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MR. LIMAN: Mr. Ford. 1455

MR. MC KAY: Mr. Ford, will you remain standing to be sworn?

P E R R Y F O R D, called as a witness, having been first duly sworn by Mr. McKay, was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION BY MR. ADDISON:

Q Mr. Ford, will you state your full name, please.

A Perry Norman Ford.

Q Will you try to speak in the microphone, please.

A Perry Norman Ford.

Q Mr. Ford, I would like to direct your attention to the morning of September 13 in D-Yard at Attica. Will you please tell the Commission where you were located at that time?

A Would you like for me to show it on the map?

Q Yes, please.

A I--

Q Would you pick up the microphone.

A I was right here. In D-Block Yard.

Q You were standing near the trench of D-Block Yard?

A Yes, I was.

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1  
2 Q At that point did anything take place to 1456  
3 move you from that area?

4 A Well, the helicopter, a small helicopter  
5 came over the yard first and it circled and it went  
6 away and it came back again.

7 Q Was anything dropped from this helicopter?

8 A No, it wasn't.

9 Q There were inmates in this area, is that not  
10 correct?

11 A Yes, there was.

12 Q Did the helicopter send any announcement  
13 forth?

14 A No, it didn't.

15 Q What was your response or other inmates' response  
16 to this helicopter?

17 A They said "Power to the people", you know,  
18 and "Come on with it."

19 Q And what did you all mean by that?

20 A Meaning that if you want to kill us, you  
21 know, we're ready to die. If we can't get out of our  
22 condition.

23 Q What did you expect at that point, Mr. Ford?

24 A We really expected for Rockefeller to inter-  
25 vene, you know, and to assert his authority and have the  
pressure of the people outside, convince him to come in

1  
3 and grant us amnesty. We really believed we could 1457  
2 get amnesty.

3 Q This was a small army helicopter that flew  
4 over what you were responding--

5 A No, this looked like--it was a smaller job,  
6 type of helicopter. It wasn't the green one that  
7 brought the gas.

8 Q Now you're referring to a second helicopter?

9 A There was an army helicopter.

10 Q How long after the first helicopter flew  
11 over did the second helicopter arrive?

12 A After they left the second time, the small  
13 helicopter, that is, the bigger one came and came along  
14 the tunnel. The tunnel from A-Block--

15 Q Would you point that out on the chart,  
16 please.

17 A It came along this route. Straight up.

18 Q It flew over that tunnel--

19 A Letting off the gas. Then it circled here  
20 and covered the whole yard.

21 Q And gas was dropped at that point?

22 A Gas and I believe some type of pellets. Like  
23 exploding pellet or something. This also was dropped.

24 Q Where were you standing at this point?

25 A I was right here. (Indicating).

1 Q Did you do anything when the gas was  
2 dropped?

3 A I dove in the hole, I mean in the trench,  
4 you know, along here. (Indicating).

5 Q When you landed in the trench, were you  
6 there by yourself?

7 A No, there were about ten inmates, you know,  
8 maybe five in front of me and five behind me and one  
9 that I was laying on top of.

10 Q You landed on top of another inmate?

11 A He get in there before I did.

12 Q When you were in the trench, were you able  
13 to see anything taking place in the yard?

14 A Yes, I was able to see the helicopter come  
15 back around and the shooting had started, you know,  
16 like simultaneously right after the gas was dropped,  
17 the shooting started.

18 Q Had the shooting started before you jumped  
19 into the trench?

20 A I seen all the inmates in my area and I was  
21 looking in this area right here, (Indicating) go to  
22 the ground.

23 Q Were you looking from the trench?

24 A Yes, I was. Like I had to lift my head up  
25 to see what was happening.

1 Q At this point you were laying in the-- 1459

2 could you describe or put yourself in some position  
3 to give us an indication of how you were looking from  
4 the trench into the yard?

5 A My body was facing--my head was facing this  
6 way. (Indicating)

7 This is the bathroom right here and my head  
8 was facing this way and my body would have to be laying  
9 flat. When I looked behind me, I would raise up on my  
10 side, you know, my right side, to look behind me up  
11 the trench this way. This is where the negotiation  
12 table was set up, right here, and there was a lot  
13 of constant fire on that area.

14 Q Shooting was being directed in that area?

15 A Yes, it was.

16 Q Were there any inmates behind you?

17 A -es, there were. It was so filled up here  
18 that they had, you know, came all the way back up even  
19 with the ground, that's how many people were in there.

20 Q Did you see anyone get hit at this point?

21 A Not at that particular point, no, I didn't.

22 Q Did you see anyone get shot?

23 A Yes, I did.

24 Q And where were the people located?

25 A They were about five feet in here away from

1 me. When the helicopter circled twice and gave out the 1460  
2 demands to put your hands on your head and you would  
3 not be harmed. Sit or stand and move slowly towards  
4 the trooper because all that I see in that yard,  
5 troopers.

6 At this point three inmates stood up about  
7 five feet behind me.

8 Q They stood up after the helicopter said to  
9 put your hands on your head?

10 A Yes, they did.

11 Q And when they stood up, two of them was hit  
12 and the other one ducked and one had grabbed the lower  
13 part of his abdomen and the other had grabbed the,  
14 up by his shoulder.

15 Q Did you get up at this point, Mr. Ford?

16 A No, I didn't. I was contemplating on how I  
17 was going to move to this part of the yard. Because  
18 there was a hole dug also there. Before I could get  
19 up, you know, more fire, the fire became heavier and  
20 then it ceased.

21 Q Had the men in the yard begun to get up at that  
22 point?

23 A No, well, see, they didn't want to get up  
24 because of the fact that the fire was so heavy. The  
25 dudes tried to get up, inmates, that is, tried to get up.

1 7 They were hit, that is--

1461

2 Q Had the helicopter announced to everyone to  
3 stand up at this point?

4 A Yes, it did. That was about three times that  
5 it came by.

6 Q The shooting was still going on?

7 A Yes, it was.

8 Q You were about to get out of the trench?

9 A I was concentrating on that thought, yes, I  
10 was.

11 Q What happened about that time?

12 A At this time the fire ceased, you know, it  
13 died down and what happened, the helicopter gave another  
14 demand to stand up and put your hands on your head.

15 Q Did you get up at this point?

16 A No, I didn't.

17 Q What did you do?

18 A From this point, the inmates in the yard,  
19 from where I could see, you know, were thinking--you  
20 could see them restless in the trench, thinking about  
21 getting up. Like you could see the body of men moving,  
22 like if they were ready to comply with these rules but  
23 now, some had but as soon as the majority had raised,  
24 risen up, the fire became like heavier than it was at  
25 first, you know, on that yard.

---

1 8 Q Did you get out of the trench at all? 1462

2 A At that point I raised up to see where the  
3 troopers was at because I was getting ready to jump  
4 out and make my way across. From this position across  
5 here. (Indicating)

6 Q Did you get out of the trench or did you  
7 raise your head?

8 A No, when I raised my head I met a shotgun,  
9 a pump shotgun.

10 Q What do you mean you met a shotgun?

11 A In other words, a trooper was standing right  
12 here and there were troopers here, here and on top of  
13 the tunnel. And this trooper was standing here, he  
14 met me with a shotgun in his hand. He had on an  
15 orange raincoat. He had on a gas mask.

16 Q Mr. Ford, what do you mean when you say he  
17 met you with a shotgun--

18 A When I lifted my head up the shotgun was  
19 about this far from my face.

20 Q Did you have a weapon in your hands at that  
21 time?

22 A No, I didn't. He caught me rising up, in a  
23 rising position, and I froze.

24 Q Was anything said to you at this point?

25 A He mumbled something, I heard two words.

1  
9 "Kill nigger." I don't know what the rest of the 1463  
2 sentences were.

3 Q Did he have a gas mask on?

4 A Yes, he did.

5 Q Is this why you could not--

6 A It was muffled, yes, it was.

7 Q Is this why you couldn't understand exactly  
8 what, clearly what he was saying?

9 A Yes, it was.

10 Q So he said, "Kill nigger?"

11 A Yes, he did.

12 Q This is what you understood? What happened  
13 at that point?

14 A At that point he was beginning to squeeze the  
15 trigger but I had thought in my mind if I could watch  
16 the trigger and watch his finger, that at the right  
17 time--I didn't want to move before then because I  
18 thought if I would move, he would just move the gun.

19 So now I felt if he got comfortable in the  
20 position he was and he was squeezing the trigger, at the  
21 time of the actual squeezing I could move my head and  
22 in that way the shot would go over my shoulder. But a  
23 younger trooper walked up.

24 I say he looked to be about 16 years old.

25 Q Can we presume he was older than 16?

1 ~~16~~ 10 A Yes, he was. I believe he was. 1464

2 Q How can you tell that he was a trooper, a  
3 young trooper--did he have a gas mask on?

4 A No. See, his hair was longer, about half-  
5 way down his neck, you know, and he didn't have any mask  
6 on at all. He had a .357 Magnum in his hand.

7 Q Do you know for a fact it was a .357 Magnum?

8 A Yes, I do. I am quite familiar with it.

9 Q He came over to you and this first trooper?

10 A Yes, he came alongside of the trooper and I  
11 believe the trooper was right handed because his right  
12 hand was mounted around the stock and he had his index  
13 finger on the trigger of his right hand and at this  
14 point the young trooper was nervous. He panicked. And  
15 he said no. At the same time he said no, he hit the  
16 shotgun, making it turn away from me a little bit and  
17 it discharged and I had moved my head. And I got hit  
18 up here and the dirt kicked up behind me.

19 Q Mr. Ford, were you actually hit with--

20 A With a shotgun pellet.

21 Q You were hit with a pellet?

22 A Yes, I was.

23 Q The young trooper fired the shot or was it  
24 the first--

25 A No, it was the first trooper that had--the

1 young trooper didn't have a rifle. He had only 1465  
2 the Magnum in his hand, his hand pistol.

3 Q Were you subsequently treated for this  
4 wound?

5 A No, I wasn't, you know, because I didn't  
6 want to make mention of it because I felt as though'  
7 it would implicate me as being close to maybe the  
8 hostages. They figured everybody who would have a  
9 wound had already been isolated and put in a segre-  
10 gated unit and was waiting to go to the box, you know,  
11 because I was accused of killing an officer.

12 Q At this point, after the gun was discharged,  
13 did you fall to the ground or were you still on your  
14 feet?

15 A No, I didn't. I froze until the young  
16 officer told me to move out of there, nigger, and I  
17 moved.

18 Q In what direction did you move at that time?

19 A I moved in this direction. The back end of  
20 the trench. At the same time the inmate that occu-  
21 pied this spot and moved to the wall and I joined right  
22 into the body of inmates, you know, and mounted the wall  
23 along to the door.

24 Q So you joined the body of inmates that were  
25 moving toward the door in A-Yard?

1 12 A Right.

2 Q When you arrived at the door leading into  
3 the tunnel, there were a number of inmates before you?

4 A Yes, there were.

5 Q And as you got into the door, did anything  
6 unusual take place?

7 A Well, see, inside the door it was a table  
8 situated right here.

9 Q There was a table inside of the door?

10 A Right. A table was inside. And when I got  
11 inside the door there was a trooper up on the table  
12 with a shotgun in his hand and there was an inmate  
13 right here on this side.

14 Q Will you speak louder, please?

15 A There was an inmate up here on this side.  
16 And he was getting up off the floor trying to get  
17 into the, you know, to the out-going inmates into the  
18 A-Block Yard and the trooper turned and fired on him,  
19 you know, with the shotgun. At the time when I looked,  
20 I seen he got hit approximately by the neck or up here.

21 Anyway the blood leaped up. And this made  
22 the inmates that came through there, because they were  
23 trying to stop us from coming in because they were  
24 pushing too much and they were trying to hold us back  
25 in the yard until the rest got through. What they did

1 13 to this point, they stopped us from that shot, 1465B  
2 the inmates hugged the ground--

3 Q The shot was fired, you say, by the officer  
4 that was standing on the table inside of the door?

5 A It was a trooper.

6 Q A trooper?

7 A Right.

8 Q Inmates, what happened to the inmates at  
9 this time, did they scatter?

10 A The inmates that were in the hallway going  
11 through ducked because he was standing up on the table.

12 So that would make him higher than all of us,  
13 you know, because he could shoot at a down angle and  
14 hit this inmate. He couldn't have hit anybody else  
15 if their head would have been up but guys was moving  
16 through the door ducking, you know, like in a crouched  
17 position trying to get to A-Block Yard.

18 Q You saw the inmate hit?

19 A Yes, I did.

20 Q And you said you saw blood come from--

21 A I saw blood shoot up out of his, off of  
22 his body.

23 Q Did he fall at that point?

24 A Yes, he did. He went back. The shot impact  
25 hit him against the wall and he went down, you know.

---

1 4 Q Were there any other shots fired at that  
2 time, Mr. Ford?

3 A No, not in that--well, I heard shots down  
4 where the chapel was at, which is down here. This is  
5 the chapel. And shots were being fired down there,  
6 I could see troopers running down there shooting, you  
7 know, indiscriminately, in that area.

8 Q Did the inmate who was shot by the trooper  
9 from the table, was this inmate armed?

10 A No, he had nothing in his hand or anything,  
11 you know. He was just trying--

12 Q Was he running toward the trooper on the  
13 table, Mr. Ford?

14 A No, he wasn't. He was near the A-Block  
15 door. The way it's situated in the corridor, you have  
16 B-Block--I mean D-Block over here and this would be  
17 the--this is the go between right here. So he was  
18 more next--he was closer to A-Block's door. The trooper  
19 was closer to D-Block door. On that side of the hall,  
20 they were on different sides of the hall.

21 Q I see.

22 A And he was moving, trying to get out the A-  
23 Block door, which was nowhere near the trooper.

24 Q At this point, Mr. Ford, you were directed  
25 to go where?

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A Into A-Bock's yard.

1466

Q You came to the door?

A Yes, we came through the door here and it was troopers here and there was fire coming from up here into the yard.

Q How were you dressed as you came through the door, Mr. Ford?

A I had on a State jacket that I had put on because it was raining the night before. I had on a white undershirt and a pair of grey, you know, regulation pants, and boots, that's all, you know State books or shoes. That's all I had on.

Q You say as you were about to leave the exit there were troopers standing to the right of the door?

A Right here. Yes, they were.

Q And were they armed at that point?

A Yes, they were armed. It was two I believe to be dead inmates right here.

Q To the right of the door?

A They were laying on the ground, you know, straddled out.

Q They may have been alive?

A They could have been. I didn't see any movement.

Q Were you given any orders at that point as

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1  
15 you left the door?

1467

2 A To lay down in a spread eagled position,  
3 hands stretched as far as you can and legs the same  
4 and put your face into the ground and crawl like a  
5 worm, nigger. This is what one officer said, one  
6 trooper said.

