Would you now scan toward the mid-day meal.

Sliced corned beef, fried potatoes.

Could you now move onto the night meal.

Grilled cheeseburger.

Now you are on Wednesday. Could you now scan across. We are at breakfast, mid-day meal, now to dinner, which is--I can't read that easily here.

Is that sliced bologna?

On Thursday, breakfast, could you scan across, please.

Salisbury steak for mid-day meal and across for the night meal, please. That's beef hash.

Now, the last--Friday, please. Breakfast and now would you move to the mid-day meal. That's fish sticks and then further, tuna and egg salad.

Mr. Chairman, our next witness is Mr. Matthews and Mr. Addison will question him.

ROBERT MATTHEWS, called as a witness, was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION BY MR. ADDISON:

Q Mr. Matthews, what city are you from?
A Buffalo.
Q Are you presently an inmate at Attica?
A Yes, I am.
Q Did you go to high school in Buffalo?
A Yes, I did.
Q Did you complete high school at Buffalo?
A No.
Q What did you do when you left high school?
A I went into the service. United States Marine Corps.
Q Did you volunteer for the Marine Corps?
A Yes, sir.
Q Why did you volunteer for the Marine Corps?
A Well, I had belonged to school and I felt as if I still owed something to my parents because at the time my parents had expectations of me, you know, going to school, getting a diploma, going on to college. Consequently, I blew it when I got kicked out. So, now my next best thing that I thought that I could possibly make of it was to go into service. This is what I did.
Q Would you speak up, please.
A Yes, sir.
Q For how long a period did you volunteer?
A Four years.
Q Did you complete the entire four years?
A: No, I did not.

Q: Now, after getting out of the Marine Corps, did you return to Buffalo?

A: Right.

Q: Upon returning to Buffalo, did you find employment?

A: Not right away, no.

Q: When did you find employment, how long afterwards did you find employment?

A: Well, maybe somewhere between eight months to a year. I got a steady job. Prior to that, I had— I was out in more or less the streets.

Q: Have you used narcotics?

A: Yes, I have.

Q: You were a junkie after you came out of the Marine Corps?

A: Right.

Q: How long were you involved in narcotics?


Q: At any point did you abandon narcotics?

A: Periodically off and on, yes.

Q: Was any one thing that made you abandon it?

A: Right. After I came out of the service, I, myself, felt as though I had left my family down for a second time. I got an undesirable discharge. Through
trying to find myself as to what I should do in relation to jobwise, I started to hang out in the street. Behind this I was subjected to the ghetto life. Drugs, hustling, stealing, sticking up, things of this nature. This is what I applied my talents to. This is the life that I got involved in. And subsequently this is what I started doing, shooting dope, things of this nature.

Q Was there anything that made you abandon it?
A Right. At one point I came to the conclusion that this is not really what I wanted. This was not what I was seeking.

Q What did you--
A I came into contact with the militant groups that was--had sprouted.

Q Any particular group?
A I joined the NCCF, National Committee to Combat Fascism. Organizing bureau of the Black Panther Party. I thought here is someone who is trying to do something about the situation of the everyday Joe Blow in the streets, right.

I have found out that these particular people, I thought, were trying to help, so this is what drew me to this particular organization. I involved myself. I got involved.
Q What kind of things did you hope to do?

A Well, what I wanted to do was clean up the area, the community of which I came from. I wanted to help the young brothers and sisters that were coming up under the conditions that I came up under. This was my main goal.

Q So, Mr. Matthews, you got out of the Marine Corps. You then looked for a job for a year, eight months to a year?

A Yes.

Q You finally found some kind of employment?

A Right.

Q You then got out and became a junkie, got involved in the hip life and then you saw that this Black Panther Party represented some hope for the community and some means of liberating the community?

A Yes.

Q And then you were arrested?

A Right.

Q You were arrested for what charge?

A Well, my first bust, and I have had a few, my first one was burgultery. This happened in the year of 1967.

