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U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

MEETING OF THE MISSISSIPPI ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO THE

U. S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

**MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATE
OLD SUPREME COURT CHAMBER
400 HIGH STREET
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI**

**MAY 24, 1995
9:00 A.M.**

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Advisory Committee Members:

Farella Robinson

Lisa Hall

Robert Canizaro

Lisa Milner

Jerry Ward

Melvin Jenkins

Suzanne Keys

Alice Harden

Leslie Range

Willie Foster



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1 DR. WARD: Good morning. The meeting of the
2 Mississippi Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission
3 on Civil Rights will come to order. My name is Jerry
4 W. Ward. I am chairperson of the Mississippi
5 Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil
6 Rights.

7 With me today are other members of the
8 committee. From my left, Willie Foster, Hattiesburg;
9 Leslie Range, Jackson; Senator Alice Harden, Jackson;
10 Suzanne Keys. To my right, Lisa Milner and Robert
11 Canizaro.

12 Also with us are Melvin L. Jenkins, director of
13 the Central Regional Office of the U. S. Commission
14 on Civil Rights, to my immediate left and to my far
15 right, Ms. Farella Robinson, Civil Rights analyst and
16 at the back of the room Jo Ann Daniels,
17 administrative assistant to the Central Regional
18 Office.

19 We're here to conduct a two-day fact finding
20 meeting on police community relations titled Civic
21 Crisis and Civic Challenge, police community
22 relations in Jackson.

23 The issues to be addressed here today will be
24 policy policies and practices and how the public
25 views law enforcement in Jackson. I and my

1 colleagues on the Advisory Committee serve without
2 compensation as the eyes and ears of the commission.

3 The committee is mandated by statute to report
4 on civil rights developments in Mississippi to the
5 commissioners. Based in part on the reports of the
6 51 advisory committees, one for each state, and the
7 District of Columbia, the commissioners report to the
8 president and congress on civil rights developments
9 throughout the United States.

10 The jurisdiction of the commission includes
11 discrimination or denial of equal protection of the
12 laws because of race, color, religion, sex, age,
13 handicap or national origin, or in the administration
14 of justice.

15 The proceedings of this meeting which are being
16 recorded by a public stenographer will be used along
17 with other information collected through interviews
18 and correspondence with individuals, agencies, and
19 organizations in the development of a written report
20 with findings and recommendations from the committee
21 which will be released and distributed to the public.

22 At the outset I want to remind everyone of the
23 ground rules. This is a public meeting open to the
24 media and the general public, but we have a very full
25 schedule of participants to fit within the limited

1 time we have available.

2 The time allotted for each session must be
3 strictly adhered to. Thirty minutes has been
4 scheduled for each participant, to include questions
5 and answers and dialogue with the committee. To
6 accommodate persons who have not been invited but
7 wish to make statements, we have scheduled an open
8 session on our agenda on Wednesday evening, May 24th,
9 at 8:30 p.m., and Thursday evening, May 25th, at 8:45
10 p.m.

11 Anyone wishing to make a statement during that
12 period should contact a staff member for scheduling.
13 Written statements may be submitted to committee
14 members or staff here today or by mail to the U.S.
15 Commission on Civil Rights, Gateway Tower 2, 400
16 State Avenue, Suite 908, Kansas City, Kansas 66101-
17 2406.

18 The record of this meeting will close on June
19 20th, 1995. Though some of the information provided
20 here may be controversial, we want to ensure that all
21 invited guests do not unfairly or illegally defame or
22 degrade any person or organization.

23 In order to ensure that all aspects of the
24 issue are represented, knowledgeable persons with a
25 wide variety of experience and viewpoints have been

1 invited to share information with us.

2 Any person or any organization that feels
3 defamed or degraded by statements made in these
4 proceedings should contact our staff during the
5 meeting so that we can provide a chance for public
6 response. Alternately such persons or organizations
7 can file written statements for inclusion in the
8 proceedings.

9 I urge all persons participating to be
10 judicious and factual in what they say. The Advisory
11 Committee appreciates the willingness of those who
12 have agreed to participate and share information with
13 us. The staff of the Central Regional Office would
14 like to acknowledge the cooperation provided by the
15 Jackson Police Department and the Hinds County
16 Sheriff's Department during the course of the study.

17 Now mr. Jenkins will share some remarks with
18 you.

19 MR. JENKINS: To the chair of the Advisory
20 Committee and the Advisory Committee members, as our
21 first exhibit this morning I want to introduce a
22 Federal Register notice, Thursday, April 27th, 1995,
23 entitled Agenda and Notice of Public Meetings of the
24 Mississippi Advisory Committee. This notice was
25 published and is duly recognized as the official

1 announcement of the gathering this morning to obtain
2 information on policy community relations in Jackson,
3 Mississippi and Hinds County.

4 As an added note this morning, we are pleased
5 to have the staff director of the U. S. Commission on
6 Civil Rights with us this morning, Mary Mathews, and
7 her assistant, Jackie Johnson.

8 At this time I would like Ms. Mathews, the
9 staff director, to come forward to sit or to stand to
10 make a few comments to the Advisory Committee and to
11 those assembled here this morning.

12 MS. MATHEWS: Thank you, Mr. Jenkins. I and my
13 special assistant are very pleased to be here today.
14 We're very interested in observing and learning, as
15 I'm sure you are, from the exchange of information
16 that will occur over these next two days, and I want
17 to say publicly that the Commission is extremely
18 appreciative of the effort of the distinguished
19 members of all of our state advisory committees and
20 in particular those of you before me today from
21 Mississippi.

22 We believe that the SAC's present the national
23 commission with very important information from the
24 state and local level, and I'm sure you've heard the
25 phrase that we use so often, we look to the SAC's as

1 our eyes and ears at the local level.

2 We are also interested in the results of today's
3 proceeding and we'll look forward with great interest
4 to the report that will come from this event. I
5 would like to in addition express my personal
6 appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the Kansas
7 City regional staff, for all the preparations that go
8 into a proceeding such as this, and all the good
9 benefits that come not only for the State of
10 Mississippi but for the country as a whole.

11 Melvin Jenkins is our extremely dedicated,
12 long-time commission staff member, director of the
13 regional office. Fay Robinson for her efforts here.
14 Jo Ann Daniels for her many contributions to this
15 event, and I'm sure other staff members may have
16 contributed too, just aren't present today.

17 So I'm very happy to be here and I'm very much
18 looking forward to the dialogue that will occur.
19 Thank you, Mr. Jenkins.

20 MR. JENKINS: Thank you. This is not the first
21 time the Central Regional Office has been involved in
22 a policy community relations study. We have a
23 collection of reports in the back of the room from
24 across the nation that deal with this important
25 subject that we are undertaking this morning.

1 This is the first time the Mississippi
 2 committee has been involved in this issue, and it's
 3 been a long time coming, over a year and a half, to
 4 come to this point to develop a fact finding
 5 information and to develop the record for our
 6 procedures this morning. Jerry.

7 DR. WARD: Thank you. We have a slight change
 8 for session one. To start the overview of law
 9 enforcement and race relations in Jackson, I do not
 10 notice the presence of Dr. Leslie McLemore, so I will
 11 ask Dr. Charles Sallis of Millsaps College to please
 12 come forward. You may either sit at the chairs or
 13 stand at the podium and for the record, Dr. Sallis,
 14 would you spell your last name and provide us with
 15 your mailing address?

16 MR. SALLIS: My name is Charles Sallis, S-a-l-
 17 l-i-s, Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi, 39210.

18 Thank you very much for giving me the
 19 opportunity this morning to appear before you. I'm a
 20 native Mississippian, having lived in this state 49 of my
 21 60 years. I've been a resident of Jackson for 27 years.
 22 I've taught history on a college level for 35 years,
 23 teaching along other things American History, Southern
 24 History, African American history, and multi-culturalism
 25 and diversity in America.

1 I co-authored a textbook on Mississippi
2 history, which was banned by the State Textbook
3 Purchasing Board. After my co-authors and I sued the
4 State of Mississippi in federal court the book was made
5 available to teachers throughout the state.

6 I've written several published articles on
7 various aspects of Mississippi history, including a study
8 of desegregation in Jackson.

9 My children are graduates of Jackson public
10 schools and of Millsaps College, where I've been teaching
11 since 1968.

12 I'm not a sociologist or a psychologist, and I
13 have no special insights into law enforcement. I am,
14 however, a historical and a concerned citizen.

15 This year we observe the 27th anniversary of
16 the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the issuance
17 of the Kerner Commission Report, which undertook the
18 study of race relations in American. The Kerner
19 Commission was commissioned by President Lyndon Johnson
20 and conducted an exhaustive investigation of every aspect
21 of American society.

22 It concluded in 1968 that America was still
23 divided into a white America and a black American, and
24 unless conditions changed, the country was headed toward
25 an irreparable schizm.

1 On the 25th anniversary in 1993 of the Kerner
2 Commission Report, most commentators observed that
3 although some conditions had improved, for the most part
4 America had not progressed in the 25 years since the
5 report.

6 You're familiar, I'm sure, with the following
7 statistics. A 1993 report by the National School Board's
8 Association stated that 66 percent of the nations black
9 children attended schools with mostly minority students.
10 My son, who teaches English in Lanier High School here in
11 Jackson -- it's a high school with a 100 percent minority
12 enrollment -- there are no white students in that school.
13 He's been teaching there for eight years.

14 A third of America's black population lives
15 below the official poverty line as oppose to 11 percent
16 whites. More than 60 percent of all black births are to
17 single women and almost 50 percent of black children are
18 being raised in poverty.

19 The unemployment rate for black males,
20 excluding those who become so discouraged that they have
21 given up looking for work, has been about ten percent
22 since the late 1970's. During the 1980's it averaged
23 almost 12 percent.

24 This economic devastation has resulted in
25 alarming social disintegration. Homicide is now the

1 leading cause of death among black males ages 15 to 24.
2 Our cities are suffering the loss of tax base and other
3 problems in the wage of white and upper class black
4 flight.

5 We all know about these problems. Every day in
6 the newspapers and on television we hear about these
7 things. The discouraging thing is that the same things
8 are occurring in Jackson. In 1970 Jackson's white
9 population constituted 60.2 percent of the population.
10 Twenty years later this had fallen to 43.6 percent.

11 Meanwhile, suburban white population
12 mushroomed. Neighboring Clinton has 82 percent white
13 population; Pearl, 91 percent; Richland, 98 percent;
14 Brandon, 87 percent, Ridgeland, 87 percent; and Madison,
15 96 percent white population.

16 Jackson is becoming increasingly black
17 surrounded by white populated suburbs. Per capita income
18 is more than double for whites than for blacks. The
19 unemployment rate for black Hinds County residents in
20 1991 was 11.4 percent. For white residents it was three
21 percent. State-wise the figure was 6.3 percent.

22 In Hinds County black residents comprise 83
23 percent of the aid to families with dependent children
24 recipients. Black residents make up about 69 percent of
25 food stamp recipients.

1 A clearing ledger poll in the summer of 1992
2 showed that 27 percent of the residents of Jackson saw
3 improvement in race relations over the past decade.
4 Thirty-three percent saw a deterioration and 31 percent
5 noted little change.

6 I would not expect any different response if
7 the poll were taken today. Presently Jackson is
8 experiencing a historically high murder rate. Teen-aged
9 pregnancy, an unacceptable drop-out rate in public
10 schools, boarded up, spray painted, and abandoned
11 buildings in many once vibrant black neighborhoods, which
12 are ripe with drug dealers and prostitutes.

13 The center of Jackson is a downtown area with
14 tall government and bank buildings surrounded by inner-
15 city poverty. Many citizens claim they are afraid to go
16 downtown at night because of the high crime rate there.
17 In 1994 Broadmore Baptist Church with a congregation of
18 over 4,000, which was established 41 years ago,
19 ironically 1954, the year of the Brown decision, voted to
20 leave Jackson and move to Madison County.

21 In 1993 Parkway Baptist Church on West Capital
22 voted to move to Clinton. Both were located in racially
23 transitional neighborhoods.

24 Mississippi has the highest percentage of
25 African Americans in its population than any other state,

1 35 percent.

2 Today blacks hold positions in almost every
3 kind of business here and work side by side with whites
4 in construction manufacturing, service industries and
5 government. During the day Jackson is large integrated
6 in the work place. For example, if you go to lunch today
7 in a downtown restaurant and you will see both black and
8 white workers eating lunch together and walking on their
9 lunch breaks.

10 Yet as a whole, blacks earn a per capita income
11 that is less than half of whites. There are more elected
12 black legislators and office holders in Mississippi than
13 any other state. You see, we work together, but at five
14 o'clock every work day, 5:00 p.m., blacks and whites go
15 their separate ways into their own communities.

16 We rarely get together for social events or
17 weekend gatherings. John Jones, a white lawyer here in
18 Jackson and a neighbor of mine, was recently quoted as
19 saying, "Sometimes I think we're just going backward.
20 Mixed neighborhoods? I don't know of any. Jackson
21 State, still thoroughly black. Jackson public schools?
22 Not many white faces in there. Jackson Prep, you ought
23 to out and visit Jackson Prep."

24 Jones goes on to say, "In 1969 Jackson went
25 through as radical an overnight desegregation as anyplace

1 in the country. What they tried to do in Boston but
2 didn't, we did here. What it produced in Jackson is a
3 thriving private school system. This was going to be the
4 place where desegregation was going to work. It didn't."

5 Yet there are signs of progress. This month
6 there will be black graduates of every high school and
7 college in the Jackson area. There are a few integrated
8 neighborhoods. Integration in the work place is there.
9 The hospitality and ease in many social settings between
10 blacks and whites, restaurants and hotels, which cater to
11 both black and white customers, the FM stations that play
12 gospel music and African American police chief and
13 African American school superintendent and African
14 American majority school board, an African American
15 majority city council.

16 Even a Jackson country club let down its color
17 barriers to one African American.

18 In September, 1993, I was called for jury duty.
19 As we sat in the courtroom in the Hinds County courtroom
20 receiving instructions, I noted that the presiding judge,
21 a former student of mine, was black. So were both
22 lawyers in the case.

23 The bailiff and two-thirds of the jury panel
24 were black. And as I sat there, I could look out the
25 window and see city hall across the street and remember

1 that in 1963 when blacks petitioned Mayor Allen Thompson
2 to appoint two policemen, two, crossing guards at black
3 schools, and to remove segregation signs in public
4 buildings, all of these were denied.

5 There has been a lot of progress in 30 years,
6 which seems a long time to most people, but historically
7 speaking it is but a short time indeed. We had slavery
8 and segregation for over 400 years. It is going to take
9 time to fully recover from this awful chapter in our
10 history.

11 That history has left indelible scars behind.
12 We have superficial, legal integration and social
13 toleration in Jackson. There is frustration because laws
14 have not eliminated prejudice, which is still rampant in
15 Jackson. This is evident every day in letters to the
16 editor and listening to talk radio.

17 There has not been a paradigm shift in the
18 nation or the south or in Jackson. As Dr. Margaret
19 Walker Alexander has noted, "Jackson is like most cities
20 in the south, like everywhere in this country. The only
21 difference is the weather. It's warmer here than
22 Chicago. Jackson is as racist as anyplace in American,
23 no more, no less, at least here I can buy a house with a
24 yard for my kids to play in."

25 There are many aspects of integration. Color

1 is not the only dividing point. Economic disadvantage
2 also is a tremendous difference. We have not integrated
3 economically. And this has played a major role in
4 polarizing the black and white communities and I think
5 has an enormous impact on law enforcement and attitudes
6 of citizens toward the police.

7 In many ways we are further apart now than in
8 1968. We could take a ten-minute walking tour from this
9 spot this morning and we would be in the worst degraded
10 poverty stricken neighborhood imaginable.

11 Substandard, shotgun housing, which often rents
12 for as much as \$140 a month, owned by slum landlords,
13 mostly white, but some black, boarded up and burned out
14 buildings, trash littered lots, garbage heaps. This is
15 within viewing distance of the state capital of
16 Mississippi, the center of Jackson, and very little is
17 being done it seems to me to force slum landlords, most
18 of whom are white, to keep their rental properties up to
19 standards. Entire neighborhoods sometimes look like a
20 war zone.

21 I was asked to offer some suggestions and may I
22 do so at this time? I think we as the public need to be
23 more intentional. We need to get serious.

24 First of all, churches should take the
25 leadership in healing the racial divide. After all, this

1 is the Bible Belt. But I'm not very hopeful here. My
2 observation is that many ministries are badly educated,
3 not poorly educated, but badly educated and bigoted.
4 Second, we need to start talking. We need public
5 conversation. Our people need to be educated regarding
6 racial issues and cultural differences.

7 This could be done through Leadership Jackson,
8 Jackson 2000, community programs. We need to realize
9 that differences are just that, different, not inferior.
10 And we must appreciate and learn from diversity.
11 Thirdly, and this is a big feeling, we must teach our
12 young people both black and white their own history.

13 My experience as a college teacher is that
14 students come out of high school ignorant, ignorant of
15 the civil rights issues and struggle that dramatically
16 changed America.

17 This is intolerable. My son tells an example
18 of a student who came up to him one day in class and said
19 what is this Malcolm the Tenth stuff? A black student,
20 Malcolm the Tenth.

21 And white and black students do not know who
22 Medgar Evers or Fannie Lou Hamer were. This is a massive
23 failure to know who we are and where we are going.

24 Fourthly, we must fight for and rebuild
25 neighborhoods. War must be declared on drug dealers and

1 slum landlords. A model to emulate, we have a model -- a
2 model to emulate is the Atlanta project, which
3 reconstructs neighborhood by neighborhood, street by
4 street, where residents take charge.

5 They're not told what to do by outsiders, and
6 in this regard I think Habitat for Humanity, which
7 promotes home ownership, is doing a fantastic job. The
8 problem is, it's not enough.

9 Fifthly, we need a domestic marshal plan, a
10 marshal plan with federal, state and private funds going
11 to neighborhood groups, who submit plans for
12 rehabilitation.

13 And finally, the business community must take
14 the lead and not wait on municipal or state agencies to
15 move. And we have a precedent -- during the days of
16 desegregation when the summer of 1964 was here, the
17 freedom summer, and there was a lot of tension and a lot
18 of violence, and the Congress was debating the Civil
19 Rights Act.

20 The longest filibuster in American history was
21 taking place, but I think everybody who could read
22 realized that the Civil Rights Act was going to be passed
23 eventually.

24 In Jackson and in Mississippi civic and
25 political leaders broke with generations of ugly racial

1 oppression and discrimination before the passage of the
2 Civil Rights Act. Now, you can question the motivation
3 of the leaders, but I'm saying to you is that we have a
4 precedent of business and civic and political leaders
5 taking leadership to deal with the problem.

6 In February of 1964, the Mississippi Economic
7 Council came out with the statement saying, look folks,
8 we don't particularly care for integration, but it is
9 coming and we must be law abiding citizens. This was the
10 Mississippi Economic Council.

11 In June of 1964 the Jackson Chamber of Commerce
12 under Robert Ezell, who was the president at that time,
13 made a similar statement. These were business people
14 saying we've got to abide by the law. They were
15 providing leadership for the rest of us.

16 On July the 2nd President Johnson signed the
17 Civil Rights Act. On July the 4th, African Americans
18 flew into Jackson from other parts of the country. They
19 registered at the Heidelberg Hotel, which was then on
20 Capital Street, at the Robert E. Lee Hotel, and at the
21 Sun and Sand Motel. There were no incidents of violence
22 or any kind of confrontation at that time.

23 On July the 9th, five days later, Mayor Allen
24 Thompson, who was a staunch segregationist, a member of
25 the Citizens Council, made a statement that the law must

1 be obeyed, and on July the 14th Governor Paul Johnson,
2 Jr., who had run on a platform of segregation, made a
3 similar statement.

4 The result was this. Mississippians followed
5 their leaders, obeyed the law for the most part, and
6 integration came to Mississippi peacefully. I see that
7 as an example of where leadership at the highest levels
8 can make a difference.

9 Please let me close with an editorial in the
10 Jackson Clarion Ledger of November the 22nd, 1992,
11 because it reflects my thoughts and feelings.

12 "Whatever one thinks about those different
13 races or cultures, Jackson's economic and social strength
14 depends on its diversity. This city will not thrive or
15 survive unless it is inclusive. The forces that divide
16 must be dealt with, whether they be economic disparities
17 or social barriers.

18 "If whites flee to the suburbs and desert the
19 public schools, there is little hope for progress. If
20 blacks use new found political power to exclude, as they
21 have been excluded in the past, there is little hope for
22 progress.

23 "However, there is always hope where there is
24 dialogue, and that is the difference between 25 years ago
25 and now. There exists more opportunity for meaningful

1 dialogue because of civic community and religious
2 organizations that see race relations as a critical issue
3 in this community.

4 "It's up to these groups, political and business
5 leaders and each individual to confront racism at every
6 level and create public policy that heals and affirms.

7 "Ultimately prejudice is something that must be
8 dealt with by each individual in the heart. But what the
9 community can deal with is frankly facing public issues
10 that divide before they fester into fear and resentment.
11 Nothing is solved by silence or shoving problems under
12 the rug.

13 "Jackson's quality of life depends on whether
14 it celebrates its diversity or denies it."

15 So Jackson is changing and Jackson has changed
16 like other cities. "We've turned the page," says Dr.
17 Margaret Walker Alexander. It's still the same chapter
18 and verse. Do you understand what I'm saying? But we've
19 turned the page."

20 Thank you very much.

21 DR. WARD: Thank you. We will now open for
22 questions from members of the committee. Mr. Range.

23 MR. RANGE: Dr. Sallis, thank you very much for
24 those inciteful remarks. I'd like to ask you two
25 questions. First of all, are you aware of any

1 differences in the perceptions that blacks and whites
2 have of the police department in this community?

3 DR. SALLIS: Yes, I do. And this is informal.
4 I don't have any documentation. My sense is that the
5 black community is distrustful. It's somewhat
6 fearful of the police and this is no doubt due to
7 past history, particularly in the days of the civil
8 rights struggle.

9 My sense of the white community is that more
10 whites trust the police and see the police as trying
11 to bring about order and stability. This, as I say,
12 is my opinion from reading the papers and looking at
13 television. I don't have any documentation of this.

