

1 people devil, and when you see a black man doing
 2 that, a Negro running up to white people acting
 3 other than himself, he is not following The
 4 Honorable Elijah Muhammad. He just thinks he
 5 has a little whip and he is going to take it
 6 out and whip somebody and all he is doing is
 7 bringing discredit upon The Honorable Elijah
 8 Muhammad and himself, that our aim is to ele-
 9 vate the black man and dissuade him from
 10 getting involved in the type of things that
 11 took place here in Newark because not only
 12 doesn't it help the civilization and the
 13 government in which he lives but it gets him
 14 killed and it is going to continue to get him
 15 killed.

16 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Thank you, Doctor.

17 the City of * * *
 18 portion of your life?

19 F R A N C E S E. F O R D, Sworn.

20 for to MR. JAFFE: Would you please give your
 21 name, address and just basically give us a
 22 little bit of your biographical sketch and
 23 background, please, for the record.

24 THE WITNESS: My name is Frances
 25 Elizabeth Ford. I live at 555 Elizabeth Avenue

1 Newark, New Jersey.

2 I am married to Dr. Arthur Charles Ford,
3 who is presently a Fulbright student and
4 professor at the University of Cairo, Egypt.

5 I myself am a college graduate and I
6 have done research work. I am a mother of
7 two children.

8 MR. JAFFE: Do they live in the City of
9 Newark?

10 THE WITNESS: They live in the City of
11 Newark, one who served in the Korean War and
12 one who is a social caseworker with the Essex
13 County Welfare Department.

14 My daughter is ten and she is in a
15 private school.

16 MR. JAFFE: Mrs. Ford, have you lived in
17 the City of Newark or in this area for a good
18 portion of your life?

19 THE WITNESS: I have lived in Newark
20 for thirty years and I am 47 years old.

21 MR. JAFFE: You have lived in the City
22 of Newark for a long period of time. Have you
23 been active in various organizations in the
24 city? If so, could you tell us which ones
25 they are?

1 Q THE WITNESS: Yes. Across from as I am
2 faced with Governor Driscoll, who appointed me
3 back in 1943 to the first FEPC Commission with
4 Kenneth Ward as his adviser.

5 It was my first taste -- we were called
6 The Young Republicans For Al Driscoll and at
7 that time I got my first taste of how the
8 mechanism of the political and the social
9 structure of the City of Newark operate.

10 From then on I went to the NAACP. I
11 served as the treasurer for eight years under
12 the tutelage of then Mr. Harry Hazelwood, now
13 Judge Harry Hazelwood, Theodore Pettigrew and
14 the late Mrs. Grace Henderson.

15 Of course, during that time I had a vast
16 amount of experience working with people and
17 especially my own people.

18 Then I came in contact with a lot of
19 police officers because we more or less
20 investigated what we now call police brutality
21 cases and integrated schools, et cetera, et
22 cetera.

23 While the treasurer of the Newark
24 branch -- I believe it was 1954 -- I encountered
25 a police brutality case involving a Mr. Walter

1 Simon. ~~as four days later~~

2 The police officer kicked Mrs. Simon and
3 she was aborted after being pregnant for four
4 months. That was on Christmas Eve, 1954, on the
5 corner of West Street and Montgomery.

6 ~~and~~ It seems they were coming out of a party
7 called the Secret Pals and they brought home
8 the leftover food from the party.

9 ~~It was~~ The policemen were coming out of the
10 tavern on the corner and Mr. Simon backed his
11 car into us.

12 ~~was~~ It more or less was a one-way street.
13 He lived in the block. Rather than go around
14 he backed his car in. The officer came out.
15 His name was Patrolman Tiuite. He is now
16 Lt. Tiuite.

17 ~~various~~ I think in those days the word would get
18 around if you hang a nigger, you can get
19 promoted. So he decided to get promoted. So
20 he went out and grabbed Mr. Simon, telling
21 him "You had no right to back your car in."

2 ~~and~~ He said "I live in the block, Officer."
3 He yanked Mr. Simon out of the car, beat him
4 into submission, kicked Mrs. Simon in her belly
5 and she lost her baby of four months pregnancy

1 three or four days later.