7 Q What did he say to you, Mr. Ford?

8 A He said crawl like a nigger. I mean excuse  
9 me, crawl like a worm, nigger.

10 Q At that point you fell to the ground?

11 A Yes, I did.

12 Q Were the other inmates doing likewise?

13 A Everybody who came to the door fell to the  
14 ground. On this side of the door, because when we  
15 came out of the door we kind of clogged it up. We  
16 coming off a stoop here. We have a stoop into these  
17 doors that leads into the corridor and we clogged it  
18 up coming off of it. Guys was jumping off the sides  
19 of the stoop and whatnot trying to get to the ground  
20 because in front of us down here they had a line about  
21 50 feet away and nothing but troopers straight across  
22 the yard aiming shotguns and carbines at us, you know.

23 Q Mr. Ford, I presume that white inmates also  
24 came through that door.

25 A Yes, they did. They were called names such

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1 17 as nigger lover, you know. Nigger lover, you know,  
2 calling homosexual, you know, and things like that.

3 Q You crawled approximately how far before  
4 you--

5 A You see, I crawled about 40 feet into the  
6 yard. About all the way up to here.

7 Q Were you hit at any time, Mr. Ford, during  
8 your crawling?

9 A Yes, when I turned around, I turned around  
10 to--

11 Q Why did you turn around, Mr. Ford?

12 A Because they were picking out guys in  
13 front of me. The trooper was telling guys to lift  
14 their heads up. And after looking at their faces they  
15 were tapping them and telling them to come on out,  
16 crawl on out. I got inquisitive. They told me not  
17 to look, but I looked anyway.

18 So I looked and they were taking them back  
19 to A-Block side of the door, through A-Block because I  
20 was in a direct straight down from the door where I  
21 could look straight back into D-Block's yard and I seen  
22 them taking guys there and pushing them into the yard.

23 Q Mr. Ford, at this point were the officers  
24 who were taking inmates--

25 A These were troopers.

---

1 18 Q These were troopers?

1469

2 A Yes, they were.

3 Q Could they possibly have been sheriff's  
4 deputies?

5 A They could have been that because they had  
6 the same attire, you know, grey.

7 Q So you know at this time that persons  
8 other than correction officers were doing this. They  
9 may have been sheriff's deputies or--

10 A That's right.

11 Q You said that you were hit while you were  
12 crawling.

13 A Yes, I was.

14 Q Will you please describe the nature of that  
15 contact between you and another officer or between you  
16 and an officer?

17 A I was hit with a shotgun butt, you know,  
18 in my back and told not to turn around anymore,  
19 nigger, or we'll pull you out and kill you. Words to  
20 that effect.

21 Q Were you hit again before you got up and left  
22 the yard?

23 A When I was facing this wall right here, my  
24 face was down in the mud--

25 Q Your face was pointing towards cell block A?

---

1 19 A Right. And I looked in this direction. 1470

2 Q You looked over toward C-Yard?

3 A Yes, I did. You know, by the A-Block, there  
4 is another door here, you know, that goes into A-Block  
5 tunnel. And at that point I was looking at an inmate.  
6 I believed him to be a Muslim because he was in that  
7 type of stand on the ground trying to pray.

8 Q An inmate was laying on the ground praying?

9 A Yes, he was.

10 Q And what happened at that point?

11 A And some correction officer--

12 Q Will you speak up, please.

13 A Some correction officers and troopers approached  
14 them and said, what you praying for, nigger, you  
15 know. And he said, he said, "You already killed  
16 Brother--" I didn't get the name. He said, "You already  
17 killed brother," you know, and after that they had--I  
18 didn't see it because I had to turn my head back.

19 Q You were then--you were still in close at this  
20 point, Mr. Ford?

21 A Yes, I was.

22 Q Did you remain in your clothing until you  
23 left the yard?

24 A No, I didn't.

25 Q Then you were stripped?

---

1 20 A Yes, I was. I was stripped. There was 1471  
2 another inmate carrying, you know, one of the inmates  
3 that died.

4 Q Carrying?

5 A He was carrying. They were partners. Like  
6 in other words, they were buddies and he was carrying  
7 him and he was crying, you know, see what you all  
8 done? See what you all done. He didn't do nothing.  
9 He was crying walking toward the trooper. And they  
10 pointed like shotguns at him and they moved towards  
11 him. At this point I was hit again but I was hit with  
12 a club, a long right on the stick.

13 Q You presume you were hit for turning around  
14 and looking toward that inmate?

15 A Yes, I was.

16 Q You were hit at that point and you were hit  
17 for looking at the inmate who was praying at another  
18 point and at an earlier point you were hit?

19 A I was hit the first time for looking back  
20 at the door when they called the inmate out and they  
21 were pushing him back into D-Block's yard, while the  
22 fire was still going on from the roof. Then I got hit  
23 again on looking at the inmate carrying, you know, the  
24 inmate.

25 Q At what point, Mr. Ford, were you told to get

1  
21 up and strip?

1472

2 A We-1, that didn't come until about maybe 15  
3 minutes later, you know, because the inmates in front  
4 of me were being stripped. If they had false teeth,  
5 they were taking their teeth and breaking them. They  
6 took one inmate's glasses. They took another inmate's--  
7 they were taking everybody's watches and they were  
8 busting them up. They were looking at them saying,  
9 a cheap Timex and they busted them up. They used a  
10 strategy such as they told us, they said when I tap  
11 you on the shoulder with the stick, that's time for  
12 you to jump up and strip.

13 Now, what they would do, they would tap you  
14 on the but and you would jump up. Because you wanted  
15 to get out of the clothes so you wouldn't get hit so  
16 they would smack you with the stick in the face and in  
17 the neck.

18 This is the main areas they would hit you  
19 with the stick, in the head, in the face, in the neck.

20 Q Are you saying that the instructions were to  
21 stand up after you were tapped on the shoulder?

22 A Yes, it was.

23 Q And if you were tapped on any part of your  
24 body and you got up, then you were hit for not standing  
25 up?

---

1  
22

A Yes.

1473

2

Q By the correct instructions?

3

A Right.

4

Q Were you hit in that manner?

5

A No, I wasn't because I didn't get up when

6

he touched me back there.

7

Q He didn't--

8

A In other words, if you didn't move, then he

9

would say words like, you just smart, nigger, huh?

10

And he would tap you on the shoulder. And

11

then when you would get up, he would make you strip.

12

You know, some guy next to me got hit even more for

13

not getting up but the trooper in front of me didn't go

14

to that extreme.

15

Q Were you then stripped, Mr. Ford?

16

A Yes, I was.

17

Q Did anything unusual happen between the time

18

you were stripped and the time you got to the door?

19

A Well, they stripped me and they told me to

20

go and get in line. They had a line in the form of

21

a snake and you had to get in line and they were moving

22

them in one at a time.

23

So this way they get the officers a chance

24

to get their sticks ready. On both sides of the hall

25

they had officers, you know, with sticks, correction

1 2 3 officers.

1474

2 Q I presume now you are at the door to A-Block?

3 A Yes, I am.

4 Q Were you going immediately in or were you  
5 standing--

6 A No, I was standing outside, you know, like  
7 an inmate laying on the ground.

8 Actually--asked the trooper could he get some  
9 medication. He was shot, you know, I think above the  
10 heart because this is where the hole was at.

11 Q This is an inmate who was laying on the ground?

12 A Later on he died. He was one of the dead  
13 inmates. He asked could he get some medication and the  
14 trooper put his foot on his neck.

15 Q The trooper was standing near his--

16 A Next to him.

17 Q He asked for what?

18 A He asked for some kind of, you know, hospital  
19 assistance such as medication. He said I'm shot. You  
20 know, help me, please. He was pleading for his life.  
21 And the trooper turned around and put his foot on his  
22 neck.

23 Q You were standing at the door to A-Block at  
24 that point?

25 A Yes, I was.

---

2 ground with the trooper?

3 A This side of the door. There is a stoop  
4 there also. And he was on the opposite side--going out  
5 the door he would be on the left-hand side.

6 Q Approximately how far away were you when  
7 this took place?

8 A I was directly above him. I was directly  
9 above him.

10 Q Approximately how many feet away were you?

11 A I was up on the stoop. At that point I was  
12 up on the stoop. You see, they had got me here to  
13 give the officers in the hall a chance to get ready  
14 and then they were running them through one at a time.

15 Q Were there inmates in front of you at this  
16 point going through the door?

17 A Yes, there were. Like as soon as the inmates  
18 starts down the corridor here, they would send you.  
19 In other words, they don't want you too close together.

20 Q Could you look inside the hall at that point?

21 A Yes, I could.

22 Q Could you see the inmate who stood in front  
23 of you at that point?

24 A Yes, I could.

25 Q Could you see him going down the hall?

1 25 A He was running down the hall and he got 1476  
2 hit, you know, by the neck area and they sent him  
3 into the ground. He fell.

4 Q Were there officers and troopers in the hall  
5 at this point?

6 A No, all I seen in the hall was officers.

7 Q Correction officers?

8 A Correction officers.

9 Q Where were the troopers at this point? In  
10 this area?

11 A The troopers was, as you go up the stairs  
12 on the different landings because I went to the top.  
13 I was sent to the top.

14 Q Mr. Ford, you have said that approximately 15  
15 minutes after you were last hit, you were now at the  
16 door.

17 A Yes.

18 Q You were stripped and you were at the door.  
19 Was there shooting going on at this time, Mr. Ford?

20 A Yes, there was. Shooting was still going on.

21 Q From what direction do you believe it was  
22 coming?

23 A It was shooting heard from up here, up here  
24 on top of the A-Block. And also from inside where the  
25 chapel was at, located in D-Block. You could hear it

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1  
26 all along here. Because all of this here is D-Block. 1477

2  
3 And then all of this here is B-Block. And the same for  
4 the other two sides. So you can hear, from the windows  
5 right here. You can hear all this here in here.

6 Q So at this point you are standing near the  
7 door. You had left D-Yard where the shooting started?

8 A Yes, I did.

9 Q You crawled and you were stripped and approxi-  
10 mately 20 minutes elapsed in your mind from the time  
11 you hit the door until the time you got up to strip?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Shooting was still going on?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Will you please describe what happened now  
16 when you went through the door towards A-Block?

17 A Well, as I was going down A-Block, I was hit  
18 I say about, I can't be specific, I say it was over  
19 nine times.

20 Q Were you instructed to go down that hall?

21 A Yes, the officer told me to move out, nigger.

22 Q Was there a correction officer?

23 A Yes, it was.

24 Q What did he say to you?

25 A He said move out, nigger. In other words, to  
move out. Make your move down the hall. And at this

1 27 point they hit, you know, the officers would  
2 hit me on my back, the middle part of my back,  
3 my behind and the upper part of my back and on two  
4 occasions he tried for my head, you know, a different  
5 officer and I got my arm swollen. My arm was swollen  
6 because I had blocked it. Then I moved into the hall  
7 of the block, you know, where the tiers are at.

8 Q Mr. Ford, what kind of weapons were they using  
9 at this point?

10 A In the hallway?

11 Q Yes.

12 A Clubs. They had the short clubs. Not the  
13 long ones, the short ones.

14 Q Were these correction officers?

15 A Yes. Night sticks.

16 Q How long did it take you to run from the door  
17 to your cell, Mr. Ford? Do you have any idea?

18 A About ten minutes. Because, you see, when  
19 I got inside, I had stopped. When I got inside where  
20 the staircase is at because officers was trying to hit  
21 me in the groin with a stick, you know, and I was  
22 trying to get out of the way but at the same time I was  
23 looking at the desk.

24 Q Did they hit you at this point, were you hit  
25 at all--

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2 correction officers was in there and they were hitting  
3 us, you know, hitting me, and from that point I looked  
4 at the desk and I seen a photograph, you know, of an  
5 inmate, you know, who was also dead. But his photo-  
6 graph was enlarged. At this point I was blocking,  
7 trying to get out of the way of being hit anymore and  
8 then I ran upstairs. There was glass on the floor and  
9 the troopers was up there, correction officers and  
10 national guard.

11 Q When you arrived on the gallery, I presume at  
12 this point you went to your cell or a cell?

13 A Yes, I had to go all the way to the back of  
14 the tier.

15 Q You are saying that you went toward the last  
16 cell in that area?

17 A I was in exactly, I was in 41 cell on 4  
18 company.

19 Q And there are 42 cells on the block, is that  
20 not correct?

21 A Yes, 42 cells on a company, right.

22 Q Were you at that point placed in a cell?

23 A Yes, I was. But after getting hit up there  
24 also, you know, they hit you. The National Guard took  
25 a rifle and jammed it between my legs and I had to jump

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129 over it to keep it from hitting me in the testicles. 1480

2 And I had to stop. There was a trooper by the door  
3 itself.

4 Q Mr. Ford, how do you know it was a National  
5 Guard officer?

6 A Because he was dressed in his attire, you  
7 know, the green uniform.

8 Q Mr. Ford, when you arrived at the cell were  
9 any officers there, as you entered your cell?

10 A No, there wasn't.

11 Q Were you escorted to your cell?

12 A No. You had to run to your cell like through  
13 one of them things, when you're small you have to go  
14 through the fellow's legs and everybody hits you with  
15 a belt. This is what it was, only with sticks and guns  
16 and stuff like that.

17 Q At this point, Mr. Ford, you were still  
18 without clothes?

19 A Yes, I was.

20 Q You were then placed in your cell?

21 A Yes, I was.

22 Q Was the cell locked or were you placed in  
23 with some other inmates?

24 A No. I was placed in with two white inmates.  
25 I could hear them as they came out yelling. They were

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1 30 calling them nigger lovers and homies, you know,

2 and all kinds of, you know names like that.

3 Q Mr. Ford, did you remain in that cell?

4 A No, I didn't.

5 Q You were transferred?

6 A Well, see, what happened in that, the officers  
7 walked around, after they had the--everybody in their  
8 cells and that company were walking around picking  
9 out guys so I was hiding from a lot of police that I  
10 had contact with before.

11 Q How long after you were placed in the cell  
12 did this take place, Mr. Ford?

13 A This is about five minutes after that. They  
14 started coming around, you know, and it may have lasted  
15 until about 15 or 20 minutes later.

16 Q Did they come to your cell, Mr. Ford?

17 A They came and they stopped. First a sergeant  
18 came.

19 Q A sergeant correction officer?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q Was any other officer with him?

22 A Yes, he had four other officers with him.

23 Q Four other correction officers?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Were any state troopers with him?

1  
3 A No, there wasn't.

1482

2 Q Were you left in your cell or were you taken  
3 out?

4 A Well then, an officer, you know, that I had  
5 a confrontation with before, prior, you know, to the  
6 rebellion, he came and he spotted me, you know, and  
7 he say, "We going to kill you because you killed Quinn",  
8 you know. And I was accused of killing the first offi-  
9 cer or causing the death of the first officer that  
10 was killed.

11 Q Were you taken out of your cell at this point?

12 A He stepped back and got the cell number and  
13 said we'll be back for you. He was accompanied by  
14 three troopers at that time.

15 Q Did they subsequently come back?

16 A Yes, they did, about 15 minutes later.

17 Q What happened at that point?

18 A They told the two white inmates to stand up,  
19 put their hands on their heads and face the wall. Told  
20 me to rise, put my hands on my head and when the door  
21 opened, go out.