14 MR. RANGE: What about the media reporting of
15 crime, do you think there's any difference there in
16 the way the media reports crime in the community?

17 DR. SALLIS: That has been a difference since I
18 moved to Jackson. In the 1960's when the Hetterman
19 Press dominated the media, people who were arrested
20 for crimes, race was made very apparent.

21 In fact, when I came to Jackson in 1968,
22 courtesy titles were not even accorded to the black
23 citizens of this city. I have seen a difference now
24 in terms of media reporting of crimes by certain
25 individuals.

1 Here gain, this is an impression and I don't
2 have any documentation. My sense is that the media
3 is becoming more aware of the racial sensitivities
4 within the community.

5 DR. WARD: Thank you.

6 MS. KEYS: Dr. Sallis, you mentioned in your
7 presentation that you don't believe Jackson is
8 integrated economically. Could you expand on that a
9 little bit? What do you mean by that term, and what
10 would you see as a recommendation in that area that
11 might affect police relations?

12 DR. SALLIS: I mean by that the per capita
13 income is so divergent, where whites make on the
14 average almost double, not quite that of black
15 citizens.

16 There are very, very few African Americans in
17 positions of importance in business. You can go into
18 any business and see black clerks or black tellers in
19 banks, but you don't see blacks in the board room.
20 You do not see blacks in command positions in
21 business, and that's what I meant that we have not
22 integrated economically, and on our walking tour that
23 we would take from this spot, we would see black men
24 sitting on porches. We would see black children who
25 ought to be in school. School is not out yet, but

1 they're out on the streets. They're not working.

2 And I think it's very apparent, you ride
3 through a white neighborhood, you don't see white men
4 sitting out on porches. So I look at the
5 unemployment rate. I look at the per capita income,
6 and I say that we are not -- we have not come
7 together economically so that all of our citizens are
8 prospering in the same way.

9 MS. KEYS: Just one final question on that.
10 You also mentioned that you thought dialogue was very
11 important. How -- do you have any suggestions as to
12 how to bring into that dialogue those people sitting
13 on porches who are really disenfranchised from all
14 the organized groups we see? How do you bring into
15 this dialogue the people that are most affected and
16 needy?

17 DR. SALLIS: That is a very good question and
18 it's a hard issue I think. I think it has to be done
19 by neighborhood, neighborhood meetings and community
20 meetings.

21 I have been a part of meetings that were held
22 in schools. The school is very often a -- public
23 school is very often a place where people can meet
24 and feel comfortable, and just have community
25 meetings where you just talk about things that

1 trouble you and things that are going well and things
2 that need improvement.

3 Somebody has to take the leadership in doing
4 that. Groups like the Mississippi Humanities Council
5 is sponsoring community meetings of this sort. I
6 think the Chamber of Commerce could do it. The group
7 called Jackson 2000, Leadership Jackson could do it.

8 Perhaps the Jackson Public Schools could take
9 this on as something that they could do, because a
10 lot of the children who go to schools go to schools
11 that are in deprived neighborhoods. My son teachers
12 at Lanier. There was a juke joint across the street
13 where drugs were openly sold, and what the school did
14 was to work with the city officials to get that joint
15 away from the kids.

16 I think it has to be done by neighborhoods.
17 You know, I used to think that I could change the
18 world and maybe some of you thought the same thing.
19 I've given that up.

20 But what I now think I can do is change my
21 little corner of the world, work in my neighborhood.
22 I don't need to go over in the black neighborhood and
23 tell them what to do. I need to work with my white
24 neighbors in my neighborhood and I think if we could
25 somehow get a program started like that, that might

1 be a beginning.

2 DR. WARD: Dr. Sellers, from the perspective of
3 a historian let's say within the past 25 years, would
4 you say that the understanding of law enforcement in
5 Jackson has improved or is there enough information
6 being disseminated to the public to develop an
7 understanding?

8 DR. SALLIS: I think it has improved. I think
9 having an African American police chief is an
10 important statement to be made by the city. My
11 understanding is that the majority of patrolmen are
12 black. And I think they could do more perhaps with
13 community relations and I don't know what's being
14 done now. I do remember when my kids were in public
15 school, Officer Friendly came to talk to the
16 children. I don't know if Officer Friendly is still
17 out there or not. But I think police need to be more
18 visible in the neighborhoods.

19 I like the program of walking beats where you
20 get to know store owners and you get to know citizens
21 and you're out there instead of just riding through a
22 neighborhood in a car, that the policeman make a
23 definite effort to become friends.

24 You know, when I was growing up, I thought that
25 policemen were friends. I developed an attitude that

1 policemen were trustworthy and were my friends. I'm
2 afraid kids today don't have that attitude. They do
3 not look upon policemen as friends.

4 And whatever can be done to move back to that,
5 I would certainly be in favor of.

6 MR. JENKINS: Yes. Let me ask one hypothetical
7 question, Doctor. Even though you talk in terms of
8 the marshal plan and give some of the elements, if
9 you were to become police chief of Jackson tomorrow,
10 what would be the first couple of things or
11 priorities you would undertake?

12 DR. SALLIS: That's a difficult question. I
13 really hadn't thought about it. I think I would
14 really try to work with the community, as I've
15 indicted before, and to work with the Jackson Public
16 Schools in presenting an imagine of we want to be
17 helpful. We're not here to punish you, but we are
18 here to help you become good citizens.

19 Other than that, I really don't know what I
20 would do, because I'm just not familiar with the law
21 enforcement agencies.

22 DR. WARD: Yes.

23 MS. KEYS: Do you feel that Jackson has the
24 economic resources to be able to address some of the
25 problems you've been talking about?

1 DR. SALLIS: I do. I think it's a distribution
2 of the wealth of -- I forget who it was -- oh, Black
3 Elk, the great Indian leader, said -- you know, the
4 white man knows how to produce everything. He
5 doesn't know how to distribute the wealth. He does
6 not know how to distribute the wealth.

7 I think there's plenty of economic resources in
8 this town, if we would just get serious and see about
9 putting those resources to the best use of everyone
10 in the community. In fact, one study I read several
11 years ago, Mississippi ranked 15th in the nation in
12 the ownership of Cadillacs. There is money in
13 Mississippi. It is just not being distributed in my
14 judgment in a way that benefits all of our citizens.

15 DR. WARD: Thank you very much. Are there
16 other questions? Thank you very much, Dr. Sallis.
17 Dr. Leslie McLemore, please come forward. Dr.
18 McLemore, you may either use the podium or if you
19 prefer to sit at the table.

20 DR. McLEMORE: I'm a college professor. I like
21 to stand. Thank you.

22 DR. WARD: For the record, would you please
23 spell your last name and provide your mailing
24 address?

25 DR. McLEMORE: Yes. Last name, M-c-L-e-m-o-r-

1 e. My mailing address is Department of Political
2 Science, Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi
3 39217.

4 Good morning to all of you, and let me
5 apologize for being slightly late. I went to the other
6 building, the old capital. I got my letter. I guess I
7 didn't read it as thoroughly as I should.

8 I'm going to do something that's fairly non-
9 traditional. I know what my assignment is and I'm taking
10 my remarks from an article that I wrote with a couple of
11 colleague several years ago, and I will make these -- a
12 copy of the article available to the Commission, so you
13 may digest it, so everything I say is not going to come
14 from the article, but what I really should say comes from
15 that article.

16 So I'm not going to stick to my script nor the
17 article. I just think there are a number of parallels.
18 Today we are here in this place. In the irony Dr. Sallis
19 pointed out that Mississippi does have the highest number
20 of black elected officials of any state in the union.

21 And the irony too is that on this walking tour
22 that he talked about, which would be just a couple of
23 blocks from here, we would get a better sense of really
24 what Mississippi is about even in 1995.

25 It is ironic, perhaps this hearing really --

1 although it's appropriate that it's here because we have
2 so many black elected officials in the state and people
3 have made outstanding contributions like Fanny Lou Hamer
4 and Medgar Evers, but I think it would have been more
5 appropriate it seems to me, if we would have held this
6 hearing at Smith Robertson Museum and Culture Center,
7 which is really in the heart of the area that Dr. Sallis
8 talked about, that community is a community that reflects
9 some of the real living conditions of people in Jackson.

10 Of course, the decision makers are aware of a
11 number of these issues and problems. In the article that
12 we penned several years ago, we used what was very
13 popular then, and something called the Colonial Analogy.
14 The Colonial Analogy simply compares what has been called
15 classical colonialism with neocolonialism.

16 In classical colonialism there was a
17 relationship between the colonizers and the colonized.
18 And, of course, we know that from reading history that
19 the relationship primarily was between Europeans as the
20 colonizers and the colonized are people of dark color,
21 Indians or Africans. In the case of Britain or Africa,
22 especially Britain and West Africa.

23 The analogy we looked at -- and to try to
24 determine whether or not it was applicable when we wrote
25 this piece in the middle 70's with what was happening in

1 Jackson. And we looked at neocolonialism from the
2 perspective of the colonized African Americans and the
3 colonizers are European decision-makers in this
4 community.

5 And we tried to examine the conditions of the
6 community in Jackson then from that historic perspective
7 because you know that between 1885 and 1963 there was not
8 blacks serving on the police force in the City of
9 Jackson. We know that there are a number of parallels
10 between the history of this state, starting before
11 reconstruction, and through reconstruction, to the
12 present time, with the progress or the lack of progress
13 in the Jackson community.

14 We know that the reconstruction area witnessed
15 the kind of positive activities politically that we are
16 witnessing now in Mississippi relative to African
17 Americans, but the irony is that the civil rights era
18 parallels really the progress that we have made in
19 Mississippi and across the country, because during the
20 civil rights era, the police department in Jackson
21 equaled in brutality the police department of any
22 southern city.

23 Bull Connors in Birmingham was held up as the
24 most visible and most brutal police chief maybe in the
25 country or across the American South.

1 Jackson was in that same category, but the
2 civil rights era began to change some of those
3 circumstances and the Allen C. Thompson that Professor
4 Sallis quoted and mentioned early on, was the former
5 Mayor of Jackson, who was known far and wide for his
6 employment of the so-called Thompson Tank, and the tank
7 was an exact replica of tanks that were used in World War
8 I and World War II.

9 The tank was used in 1965 during the civil
10 rights demonstrations in downtown Jackson, when more than
11 1400 persons were jailed or incarcerated in the Jackson
12 fairgrounds.

13 All of this was a part of the civil rights
14 activities but out of that activity Jackson began to
15 change. And, of course, that happened throughout the
16 south.

17 Between 1960 and 1970 Jackson population grew
18 from 144,422 to 153,968, an increase of 5.1 percent.
19 Blacks accounted for approximately 80 percent of that
20 increase, and it's been talked about before. Clearly we
21 can see that Jackson is becoming in this day, 1995,
22 increasingly black surrounded by white suburbs.

23 During that same decade, between 1960 and 1970,
24 the total population change in the Jackson SMSA was 12
25 percent, but the percentage change in the black

1 population was only 10.1 percent, while in the City of
2 Jackson the non-white population grew from 35.7 percent
3 to 40 percent of the total population.

4 Now, in 1974 one publication cited Jackson as
5 the most segregated municipal employer in the nation.
6 Less than three percent of the professional city
7 employees in 1974 were black, and less than one percent
8 of the professional employees in state government were
9 black.

10 In 1974 only 22.6 percent of the private homes
11 were owned by blacks. The majority of blacks, 47.4
12 percent in 1974, were renters, which speaks to this whole
13 issue of the colonial analogy, because independent
14 economic persons tend to have more freedom in autonomy to
15 participate in the economic and political system.

16 If one is economically dependent, which is the
17 case for the analogy, persons do not have the power to
18 activity participate in the political process and do not
19 elect to participate in the political process because of
20 the economic dependency.

21 In that walking tour that Professor Sallis
22 described, you have a population of people who simply
23 don't have the economic wherewithal to activity or have
24 the interest in participating in the political process.

25 Let me conclude my remarks by making two or

1 three basic comments. What I'm doing now, aside from
2 teaching political science, my other real passion is to
3 try to address some of the problems that our young black
4 men are facing in Jackson. So I am co-chair of something
5 called the Metro Coalition for Youth. The Metro
6 Coalition for Youth is a creation of the Leadership
7 Jackson Alumni Association and the Metro Jackson Chamber
8 of Commerce, and we are starting and have started a
9 program called One to One, which is a nationwide
10 mentoring program designed to provide mentoring and
11 economic empowerment for young African American men.

12 This program, it seems to me, holds some of the
13 promise in the long term for dealing with some of the
14 problems that we are concerned about today. It is not a
15 quick fix solution. It is a long-term solution.

16 My other consuming passion right now is that I
17 chair something called the Mississippi Humanities
18 Council. And this council that Professor Sallis
19 referenced is really one of the -- perhaps the major
20 organization in this state that has tried to create a
21 dialogue between blacks and whites. It has been in
22 existence for more than 25 years.

23 This council funds community meetings that were
24 referenced earlier on, where black people and white
25 people can dialogue. And the dialogue that is going on

1 so often in these smaller communities has been fostered
2 by the Mississippi Humanities Council.

3 The issue of diversity has been fostered so
4 often across this state by the Mississippi Humanities
5 Council. And it seems to me that working with young
6 people, trying to create this conversation between
7 Mississippians of all colors and races is very, very
8 important. And the Humanities Council for instance is
9 sponsoring in the ensuing months nine different
10 neighborhood community meetings in Jackson that is going
11 to be hosted by the Jackson Urban League and it's
12 designed to bring together blacks and whites to talk
13 about common issues, issues that they perceive that are
14 important.

15 And of course, violence is an issue that is
16 important in this community and across the country, but
17 how can we solve these problems and I'm suggesting in
18 part that we really have to work very closely with our
19 young people.

20 I indicated to you that this was going to be
21 somewhat nontraditional. You also asked me to talk just
22 briefly about solutions, and I really should have been
23 here early because Charles Sallis actually stole my
24 thunder. He snuck into my house last night and read my
25 notes and, Charles, I'll never forgive you for that.

1 But let me just say that you know, the
2 fundamental problem that we face in Jackson and that we
3 face in Kansas City and we face in New York is economic
4 empowerment, and the lack thereof. Once we speak to
5 economic empowerment in a very systematic way, we're
6 going to make some changes in this community and across
7 the country.

8 Once we can develop a strategy where young
9 black boys and men can see the banker and know that they
10 can become a banker, when we have mentoring for mentoring
11 programs where they can see what the architect does and
12 they can go into the architect's office in high school
13 and they can aspire to be an architect, they go off to
14 Mississippi State or Xavier, wherever they teach
15 architecture in this country, that is important.

16 When they can see lawyers on the panel and they
17 know that as a fifth grader I want to be a lawyer -- I
18 told the story of my brother, Eugene, who is a lawyer and
19 a minister in this town at a meeting last week -- and
20 Eugene and I went to visit Benjamin Hooks in Memphis when
21 we were about nine years old, and Benjamin Hooks
22 practices law in Memphis, was a lawyer there, and you
23 know Benjamin Hooks became executive director of NAACP,
24 but we said because of being in Benjamin Hook's office on
25 a Tuesday during the week, he had a necktie on, and a

1 white shirt and a suit, and he was a lawyer, and he was
2 representing people in court, and we said we wanted to be
3 lawyers.

4 And my brother Eugene really followed through.
5 I didn't. But he became a lawyer and we were only ten
6 and eight years old apiece, so I'm saying that if
7 something to this notion of working with young people, so
8 they can see positive role models, and in this process
9 they can know and learn that economic empowerment is a
10 real possibility because lawyers -- most of them do make
11 a fairly good livelihood and they stay out of jail, and
12 you get other people out of jail.

13 It seems to me that we also have to do
14 something else that Professor Sallis talked about. We
15 have to teach our history. We have to teach the history
16 of the state. And it is important that black people know
17 European history. It's important that Europeans know
18 black history.

19 It's important that we know each other's
20 history. That's why this diversity is so important,
21 because if we can start at that level, we won't have the
22 suspicions about each other as a race and as a group,
23 once we get older.

24 Quite frankly, you may very well say that
25 McLemore doesn't seem to place much hope in what is

1 happening now, not as much as I place in the future,
2 because I really think if we can provide the foundation,
3 our future will be much, much better.

4 Let me just mention in closing two or three
5 different organizations. The 100 black men of Jackson
6 are making an attempt to provide some mentoring
7 activities, which is something very positive in this
8 community, and I notice that at least the person who used
9 to be president of the group is going to speak to you
10 later today or tomorrow.

11 The other one is Leadership Jackson -- the
12 Leadership Jackson program, which also has great
13 potential. I see one, two, three people in that panel
14 who were in Leadership Jackson. And it's at least on one
15 level there's some dialogue, and I think there is just a
16 bit of dialogue beyond the workplace, not a whole lot,
17 but just a little bit. There's room for great potential.

18 And then the other program that I think really
19 probably has much more importance is Youth Leadership
20 Jackson, which is also conducted by the Metro Jackson
21 Chamber of Commerce, because that gets together the high
22 school students from the area that are both blacks and
23 whites from the private schools and public schools,
24 because in this dual school system that we have in
25 Mississippi, it is important I think for kids from the

1 private school system to also talk to kids from the
2 public school system because increasingly one is white
3 and the other one is black.

4 I offer these as clearly short-term solutions
5 and maybe some of these are long-term solutions. I think
6 mentoring and working with our young people is clearly
7 something long term that we all ought to be concerned
8 about, and I say to all of you if you're not from
9 Jackson, if you are not -- if you're not involved in the
10 life of a young man or a young woman, you really should
11 get involved in that person's life, because that really
12 can have an impact on what we do in the year 1050.

13 Thank you very much.

14 DR. WARD: Thank you, Dr. McLemore. I have two
15 questions. I want to follow up immediately on your
16 suggestion that it's important that we teach history.

17 In your estimation how important is it that we
18 teach the nature of institutions including such
19 institutions as police departments within a city?

20 DR. McLEMORE: I think it's very important. I
21 think it's very important that we include all
22 institutions, because I think we have to really deal
23 with this perception in our community, that the
24 police is the enemy.

25 Professor Sallis was commenting on, you know,

1 the by-gone days of Officer Friendly, and Officer
2 Friendly retired actually, you know, Officer Carter
3 retired. And he was identified as Officer Friendly
4 in this community, and whether or not he's been
5 replaced, I don't know, but he was identified as the
6 friendly officer, but you see the police department
7 has to be and ought to be user friendly for
8 everybody.

9 What can the police chief do? The police chief
10 out to spend a whole lot of time in the school system
11 talking to young men and women. The police chief out
12 to spend a lot of time talking to people in the
13 community and ought to be identified with the
14 community, because we need persons with good
15 interpersonal skills. That's going to make a
16 difference, so yes, we need to teach these
17 institution. We need to teach the history of the
18 institution. We shouldn't try to reorder the
19 history. We shouldn't try to reconfigure it in a way
20 that we don't tell the truth, but I think we have to
21 be honest with ourselves and teach about our
22 institutions, but also it is going to be very, very
23 important, I think, in my judgment for -- again, for
24 this integrated history of the history of black
25 people, red people and white people in this country

1 and in this state, because then that's a true
2 history.

3 We cannot segment history in a way that people
4 cannot understand it and don't really have an
5 appreciation for it.

6 DR. WARD: My second question is this. What
7 are your views on the mayor's response to and role in
8 the operation of JPD during the last five years?

9 DR. McLEMORE: Well, I think -- let me tell you
10 -- the mayor has in my judgment been a person with
11 very, very good intentions. Our mayor is not the
12 most political person in the world from the
13 traditional perspective.

14 He made some pronouncements earlier on about
15 looking for a black police chief. Perhaps some of
16 you on the panel would not have said that. Maybe I
17 wouldn't have said that. I would have just gone out
18 and recruited and hired a black police chief without
19 making the pronouncement.

20 But also I think any mayor in any town in any
21 city in this country is beholding to a certain group
22 of people that make larger campaign contributions
23 than most of us, at least than I do. Those persons
24 who often are the slum landlords, because we wonder
25 why we haven't made more progress on these code

1 violations, why we haven't made more progress on some
2 of these houses.

3 We know some of the reasons, and some of the
4 reasons that these are people who are supportive of
5 the administration at that time, and these people who
6 have the monies tend to be very supportive of any
7 person who is in office, whether the person is a
8 republican or a democrat, conservative or moderate or
9 liberal, because they want to make sure that they can
10 sustain their income, and a lot of them make
11 substantial incomes from the slum landlord housing.

12 So what I'm really saying is I think the mayor
13 has made some mistakes. Clearly he's made some
14 progress. On the other hand, some of the
15 pronouncements that he made, I would not have made
16 those pronouncements given where we're moving to,
17 because I think -- I think we have to avoid the
18 appearance, although it is there, that the police is
19 an occupying force in the black community, to protect
20 and serve or to mean something, and understand what
21 I'm really saying.

22 I'm really saying it's so important for these
23 young people to understand that they have a real
24 stake in this community, that they can be anything
25 they wish to be, anything they can aspire to be, and

1 we have to get that across in positive ways,
2 including with the police department, so that's why
3 it is so important for the police department to be
4 visible in the community, to be visible on the beat,
5 for the police chief to visit the schools, and to do
6 things to let these young people know that they are
7 human beings and that they are part of this
8 community.

9 MS. MILNER: Dr. McLemore, would you elaborate
10 on the need for a positive imagine association with
11 the diversity and explain what that means and how we
12 can foster it in general and specifically how it can
13 be fostered with reference to police community
14 relations?

15 DR. McLEMORE: Okay. I think number one is
16 that we really have to -- in our schools, which is
17 the basic foundation, of teaching our young people
18 the kind of diversity, or if you will, integrated
19 history and social science that really captures the
20 contributions of all people to the enterprise that we
21 call Mississippi or the enterprise that we call
22 America.

23 So it has to start there, it seems to me. It
24 has to start there from the perspective of having the
25 readings and the persons before them conveying the

1 message that all people have made contributions and
2 that they can see themselves in the history books or
3 they can see themselves in the social science books.

4 Also I think it is very, very important to
5 foster this dialogue between different communities,
6 and leadership has the responsibility -- I mean,
7 leadership can really make part of that happen.

8 But if we don't foster that dialogue between
9 blacks and whites and between other minorities in
10 this state, we are not going to come to any greater
11 sense of understand and appreciation of each other so
12 it seems to me that we really have to factor this in
13 as we go along because I think this conversation is
14 important.