Q Speak up, please.
A This happened in the year 1967.

Now, when I had got busted for this, this particular thing, I had a job at the time. But I lost my job. I was sent to jail. I got out on bail. During this time, off and on I found work periodically.

Q Were you still using drugs at that time?
A Right. I was using drugs.

Q When you were convicted and then sentenced to come to Attica, what did you expect to find at Attica?

A Well, I had heard some very frightening tales about Attica. Nothing that I had heard about Attica was—how should I say?—nice. Everything that I heard was frightening.

They told me they had hardened criminals. Cats that had 20 to life.

Q How much time were you going to spend there?
A I was going to spend—long time. Five to ten years.

Q What else did you hear about Attica?
A Well, I had heard that the correction officers, the correctional department did not take any jive. You gave them any type of static, you would be severely dealt with.

Q So you were convicted and sentenced to Attica,
and in anticipation of going to Attica, you heard about all—you heard about the nightmare of Attica?

A Right.

Q So you arrived at Attica and when you arrived at Attica, you were sent to a reception facility?

A Right.

Q And how long did you spend in reception?

A Approximately 30 days, about a month.

Q During this 30 days I understand that an inmate goes through a kind of orientation?

A Right.

Q Now, you were in Attica for 30 days and this is prior to your assignment to a job?

A Right.

Q So, therefore, you had an opportunity to make further observations?

A Right.

Q These were now your impressions of Attica?

A Right.

Q And how did you feel about Attica, having been there in reception?

A Having been there in reception for approximately 30 days, I had a very dim view of Attica. As far as the correctional department was concerned, as far as the of-
ficers were concerned, because I could see that there was a wide gap in relationship as to inmate and officer. I could also see that there was very little or none at all rehabilitation program. I could see that they had a very limited school education program. And all of this, quite naturally, I am taking in because these are the things that was told to me before, to re-orientate myself, to better myself.

Q You were sent to Attica for rehabilitation?
A Supposedly, yes.

Q I understood you had an interview at Attica at the reception center.
A Right.

Q What takes place during this interview?
A Well, you are called down in front of the PK.

Q PK is--
A Right.

Q The principal keeper?
A Right. He has two bars on his shoulder, white shirt, black tie, cap with a gold braid. And you go to him. He asked you, he has your--he have your record in front of him on a piece of card about so wide (indicating). So he says to me, he says, "Well, you got five to ten years, Matthews."

I said, "Right."
He said, "What do you want to do?"

I said, "Seeing as though I blew schooling, I would like to take school program. I would like to finish my high school education."

He says solid on that. "Anything else? Do you have anything else in mind?"

I said, "Right." I said, "I would like to get into some type of program that would give me a trade, so that when I left the institution and I got back out there in the world, I could do something useful."

He said, "Right." He said, "What do you have in mind?"

So now, I'm already aware of the limited program that they had and at that particular time they had the metal shop, tailor shop and school.

Q You were a junkie prior to coming to Attica?
A Right.
Q And you not long before abandoned that?
A Right.
Q Did you have any rehabilitation prior to coming to Attica?
A As far as drug addiction, none whatsoever.
Q So, how did you kick your drug habit when you got to Attica?
A When I got to Attica, I had to more or less
reorientate myself. I had to rehabilitate myself. You see, I realized that I shot dope for a particular reason. Now, what I had to do is find out the reason and now, after I find--after I found out the reason, I had to make a supplement for this. I had to put the drugs aside and put something that would take the place of the drugs.

And I know that in finding something, it would have to be on a higher level than shooting dope.

Q So, you requested a school program?
A I requested school program, right.
Q And you were assigned to what program at Attica?
A I requested to go to school and I requested for the tailor shop, and I wound up in the metal shop, which I had anticipated anyway.

Q Why did you anticipate going to the metal shop?
A Well, in the first place the prisoners that were already in there told me, that's where you're going. You can ask for this. You can shoot for that. You can't request this or that, but you are going to wind up in the metal shop. This is where I wound up, the metal shop.