2 That was my first time really encountering
3 police brutality at its worst. The reason why
4 I was able to do this is because as I said
5 before, I was with NAACP and I had to take dues
6 and pay bills and take care of the legal
7 procedure.

8 So we took the case to court and I think
9 it was Judge Lyons who gave Walter Simon 18
10 months in jail after he had spent eight months
11 in the hospital for a fractured skull. The
12 man is now a mental case.

13 His sister became so embittered and her
14 name by the way is Mrs. Dorothy Richardson.
15 She now lives at 685 South 11th Street.

16 Mrs. Richardson subsequently had a
17 nervous breakdown. That was Number 1.

18 In 1959 I was employed with the Newark
19 City Hospital as an admitting clerk, working
20 my way through college.

21 I had to admit all kinds of patients
22 and I had a very famous expression that I like
23 to use. I say when you come into this hospital
24 you are no longer a prisoner but you are a
25 patient and we treat you as a patient.

1 I asked the police officers to take the
2 handcuffs off my patients. Well, one Sunday
3 morning in 1959, four officers brought in a
4 little Italian boy. His name was Michael
5 Grandi.

6 He lived at 282 Peshine Avenue and he
7 was seventeen years old. They picked him up
8 on Springfield Avenue in front of 690. The
9 police officers claimed he had broken the leg
10 of a man, John Barnes, who came into the
11 hospital with a broken leg and was drunk.

12 I interviewed Mr. Barnes and asked him
13 as I admitted him to the hospital why that he
14 accused this little 17 year old who was so
15 drunk he couldn't possibly stand up on his
16 own legs.

17 These here officers, each time that
18 little boy got up on the chair, they would
19 knock him to the floor. They had him black
20 and blue.

21 I walked over and I said "Officer, I
22 am a mother. Mr. Barnes can't identify this
23 boy. He is so drunk himself, everybody looks
24 the same."

25 MR. LEUCHTER: Who was drunk, Mr. Barnes?

1 THE WITNESS: Mr. John Barnes.

2 MR. LAUCHTER: Not the boy?

3 THE WITNESS: The boy was drunk too.

4 Both were drunk. But the little boy, Michael
5 Grandi, was so drunk he couldn't stand up.
6 Mr. Barnes had the broken leg and I had to
7 admit him to the hospital.

8 So I asked him "Who hit you? Can you
9 positively identify this boy? You are going
10 to brand him as a criminal. You are drinking.
11 You are drunk. How much did you have to
12 drink, Mr. Barnes?"

13 He said "You know one thing, lady?
14 Are you a Christian?"

15 I said "Yes. I am a Roman Catholic and
16 I try to live a clean life and I want to help
17 you and I want to help Michael because once
18 you brand this boy, once you brand him and put
19 a stigma against this boy and give him a
20 number and a jail term, it is going to hurt
21 his very heart. You are going to hurt him
22 unless you are positively sure that this boy
23 has done this. Sober up first and then try
24 to make a positive identification."

25 He looked up from the stretcher and he

1 said "Lady, you look like a very good woman.

2 I don't guess I can say really this boy hit me.

3 Put a blanket out."

4 I said all right. In the meantime, over
5 in the corner the boy was in the chair, Michael
6 Grandi, and the officers kept knocking him out
7 of the chair as often as he would try to get
8 back.

9 I said "Officer, please don't touch him
10 any more. Mr. Barnes can't identify him and
11 tomorrow when he awakens and finds his body
12 black and blue he will only hate you and hate
13 society which you brought him into, plus the
14 fact he is some mother's son. Somebody loves
15 this boy. Don't beat him this way. What has
16 he done?

17 "How could a drunk boy, who can't
18 stand up, beat a man who is about six foot
19 and about 200-some pounds? It is impossible
20 and I will not believe it."

21 The officer said, "Mrs. Ford, mind
22 your G.D. business."

23 My second encounter. Sure enough, Mr.
24 Barnes wouldn't sign a complaint. At my
25 behest he wouldn't sign a complaint against

1 Michael Grandi and it was dropped.

2 The officer said "Mrs. Ford, you helped
3 him this time but the next time we are going
4 to get him and more like him."