22 Q Did you go out, Mr. Ford?

23 A No, I was reluctant to come out.

24 Q Why is that?

25 A Because I knew they were going to kill me.

132 Q Did you ultimately come out? 1483

2 A Yes, I did, when the troopers drewed their  
3 pistols, I guess one spot is as good as another, so  
4 I just came out.

5 Q And what happened at that point, Mr. Ford?

6 A I had to walk down the gallery and they were  
7 behind me telling me how they were going to kill me  
8 and calling me a black slimy nigger, you know, and  
9 stuff like this here.

10 At the head of the gallery there was four  
11 other--there was six there. There was five state  
12 troopers and one correction officer that knew me. The  
13 officer knew me. The troopers didn't. He embedded  
14 in their mind that I was the one who killed Quinn,  
15 who caused his death. At the head of the gallery there  
16 was four troopers. Two, one had an automatic shotgun  
17 and the other had a carbine. And I was taken down-  
18 stairs to six company.

19 Q Were you placed in another cell, Mr. Ford?

20 A No. When I turned on 6 company, because as  
21 you turn right when you get to the bottom of the stairs,  
22 after stepping on the company there was a big puddle of  
23 blood. It looked to me to be broken pieces of teeth  
24 in it. And there was an officer standing down the  
25 company--

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1 33 Q A correction officer, Mr. Ford?

1484

2 A Yes, by an open cell. He said, "That's  
3 where we busted the last nigger head open at."

4 At this point I unclenched my hands on top  
5 of my head and formed them into two fists.

6 Q What were you going to do at this point,  
7 Mr. Ford?

8 A I was going to rumble.

9 Q You were going to fight with the correction  
10 officers?

11 A Yes, I was.

12 Q Why did you think this was going to be  
13 necessary?

14 A Because it was obvious they were going to  
15 hurt me down there, very bad, and I didn't want to get  
16 hurt without going out fighting. That's the way I  
17 felt.

18 Q Had you been given any clothes before leaving  
19 the other cell?

20 A Pants, that's all.

21 Q Did you have any shoes?

22 A No, I didn't.

23 Q Did you have any shirt?

24 A No, I didn't.

25 Q So therefore you were brought downstairs with

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1 34 your hands over your head?

2 A Yes, I was.

3 Q To 6 company?

4 A From 4 company.

5 Q From 4 company to 6 company?

6 A Yes, I was.

7 Q At this point I saw the blood, what appeared  
8 to you to be teeth?

9 A Yes.

10 Q You were going to take your hands from your  
11 head--were you ordered to at this point?

12 A No, I was going to do this on my own.

13 In other words, I was going to protect myself.

14 Q How many correction officers or troopers  
15 were standing around at this point? Would you please  
16 distinguish?

17 A Coming downstairs I couldn't be sure but when  
18 I did get a chance to see them, after I was knocked  
19 down--you see first when I tried to turn around I  
20 got hit with something hard like a pistol because I  
21 never felt a man hit as hard. I been in plenty of  
22 fights with inmates.

23 Q Did you go down at this point, Mr. Ford?

24 A Yes, I did. But I didn't go out. I tried to  
25 get back up. That's when I received a hit from a rifle

1 in the side. I seen that. And I seen about four  
2 grey uniforms and I seen the blue uniform which was a  
3 35 correction officer and they were beating me up, you  
4 know, like they hit me with the sticks. They stomped  
5 me and told me to get up. Any time I planted my  
6 hands to push up they stomped me. Kick me. And they  
7 beat me up for about ten minutes, you know.

8 Q At this point were you placed in a cell?

9 A No. They told me to crawl in the cell,  
10 nigger, before we finish.

11 Q During this ten minute contact were you by a  
12 number of officers, you said how many state troopers  
13 were there?

14 A There was one correction officer in the  
15 scuffle and it was about four troopers that I seen from  
16 looking up from the ground.

17 Q Were there correction officers who were  
18 normally on duty at the head of the gallery at that  
19 point? Had you seen them when you were brought into  
20 the gallery?

21 A No, there was only one officer there, you know,  
22 outside in the front of the tier, the way the tiers  
23 is, like two sides but in the front of that, there were  
24 other troopers and whatnot there.

25 This is why I don't know if any trooper stopped

1 36 there, how many came into the actual tier loca- 1487  
2 tion.

3 Q Did any correction officer or any trooper  
4 attempt to stop the beating?

5 A He took part in it, the one that was there  
6 and the other one just stood back and had a sadistic  
7 smile on his face as I looked up and was crawling back  
8 to the cell.

9 Q Was anything being said to you as you were  
10 being--

11 A They were calling me nigger and crawl and  
12 slimy worm. Then he said words, you nigger always  
13 begging for something, stuff like that. Always tearing  
14 up something. You know, stuff like that.

15 Q You were then placed in a cell, Mr. Ford?

16 A I crawled in the cell and then they closed the  
17 door.

18 Q And they left?

19 A No, the officer told me we will be back after  
20 the coffee break. After they take the coffee break  
21 they will come back and finish.

22 Q Did they come back, Mr. Ford?

23 A Yes, they did. It was dark when they came  
24 back. I don't know if it was them or not but I know  
25 it was two troopers.

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1 37 Q This was the night of the 13th? 1488

2 A Yes, it was.

3 It was two troopers or either two sheriff's  
4 deputies that he pointed out because they had the same  
5 kind of uniform with gas masks on and the cell popped  
6 up, you know.

7 Q Your cell was opened?

8 A They popped it open. You see, they got a box  
9 in the front where they can hit the cell--you can't reach  
10 it like if the door is closed you can't reach into the  
11 box and pop no cell open. You see. Because the door,  
12 the door that controls the gallery is controlled by  
13 a separate box next to that box. It's a little narrow  
14 box. It has two levers. One for the front gate of  
15 the gallery and the back gate of the gallery where a  
16 man can take a walk around for a count. If you stuck  
17 your arm out there you couldn't reach it no way possible.

18 Q So someone opened the cell from that box?

19 A Somebody in the front of the gallery opened  
20 it, yes, they did.

21 Q Two troopers came down, two troopers or  
22 other officers?

23 A I didn't see any other officers.

24 Q What I am saying is, there were troopers  
25 or other officers but not correction officers?

---

A Right.

2 Q And were you told to come out of your cell  
3 at that point?

4 A Yes, they took me out of my cell and they  
5 said things like, "We going to kill you, nigger.  
6 So you can pray to your Allah and all that stuff there."  
7 And they took me through into the hall there, you know,  
8 where the other officers sit.

9 Q Were the correction officers on duty at that  
10 point?

11 A Yes, there were but there were more troopers  
12 than correction officers there.

13 Q Where were you taken?

14 A I was taken into A-Block's yard.

15 Q You were taken back into A-Yard?

16 A Through this door here and over to this wall  
17 here.

18 Q This was the night of the 13th?

19 A Yes, it was.

20 Q What happened when you went out into that  
21 yard?

22 A When I went out to the yard, they put me  
23 against the wall and a trooper took bullets out of his  
24 gun. One of them had a shotgun. He took the bullets  
25 out of the gun and turned his back to me and then turned

B9 back. He said, "There's a bullet in here and you'll 1490  
2 find out when you're hit." He clicked it pointing it  
3 at me. He was clicking it, pulling the trigger, you  
4 know. Each time he pulled, I anticipated death, you  
5 know.

6 Q How long did this go on?

7 A This went on for ten minutes there there.

8 Q At that point, at the end of that time what  
9 happened to you?

10 A They took me back inside, back to the cell  
11 and the cell was open and they pushed me in the cell.  
12 I had to catch myself on the wall to keep from falling.

13 Q What, if anything, was said to you en route  
14 to your cell?

15 A "You lucky, nigger, but we not finished with  
16 you yet," you know, "We'll get you later on," you know.  
17 Words to that effect.

18 Q Were you stripped before taken to A-Yard?

19 A The second time?

20 Q On this occasion?

21 A No, I was not stripped.

22 Q When you were brought back in, you still had  
23 on your clothes?

24 A I had on still pants. That's all. Just  
25 pants.

---

1  
40 Q Up until this point you all had not been 1491  
2 issued shoes or shirts?

3 A No shoes, no shirts.

4 Q This was the night of the 13th?

5 A Yes, it was.

6 Q Did anything else unusual happen that evening?

7 A Not that evening other than the fact that a  
8 particular correction officer kept coming back and  
9 forth tormenting--there was two inmates on the gallery.  
10 One was shot 12 times or close to 12 times and he was  
11 in the cell. He had a bullet in his neck. There was  
12 another inmate with a bullet on his spine. And they were  
13 asking for medication, you know, could they get out to  
14 the doctor. They wasn't taking nobody from that company  
15 out to the hospital.

16 Q You learned of these injuries from what the  
17 inmates were telling you?

18 A From the inmate himself.

19 In other words, when I went back to Attica  
20 and returned from Comstock, I seen two inmates brought  
21 down from the box while I was at sick call and I took  
22 the liberty of speaking to him to see if they were  
23 all right.

24 Q Mr. Ford, you were transferred from Attica and  
25 what day did this take place?

1  
4 A The transfer took place on the 18th, five 1492  
2 days after the assault.

3 Q Do you remember approximately how many  
4 inmates, were there a large number of inmates being  
5 transferred that day?

6 A Yes, there were. They used four buses.

7 Q When you were transferred from Attica, do you  
8 remember what exit you were all taken from?

9 A The building, you mean?

10 Q Yes.

11 A Well, we came--first of all, me and some other  
12 inmates off of 6 company but one at a time. You had  
13 to go out when they popped your cell, put your hands on  
14 your head and the officer at the desk with the sergeant  
15 would read your card and he would ask you your name and  
16 your number and where you lived at in the city.

17 And at this time he would tell you to put on  
18 some shoes, you know. We had been issued shoes in those  
19 passing days.

20 Q Were you told you were being transferred?

21 A No, I wasn't. Not until the day I was going,  
22 you know. We had been fed earlier. This is how you know  
23 you're going out, you know, in a draft. They feed you  
24 early in the morning before the rest of the inmates in  
25 the cell.

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1 2 Q You said you left by bus from Attica?

2 A Yes, I did.

3 Q Where did you all board the buses, Mr. Ford?

4 A We came through the building that they call  
5 the BHZ, I mean--HBZ, excuse me, building. They came  
6 through that and out on the walk there and after we  
7 had been shackled and whatnot and we came down to  
8 the bus. They had the bus around there.

9 Q You were placed on the bus in shackles and  
10 handcuffs?

11 A Well, see, in the process of getting shackled  
12 and handcuffed, they had another trooper standing  
13 there by the HBZ, you know, downstairs where the ele-  
14 vators where they take you up to HBZ at.

15 Q Troopers were standing near the exit?

16 A There was a gate there. There was a gate  
17 that separates this part from the other part.

18 In other words, this gate is constantly  
19 locked, you know. They never leave this gate open.  
20 They have photography back there. They have the--they  
21 used to hold the court back there, disciplinary court  
22 back there. And this part, you go to the notary was  
23 over there also, you know.

24 Q What if anything, took place or was said to  
25 you by officers or troopers before getting on the bus,

2 A Well, in passing them after being shackled,  
3 you know, the troopers said, we miss you, nigger, but  
4 don't think you getting away, you know. Like the  
5 implication, we will see you down in Comstock, you know.

6 And then we moved out. I didn't want to look  
7 at them because I didn't want to provoke them with my  
8 eyes.

9 Q Were you hit at all?

10 A No, not going through there.

11 Q Was anyone else hit? Did you see anyone  
12 else get hit at this point?

13 A When we came out into the wall, going down  
14 to where the buses were at by the fence, an inmate,  
15 a white inmate, you know, by the notary there at Attica  
16 told him, "I'll teach you about putting writs in on me,  
17 nigger lover," and he kept him in the back.

18 Now, being shackled, he was shackled, you know,  
19 to both his legs and he was handcuffed to another  
20 inmate.

21 This made it difficult because for one, the  
22 shackles were tight and the handcuffs was tight and it  
23 was hard to circulate. So at this point when he got  
24 hit, you know, he fell into another inmate in front of  
25 him. He got kicked in the back and I am behind him.

1 4 I broke the line. You see somebody you 1495  
2 want to stop the line, you going where they're at.  
3 He kicked him. The inmate fell and I'm looking at  
4 the correction officer, you know, at this point the  
5 inmate got up. He didn't say anything because he didn't  
6 want any static like nobody else did.

7 And they moved us into the buses.

8 Q You got into the bus and you did not get  
9 back off the bus at this point?

10 A No, we didn't.

11 Q You were prepared to leave Attica? Had you  
12 been treated for your injuries before leaving?

13 A No, I hadn't.

14 Q Had you asked for any help?

15 A I had asked Dr. Williams, you know, that  
16 was--I wasn't supposed to mention his name?

17 Q Please don't mention his name but go right  
18 ahead. I asked him for medication and he told me,  
19 you know, words like, you know, like nigger, I'd have  
20 given you medication if I was in that yard, you know,  
21 with the troopers, you know, this is what he said. But  
22 he always had to stop at you, so this wasn't nothing  
23 new. And I didn't bother to go into details with him.  
24 I said yeah, you still the same. He said you all trying  
25 to get me to lose my job, you know, you want me kicked out.

1 5 Now, I'm never going to give you no medication. 1496

2 I hope you all die.

3 That's the only penitentiary I know where  
4 they have so many natural deaths. I mean, guys 27, in  
5 the last two months they had 7 heart attacks there.  
6 Guys 27, ranging from 27 on up.

7 Q Mr. Ford, you heard this from the inmate  
8 population during the last two months?

9 A I didn't--about the doctor?

10 Q About the deaths which you have just reported  
11 on. You gotten word of this from the inmate popula-  
12 tion?

13 A I was returned from Comstock to Attica.

14 Q How long did it take you all to get to Com-  
15 stock, Mr. Ford?

16 A About 7, 8 hours. It might have been longer.

17 Q You were riding on the bus with approximately  
18 how many inmates?

19 A About 32 inmates on the bus. I was on the  
20 first bus of the so-called involved inmates.

21 Q Was any correction officers on the bus with  
22 you?

23 A There were correction officers from Comstock.

24 Q When did the correction officers from Comstock  
25 board the bus?

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1 46 A They boarded the bus--they had shackled 1497  
2 us and handcuffed us. All the while they were doing  
3 this they were shooting hostility at us. Glares and,  
4 you know, like all kinds of implications that when you  
5 get where you're going, you got another one coming. From  
6 this point on the bus, he got on the bus and he was  
7 sitting on the bus when the Attica correction officer  
8 got on the bus and he was speaking to him for a while  
9 about his job.

10 Then he said, yeah, these bastards and these  
11 niggers and what not and whitey lovers, cut off officer  
12 so and so's nuts. That's what he said. At this point  
13 the officer from Comstock looked at us, looked at the  
14 rest of the inmates and he turned all the way around  
15 in his chair and then for some reason he glared at me,  
16 you know. I'm looking at him and he glared at me all  
17 through the ride, he was implicating he was going to  
18 shoot me.

19 Q All through the ride to Comstock?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Did you get the impression that there was a  
22 change of command, meaning that from the time that you  
23 all were taken from Attica's door to the bus, that  
24 there was a change of command, that the Comstock offi-  
25 cers had assumed authority?