Q Why did you think--why did they tell you that you would be going to the metal shop? Why do you think they told you that?
A The fellow inmates?
Yes.

Because the majority of them knew what was happening with the rehabilitation program, because the majority of them knew what was actually going on.

Q Which is what?

A Which was that whatever the establishments puts you is where you are going, regardless where you want to go.

Q So you were assigned to the metal shop?

A Right.

Q I understand there are two metal shops there.

A Right.

Q You were assigned to which one?

A Metal 1.

Q And what was your first job assignment?

A My first job assignment was assembly of metal lockers, wall lockers.

Q What else does the metal shop do besides assemble wall lockers?

A They have assembly lines. They have two shears where they cut sheets of metal about--which are from three to four feet wide to five to six or seven feet long. They have machines that punch holes in the metal, where you put your screws and bolts in. They have machines that cuts several angles in the metal to place them together.
Q Are there a large number of black inmates in the metal shop?
A Right. The majority of them are black.
Q This is Metal Shop 1?
A This is Metal 1.
Q What was your first assignment?
A My first assignment was assembling of the lockers.
Q How much money did you earn?
A About 30 cents a day.
Q 30 cents a day?
A Right.
Q How much money was the average inmate earning there in Metal Shop 1?
A The average inmate, about that. Unless he had been there for a period of time. Maybe 8 to 6 months or a year or two, he might earn 45 cents, 50 cents.
Q Are the inmates in the Metal Shop 2 earning a similar salary?
A Metal 2?
Q Yes.
A The majority of the inmates in Metal 2, the majority of them are earning much, or we can say in prison, a great amount more than the guys in Metal 1.
Q  How much would that be?  150

A  That would be somewhere 80 cents to 90 cents to a dollar.

Q  That would be considered a very good job?

A  Right. This is what is known as fourth grade. You have four grades. First, second, third and forth. First grade, you earn maybe 30, 35 cents. Second, you earn maybe 40 to 67 cents. Third, you earn 65, maybe to 70 cents, 75 cents. Fourth grade, you earn anywhere from 75 up to a dollar.

Q  Mr. Matthews, what was your impression of the metal shop?

A  I had a very dim view of the metal shop. When they transferred me from reception to B-block, what houses the prisoners that work in Metal 1, the metal shop, right, I had vowed to close my door and not come out.

Q  Why did you decide to do that?

A  Because they had put me some place where I didn't request to go. And I thought the man was going to be what is known as fair with me. He had me under the impression that there is a great possibility I would go to school and that I would get the tailor shop, which didn't jump up. I wound up in the metal shop, so, quite naturally, I'm made. I got an attitude. So, I'm not going to work anywhere.
Q So at this point did you abandon your hopes for obtaining some sort of education?
A Right. A couple of guys walked by my cell, they said 'This new dude, he don't know what happened. You might as well go to the metal shop as lay in that cell.'
Q You mean if you don't go to work, you lay in the cell?
A Right.
Q Did you lay in the cell 24 hours a day, with the exception of meals?
A Right.
Q If you are not working?
A Except for--
Q If you are not working, you have to spend all of your time with the exception of meal times?
A Right.
Q So, you were told that you would get, you would be assigned to a program?
A Right.
Q Or you requested a program?
A Right.
Q You were denied the program, but assigned to the metal shop?
A Right.
Q You became hostile?
A Right.

Q Did you ultimately go to work?
A Yeah. Well, I had to pick the lesser between two evils. I had either to lay there or go to work. So, I got tired of laying there and I went to work.

Q So, you spent approximately five hours a day working?
A Five hours a day working?
Q Yes.
A No, it's more or less like eight.

Q Approximately eight hours a day working?
A Yes.

