put you under \$1000.00 peace bond and one year probation if you won't enter any more demonstrations in the State of Alabama. So I return to jail with the charge, contributing to the delinquency of minors. Worth Long was charged with resisting an officer in the executing of process.

I remain in jail two weeks, I was carried to Camp Camden for three days which is another county, (Wilcox County). My stay in jail was not too bad, only we got two meals a day and some times one because the jailer wanted us to work and we would not.

I think if the Federal Government would act now, the victory in Dallas County would be won. As the situation now stands, the Negroes of Dallas County have made up their minds to become 1st class citizens and nothing will stop them now. Some have staged walkouts from jobs because they want to be treated like citizens. "SNCC has done a great job in Selma, Alabama and the world sees it."

I will go to jail again and again if I have too.