5 This was in April, I believe, of 1959.
6 Instead of them getting Michael they got me.
7 I didn't know what a police setup is, but I
8 soon, gentlemen, found out how you can be set
9 up for the kill and they can really kill your
10 spirit.

11 They can really kill your soul. They
12 can really kill your heart if you are weak enough
13 to let them.

14 So because I have been pushing this
15 thing about policemen not besting patients in
16 the hospital, they brought a man by the name
17 of Paul Britt, a good-looking, handsome Negro
18 man into the hospital the following April.

19 He had committed a crime. The first
20 crime was because he is black. The second
21 crime was because he killed an Italian. You
22 see, he was a mental patient. He escaped from
23 the Marlboro Institution for the Insane.

24 The State Troopers found Paul walking
25 on Route 130 in the nude and they brought him

1 before Judge Nicholas Castellano and they
2 sentenced him to the insane asylum. He escaped
3 again.

4 This time he went to work on an old car
5 he owned. He liked to fix cars. He lived at
6 262 Morris Avenue, by the way, with his sister
7 and her two children.

8 So this old Cadillac he was fixing up,
9 he got it to run and about 12 o'clock one
10 night he was on South Orange Avenue and South
11 12th Street.

12 Apparently he must have gone berserk.
13 He lost his balance behind the wheel. The
14 old Cadillac jumped the curb, hit a fire
15 hydrant, ignited the gasoline and there was the
16 Italian gentleman standing on the corner
17 waiting for the bus.

18 The man was burned to death, a freak
19 accident by a mental person. They took him,
20 Paul Britt, and put him in the hospital.

21 Again Judge Castellano, being very kind to a
22 mental patient, sentenced him to Ward 1 under
23 our care in the City Hospital.

24 When they brought Paul in there were
25 nine police officers led by a Mr. Maurahan,

1 the chief gestapo agent.

2 not how They had him in a wheelchair with his
3 hands strapped this way and his feet up against
4 the chair. I tried to get information from
5 Paul.

6 If you know how they come from the
7 courts, you lawyers know how they come from
8 court, they usually send their background to us
9 for admission.

10 Most times they can't speak too
11 coherently. We take from the officer who
12 brings them in what the paper says and admit
13 them accordingly.

14 So I tried to get information from him
15 and the officer and we finally were able to
16 admit him. This Hanrahan walked in and said
17 "I'm going to get this no-good nigger S.O.B."

18 Do you mind me using the words that I
19 actually heard? No offense to any of you.
20 I am accustomed to hearing it.

21 I said, "Don't touch the patient." He
22 pushed me aside. He took his blackjack and he
23 beat this Paul Britt over the head.

24 The blood started spurting out of the
25 ears, nose and mouth. We have two doctors at

1 the hospital rightnow, female doctors, who do
2 point, gentlemen. They do not have
3 not have licenses to practice medicine. Their
4 names are Dr. Alexandria Krendenzer and Dr.
5 Laschiwicz. They are foreign doctors and they
6 do not have a license.

7 They have been admitting doctors for
8 many years there. They tried to tape Paul up.
9 They sutured him and gave him 27 stitches in
10 his head.

11 In the meantime, he was bleeding very
12 profusely. The officer ran alongside of the
13 wall and grabbed the sheet off of one of the
14 carts and wrapped it around Paul's face and
15 choked him and the blood was coming through
16 the double sheet.

17 They wheeled him into Ward 1 and they
18 strapped him to the bed. It was then that I
19 called the ex-Mayor Carlin and I said to him
20 "Leo, get over here and get over here fast.
21 They are going to kill a mental patient here."

22 Mind you, gentlemen, this is now only
23 1:30 in the afternoon, broad daylight. He sent
24 over his aid, a Clyde Mitchell. Clyde Mitchell
25 said "Mrs. Ford, hands off. You are going to
26 get yourself in a lot of trouble." At this
27 is happening here."

1 point, gentlemen, may I tell you I became very
2 vehement, vindictive, nasty and anything that
3 you may call me.

4 At that time I didn't give a tinker's
5 damn what anyone thought. Remember at the
6 outset what I said to you. In the hospital
7 we have a code, you are no longer a prisoner,
8 you are a patient here. You are going to be
9 treated as such.

