DOCUMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN

ALABAMA

THE INTER-CITIZENS COMMITTEE, INC.

BOX 1443

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

REV. J. L. WARE
PRESIDENT

REV. C. H. OLIVER
SECRETARY

Picture on cover shows Walter Gadsden (15) of 3114 Sixth Alley So. in Birmingham, Alabama. He has given to the Inter-Citizens Committee his own account of what happened. It is as follows:

"On Friday May 3, 1963, I was observing the demonstrators as they were coming out of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. I was standing near the corner of 16th Street and 6th Avenue North. As I was going across the street an officer grabbed me and held me while he turned a dog on me. I was not one of the demonstrators. I was jailed and charged with parading without a permit."

Walter Gadsden

Walter Gadsden

DOCUMENT NO. 33 ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN ALABAMA. ON THE USE OF POLICE DOGS DURING THE 1963 PALM SUNDAY DEMONSTRATIONS IN BIRMINGHAM.

My name is Eddie L. Bradford. I live at 612 No. 17th St. in Birmingham. On April 7, 1963 at around 4:00 in the afternoon, I was standing on the corner of 17th St. and 6th Ave. No. I was watching to see what was happening. Some cars had been stopped and I wanted to see why. I was not in the street, but there was a large crowd of people on the corner near where I was standing. Then policemen came and ordered everyone to move on. Two officers were sitting in a police car nearby with dogs in it. The people stayed around and I did too. Then the policemen called for the dogs.

They sicked the dog on me. The dog made a lunge toward my face but I blocked him with my left arm. At the same time I swung at the dog's neck with a small pen knife I had. I don't know whether I cut him or not, but I hope I did. Then I drew back to strike him again and the dog grabbed my thigh and bit me. When I drew back the second time, the policeman pulled the dog back and sicked him on someone else. The crowd scattered and I went away and got my dog bite treated. I was not arrested.

Eddie L. Bradford

Eddie L. Bradford

My name is Raymond Coleman. I live at 712 No. 16th St. in Birmingham. I am 70 years of age.

On the afternoon of April 7, 1963, I went to town to eat. While on my way back home I came to the corner of 17th St. and 6th Ave. No. There was a large crowd of people there. Since I was on my way home, I would have to cross the street to go home. I heard the policemen tell the people to move back, but there was such a crowd that I could not move. They sicked the dog on me. The dog tore a piece out of my coat. Then the dog grabbed me under my arm from behind. The dog held on to me and it was painful. I kept pulling forward trying to get loose from the dog, but he kept holding me for what seemed to me to be a long time. After a while the policeman got him off. They did not arrest me.

I went to University Hospital for treatment. There were policemen there. One of them said some other dog bit me and I was saying it was the police's dog. I had to pay $5.00 for a lockjaw shot.

Raymond Coleman

Raymond Coleman

STATE OF ALABAMA)
)
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON)

Personally appeared before me the hereon named Eddie L. Bradford and Raymond Coleman, who depose and say that the foregoing statements are true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 19th day of April 1963.

Geneva R. Lee

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires 3-7-64.

DOCUMENT NO. 34 ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN ALABAMA. ON THE USE OF POLICE DOGS DURING THE 1963 PALM SUNDAY DEMONSTRATIONS IN BIRMINGHAM. RELATED BY LEROY ALLEN, (19) OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.

My name is Leroy Allen. I live at 1002 30th St. No. in Birmingham. I have never been in jail before.

On Sunday, April 7, 1963 at around 5:30 P.M. I went to observe the demonstrations that were going on in Birmingham. I was with some friends who asked me to go with them to observe the demonstrations. At first I said I would not go because I might get in jail, but I decided to go. I was going to the Greyhound Bus Station anyway to take a bus to my job in Brewton, Alabama, and I was headed toward the bus station.

There was a crowd of people on the corner of 6th Ave. and 16th Street North. When I got about midway in the block, a policeman told everybody to get back. I got back, but I don't guess I was getting back fast enough. I heard Connor tell the policeman to sick the dog on me. I did not have a knife or a pipe or any weapon - nothing but my bare hands. The dog bit me behind first, then he bit me on the leg. The dog tried to get to my neck, but I blocked him with my arm, and he bit me on the arm. Then I grabbed the dog and threw him over my shoulder and began choking him and the dog started hollering. Then about four policemen took me off the dog, threw me on the ground and got on top of me. I struggled up, and about five more came, including police chief Jamie Moore, and they pinned me down to the ground, and while they held me on the ground another dog bit me on the arm. They handcuffed me and threw me in the paddy wagon. All the clothes I had on were badly torn. I was taken to the city jail.