15 I think specifically that when it comes to the
16 police department and the City of Jackson, one of the
17 things that we have not done very well in Jackson,
18 and I think the current mayor has done it better than
19 any other mayor, is that we haven't really utilized
20 the resources of people in this community. We
21 haven't really utilized the people in this community
22 in terms of their talents to bring information to
23 bear on the police department or any other department
24 in this city.

25 For instance, it seems to me that this dialogue

1 that I talk about, this conversation that I'm talking
2 about, this conversation really ought to involve the
3 police department in a very meaningful way. You see,
4 it is not sufficient just to have one or two persons
5 that is in charge of police community relations. I
6 think the police community relations ought to be
7 reflected from the top down and the bottom up. That
8 is the police chief and his deputies, the people that
9 are in the decision making role, ought be out there
10 and then they ought to present this integrated
11 approach to police relations in this city is that
12 black officers and white officers ought be working
13 together. Black officers and white officers ought be
14 going into schools talking to children. They ought
15 to be going to garden clubs, community groups,
16 talking to people to present the approach that this
17 is a society of black people and white people
18 striving to try to understand each other.

19 Quite frankly, my friends, you know, we tried
20 it the other way for all these years. You know,
21 segregation really did not work. We tried it for a
22 long time. Any fool out to realize that didn't work,
23 so if that didn't work, let's try a new approach, and
24 I think if we can tone the rhetoric down and have
25 people in responsible public positions working

1 together, blacks and whites, that we sent a positive
2 message to our kids, to the young people in this
3 community, whether this community or any other
4 community in this country, but I think it's important
5 that we do that, so what I'm saying -- I'm saying we
6 have to institutionally move the police department in
7 such a direction where our young people can see black
8 people and white people working together, where they
9 can see this multi-culturalism working and I think
10 that is the best way to teach diversity. It's the
11 best way for people to see diversity at work in this
12 community.

13 DR. WARD: You had one.

14 MR. CANIZARO: Yes. Dr. McLemore, Dr. Sallis
15 talked about the leadership that was apparently
16 effective in the 60's in our community. Would you
17 comment on the effectiveness of leadership, political
18 and business leaders in our community today?

19 DR. McLEMORE: I think we are moving in the
20 right direction. I think we have clearly made
21 progress over the last 30 years, and I am always
22 pleased by certain cases when we can point out -- you
23 know, that certain things are happening, but you know
24 what we really must have is this bold leadership to
25 match our slogan, I guess that maybe we've dropped by

1 now, the bold new city, because it seems to me that
2 on several levels we are making progress.

3 Let me just again cite very quickly, I really
4 think that the Hundred Black Men in this community,
5 that organization is really trying to make a
6 difference.

7 I think some economic in-roads have been made
8 through the leadership of that organization, and
9 generally change occurs in that manner where you have
10 a dialogue. There is a dialogue. I think Professor
11 Sallis is right, there are really not enough black
12 people on boards where people are making decisions.

13 Clearly there are a few black people, one or
14 two, and the same blacks are recycled. I'm not
15 criticizing that, but I'm saying that the universe
16 has to be expanded because when we expand that
17 universe, then we are able to deal with some of these
18 decision making issues, because black people
19 economically make contributions to this community.

20 We deserve and require better housing. We
21 deserve and require better services, and we have to
22 get the attention of the leadership in this city, so
23 we have made some progress. We have a long way to
24 go.

25 In a round about way, I am saying yes, we've

1 made some progress, we have not nearly made enough,
2 but again we don't have the frank and candid dialogu
3 that we need. We really need more conversations
4 amongst the leadership. We need more conversations
5 amongst elected officials.

6 The irony is that we have all these black
7 elected officials in this state and in Jackson, and
8 to what extent is there a dialogue between the
9 elected leadership, I am really not sure. I mean not
10 encouraged by that. I'm not encouraged by that.
11 There's so much turf protecting amongst the black
12 elected officials and the white elected officials.
13 There is so much posturing as opposed to trying to
14 deal with real issues in this community.

15 We don't see the interconnections between the
16 things that we do. You know, the session is out now
17 and people have to go back to their work place, but
18 what are the efforts to pull people together, to talk
19 about a legislative agenda for this state among
20 blacks and whites in the legislature on a board of
21 supervisors.

22 When has there been a summit meeting of black
23 elected officials and white elected officials just in
24 Hinds County where they talked about what is good for
25 Hinds County or what is good for the metropolitan

1 area, Rankin and Madison.

2 I'm not sure that has been done recently. You
3 see, so what I'm suggesting is that it's going to
4 take a bit of creativity, it's going to take a bit of
5 imagination. It's going to take a bit of thick
6 skinness, because you see all of these people are so
7 protected now, so if there is an opponent for now in
8 this community, it's a person with the black
9 community, so the seats are safe, you know, you're
10 elected, and you're appointed for life virtually,
11 which says somebody about competition in a democracy.
12 Don't let me get started on that. That's another
13 subject. Okay. I'm sorry.

14 MS. KEYS: Dr. McLemore, are you aware or could
15 comment on race relations within the police
16 department itself and -- because you were talking
17 about black and white officers going out to the
18 schools and talking.

19 When you had a black officers' union and a
20 white officer's union, is there not a race problem
21 within the department itself? Is that correct, and
22 what could be done about that?

23 DR. McLEMORE: Yes, and it takes leadership.
24 Again, I think -- I've been impressed so far with the
25 acquired leadership of Dr. Johnson, our new police

1 chief, but it's really going to take Dr. Johnson and
2 the mayor and the city council bringing to bear the
3 positive persuasion to get that done, because in the
4 article that we penned several years ago we talked
5 about the rigid segregation in the police department
6 between black officers and white officers, and a lot
7 of that is still there.

8 I think the recent effort on the part of the
9 firemen, black and white fireman, perhaps may
10 represent a kind of model that we need to look at for
11 the future in this community, at least some of them
12 see the common issues that they are concerned with.
13 I think because of the military style and the
14 battering and the rigid nature of the police
15 department, it's probably going to be somewhat more
16 difficult, but it seems to me that it can be done.

17 The mayor can plan a pivotal role in this
18 process, although they are criticizing the mayor, but
19 the model is that black people and white people are
20 coming together, are dealing with issues that they
21 think are very important to that department and hence
22 to the City of Jackson, and I think that we have to
23 start that dialogue in the police department and that
24 can be done in part by the police chief and by the
25 mayor and by responsible officers in the police

1 department, and also by the city council.

2 We don't have a lot of the confrontation
3 between the executive branch and legislature branch
4 that you have in a lot of cities across this country.
5 I mean, in relative terms it's a civilized body, so
6 it seems to me that we do have these black and whites
7 serving on the city council. They can represent I
8 think a model and they can use their influence to
9 help bring about some of this dialogue within the
10 police department between white officers and black
11 officers.

12 MR. JENKINS: Doctor, do you see a role for
13 Jackson State to bring about this meaningful
14 dialogue, not only in terms of the community but the
15 dialogue among black and white police officers also?

16 DR. McLEMORE: Oh, yes. I think we have a
17 criminal justice program at Jackson State that has
18 been in place for a number of years. Professor Jimmy
19 Bell is going to talk to you later on and he knows
20 much better than I do, but we have educated white
21 police officers and of course a number of black
22 police officers and people who are in the criminal
23 justice system.

24 The university can play a real institutional
25 role. Quite frankly, our role has been limited by

1 history as an institution and that's the
2 institutional limitation, but also our role has been
3 limited by the lack of pro-active leadership on our
4 parts as faculty person and staff people in this
5 community.

6 We haven't -- as a faculty we have not been as
7 pro-active as we should have been in a number of
8 areas, whether it is the criminal justice system or
9 whether it is health care in this community. We
10 deserve and should have a greater presence and I'm
11 saying institutionally we cannot blame all of it on
12 history and on segregation. It is really a lack of
13 initiative on our part, and I'm saying leadership and
14 we ought to be more pro-active, because I really
15 think that we can play institutionally a much greater
16 role and should play a much greater role, but I think
17 we have to as an institution get away from what
18 happened 50 years ago, what happened a hundred years
19 ago, and say that institutionally we ought to have a
20 greater impact, because economically we have a greater
21 impact -- Jackson State on this community.

22 And we don't demand any more from this
23 community, is absolutely an insult to the community.
24 You know, there could not be an institution of our
25 size and our potential with the economic impact that

1 we have and not demand more from and to accept the
2 foot dragging that we have accepted, so there's
3 enough blame on both sides. That's what I'm really
4 saying, and if you point your finger one way, you can
5 point it the other way too.

6 So I know that we have to be more pro-active
7 institutionally.

8 DR. WARD: Thank you very much.

9 DR. McLEMORE: You're welcome. Dr. Bell.
10 Welcome, and for the record would you please spell
11 your last name and provide your mailing address?

12 DR. BELL: Yes. B-e-l-l, Bell, 1400 Lynch
13 Street, Jackson State University, Department of Criminal
14 Justice, Jackson, Mississippi.

15 First let me say I am not going to depart and
16 make a precedent -- depart from my academic colleagues.
17 I am going to stand at the podium too, Dr. Ward, even
18 though you did invite me to sit down, but certainly I
19 would like to stand here at the podium and make my very
20 brief presentation.

21 Let me say good morning to the U. S. Commission
22 on Civil Rights, Ms. Fay Robinson, and other
23 commissioners. Also to the Mississippi Advisory
24 Committee and to chamber guests.

25 As I see my task today, I am supposed to talk a

1 little bit about the background information on crime
2 trends and statistics in Jackson, allude also to past and
3 current law enforcement practices that negatively affect
4 race relations and law enforcement effectiveness and
5 image, the effect of racism and discrimination on policy
6 community relations, as well as providing some useful
7 models and/or prescriptions.

8 And I'd like to basically look at those four
9 general areas in sequence, to first look a little bit at
10 the background information on crime trends and statistics
11 in Jackson. There's general consensus primarily on why
12 we collect data in the beginning.

13 One is to assist in policy and planning
14 decisions. Two, to learn more about how and why crimes
15 are committed. Now basically there are three major
16 research instruments that will give you this information.

17 They are the uniform crime report,
18 victimization surveys, and self reports studies. And I
19 want to talk about these things because I can't talk
20 about crimes in Jackson unless we understand basically
21 how data are collected.

22 When we look at the uniform crime report, we're
23 talking about a statistical data bank. It is compiled by
24 the Federal Bureau of Investigation using approximately
25 some 16,000 city, county, state and law enforcement

1 agencies, which covers about 97 percent of the
2 population, and what these agencies are encouraged to do
3 is provide to the FBI on an annual basis crimes or
4 offenses known to the police.

5 There are some major limitations in that
6 approach.

7 A second approach is victimization studies or
8 surveys. The national crime survey, as it is called, and
9 this is the process that is conducted by the Bureau of
10 Census in cooperation with the Bureau of Justice
11 Statistics. And what they do is simply determine the
12 number of offenses committed from a national sample of
13 about 47,000 people, households rather, I'm sorry,
14 concerning what their experiences as victims were doing a
15 given period of time.

16 There are also major limitations to those data.
17 And third, the self report studies and this is the
18 process of asking people to report their own delinquency
19 rates or their own criminal acts, and this is to be done
20 in an anonymous manner.

21 Of course, there are major limitations to that
22 study, to that research process.

23 Now, what happened is that when we talk about
24 crime data primarily from the local law enforcement
25 officials, we are only looking at one of those

1 approaches. We are only looking at the uniform crime
2 report, and that's the weakest approach of all of the
3 approaches that I've mentioned in terms of getting
4 accurate data and statistics as to what constitutes
5 crime.

6 Now, I looked very briefly at a five-year trend
7 in Jackson in terms of violent crimes, in terms of
8 murder, rape, robbery, and assault, using as a base year
9 1990 through 1994. And we see that if we simply compare
10 1990 with 1994 on murder alone, the rate doubled, and
11 certainly there were slight increases in rape, robbery
12 and assault.

13 But when I read in the paper on yesterday the
14 Clarion Ledger, and I looked at the paper's estimates on
15 statistics for the FBI report, I found a wide discrepancy
16 in terms of what the data from the police department
17 themselves suggested, so rather than getting into those
18 differentiations, I just want to issue a caveat that
19 perhaps we may not need to pay close attention to
20 statistical data and crime reports as reliable as some of
21 you or some of us may think.

22 Now, with -- well, one other caveat is that
23 most statistical measurements and trends are not
24 adequately computed for statistical reliability and
25 control by local law enforcement agencies.

1 Universities, research centers do a much better
2 job in really giving you the actual crime data, using all
3 these other different approaches.

4 Now, when we look at law enforcement practices
5 in the Jackson area, past and current, I try to outline
6 specifically some of the things that come to mind based
7 upon my 25 year tenure at Jackson State University
8 dealing with criminal justice for 20 or more of those
9 years.

10 I see one, a lack of consistent operational
11 and/or functional definition of the role of the police,
12 one that is consistent with contemporary community needs.
13 In other words, there is an unrealistic expectations by
14 the public of what the police can and cannot do, and I
15 don't think the police has done a good job in really
16 raising that consistency.

17 For instance, most people think about the
18 police as crime fighters. Absolutely not true. All
19 reliable data suggests that only ten percent to 20
20 percent at most in all counties and cities across the
21 country, only spend that amount of time in crime
22 fighting. The rest of the time is spend in public
23 service and community contact of various areas.

24 So I'm suggesting that that's one of the
25 problems, that there is no consistent functional

1 definition of what it is police should and ought to do in
2 our communities.

3 Secondly, there is a failure to provide
4 training that is consistent with the tasks performed by
5 local law enforcement officials, and as I've already
6 indicated, most law enforcement officials spend about 80
7 percent of their time doing what they have been only
8 trained to do in 20 percent of the time, and that's
9 basically meeting and greeting the public, providing some
10 type of essential service as opposed to the crime
11 fighting image or scenario.

12 Third, there is a preoccupation in this area
13 with race based management of police departments. There
14 is a pre-occupation with race-based management, and this
15 is evident because of -- by way of political intrusion
16 and manipulation on the part of administrative leaders,
17 mayors, or whomever. This is evidenced by intra-
18 departmental politics on behalf of police organizations.

19 Example, JCOP, the Jackson Concern Office Of
20 Progress, which happens to be in the City of Jackson, a
21 local black police professional organization by their
22 charter as composed or compared to JPOA, Jackson Police
23 Officers Association, which identifies themselves as a
24 local union of sorts, and there is this friction between
25 the two organizations historically.

1 A fourth point that I'd like to make is that
2 there is a lack of culturally diverse training within
3 each rank of the Jackson Police Department. There is a
4 lack of culturally diverse training within each rank of
5 the Jackson Police Department.

6 In other words, I don't think that enough is
7 being done at each level of county as well as city
8 policing to talk about the need for the cultural
9 diversity as some of the other guest experts have alluded
10 to.

11 And I will get into that if you'd like me to
12 later on.

13 The third area that I am supposed to address is
14 the effect of racism and discrimination on policy
15 community relations. Now, if by racism we mean that
16 there is a belief in the inferiority of one race in
17 relation to another, yes, it exists in the Jackson and
18 local policy agencies.

19 If we mean by discrimination that actions based
20 upon these tragedies, thoughts, are evident in the police
21 department, yes, they are.

22 Denial is perhaps one of the greatest
23 challenges of police departments in dealing with racism,
24 and the JPD and local county agencies are not excluded.
25 It must be acknowledged in my opinion that racism exists

1 within the local law enforcement level.

2 What is the impact then of this racism on
3 police community relations? One, there's selective
4 enforcement in certain communities.

5 Two, we have witnessed and observed aggressive
6 patrol techniques employed with certain racial groups.

7 Three, sometimes tension between police
8 officers along racial line becomes evident.

9 Another impact is that intradepartmental racial
10 tensions ultimately get aired in external community
11 forums. I have some examples of that. Another impact is
12 that political action on the part of political officials
13 often confirms the internal dissension as observed in
14 determination of two previous African American police
15 chiefs within a span of two years.

16 Problems in the police department are merely in
17 my opinion a microcosm of the larger city and county.

18 Now, what are some useful models and
19 prescriptions to improve effectiveness and the
20 credibility of law enforcement? One, I would suggest is
21 an approach that is called community oriented policing.
22 I'd like to also suggest that Jackson State University's
23 Department of Criminal Justice develop and create a
24 community oriented policing, however it may not have been
25 in those names, in 1974 in this country where community

1 oriented policing as a national model came into terms of
2 being only in the mid-80's, so we were ten years ahead of
3 the game in terms of what happens and how you police
4 communities.

5 I'd like to basically share with you the
6 difference between community oriented policing as a model
7 that I believe that would be much more effective versus
8 traditional policing, and just let me set forth a
9 dichotomy for you.

10 On the one hand we look at traditional policing
11 and on the other hand we look at community oriented
12 policing. First of all, the traditional approach, what
13 we see in contemporary law enforcement around the
14 country, the philosophy is crime control. We must
15 control crime.

16 On the other hand, community oriented policing
17 has a focus of preventing crime, so one is to control it
18 and suppress it and one is to prevent it. They're not
19 necessarily mutually exclusive in some departments, but
20 basically if we work to dichotomous them or separate
21 them, this would be the difference.

22 The traditional model is reactive. A call is
23 made to the police department. They come out and
24 respond, reactive.

25 On the community oriented model or perspective

1 it is pro-active, that they are already out there
2 preventing and talking to people and trying to prevent
3 something from occurring.

4 In the traditional sense, policing has a para-
5 military model, just like the military with rank,
6 structure, et cetera.

7 On the community oriented model, it's more of a
8 professional and professionalism is much more encouraged.
9 On the traditional level we have incident driven
10 policing, where an incident occurs and a policeman
11 responds.

12 On community oriented policing we look at value
13 driven. They're looking at results. They come out and
14 talk to people in a domestic dispute. They don't leave
15 until a result -- some results have been accomplished,
16 whereas the incidents may differ -- we're looking at how
17 effective policing can be from a result oriented
18 perspective.

19 One is experience based, which is traditional.
20 The other is research based, which is very important.

21 Traditional policing emphasizes public safety,
22 while community oriented policing emphasizes public
23 health as well as public safety.

24 Now, I'd like to basically share with you, if I
25 have time, a model that I developed for the National

1 Black Police Association, which is different from
2 community oriented policing as a strategic model.

3 And it is called the Extended Community
4 Policing Model.

5 Now, this model as a concept primarily deals
6 with the philosophy that we must pragmatically rethink
7 and re conceptualize the notion of traditional policing
8 in the African American community.

9 My concern is whether the National Black Police
10 Association concern was to basically look at what happens
11 in policing as they go into the various communities, and
12 we have found through research that police officers
13 police different, even black police officers police
14 different in their own neighborhoods as opposed to when
15 they are in other neighborhoods. That is an empirical
16 fact.

17 When we look at the extended community policing
18 as a model, it is based upon the extended family model
19 from the African community, which says that based on
20 blood lines that we take care of each other, that there's
21 a strong blood line between uncles, aunts, nephews,
22 nieces, the whole works.

23 And I say that why not have a community of
24 policing model that uses those same precepts and what we
25 did was to bring business into that extended family,

1 bring school systems into that extended family, bring
2 local fraternities and organizations, neighborhood
3 organizations into that extended family, and train and
4 teach them and give them each a role in terms of how you
5 resolve issues.

6 I maintain strongly that if policing in this
7 country is to be changed, it must be done through African
8 American police officers, not at the ranking level as
9 chiefs and lieutenants, but at the street level as
10 patrolmen and supervisors, because they are the ones who
11 is most visible in our community, they're the ones who
12 realistically have their pulse on the problems and
13 they're the ones, if trained properly, could relate
14 better to our citizenry.

15 And finally, in terms of new models and
16 techniques, I have identified and I will put in the
17 records for your hearing basic elements of the extended
18 community policing model and what are the functional
19 prerequisites? And among some of those things and I
20 won't get into all ten of them, but among some of those
21 functional prerequisites for any police office or
22 department to work effectively in contemporary society
23 meeting contemporary needs, we must have a strong one and
24 advocacy approach.

25 We must be -- I tell them jokingly that they

1 must be SOB's, service oriented brokers, in order to
2 perform the necessary prerequisites to get along with the
3 community and help solve some of those problems.

4 We must have shared governance. There's a
5 concept called the Hannibal Complex that's kind of
6 interesting. We must evaluate what we're doing. We must
7 be accountable to our communities that we police, and
8 this can only be done in my opinion through a strong
9 sense of research that will then form decision.

10 Thank you.

11 DR. WARD: Thank you, Dr. Bell. Start off with
12 Suzanne and then --

13 MS. KEYS: Dr. Bell, you certainly raised a lot
14 of questions in my mind, and I just get a little
15 dizzy talking to you.

16 Just to clarify, the first point -- you were
17 talking about the different kinds of data we get.
18 Basically are you telling us we shouldn't really look
19 at some of these crime statistics that we're given or
20 we need to evaluate them in a different way?

21 DR. BELL: I'm saying that they are not
22 necessarily reliable.

23 First of all, if you take the uniform crime
24 report, not saying that whether it is done frequently
25 or less frequently, but the reports have been known

1 to be padded based upon whether or not police
2 agencies want additional federal dollars based upon
3 the data.

4 MS. KEYS: In your assessment though would you
5 say that crime has increased in Jackson? Whatever
6 data you're looking at?

7 DR. BELL: I would think that we've seen a
8 different level of reporting. We've seen a different
9 age category in terms of people committing these
10 offenses. The national level, crime has gone down
11 since 1980, which is hard to believe in most
12 instances, but if you look carefully at whatever the
13 data suggests by the FBI, it would indicate that
14 certainly with a slight increase in violent crime.

15 Certainly crime is too rampant and too much
16 rampant in this city under any circumstances to not
17 look at whatever data base we have, so certainly we
18 do have a serious problems with crime in the Jackson
19 area.

20 MS. KEYS: You also said that one of the
21 problems is we have lack of consistent functional
22 definition of the role of police. What would you
23 suggest as appropriate definition for what the role
24 of police ought to be?

25 DR. BELL: Well, I would suggest that what we

1 would do, should do, is look -- well, first of all,
2 most police departments -- let me talk about Jackson.
3 I don't think that they realize or utilize resources
4 to inform their decisions. Now, even though we've
5 had several studies of the police department in
6 Jackson, none of those recommendations to my
7 knowledge from the last PERF study, police executive
8 research forum study, have been followed.