10 If they want to guard you in the
11 hospital, yes, but you are going to be treated
12 as a patient and not a prisoner. There is a
13 life to save.

14 We are here to save a life and not to
15 take one. It is an oath I took and that's the
16 oath I intend to keep. So with that in mind,
17 to refresh your memory, I told this to Clyde
18 Mitchell.

19 He said "Hands off." I called in the
20 New York Post, Ted Poston, and the New York
21 Times, and I called Harry Anderson from the
22 Newark Evening News.

23 I said, "I want you to come and cover
24 this for me. The public needs to know what
25 is happening here."

1 He said, "Mrs. Ford, I'll be right up."

2 I ushered him into Ward 1 and Paul Britt was
3 lying in a prone position with both arms apart
4 and so were his legs with his head bandaged
5 up.

6 I asked the admitting physician to give
7 me his admission slip because I wanted to look
8 at the prognosis and the diagnosis.

9 There were 27 stitches in his skull
10 with a fractured skull. I gave the reporters
11 the diagnosis and the prognosis. Then Mr.
12 Carlin and the policemen along with your great
13 Inspector Leahy -- now here is really a
14 gestapo.

15 Leahy was sent up to investigate the
16 whole bit and then whitewash anything and every-
17 thing he could find.

18 In the meantime, Paul Britt hadn't died
19 yet so the next afternoon I came on duty, I
20 went right into his room.

21 I said, "Paul, how are you?" The
22 words before he died were "Mrs. Ford, the
23 beating I got last night wasn't as bad as the
24 beating I got this morning."

25 Gentlemen, it was then that I had to

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ery.?"

I couldn't hold back the tears. I said
"You are a human being. You didn't do any
wrong. What happened to you could have happened
to anyone."

But I said "Paul, you may die but as
long as I shall live, with every ounce of
breath that I have in me I am going to fight for
justice for all mankind, please whom it may."

I wouldn't give a tinker's damn what
color you are, what station you are in life,
how many degrees you may have. You could come
from the ghetto.

But first and foremost to me, a life is
a human being, to be loved and protected, and
that's my whole purpose in life.

With that the press came in, took
pictures and I was tabbed by Inspector Leahy
"an interfering nigger".

The word went out "Get her." The word
was "Get her. She's got to go."

So I went to the director of the
hospital, Dr. Chmielnik, Abraham Chmielnik,
and I said "Dr. Chmielnik, you are a physician
and I am not. Why did you let them kill Paul

1 here?"

2 That's Dr. Chmielnik said "Mrs. Ford, If I were
3 you I wouldn't interfere too much. After all,
4 they are not going to help you, you know, and
5 they are the policemen."

6 I said, "Dr. Chmielnik, you are a
7 minority and so am I. How did you feel when
8 Hitler annihilated 6 million Jews?"

9 I said "I cried for you and I'm black.
10 Why can't you cry for me because he is black?
11 He is a human being."

12 He said "If I were you, Mrs. Ford, I
13 wouldn't bother with that too much. You are
14 going to get fired."

15 This was in April, April 16 of 1960.
16 They hadn't certified me for my job yet,
17 although I passed Number 2 on the list.

18 So they delegated under the tutelage
19 of Gestapo Leahy, who is now retired from the
20 Police Department, he delegated a John Ballou.
21 He got promoted. The policemen have a
22 gimmick.

23 Anytime you get a nigger you get
24 upgraded, do you understand me? That's how
25 they operate. So Ballou lived at 350 Morris

1 Avenue in a very poor, mixed neighborhood.

2 That's where the rakeoff, the money is. So he
3 decided to get Mrs. Ford.

4 So they put Ballou in the hospital as a
5 guard. When they get sick leave like that they
6 give them little piddling jobs to keep them on
7 the payroll.

8 They can't afford to go out and walk a
9 beat. At that time I am innocent of anything
10 about what a setup means. I am going back
11 again to tell you how I found out when a
12 person is being set up by the police, how they
13 operate.

14 Not mindful of being set up I again
15 interfered, if you please. They sent another
16 man in the hospital. His name was Holman.
17 He was a patient of Dr. E. E. Washington, the
18 orthopedic specialist.

