to buy some food out of the commissary. When you just have this much, you are going to have to stretch it to last you 14 days until you go to commissary next time. If you have the money the next time.

Q What else do you buy besides food at the commissary?

A Well, legal papers, tooth paste, tooth-brush, soaps, toilet paper.

Q Some of these things are being provided now, since the uprising; am I correct?

A Yes, they have.

Q But what you just listed was not provided before?

A Only the toilet paper and it used to come once a month and if you just ran short, you have to borrow from somebody else.

Q Since the uprising, you have been given your toilet paper?

A Yes, sir.

Q Have you been given toilet articles of another type, have you been given razor blades or do you have to buy those?

A We had to buy them before. Now you turn in one razor blade to the officer and he gives you another
Tooth paste, if you run short, you might
go to the officer and he might have an extra one
there. Sometimes he doesn't and you just run out of
it because they don't have none in the commissary now.

The same thing with toilet paper. Sometimes
they are lucky enough to give you one. Otherwise you
have to borrow one if you can find one.

Q You talked about the food.

When you came here, what kind of food were
you used to eating?

A Rice and beans, potatoes, meat, chicken,
stuff like that. I was very optimistic about my food.

Q The diet here presented a problem for you?

A Yes.

Q You also like pork products; is that correct?

A I do.

Q And being on this Inmate Grievance Council,
have you had discussions with any of the Muslims as
to how you might resolve these differences between the
Puerto Rican inmates' tastes and the dietary restric-
tions of the Muslims?

A Well, since I have become a committee man,
this has been one of the worse problems I have come
against because all the Puerto Rican population, pig
is our main dish, pork chops, bacon. We even eat the blood.

So we have come to agreement, if we can get it—right now the pig has been abolished in Attica, you know. We have come to agreement that they should, when they give Muslim meat, they should put something on the side for the rest of the population because a lot of us don't eat what they eat.

By the same token, all of them don't eat what we eat. If they give them some Muslim meal, give us something on the side because a lot of us don't eat a lot of the food.

I think I seen some of you members sitting in the mess hall. If you were aware of it, when the Muslim came through the line none of them pick up anything because mostly what is there, they don't eat it.

Q You mentioned that the pig herd has been abolished at Attica, is being phased out; is that what you understand?

A Even the frankfurters, they are beef frankfurters now.

Q But you know that some of your fellow inmates do not accept the statement that they are beef frankfurters?
A  Yes, sir, that's true.

Q  I take it that you feel, being on this
inmate council, that if given the opportunity, you
may have a chance of working out some of these problems
between people with diverse attitudes and needs?

A  Let me--right now we have a lot of different
ideas to improve the correction system or maybe not
improve, but suggest for improvement.

One of the dead blocks we run against is
that, for example, Mr. Montanye, the superintendent
of the prison, has assigned two persons, Mr. Dickenson
and Mr. Baker as his designee. If he is not available,
one of his designees will meet with us. Mostly it's
Mr. Dickenson.

This man has been in Attica since I came to
Attica. He was in charge of the school, the super-
visor.

Since I have been in Attica I have never
seen this man try to fix some of the things within
the prison or try to make some improvements within
the prison.

Where we don't have any trust--all of the
suggestions we have made so far, even among ourselves,
they haven't even been suggested to him as suggestions.
He gets up and tries to block them right away.
Would you say that the atmosphere in Attica today is still essentially one of mistrust by the inmates of the Administration?

A. I wouldn't say essentially. It is mistrust. They haven't done nothing to improve the present conditions at Attica.

As a matter of fact, the Commission has made various statements to the effect that certain implements have been made within the Department of Correction, within Attica itself, and we read about it, but we don't see it.

Q. When you say "the Commission," you mean the Commissioner of Corrections?

A. Commissioner Oswald, yes, sir.

Q. What are the things that you are talking about?

A. For example, the Commissioner made a statement that inmates were allowed to phone once a month to their families. I never seen this at Attica.

Q. You haven't been able to use the phone at all since you have been at Attica?

A. No, sir. I don't even see one.

Another second thing is that on February 9th, a statement was made by Commissioner Oswald to the effect that within a month all prisoners would get
clothing amounting to $1.5 million worth of clothing, or something like this sort.

Two days before I came here I was given one shirt and one pants. That was within a month of that date. And this was almost two months before we got one pants and one shirt.

Q Have you ever taken formal schooling at Attica? Sat in classes for an extended period of time?
A I took--while I was in the DVR project, I took a course on health, physical and psychological --something like that. I even forgot the high-toned names anyway. And I passed this course. That's about the only thing.

Q Do you have a high school equivalency diploma?
A No, sir.