Q At this point, did you abandon your intention of getting an education or did you pursue something else?
A No. I had not abandoned it, but I was greatly disappointed in the way that operations were going. I had asked for schooling. They told me the reason I was here to rehabilitate myself and this is what I am trying to do. Consequently, they shoot me a curve. Behind this, I am angry, I got a hostile attitude. I have nobody to turn to. So, I have to roll with the punches and go with the work or lay in the cell. I go to work, but I still have the intentions, I still want to
pursue my education, right.

Q Did you make further inquiries?
A No, I dropped the tab.

Q What do you mean when you say you dropped the tab?
A It's a little piece of paper. You write down what you are requesting, and you drop it in the mailbox.

Q To whom?
A Correspondence, PK, whoever you want to get an interview from.

Q You dropped a tab to whom?
A I dropped a tab to PK.

Q Requesting what?
A Requesting as to my education program. What's happening with it. All right, so now maybe six or seven months later I get a book about that big, about so big. They shoot it to me in the cell. It's got math, algebra, English.

Q Speak up, please.
A English, math, algebra, social studies, all compiled in one book.

Q Was this for a social program?
A This is what is known as self-study program.

Q What would you achieve upon completing a program like that?
A What I would achieve is the book, GEB, I believe, or something to--

Q GED?
A Yes.

Q High school equivalency diploma?
A Yes.

Q By self-study, do you mean it is a program that the inmate has to work through himself?
A Right. The inmate has to get it on his own.

Q What subjects do you have to cover there?
A Math, English, science, history. Maybe those four compiled.

Q What was your reaction to this program?
A I beg your pardon?

Q What was your reaction to this?
A My reaction to this was, it was none too cool because I had left school in the 10th grade. I didn't even finish the 10th grade. So, now when I came to Attica, I requested to go to school, right, to further my education. After being denied this, six, seven months later they shoot a book up on me and they say "Get it for yourself." So now, I don't know anything in this book. This book to me is Greek. Because I didn't need anyone to shoot a book at me. What I needed was a teacher to tell me the difference between an amoeba and a protozoa.
I needed a teacher to tell me the difference between a pronoun and an adjective. I needed a teacher to tell me how to get the square root of pi minus X. I needed a teacher to tell me what made Rome fall and why Rome fell. I didn't need anybody to slide a book upon me. Because when they did this, quite naturally, I got the attitude again.

Now, I'm made all over again, because this is inadequate. They got words in here that I don't understand, I never seen before.

Q Did you abandon your educational--

A I forgot about that.

Q Let's talk about your relationship with the correction officers. How did the black inmates relate to correction officers?

A They don't. You just get along. He has a job to do. You got a job to do. His job is to make sure you do your job and your job is to do it. That's it.

Q Is there any discrimination in the treatment of correction officers and black inmates?

A Very much. Quite a bit.

Q Can you give us some examples of those?

A Well, like take me, for instance. When I first came to B-block, they were lined up going to chow one day, the messhall, right; so I got in the line. I
went on to chow. This happened about three or four 156
days. So, this one particular correction officer come
up to me, he said, "Well, now--dig this," he said, "I
want you to get in front of the line because you are
kind of a tall fellow."

This particular correction officer likes to see his men line up like little tin soldiers. The
tallest in the front and the little guy in the back.
So, he tells me to get in front.

So, I look at the dudes and I don't know any
of them, and all the stories I heard--I am not going to
be elbowing my wau up here, trying to please this dude
and these dudes I don't know anything about here who has
to be in here for 20 or 30 years, because I don't want
to step on nobody's toes; so, consequently, when I slide
up in line, they look at me. I look back at them. "What
can I do? The dude put me here. Don't get mad at me."

So, I go to chow. Very uncomfortable. But I
go anyway, right. So, now when we come back, another
correction officer comes on--this particular correction
officer is not on today. Another guy is in his place.
So, now when I go up to him, I say, "Where do I get in
line?"