19 Dr. Washington had put a cast on his
20 left arm and shoulder because the man was not
21 aware that he had cancer of the bone and was
22 about to die.

23 This being in August of 1960, it was
24 very hot and he wanted to know why the cast
25 couldn't be taken off.

26 Mrs. "You are going to suffer?" He said yes.

1 So he came in on a Friday afternoon,
2 August 5, and he started swearing up a blue
3 streak. "Get this thing off of me. I am trying
4 to hammer it off myself. I am miserable and I
5 can't go along with this."

6 So he went home. First I said to him
7 "Mr. Holman, we can't take this off of your
8 shoulder. Dr. Washington put it on. You must
9 wait until it heals."

10 He went home and he came back about five
11 o'clock with the cast off. He must have had
12 someone take a hatchet and take it off. The
13 arm was dripping down this way and he couldn't
14 hold it up and he was in such awful pain and
15 he had nothing to quiet the pain.

16 So in the meantime, while he was
17 sitting on the side waiting for the doctor, by
18 this time we had a lot of Cuban refugee doctors
19 who had escaped Castro.

20 So they put them in the City Hospital
21 to take care of all the welfare people and
22 thereby they could get a lot of experience.
23 So Dr. Victor Nana was on duty that afternoon
24 and a Miss Mary O'Brien, and I said to Dr.
25 Nana, "You are going to supper?" He said yes.

1 I said "I've got a patient over there.
2 Would you mind taking care of him?"

3 In the meantime, the park police came
4 in and brought a nine year old boy in. His
5 name was Raymond Chin, Jr., who lived at 362
6 Avon Avenue, near South 12th Street.

7 He had been hit in the park by a car.
8 The park police asked the boy where he lived
9 and he told them and they subsequently got in
10 touch with the parents who not knowing how
11 bad off the boy was, decided to rush to the
12 hospital.

13 When they got there, Dr. Nawa had gone
14 to supper and Miss O'Brien wouldn't let them
15 see the son.

16 When Mr. John Ballou decided that
17 "You can't come in because the doctor is not
18 here", the mother and the father, being
19 apprehensive about a nine year old boy being
20 hit by a car, not knowing how seriously ill
21 the boy was, they said "I must see my son.
2 I have hospitalization. Take him out of this
3 hospital. You can put him in any other
4 hospital but this one. We want him to have
5 care. Let me see him. Is he dead?"

1 I said "Mr. and Mrs. Chin, hold on a
2 minute. I will try to get you to see your son."
3 I was standing in my office door. About 15 feet
4 from where Officer Ballou and the Chins were
5 standing was where I was.

6 At that moment the man on the seat,
7 Holman with the arm was swearing up a blue
8 streak. He said "Please do something for me",
9 so on and so on.

10 Officer Ballou, assuming that Chin had
11 called him a dirty name, grabbed Chin by the
12 collar with the left hand and pushed him against
13 the wall and with the right hand he went for
14 his revolver.

15 At that moment Chin's daughter, 17 years
16 old, and the wife and the sister-in-law
17 surrounded him and said "Officer, don't kill
18 him."

19 I screamed, "Officer, please don't kill
20 him." I said, "He didn't call you a name."

21 With that, Officer Ballou came back at
22 me and he said "Mrs. Ford, you are under
23 arrest."

24 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: When was this,
25 in 1960?

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THE WITNESS: Yes.

VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Did this follow through up to the time of the riot?

THE WITNESS: No.

VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You know, if you will permit me, Mr. Chairman, one of the problems here is that most of this concerns itself with the area of the riot, causes thereof and whatever contributing elements there were.

Have you anything more recent, something more pertinent to the riot time?

THE WITNESS: Well, I was told by the investigator that they would like to know some of the background of what really happened to bring on the riot.

These are things that really happened way back, not just yesterday.

VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Were they a part of the discussion or anything that formed the attitude of the rioters themselves?

THE WITNESS: I believe Mr. Lofton is the president or the chairman of the Committee of Concern and I am on one of those committees and I believe it was Mr. Robert Curvin who

1 very well mentioned at a meeting one night
2 "Mrs. Ford's case was the beginning of these
3 riots."

4 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: That's what I am
5 interested in.