9 First of all, they indicated in that particular
10 study that the same thing that I am telling you in
11 terms of what police officers actually do. They did
12 a task analysis. They simply rode with officers and
13 found out what they do on a daily basis.

14 They don't spend 90 percent of their time
15 fighting crime. So that role should be revised in
16 terms of what an officer should be doing and training
17 should be commensurate with that role. So I'm
18 suggesting that we need to find out what it is, not
19 only what it is that our officers do, but what it is
20 that we want our officers to do, and then define a
21 role for them in terms of regulations, policy, et
22 cetera.

23 DR. WARD: Senator Harden.

24 SENATOR HARDEN: Dr. Bell, I know that you are
25 familiar with the training for law enforcement

1 officials and my question deals with any
2 recommendations that you may have to change, alter or
3 improve the training -- I think it's ten weeks of
4 training that these law enforcement officials must
5 undergo. That's the first question.

6 DR. WARD: In 1974 I purposely visited the
7 Jackson police training academy, in 1974, and asked
8 them did they have any race relations training
9 involving in the training of their officers. They
10 said no.

11 I said well, I'll -- I said I'll do it for you.
12 They said well, we don't have the money to pay you.
13 I said I'll volunteer.

14 And I volunteered that services up until a
15 point where it was not needed any more, let me put it
16 that way.

17 And right now we don't have any real
18 sensitivity training, culture diverse training,
19 within local law enforcement agencies in this county,
20 to my knowledge.

21 What little training we do have in race
22 relations, inter-group relations, was based on some
23 outlines that I created in 1974. And I don't know
24 how well those -- and some of those concepts have
25 been upgraded I think, but I'm just not comfortable

1 with -- so what I would recommend is that we do have
2 extensive and intensive cultural diverse training, as
3 evident not only for the officers themselves in terms
4 of how they relate to the community, but between
5 officers -- intra-departmental because there is
6 friction.

7 SENATOR HARDEN: The other part of it deals
8 with any suggestions that you may have to resolve the
9 discrepancies that exist between JCOP and JPOA. I
10 perfectly understand the quote, mission of both of
11 these organizations, but I'm just trying to get in
12 some suggestions that you may have as to how these
13 two groups can better work together in order to
14 provide better policing and it's truly a problem with
15 the race relations.

16 So what would you suggest that we do or that be
17 done in order to try to facilitate that process?

18 DR. BELL: Well, some sensitivity training will
19 I guess highlight what their major differences are.
20 Once we find out what the major differences are, I
21 think that we will have to refocus and re-orient our
22 police officers to the notion that what their real
23 responsibilities and duties are to the community.

24 You see, traditionally policing has had and
25 still to a great extent today, the notion of we-they.

1 We, the police; they, the community. That notion is
2 alive and well, so there is a schism there, but what
3 I'm suggesting is, first of all, we have to re-
4 orientate and refocus our police departments on what
5 is their responsibility to the community on the law,
6 and once we do that, then you can throw in the
7 sensitivity kind, the training, but I would say that
8 it probably is going to be extremely difficult to
9 bridge the gap between JCOP and JPOA, because one is
10 union focused, one is community professionally
11 focused.

12 And those two things are diametrically opposed
13 I think.

14 MR. RANGE: Dr. Bell, could you discuss for us
15 please the advantages and the disadvantages of a
16 civilian review board for oversight of citizens
17 complaints?

18 DR. BELL: Yes. I favor a civilian review
19 board because one of the advantages is that it gives
20 the community, especially being represented by
21 professionals who I would think would serve on that
22 board, an opportunity to monitor, evaluate and assess
23 the police from an external basis.

24 Usually internal affairs departments from both
25 police departments do not effectively police their

1 own, so historically that has been the case. So with
2 that understanding I think that it becomes essential
3 that we have an external review board, especially if
4 we are to move in the realm of community oriented
5 policing, where the police will in effect interact
6 with the public at a much more greater capacity than
7 they do today in terms of just contact, arrest, et
8 cetera, so the advantage is that it is an external
9 monitoring or an evaluation or assessment. I don't
10 really see any major weaknesses of the approach.

11 MS. KEYS: At one point you said that the
12 community has -- the public has unrealistic
13 expectations of the police. Would the community or
14 the public also need to be re-educated in your
15 opinion then?

16 DR. BELL: Absolutely. You see, most police
17 departments, most communities understand the police
18 department based upon three major sources, the news
19 media, the entertainment media, and the police
20 officers themselves. They hold out this role as
21 crime fighters and protectors, et cetera, when in
22 actuality if you actually look at what they do,
23 that's not it.

24 So certainly the public has to be re-educated
25 as to what the role of the police is, what they can

1 and cannot do.

2 MS. KEYS: You also mentioned that one of the
3 problems in the department is the denial of the
4 racism that exists. How would you cope with that if
5 you were the police chief and you had to go in and
6 deal with this thing, you talk about different
7 techniques and all these other things, how would you
8 deal with that?

9 DR. BELL: Well, first of all people have to
10 understand those concepts of racism, prejudice,
11 discrimination, and they can exist within one's mind
12 independently of each other. You can be prejudice
13 and not discriminate. You can discriminate and not
14 be prejudiced. That's a whole other area, but
15 certainly we need to understand that these officers
16 need to have some type of race relations training in
17 terms of social reality.

18 One of the techniques that I've used across the
19 country in training -- I'm still doing training but
20 not necessarily in Jackson -- one of the techniques
21 that I use is to ask police officers how many of you
22 are racist in here, and nobody raises their hand.

23 And I ask well, how many of you think that the
24 larger community harbors racial attitudes and
25 believes. Everybody raised their hand. I said then

1 where were you recruited from?

2 You see, because police departments are simply
3 microcosms of the larger society, so certainly we
4 need that kind of sensitivity training.

5 MS. ROBINSON: Dr. Bell, I just wanted to say
6 you're right on target with some of the preliminary
7 observations that we have made in our assessment of
8 some of the training reviews and concerns. I'd like
9 for you to make some comments about the Hinds County
10 Sheriff's Department based on what you know, your
11 knowledge and your work with that department in terms
12 of their training. You indicated earlier that
13 there's no law enforcement agency in the county that
14 addresses race relations and cultural diversity in an
15 appropriate way.

16 Would that include the Hinds County Sheriff's
17 Department?

18 DR. BELL: To my knowledge. As far as I know,
19 I don't know of any culturally diverse training
20 that's going on. There may be. I just don't know of
21 it. However, I have a very good working relationship
22 with the sheriff, the current sheriff, McMillan, and
23 I am sure that he is receptive to any approach.

24 We've talked about perhaps doing some things in
25 the future and perhaps those talks will get beyond

1 just talks. Perhaps we will be able to do some
2 things. I think we will.

3 But basically my -- the extent of my dealing
4 with historically the Hinds County Sheriff's
5 Department, has been through interns working within
6 that department, and I have had interns there over
7 the past 20 years off and on, but I have no real
8 training experience with the Hinds County, but I
9 would suspect that it is no different from the
10 Jackson Police Department because basically the
11 philosophy of traditional policing I do know exists
12 in Hinds County as well as the City of Jackson.

13 MR. JENKINS: Let me follow up on the question
14 that Fay posed, and it seems somewhat puzzling, that
15 you have a major university with a major department
16 of criminal justice in Jackson State, and I simply
17 wonder to what extent have the resources of that
18 department been utilized by Hinds County Sheriff's
19 Department and the Jackson Police Department and what
20 role would you see or envision that Jackson State
21 would have with this criminal justice department in
22 working with these two law enforcement agencies.

23 DR. BELL: Certainly we should have a strong
24 research relationship with those departments. We
25 should have, I would say, but let me just be very

1 candid with you and based upon my experience and
2 teaching at Jackson State and understanding what goes
3 on in politics and policing in this area.

4 There -- our truth and philosophy are not their
5 truth and philosophy. So sometimes our philosophy is
6 diametrically opposed to theirs. For instance, I in
7 the department, we are for the most part pro
8 community oriented policing. I find very few share
9 of people, personnel, as well as local Jackson police
10 personnel who are in favor of community oriented
11 policing, and you have to understand the history
12 behind policing as my two colleagues so adequately
13 presented earlier.

14 It's one of social control. Let me give you a
15 scenario. When asking police officers where do you
16 want to police once you leave the academy, in a low
17 income neighborhood or in a high income neighborhood.
18 Most of them would say in a low income neighborhood.
19 They would say well -- the question is why?

20 Well, in a low income neighborhood we get to
21 tell the people what to do. In a high income
22 neighborhood, they tell us what to do, so that's a
23 carry-over of traditional historical social control
24 policing, so I'm saying that we would have -- be
25 opposed to that kind of mentality attitude, and our

1 training would reflect something different. Perhaps
2 they don't want anything different perhaps.

3 MR. JENKINS: Okay. We will have additional
4 questions that we will send to you in the mail.

5 DR. WARD: Thank you very much. Mr. William
6 Spell, please. Welcome, Mr. Spell. For the record,
7 and this sounds a little strange, given what your
8 name is, would you spell your last name and also
9 provide your mailing address?

10 MR. SPELL: My name is Williams Spell, S-p-e-l-
11 l. My mailing address is post office box 1138, Clinton,
12 Mississippi 3960. I am here inasmuch as I was chairman
13 of an advisory committee appointed by the Hinds County
14 Board of Supervisors to study the criminal justice system
15 of Hinds County.

16 And my report to you today will not summarize
17 that report because we have provided to you a copy of
18 that. With the Advisory Committee's permission I would
19 like to comment on some of the previous testimony before
20 this committee and agree with some of it and disagree
21 with a slight portion of it.

22 I'm not sure disagreement is the correct
23 description. It may be a little bit of a different
24 slant. Looking at the title of your conference, it
25 appears to me as though you have targeted -- and I don't

1 mean that in a bad sense -- you have emphasized the
2 police department of the City of Jackson as the central
3 focus of your concern.

4 And indeed that requires attention. However,
5 another part of your announced purpose is to consider
6 civic crisis and civic challenge, and I presume that
7 refers to the necessity of doing something about crime.
8 Without going into the statistics and there are different
9 interpretations of statistics, but I think Dr. Bell said
10 it correctly, while there may be some differences in how
11 crime is measured and there may be some disagreement
12 about the exact extent to which crime exists, there is
13 much too much crime and when one reads the newspaper, as
14 one would today, you find that one church has been
15 burglarized four times in seven days.

16 That indicates that that alone is an indication
17 of some of the problems that we face in this city and in
18 this county:

19 The report that we made summarized some of the
20 statistics from various sources and suffice it to say
21 that there is a crime problem and presumably what this
22 committee wishes to do is to discover ways and means of
23 doing something about that, and doing it in the terms and
24 context of an even application of the law so that all
25 citizens may be treated equally and fairly and may be

1 provided the protection of the law that they deserve.

2 I caution you -- I caution you very strongly
3 that if you consider only police community relations as a
4 factor in determining what should be done and what can be
5 done about crime, you will fall far, far short of the
6 mark.

7 There are four things that are necessary in
8 order to control crime, and I will discuss those in my
9 view.

10 But in addition to controlling crime through
11 enforcement, there must be an even greater emphasis on
12 the prevention of crime.

13 Now, let's talk first about the enforcement.
14 In order for the enforcement of crime to be successful
15 there must be four elements. First, there must be an
16 arrest, that is, one who perpetrates a crime must be
17 apprehended.

18 Second, there must be a competent and adequate
19 prosecution of that individual.

20 Third, there must be some adjudication through
21 the courts of that individual's guilt or innocence, and
22 fourth there must be some type of punishment that is to
23 be provided that is appropriate to the crime committed.

24 Unless there is a deterrent to the commission
25 of crime, there will be no fear of committing crime; and,

1 therefore, that punishment must be appropriate to the
2 crime.

3 But remember those four elements, arrest,
4 prosecution, trial and punishment, which could include
5 incarceration. All four of those elements must work
6 properly and effectively in order for the system of
7 criminal justice to work properly.

8 For example, if the police department is
9 ineffective and does not make arrests, it makes no
10 difference how effective or efficient the judicial system
11 -- the judges are. Nor does it make any difference how
12 many jails you have or what state your prison system is
13 in.

14 On the other hand, if you don't have adequate
15 prosecution, adequate and appropriate judicial
16 performance, and adequate correctional facilities, it
17 doesn't make any difference how effective your police
18 department is in making arrests.

19 So unless you solve all of these problems at
20 one time, the system will not work. And that is why I
21 caution you, while I commend you for your effort in
22 viewing this problem, I caution you that if your view is
23 limited to the police department or to the narrow field
24 of law enforcement, including the police, the sheriff and
25 other enforcement agencies, without giving adequate

1 attention to the other elements of the criminal justice
2 system, it doesn't matter how well you do your job in
3 pointing out what could be done to improve the police
4 departments or the law enforcement functions. Unless
5 those other functions are improved also, your work will
6 be very ineffective in my view.

7 Now, having said that about law enforcement,
8 let me say that I believe that law enforcement alone will
9 never solve the crime problem. I came to that conclusion
10 after studying this matter for a year.

11 When I became chairman of the Advisory
12 Committee appointed by the Hinds County Board of
13 Supervisors, and incidentally, I think that you should
14 know and understand that several members of the board
15 disagreed with the report to the extent that they
16 concluded the Advisory Committee should no longer
17 function -- so I would suggest to you that in fairness
18 you should read that report in light of the fact that the
19 appointing agency was somewhat unhappy with it, but I
20 think the reason that they became unhappy with it is
21 because we pointed out that they were a part of the
22 problem and they would not recognize -- as a board, the
23 majority would not recognize that.

24 But going back to the problem of enforcement
25 and the necessity of having enforcement accompanied by an

1 effective program of prevention, let me say that it
2 doesn't matter how effective you make law enforcement
3 now. I'm convinced, and I said that earlier, but when I
4 began the study I was convinced that if you simply go out
5 and pick everybody up, put them in jail, and try them and
6 put them -- try them, put them in jail, and remove them
7 from society, that you would have solved all of the crime
8 problems, that we could solve the problem that way.

9 That simply is not the case. As one member of
10 our group, after having studied this problem for some
11 time, said, if we follow the philosophy that law
12 enforcement alone is the solution, it will not be very
13 long before half of society is guarding the other half of
14 society.

15 So what I'm going to suggest today is going to
16 be somewhat controversial, particularly among law
17 enforcement agencies, for two reasons.

18 One is it's going to suggest that they are not
19 appropriate for the tasks that should be assigned them
20 and secondly, they are going to say that we have said
21 they have failed in their job.

22 Let me say that I do not believe that law
23 enforcement generally has failed, particularly
24 individuals who are engaged in law enforcement. It is
25 very discouraging to go out and spend a considerable

1 amount of time and risk some personal safety and making
2 arrests and find that that individual who has been
3 arrested is back out ont street before you get the
4 paperwork completed and that the individual commits
5 additional crimes before he is brought to justice on the
6 first case.

7 So policemen have a very tough job. But they
8 can't do this job alone, and I believe the time has come
9 when we must do two things. One, we must look at the
10 system as a criminal justice system, so that all of these
11 four elements that I have just described about
12 enforcement operate effectively together as a synergistic
13 system so that the product of the whole is greater than
14 the individual sums of the parts.

15 That will happen if you make that system work
16 as a system.

17 But more than that, I think you have to re-
18 define criminal justice and especially I believe you must
19 re-define the mission of police in our society. I
20 believe that the mentality, particularly given the
21 history, and tradition of law enforcement officers, that
22 the mentality and mind set of a police officer is
23 inconsistent with that mind set required to recognize,
24 analyze and apply preventive measures of crime.

25 Therefore, I believe that we must have -- and

1 this is going to be extremely controversial -- we must
2 have a blending, a wedding between social programs and
3 the criminal justice system so that we do three things.
4 One, we attempt to keep individuals from becoming
5 involved in the criminal justice system by program and
6 systematic effort to prevent crime in the earliest and
7 most elementary and basic ways.

8 Second, we must have a social system that will
9 be so integrated and intermeshed with the criminal
10 justice system that it can supplement and separate the
11 social aspects of crime prevention and individual -- and
12 the correction of individual conduct, so as to avoid
13 criminal activity.

14 The police departments simply cannot do that,
15 and they will not do that. And the third thing we must
16 have is a social system that will deal with those people
17 who are chronic and seriously defective in their
18 personalities and in their social conduct and in their
19 lives so that we may make a determination as to whether
20 or not they are ever salvageable and if they are, then we
21 must salvage them and if they are not, we must come to
22 terms with how we're going to deal with them.

23 In summary, I would say to you that while it is
24 commendable to look at community relations and the
25 effectiveness of a police department, that is but a very

1 small part of the program, and I believe that if there is
2 going to be freedom in our society, if we are going to
3 enjoy the government of the equal application of law so
4 that all of us are free to do those things that we have
5 learned in America are our rights and privileges, we're
6 going to have to make basic revisions in the total
7 approach to the criminal justice system and there must be
8 -- there must be a combining of social efforts and law
9 enforcement.

10 That must not include the idea that law
11 enforcement officials must now take on social tasks, nor
12 must it include the idea that social workers must take on
13 law enforcement tasks. Rather, the mission and system of
14 the whole effort must be defined so that each performs
15 his or own responsibilities in such a way that you do
16 have a true criminal justice social improvement system,
17 and I think that unless and until that is done, as long
18 as we continued piecemeal and patchwork efforts to
19 bolster a particular portion of the criminal justice or
20 the social system, we will not achieve the objective,
21 because the task is too great. It must be a massive,
22 massive effort.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. MILNER: Mr. Spell, keeping in mind this
25 theory of a wedding between social services and the

1 criminal system, do you see room at the state level
2 for alternative punishments for salvaging first
3 offenders and things like drug rehabilitation or
4 social service or home confinement as opposed to
5 incarceration?

6 MR. SPELL: Yes. But that must be carefully
7 managed. For example, home incarceration must be --
8 must be administered in an environment so that if the
9 opportunity to serve a penalty through home
10 incarceration or home confinement is violated, there
11 is an escalating application of more severe penalties
12 than are enforceable on top.

13 At the same time, there must be a reward so
14 that if one, for example, goes through a drug
15 rehabilitation program or alcohol rehabilitation
16 program, if one goes through that type of
17 rehabilitation, there must be some expectation and
18 some opportunity for that individual to become a
19 productive citizen through a good job or an adequate
20 job.

21 You simply cannot put somebody or some
22 individual who has committed a crime or who is
23 addicted through a correctional program and then turn
24 them back to same environment from which they came
25 with no more opportunity to succeed than they had

1 when they began the addiction or when they got into
2 trouble.

3 So that's why I say the whole system must be
4 looked at as a whole and the way it's operating now
5 obviously does not work. Therefore, all of it must
6 be remodeled. And that's going to be tough because
7 that means that some people are going to have to give
8 up their turf, some people are going to have to give
9 up -- modify their mind sets. Some people are going
10 to have to amend their philosophy, philosophies that
11 are deeply rooted and traditions of long-standing,
12 and -- but unless you do that, in my view we are
13 simply going to talk and piddle and patch and nothing
14 is going to happen. Nothing is going to happen
15 significantly enough to make a real difference. In
16 fact, I think it will get worse.

17 MS. KEYS: You said that we needed to redefine
18 the mission of the police in society. What would
19 your definition -- what definition would you give
20 police in society?

21 MR. SPELL: Well, you know, a lot of the
22 policemen for example, and I don't want this to be
23 accepted as a criticism of police people,
24 particularly those who are involved in these
25 operations, but we try to create the impression that

1 policemen are good guys and so we go out and make
2 talks and tell people that they ought not to be on
3 drugs and they ought to do a lot of things about how
4 to obey the law and they ought to do these kinds of
5 things that make them a good citizen.

6 I frankly don't think that's the job of a
7 policeman. That's a job of a teacher. That's the
8 job of a parent, and if you had parents who
9 understood and knew how to do that, you wouldn't be
10 required to take a policeman off the job of enforcing
11 the law and have him go out and do something that is
12 totally different from his training.

13 If you go through the police academy, you don't
14 learn anything about how to teach kids to stay off
15 drugs. You can have some surface discussion of it,
16 but you can't do that and you can't get people -- you
17 can't get kids off drugs and you can't keep them off
18 drugs by a policeman going into a school one time in
19 three months or four months or five months.

20 That has to be a constant thing that is forever
21 and constantly emphasized and it must be done
22 skillfully by persons who understand the social
23 aspects, the psychological aspect of that problem,
24 and a policeman doesn't do that.

25 And again, I don't mean to criticize them for

1 - the effort -- I think they're doing the best they can
2 but the system simply is not appropriate for that
3 kind of an application.

4 MS. KEYS: Would you disagree with this
5 community oriented police model that has been
6 discussed here before?

7 MR. SPELL: No. I think that we have to define
8 what is a community oriented police -- I believe in
9 community oriented policing but I believe that the
10 policeman's job should be primarily limited to
11 policing. He should be assigned to a community. He
12 should know the habits and the customs and people in
13 that community, and he should become a part of that
14 community.

15 But for the purpose of enforcing the law --
16 now, what I'm talking about when I say there must be
17 a social element injected into the criminal justice
18 system, I'm talking about something that is so big
19 and so great and so complicated that that policeman
20 cannot do that and enforce the law at the same time.
21 There has to be a system, for example, a
22 psychological evaluation, there has to be a system of
23 evaluating in the sense of whether or not
24 particular child has sufficient parental support,
25 whether or not the parents have sufficient parenting

1 skills, whether or not that individual is associated
2 with improper individuals in a wrong environment.
3 And if so, what can you do about it?

4 You have to have recreational programs that are
5 tied to the psychological evaluations and to the
6 family situations. All -- and I'm not an expert on
7 that. But I know enough about it to know that unless
8 you get the experts who are qualified to put the
9 whole system together and make each part of that
10 system work as an element of the whole, that you will
11 not solve the massive problem that exists.

12 So I think you have to pretty much reinvent a
13 system. I don't believe we have a system in place
14 now that will do what I believe has to be done in
15 order to meet the law enforcement and the social
16 requirements of correcting the maladies of our
17 society that are based on crime.