He says, "I don't care where you get in line,
man. Just line up and go. Don't give me no trouble."
This is what I did. I got into the line again. And it seems like the guys up in front were more pleased. They felt more comfortable and I did, too. So, now, everything was groovy.

Q Have you generally found that you cannot anticipate a rule or how rules are going to be applied by the officers?

A Would you repeat that?

Q You just said that officers, one officer will tell you to line up, the other officer will say, "I don't care how you go to chow."

A You see, whenever a new rule is instituted, it's usually by the whims of an officer. Not too many come down from the higher authority, you know. It all depends on how the officer feels at this particular time. If he says, "This is a rule, this is a rule," and that's it. So be it, you do that.

If another guy comes on, he says "This is a rule," so be it. So when each officer, as an individual comes on, you go by his rules and his regulations. This is the rule.

Q The officers at Attica carry nightsticks or sticks?

A Right.

Q How are these sticks used by the officers?
You are having a conversation with an officer and he is standing up with his arms folded and he has his stick in his hand like this (indicating). So, right there you get aware of intimidation.

You ask why does the dude have to stand up in front of me with the stick on his chest? Why don't he put it behind him or something. Why don't he try to hide it?

Q How do you feel about that? How does that stick make you feel?

A How do I feel about the stick? Well, I, myself, I don't particularly care for the stick. I don't particularly care for the stick at all. When you come out, outside of the metal shop or when you line up in the hall, here is this guy beating on the wall, bam, bam, bam. All right.

MR. LIMAN: Can you stop one moment so the reporter can change his paper.

(continued on page 159)
Q  Mr. Matthews, you were talking about the use of the sticks by officers.
   A  Right.
Q  You said they beat them against the wall?
   A  Right. They use this particular procedure to quiet inmates down.
Q  Do they use it for any other reason?
   A  Intimidation. Intimidation so you know they are the establishment and you are the prisoner. This is more or less second nature. This is an everyday oddurrence. Everywhere you go, you got a correction officer with the stick.

   He has it wrapped around his hand with a little piece of hide. It carries it in a menacing manner. All this is intimidation. Any man in his right mind can't dig this, can't understand, plus he can't go for it.

   If I was to talk to you and I got a big stick in my hand, hey, you know.
Q  So your relationship with officers has been one, you don't know what to expect because the rules are applied inconsistently?
   A  Right.
Q  Two, the general attitude and particularly the fact that the sticks are used, one, to direct you from
one place to another, and most importantly, to intimidate your manhood.

A Right.

Q Have you found that the officers will apply the rules differently to black inmates and white inmates?

A Very much so. My impression when I came to Attica was that everybody was an inmate whether you are black, brown, blue or pink. But this isn't so. They have instituted ideas long before I came where there is a difference between black and white. At one time the barber shop, they had a particular set of inmates to cut the white fellows' hair and a particular group of inmates to cut the black inmates' hair.

They would say, all right, the white guys line up over here, the black guys line up over here. They have what is known, and this is legend in the prison on population about black ice and white ice.

Q What do you mean by black ice and white ice?

A Every year, the 4th of July, they have a very--they have a big gala festival where they open all the yards and they let the inmates circulate. A big party. Guys have Kool-ade, lemonade, and they are out in the yard. Bands being played. A guy can circulate and see his brother or a friend of his that he hasn't
seen in maybe six years, seven, 10 years.

So now they come to a yard with a big 50-gallon drum of ice. They say, all right, you guys line up, white ice.

So they throw the ice on the ground.

Q Which inmates line up?
A The white guys get this ice. This is what is known as white ice.

After they finish getting their ice, they come along with another gallon, they come along with another drum filled up with ice and they throw this on the ground and they say, all right, this ice for the black guys.

The black guys get their ice.

Q You were there the last 4th of July?
A Yes.

Q Do they still continue this practice of issuing black and white ice?
A No. They simply have gone underground now and say go for yourself.

Q You came into the institution last year. You said one practice has been abandoned. You said there are other examples of discrimination on the part of officers?
As a matter of fact, the package room, where you get your packages. Now, I myself don't eat any pork, right?