6 What is Mrs. Ford's case?

7 THE WITNESS: I am saying my case now.
8 I am getting to it.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: This is the case?

10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Oh, I see. I beg
12 your pardon.

13 THE WITNESS: He said had we stopped
14 then and fought to vindicate Mrs. Ford, perhaps
15 these things now would not have taken place.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: It is in
17 perspective now.

18 Go ahead.

19 THE WITNESS: If I am out of context
20 will you tell me, please?

21 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: I just wanted to
22 put myself in context.

23 I understand now.

24 THE WITNESS: All right.

25 So getting back to this, Officer Ballou

1 then put me under arrest and he called Sergeant
2 Paradise, who is now Captain Paradise.

3 They took me down to the police station
4 and they put me under \$50 bond and they
5 fingerprinted me and they kept me in jail for
6 about a couple of hours and Clyde Mitchell from
7 the Mayor's Office came down to bail me out.

8 It was a Saturday and I didn't have that
9 much money on my person. They arrested Mr.
10 Chin also but they didn't arrest his wife and
11 daughter.

12 My trial came up and I was charged with
13 interfering with a police officer. I stated
14 at the outset I was 15 feet from the police
15 officer and all I said was "Officer, he didn't
16 call you that name and please don't shot him."

17 Yet I am interfering. I had as my
18 counsel the Hon. Louis Saunders from Jersey
19 City.

20 We had a two-day trial before Judge
21 Lyons and I was fined \$200 and my Civil
22 Service job taken from me.

23 I tried to appeal it but Judge Lyons
24 worded his summation that no other lawyer
25 would be able to open the case. He knew that

1 I would fight it to the top. I appealed to the
2 Civil Rights Commission.

3 I went to the Department of Justice and
4 I saw Mr. Robert Kennedy. I spoke with Mr.
5 Paul Haas, an attorney.

6 I talked to another attorney, Theodore
7 Martin or Mortimer, and they have a stack of
8 records which they showed me in Washington on
9 the police atrocities in the City of Newark.

10 I made six trips there. From these six
11 trips consequently in 1961 or 1962, rather, in
12 September, I think the Governor or someone had
13 a Commission sworn to investigate police
14 brutality in the City of Newark.

15 For two days they had an open hearing
16 but I was very conveniently ignored to testify.
17 The chairman of that Commission was Mr.
18 Spotswood Robinson from Harvard University
19 Law School.

20 What the findings were I never found
21 out. However, I appealed again to Mr. George
22 Faust for my job back.

23 In 1962, when Mr. Addonizio took
24 office the council did vote to give me my job
25 back and something like \$3,000 in back pay.

1 Somehow or another they didn't get together on
2 the money and I never got my job back nor the
3 pay.

4 As it now stands it is still pending.
5 That is five years ago.

6 Getting back now -- these are personal
7 things that happened to me. I want to say here
8 that I still feel that of all the atrocities
9 that have been heaped upon others as well as
10 myself, there are some good police officers.
11 I respect a lot of them.

12 By the same token, I have a lot of ~~dis~~ respect
13 for them when they break the law as I would
14 break the law.

15 They had a habit of following my car and
16 I keep the same license plates, 386. I refused
17 to change them on my Chrysler, and every once
18 in a while they will put tickets on the car.
19 I have four tickets now in my briefcase and I
20 refuse to pay them. I'm going to fight them
1 in court because of the Leroi Jones case.

2 They decided to give me another business
3 because of that case so they follow my car and
4 put tickets on it.

5 So I am still being harassed by the

1 police department.

2 Getting back to the Newark riots, just
3 recently, and I don't like to think of them as
4 a riot. I like to call it a rebellion. It is
5 time that we term it and put it in its own per-
6 spective, its right perspective.

7 It is a rebellion. I made the
8 unperdonable mistake again of helping Leroi
9 Jones out. I went to bail for him or I went
10 part of his bail, about \$12,000 or \$15,000,
11 and I asked the press not to print my name
12 and they didn't.

13 That was in July, July 18. On October
14 27 -- maybe you know the whole story, what
15 Leroi said in court, that he should be tried
16 by his peers, not his oppressors, and I was in
17 court at the time and Judge Kapp, Leon Kapp,
18 decided to withdraw the bail and at 4:30
19 decided to restore the bail.