Q What is your job today? You are not in DVR. In fact, the federal funding has ended for DVR, is that correct?
A It hasn't ended, as I understand. It was just that they ran into difficulties. I think the guys with a lot of time wouldn't go with what was going on, the hoodwinking that was going on.

Let me clarify this. There were meetings held within the DVR project, inside the block, group
therapy meetings with psychologists from the University of Buffalo and in a lot of these meetings, beautiful suggestions would come up with some of the problems existing with the blacks and when the civilians used to confront the superintendent with these solutions, the superintendent never did anything about it so actually what came out of the meetings was more frustration than any solutions.

Q To clarify this: What you are talking about is that while you were in the DVR Program, there were meetings, rap sessions?

A Yes, sir.

Q For a period of time between the inmates and the correction officers, the supervisors?

A Well, the meetings with the correction officers lasted about, I think they attended two meetings only.

Q But you had these other meetings and you took interest in prison conditions and you made various suggestions?

A Of course. We came out with beautiful solutions.

Q When those weren't put into effect, you felt even more frustrated?

A I felt it was all a hoodwink, really. After
we spent a lot of hours discussing some-
thing and then it's put up to the warden for the
improvement of the prison and they just shoot you
down, no, security reasons, which is always the
reason they give for any kind of improvement.

Q What were the types of things that you asked
for that were shot down for security reasons?

A Well, we requested that, in one of our meet-
ings, we requested--we came to the solution that for--
having vocational evaluation shops, more time out of
our cells.

I mean, not for ten guys a night, but the
whole population. We have proven by coming ten
guys at a time with sometimes as many as one officer
in that day room, that nothing was going to happen.

I mean, if you give us recreation, I don't
think that anybody would be fool enough to try to
break away, where everybody would lose it.

In other words, we would police our own
recreation: "Man, you got to keep it cool."

Even though this was pointed out it was
never taken into consideration because it never became
a reality.

Q And these frustrations continued to build
within you and other inmates?
A    Well, sir, the frustrations are not building. The frustrations are up there already. Somebody will just blow it up, that's all.

Q    Tell me, when did you first start taking an interest, not just in yourself, but in the problems of your fellow inmates?

A    Well, actually when the election--not the election, but when they were announced that they were going to run for the Liaison Committee where this Liaison Committee would represent the inmates in the institution in trying to approach or communicate with the prison administrators, I kind of reflected and thinking about mostly and essentially myself.

        I felt that I don't know how many guys were going to submit their names, but I felt it was my duty to at least try to solve some of these problems and to try to keep with it as best I could with my limited knowledge, which isn't much.

Q    And there was an election in each block?

A    Yes, there was an election held in C-block, E-block and A-block.

Q    How many members were elected from each block?

A    There was 12 from C-block; 12 from A-block; two from the second floor of E-block and one from the
bottom floor and one from the hospital.

Q When was this election held?
A On March 17th.

Q How many meetings have you held?
A Approximately seven or eight.

Q I gather from your statements about your experiences with making suggestions in E-block, that you sense that if this project does not work in bringing about some change, that it may lead to even more frustration than existed before it was created?
A Well, sir, right now--I know I feel and I know that during discussions with the rest of the committee members we feel that right now we are being used merely as something to dangle to society: "Here is something we are doing for them," and nothing is being done, really.

They are just pointing out that after the insurrection, they are pointing to the Liaison Committee for grievances, but what is the Liaison Committee but if they can't achieve anything or anything they are trying to do is no good.

Q Let me speak about that a moment.

One of the officer witnesses who was on the stand today said that he wasn't sure how this would work out. It needed time.
How much time, under the rules of the institution, have you been given and all of the other elected members been given to serve on this committee?

A  Six months.

Q  You have a six-month term and you are not eligible for re-election?

A  That is true.

Q  And it's a fact that you have been urging that since you are just forming this committee today, that you need more time than that in order to get yourselves together?

A  That is true. We are not politicians. We have to set up machinery where we can form some types of subcommittees to handle different problems and even though there is some guys that have been in unions within the committee.

  Two guys, it's given us a lot of problems, you know. And six months is too short.

Q  Where do you work now?

A  I work at the laundry.

Q  Did you ask for the laundry?

A  Yes, I did.

Q  And why did you ask for that work?

A  Well, for one thing, you keep yourself clean
anyway. Have your laundry done whenever you wanted, not once a week. You could.

Q Hustle?

A Hustle around, yes.

Q And if you are poor and can't get money from home, you have to hustle in order to make ends meet?

A Yes.

(Continued on page 489.)
Q I understand that you want to talk about your keep lock just before the uprising on 9/6/71. On September 6, 1971.

A Well, on September 6th, about one o'clock, I went to the hospital and complained that I had difficulty breathing. I was given an injection. I don't know what it was. I returned back to my cell. It didn't help me. I laid down.