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1 A They did take over the authority. And 1498

2 also this correction officer asked the Comstock officer  
3 to step off the bus for a minute.

4 I don't know what he told him only he came  
5 back. He looked like he was really--you know, he  
6 looked like he was really hostile.

7 He made it obvious, you know, that somebody  
8 is going to get hurt when we get to Comstock.

9 Q Did the correction officers on the bus going  
10 to Comstock with you have any weapons?

11 A They didn't get their weapons until after  
12 we got on the outside border of the institution.

13 Q You mean outside of Attica?

14 A Yes, the outside. The outside--we went  
15 out the back door through a double gate. They have a  
16 double wall back there that you go through and they  
17 check the buses or trucks, whatever it is. Security  
18 measure.

19 They check everything and then they pass you  
20 through at that point.

21 Q Did anything unusual happen, take place  
22 during the trip to Comstock?

23 A Once they received their guns, after all the  
24 buses that came outside because mine was the first to  
25 go out on the drive, on the side of the institution,

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1 8 they came, they got off the bus because then came 1499  
2 a little bus, like, and they got off the bus and I  
3 assume they were getting their weapons because every-  
4 body that went there was stuffing things like this  
5 here, like they had a clip holster on, a shoulder  
6 holster, you know, different kinds of--just implying  
7 that they have weapons and they were putting them on.

8           Then when they got back on the bus, there were  
9 three, there were three other than the driver, you  
10 know.

11           One correction officer, one used to be parole  
12 officer--

13           Q     How do you know he was a parole officer  
14 before?

15           A     He spoke about it with the officer. Plus  
16 an inmate on the bus knew him to be a police officer  
17 also on the street before he became a parole officer.

18           He looked to be young, in his early thirties.  
19 On top of this here, there was another--I don't know  
20 who he was, but he wasn't in uniform either and he wasn't  
21 a correction officer because he was some type of parole  
22 officer too because he often spoke about that quite  
23 often.

24           Q     When you arrived at Comstock, Mr. Ford, how  
25 were you received--I don't mean what kind of reception

1 49 was afforded the inmates. I mean what kind of 1500  
2 administrative procedures were set up?

3 A When we got to the institution, on going  
4 through the gate, it could have been a sheriff's deputy  
5 or state trooper. I believe it was a trooper because  
6 I seen a trooper's car right by and he had a shotgun  
7 mounted on his hip and on the other side there was  
8 two more and they were standing there and the bus  
9 went through and then as we got to the compound, you  
10 know, that's inside the institution, like the parking  
11 lot.

12 There was about 10 to 15 officers, you know,  
13 like in a line leading to the doorway of the building.  
14 My bus was the first bus to embark, to get off the  
15 bus.

16 And we came off and we went inside. Down  
17 a narrow hallway, they have a narrow hallway there and  
18 they have maybe two steps up and--

19 Q Were you taken inside in shackles?

20 A Yes, we were. In shackles and handcuffs.

21 Q Were you in two's or three's?

22 A In two's because the hall was too narrow.

23 Q How long were the shackles kept on you?

24 A About, I believe until they emptied all the  
25 buses, you know, because we stayed there for about 15

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1 90 minutes right there in that spot, with the 1501

2 shackles on.

3 Because your whole hand is, and feet was  
4 numb.

5 Q Were all the shackles taken off at one  
6 time?

7 A No, they started from the back at first and  
8 then one of the officers came up front which took  
9 mine off.

10 And then they started in the middle because  
11 is was looking behind me seeing what was happening.

12 Q What happened to you next or what were you  
13 ordered to do at this time?

14 A Well, in front of us standing up on the  
15 steps they had about 15 correction officers standing  
16 there. They didn't have any sticks, no tape across  
17 their hat or nothing like that.

18 And then they didn't look hostile or anything.

19 (Continued on page 1502.)  
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1 Q Were they saying anything to the 1502  
2 inmates?

3 A No, they weren't. They just was looking. Like  
4 wondering what we had been through.

5 Q At this point what did you do?

6 A They took us to the shower, you know, which is  
7 down the corridor. You go through two gates. There  
8 is three gates really but you go through two main  
9 gates. These are the gates that's inside the square.

10 After you go through these gates you go down  
11 and you make a right going down the hall and you go  
12 upstairs. This is where the shower is at. Also the  
13 state shop and downstairs the laundry.

14 Q Were you all showered by the bus load? In other  
15 words, the men in your bus were taken into a shower to-  
16 gether?

17 A Right.

18 Q What, if anything, happened at that point?

19 A We were in the shower, that'w when it started,  
20 you know. A sergeant came up there and he said, "All  
21 right you, niggers and whities, get out of them showers.  
22 This is not no resort."

23 So now, I was nude, you know, and I wanted to  
24 get some clothes on if there was going to be a fight  
25 or anything. I wanted to be dressed so I grabbed my

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1 shorts and put them on. Now I felt a

1503

2 little more secure.

3 One inmate asked the sergeant, "What did we  
4 do?" He answered, "Don't ask no questions, nigger."  
5 He made just like to call officers to aid him, you know,  
6 like the officers at the door moved closer to us. At  
7 this point I told two inmates next to me to be cool  
8 because they trying to provoke us. Just don't give  
9 them no reason to start anything.

10 Q You anticipated a fight at that point?

11 A Yes, I did because his hostility. You see,  
12 he draws in on the fact calling us niggers and you  
13 slimy bastards, you all should have been killed.

14 One inmate had a broken arm and one inmate had  
15 a bullet wound and he said things like you must have  
16 been close to the hostages.

17 Q Mr. Ford, you had just left Attica and you just  
18 experienced the so-called assault or the retaking of the  
19 institution on the 13th.

20 A I did.

21 Q What was your state of mind at this point upon  
22 arriving at Comstock?

23 A I was very paranoia at the fact that I had seen  
24 so many times like in the yard, you know, and plus the  
25 fact of being moved, you know, taken out of the cell at

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1 night and being moved up another company and 1504

2 all these different things and these different times,

3 I literally almost seen death. Like my whole life

4 shot by me in a matter of seconds.

5 You get tired as though you don't care no  
6 more like you experience it so much and then came to  
7 the peak and nothing ever happened so you don't really  
8 care, you know. If it got to be, then it got to be.

9 Q So you were prepared to fight at that point?

10 A If we had to, yes, I was.

11 Q What happened? What were you next instructed  
12 to do?

13 A At that point they gave us some small clothes  
14 that was on the floor and told us we would get new clothes  
15 issued to us later on and we was taken down, back down-  
16 stairs and now--see, when you came back from the shower,  
17 you go down the hallway. This time you turn right and  
18 you go into--there is four big green doors there in  
19 Comstock.

20 And this is cell R-control, this is the area  
21 I'm talking about, cell R-control and it's D and C on  
22 the left and it's B and A on the right.

23 Now, we went to the right, we went into A-block.  
24 Going into A-block we were in a straight line, we was  
25 issued new numbers, cell location and you had to remember

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4 this. If you didn't remember, you were 1505

2 going to get beat up. This is the implication--

3 Q Did you see any inmates being beaten?

4 A This is what the officer said.

5 Q What did they say to you?

6 A If any of you niggers and nigger lovers, you  
7 know, when they say nigger lovers, they were constantly  
8 referring to white inmates.

9 At this point they started using the term, and  
10 you spics, because there was a lot of Spanish guys also.

11 "Get out of line and don't remember what your number is  
12 and where you lock at, you going to get beat up."

13 This is what the officer said. Very calm. He  
14 was excited or nothing. And he has big stick, a little  
15 bit bigger than the average stick in his hand and I  
16 believed him.

17 Q Did you see anyone get beaten before they were  
18 assigned to their cells, Mr. Ford?

19 A No, because, you see, we moved in this way.  
20 He gave us our numbers and like you just turn, like  
21 he gave you your number and the inmate that he gave before  
22 you had just turned the corner, so what you would do, you  
23 follow him because I forget mine. I could place myself  
24 by the inmate that was in front of me, to which cell I  
25 supposed to go into.

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5 1 Q Mr. Ford, when you were assigned 1506

2 to your cell, you were assigned on a gallery with other  
3 inmates from Attica?

4 A Yes, I was.

5 Q Did anything unusual happen that was not--any  
6 treatment accorded you all that was not given to the  
7 general population?

8 A They had us isolated like we occupied most of  
9 A-block and they were still trying to move inmates,  
10 comstock inmates out of that area and they had the whole  
11 B-side, the B-block, nothing but Attica inmates.

12 Q Were you all beaten after you were transferred  
13 there?

14 A No. What they did, after we got in the  
15 cell, a sergeant, the same one that issued our numbers  
16 to us, and other cell locations, came by with the insti-  
17 tution--they got a card with your name on it and he asked  
18 the guys, like the guy next to me was in there for steal-  
19 ing a Cadillac.

20 And he said, "Youse a Cadillac stealer. You like  
21 one of them kind of niggers that steal cars," you know.  
22 He went to another inmate, you know, he backed up because  
23 he missed me because I was standing there looking through  
24 the crack.

25 He backed up and then he came back to me and

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6 he said, You're in here for such and

1507

2 such, you know, which my crime at the time was manslaughter

3 "You probably did it anyway. You should have got more  
4 time, nigger."

5 "I wish I was in the yard. You probably hurt  
6 one of those hostages out there."

7 So I didn't say anything because I see this  
8 is a jug, you know.

9 Q What do you mean by a jug, Mr. Ford?

10 A In other words, he is trying to provoke me into  
11 saying something to him, all he do is, he got authority,  
12 he is a sergeant. He call maybe 30 police down there in  
13 a matter of seconds and they just waiting like I will  
14 show you later on, they did eventually beat up somebody.

15 Q When did they beat up somebody?

16 A After he left, he went through the whole line.  
17 They came by and I knew there was going to be static  
18 now, because--trouble, that is, because they had the  
19 tape across their numbers on their hats.

20 Q The Comstock correction officers had taped  
21 the numbers on their hats?

22 A That's the only way that you can tell who the  
23 officer is if you don't know his name by taking his number  
24 while he is beating you up. This has been the case.

25 Now they got to eliminate that while they beating

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2 Q They didn't have the tape on their hats when  
3 you arrived at Comstock?

4 A No, they didn't.

5 Q This was the same day?

6 A Yes, it was.

7 Q What took place when they came on the gallery?

8 A They pointed to certain inmates and said that,  
9 like, hostile remarks like--

10 Q What were they saying it for?

11 A They made us stand up. They made us stand  
12 up and they say, "All you niggers and nigger lovers  
13 on the count, and all you spics, right, because we going  
14 to get even for what you did to our brothers. "

15 They were mocking some of us like power to the  
16 people now. "We going to show you some white power now,  
17 nigger." And they were going down the tier. At this  
18 point, going down the tier, they were pointing to certain  
19 inmates. Like they pointed to me saying, "You one  
20 of the leaders and we coming back to get you."

21 This is the implication they made. We comeing  
22 back to get you and they did this all the way down the  
23 line.

24 Q Did they take anyone out of the cell?

25 A No, not on my tier.

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Q When did they do that?

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A I was on B-1. On B-2 and 3, those two companies was occupied by non-participating inmates.

Q What do you mean by non-participating inmates?

A Inmates that weren't in the yard. They were at the wall and were placed in V-block by the trooper. And I assume by the trooper. But anyway, at that point they had went upstairs and you could hear them walking because it vibrates very heavy and at that point they cracked cells. And they were beating up on inmates. You could hear the inmates yelling. Other inmates yelling, let me out, sucker. You beating him out. Let me out. Crack my door. And they did. They put him back in his cell. It was related to me later on, if you couldn't walk, you would have to crawl back in.

Q Did you directly see any of the inmates who were-

A Beat up?

Q Yes.

A No, I didn't. But you could hear it. Like it's a gate on the other side from the cell and all this is straight up. It's straight up.

In other words, you could climb straight up there but they put a grill there that wasn't there before.

Q Mr. Ford, you were transferred to Attica approxi-

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9 1 mately six weeks ago, is that not

1510

2 correct?

3 A Yes, sir, I was.

4 Q Did you anticipate reprisals on going back to  
5 Attica?

6 A Yes, I did. They tried to play me into the  
7 box.

8 Q What do you mean by that?

9 A They were trying to get me to commit some kind  
10 of assault. Anything to get me to the box.

11 Q Why do you feel this was attempted?

12 A When I came back in the institution, me and four  
13 other inmates was transferred out of Comstock. When  
14 we came back in the institution--

15 Q Back to Attica?

16 A Back in Attica. They had some type of, like  
17 a meeting up front. You know, like the officers are  
18 at, where they were briefing at before they come on duty.  
19 At this point coming in the institution, down the walk,  
20 which is straight down there, we were meeting officers,  
21 you know, coming off duty. And they were looking at us,  
22 you know, with hostility, different ones that had been  
23 in the institution that I had seen when they took the  
24 institution back.

25 They were looking at us and what not and we

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10 came inside and they put us in the cage, 1511

2 the cage in the Administration Building.

3 At this point the officer came out and they  
4 wer punching their clock and they were looking at us  
5 and shooting glares at what not.

6 Q You were not hit at all?

7 A No, we weren't hit then.

8 Q Were you hit subsequently?

9 A No, not coming back at all as a matter of fact.

10 Q Had you been beaten at Comstock or had you  
11 witnessed beatings at Comstock? You had been beaten  
12 at Comstock. Had you any prior experiences of being  
13 beaten in institutions?

14 A All my life. But at Comstock I seen an inmate  
15 get beaten up and taken to the box but this is afte  
16 I moved off B-1. They moved us off of B-1 and put us  
17 in B-5. And the officers up there, they had a dis-  
18 turbance in the barbershop. It was related to me later  
19 on, you know, what happened.

20 But anyway, the officer--the inmate who was  
21 considered to be the troublemaker, 19 year old brother,  
22 you know, he little, he very slim, he small. Anyway,  
23 they brought--the officer brought him back to his cell.  
24 He locked next door to me. His number is one number  
25 less under mine, right.

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11 1 So they brought him, put him 1512  
2 in the cell. The officer that brought him back is the  
3 one that had our company. And what he did, when he  
4 opened the cell up, there is a step where you have to  
5 step into the cell and he pushed him and he fell over  
6 the chair. There is not much room in the cell there  
7 and he pushed him down, you know.

8 And then he said, "I'll teach you nigger. No  
9 nigger is supposed to tell no white man to keep his hands  
10 off him." This is what he said. I am standing at the  
11 bar and standing at him because me and him had a  
12 confrontation several times before that but it never  
13 came to the thing where he tried to put his hands on me  
14 at any time.

15 Q Mr. Ford, you said you had been beaten all your  
16 life. What do you mean by that?

17 A I had been in youth house.

18 Q How old were you when you were in the youth  
19 house?

20 A I was about 12 or 13. I believe I was about  
21 12 the first time.

22 Q Where was that?

23 A Spofford Avenue in the Bronx.

24 Q Were you beaten there?

25 A They got a thing there they call it the red

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12 1 devil. It's a board. They got a big 1513

2 board, you know, a piece of wood and they make you bend  
3 over and they hit you on the butt. Maybe seven or  
4 eight times.