20 I had to show my hand then. I was the
21 bondsman and I was in court. Subsequently
22 the Newark Evening News printed my name. I
23 live in a high rise apartment house. The next
24 day I got a threatening letter on my life to
25 get out of an apartment that I pay \$235 a month.

1 When I was told that "If you are an
2 associate of Leroi Jones then you are a no
3 good nigger, get out."

4 I asked Mr. Bedula to give me a notice
5 because I am a property owner myself and I
6 know how it works legally.

7 MR. LEUCHTER: Bedula was from the
8 landlord?

9 THE WITNESS: This letter was an
10 anonymous letter. The landlord, or not Bedula
11 himself but the renting agent for Bedula, said
12 "Perhaps they don't like you because you are
13 associated with Leroi Jones."

14 I said "Mrs. Columbia, it is my money.
15 If I want to give it to Chou En Lai, Fu Man
16 Chu, burn it on the corner of Broad and Market
17 or blow it to the four winds, as long as you
18 get your \$235 a month that's all you should
19 be concerned about. My politics and my social
20 life is my own affair and if you want me to
21 move out, give me a notice and we will fight
22 in court. You have got to give me a reason
23 for making me move, if you break the lease."

24 Since that time I don't get very much
25 doorman service. The hall is unclean. There

1 is reprisal again. Again it's the system.

2 So today, of course, I went into court.
3 Being the bondsman I was there in case Leroi
4 would need me.

5 I wonder if you gentlemen would like
6 to hear this story of what happened in court
7 today. It is a sad story.

8 He was sentenced about a quarter of 12
9 to two and a half years and \$2,000. His
10 attorney, Irvin Booker, made a very impassioned
11 plea, the man's background, having never been
12 involved in crime, never touched a gun, didn't
13 fire a gun, didn't have it on his person, had
14 no right to fire it, didn't intend to fire
15 it, and why should this man who has so much
16 to offer and is offering the world and his own
17 community and himself and his family be subjected
18 to a jail sentence and a fine?

19 Judge Kapp didn't want to hear anything.
20 Leroi made a few statements and then he
21 sentenced him.

22 His wife, Sylvie, got up to walk out
23 of the court because she had just taken her
24 four month old baby because he had been crying
25 and she wanted to go back to see what the

1 child was doing. and his son, "Don't lay a hand
2 The court was crowded and I stood in the
3 back beside one of the sheriff's detectives
4 and I can't tell you his name, I don't know it
5 but if I see him again I will recognize him.
6 Sylvia got up to walk out and she had
7 to pass over another man in the seat. This
8 officer lunged at her and threw her down to the
9 seat. and \$500 fine and \$2000 get 18 months
10 At that moment the man next to her --
11 I think his name is Arthur Miller -- the little
12 boy, 17 years old, was sitting in front of her
13 and they came to her rescue. come to speak
14 This officer dragged them out of the
15 court and there were about ten police officers,
16 and they beat this little 17 year old Negro
17 in the hall right in Judge Kapp's court.
18 Lerol turned and he said "You see? I
19 told you, even in your own court, Judge Kapp,
20 you can't even control your police officers
21 in your own court while I am being sentenced."
22 I know Ralph Dambola, the new sheriff,
23 and I yelled to him "Ralph, please don't let
24 them kill this kid."

25 God help me and God help us, it was the

1 sheriff who ordered his men, "Don't lay a hand
2 on that boy. Arrest him but don't hit him."

3 They put him in jail and charged him
4 with contempt of court, the 17 year old named
5 Scotty. I can't tell you his first name. I
6 don't know it.

7 The other two boys, Wynn and McCray,
8 were also sentenced. I think Wynn got 18
9 months and \$500 fine and McCray got 18 months
10 and \$1,000 fine.

11 Perhaps I may appear calm but having
12 witnessed such a miscarriage of justice
13 against three innocent men who dare to speak
14 out against police and their tactics, I ask
15 myself since I too have witnessed all this,
16 I ask myself who is the next one?

17 Who will the next one be? I am trying
18 very hard to be objective but the sting, the
19 hurt, because remember, today I saw a
20 crucifixion.