18 MS. MILNER: Do you see the establishment of a
19 drug court as being absolutely necessary and would
20 you share with us that recommendation of the
21 committee?

22 MR. SPELL: Only if you have all of the other
23 support that is necessary to make that drug court
24 effective. If you've got an effective enforcement
25 mechanism to get people into that drug court, which

1 is a necessary. If you have an effective drug court,
2 and more importantly when you get that individual
3 into the drug court, you must have some way of
4 dealing with that individual once you determine that
5 he has violated the drug laws.

6 You can do several things. One, you can put
7 him in jail forever and forget him, which is not a
8 very cost effective thing to do, to say nothing of
9 the humanity of the matter.

10 The second thing you can do is to admonish him
11 not to do it any more and give him a little bit of
12 help and hope that he's going to do well.

13 And the third thing you can do is to develop an
14 effective program of several alternatives that have
15 escalating -- escalating checks and balances, so that
16 if one fails, the other clicks in, and if that one
17 failed, then another one clicks in, so that that
18 individual is given the opportunity to make a -- to
19 be given the maximum effort to recover himself and
20 he's given maximum encouragement to recover, but if
21 you simply establish a drug court, and convict
22 somebody of violating the drug law, you're either
23 going to put him in jail or do something with him
24 other than put him in jail, and right now we don't
25 have enough jail space to take care of them and we

1 certainly don't have the alternative programs to take
2 care of them, so all we do is to take him in front of
3 the drug court, convict him, turn him loose and put
4 him out on the street, and he simply spreads the
5 message that hell, if you violate the law, nothing
6 will happen to you, so I don't think that's fair.

7 SENATOR HARDEN: I was particularly interested,
8 Mr. Spell, in listening to you talk about enforcement
9 versus prevention, and we have tried to stick to the
10 prevention side of crime at many levels of
11 government, particularly at the state level, and it
12 seems that all the time it falls on deaf ears.

13 My question to you is how do we begin to reform
14 the system that you talk about, the total reform of
15 the system, in light of the mean spiritness that is
16 apparent throughout this country with regard to
17 crime? I never hear anybody talk about the kinds of
18 things that you have put to us today. Everything
19 seems to be from the standpoint of lock them up and
20 throw away the key.

21 How do we begin to reform the economics in
22 these communities, the substandard housing, the
23 education and those other issues that contribute
24 indirectly to the problems that we see today?

25 MR. SPELL: I think you would have to include

1 me as one of those who in the beginning of my
2 exposure to this problem could be counted among those
3 that are mean spirited, because my philosophy, as I
4 told you, was lock them up, move them, get them out
5 of the way.

6 There simply is not enough space to do that and
7 it's just simply not cost effective even if that were
8 the right thing to do, which it isn't necessarily.
9 One should be removed from society and incarcerated
10 only when one has no possibility of becoming a
11 productive citizen without being a threat to others
12 or himself.

13 I think education probably is the best answer
14 that I can give you in one word. People have to
15 understand what caused the problem. People have to
16 understand what it takes to solve the problem. And
17 nobody -- I'll put it that way -- very few people
18 understand -- now I'm going to say, with all
19 deference to my good friends in the law enforcement,
20 they are not particularly interested in learning how
21 to do those things that are related to prevention.

22 Oh, they'll put an office in their department,
23 put a sign on the door and say crime prevention.
24 They might even assign a full-time person to it, but
25 that full-time person -- two or three people even in

1 a department -- sheriff's department, could never,
2 never do what must be done to prevent crime.

3 Let me say in regard to the housing and to all
4 of these things that generally are conceived as being
5 contributors to crime -- I do not believe that simply
6 because one is poor, gives them any right to be a
7 criminal or to violate the law. Nor do I believe
8 that all people who are in poverty commit crimes.

9 I also do not believe that all people who are
10 affluent are law abiding citizens. I believe that --
11 I believe that crime is not in a respecter of race,
12 religion, creed or color.

13 I think it is to some extent -- to some extent
14 the product of environment, but that environment
15 includes a lot more than annual income. It includes
16 whether or not an individual has a parent, whether or
17 not an individual has a good school, whether or not
18 an individual has the opportunity for recreation,
19 whether or not he has a good religious underpinning.

20 All those things that contribute to a law
21 abiding citizen are not related necessarily to
22 poverty or to whether an individual is affluent.
23 So I believe that there must be some improvement
24 of neighborhoods, but I don't think that it would
25 do you any good to go build a bunch of new houses

1 in the neighborhood where -- that is heavily
2 infested with crime unless you can improve all
3 these other things that are a part of that
4 environment that must be improved in order to
5 raise the status of that community to self
6 respect, to the understanding and appreciation of
7 moral values and the understanding and
8 appreciation and respect for the property and
9 life of others.

10 All of that has to be done simultaneously, so I
11 do not believe that these simplistic answers of
12 improved housing are any more an adequate solution to
13 this problem alone, alone, than to say you've got to
14 enforce all of the laws.

15 MS. KEYS: Who do you see spearheading an
16 effort to invent this new approach?

17 MR. SPELL: Lord, I don't know. And let me
18 tell you why. It won't be the people who are now in
19 charge, because to do so they would have to give up
20 some of their turf, and nobody is going to do that.
21 Now, I think it's got to come from the voters. And I
22 think it's got to be somebody that has the courage
23 and the ingenuity or the ability to organize first an
24 educational program so that they can have an
25 intelligent approach. Then they have to have the

1 endurance and the ability and the determination to
2 organize it and make it -- but you will not have
3 present officials advocating what I'm advocating.

4 DR. WARD: Thank you very much. Mr. Hill. As
5 per usual, welcome. For the record, spell your last
6 name and provide your mailing address, please.

7 MR. HILL: Gary Hill, Box 8186, Lincoln,
8 Nebraska. I'm a member of the Nebraska Advisory
9 Committee, U. S. Commission on Civil Rights and thus know
10 a little bit about the process and potential weaknesses
11 inherent in what you're trying to go through right now.

12 I also have a fairly long history of
13 involvement in the criminal justice field and, therefore,
14 may have some ability to see and understand some of the
15 technical aspects of the police and corrections
16 operations.

17 Now, having said that, let me emphasize that I
18 am not here as an expert, nor do I spend extensive time
19 with police, sheriff or corrections personnel, at least
20 enough time to be able to give an indepth analysis.

21 What I will present is my opinion based on the
22 very short amount of time spent in the area, fairly short
23 visits with personnel, and on a review of material
24 supplied by both the police and sheriff's departments.

25 Now, having provided you with my appropriate

1 disclaimer, let me tell you that I do feel my
2 observations are fairly accurate. However, you must take
3 my comments, like everybody else's, only as food for
4 thought and possibly a place to start your own
5 questioning and your own investigation.

6 I will cover five areas as I've been asked to
7 do. One will be police department training. Two,
8 general personnel issues within the Jackson Police
9 Department. Three, communication within the Jackson
10 Police Department. Four, very briefly something on
11 juvenile detention here. And finally, a little bit on
12 the downtown and Rankin jails.

13 Police department training. Now, as you may or may
14 not be aware, the general curriculum is dictated by the
15 state. However, the specifics subject matter and the way
16 that it is taught is left up to the department.

17 In visiting with the officer in charge who has
18 written or acquired most of the training material, I must
19 tell you that I have the impression that he works in a
20 vacuum.

21 And he has not been able to explore the
22 different approaches in presenting the material or even
23 on obtaining different types of material to present.

24 I was most concerned that with the exception of
25 the chief, senior police personnel seem to know very

1 little about the details of what was being taught at the
2 academy or how it was being taught or even what the
3 overall role of the training was.

4 Most indicated that they felt that the chief --
5 felt the training was a priority, but very few of the
6 senior officers that I had occasion to visit with seemed
7 to have done their homework in order to help the process
8 of training ^{to} move through.

9 The training department, like the rest of the
10 Jackson Police Department, had no apparent control over
11 their own budget, and has absolutely no input, as far as
12 I could tell, in the development of that budget.

13 Of the six individual officers that I asked,
14 not one could relate the training they received at the
15 academy to the specific skill that they used on the
16 street. They could relate some of the general training
17 they received, the things like the general knowledge of
18 the law, but they couldn't relate the training to the
19 practical aspect of police procedure.

20 For instance, they could not relate the
21 training that they received in the use of, in what I call
22 PR-24, standard police baton, to actual use of that piece
23 of equipment on the street. And consequently, most did
24 not carry it or use it, which meant that the only weapon
25 they had available initially was their sidearm or their

1 gun.

2 When they did talk about academy training, most
3 of the police officers felt that the manner of
4 presentation left little time for practice. On items
5 that call for recertification and some of the training
6 does call for recertification, I found no officer who
7 hadn't received the recertification training that they
8 were mandated to receive.

9 Even those officers I visited with who had been
10 out of the academy for only a fairly short period of time
11 had trouble with some, what I would consider a simple
12 question, such as what was the mission of the police
13 department, what was their place in it, and what were the
14 details about the consent decree that police officers,
15 since they seemed to be impacted by this area, should
16 know something about?

17 That means that either the subjects were
18 covered very quickly or poorly or they were not covered
19 at all.

20 Even such basic items as pay ranges, which were
21 given to us in a booklet form labeled basic information
22 for trainees, seemed beyond the knowledge of most of the
23 officers, including administrative personnel.

24 Though the command staff talked about community
25 or impact policing, something you've heard about today,

1 the only one who seemed to grasp what the concept of
2 community policing was the police chief. He was the only
3 one who could talk about any of the details of what that
4 meant.

5 The concept of the field training officers,
6 which is where a senior officer works with a junior
7 officer on the street, on-the-job training, if you will,
8 to help them along, the FTO concept has been introduced
9 to the Jackson Police Department and the week that I was
10 here was the week of the first class for the FTO's.
11 However, several of the officers were already using the
12 paperwork and filling out paperwork needed by senior
13 officers or field training officers, though they hadn't
14 been trained in what it was and had no idea what the
15 concept was all about that they were going to perform
16 without knowing what the process was.

17 I think one of the most important issues from a
18 training standpoint was not mentioned by staff or even
19 the officers or directors. They may not even have been
20 aware that it is a major training issue, and that's the
21 amount of time that officers, especially in divisions two
22 and three in Jackson, are involved in the physical
23 struggle with those they wish to arrest or question.

24 Just about every officer I talked to had been
25 in fights with suspects. And most of the officers

1 indicated several such incidents. As a matter of fact,
2 it seemed almost the accepted mode of operation.

3 The officers in district two and three as a
4 matter of fact indicated that they were very -- and they
5 said this with pride -- very carefully, individually
6 selected because there they needed young officers with
7 young legs, so they could chase people. That was their
8 initial concept of police work.

9 Some felt that they could do better in terms of
10 avoiding common takedown or direct flight once they got
11 pepper gas, though few had been exposed to it. And they
12 felt they would be better able to handle potentially
13 difficult situations.

14 However, they had not been told about the
15 training that goes with using such a weapon. None of the
16 officers I talked to in the police department had been
17 given training in things like sizing up a situation with
18 communication skills, which in police training is very
19 basic. When you walk into a room or a situation, looking
20 around, seeing what's there and knowing when to back off,
21 when you use your voice as opposed to when you shout, as
22 opposed to when you reach for a gun. The escalation --
23 in other words; sizing up a situation to avoid violence --
24 - with the sheriff's department in their training calls
25 verbal viewing.

1 I did not find that same type of training
2 anywhere within the Jackson Police Department.

3 In terms of the second item, some of the
4 general issues on the Jackson Police Department are
5 personnel. Few officers seemed to know what the hiring,
6 promotion or screening process was, how it took place.
7 Even the senior staff was quick to point out that the
8 last process, that we've heard much about that everybody
9 felt was flawed -- they indicated though they felt it was
10 flawed, they weren't involved it and really didn't even
11 know what it involved, at least they said they didn't.

12 Senior staff and officers alike seemed to blame
13 the consensus group. Black officers thought the process
14 of hiring and promotion was flawed but necessary, but the
15 black officers also had no idea how the process worked or
16 what the consent decree demanded.

17 The white officers, on the other hand, seemed
18 to feel that the process was very unfair. They also
19 blamed the consent decree but they also could not say
20 what the consent decree demanded. They just knew the
21 words consent decree.

22 There was no apparent systematic process for
23 evaluation the work of an office. Though internal
24 affairs could be called to find fault, an officer could
25 have negative items placed in their personnel files, I

1 got no systematic process where an officer did something
2 good that could be evaluated by his superiors and placed
3 in the file.

4 So the only way an officer knew if they had
5 done well was to guess, I supposed, and in terms of
6 promotion they could not look upon their personnel file
7 or any systematic process -- it seemed to be you can get
8 promoted depending upon who you know, and they obviously
9 believe that it's the politics in the situation as
10 opposed to their personal job performance or how they
11 reacted to the public.

12 Communications. It's obvious from this, from
13 top to bottom, communication within the police department
14 seemed problematic. Though all the people I talked to
15 could explain how information was passed from the top
16 down, but from the bottom up it was generally an
17 explanation of a very informal process. It was performed
18 by happenstance and from previous observations, like I
19 said, was fairly ineffective.

20 I think it would be helpful if some very
21 simple, preferably one page sheets could be made up and
22 distributed to the officers and to the public, some
23 sheets that explain, for example, the purpose of the
24 consent decree, how it is being implemented, and what the
25 consent decree does not mean as well as what it does

1 mean.

2 For instance, a consent decree I assume all of
3 you know or should know does not mean that you have to
4 hire inferior, unqualified people. There's nothing in
5 the consent decree that says that. But I'm not sure
6 everybody understands that.

7 There should be some simple statements passed
8 out to the public and the officers that say what the
9 mission statement of the Jackson Police Department is,
10 very simple, very easy to do, a sheet that talks about
11 the philosophy of and the plans and the operation of
12 community police, and the time to do that is now, as
13 people come -- they're talking about community policing,
14 but it is not simply having officers in the neighborhood
15 getting out of their car periodically and saying hi, I'm
16 Officer Friendly.

17 It's much more involved than that and it's a
18 process. It involves a great deal of training and
19 community understanding.

20 And finally I think that the distribution to
21 the police and for the public should be the code of
22 ethics of the department. As far as juvenile detention,
23 for a couple of reasons I will not go into great detail
24 I submitted some written information.

25 But let me summarize by saying that both from

1 appearance and from talking to the staff, I think that
2 for the staff that works in juvenile detention, at least
3 when I was there, there was very little understanding of
4 what their job was or how to do it. I felt that the only
5 suggestion I could make at this time as far as juvenile
6 detention from a practical standpoint is that until such
7 time as it is totally taken over by another entity, such
8 as the possibility of the sheriff's department operating
9 juvenile detention, that the entire staff of the
10 detention department be sent to the training course, let
11 the sheriff's department first send their detention
12 officers, and that the staff of the detention center be
13 involved in the ongoing training that currently exists
14 within the sheriff's department.

15 That is something that would be done without
16 the expenditure of a great deal of funds.

17 I would further suggest that the management
18 personnel from the sheriff's department be contracted to
19 help establish the standard operating procedures,
20 supervision of staff protocols, and general inmate rules
21 of the juvenile detention facility.

22 The last item that I'll comment on is the
23 downtown and Rankin jails. From a human rights
24 standpoint, I'll only mention two items. By and large I
25 found the operation at the jails, first rate, very well

1 run. I was impressed with what I saw.

2 But there was a few items that I would call to
3 your attention from a human rights standpoint. In the
4 Rankin facility, some solution needs to be found as
5 quickly as possible and the sheriff is well aware of
6 this, has talked about and is looking for some type of a
7 solution, where women who are arrested and brought in on
8 initial detention are currently held, the intake cells
9 are placed in such a way that almost by necessity there's
10 not the ability of a staff person to look in on a
11 consistent basis, and oftentimes observation of the
12 people placed in those cells can be as long as 45 minutes
13 to an hour apart.

14 For anybody who knows anything about the
15 detention process, the most critical time for somebody in
16 detention is after they are initially arrested. That's
17 where the time for shame and fear comes out. That's the
18 time and reaction for drugs or disease or medicine is at
19 its most critical and standards say that observations
20 should be no more than 15 minutes apart, and that's an
21 area that maybe putting money into the sheriff's
22 department does need some help.

23 The second item is there's currently a contract
24 -- contract by the county supervisor, not the sheriff's
25 department, for the provision of phone service to the

1 inmates.

2 Now, without having the actual phone logs, they
3 advocate. I can only give you an impression and I hope
4 you take a look at it.

5 I have the impression that the calls are very
6 inexpensive. The calls are made on a charge to the
7 family system, where the person you call is the one that
8 pays for the price of the call. A local call from the
9 downtown jail for instance, I believe, to a local area
10 costs 85 cents, and I'm staying at a fairly good hotel
11 here in Jackson. My local calls cost me 50 cents and I
12 complain about that. 85 cents for a local call, much for
13 a long distance call, and the money that's made from the
14 profit is returned to the county supervisor, not going
15 into the inmate welfare fund.

16 And of course the cost of that is borne by the
17 people who are the families of those in jail and I would
18 assume, without going through all of the statistics, that
19 it is the family of those who are in jail who can least
20 afford the most expensive phone calls within the city or
21 the county.

22 So that might be an area you want to take a
23 look at, at least in terms of where the profits go.

24 As a footnote, in terms of the Rankin facility,
25 everybody I talked to is concerned, including those who

1 operate it, that because of its location, how far away it
2 is, there needs to be something where adequate
3 transportation for visitors, so they can get cheaply and
4 conveniently to the correctional facility; for visits to
5 maintain family ties and to return.

6 That's kind of the obvious?

7 Now, let me finish by reiterating that the
8 majority of my comments come from some very quick
9 observations and some very superficial conversations.
10 Also due to my lack of time here, I've listed only the
11 negative and none of the positives, and there are many
12 positives that I could spend time with, so that's a
13 factor of time.

14 I was most impressed with the new police chief,
15 and I feel given the political support and adequate time
16 and resources that the Jackson Police Department could
17 soon be a model to this part of the nation.

18 I was equally impressed with much of what I saw
19 with the sheriff's department. Many, many good people
20 live and work in this area, and even though the police
21 officers I met and talked to gave responses and made
22 statements that gave reason for concern, were basically
23 very good people with the desire to operate fairly and
24 effectively.

25 It is my hope that the work of this committee

1 will be ongoing and that after the smoke is cleared and
2 the allegations and the finger pointing are all gone
3 away, that the work of this committee will be a
4 continuing function and that you will bring others with
5 you who can help identify the process of the resources
6 and the procedures that law enforcement and corrections
7 personnel in this area truly want to implement to make
8 law enforcement here as good for all the citizens as it
9 could and should be.

10 MR. CANIZARO: Mr. Hill, your findings are
11 certainly alarming with regard to the police
12 department and I am particularly concerned about the
13 contents of the training or lack thereof of the
14 officers that are currently on the street. Would you
15 have some sort of model that you could suggest to us
16 about how we might go through what appears a need for
17 retraining?

18 MR. HILL: I would say a need for initial
19 training -- let me answer by saying that the police
20 chief who we did have a chance to visit with, has
21 that in mind. He brought it with him from where he
22 came before. Training is something he is very
23 familiar with. The problem that I'm afraid people
24 face is being given the time to implement it.

25 He does have retraining almost from top to

1 bottom. I saw very few of even the senior personnel
2 who though very, very experienced, had gone through
3 proper and good training on a consistent basis. The
4 chief has those models.

5 There is also, by the way, a police
6 accreditation system that the department has talked
7 about and they want to look at from the -- copy of
8 what the accreditation process is and that goes to a
9 full training curriculum.

10 MR. CANIZARO: Would you care to comment any
11 further about the juvenile detention center in terms
12 of its current services that it provides to the
13 inmates?

14 MR. HILL: I met probably some of the finest,
15 warmest people that anybody could ever want to meet
16 who were working as staff at the juvenile detention
17 facility, but they know absolutely nothing about
18 running a detention facility. You do not imprison
19 people with your heart and likes. You imprison
20 people with common sense and within the frame work of
21 the law. The three major areas of the juvenile
22 detention facility I saw that probably bothered me
23 the most --and these are things that take no money --
24 number one, they go to the attitude, both stated and
25 unstated, that everyone of the juveniles brought in

1 was already guilty of a crime. They were in the
2 detention facility prior to having gone to trial and
3 they committed no crime until a judge in court said
4 they committed a crime.

5 So the attitude has got to be we are holding
6 you here to appear for court, not because you are
7 crooks to begin with, no matter how many times we've
8 seen you before.

9 Once you have an attitude that somebody is a
10 crook, you tend to react and treat them in a certain
11 way.

12 The second thing that bothered me was that
13 there was almost a total lack of diversified reading
14 material or programs when you have a community that
15 is actually loaded with some very fine volunteer
16 groups, from literacy tutors that work right in your
17 community to friendly visitors, to Big Brothers and
18 Big Sisters. Jackson is a very proud community, and
19 if you look at the normal community, there are
20 resources that could be used in the jail that cost
21 absolutely nothing, and those were not explored.

22 The third thing that bothered me was that
23 because it was run in my opinion by people who were
24 well-meaning but untrained, there was a great
25 propensity to run the prison or the jail or the

1 detention facility for all people based on the five
2 percent most difficult to handle, which means is if
3 you have a child at one time had a book in their room
4 or their cell and tore it up and stuffed the toilet
5 so it would overflow, which children and adults in
6 jails tend to do, then a rule was put in, no books in
7 cells, so they can only read when they're on the day
8 room.

9 If children have the only contact with the
10 counselor in order to get their trial moved or to get
11 out or to get favors and to manipulate, and they ask
12 too often to see their counselor, then a sign goes up
13 on the wall that says don't ask to see your
14 counselor, your counselor will ask to see you.

15 I've got a real problem with that. There is a
16 whole list of rules and every one of the rules says
17 that you violate it, if you talk too loud, or if you
18 draw on the chairs, if you curse, if you do whatever
19 it happens to be, lock up. That's the answer for
20 everything. That is a poorly run institution.

21 MR. CANIZARO: Perhaps in our problem solving
22 that will have to be done here in Jackson, we can
23 build on our strengths and you indicated that there
24 were some that you could talk about. Would you
25 mention that?

1 MR. HILL: I think the strengths are, and I'll
2 come back to them. You have a community with some
3 very warm, caring, sharing people. You also have a
4 community and a county that has some very good
5 resources to work within normal society, whether it's
6 the Big Brother, Big Sister, or whoever it happens to
7 be.