Q  Is that because you are a Muslim?
A  Yes. Now, in my packages, which is supposed to be a certain many pounds, 15, 20 pounds, something of this sort. The majority of the things they turn away from me is the majority of things that I want. They say I cannot have this. I was down a particular time and I had a Dickie.

Q  What is a Dickie?
A  It used to be in style a couple years back. Turtleneck with a little piece of cloth. You slip it over your head on your shirt.

We called those Dickies. So now, the officer told me, he said hey, man, you can't have anything around your neck. I said what do you mean? He said, you got to take that off. I took it off. So now I'm getting my package. I had to take it off. I received my package and I was getting ready to split. A white guy came in with a white turtleneck sweater. It is under here.

Now, I am at the gate and I am getting ready to go back to the block. So before I leave I am going
to see what the dude is going to tell him. Before I go out he don't tell him anything, right. When I am looking back and I am proceeding, right, I am waiting for him to tell him you have to take that off, but that don't jump off. He got his packages and nobody said anything.

He was allowed but me, I had to take mine off.

Q Would this generally be truth with most black inmates?

A That's right.

Q You talked about discrimination in the application of rules. You talked a great deal about the correction officers.

A Yes.

Q Have you ever been locked up within Attica for violating a rule?

A Right. I was locked up for talking after hours. When I first came they have what is known as, we call it shut-up bell. It rings at 8 o'clock. After that no talking.

So now I was rapping. The officer came sliding down the gallery, he busted me. I got keeplock. I said, all right, big deal, give me another one. So I said two at one time.
Q What do you mean by keeplock?

A That means you stay in your cell 24 hours a day. You don't go out for nothing, for no reason at all. You eat, sleep and no recreation, no yard, no work.

Q How much time do you normally spend in your cell?

A 15 hours.

Q So therefore--

A So the keeplock wasn't a big thing as far as I was concerned.

Q Have you ever been--have you had knowledge of any physical abuse by correction officers?

A I had heard stories, right, but now, actually seen any, I have never witnessed, but now I have been told that the procedure is to take you out of your cell, shoot you to what is known as HBZ, which houses the box area, right, and there--

Q It's the segregation?

A Segregation.

Q What about verbal abuse?

A Verbal abuse, right. The correction officers, they are by no means dummies, you know. They know if they call you, you can write them up. What they do, they play you out of position. They use a little drug-
store psychology. They get you to a point where you blow.

Q  What do you mean?
A  They needle you, then pick. You may be talking in the hall when you know that you can't talk in a moderate tone, right. When he tells you all right, Matthews, knock it off. The first thing you are going to do, you are going to turn around and say look, man, the rules says I can talk as long as it's in a moderate tone.

He says, I said knock it off. I don't want you to say nothing. I said the dudes up there are talking. He said, don't worry about them, worry about you, understand?

So now, consequently, I am going to give him a piece of my mind too and I will tell him how I feel, but after I tell him how I feel, I am going to have keeplock.

Q  You will be locked up?
A  Right.

Q  Do you think the relationship between correction officers and inmates would be much better if you had black officers at Attica?
A  Not so much so because you got some black officers that are a dilly too.
Q What's needed?
A What's really needed is they need to go to school. They need a human relations program. That's what they need. They need to learn how to relate to another individual as a human being, as a man and not as it, thing or subhuman.

That's what they need.

Q You don't think that black inmates would be treated much better unless you had that kind of orientation?
A Right.
Q Mr. Matthews, we talked about abuse of inmates in general.
Let's talk now about political groups. You are a Muslim?
A Right.
Q Are Muslim's treated any differently?
A Let me--
Q At Attica?
A Let me say this, that at the present in order to call myself a Muslim I would have to be one who submits his entire will to Allah, God, Almighty God, Allah.

Now, at this particular stage, I have not done this. I consider myself as a believer. I believe in the