5 Q You were 12 years old at the time?

6 A Yes, I was. The supervisor there would swing  
7 back as far as he can and hit you, you know, and if you  
8 move from the spot when you got hit, that was additional  
9 maybe two or three more hits. So you had to plant your-  
10 self firm and take it.

11 Q Were you beaten between that time and the time  
12 you were beaten at Attica?

13 A I was beaten several times there.

14 Q In Spofford?

15 A Yes, sir. I was beaten by a belt. And then  
16 one time the supervisor got hit with a chair and they  
17 rolled upstairs, all of them standing, I think at that  
18 time, I don't think none of them was standing under six  
19 foot tall, none of the supervisors.

20 Q How old were you at that time?

21 A I was about 12 years old at that time. And at  
22 that time garrison belts, the thick wide belt with the  
23 big buckles was in style and they had this on their  
24 hand and they beat all of us up.

25 They beat the white inmates up and they beat

13<sup>1</sup> the black inmates up and they beat the 1514

2 Spanish inmates up but mostly black. Black and Spanish.

3 Q Were you beaten subsequently?

4 A I was beat up, we got beat up for maybe an  
5 hour and a half on that occasion. We was beat up, stomped  
6 You standing in line, you can't run nowhere and you too  
7 scared to fight back because one brother tried to fight  
8 back and they stomped him too bad so this scared me from  
9 the thought of fighting back.

10 I thought I will yell long and loud enough and  
11 he will stop.

12 Q Have you ever served time in other institutions?

13 A Yes, I went from there to Otisville.

14 Q How old were you at Otisville?

15 A Thirteen going on 14.

16 Q How were you treated there, was there any brutality?

17 A I was beat up there also. I was beat up  
18 by the supervisors there. I got knocked down a flight  
19 of stairs one time. I was standing on the stairs, it  
20 goes down the other landing. I was standing there and  
21 me and another inmate was planning on stealing some  
22 tunafish out of the warehouse because we was hungry.  
23 The officer busted us, in other words, he caught us.

24 We telling each other how we going to do  
25 this, how we going to manipulate getting this tunafish.

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14 We got to do it right. While we were 1515  
2 devising a way to steal this tunafish, we young now.  
3 He caught us, this white officer. He wear gloves. When  
4 he beat you up he put on this leather-type gloves and  
5 then he smack you. He hit hard. He knock me down the  
6 stairs.

7 Q Were you beaten any place else, Mr. Ford?

8 A I was beaten on several occasions in Otisville.  
9 Then I was shipped from Otisville to Hampton.

10 Q How old were you then?

11 A I was about 15. Fifteen years old then.

12 Q Mr. Ford, you said you were prepared to fight  
13 when the correction officers and trooper came to your cell  
14 at Attica on the night of the 13th?

15 A Yes, I was.

16 Q Why do you think you prepared to fight at that  
17 time?

18 A All my life I be conditioned to fight. At time  
19 I sued techniques like this. At time when I see the  
20 number too big and I don't have no window, I yell  
21 louder. And huddle up in a ball because most of the time  
22 when I used to get hit and I know when they knock you  
23 down they went for two places.

24 They went for your head and for your nuts.  
25 And they beat you up and they try to--it was a thing

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1 about stripping you. They want to strip  
2 all the clothes off you because they felt when they  
3 strip all the clothes off because they humiliated you  
4 because nobody can be naked and beat up and have to  
5 fight and this is why they did that.

6 Q How old are you now?

7 A At that time I was about 14 years old.

8 Q How old are you now?

9 A I am 22.

10 Q You spent the last eight years or so--

11 A I spen about nine years, you know, about eight  
12 or nine years, somewhere in there in and out of childrens'  
13 joins all the way up to reformatory to the State Peni-  
14 tentiary.

15 Q Do you think you are being rehabilitated?

16 Mr. Ford?

17 A No, not at all. I mean like in the yough  
18 house they didn't have no school there. The school there  
19 was called the 615 and you go there and listen to records  
20 all day. From that point there you had to learn the  
21 rule of the institution.

22 How to steal, how to fight. These were the  
23 survival things. You had to learn this here if you want  
24 to live. They had other things such as you learn how to  
25 tell a lie.

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16<sup>1</sup> You see. Particularly where

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2 you had to tell a lie to make a person believe you.

3 Every time you try to get something without telling

4 a lie, usually you didn't get it so you had to develop

5 a con. Every time you wanted something you had to

6 con your way to getting it.

7 This was applied at that point but it didn't

8 get polished. In other words, I had to polish it up

9 to make it able to be used to manipulate people until

10 I got into reformatory and then eventually the State

11 Penitentiary.

12 Q Mr. Ford, do you think the system needs black

13 correction officers, do you think it would be a major

14 difference in dealing with inmates?

15 A You mean as far as the upstate regions, like

16 Attica and Comstock?

17 Q Yes.

18 A Well, no. It wouldn't do no good because,

19 you see, if you thinking about sending black correction

20 officers from down here up there, they would only run

21 into the same confrontation that we have been having

22 because, you see, it's an environmental clash. It's

23 an up-bring and an environment.

24 Their environment is more like conservative,

25 dealing with the Wallace and John Birch and Klu Klux Klan

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and that kind of concept and belief and  
our environment gives radical militants and liberal  
minded people down here in the city, in this region.  
And it's a difference of environmental upbringing.

You see, when we grow up, we relate to them  
with our environmental thoughts which we have been bred  
like from childbirth. Our neighborhood is different  
from their neighborhood, you see, and we had to learn  
different things. Up there when an officer comes on  
duty, all he could talk to you about is his cows or  
his corn he is growing.

He can't talk to you about what's happening at the  
spot tonight, where the dance is at or who one the  
basketball game because they don't go to things like  
this here. They just don't go in for it.

And to send black officers up there, that would  
start a war really because, we in jail and we can't do  
nothing. The only thing we can do is like Attica.

In the mind of every inmate we can't win. Really  
we know we couldn't win but still and all, we wasn't  
coming out of that yard, I know I wasn't. For the simple  
reason I figured, I anticipated for four days and also  
for the fifth morning, which confirmed my beliefs that if  
I came out of that yard and even went over there where  
the troopers occupied that part of the institution, that

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18<sub>1</sub>

all their frustrations and hostility

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would have been taken out on me.

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As an individual. Figured you had about 1,000 or so troopers and officers over there in A-block because you could see them in the window.

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I just anticipated myself walking over there, giving myself up and them beating me up because, you know, like they were angry. Like we not supposed to explain about our condition. You supposed to be happy because we give you half a slice of bread.

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Q Is that why you didn't leave D-yard before?

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A This is definitely why I didn't leave and a lot of other inmates didn't leave. You tell a man to go over there to these troopers and at the same time you got to realize that they going to take out all their frustrations on one person and I figure, well, I will lay and if the mass is going on in, if the mass moves in, I plant myself in the middle of the group that's moving--if they herd us in, I get in the middle.

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23

By the time they finish beating on the other outside inmates surrounding me, by the time they get to me their arms would be tired. They couldn't hit me no more. You know, they couldn't hit me as much.

24

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So I figure from that point of view, I could go in with the mass. If the mass would move, I would

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19 move, I would move. If the mass wasn't going 1520

2 to move, I wasn't going to move. I going to stay in the  
3 yard.

4 Q You are talking about the 13th of September?

5 A Yes, I was.

6 Q Did you expect to get out alive, Mr. Ford?

7 A No, I had anticipated death many time. I had  
8 talked with other inmates. Like we talked in the yard  
9 and they said, "Man, I don't feel like I'm going to  
10 live." I don't know, I just felt funny, you know.

11 And they asked, like one guy I was with here,  
12 he asked another inmate to hold his pictures of his  
13 family because he didn't feel like he was going to live.

14 And when it prevailed, he was dead, you know.  
15 He was shot five times in the back. In the back, in the  
16 front, different parts of the body.

17 MR. ADDISON: Mr. Chairman.

18 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Mr. Ford, I think  
19 a few members of the Commission have a couple of  
20 questions to ask you.

21 Mr. Henix?

22 EXAMINATION BY MR. HENIX:

23 Q I only have a few questions. I couldn't write  
24 down anything simply because the description that you  
25 gave, it's been a while since I have been in prison but

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2 sitting.

3 The think is that I'm asking though is you  
4 appear to have some education, you know, and you went to  
5 prison at a very early age, you started going through the  
6 mill at about 12. How did you acquire it?

7 A You see, I acquired it through inmates I seen  
8 in the yard, like one inmate in particular. Before  
9 I even came to Attica, you know, I mean, in the other  
10 joints, learning how to fight. They had inmates there  
11 that could, you know, who was very--they could express them-  
12 selves very well.

13 I asked them to help me on certain things, you  
14 know. And I asked my mother to bringme a dictionary.  
15 And they wouldn't allow that, you know. They wouldn't  
16 allow me to have a dictionary. I borrowed one from  
17 a teacher, you know.

18 They guy pointed words out, you know, and  
19 he wrote the vowels, you know, and showed me how the  
20 vowels go and the sounds of the words. He took time,  
21 you know. This was a brother inmate. He took time and  
22 he helped me, you know.

23 I kept on, you know, trying. But you see, there  
24 were so many things I wanted to read, like different  
25 things. Like filing papers. When I used to go down

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2 to peak in the folder before they come in the room  
3 because sometimes you get mail they don't want you to  
4 have it, they put it in your folder. So I would be  
5 looking for letters and what not. And this is why.

6 Q That's the way you learned.

7 I want to ask you also, did you learn any  
8 trade, where did you work while--usually if you go to  
9 the joints, I try to--you usually pick up some skill.  
10 Like a lot of guys, they want to stay on in the coal  
11 gang because of the work out or the barbershop or whatever.

12 Where did you work while in prison?

13 A Well, I started in the training school. In the  
14 training school in Otisville--excuse me, I worked at  
15 cutting glass, you know. For this white supervisor  
16 and me and him had a lot of confrontations, you know.  
17 So he thought the best way he could get more work out  
18 of me, which was all day.

19 You had to cut glass all day long. This is  
20 supposed to be labor. I wasn't allowed to go to school  
21 like I went to school one day, two days in fact, and  
22 then I was thrown out. And he threw me out of  
23 school and put me on a lawn mower. So at this point  
24 I had to cut glass, you know. And in that institution.

25 Then when I was shipped to Hampton, which is

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1  
2 Q Hampton Farms?

3 A Hampton Farms. I was also cutting glass, you  
4 know, in the compound. Then I was moved out, out to  
5 the farm. They got a farm there, a joining farm to the  
6 institution and I was moved ut there, packing potatoes.  
7 Like they have black dirt up there and they used to grow  
8 potatces and you had to pick out the rotten ones and  
9 eventually they put all of them in the same bag anyway.

10 They did this here for a while and after that  
11 I came back in the compound. I was assigned to school.  
12 Half a day of school. The teachers there, you know,  
13 they were--they didn't care, really, because you asked  
14 for books, the books we had was like outdated because  
15 the back was falling off of them and all kinds of things  
16 like this here.

17 So what happened is that the books were no good,  
18 you know, you couldn't learn nothing because the teacher  
19 never stayed in the room, you know, and the dudes and  
20 me would be talking about howwe going to raid something,  
21 you know, how we going to pull out to the commissary  
22 and steal something.

23 We used to go--we used to set up different  
24 groups to go and steal stuff. And then I got kicked  
25 out of school eventually. And then the next job I got

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231 was with the maintenance man, you know, 1524

2 he did all the work such as masonry in the institution.

3 I learned how to do masonry work. I learned from

4 him. I learned from him with reluctance because he didn't

5 want to teach me anything. He wanted me to carry a wheel

6 barrel, fill it up with sand and it would hurt my back,

7 you know.

8 At the end of two, three days my back would be

9 hurting, I had to carry this wheel barrel and I had to

10 dump this wheel barrel. Then I had to fill it up and

11 pull it up a rope. He pulls in the window, he puts

12 it on the floor or whatever he was fixing. And I learned

13 the trade that way, from looking over his shoulder when

14 he wasn't looking.

15 Q From that point?

16 A I was shipped out of there. From there I went

17 to Coxsackie, which is a--

18 Q New York State Vocational Institution for

19 boys?

20 A Right. I went there. I beat up there in

21 reception. The first day.

22 Q Then you worked in masonry when you were there?

23 A No. That was in Hampton. When I got to

24 Coxsackie I stayed in reception because I wasn't supposed

25 to be there. I was under the Department of Social Welfare,

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2 put me into a correctional institution, right. And  
3 I wasn't supposed to be there. It was illegal for  
4 me to be there but I had to stay there in reception  
5 for about a month and a half, longer than anybody else.  
6 They usually stay two weeks. I stayed a month and a  
7 half, you know.

8 At that time the warden that was at Auburn,  
9 when Auburn went up, you know, went into a riot, was  
10 a PK there. He had a beat up squad. That Attica is  
11 a blessing compared to that place there. That place  
12 at that time, they beat you up every other minute,  
13 you know, with nothing. They didn't have no commissary  
14 there. Or anything. What they had, it was the lines  
15 in the yard. If you are white, you had to stay on this  
16 side of the yard. If you're black, you stay here. If  
17 you're Spanish, stay up in this corner. The other  
18 white boys, they occupied most of the yard anyway. They  
19 had the L-shape of the wall.

20 Q Did they still have what they called the  
21 creeps to walk the center yard--

22 A Right, the creeps which, you know, is no  
23 brother there. There is nothing but white boys. What  
24 they do with them, these are the white guys, they want  
25 to go home and they don't want no trouble. To stay

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5 1 on the wall you got to get permission

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2 from a gee.

3 A gee is like head of the wall. And what he  
4 does, to qualify you got to sneak a brother or you might  
5 have to sneak a Spanish dude. They don't come to your  
6 face and throw up your hands. That's another place  
7 I learned how to fight so well. You had to learn to  
8 fight because they jab you from the back. They hit  
9 you in the back of the head and grab you across the arms  
10 so you couldn't move.

11 It only takes about three, four seconds before  
12 they, the officers in the yard take you and hit you  
13 with the sticks in the yard. There was no discretion  
14 about anybody jumping in. They beat you up and take  
15 you in there. Like I did several times, I ducked the  
16 stick, you know. I might get a glancing blow on the  
17 neck or something or on the shoulder.

18 You got to standing the clock. From standing  
19 the clock, you get a key to take you upstairs, they  
20 pack your stuff and take you to A-3, they strip you and  
21 they beat you up a little bit. Then they put you inside.  
22 Then you have to go down and meet the same guy that ran  
23 Auburn until the uprising.

24 And he was a racist, you know. He would tell  
25 you point blank, you know, you ain't supposed to hit no

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2 you know that. He had a trick. He had a pencil in  
3 his hand. He used a pencil in his hand sometime. He  
4 had an officer with him that was shellshocked from the  
5 war.

6 So all he had to do was make a sound like a  
7 dropping and he would go into convulsions, right. But  
8 he was transferred there for killing an inmate, stomping  
9 an inmate back in the 50's.