8 If there is somebody to help coordinate those
9 within the jail -- a volunteer can even do that,
10 although I would suggest paid staff -- then you can
11 have resources brought in that currently exist in the
12 community. It's merely a schedule type of situation.

13 I happen to believe that what little I saw of
14 training facilities and personnel within the
15 sheriff's department in the way they operate their
16 jail, that there is some good training programs
17 currently available that could be made available to
18 the police.

19 Jackson State University, although I don't
20 agree with everything Dr. Bell had to say -- I agree
21 with most of it -- has obviously some very fine
22 personnel and some very fine programs. They also
23 could be called upon to help with some of the
24 immediately training.

25 MS. KEYS: Are you familiar with the pay in

1 other police departments?

2 MR. HILL: Yes.

3 MS. KEYS: How does the Jackson Police
4 Department stack up in terms of paying its officers?

5 MR. HILL: You compare police salaries to the
6 salaries of comparable positions within the
7 community. From what I was able to gather from the
8 general salaries within the community, I felt that
9 the pay was very comparable to people with the same
10 education background, the same degree of skills, in
11 the general community are getting paid. Now, whether
12 it's enough for the work they do, that's a different
13 issue, but I do not find that I personally focused on
14 pay as reason for any shortcomings. I did not find
15 those shortcomings in one of the other departments --
16 Jackson Police Department, the other law enforcement
17 agency here in terms of being able to attract and
18 manage good people with good attitudes.

19 MS. KEYS: You kind of talked about the
20 internal management, lack of performance evaluations,
21 as kind of being in disarray. Could you determine
22 where that came from and what it would take to
23 resolve that problem? It seems to me that might be
24 rather easy to --

25 MR. HILL: Well, it's basic management from the

1 past and if you read any of the reports, such as the
2 ones referring to pay and constant turnover in
3 personnel with the police department at the very top,
4 everybody that comes in comes in with their own
5 style, so you end up with no style.

6 I think that the current police chief, who has
7 good management background experience, if given the
8 time and given the opportunity, can put together a
9 very good management -- there's no management.
10 Somebody just needs the time and backing and as long
11 as they're moving within the direction that the
12 community finds appropriate, and if the chief's
13 philosophy and mode of operation appear to be what
14 this community wants -- very superficial -- probably
15 is, then you've got to give the new manager some time
16 to implement it, because -- you come in as a trouble
17 shooter or new executive and it takes a good six
18 months to a year to get both your senior and your
19 junior staff to agree on what a normal management
20 system and style.

21 DR. WARD: I have a question about impressions.
22 What was your impression of efforts within the
23 Jackson Police Department to assist officers to deal
24 with the unusual stress of the job?

25 MR. HILL: I probably wasn't here long enough

1 - to see any evidence. I really did not see a whole
2 lot of efforts by any group, whether it was senior
3 personnel or -- with the exception of some comments
4 that the chief made in terms of some things that I
5 think they were doing with training.

6 Let me talk a little bit about the stress of
7 the job, if I may. The murder rate in Jackson, if I
8 looked at nothing else, tells me that this police
9 department really needed an overhaul. Compared to
10 any community of this size -- and you are not an evil
11 community -- I've been in communities much larger
12 that also have drugs and also have gangs and -- but
13 nowhere near what I'm seeing here.

14 The stress of the job I think a lot of it has
15 to do with officers who know that the minute they get
16 in the car, they're going to be in a fight, and I'm
17 not sure that's not by design because I found it part
18 of the job. I think you overcome some of the stress
19 of the job by proper training and proper backing and
20 teaching people how to avoid problems and then you
21 back those officers with the type of programs that
22 corporations and schools are putting in now to help
23 their staff on crisis situations, where you have the
24 availability of counselors and --

25 The one thing that Dr. Bell said by the way

1 that I tend to disagree with, he indicated that you
2 enter the police, say you want to work in a rich
3 neighborhood or a poor neighborhood, they'll say the
4 poor neighborhood, the answer being because I can
5 control them and the rich can control me. That's
6 really not true in my experience.

7 They will say the poor neighborhood, but that's
8 because that's where the action is. You do not take
9 on a job to sit and do nothing. If you're in a
10 police cruiser, as much as you want everybody to be
11 law abiding, you look forward to that fast chase.
12 You look forward to the road blocks. You look
13 forward to I'm going to break up the robbery.

14 What he did say that's very important to
15 release the stress is some training and what they do
16 80 percent of their time, and that is walking into a
17 domestic disturbance that ends up being a major
18 confrontation, and that's where most officers get
19 hurt. Of how you talk to the folks, of how you deal
20 with people. Those are training issues, and I think
21 that does a lot to relieve the stress.

22 Police work will always be stressful, and
23 sometimes those of us that are active in police work
24 who particular like the adrenaline thrill. That
25 doesn't make us bad people or wanting to use our

1 baton or gun. That just comes with the nature of the
2 work.

3 DR. WARD: Thank you very much, Mr. Hill. The
4 meeting will recess until 1:30 this afternoon.

5 (Recess.)

6 DR. WARD: Our meeting is now in session.
7 We're going to start with session three on community
8 perceptions and responsibilities, and our first
9 panelist is Mr. David Sanders. Welcome, Mr. Sanders.
10 We have a little procedure you have to go through
11 before you make your remarks. We would like for you
12 to spell your last name and give us your mailing
13 address for the record.

14 MR. SANDERS: Sanders is S-a-n-d-e-r-s. My
15 mailing address is Post Office Box 76, Jackson,
16 Mississippi 39205-0076.

17 Good afternoon. I note that I have been
18 assigned the coveted after lunch spot. I will do my best
19 to keep you awake.

20 I am the president of the Eastover Neighborhood
21 Association and I've been asked to say a few words about
22 our neighborhood and its relation to the police and crime
23 in Jackson.

24 I have prepared these remarks without much
25 consultation with anyone. I hope that they are germane

1 to your interests. If they are not, perhaps that defect
2 can be remedied in the question and answer session.

3 The Eastover Neighborhood lies at the
4 southeastern edge of Jackson's northeastern quadrant,
5 hard against the Pearl river flood plane, and as we've
6 discovered in the Easter flood of 1979, partly in that
7 flood plane.

8 It consists of 360 or so residential lots
9 situated more or less around three lakes. The
10 subdivision was developed by then Mayor Leland Steed --
11 is this sound sufficient? It's not too loud? Developed
12 by then Mayor Leland Steed beginning in the late 1940's.
13 It is now almost completely built out with very few
14 unoccupied lots remaining.

15 In fact, a second generation of houses has now
16 began to appear in Eastover, as smaller, older houses are
17 being razed or moved to make way for newer, much larger
18 houses.

19 We interpret this as a very favorable sign with
20 a long-term health of the neighborhood. Eastover is
21 reportedly one of the most affluent neighborhoods in
22 Mississippi, with a medium household income of 1990 of
23 almost \$90,000.

24 The residents are mostly professionals, owners
25 of businesses or high ranking executives of large

1 companies.

2 Many of the leaders of the business community
3 as well as some of the more prominent members of the
4 professions live in Eastover.

5 Ethnically the residents appear to be largely
6 of English, Scottish, Irish or Northern European decent,
7 with a scattering of persons of East Indian, Jewish,
8 Middleastern, Greek, Asian and Hispanic ancestry.

9 As one might expect in looking at a
10 neighborhood of Eastover's demographics, the residents
11 generally do not fear abuse at the hands of the police or
12 tend to view the evidence of the police negatively in any
13 significant way.

14 We see the police as a friendly force in our
15 effort to maintain an orderly environment in which to
16 rear families, pursue vocations, and finish out our
17 little travails in this part of the realm.

18 Our only problem with the police is that we do
19 not see them enough. Several forces that seem to gather
20 at a minimum and intensify throughout the 1970's and '80s
21 affected the way a neighborhood like Eastover views its
22 relation to crime and the police.

23 First crime increased not only in frequency of
24 occurrence, but in two other ways it affected Eastover
25 even more seriously. One, crime took on new qualities of

1 viciousness, randomness, and pointlessness, characterized
2 by the infliction of injury or death seemingly with no
3 purpose other than rage or malice, and crime became much
4 more bold, not confined only to quote, certain areas, end
5 quote of town, but threaten to strike anywhere. .

6 Second, while this was occurring, police
7 departments were becoming more "professional", less like
8 Officer Friendly or Mayberry RFD and more like Miami
9 Vice.

10 Police seem to become more focused on such
11 ambitious undertakings as trying to break up drug rings
12 with connections to Los Angeles or Chicago gangs and less
13 and less interested in the sorts of quality of life
14 concerns that are typified in a neighborhood like
15 Eastover. Carport burglaries, auto burglaries, and
16 vagrants casing the neighborhood under the guise of
17 offering unwanted goods or services door to door.

18 As crime increased in intensity and viciousness
19 and police departments in response became more
20 professional, both criminals and police seemed to have
21 taken a step further into their own world and away from
22 the world of a suburban neighborhood.

23 Third, the growth of metropolitan Jackson into
24 Madison and Rankin Counties saw the development of
25 upscale neighborhoods far enough removed from the city to

1 give the residents a feeling of security.

2 A CEO of a company moving its operations to
3 Jackson or a successful entrepreneur who had just
4 encountered an altered economic practice, could no longer
5 automatically be expected to look in Eastover for a place
6 to live. Eastover property values were potentially at
7 risk.

8 In the summer of 1990 residents of the
9 Petitbois neighborhood -- that's P-e-t-i-t-b-o-i-s, it's
10 the French -- we call it Petitbois -- a 40-lot
11 subdivision similar to Eastover, which was developed in
12 early 1980's, which abuts the south end of Eastover --
13 experienced a rash of house burglaries.

14 Petitbois and the south end of Eastover are
15 closest to Lakeland Drive, a major thoroughfare and
16 commercial area. And several of these burglaries,
17 including one which occurred in the south end of Eastover
18 itself, residents actually confronted burglars in their
19 homes at night, a situation that is most feared by the
20 homeowner.

21 No injuries occurred, however to residents of
22 Eastover or Petitbois and having one's home invaded is
23 seen as a high outrage. To police, understandably jaded
24 on a diet of bullet riddled bodies, 13-year-old
25 prostitutes and God only know what other multi various

1 forms of human scent and corruption, a property crime in
2 which no one was hurt probably seems like small time
3 stuff, not worth an investigative effort.

4 When these two perspectives collide, the
5 suburbanite is left feeling police not only cannot do
6 anything about his problem, but that they do not even
7 care about him.

8 A handful of residents met in the fall of 1990
9 to begin the process which culminated in the
10 incorporation of the Eastover Neighborhood Association,
11 which includes the Petitbois neighborhood in January of
12 1991.

13 Through that fall and spring and summer we
14 worked to enroll enough subscribers to support a
15 neighborhood patrol that would be provided by a
16 professional security firm. We were unsuccessful and the
17 effort was abandoned in the fall of 1991.

18 In June of 1992, however, the Belhaven
19 neighborhood, a larger neighborhood closer to downtown,
20 and a neighborhood with much more pressing crime
21 problems, inaugurated the city's first private
22 neighborhood patrol.

23 After observing Belhaven experience and
24 apparent success in avoiding the problems that many had
25 feared would accompany a private patrol, many of our

1 neighbors asked us to try again.

2 We did and the Eastover patrol began operations
3 on New Year's Day, 1993, providing a 12-hour-per-day
4 patrol.

5 It has grown slowly but steadily since then to
6 the point that we now provide patrol service to the
7 neighborhood, more than 20 hours per day. About 75
8 percent of the residents subscribe to that patrol
9 service.

10 The patrol is provided by the Quackenhut
11 (phonetic) Corporation, a New York Stock Exchange listed
12 company based in South Florida, which provides security
13 services world-wide to both governmental and private
14 entities.

15 The patrolmen carry side arms and are equipped
16 with a marked car with light bar, cellular car phone, and
17 two-way communication with their base and police scanner.

18 All of the patrolmen have civilian or military
19 policy backgrounds and they have been through Quackenhut
20 (phonetic) custom protection officer training course.

21 The patrolmen have worked well with the
22 municipal police, including several occasions involving
23 the apprehension or tracking of criminal suspects. They
24 almost always arrive at the scene of burglary alarms in
25 the neighborhood ahead of the police.

1 Since nearly all of these alarms are false,
2 they are able to save the police valuable time by
3 advising them of this, in many cases even before the
4 police arrive, so that they can turn around and tend to
5 other business.

6 If requested, the patrol could check
7 subscribers' houses when they are out of town or meet
8 subscribers at their homes to escort them into their
9 houses.

10 In addition to responding to burglar alarms,
11 the patrolmen respond to calls from subscribers about
12 everything from a noise in the bushes to teenagers
13 partying too loudly, to overly persistent salesmen going
14 door to door in the neighborhood.

15 They would probably even get a cat out of a
16 tree if asked.

17 So what does all of this imply about the state
18 of our society today and the relation to crime and
19 police. It doesn't make sense to a neighborhood that
20 already had probably the lowest crime rate in the city,
21 to put a private armed patron on its streets.

22 Is this merely a symptom of white suburban
23 paranoia? Is it on balance good or bad for Eastover, for
24 our relationship to police and for the welfare of the
25 city as a whole?

1 Let me respond by giving you the answers that I
2 find most compelling. The neighborhood patrols serve a
3 real need. Since Eastover came in second in the
4 neighborhood to provide private patrol in 1993, five
5 other neighborhoods have put patrols in service, all
6 Quackenhut (phonetic).

7 These include mixed race neighborhoods.
8 Affluent mostly black neighborhoods in Northwest Jackson,
9 have also discussed the possibility of a private patrol
10 service, and maybe even one for -- with their effort at
11 this time.

12 At least six other neighborhoods in Jackson are
13 currently talking with Quackenhut (phonetic) about patrol
14 service.

15 So the phenomena of the rise private patrols
16 in Jackson -- does not seem to have any clear racial
17 mention. Both black and white patrolmen work the
18 Eastover patrol -- actually black and white patrolmen and
19 women work the Eastover patrol and seem to be equally
20 well received by the subscribers.

21 Several neighborhood patrols are in B-5,
22 precinct four. Except for the Eastover patrol, these
23 others came on line in late 1993 or early 1994. From
24 1993 to 1994 felony crimes in the Jackson went from
25 29,021 to 32,238, an increase of 11 percent.

1 B-5 and precinct four enjoyed a decline in
2 felony crimes from 593 in 1993 to 204 in 1994, a decline
3 of 65 percent.

4 House burglaries declined from 90 to 21. Auto
5 burglaries declined from 137 to 31. In the Eastover-
6 Petitbois area we had only one house burglary in the last
7 12 months. The patrols clearly have measurable effect.

8 In the most affluent neighborhoods, personal
9 security and a sense of control of one's surroundings are
10 social goods that are valued very highly and the presence
11 or absence of which will greatly influence one's decision
12 of where to live.

13 It is not necessary that these highly valued
14 goods be actually taken away in order for an affluent
15 neighborhood to begin to decline. It is sufficient that
16 people perceive that these people's qualities are
17 realistically threatened. In such a case perception is
18 the reality because it is a sense of security, as much as
19 the fact of security that we are talking about.

20 The patrol has been good for Eastover. I think
21 the patrol has also been good for the relationship
22 between Eastover and Jackson police. Eastover is not the
23 modern subdivision designed with security in mind. It is
24 wide open.

25 The patrol fills the gap between the level of

1 security and service desired by an affluent neighborhood
2 sitting nervously close to a high crime area, and the
3 level of security and service that the city police can
4 realistically be expected to provide.

5 By doing so, by filing this gap, the patrol
6 reduces the frustration and criticism that otherwise
7 would be directed toward the police for their failure and
8 inability actually to provide the desired level of
9 service.

10 Is this phenomena good for Jackson? I think
11 so. Eastover and the other neighborhoods that have
12 initiated patrols make up a significant part of Jackson's
13 residential tax base. To the extent that these patrols
14 help stabilize these neighborhoods and their property
15 values, they contribute to the well-being of the entire
16 city.

17 More important perhaps, they help keep in
18 Jackson people whose continued presence is I think
19 important to the future of this city. The welfare and
20 progress of every neighborhood is vital to Jackson's
21 future. Eastover in particular is home to many community
22 leaders and opinion makers.

23 It is good for the city that such people have a
24 personal stake in the city's future that home ownership
25 inside the city represents. Thank you.

1 DR. WARD: Thank you.

2 MR. CANIZARO: Mr. Sanders, I'd like to ask you
3 to elaborate a little bit more about your major
4 complaints about the police department that led to
5 hiring the private patrol service. I understand that
6 you're concerned about house robbers and their lack
7 of enthusiasm for pursuing those criminals, but would
8 there be any other problems that you would point out?

9 MR. SANDERS: Keep in mind I'm not speaking for
10 any body of opinion, this would be only my own
11 analysis and so to that extent it's merely
12 speculation, but based on my own experience I think
13 there's a widespread -- has been and of time of the
14 formation of the association, there was, of
15 widespread concern about police morale, police
16 dedication to low level source policing that the
17 Eastover would represent.

18 MR. CANIZARO: Would that mean that you just
19 saw very little of the police force in your area?

20 MR. SANDERS: That is correct. Keep in mind
21 what is being addressed in a neighborhood like
22 Eastover is something entirely different from what's
23 being addressed in the actual high crime area. It's
24 sort of an anticipatory feeling but it can be as
25 corrosive in a neighborhood like Eastover as actual

1 crime, so that to some extent you can say the patrols
2 are sort of a hand holding exercise. If there's no
3 crime there, why do you have to patrol it?

4 There's a feeling that if you have crime, the
5 police would not be adequate to the task.

6 MR. CANIZARO: Is there any coordination
7 between your security service and the police
8 department?

9 MR. SANDERS: Yes. Yes, there is. They have I
10 understand very good relations. I think that the
11 police have a level of respect for our patrols that
12 is higher and it's commonly found among police for
13 private security services.

14 MR. CANIZARO: I'll take that to mean then that
15 you get a quick response when Quackenhut (phonetic)
16 indicates there's a problem?

17 MR. SANDERS: Yes. Actually the police
18 response time generally -- you mean by the police?

19 MR. CANIZARO: Yes.

20 MR. SANDERS: Yes, I think the police response
21 time is good based on what I'm told.

22 MS. KEYS: Do you see neighborhoods hiring
23 security patrols like this as an interim measure
24 until something else can be done, or do you see this
25 as something permanent that is going to become a

1 fixture in Jackson and other cities?

2 MR. SANDERS: Absent some major change in
3 societal conditions, I would see it as a long-term
4 measure.

5 MS. KEYS: And do you feel it has a down side
6 at all in separating your neighborhood from the rest
7 of the city in terms of you all got something we
8 can't afford?

9 MR. SANDERS: I think there are a number of
10 ways in which the most affluent neighborhoods in the
11 city are seen as separating themselves from the rest
12 of the city, and this may be just another
13 manifestation of that. I don't think it's that. I
14 think it's actually a measure that -- as I said in
15 primitive remarks, it helps stabilize the
16 neighborhood, reduces frustration with the police,
17 and increases the sense of well-being and calm in the
18 neighborhood. To that extent I think it helps the
19 neighborhood blend better and the perception outside
20 the neighborhood is frequently I believe that
21 affluent neighborhoods do things to separate
22 themselves, such as put up walls and gate entrances
23 and that sort of thing. Eastover was built before
24 that was common or it probably would be a gated
25 subdivision.

1 MS. KEYS: These other neighborhoods you
2 mentioned that are considering this, are any of them
3 in either a low or middle income neighborhood and you
4 see security patrols as being able to handle the
5 different kinds of problems that those neighborhoods
6 might experience?

7 MR. SANDERS: Again, this is inexpert opinion
8 and doesn't represent -- well, preface it by saying -
9 - I don't think the patrols would be effective, for
10 instance, in a neighborhood where a lot of criminals
11 live, because patrol function consists primarily of
12 being able to exclude people who are looking for
13 opportunity, so obviously can't exclude people from
14 their own neighborhood.

15 I believe that at least one of the
16 neighborhoods that is operating a patrol has an area
17 -- I don't know how you define low or middle income,
18 but part of the Cherokee Heights area just from a
19 drive-through appears to be sort of middle income,
20 and they have successfully supported patrol for about
21 a year now.

22 DR. WARD: Yes, sir.

23 MR. FOSTER: What were some of -- the nature of
24 some of the crime that did take place in Eastover?

25 MR. SANDERS: The crimes that concerned people

1 were -- the most were nighttime burglaries, that is
2 burglary in a common law sense, but occupied
3 dwelling, not so much the theft or larceny, taking
4 lawn mowers out, that sort of thing.

5 I think it's the fear of personal confrontation
6 and injury. There was a rather sensational crime --
7 well, it was covered sensationally -- right across
8 the street from Eastover about a year ago and it
9 resulted in immediate mobilization of that
10 neighborhood with like 85 percent participation to
11 support a patrol. That is what the press frequently
12 calls combing type crime where criminals came in the
13 house while the family was there and tied them up and
14 abused them physically and that sort of thing.
15 That's -- I think that's the householders great fear.

16 MR. FOSTER: You led into my
17 next question that deals with what is your
18 perception of the media reporting of those type
19 of crimes in your neighborhood, is it different
20 than from in another neighborhood?

21 MR. SANDERS: There's not enough crime I guess
22 in our neighborhood to be reported to have a very
23 large sample of that, but yes, I think that the same
24 crime occurring in Central City might not be covered
25 as prominently or with as much follow-up coverage as

1 - say a home invasion crime in my neighborhood.

2 MR. FOSTER: One more question. This has to do
3 with the demographics of the Eastover neighborhood.
4 You mentioned that you have a variety of ethnic
5 groups there. I notice you didn't mention any
6 African Americans. Do you have any African Americans
7 in the Eastover neighborhood?

8 MR. SANDERS: Not to my knowledge.

9 MS. KEYS: What does this cost to subscribe?
10 What is the cost per family or homeowner to subscribe
11 to a service like this?

12 MR. SANDERS: \$33 a month, or as we sometimes
13 like to explain it, if you have a \$300,000 house, ten
14 percent decline in value of your house attributable
15 to fear of crime would cost you more than 75 years of
16 subscribing.