21 I saw a man who hung on the cross as
22 our Almighty Savior did, for nothing. I saw
23 the Judases, the Pontius Pilates and the
24 crucifiers.

25 I witnessed today, gentlemen, a black

1 crucifixion and it wasn't in Jerusalem. It was
2 in the City of Newark, New Jersey.

3 It is a picture and a hanging and a
4 cross-burning in that court that were beyond my
5 mind and I will see the faces of those officers
6 as long as I shall live.

7 Mind you, I cannot forget the face of
8 Judge Leon Kapp who wouldn't even listen to any
9 reason at all. His mind was made up long ago
10 and I am going to tell you that whatever Leroi
11 Jones said in that court is justified.

12 He was tried by his oppressors, not
13 his peers. You can't get anything better out
14 of that than that. I saw a miscarriage of
15 justice.

16 It is pitiful that we are living in a
17 society which can't dictate any better common
18 sense and justice and judgment than I saw
19 today.

20 I hurt even more deeply because I have
21 a son named Ted and one named Marc and I have
22 to ask myself "Frances Ford, will Ted be
23 next? Will Marc be next?"

24 How much more can I hurt? Every other
25 mother is asking herself the same question and

1 until the day that you gentlemen who are sitting
2 around here can search your own souls and your
3 own consciences and come up with some answers,
4 why, oh why must we be crucified because of the
5 color of our skins?

6 What is wrong with black? What is so
7 wrong with white? What is so wrong with blue
8 and what is so wrong with red?

9 I go back to my opening statement. We
10 are all God's children and I am a Christian
11 and I hate wrong. I like right.

12 But I saw wrong and I hate it for all
13 it is worth and until we open up our hearts
14 and see these things and help to righten some
15 of the wrongs, gentlemen, Newark is going to
16 burn again.

17 Next time it burns it's going to burn
18 not on Springfield Avenue, it isn't going to
19 burn on West Kinney Street, it is not going to
20 burn on Clinton Avenue; it's going to burn in
21 Short Hills, it's going to burn in Millburn,
22 it's going to burn in Maplewood.

23 That's where the hurt came from and
24 the money went, men who made the ghetto. That's
25 how much hurt it is out there. I know because

1 I have been hurt but I thank my Almighty God
2 that I have been able with his precious love
3 to survive.

4 Your courts have to be gone into first,
5 and all of you lawyers here, with deference to
6 your profession, but you must start from the
7 top.

8 I know man in his own image is unjust,
9 but there must be some measure of justice other
10 than being bought.

11 You buy justice in America. You don't
12 speak it in courts. You buy it. It's for
13 sale.

14 I know because I spoke the truth in
15 Judge Lyons' court. Whoever heard of a person's
16 fine being bigger than his bail? I was bailed
17 \$50 and my fine was \$200.

18 All of these things are injustices.
19 These are the things that make for riots, if
20 you want to call them that, and these are the
21 things that make for rebellions, if you want to
22 call it that.

23 I say to you, all of you are good,
24 sound-thinking men. I see by your facial
25 expressions and I can appreciate how you look

1 Q and I believe in having had a little knowledge
 2 A of psychology, you are sincere.

3 Select Commission But in making your report to the

4 Q Governor, what I have said may not make a lot
 5 background? of sense to you right now but my case and

6 A others like mine is the beginning and was the
 7 New Jersey beginning to the end.

8 Q Major, You have to start someplace and you
 9 did you multiply mine by others and others and others
 10 that have been and what do you get? You get the rebellion,
 11 County Prison the hurt, not hate.

12 A That's Lerol Jones doesn't hate.

13 Q Is it? CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Mrs. Ford, I think
 14 from the we have listened to your message and gotten it
 15 specific and we will consider it.

16 A I received THE WITNESS: Thank you very much. I
 17 to give the hope I have been of service to you.

18 Q No. I think * * *
 19 exhibit.

20 A All right. I received the three as the copy

21 JOHN A. FITZSIMMONS, Sworn.

22 EXAMINATION BY MR. JAFFE:

23 Q Give your full name and address, please.

24 A John A. Fitzsimmons, 21 East Short Trail,

25 Sparta, New Jersey. MR. JAFFE: Could we mark all the autopsy