10 So now that's his henchman. This is his rolling  
11 partner. What he would do, if he wanted him to beat  
12 you up because he is positioned behind you, and you  
13 got to stand there with your arms folded. He would  
14 drop the pencil. And on the drop of the pencil, you can  
15 expect to get hit with a stick in the head. So he dropped  
16 the pencil and you learn after a while how to move out  
17 of the way.

18 The stick might hit the desk and put a big  
19 crack in the desk. You could block yourself and he beat  
20 you up a little bit and drag you--

21 Q In short, no place that you went was you really  
22 given anything that even resembles rehabilitation?

23 A No. You see, all the inhuman treatment was  
24 given to us was under the title of rehabilitation.  
25 In other words, when they beat you up and broke your

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271 arm or leg, this was rehabilitation.

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2 In other words, if observers came to my  
3 side, he would tell you he is being rehabilitated. There  
4 is nothing wrong with him. He got hurt falling down  
5 the stairs. Another thing they do, they make you sign  
6 accident forms. Like you get hurt, you know, you didn't  
7 get hurt, you got beat up but you had to sign a form  
8 saying that you did this to yourself.

9 Like you might have fell down the stairs or  
10 you hit your head on the bars. Any kind of marks on  
11 you, they try to get it on record as of you doing it.

12 Q Okay.

13 MR. HENIX: Okay, that's all.

14 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Mr. Marshall?

15 EXAMINATION BY MR. MARSHALL:

16 Q Mr. Ford, you said at the beginning that on  
17 Monday morning when the first helicopter came over, you  
18 believed that the state would give in and give amnesty  
19 to the inmates.

20 Did most of the other people believe that too?

21 A Yes. You see, we all felt that Governor Rocke-  
22 feller had the power to intervene and grant us amnesty.  
23 We understood the fact that the person or persons, who-  
24 ever that may have been that did this to office Quincy,  
25 you know, would suffer legal action and this was

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2           You know. And I believe that if he would have  
3 been firmer and more negotiation on the two topics of  
4 amnesty and the dismissal of the warden at that time,  
5 you know, that there wouldn't have been no problem be-  
6 cause of the fact that we knew he could intervene  
7 because after this all, he showed his power by taking  
8 the D.A. out of Wyoming County off of the investigation  
9 and letting the super cop run the investigation.

10           In other words, this going to give this man  
11 a chance to clean up. If you beat up a bunch of people  
12 and you cut up people, it's obvious to put you at the  
13 head of an investigation on these things, you going to  
14 cover up what you did.

15           And this is the case. Like he is heading an  
16 investigation in Attica now.

17           Q   Did--when you said amnesty then, you didn't  
18 mean amnesty for everybody?

19           A   No, we want amnesty on the sense that for  
20 destruction of state property and also the amnesty re-  
21 garding the hostages in the yard who might have suffered  
22 affliction and stuff like that.

23           Q   But not for injury done to officer Quincy?

24           A   No. Because this would have come through an  
25 investigation and--somebody is going to get blamed for

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that. They going to pick somebody out  
for that. They picked me out. My only alibi on that  
was the lieutenant who testified earlier on this here,  
he had locked me up, you see, prior to the rebellion.  
I was on the keeplock.

He had given me seven days for a confrontation  
I had, a verbal confrontation I had with an officer.  
And I was locked up. This is the only thing that  
bailed me out from that murder or that murder of  
Quincy, Officer Quincy.

MR. MARSHALL: That's all I have. Thank  
you, Mr. Ford.

MR. ROTHSCHILD: Mrs. Guerrero?

EXAMINATION BY MRS. GUERRERO:

Q Mr. Ford, will you please answer--you don't  
have to say a lot because you have said a great deal  
about these beatings but I am not quite certain of the  
way you put it and I would like to clarify my own  
thinking.

Will you answer me, were you beaten at Attica  
at any time before the rebellion? You personally?

A Before the rebellion?

Q Yes.

A No, I had never been beaten up. I had seen  
inmates get beat.

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Q But you--

2 A No, I hadn't.

3 Q Were you beat even after the rebellion, after  
4 the uprising at Attica?

5 A Yes, I was.

6 Q You were. You personally were?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And then when you went to Comstock, were  
9 you personally beaten there?

10 A Well, no, I wasn't.

11 Q But you, of course, you were beaten with  
12 words all the time. That has been going on all the  
13 time?

14 A That has been a constant thing.

15 Q Why do you believe this happens all the  
16 time, particularly--well not to you, perhaps to everybody  
17 but you have had the experience. Why?

18 A You mean with the words?

19 Q Yes.

20 A I mean, this is something that you will use  
21 to belittle a person. Like every nationality has a word  
22 that describes them in a derogatory manner.

23 Q Oh, I know. But why always, why always?

24 A When you use this word, you use it to humiliate  
25 a person. To belittle him. This is like a, trying to

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2 When you call a person a punk, a sissy. When  
3 you were small coming up kid, a person call you a faggot,  
4 this is what you supposed to fight. So this is the  
5 same thing at a later date. When somebody calls  
6 you a nigger, he really feels in his heart that this  
7 word hurts you and you act like it do because you let  
8 it bother you.

9 Q This is just one last, rather not a question.  
10 It's more advice or hoping. Aren't you going to try  
11 and learn some trade or go on to school and have your  
12 high school and so forth?

13 A You mean within--

14 Q You are so young. You are only 22.

15 A You mean within the institution?

16 Q Yes.

17 A You see, all the institutions I have been in,  
18 and I have been in quite a few, even Elmira, you know,  
19 and I have been beaten up in Elmira also.

20 I skipped that one. Well, in all the institu-  
21 tions I have been in, you know, there have been no  
22 rehabilitation program in none of them. All this is,  
23 they use the word rehabilitation to get off their  
24 frustrations.

25 What they do, they put it on paper and it

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38 looks good to the outside, like the 1533

2 menus they make up in Attica and other institutions.

3 The menu says Sirloin steak. They have different  
4 things but all this is hamburger. All this is is pork  
5 burger.

6 They say, they use a name like chicken cacciatore  
7 It don't mean nothing but maybe rice and with maybe  
8 a little bit of chicken meat. You got to really  
9 scrape through the pot to find some meat. The side of  
10 the pot. This rehabilitation thing, to me, it never  
11 existed in any of the institutions that I have been in  
12 because I tried.

13 I mean, I went to school, you know, and I  
14 even went to the point where I used to pay. This is  
15 another thing. My people, my mother, she tried to keep  
16 steady communication with me because she worries about  
17 me like all mothers worry about their kids.

18 She tried to keep up a steady communication  
19 with me. At this point she used to bring me money to buy  
20 stuff in the commissary like all the rest of the kids.  
21 She used to try encourage me about reading and--because  
22 she never had the opportunity because she had to raise  
23 here brothers and sisters and then she had to raise the  
24 family, like my family.

25 So now what it is here, you know, I never had

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134 the opportunity to get anybody to help 1534

2 me. A lot of times I had to pay with the money that  
3 she brought me, I bought commissary goods like cookies  
4 and I give it to a man. I give him maybe two packs  
5 of cookies.

6 Teach me how to read five pages of a book.  
7 And the guy would teach me how to read five pages of  
8 a book. And the guy would teach me. I went on,  
9 like in math. The same thing with math. I learned  
10 different things from counting, really from inmates.

11 Just like I learned how to fight from inmates.  
12 You have to learn all these little things, you see. But  
13 there was no interest there really. And they had helped  
14 me to get ahead.

15 That's the only rehabilitation. It's a constant  
16 thing within the institution that--take Attica, for  
17 instance. They can't relate to us about anything  
18 because they don't understand where we have come from.

19 You see, our environment is completely different  
20 to them.

21 MRS. GUERRERO: Yes, I know. You said  
22 that before. Thank you very much, Mr. Ford.

23 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Mr. Ford, as I think  
24 you know, all of our witnesses are invited if  
25 they wish voluntarily, as they wish, to make a stat

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2 Commission is finished with their questions.

3 If you would like to make such a state-  
4 ment we would like to hear it.

5 THE WITNESS: I would like to make  
6 a statement to the fact that any people living  
7 in the eastern part of the state should pay  
8 very close attention to their children in upstate  
9 institutions such as Attica, Clinton, and all  
10 these different places up there because it's  
11 very important that they keep up the communication  
12 because it's like this here.

13 When the institution feels an inmate is  
14 being neglected, not being watched, then they move  
15 in. These are--because if he gets his bones  
16 broke, he is not getting no steady visits, you  
17 know. He is not getting no steady mail so nobody  
18 really cares about him. And this is like--presently  
19 now like in HBZ building, they have--I learned this  
20 from inmates that are up there.

21 They have 80 inmates still up there now  
22 and what they're doing, they're still harassing  
23 them, you know, and the majority of them are black  
24 and Spanish up there.

25 And also, you know, the fact that this is

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2 danger up there an all these eastern--rather  
3 northern institutions, in that part of the state  
4 and I think it's very important that people, you  
5 know, understand, you know, the environmental  
6 clash there because this is a very important factor  
7 in this whole thing because you're dealing with  
8 people's lives.

9 Like you lost 43 people that could have  
10 been saved. And if the governor exerted all of  
11 of his power, he could have saved all their lives.

12 I mean, what could it hurt, you know,  
13 would a plane trip. As long as things like this  
14 happen, there is going to be more institutions  
15 going up. Like now for instance, he is talking  
16 about building a maxi-maxi. If I lived in a  
17 community where a maxi-maxi is going to be built  
18 I would protest this for the simple fact that what  
19 you're doing, you're putting some of the best  
20 minds, now dig this here.

21 A maxi-maxi is going to house inmates that  
22 they can't break or in other words, inmates that  
23 wouldn't be reindoctrinated by the way of thinking  
24 of the people in that part of the state and they  
25 going to put them in these maxi-maxi institutions.

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2 some of the best revolutionary minded people in  
3 these institutions, people that are economically  
4 inclined, politically inclined and socially  
5 inclined and after a while you going to have inmates  
6 wanting to get into the maxi-maxi because they  
7 feel they can further their education, not only  
8 this, because you have a more intelligent breed  
9 of inmates there because they going to take every-  
10 body out that they feel is going to have power to  
11 influence somebody, to do something or to going  
12 into an uprising.

13 Let's look at the dark side of it.

14 What are these institutions being made for? That's  
15 saying that they can't deal with a person so what  
16 tactic will they use to reach a person that they  
17 can't reach him out in the population?

18 Who will run these institutions? What  
19 will they teach? None of this has been implemented.  
20 All that has been said is that they're going to  
21 build a maxi-maxi. They going to put inmates in  
22 there that they feel will cause trouble in other  
23 institutions and this will rid the problem of the  
24 institutions.

25 The problem will never be rid in the insti-

1 38 tution as far as hostility training 1538

2 because for one thing the institution is unbalanced  
3 as far as black and Spanish speaking officers.

4 You don't have that up there.

5 And you can't ask anybody from this  
6 region down here to go up there because they, too,  
7 will be in a clash because they will bring their  
8 environmental thoughts from down here and they  
9 won't tolerate this.

10 But they will more so be in trouble with  
11 this type of environment because they going to  
12 bring their families, their kids, their wives, and  
13 they have to protect them. You see?

14 And so this maxi-maxi thing is, it's  
15 going to do more damage than good when it prevails  
16 because, for one thing, this is like a threat.  
17 This is like telling the inmate, if you don't let  
18 us reindoctrinate your way of thinking to ours,  
19 which if an inmate his will is weak and he will re-  
20 vise his ways of thinking to conform to the thinking  
21 in that community or that part of the state and  
22 when he returns to his community, he won't even  
23 be able to relate to his own people.

24 He can't speak to them because he doesn't  
25 fit any more. He is bringing their ideas and their

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concepts down here to an environment 1539  
that doesn't respect this or will listen to it.

The clash in personalities, the  
clash will be the simple fact that it has to be  
proven which shall suffice, you know, this environ-  
mental clash.

As far as being in that region of the state  
and this region of the state. They want to know  
which will suffice. We don't have no power.

In other words, we're inmates and we're  
being brought up there, you know, sent up there  
from down here with our type thoughts in our  
mind about our environments and how we been raised.

If a person is 30 years old, that  
means 30 years he been raised in one kind of life  
and all of a sudden in a matter of months he wants  
to change his whole way of thinking. You get him  
up there and they going to kill people, you know,  
like they did on September 13. This is going to  
be the case. It's very important.

Also the fact that the news media doesn't  
seem to get through to the inmates up there, to  
Attica, about what's going on down here and where  
they stand and they should know about this here.

All of the insitutions should know where

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2 thing is being argued. Why do we stand. How many  
3 more of us got to die before people start paying  
4 attention. This is our lives. We leave from an  
5 environment for doing something against a society  
6 here and we put into a society, confined within  
7 walls in another region of the state. A region that  
8 won't deal with us.

9 And then after that we are sent back,  
10 you know. The ones that are fortunate enough to  
11 make it back. May of us don't come back. They  
12 tell you we died of a heart attack. They do that  
13 by giving you too much insulin. If you give a  
14 person too much insulin in his heart, it will kill  
15 you, especially when he doesn't need it.

16 You know, this is a common thing with  
17 the doctor at Attica there. He gives you insulin  
18 when you don't need it. Not only that, he tells  
19 you that he will not help you.

20 For instarce, I had my finger broke  
21 from a football and after my finger was broke and  
22 the bone was sticking out of the skin. He told  
23 me, there is nothing wrong with you and gave me a  
24 handful of APC. These are pills. He used to be  
25 in a cage until all this investigation comes.

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2 is really taking care of business but he is not.  
3 You see, it's a white wash in Attica now. You  
4 come to the institution, it will appear that we  
5 are all right. The same thing will happen to Attica  
6 also on the fact that there are no relations between  
7 the officers and the brass--

8 EXAMINATION BY MR. ADDISON:

9 Q Mr. Ford, were you ever given insulin at  
10 Attica?

11 A No, I wasn't but I've seen one inmate, you  
12 know, complain. Like I went to sick call one day and  
13 he was standing there in line because you got to stand  
14 in line and he asked, you know, about getting something  
15 for his chest because he felt pain, you know. And  
16 the doctor wouldn't give him something. And shortly  
17 after that he died.

18 This guy is young, he died. And the doctor,  
19 he will tell you, the doctor will literally tell you  
20 to your face, if you Spanish, he say, "Spic, get out of  
21 here" and he'll lock you up.

22 That's the thing with the doctor there. If you  
23 ask for too much, he will lock you up. He'll tell you  
24 "Uh uh, you locked up." He will tell the sergeant, who-  
25 ever is out in the hall that you're locked up.

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2 MR. ADDISON: Thank you, Mr. Ford.

3 THE WITNESS: On the other matter

4 I would like to say that presently in Attica now,  
5 on my return, they have this new thing called a  
6 classification board. This means in 30 days,  
7 and I have a sheet of this upstairs if any of you  
8 wish to see it.

9 In 30 days you will get a job in the  
10 institution and it has been, inmates has been there  
11 and myself being returned have been there longer than  
12 30 days, some five months and haven't received any  
13 type of job. They still held on a 23-hour lock-in.  
14 Twenty-three-hour lock-in. Can you understand,  
15 23-hour lock-in?