17 DR. WARD: Mr. Sanders, I just have one
18 question. It's purely asking for your impression
19 because this may not -- you may not be able to verify
20 this. But is it your impression that having hired
21 private security and feeling I supposed relatively
22 comfortable with that, people in your area really are
23 reluctant to become involved in addressing problems
24 outside the area?

25 MR. SANDERS: No, I don't think so. I think

1 quite a few people who are very socially active, who
2 live in the Eastover neighborhood. I would say that
3 the level of social activism is very high. On the
4 contrary, I think out of fear of crime or for any
5 other reason, losing those people to neighborhoods
6 outside the city might produce their level of concern
7 for what goes on in other areas of the city.

8 DR. WARD: Thank you very much. Our next
9 panelist I don't think is here, Leroy Walker. And
10 the next person would be Duane O'Neill -- the meeting
11 will take a recess at this point.

12 (Recess.)

13 DR. WARD: The meeting is again in session and
14 our next panelist is Mrs. Agnes Triplett from the
15 Jackson Association of Neighborhoods. Welcome to the
16 hearing. As we have a standard procedure, I'm going
17 to ask you to please introduce yourself, spell your
18 last name and give us your mailing address for the
19 record, please.

20 MS. TRIPLETT: My name is Agnes Triplett, T-r-
21 i-p-l-e-t-t, mailing address 1867 Hamilton Boulevard,
22 Jackson, Mississippi 39213.

23 I'm president of the Jackson Association of
24 Neighborhoods. I'll be referring to this as JAN, J-A-N.
25 In response to the Mayor Kane Ditto's desire to have a

1 strong neighborhood association, JAN was organized in
2 1990. JAN is a Mississippi non-profit corporation.

3 We are a nonpartisan organization dedicated to
4 preserving and improving the residential character and
5 integrity of residential neighborhoods within the city
6 limits of Jackson metropolitan area.

7 A primary objective of JAN is to develop the
8 spirit of cooperation between neighborhoods and
9 businesses within the Jackson metropolitan area and to
10 develop a better of quality of life for its residents.

11 Now, a little about myself. I live in the
12 Richwood Estates Subdivision, which is located in
13 Northwest Jackson. We have approximately 120 homes
14 located in our subdivision. Our community is very well
15 established and is probably the second highest income
16 bracket in the city.

17 We have had very good cooperation with the
18 police department. The crime in our area is very low,
19 and basically we get along very well with the police
20 department.

21 But as president of the Jackson Association, I
22 spoke to several members of my board to get their
23 reaction regarding police community relations in Jackson.
24 And at this time I'd like to quote some of the board
25 member comments regarding this, because I felt to

1 represent the Jackson Association of Neighborhoods I had
2 to basically talk to reach board member of a particular
3 ward to get their reaction regarding this, and not
4 necessarily my reaction.

5 The first ward is ward one, and these are
6 representative from the Jacksonville Association of
7 Neighborhood Board. The first person is Mr. Mike Lacey
8 (phonetic). This is his first time serving on the board.
9 He's in ward one. He stated that the police department
10 was as far as he was concerned a low response to 911. He
11 felt that this is the only area that there was basically
12 a problem in.

13 The police was present in that area. They had
14 come out to talk to neighborhood groups as requested, and
15 the crime was very low in that area.

16 I would also like to comment that he also
17 stated that they did have a security firm in ward one in
18 his particular neighborhood.

19 As I stated, I'm from ward two, which is
20 Richwood Estate area. Ward three, Mr. Perry Robinson, I
21 notice on your agenda that he is also scheduled to speak,
22 and he may or may not be present this afternoon, so he
23 gave me -- he gave me a few things that he would like to
24 get over, just in case he does not come this afternoon.
25 He is also on the board.

1 He served on the board for two years of JAN.
2 He was concerned about media coverage that did not give
3 the attention to crime, drugs and murder in black areas,
4 the attention that was needed in regard to solving the
5 problem.

6 He stated that the police department looked
7 like there were more concern about nude women than about
8 young black mens being killed in the neighborhood.

9 He stated that they would close the club
10 because of nudity, but would never, ever consider closing
11 a club because of murders.

12 Mr. Perry Robinson stated that he feels
13 priority is given to white areas more so than in ward
14 three. He also stated that he felt there is a
15 communication problem with police department. He had
16 tried talking with the present administration and so far
17 nothing has been done.

18 He stated that the relationship is poor. This
19 is a quote from Mr. Robinson. All of these comments are
20 quotes from the board members of JAN.

21 In ward four I spoke to Mr. John Reece. He's
22 been on the board for two years. He stated that the
23 lines of communication is open but he felt that the
24 response time in the police department was not what it
25 should be and he felt that the responding time was

1 basically a problem.

2 In ward six Mr. M. J. Brown. He's been on the
3 board for several years. He stated that the police
4 department is doing a good job. he had no problem. He
5 believes that the response time is adequate.

6 In ward seven Mr. Jimmy Robinson. Mr. Robinson
7 has been on the board for several years. He stated that
8 the utmost respect for every officer in precinct three.
9 He stated that 100 percent cooperation he received from
10 them, and he also stated that he felt that precinct three
11 was the best in the city.

12 Now, these comments came directly from the
13 individuals that are board members on the Jackson
14 Association Neighborhood and which we meet monthly, and
15 felt that I should definitely reveal their comments
16 regarding these wards.

17 I did comment on ward five. I was not able to
18 get in contact with one of the representatives of the
19 board.

20 I'll be glad to answer any questions that you
21 might have regarding JAN or my neighborhood.

22 MR. RANGE: Mrs. Triplett, thank you very much
23 for taking the time to get that information for us.
24 And I'm wondering, could you describe for us JAN's
25 purposes and responsibilities.

1 MS. TRIPPLETT: Yes. JAN was organized in
2 1990. Basically our goal is to umbrella over the
3 other neighborhood associations in the city. We
4 foster good relationships between businesses as I say
5 and other neighborhood associations.

6 My main focus has been -- this is my second
7 year of being president of JAN. It's education --
8 all of the members of JAN, we conduct workshops
9 periodically on different facets of the city, how to
10 get grants. In fact, we had one last week on writing
11 grants, getting monies from the city, how to go about
12 getting city services. Basically educating the other
13 neighborhood associations that do not know how to get
14 these services from the city.

15 A lot of times the only problem is they do not
16 know who to call or where to go.

17 MR. RANGE: On another line of questioning I'm
18 wondering are you familiar with the procedure
19 required to file a complaint with the Jackson Police
20 Department or the sheriff's department?

21 MS. TRIPPLETT: Basically the exact procedures,
22 no, but I would not hesitate at all if I had a
23 complaint to go about doing -- I haven't seen it in
24 writing or anything, no.

25 MR. RANGE: If you filed one, do you think it

1 would be handled properly by the police or the
2 sheriff's department?

3 MS. TRIPPLETT: Yes, if I filed one, yes.
4 First of all, I would just call the police department
5 and ask for the necessary paperwork and fill it out.

6 MR. RANGE: Do you think there are any
7 advantages or disadvantages for having a citizens
8 review panel to oversee complaints against the police
9 department?

10 MS. TRIPPLETT: My first opinion is no. No, I
11 don't unless -- no, I don't.

12 MR. RANGE: You don't see any advantages to
13 having one or --

14 MS. TRIPPLETT: I can see some advantages, yes
15 but just right off, no, I don't.

16 DR. WARD: Okay.

17 MS. KEYS: You're from Jackson?

18 MS. TRIPPLETT: Yes.

19 MS. KEYS: Do you see an increase in the nature
20 or the type of crime within the city, and what would
21 you attribute that to if --

22 MS. TRIPPLETT: Of course, everyone that's in
23 Jackson definitely sees an increase in crime, and
24 why? I think all of us are trying to figure out why.
25 The times, the education level, the -- I don't know.

1 MS. KEYS: Has your organization done anything
2 to address the problem or have --

3 MS. TRIPPLETT: We have participated with the
4 Metro Crime Commission. We also have -- in
5 organizing other neighborhood groups, we've worked
6 with the crime prevention department here in the
7 city. I've also was on the panel -- did an episode
8 on crime, served on the panel of the current agency
9 regarding this, basically trying to figure out ways
10 to curtail crime.

11 MS. KEYS: Have you come up with anything?

12 MS. TRIPPLETT: There were some suggestions,
13 yes, there were. Some said build more jails. I'm
14 more in favor of the frame work of education, that
15 was my suggestion. Courts, dividing the courts. I
16 mean, there was a lot of suggestions, but now you've
17 got to go on with those suggestions to action. And I
18 think some of them are being done. The metro crime
19 commission is pursuing some of those areas.

20 MR. JENKINS: With respect to your prepared
21 remarks, and not knowing the racial make-up of let's
22 say ward three and ward six, I notice a difference of
23 perception concerning police response, police
24 community relations.

25 One, can you give me the minority make-up on

1 the racial make-up of those two wards and why the
2 differences in opinions and perceptions?

3 MS. TRIPPLETT: Ward three is predominantly
4 black and what was the other ward?

5 MR. JENKINS: Ward six.

6 MS. TRIPPLETT: Ward six is a mixture, probably
7 a majority white there.

8 MR. JENKINS: And you had two views of police
9 response?

10 MS. TRIPPLETT: Yes, and that's why I wanted to
11 give this to you and that's why our board is made up
12 of all of these different people from different
13 wards.

14 MR. JENKINS: Given the perception of the two
15 perceptions that you have and given the make-up of
16 your board, how do you come to some common ground or
17 what do we need to do in terms of police community
18 relations? We have this perception and that
19 perception. Is there any discussion concerning a
20 direction the board should take and what should be
21 the word from the neighborhood groups to the general
22 populous of Jackson?

23 MS. TRIPPLETT: Now, you're going to have to
24 remember that the Jackson Association of
25 Neighborhoods, we're not a political type movement.

1 We're only here to help organize neighborhoods and to
2 make them more functionable and to educate them.
3 Now, the question that you're asking may be directed
4 to some other -- I feel like our neighborhood
5 association responsibilities are to help organize
6 other groups that in turn will probably help deter
7 crime and other factors, but no, we have not
8 addressed issued like that.

9 MR. JENKINS: You have not addressed police
10 community relations as such?

11 MS. TRIPPLETT: No.

12 MR. JENKINS: Given the history or given the
13 fact that the crime rate has increased and given the
14 number of complaints that have been filed against
15 police in the last year?

16 MS. TRIPPLETT: The Jackson Association of
17 Neighborhoods has not.

18 MR. JENKINS: I realize that, but your
19 neighborhood made up of individuals in the various
20 neighborhoods. This has been a major concern of some
21 of -- perhaps in ward three concerning police
22 community relations, but yet still this organization
23 has not addressed that concern.

24 MS. TRIPPLETT: No. That's not our purpose.

25 MS. ROBINSON: I have a question. What do you

1 believe is the public's perception of the Jackson
2 Police Department?

3 MS. TRIPPLETT: In general?

4 MS. ROBINSON: Mm-hmm.

5 MS. TRIPPLETT: General perception with our new
6 chief, probably is that they're probably doing the
7 best they can do. Times are just so different now.
8 My personal opinion is that they're doing the best
9 that they can do. They can't be everywhere at the
10 same time. I think the incidents, these murders,
11 that are occurring are very unfortunate, but I think
12 they're doing everything they can do to try to
13 curtail it.

14 MS. ROBINSON: There's no need for improvements
15 in the Jackson Police Department?

16 MS. TRIPPLETT: I think there's probably a need
17 for improvement. We just graduated some more
18 officers. We need more officers evidently, and I'm
19 not knowledgeable enough to say how much more that
20 they need. I don't feel comfortable saying that
21 because I don't know anything about qualifications of
22 the persons in the police department.

23 DR. WARD: Yes.

24 MS. KEYS: Does the Jackson Association of
25 Neighborhoods -- I'm not from Jackson -- is that a

1 creation of the city government or who started JAN?

2 MS. TRIPPLETT: As I stated in my comments,
3 this Jackson Association of Neighborhoods was
4 spearheaded in the beginning by the mayor. He was
5 very concerned about neighborhoods. And he thought
6 that the Jackson Association of Neighborhoods would
7 be a good idea to have an umbrella to kind of help
8 the other neighborhood associations.

9 And we've helped over 60 plus neighborhoods.
10 We've also -- there was never a roster of all the
11 neighborhood associations in the city. We have that
12 now. We have contact person -- in fact, your staff
13 used our list to get in contact with other
14 neighborhood leaders.

15 That was never material that was available to
16 the city. We also shared that information with any
17 other nonprofit agent that might need it.

18 MS. KEYS: Is it a formal agency within the
19 city government or is it just something --

20 MS. TRIPPLETT: No, it's not.

21 MS. KEYS: You do this as a volunteer?

22 MS. TRIPPLETT: Yes, all volunteers.

23 DR. WARD: All right.

24 MS. KEYS: Could you use more resources and do
25 more? Do you feel more could be done through the

1 contact if there was more formal structure put to
2 your organization?

3 MS. TRIPPLETT: If we had more resources, yes.
4 We have a board. We have officers. We have by-laws.
5 We have a structure. We need resources, which we've
6 requested.

7 DR. WARD: Thank you very much.

8 MS. TRIPPLETT: Thank you.

9 DR. WARD: Mr. Louis Slater. Mr. Slater is
10 representing Mr. O'Neill of the Chamber of Commerce,
11 Metro Jackson. Mr. Slater, welcome. We would like
12 for you to begin by identifying yourself for the
13 record. We ask that you spell your last name and
14 give us your mailing address and I'd also like your
15 position with the Metro Chamber of Commerce.

16 MR. SLATER: Dr. Ward, my name is Louis Slater.
17 My last name is spelled S-l-a-t-e-r. I'm senior vice
18 president for the Youth Development, Metro Jackson
19 Chamber of Commerce.

20 DR. WARD: Your mailing address.

21 MR. SLATER: Box 22548, Jackson, 39225-2548.

22 DR. WARD: Thank you.

23 MR. SLATER: Dr. Ward, your letter of
24 invitation to speak to this commission was very
25 comprehensive, and for me to testify -- I will limit my

1 testimony to programs of the Metro Jackson Chamber of
2 Commerce that are involved or in some way related to
3 combatting crime, and I'm please to be here with you to
4 share some of the things that we're doing.

5 Last fall public safety, which identified it as
6 one of the major programs in the Metro Jackson Chamber of
7 Commerce for 1995, and a major emphasis was put on public
8 safety for this year.

9 Therefore, some of the programs that I will
10 mention are still in their infant stages. I am pleased
11 to have the opportunity to share with you some of the
12 things that we're doing in the neighborhood of public
13 safety.

14 One, to help facilitate the flow of information
15 and the cooperation between the various law enforcement
16 agencies in the metro area, we periodically host meetings
17 at the chamber which representatives from the various
18 agencies can meet, maybe have a light breakfast, and
19 discuss the common needs and concerns of the metro area,
20 including possibilities for working together on various
21 types of operations.

22 Another program of our chamber is a program
23 that has been part of our chamber since 1989. It's Metro
24 Jackson Crime Stoppers. I'm sure many of you are aware
25 of our crime stoppers program whereby we provide rewards

1 and publicize the availability of rewards for information
2 leading to unsolved crimes, crimes against persons and
3 crimes against property.

4 This is one of my most important programs. It
5 began here in 1985, became a part of the chamber in 1989,
6 and now we're operating in the City of Jackson, Hinds
7 County, and the City of Clinton, Canton, Madison and
8 Richland.

9 The crime stoppers program has two essentially
10 parts. One is the civilian administrative part whereby
11 civilians such as myself sit on a board of directors.
12 The responsibility of the civilian component is to
13 provide administrative services, coordinate, provide
14 public awareness and advertising, raise money for
15 rewards, and provide overall program supervision.

16 The police department crime stoppers is to
17 provide a coordinator to receive calls relating to
18 unsolved crimes, to see that these tips from anonymous
19 individuals are investigated, and if a tip leads to an
20 arrest of someone, to make sure that that person is given
21 the information whereby he or she may pick up his or her
22 reward.

23 The key thing here I'd like to mention is that
24 a program such as crime stoppers could not function
25 without active support of your local police department

1 and your sheriff's departments. There's two components,
2 the civilian component and the police component.

3 I'm pleased to say that we have always had good
4 support from Jackson Police Department and the Hinds
5 County Sheriff's Department.

6 Another program that we will be implementing in
7 the next few weeks we call the crime prevention
8 partnership, whereby we will sponsor meetings in various
9 sectors of the city.

10 And at these meeting we will have
11 representatives from local law enforcement agencies to
12 address approximately two topics, maybe employee safety
13 and safety of buildings and equipment.

14 We will invite our members and others to these
15 meetings to hear these presentations on what they can do
16 to help protect their employees and their businesses and
17 to provide a forum where they can take care of some of
18 their common concerns.

19 And we hope to do this and we will be doing
20 this in various sections of the city and we hope that
21 these will lead to a desire to have follow-up meetings at
22 various times.

23 Another program that we're excited about right
24 now that is still in its infant stages does not directly
25 involved the ward against crime, but it involves more or

1 less working with our youths.

2 We have been told that one of the most
3 effective things that a society can do to help guide its
4 youth through troubled ages is to provide effective
5 mentors for those children, and we have negotiated with a
6 national organization called One-To-One that specializes
7 in bigger catalysts to bring together various agencies
8 and organizations in the community, groups that are
9 interested in providing mentoring services and groups
10 that are interested in receiving mentoring services from
11 various groups.

12 So we will be moving into this program in the
13 very near future and it's something we're very proud of.

14 Also another thing that we have on our
15 schedule, it's an indirect relation to crime on June the
16 22nd in cooperation with the Jackson Takes a Stand
17 Community Partnership Against Drug Use. We will be co-
18 sponsoring a drug-free workshop on June the 22nd at the
19 Coliseum Ramada Inn.

20 We started off, we were going to have a fee for
21 this, but we have changed our mind due to the
22 significance of it. Any firm is welcome to attend at no
23 cost, and we will be giving them information packets and
24 explaining to them that if you want to provide a drug-
25 free workplace at your place of employment, here's what

1 you need to do, so we're excited about moving ahead with
2 that program.

3 A program that we did early in this month on
4 May the 4th, we sponsored a metro safety and security
5 show in which the public was invited. We had
6 representatives of about 24 private security firms and
7 representatives of ten public agency or nonprofit
8 organizations. We got organizations there dealing with
9 private security products. Also our public agencies like
10 the Jackson police department, Hinds County Sheriff's
11 Department, Highway Patrol, and Red Cross, dealing with
12 various aspects of safety, and here I'd like to express
13 appreciation to the Jackson Police Department and Hinds
14 County Sheriff's Department, each for sending their crime
15 prevention units there where interested people could
16 visit with them and ask any kind of question they want in
17 regard to how they can protect their home, their
18 property.

19 These people will come out and do free audits
20 for you, provide you with various opinions on how -- what
21 you can do to protect yourself and your property.

22 So the cooperation of JPD and the Hinds County
23 Sheriff's Department and other publications was
24 appreciated for this safety and security show.

25 In the letter something was mentioned about

1 media coverage, and any presentation on our part right
2 now would be incomplete if we did not express
3 appreciation to WLBT for their cooperation with us on the
4 crime stoppers program.

5 Each Saturday night WLBT runs at their expense
6 a reenactment on the Unsolved Crime somewhere in the
7 metro Jackson area, encouraging people to call the tip
8 line and provide information if they have any
9 information.

10 WLBT produces this at no cost. JPD provides
11 the police coordinator and director, and I think they do
12 some good work and this is just another example of good
13 community support by the representative of our media.

14 And in closing I'd just like to say that the
15 programs that we will be -- that we have already
16 implemented and many of them that are right now on the
17 verge of being started require cooperation of your local
18 police and sheriff's departments and we'd just like to
19 acknowledge through this point in time we would
20 appreciate their good past cooperation and we feel like
21 they'll continue to give us that cooperation and we're
22 excited about some of the things we're planning to do and
23 we appreciate their support.

24 DR. WARD: I'll start off on this one since I
25 obligated myself to it. As we listen very carefully

1 to the program that you have as the Chamber of
2 Commerce and of course I'm very much aware of crime
3 stoppers, but the question about media I would like
4 to ask in a slightly different way than was asked in
5 the letter.

6 Is it your perception as both a member of the
7 chamber of commerce and as a private citizen that
8 perhaps the representation of the amount of criminal
9 activity in Jackson is fairly represented in all
10 media? Now, you can either answer that as a member
11 of the chamber or as a private citizen.

12 MR. SLATER: I would respond to that as a
13 private citizen. It's regrettable that we have as
14 much crime as we do have but I do think it's been
15 covered, you know, you don't cover a subject -- I
16 think all the media have covered it fairly well.

17 MR. CANIZARO: Mr. Slater, I would think that
18 the crime situation we do have in town would present
19 some difficulty for the chamber and your recruiting
20 industry, and I wondered if you might have some
21 suggestions of things that might be done to correct
22 this problem in the interest of the chamber's
23 recruitment efforts?

24 MR. SLATER: I don't think any one organization
25 has all the answers. I'm pleased with what we're

1 doing this year. I think you have to look at it from
2 a broad prospective. There are things that we're
3 doing that we're taking the lead on. There is some
4 other things that other groups in town are taking the
5 lead on, like metro crime commission, they've got
6 various programs that they're working on.

7 Some of ours probably dovetail into some of
8 theirs, but I think you have to look at what all the
9 groups are doing and I don't think any one group has
10 the sole answer.

11 The problem is just too pervasive and too
12 broad.

13 MS. KEYS: The chamber, is it a membership
14 organization of businesses? Is that an accurate
15 characterization?

16 MR. SLATER: Businesses and individuals; yes,
17 ma'am.

18 MS. KEYS: I take it the Jackson Chamber of
19 Commerce would be pretty mixed racially then?

20 MR. SLATER: Would you repeat that, please,
21 ma'am?

22 MS. KEYS: Would your membership be pretty
23 mixed racially, the Jackson Chamber of Commerce, is
24 your membership majority white, majority black,
25 mixed?

1 MR. SLATER: Membership-wise it would be
2 predominantly white. Our -- from an active
3 functioning standpoint, we are integrated to a large
4 extent. For example, the focus chairman of our
5 public safety is a black businessman in your town,
6 but we do -- let me clarify that just a little more.