About five o'clock I started having very bad trouble breathing. The inmates tell me, the few I seen, that I went in a coma to the hospital. They said that nobody could get to me or nothing.

While I was up there, during the blood pressure taking, an inmate—a nurse inmate said that I had some marks on my arm. Then the inmate himself said that it was needle marks. The doctor was called. He said that—by the way, I am speaking because when I came to, it was explained to me what happened, what transpired. And he said that to wait for a while to see if I got worse or came out of it.

I don't know how much time it took but I did come out of it. I was asked by the officer what was the marks on my arms and I told him that it was just a small cut I had received by doing glass work.

Well, they don't believe me. Naturally, the
statement which they keeplocked me was made--

it was based--the keeplock was based on the statement
by the inmate at the hospital.

Q They thought you were still shooting dope in
the institution?

A I think so, yes.

Q So that that must mean that the institution
believes that there is dope available in the--within
the walls?

A They presumed I was shooting dope, they must
believe there is dope within the walls.

Q You were not shooting dope?

A No, sir.

Q Is there dope available within the walls of
Attica?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Now, you said you took this laundry job be-
cause the one thing, it helped you keep clean?

A Right.

Q Secondly, it gave you an opportunity to make
some extra money, or would give an inmate an opportun-
ity to make some extra money.

A That's correct.

Q Do you think that this training in the laundry
would help you find a job on the outside?
A How could it? This job is done by a woman in the street. I don't see how, really.

As a matter of fact, I was once inside a laundry and all I seen was women operating inside the laundry.

Q Is there anything that you feel that Attica has done for you to help you make it on the outside?

A I think I have wasted six years of my life behind bars.

Q You understood that you plead guilty to a manslaughter offense and that you were going to be punished for it?

A Yes, sir.

Q What is it that you would want the state to give you to help you when you get outside so you will not continue to return to the Atticas?

A Well, sir, since I was 15--since I was born, my family has been supporting me. Even while I am in prison now they still have to send me some money. Right now I don't have no training at all whatsoever to go outside in society and try to find me a job where even if it's a small little side room, at least I can say, I am fixing TVs or radios, trying to make a living, you know.

I think that is one of the main points that should be considered about the reforming of prisoners.
Q Why aren't you trying to get your high school equivalency diploma?

A Well, sir, if you go to school--I am going to speak prior to the riot.

Q Speak prior to and then tell us what the change is, if any.

A Well, prior to the riot, you went to school, there was a mandatory rule there that you have to go to school if you were under a certain level of grade. There isn't any such thing as a 6th grade, 7th grade, 8th grade, nothing like that. Just intermediate and advanced class. That means the guys from 4th, 5th, 6th grade and so forth was in one complete room. A lot of these guys, they didn't want to be in school. They are old men, 50, 45 years old. They feel that school is not going to help them now.

But yet we were forced to go, to attend a class where these people were disinterested. They had no interest in schooling. They lived mostly all their lives without schooling. They gotten along without it. That was one of the main reasons. The second and most, I say is the main reason too, was that in school you only earn 25 cents a day. I give you a better example. A pack of cigarettes cost 38 cents in commissary. You earn 25 cents
a day for going to school, you can't hardly even smoke a pack of cigarettes, let alone buy food.

That means if you want to eat, you have to go some place else and find a good job and try to hustle some money on the side so you can eat something.

Q Just a few additional questions.

Are there any Puerto Rican correction officers at Attica?

A Just one. Mr. Aguilar.

Q Are you able to talk to him in Spanish?

A Well, I have spoken to him on a few occasions when I was able to, when I see him in the yard or if I go by the gallery I see him, and say hello, and so forth. But on several occasions, I don't know if this was done joking or not, but I think he was serious because he seems to be withdrawing. I have spoken to him in Spanish and the remark has been made by the other officers, "Speak English." So that kills that. He seems to resent this because he seems to be withdrawing from us little by little, you know.

Q Mr. Martinez, why were you willing to come here today and testify?

A Well, sir, is this a final statement?

Q No, I think the Commission will have questions. Would you like to save your answer for your
final statement?

A Yes, sir, I would.

MR. LIMAN: I have no further ques-
tions.

MR. McKay: Mr. Martinez, you are a
member of the inmate liaison committee but I gather
from what you have said already that you are pessi-
mistic, you are not very hopeful that it will be
useful?

THE WITNESS: No, sir.

EXAMINATION BY MR. McKay:

Q Have you actually asked the superintendent
for some things through the committee but have been
turned down yet?

A Well, we put three requests forth. One of
them was, leave the lights on all night long. I mean,
let us turn it off when we go home, my mother is not
going to come in the room and turn my lights off.