16 I mean, no time out for recreation. This  
17 only requires the time to go to the mess hall and  
18 come back. This is what they do. They keep you  
19 locked in. You don't get no recreation. On top  
20 of recreation the food is the same. The only  
21 thing they have put on the line there is sugar.

22 BY MR. ADDISON:

23 Q You are in the confinement company, is that  
24 correct, you are in idle company, you are not working now

25 A Right. Idle company. The only thing they

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43 1 give you is sugar.

2 If anything, I personally believe the food has  
3 become worse.

4 MR. ADDISON: Mr. Ford, thank you  
5 very much.

6 (Witness excused.)

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2 H O W A R D G R E E N F I E L D, called as a  
3 witness, being first duly sworn by Mr. McKay,  
4 testified as follows:

5 EXAMINATION BY MR. ROSENFELD:

6 Q Mr. Greenfield, you are presently an inmate at  
7 Attica?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q How old are you, Mr. Greenfield?

10 A 26.

11 Q How long have you been at Attica?

12 A A little over three years.

13 Q What was the offense that brought you to  
14 Attica?

15 A Attempted robbery.

16 Q Mr. Greenfield, you have heard Mr. Ford's tes-  
17 timony and I would like if you will, to the extent that  
18 what you have to say corroborates what he said, to just  
19 mention that rather than go into the detail, if you would,  
20 please. To the extent that it is different, then explain  
21 it to us.

22 Now, were you in D-yard during the days of  
23 September 9th through September 13th; is that correct?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q Will you tell the Commission briefly how you

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1 came to be in D-yard?

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2 A Well, on the day of the riot, I was told to  
3 clean up my gallery; mop, sweep and everything. I had  
4 just finished cleaning my gallery and I heard some noise  
5 out in A-yard, so I went out the window and looked and  
6 I seen inmates going around picking up clubs and every-  
7 thing.

8 Q Would you speak up a little bit.

9 A So I went down into the block area and as I  
10 was going across from one hall--from one side of the  
11 hall to the other, I told the officer there in charge at  
12 the desk that there is a riot going on. I said "You  
13 better close the gates." Then I went to my cell. I  
14 stayed there for, oh, maybe 15, 20 minutes, and come  
15 back out and everybody is in the hall. Smoke is coming  
16 through the hallway. So I goes back on my gallery and  
17 I stay there with a bunch of other guys.

18 Q Did you have any desire to join in what was  
19 happening?

20 A No, I just wanted to stay out of the trouble.

21 Q How did you finally end up in the yard?

22 A I was staying there for maybe an hour. Finally  
23 an inmate comes into our gallery and he says out in the  
24 yard or stay here. And on that he has a club in his hand.  
25 You stay here. You stay dead. That was the impression

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1 I had. And so I goes in my cell and gets my

2 coat and goes out in the yard and everybody is kind of  
3 wandering around.

4 Q Then you subsequently made a tent in the yard  
5 with some of your friends?

6 A Yes, sir. We had 22 men in our tent. Blacks,  
7 Puerto Ricans and whites, and we pretty much stayed  
8 around to our own selves, you know.

9 Q There was a time subsequently when there were  
10 votes for block representatives. Did you vote?

11 v A No, sir.

12 Q Were you aware of what was going on at the ne-  
13 gotiating table about the various demands?

14 A I had heard some of the demands, but I wasn't  
15 paying too much attention.

16 Q Mr. Greenfield, if you could have left the yard  
17 during those four days, would you have?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q Why couldn't you?

20 A I wasn't about to go and try to get out the  
21 yard without a security guard and everything around, so I  
22 figured I might as well go around with the crowd and  
23 stay alive longer.

24 Q Are you telling me at one point it occurred to  
25 you to maybe put some kind of identifying mark on your

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1 tent, but you did not do it?

1547

2 A No, that wasn't me. That was somebody else  
3 that done that.

4 Q What happened?

5 A The other men that they put a white flag over  
6 their tent and to me, I don't know what the flag was  
7 supposed to be, but somebody noticed it and they sur-  
8 rounded them and told them, "Come with us." And they  
9 put him in a little circle out there where nobody was  
10 and told him to sit down and stay there.

11 Then they had a security gard around him and  
12 later on they had him digging ditches.

13 Q Mr. Greenfield, would it be fair to say that  
14 you did not ever volunteer to do anything while you  
15 were out there, is that correct?

16 A That's right.

17 Q And that most of the time you sat with your  
18 friends in your tent and you talked and you played  
19 cards; is that correct?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q And most of the time you did not go near the  
22 negotiating table or pay much attention to what was hap-  
23 pening; is that correct?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q Most of your concern basically was that you

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1 wanted to get out of their alive?

1548

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q Did you expect them to come in shooting?

4 A No, sir.

5 Q Mr. Greenfield, let's turn your attention to  
6 the morning of September 13th. You told me that you  
7 saw that yellow helicopter circling overhead a few  
8 minutes before the assault started.

9 Did you hear people talking about that heli-  
10 copter?

11 A I did not hear--you know, just a variety of  
12 people, I couldn't really understand what they were  
13 saying, but nobody really knew--I heard somebody say it  
14 might be Rockefeller. I did not know for sure. I  
15 just let it go at that. I figured it was more cameras  
16 and things like that.

17 Q What was the first indication that you had  
18 that the assault was actually starting?

19 A The army helicopter comes over and they come  
20 over from A-block right straight across into D-block and  
21 let go of the gas, and at first I heard a popping noise  
22 and couldn't understand what the popping noise was and  
23 then all of a sudden I looks in front of me and here is  
24 a man like he got a--slammed in the chest, you know. The  
25 impact slammed him around and I see the bullet, where the

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1 bullet had gone in and his chest was all blood 1549

2 and everything like that, so I dug down to the ground

3 and started crawling to the ditch.

4 Q Was that the big ditch that was dug around the

5 side of the yard?

6 A Yes, sir. And I started crawling to the ditch.

7 Just as I got to the edge, maybe three, four feet away,

8 I happened to glance up. This is all split second. I

9 glanced up and I see another inmate, like he was getting

10 -eady to jump in the hole.

11 He turns around and looks up on the catwalk and

12 he is actually blown into the hole by a shotgun blast

13 and I said, "Oh, hell, here goes." So, I jumped, I

14 crawls to the edge of the hole and I tries not to land

15 on top of him, I land half on and half off of him. I

16 dug my face into the ditch.

17 Q Mr. Greenfield, during this time did the shoot-

18 ing continue?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q Did you hear it stop at any point?

21 A When it was way over in A-block.

22 Q Some minutes later?

23 A Right.

24 Q Continue.

25 A As I was in the ditch, I could hear like a shot

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1 gun, when you reject a shell out of it, you could 1550  
2 hear another shell being shot into the chamber over top  
3 of me. And then I heard, all of a sudden I heard the  
4 helicopter over top and he telling us "Surrender to the  
5 nearest officer."

6 Q This is the announcement from the helicopter?

7 A Yes, sir. And this goes on for, oh, maybe two  
8 or three minutes at the most.

9 Q Did you get up and surrender?

10 A No, sir.

11 Q Why not?

12 A I was going to see what everybody else did. And  
13 finally I figures, maybe it's about time--I start to get  
14 up and all of a sudden I heard like a blast, like maybe  
15 in the war pictures or something. This blast go all over  
16 the place. So, I dives back down and I--

17 Q Back into the ditch?

18 A Right. I hear screaming. I heard somebody  
19 yell down "They're killing us, they're killing us." So,  
20 I puts my head down in the ditch. I don't know what made  
21 me look up. I looked up and down the ditch--I looked in  
22 here and right at the corner of the ditch is a trooper  
23 standing there with a pistol in his hand. And at first  
24 I figured he was just pointing it at somebody. Then, I  
25 see the gun like jerk like it was shot, and he was actually

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1 shooting down into the ditch. He shot maybe 1551  
2 three, four times I said, "Oh, hell, I'm dead." I  
3 puts my head down over--my hands over my head and puts  
4 it right into the mud and starts praying and it seems  
5 like hours, but it was just about a few minutes, the  
6 helicopters keep repeating, "Surrender, surrender."

7 So, finally, somebody ahead of me gets up and  
8 puts his hands on top of his head and nothing happened.  
9 So, I raise up, gets up and put my hands on top of my  
10 head and I turns around. Here is a trooper with a  
11 pistol pointed at the top of my head. So, I froze. I  
12 didn't know what to do. And he like motioned with his  
13 pistol, so I claimed up out of the hole---

14 Q He motioned with the pistol for you to get up  
15 out of the hole?

16 A Right. So I climbed up out of the hole and  
17 started walking towards A-block door and as I get to  
18 the door, all the inmates are trying to crowd in, get in,  
19 there is quite a mass there. Up over the top of the door  
20 is troopers and officers--

21 Q This is on the catwalk now right over the top  
22 of the door?

23 A Right. Right over the top of D-door. There  
24 was hollering. You couldn't understand what they was  
25 saying. So, I tried to get to the door. Just before

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1 you get to the door, there is inmates, you could  
2 tell they was dead by looking at them. One guy--

3 Q In any case, they were on the ground, motion-  
4 less?

5 A Right. Finally, I gets into the hallway and  
6 I leans up against a wall. Inmates inside the hall was  
7 all shot up, white inmates, black inmates, and they were  
8 begging for me. And this one brother, he calls me, he  
9 says "Help me up, don't leave me here. Don't let me die."

10 Q When you say a "brother," you mean a black  
11 inmate?

12 A Yes, sir. So, I pulls him up and another  
13 black inmate comes by and he must have been a friend and  
14 he grabbed a hold of him and goes out the door.

15 Q This is out the door into A-block yard?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q What happened when you got out the door?

18 A As I got out the door, there is like about  
19 three steps as you step down into the yard and as I  
20 stepped down in the yard, the men are yelling, "Lay  
21 down on the ground, get down."

22 Q Who was yelling?

23 A Troopers. And there was men piling two and  
24 three on top of each other. Finally, some of the  
25 troopers yelled over, "Spread out, spread out." So, I

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1 gets down on the ground--

1553

2 Q What happened to the man who you were helping  
3 through the door?

4 A He was ahead of me. He was crawling. And this  
5 trooper comes up and he slammed me in the back of the  
6 head with a club. He said, "Start crawling, you white  
7 nigger lover." He said, "Put your nose to the ground.  
8 If it comes up, your head is coming off." So, I starts  
9 crawling and they go a little ways and they tell us  
10 "Stop." All this time you could hear the whacks. I  
11 didn't dare to look. You could hear the whacks of--I  
12 don't know if it was guns or whatever it was. You could  
13 hear something hitting a body. And all the time you hear  
14 men groaning. One of them, as I got about half way across  
15 the yard, I heard somebody start choking, maybe three,  
16 four people away from me. It was tightly packed.

17 And you could tell when somebody chokes, and he  
18 started, you could see him out of the corner of my eye  
19 where he started to get up. He grabbed a hold of his  
20 throat. He was going into a fit and one of the troopers  
21 comes over and he said, "Get down there," and belts him  
22 with a club.

23 And one of the inmates hollered out and said  
24 "He is having a fit, don't hit him any more." So, the  
25 trooper takes his pistol and jams it--he wasn't gentle

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1 about it, he jams it down his mouth, right.

1554

2 Q To keep him from swallowing his tongue.

3 A Right. I imagine. And keep his teeth  
4 open, you know. Then another trooper, as I'm watching  
5 this, another trooper comes up and hits me on the back  
6 with a club and tells me, "Put your nose in the ground  
7 and keep it there."

8 Q During this time, Mr. Greenfield, did you hear  
9 a lot of shouting in the yard?

10 A There was so much noise, everything was all  
11 mixed up.

12 Q What did you hear said?

13 A They was calling all kinds of names, like "You  
14 white nigger lover, you cocksucker." Excuse my language,  
15 but--and you wouldn't believe some of the language they  
16 said. But, finally, they told us to start crawling  
17 again.

18 I guess finally, oh, maybe three-quarters of  
19 the way down, and they stopped and told us to stop. They  
20 started telling guys to get up and start undressing. So,  
21 this one guy gets up and, oh, maybe three, four feet  
22 ahead of me, and he says, "How many niggers you screw  
23 out in the yard?"

24 Q Who said that to him?

25 A Trooper.

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1 Q Again, Mr. Greenfield, you heard Mr. 1555

2 Ford asked, "Are you sure these were troopers as opposed  
3 to sheriffs' deputies?"

4 A They had orange raincoats on. It's hard to say  
5 which they were.

6 Q You are clear it was not correction officers?

7 A Right.

8 Q Go ahead.

9 A I didn't hear the reply, if they made any back  
10 at the trooper. So then he says, "Hurry up, you're not  
11 doing it fast enough." The guys are ripping off their  
12 clothes, they're so scared.

13 I am glancing around again and you see some  
14 guys, they get their clothes off and some of them lost  
15 complete control of their body, body functions. It was  
16 just sickening, you know, just--you see somebody so  
17 scared that they was bleeding all over the place.

18 Q What happened to you, Mr. Greenfield?

19 A I was laying there and this trooper comes up.  
20 I was lucky I didn't get belted in the back of the head.  
21 He just pushed me with his foot on top of the head. Told  
22 me to get up and get dressed. So, I gets undressed and  
23 everything and he told me to take off my watch. And I  
24 take it off and he stomps it on the ground, smashes it.  
25 He says, "Get in line." He slapped me on the ass--

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1 Q You were naked then?

2 A Yes, sir. I gets in the line. We like an  
3 S. The men going up to the A-block door and I'm watch-  
4 ing. As the line slowly moves up to the door, and so  
5 as the line moves along, I see this one trooper and he  
6 tells this black guy to get up and the guy gets up and  
7 everything and he strips it all off and he says, "Let  
8 me see that watch," you know, and the guy says "Hold  
9 out your hand."

10 He says, "Where did you get that watch, from  
11 an officer?" I couldn't understand what the inmate was  
12 saying, but he says, "Hold it out there," and he takes a  
13 club and smashes the watch on the guy's wrist. You get  
14 slapped with a club, it's going to hurt. So, anyway, this  
15 is continuously going on, the verbal language and every-  
16 thing and finally I gets up to the door, almost to the  
17 door, and I see these four, five, maybe six inmates lay-  
18 ing on the ground fully dressed with their hands hand-  
19 cuffed behind their back.

20 And off a little ways there is a heavy-set  
21 black colored inmate. He is laying on the table.

22 Q Was he dressed?

23 A No, sir, he was naked. They had him completely  
24 stretched right back.

25 Q He was lying on his back on a table near the

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1 door?

1557

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q Go ahead.

4 A He had a shotgun shell, I heard later it was  
5 something else, but it was a shotgun shell I seen, it  
6 was a loaded shotgun and it was laying on his chest and  
7 the troopers keep hollering, he says "Go on, shake it  
8 off. I want you to shake it off."

9 The guy is just moving his head staring. And  
10 he says, "If it falls off, nigger, you're dead." He  
11 says, "I'll blow your goddammed head right off."