At the jail the sergeant said they should take me to the hospital. They said I did not need to go to the hospital, but the sergeant insisted and they took me to Hillman Hospital where I received treatment. Then I was taken back to jail. I was charged with failure to obey an officer.

The following Wednesday while still in jail, I took sick and they took me to the hospital where I was examined. I was there about three hours. While there, as many as about 25 policemen came to look at me. Several of them said they wanted to see the man the dog bit so they could know me when they see me walking on the street or anywhere. They were trying to scare me but I was not afraid. I was taken back to jail and stayed until Saturday, April 12 when they released me. As soon as I returned to work, I was fired from my job. I have not yet been able to find another job.

Leroy Allen

Leroy Allen

STATE OF ALABAMA

COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

Personally appeared before me the hereon named Leroy Allen, who deposes and says that the foregoing statement is true and correct to the best of his knowledge.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 27th day of April 1963.

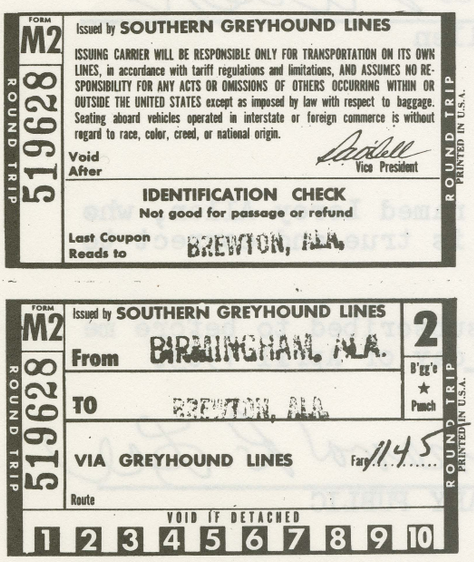
Geneva R. Lee

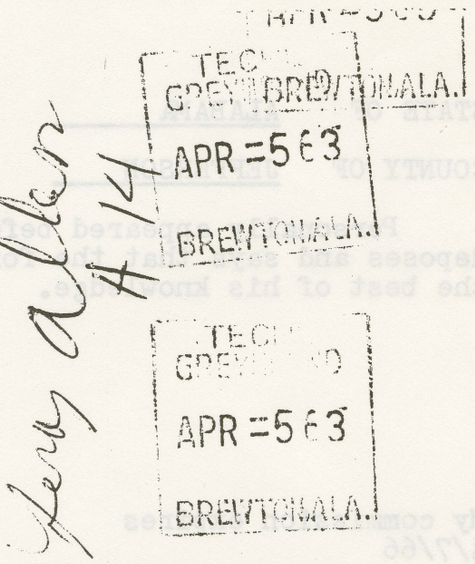
NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires
3/7/66

At his trial, Leroy was fined $100.00 and given 180 days and his bond was set at $1,000.00. His case is now on appeal. On May 12 he was hired again by his former employer.

Leroy Allen being subdued by Birmingham policemen on Palm Sunday, 1963.





Ticket to Brewton, Alabama purchased by Leroy Allen on April 5, 1963.

DOCUMENT NO. 37 ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN ALABAMA. RELATED BY TOMMIE HILL OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.

My name is Tommie Hill. I live at 1712 No. 25th Avenue in Birmingham.

On Easter Sunday (April 14, 1963) in the late afternoon, I was standing near Thirgood C. M. E. Church watching what was going on. After the police had arrested some ministers and other persons, about three policemen grabbed me and one of them tried to hit me on the head with his stick, but I blocked the blow and tried to get across the street. As I was going across the street an officer standing in the street struck me hard on the shoulder with his stick. The blow was so hard that in about fifteen minutes I could barely lift my arm. I was not doing anything but watching, and I did not have any weapons on me. I saw some shattered glass, but I don't know how it happened. When the officer struck me on the arm, another one tripped me and I fell, scarring my knees and elbow.

They handcuffed me and took me to jail. I stayed in jail five days. When I was taken to jail they said I was charged with attempted murder, assault and battery, resisting arrest, inciting to riot, and parading without a permit, but I was not guilty of either. I understood later that the attempted murder charge was dropped. At the jail I was given a pill for my arm, but it did not do any good. After I got out I went to a doctor to have it treated.

"Tommie Hill
Tommie Hill

STATE OF ALABAMA

COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

Personally appeared before me the hereon named Tommie Hill, who deposes and says that the foregoing statement is true and correct to the best of his knowledge.

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 9th day of May, 1963.

Geneva R. Lee
NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires
3/7/66.