The second was that we have to stand on the
doors for the count. This--I never, we never received
an answer. I think it was--they answered that--I think
we heard was that they were waiting for the new PK to
come in. They wanted him to make that decision.

The third was that black stations are on the
radio all night long so that we would like a variety.
I would like to mention that, and this is only for one day. That the radio is monitored so that yesterday we couldn't even listen to what happened here yesterday.

Q All those requests have been finally turned down, or are they still pending in some way?

A This is the way they pass the buck.

"We will look into it. We will let you know."

Q Will you have other meetings at which you will make other requests if these are turned down?

A Well, one solution we came down to and that is if we feel that we are being used rather than used for the purpose of showing society that these people are trying to do something for us and actually are not giving nothing to us, we have decided that if it would take court action, we will go that far, regardless of what action is taken by the administration.

By that, let me specify this. There have been examples made by other committees. This riot in New Jersey, half the committee wound up in the box.

In another prison we heard, we have been reading this through the Fortune Letters, the newspaper, the whole committee wound up in the box. In other words, if something should happen at Attica, it's our belief that the people that they will come to is the inmates
liaison committee and you are the leaders. This is our belief. However, we have resolutions that--we have agreed that something has got to be done. If we go to the box we go to the box, but we got to get something done in this prison system.

This just can't keep on going like it is, you know. Some changes have to be made.

MR. McKay: Thank you.

Mrs. Guerrero?

EXAMINATION BY MR. GUERRERO:

Q Where were you born?
A In Puerto Rico.
Q Where in Puerto Rico?
A Aguadilla.
Q You came the first time to New York City when you were 12 years old, right?
A Yes, ma'am.
Q And that means that at that time you should have been in the 6th grade, right?
A Yes.
Q In Puerto Rico you were in sixth grade?
A Yes.
Q You were here only one year?
A Right.
Q You didn't go to school here?
A Well, I was put to school for a short period of time and then— as soon as I came, they wouldn't accept me because the term was almost over and vacations were coming.

Q The term was almost over but then it started again in September.

You are here a year. You could have started again in September.

A I did. Half the holidays were over. I went to school for a very short period of time. I was put in Spanish class where you start speaking whole Spanish and eventually the Spanish is eliminated and you go to English.

Q I know it is difficult. It means from the 12 years that you were in 6th grade, you haven't been to school any more.

A Just for a few months, no.

Q Then you went back home?

A Yes.

Q To Puerto Rico?

A Yes.

Q For two years?

A Right.

Q You didn't go back to school there?

A No.
Q What happened? You seem to be very intelligent. What happened?

A I seem to be what?

Q You seem to be very intelligent. What happened? Why didn't your mother or father or both, insist that you go to school and why didn't you go to school?

A They did insist that I go to school. They went as far as to put me in sort of some type of private institution, you know. Private school. Something like that. But having trouble with other of the fellows, there, I just used to walk away and finally my mother decided rather to keep me home than have me wandering in the streets.

Q All this happened because of your leg, is that it? You were conscious of that and the kids say things to you and that is why you didn't go to school?

A Mostly I was having difficulty getting along with the rest of the--

Q Have you ever had, either in prison or before that, did anybody ever take you to a psychologist or psychiatrist to get you away from these feelings so you could go to school?

A Well, I have gone to see the psychiatrist in the prison now. He explained to me this is a problem
that I will eventually have to overcome by myself.

Q So you committed a crime and you were sent to Oneida Reformatory?
A Right.
Q Where you should have been--
A Reception Center.
Q Oh, Reception Center?
A Right.
Q There you should have been because you were very young. You should have stayed there because you were very young.
A Right.
Q You have no right to be in Attica at that stage.
A I was only 17 years old.
Q And yet you came to Attica and the authorities there did not try to find out, did not try to send you back to another place where you should be because of your age?
A No, they never made attempt.
Q And you didn't ask to be sent back?
A Yes, I did.
Q Oh, you did?
A Yes.
Q And they didn't do anything about it?  
A They said I was there for the DVR Project. They never put me there until I requested though.
Q We find out that that project wasn't very much in any case. But you have not gone to school here either. So that you are still not prepared to go out, you know, to go out in the world to earn your own living.
A Well, ma'am, I am prepared to go out there any time.
Q That is something else, yes. But you are not prepared intellectually to earn your living and you are not prepared psychologically because they haven't helped you at all.
A I could go out there and swing a mop as a porter. However, I would like to hold a better paying job and I don't have the education for it and the training.
Q I understand that perfectly well, but it's natural, it's not nice to be in prison but of course, you have so many years to go. You have to make the very best that you can. You have almost everything in your favor when you get out to make a good start to be like everybody else, you know, not to do the things that you did before.

We are trying to find out, of course, why you