12 So, finally, I gets up to the door and I steps  
13 in. There is a correction officer---

14 Q This is the door to A-tunnel?

15 A There is a correctional officer standing at  
16 the door. He gets up to the door.

17 Q Inside the door at the tunnel?

18 A Yes, sir. He says, "Stand there." I looks  
19 down the hall and I got so scared, man, my legs start  
20 to tremble. All I seen was correctional officers and  
21 troopers down both sides of the hallway and they had  
22 clubs in their hands, rifle butts. And I seen an inmate  
23 that was down on the floor and they was beating him at  
24 the further end of the hallway, just before he go into  
25 A-block.

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1           And another inmate was stopped about may- 1558  
2 be half way down and they were not bearing him, but they  
3 were beating, the one on the floor. Finally, they get  
4 the other one off the floor. Makes the other one run  
5 down.

6           As he runs down, they beat him, whack him with  
7 a club.

8           Q     During this time you were stopped at the head  
9 of the tunnel?

10          A     Yes, sir. And I gets up. He says--the fellow  
11 push him back--he says, "Beat it, nigger." So, I started  
12 running down to the hallway and the clubs are coming down  
13 on my butt, down my back, on my arm and finally I gets  
14 down just before you go into the hall into A-block.

15          Q     What was the condition of the floor of that  
16 tunnel?

17          A     Wet and glassy. Just as I stopped at the  
18 hall going into A-block, there is some trouble in the  
19 stairway and everything, and the trooper told me, "Stay  
20 still." Somebody came up behind me with a club and hit  
21 me on my hip bone and dropped me right to the floor. I  
22 wasn't expecting anything. He says "Get down there,"  
23 he says, "you ain't got no black power now; it's all  
24 white power." So, I gets down.

25                "I'm still on the floor and there is a colored

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1 brother in front of me. He says--oh, maybe 1559

2 three minutes went by and they told me to get back up  
3 again and told us to run up the stairs.

4 I goes up the stairs. Along the stairway, it-  
5 self, we didn't get beat because there was no officers  
6 in it. But the top stairway and going around to the  
7 other stairway, you get beat all the way around. We  
8 had to go up on the third floor.

9 Q When you say "beat," will you be more specific.  
10 What were they doing to you?

11 A Hitting me with their clubs and rifle butts  
12 and one guy hauled off and kicked me in the leg.

13 Q Were they just prodding you along to make you  
14 run faster?

15 A Do you want to see the scars?

16 Q You do have a scar on your hip where you men-  
17 tioned you got hit on your hip?

18 A Yes. So, finally I gets up to the top of the  
19 third floor and the black brother ahead of me, he is a  
20 little heavy-set fhort fellow, he stopped. And all I  
21 could see was big troopers and correction officers at  
22 the top of the stairway and they are calling, "Come on,  
23 nigger," he says, "your day aint over with yet."

24 They are calling him cocksucker and they are  
25 calling white nigger and all this shit, all this--so, any-

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1 way, he wouldn't come. He was scared. He had  
2 tears coming down his eyes and he says, "No, I'm not  
3 going to come. You're going to kill me."

4 One of the troopers come over there and grabbed  
5 him, you know, the Negro brother had short hair. He  
6 grabbed hold of his hair and yanked him up, by one hand,  
7 and actually lifted him right off his feet and threw him  
8 down on the floor and started beating him and kicking  
9 him in the stomach. Finally, they half dragged him and  
10 half threw him into the second cell. The minute he got  
11 up, I run right for that door, because I know if I stayed  
12 there, I was going to get hit.

13 So, I gets to the door and the guy trips me  
14 and gives---

15 Q When you say "the guy," who is this?

16 A The trooper. And shoves me into the cell and  
17 slams the door. There is two brothers and me in the  
18 cell.

19 Q So, there were three of you now in the cell?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q And then what happened?

22 A And then he told us to get on our knees on  
23 the floor with our hands over our heads. And I gets  
24 down. He sticks the shotgun, one of them sticks a shot-  
25 gun, one of them sticks a shotgun, it looked like a cannon

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1 to me through that bar. He said "We're going to 1561  
2 come back for you and iill you." He says, "We ought to  
3 kill you right here and now." He said, "You killed all  
4 those officers, you cut out all their privates," and  
5 things like this.

6 Q So you--

7 A So he just stood there needling us and then  
8 he walked away.

9 Q You remained free in that cell for the next  
10 what, three days?

11 A Two to three days.

12 Q During that time did the verbal abuse continue?

13 A All the time. Especially when they come around  
14 with the chow. The first few weeks we only got two meals  
15 a day. That wasn't much.

16 Q Who brought around the chow?

17 A The officers.

18 Q Correction officers?

19 A Yes, sir. And this one officer come around,  
20 I won't say his name.

21 Q Please continue.

22 A He comes around, he hands the coffee in. And  
23 he says, "Here," he says, I goes to reach for the coffee.  
24 He says, "Wait a minute, I haven't got no ashtray and he  
25 throws a cigarette in the coffee. And he hands it back

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1 in to me. And he handed the coffee in to the 1562

2 the two other guys. And then he--we had a sandwich, most-  
3 ly egg sandwich or cheese sandwich. He wads it all up  
4 and throws it in the cell, all three sandwiches. He  
5 says, "Eat that. It tastes real good when I get done  
6 with it."

7 Q That first night when you were put in there,  
8 you were naked. When did you finally get clothes?

9 A It's hard to really say. You are all tensed  
10 up and you don't realize how much time is going by. I  
11 might be wrong in saying a week. I might be wrong in  
12 saying four. I would say three to four, maybe five  
13 days. But all this time that we are in this cell, it  
14 seems so every hour or maybe not even that, they would  
15 come around and make you stand up for count and we're  
16 naked. We got no place to sleep. All we got in the  
17 cell was a bed, no mattress. Just spring mattress.

18 If you wanted to lay down, all you got was  
19 spring mattresses. No water. If you go to the toilet,  
20 you couldn't flush the toilet because there was no  
21 water to flush the toilet with and this was going on  
22 continuously.

23 You get up, stand for count every hour. If  
24 you didn't get up, they would come in after you.

25 Q Did there come a time in the next day or two

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1 when you got showers?

1563

2 A Yes, sir. These two officers come around to  
3 me and I never seen them before. They wasn't institu-  
4 tion officers, and they asked me--they had shipped the  
5 brother out.

6 Q There were now only two of you?

7 A Two of us. And they asked us if we wanted to  
8 work. We would do anything to get the hell out of that  
9 cell and it was a job. So, I goes out. We didn't know  
10 if they were just bullshitting or what, you know. So,  
11 we goes out where the showers is on the top floor there  
12 and he tells us to clean it up. So, we cleaned it all  
13 out.

14 After we got it all cleaned out, we asked them  
15 if we could take a shower; so he said, "Sure, go ahead."  
16 So, we goes in there. The water was cold, but it felt  
17 like a million. We had some regular state lye soap and  
18 we washed ourselves off and we figured we better hurry  
19 up, these other guys maybe they will want some, too.  
20 So, we hurreid up and showered and for a while the first  
21 ten cells, beautiful, they give them five minutes; no-  
22 body was getting beat or anything.

23 Finally it got to about the 11th or 12th  
24 cell--I forget which--and this one officer comes down  
25 the head of the gallery and he said "You are moving too

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1 slow, move it," and he whacked a guy in the ass 1564

2 with a club. So the guy runs down the gallery, right.

3 And he does this until---maybe five or six cells and it's  
4 getting rougher all the time.

5 At first it's just a few whacks on the ass  
6 and it's okay. You're used to it now after the 13th.  
7 All of a sudden they had this one guy come down, a white  
8 guy. He said "Run a little bit faster," he says, "Daddy  
9 Long Legs."

10 So, he had to run down and he come back. He  
11 said "Not fast enough. Come back down." The length  
12 of the tiers is fairly long and there is still the be-  
13 longing of the cells are still on the gallery. Broken  
14 glass and everything like this. They made this inmate  
15 run five times back and forth, ten all together, down  
16 and up. Five times down that gallery as fast as he can  
17 go and each time he would get down to where they were  
18 and they would haul off and belt him across the ass.  
19 They would slap him on the ass--I don't mean slap, I  
20 mean they left welts on him right across.

21 Q These were correction officers?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q Mr. Greenfield, did there come a time when  
24 this sort of thing tapered off?

25 A Yes, when the committees from the streets came

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2 Q Was that the Goldman Committee?

3 A There were so many committees.

4 Q But outsiders started to come through?

5 A Yes, sir. Then the doctors come around and  
6 they started asking if you was hurt or anything like that.  
7 Myself, I was bleeding from this hip and two days after  
8 I found out I was bleeding from this, I did not know  
9 what it was from, a bullet wound or what.

10 I said the hell with it because I'm not going  
11 out. I heard of guys going out and not coming back.  
12 The doctor came and asked me if anything was wrong. I  
13 said "No." I said, "I could use some cold tablets."  
14 He gave me a fistfull of cold tablets. They are like  
15 this, you know. And these cold tablets, they are red  
16 capsules. You take enough of them and it dries your  
17 blood right out. So, he goes on down the gallery and  
18 finally comes this--this doctor isn't the institution  
19 doctor. This is a different doctor. And he comes to  
20 this other cell and this inmate, all I could hear is him  
21 say "Get that guy out of there, he is almost dead. They  
22 finally bring a stretcher and you could see them carry  
23 him out. This guy was all shot up.

24 Q Did they carry him past your cell?

25 A Yes.

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1 Q Mr. Greenfield, you told us when you 1566  
2 were in the yard you heard people making speeches about  
3 when this thing was over there was going to be some  
4 rough stuff.

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q You expected it? Were you surprised at what  
7 happened to you?

8 A Damn right. I was expecting to get beat. I  
9 figured they would come in your cell and rough you up a  
10 little bit and that would be it. But when they beat  
11 you just the minute you get in E-block yard, they beat  
12 you all the way down to, coming up through the hall,  
13 coming up to your cell, it was fantastic. You wouldn't  
14 think they was human. I figured, you know, they called  
15 us animals, look what's happening now. So, what can you  
16 say? You can't do nothing back. You fight back, you're  
17 dead.

18 Q And you have told us you spent the four days  
19 in the yard just waiting for it to be over?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 MR. ROSENFELD: I have no other questions,  
22 Mr. Rothschild.

23 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Mr. Marshall has a  
24 question.

25 EXAMINATION BY MR. MARSHALL:

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1 Q You said at the beginning that, in answer 1567  
2 to a question that you did not expect them to come in  
3 shooting.

4 A That's right.

5 Q Why was that?

6 A Well, I figured that, you know, this is the  
7 first riot I have ever been into. I heard some guys  
8 saying that, they're not going to come in. They got all  
9 the hostages. They don't want to kill them. So, that's  
10 one of the reasons. All these hostages in there, these  
11 are all people, man. You don't kill your own people.  
12 Inmates, maybe, the hell with them, but you don't kill  
13 your own people, and it actually shocked me when they  
14 started shooting. I knew damn well some of their own  
15 people had to get killed, they had to with all that  
16 fire.

17 I found out later that Sgt. Cunningham was  
18 shot quite a few times. If they were such good shots,  
19 why wouldn't they shoot them in the legs. I imagine  
20 quite a few wives out there now would appreciate a bum  
21 leg than a dead husband. I don't understand the people.

22 Q Just one more, Mr. Greenfield. Were you sur-  
23 prised or didn't you think about this when nothing happen-  
24 ed on Thursday, that is, there was no effort made to re-  
25 take the institution by the corrections people?

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1           A     I figured that the same thing again, we 1568  
2 got the hostages, they don't want them hurt. That was  
3 before the riot come on. What's the only thing I could  
4 say.

5                   MR. ROTHSCHILD:       I think those are all  
6 the questions we have, Mr. Greenfield. As you know  
7 and as you heard the other witness, each witness has  
8 the opportunity to make a short statement. If you  
9 would like to, go right ahead.

10                   THE WITNESS:       Mr. Curtis, Lt. Curtis  
11 was on this morning and I would like to say a few  
12 things that I figure to me is wrong, because, first  
13 of all, he says that he locked himself on the first  
14 gallery, Gallery No. 1, and then he locked himself  
15 and two other hostages in his cell. Then he says  
16 another inmate come out that was on the gallery.  
17 That was all right, but then he said that the inmate  
18 seen the schoolhouse burning down. He says every-  
19 thing else burning down.

20                           How does he see this, see all these things  
21 burning down, because he hasn't got no view at all  
22 of the school, the shops or anything. There is  
23 only a doorway and that's no window at all, no  
24 glass in the doorway or nothing.

25                           Another thing, it says an inmate opened

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1 the lockbox, opened up the door.

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2 How does that lockbox get open? It's  
3 supposed to be closed. And the end gate, they have  
4 a little end gate as you go into your block onto  
5 the gallery. That is supposed to be closed before  
6 the cell doors are opened. Yet he says an inmate  
7 gets out there and opens up the door.

8 Another thing, he said that---when one of  
9 you people asked him about how to get out there, he  
10 said that he always leaves his box in in case a  
11 person wants to get toilet paper.

12 You forget, though, they are going to mess-  
13 hall. Who is going to carry a roll of toilet paper  
14 with him to the messhall. They always get that  
15 when they go back. It's just fantastic.

16 When he says the inmate, afterwards the  
17 inmate left the gallery, he just got done saying that  
18 the end of the gallery was locked. He couldn't get  
19 out. How did the inmate get out. It's impossible.  
20 He couldn't have got out, if that end gate was locked.  
21 It's just fantastic when he made his own mistakes  
22 right there in front of everybody.

23 I can't see how you people couldn't under-  
24 stand the things he was going through. He went  
25 through hell out there. I imagine that. But we

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1 went through hell, too. A lot of our

2 friends died. I seen a lot of my friends get

3 killed.

4 The people of Attica and the people all

5 over the United States, they blame us inmates for

6 killing these officers. How can they blame us?

7 Quinn was killed. They haven't found out

8 yet how he was killed. How can they blame us for

9 killing them, when they all died of bullets. They

10 did not die of no knives. They all died of bullets.

11 It was legalized murder. It as a massacre and it

12 could all have been stopped by Rockefeller. These

13 people did not need to be killed.

14 Rockefeller, he doesn't give a damn; he

15 goes to bed every night. What the hell does he care

16 about other people's lives. Just like I said,

17 legalized murder.

18 That's all I have to say.

19 MR. ROTHSCHILD: Thank you, Mr. Green-  
20 field.

21 (Witness excused.)

22 MR. ROTHSCHILD: I think that's the  
23 last witness for today. The Commission is adjourn-  
24 ed until 10:00 o'clock tomorrow morning.

25 (Time noted: 5:45 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK )  
                                  : ss  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

I, LEON ZUCK, a Shorthand Reporter and  
Notary Public within and for the State of New York,  
do hereby certify:

That I reported the continued proceedings  
in the within entitled matter (pages 1278-1570),  
and that the within transcript is a true record of  
said proceedings.

I further certify that I am not related  
to any of the parties to this action by blood or  
marriage; and that I am in no way interested in the  
outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  
hand this 25th day of April 1972.

  
LEON ZUCK