7 Last summer we developed a strategic plan for
8 1995. We had about four or five meetings that we
9 focused on certain areas, like public safety,
10 education and economic development, and in those
11 meetings we had a broad base representation from
12 throughout the community. The planning was not
13 restricted to chamber members.

14 We had leadership, both black and white, from
15 all stages of the community there to participate in
16 this, and I think any organization that wants to
17 function well in a diverse city such as Jackson,
18 you've got to organize and have representation broad
19 base in your program if you want it to succeed, and I
20 think we're doing that.

21 MS. KEYS: Have there been any discussions in
22 the chamber about what else the business community in
23 Jackson can do to address the crime problem other
24 than dealing with crime prevention and security
25 systems. Have you tried -- have you discussed

1 anything else?

2 MR. SLATER: I'll mention some things that --
3 last week Chief Johnson was the guest speaker at our
4 monthly coffee club, monthly membership meetings in
5 which all of our members are invited.

6 I know the chief is interested in doing a lot
7 of things. One thing he mentioned last week was that
8 if we could provide -- if the business community
9 would come together and provide \$2100, he could
10 recruit and train one additional reserve police
11 officer for that. That's a possibility. I'm not
12 saying we're doing it.

13 Another thing that has been suggested we might
14 do here is that the chamber may serve as a host
15 organization to facilitate bringing in speakers well
16 known in the law enforcement community to bring them
17 into Jackson, whereby we could have large numbers of
18 local law enforcement agents attend these meetings
19 rather than having to send our -- send a few people
20 off to train, bringing new experts in and encourage
21 large participation here, so that's something that's
22 on the table for us that we're considering right now
23 in cooperation with the Hinds County Sheriff's
24 Department and the new police chief, Chief Jones.

25 MS. KEYS: Does the chamber have any youth

1 - employment programs or any programs to deal with
2 creating substantive jobs for low income people?
3 We've heard this morning that that's a factor in the
4 cycle of poverty that might contribute to the crime
5 problem. Are you all doing anything just in the
6 economic development areas that would deal with
7 creating jobs for especially low income people in
8 this town?

9 MR. SLATER: Our economic development
10 department would be the one to deal with that, but
11 right now to my knowledge we do not have any program
12 in place to deal with that subject.

13 SENATOR HARDEN: What in your opinion is the
14 state of race relations in Jackson?

15 MR. SLATER: I think the state of race
16 relations in Jackson is generally good. However, I
17 think you would probably get a different answer
18 depending on which group of people that you talked
19 to. Which is true on most anything I guess.

20 But I think we have in place now many forums
21 for discussion and planning that were not in place
22 years ago, and communication is so important, but I
23 feel that relations are, you know, pretty good.

24 MS. ROBINSON: I just have one general
25 question. I've heard about all the wonderful crime

1 prevention programs and I'm really impressed. It
2 appears that there are a number of programs that have
3 been introduced or are being implemented by a variety
4 of organizations regarding crime prevention, but all
5 a part of that is the issue of the quality of the
6 Jackson Police Department and Hinds County Sheriff's
7 Department. Is there any kind of ongoing
8 conversation or dialogue about the improvement of law
9 enforcement in Jackson? Is there any ongoing
10 dialogue about the rash of citizen complaints as
11 relates to police brutality? Are those issues being
12 raised by your organization or to your knowledge
13 other organizations because that's the heart of the
14 matter that we're trying to address here at this
15 hearing?

16 MR. SLATER: We're not involved in any of those
17 activities.

18 MS. KEYS: Do the business people who are
19 members have any complaints about the police
20 department? Does the Jackson Police Department
21 service the business community adequately?

22 MR. SLATER: I think they're doing a pretty
23 good job with what they have but right now we're
24 about 50 police officers short of active patrolmen
25 and the reserve force that the chief would like to

1 expand by large numbers. We know we're down.

2 That goes back to whom you talk. I've read
3 articles in the paper where a person has been
4 burglarized in the same location about six times.
5 You talk to him, naturally he's going to be
6 dissatisfied. Others that have not been victimized
7 are going to be satisfied.

8 So I think you're -- with the crime situation
9 we have here, I don't think anybody is please, but I
10 think Chief Johnson is well aware of the situation.
11 He's a very receptive person and I think he's got a
12 community that's willing to help him in any way
13 possible, so I feel like the ground work has been set
14 here for some tremendous improvement.

15 DR. WARD: Mr. Slater, very early on in the --
16 I need your help -- you mentioned the communities
17 that are a part of the Metro Chamber of Commerce.
18 Would you please repeat those? It's Jackson plus
19 Madison?

20 MR. SLATER: Okay. I want to be real careful
21 here because some of these people get sensitive about
22 what they're mentioned to be a part of. They're part
23 of the Metro Jackson Crime Stopper Program.

24 DR. WARD: But not of the chamber?

25 MR. SLATER: That's right.

1 DR. WARD: That has to be very clearly
2 understood because otherwise I would follow up with
3 question of what is, for example, the Ridgeland
4 Police Department doing in cooperation with your
5 program. You see, that means that Ridgeland, for
6 example, is a part of the crime stoppers program that
7 doesn't involve the police department in Ridgeland;
8 right?

9 MR. SLATER: Yes, it does.

10 DR. WARD: It does?

11 MR. SLATER: Ridgeland, you know, they
12 participate in the crime stopper program. They
13 provide a coordinator and we share certain elements
14 but in essence they operate their own program, but we
15 share common things in the general administration,
16 but the program is such that Ridgeland -- someone
17 dials the number -- if a crime is a crime, for
18 Ridgeland you press a certain number phone and the
19 calls goes to Ridgeland Police Department, their
20 crime stoppers handles that. But if there is an
21 award, that coordinator just presents it to the metro
22 board for approval and we make the award payment in
23 the normal procedure.

24 DR. WARD: I just was trying to get some
25 clarification because the nature of your organization

1 and the questions that have been asked have been
2 asked about Jackson, but it also involves other
3 surrounding communities and I think that has to be
4 clearly understood.

5 Okay, thank you very much. We're going to have
6 a short recess.

7 (Recess.)

8 DR. WARD: Okay, our meeting is in session
9 again and our panelist is Mr. Charles Tisdale,
10 editor/publisher of the *Jackson Advocate*. Welcome,
11 Mr. Tisdale. We would like for you as you begin to
12 identify yourself and for the record we ask that you
13 spell your last name and provide your mailing
14 address, please.

15 MR. TISDALE: My name is Charles W. T-i-s-d-a-
16 l-e. I live at 327 Eastview Street in Jackson,
17 Mississippi. ZIP code is 39209.

18 DR. WARD: Thank you.

19 MR. TISDALE: I presume that this hearing is
20 about police activity in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1978
21 when I moved to Jackson, Mississippi from Memphis,
22 Tennessee, what similar occurrences as those that have
23 set a pattern in Jackson, Mississippi had occurred. My
24 first problem was with police as it related to the
25 employees at the advocate who were out reporting news and

1 gathering information.

2 There were a cadre of white police officers who
3 regularly patrolled the Farris Street area who in the
4 presence of everybody who lived -- looked -- collected
5 money from the prostitutes, would complain to the police
6 department about the activities of prostitution in our
7 community and themselves of people who saw our employees
8 simply as people who were also prostitutes and who
9 solicited our female employees regularly.

10 Most of our employees at that time were interns
11 from Jackson State University. Our response was to
12 become harassed by the police in the same way that the
13 prostitutes were being harassed and collected from.

14 In fact, one police officer told -- called one
15 of my reporters, which we duly recorded, a Black B, and
16 it became very difficult to operate a newspaper on -- at
17 the Hamilton Street address where our newspaper was
18 occupied at the time.

19 And finally, the conditions got so bad in terms
20 of prostitution that we were forced to contemplate moving
21 elsewhere. However, the move elsewhere was kind of
22 forced by an attack on the 16th of January, 1982, of two
23 Klansman who proceeded to blow up our office and fired
24 hundreds of rounds of ammunition into the office.

25 When they were arrested some weeks later they

1 claimed that they were angry because we had written a
2 story about one of their friends. They were subsequently
3 tried on the testimony of one of those same young women
4 who were prostitutes who saw them shooting the office up
5 and got their license number and a very good description.

6 Her name was Carey Jones. You know, Carey
7 Jones has since disappeared and nobody seems to know
8 where she disappeared to or anything about her. She
9 lived at a street address and her mother doesn't know
10 where she disappeared to, she told one of my reporters.

11 I guess that was about three years ago but this
12 was in 1982 when the Klan blew up my office for the
13 second time.

14 But then the prostitution disappeared. It
15 disappeared because this young Jones had observed
16 Klansman performing their sworn duties, I presume, and
17 had been able to testify and account for that arrest.
18 But the prosecution continued for a very long time, so
19 long in bringing them to trial, that that was a gentleman
20 that I can't remember his name now, who was head of
21 community relations who worked for community relations in
22 Atlanta, not Mr. Sutton, but another gentleman who has
23 since retired, insisted that they either prosecute or
24 they was going to ask the federal government to prosecute
25 so the prosecution was effective, and I must say that the

1 prosecutor, Mr. Peters, was very effective in his
2 prosecution of those persons, albeit reluctantly.

3 But still Farris Street had no way to protect
4 itself from the on-roads of various petty criminals,
5 particularly pigeon droppers.

6 As drugs became the new criminal element, drew
7 a new criminal element into the area, we weren't able to
8 protect ourselves against those who trafficked in drugs,
9 those they were much less violent than they were in other
10 areas of the city.

11 Peculiarly until recently, we had never had a
12 murder associated with the street and indeed that murder
13 was not on the street, it was some blocks away, but it
14 was still one that the drama had grown from the street
15 Farris Street to another neighborhood.

16 The police department has gone through a number
17 of police chiefs and I guess in those terms we can judge
18 the sentiment and development and the motives of the
19 police department by those police chiefs.

20 The first police chief that I can remember was
21 a guy named Pope, who subsequently was arrested in
22 Atlanta for other criminal activities and forced to
23 resign -- I said Atlanta, in Georgia where he retired to
24 a police post.

25 But shortly after he came to Jackson, Donna

1 Brown was murdered on the streets of Jackson and on Bell
2 Street, I believe, shot in the stomach. She was nine
3 months pregnant, by a policeman named Gary Moore. Gary -
4 - I can't remember his last name -- but she was killed by
5 --

6 DR. WARD: Excuse me, Mr. Tisdale. The problem
7 is that this is not a court, so if you would describe
8 the characters generically rather than using their
9 names?

10 MR. TISDALE: I can't hear you.

11 DR. WARD: It's a matter that has to do
12 with the procedures for defamation so I'll ask
13 the staff person, Mr. Jenkins, to explain that
14 please.

15 MR. JENKINS: As was set out in the chair
16 person's statement earlier this morning, the
17 information we've collected -- staying away from the
18 area of names. We have information or allegations.

19 Just present it in a generic form as
20 opposed to giving names, places, dates and all
21 that, still be -- we do not want the names of any
22 particular person, entity or corporation.

23 MR. TISDALE: You don't want any name is what
24 you're --

25 MR. JENKINS: Exactly.

1 MR. TISDALE: Well, this policeman shot a Ms.
2 Brown -- what about the victims? Is it all right to use
3 the victim's name?

4 MR. JENKINS: If it's public knowledge.

5 MR. TISDALE: Of course. This was all in
6 publications.

7 Ms. Brown was killed on a Sunday afternoon in
8 1979 and Mr. Pope was subsequently forced from office as
9 a consequence.

10 There were several interim police chiefs here
11 who were finally succeeded by Mr. Black, who was police
12 chief for a number of years.

13 During that period there were a number of
14 suspicious murders of African American citizens that
15 occurred, particularly the case of Beverly Epps, a young
16 woman whose body was found hanging from -- well, on the
17 floor and police alleged that she was killed by hanging
18 herself from a ribbon from a pull-down stairway.

19 However, a second autopsy disputed that claim
20 but when the autopsy was to be performed -- all of Ms.
21 Epp's organs had disappeared.

22 She had previously reported that her boy
23 friend, a notorious drug dealer, had been receiving drugs
24 from the city police department for a number of years,
25 and had indeed signed a statement to that effect, and she

1 was forced out of the city, but according to her reports,
2 her boy friend came and got her and one of the
3 corroborating issues in this case is that of a young lady
4 who lives here in Jackson now who was 13 at the time, who
5 had hidden under the bed and overheard a police officer
6 go to tell Mr. -- the person who was Ms. Epp's boy
7 friend, to kill her.

8 She still testifies to that, affidavits to that
9 effect.

10 The next series instance was a beating of a
11 mentally disturbed woman by a policeman on Farris Street
12 which I witnessed myself, and it was described in the
13 newspapers as having been the woman attacked the
14 policeman. The newspaper headlines said woman attacks
15 police officer.

16 But as a method, of course, Mr. Black operated
17 a fairly tight ship. The expansion of drugs under his
18 administration is manifest, because that's when the drug
19 and gain relationships in the community started.

20 And of course African American citizens under
21 his regime had no rights that white people were bound to
22 respect. There are number what are being currently
23 called set-up murders, where police officers are accused
24 of having people who rob and stole and sold drugs for
25 them and who were disposed of similarly when they -- it

1 got hot, so a dead man tells no tales, so to speak.

2 In that category there was a young man who was
3 recently murdered, who admittedly was the enforcer for
4 Stones Gang. he was killed while he was driving a car
5 down the street. At the time that he was killed, though
6 no one has mentioned it until now, he was an informant for
7 the -- both the Federal Drug Enforcement officials here
8 and the state drug enforcement officials here.

9 He had previously worked as a CIB for the
10 postal department and in the process -- in that process
11 they had gotten a tape recording of a leading narcotics
12 official here and had attempted to turn it over to the
13 state authorities but had not been permitted to do so.

14 And as a consequence, last year sometimes this
15 young man was shot in the back of the head by a well-known
16 drug dealer and he was released from prison on \$20,000
17 bond. There were numerous people who testified that they
18 saw him kill this young man who had been an enforcer for
19 the Stone Gang in previous years and admitted the
20 affidavits existing that this young man had admitted to
21 being an enforcer.

22 More recently, I myself was arrested last
23 Thursday. I don't know that all the members of the panel
24 are aware of that. The police came to my office during
25 my absence and he hid behind the building that I occupy,

1 that my business occupies, and had apparently called all
2 of the media because all three local stations were there
3 behind the building with the police officers and one
4 newspaper was there.

5 One of the cameramen for one of the stations
6 admitted that they had been called privately to see me
7 dragged out in handcuffs, so to speak, but there were
8 police officers who saw me driving down the street who
9 informed me not to go back to my office and so I didn't
10 and I went to the police station and they have not yet
11 found the warrant for my arrest, but I was arrested
12 nevertheless.

13 Well, not technically. I was simply required
14 to submit to a field arrest. I think that's what they
15 called it. And I was subsequently taken -- you know,
16 released, but the young man who said the warrant was
17 issued -- whose name the warrant was issued in -- said
18 that he had asked that this dispute that we had be
19 dismissed some months ago.

20 But the Clarion Ledger, the local newspaper,
21 carried a story later Saturday, which alleges that the
22 warrant was sworn out in April of 1995, which is entirely
23 not true. I have a copy of the warrant which -- well, a
24 copy of the affidavit that was originally signed, which
25 was the 27th of April, 1994.

1 But obviously as one who believes in the right
2 of common man, those in power and those with resources,
3 want the *Jackson Advocate* closed and they have done their
4 best to effect that.

5 There were other things that were happening at
6 the time same time. The police, according, to this young
7 lady, had come to her home and asked her to sign an
8 affidavit against me, even though she had no reason to
9 sign an affidavit against me.

10 All of that was worked out through the --
11 frankly, the help of the court administrator, Mrs. Clare,
12 who I believe is a very decent woman. I think I had 15
13 minutes and I think that's it.

14 DR. WARD: We still have questions though so i
15 we could continue the information you're giving us.
16 And I think, Bob --

17 MR. CANIZARO: Mr. Tisdale, you've given us a
18 little history of your experiences with the police
19 department here in the city and it sounds very
20 convincing, but could you just address from your
21 point of view the things that you see as priority
22 problems with the police department at this time?

23 MR. TISDALE: Well, politically interference by
24 the mayor is a tantamount problem with the police
25 department. You must realize that we have had five

1 or six police chiefs in the last four years. And we
2 have had one chief who was going to be had, but when
3 it turned out that he had a green-eyed wife, he was
4 summarily dismissed.

5 He's now the chief of police in Eugene, Oregon,
6 I believe. His name is Mr. Moose.

7 The second person who was hired in place of him
8 was David Walker, who is currently the chief of
9 police in Benton Harbor, Michigan. Mr. Walker dealt
10 with the drugs as though he wanted to eliminate them.

11 He told me that he was told by a prominent
12 businessman and supporter of the mayor that he raided
13 a house of ill repute and a drug house on the corner
14 of Ash and Palmore, that he would be arrested. And
15 he was arrested.

16 And that is the neighborhood where a prominent
17 African American leader was slain by a policeman
18 named Steve Wilson.

19 Mr. Wilson on his resume stated that he was
20 very diseffective with African Americans and didn't
21 want to be around them. In fact, he said that
22 numerous times in his application with the Jackson
23 Police Department.

24 But Mr. David Walker told me that when he asked
25 the mayor about why they would continue a man like

1 this in the police department, when he had admittedly
2 said that he did not want to have anything to do with
3 black people themselves, that they ought to be
4 extremely segregated, out of the common life of the
5 city, the mayor told him why would they write this
6 down instead of dealing with the problem as Mr.
7 Walker had suggested?

8 The next person who came in as chief of police
9 was a Mr. Wilson, who was also the last one who was
10 fired. He came in during the height of the mayoral
11 campaign and effectively campaigned for the mayor and
12 got elected. But then problems arose in the
13 detention center, which Mr. Wilson wanted to address
14 head on. He wanted to department cleared up so he
15 said and stated a story in New York Newsday, and I
16 think that there were problems with the because there
17 are allegations that several prominent Jackson
18 citizens, one an assistant superintendent, were
19 having sex with minor girls in the jail -- in the
20 detention center.

21 And certainly there were also connections with
22 a public school here where the principal at that
23 school admitted in court --

24 MR. JENKINS: We are closely getting to the
25 area of defaming and degrading.

1 MR. TISDALE: Of what?

2 MR. JENKINS: I caution you again.

3 MR. TISDALE: I have not called any names.

4 MR. JENKINS: The persons are identifiable by
5 positions. So we're getting closely to that area of
6 defaming and degrading, so this serves again as a
7 caution.

8 MR. TISDALE: Well, I'll let you ask me the
9 questions then. Those that you want me to answer,
10 let me know.

11 MR. RANGE: Mr. Tisdale, are you aware of the
12 procedures for filing a complaint with either -- a
13 citizens complaint either with the police department
14 here or the county sheriff's department?

15 MR. TISDALE: Yes. I have done both. Neither
16 one of the parties -- well, one person stole a
17 \$16,000 copier from my office. What he did, he
18 replaced it while I was out of town. He took my new
19 copier that I had just bought five months before and
20 replaced it with a copier that was over seven years
21 old, but of course the numbers didn't match, and so
22 what happened, when we found the number didn't match,
23 we found that he had picked that machine up.

24 We swore out a warrant against him. The
25 sheriff said that this man has a family and we aren't

1 going to embarrass him by arresting him, and that man
2 has not been arrested to this date.

3 That has been generally the truth throughout my
4 experience with the police department. If you swear
5 out an affidavit against a white person, or anybody
6 in political favor with the system here, nothing
7 happens, it just sits there. That warrant is still,
8 even though I went with my lawyer to file that
9 affidavit, and she will testify to that, that warrant
10 has not yet been served. And that has been two years
11 ago.

12 MR. RANGE: Do you see any advantages or
13 disadvantages in establishing a citizens review panel
14 for the City of Jackson to oversee some of the
15 activities of filing complaints against the police
16 department?

17 MR. TISDALE: Certainly -- well, the other
18 thing I might mention is that I have more than 12
19 years been the complaints chairman for the NAACP.
20 That means police complaints chairman for the State
21 NAACP. And in the process I received hundreds of
22 complaints, which we have taken with us to file with
23 the police department under various chiefs. We have
24 never been responded to on a single one.

25 So that should answer your question, Mr. Range,

1 about there's a serious need for people to respond to
2 the needs of the community. That has to be one bad
3 policeman out of the thousands that we have had
4 historically, but there have not been one arrest of a
5 white policeman or a black policeman of an offense
6 against an African American citizen that I know
7 about.

8 SENATOR HARDEN: Thank you so much for coming,
9 Mr. Tisdale. You have such a wealth of knowledge.
10 I've got two questions and they have to do with
11 specific individuals. I'm going to ask you what your
12 perception is of the mayor and the city council and
13 their response to the problems that exist in the
14 Jackson Police Department.

15 MR. TISDALE: I read a column this morning --
16 well, the day before yesterday really, about Norma
17 Fields, who is leaving Mississippi because she says
18 she can't stand it any more. She's a white, well-to-
19 do, middle class Mississippian. She said she had
20 hoped that when African Americans were able to elect
21 people to represent them, that things would certainly
22 get better, and she could see no reason why they
23 could get worse, but they have.

24 And so the fact is what has happened is that we
25 have no -- we have chosen -- well, not wisely but too

1 well -- we let those people sit up there who claim to
2 represent us, but who meet with Ditto who is in my
3 opinion and you can put me out with this -- the worst
4 enemy of African American people I've ever seen.

5 Now, I met his uncle back in 1963, I believe,
6 and I thought he was a bad man. Dick Gregory and I
7 were marching around in Greenwood. I was a reporter
8 for a newspaper in Memphis. And he spit out his
9 upstairs window on us, but I don't think that I met
10 anybody to equal the racial offenses of this man.

11 But the way he does it is very simple. He buys
12 black elected officials. We have elected officials
13 who have never cast a vote that benefitted black
14 people on the Jackson City Council. And --

15 DR. WARD: You're going to get another
16 reminder. I want to try to -- yes, Mr. Jenkins,
17 please.

18 MR. JENKINS: That's -- line of questioning.

19 DR. WARD: No, I want to clarify something
20 because I don't want it to be thought that we are
21 trying to employ a gag rule. But by law, given the
22 nature of a fact-finding meeting, we cannot allow the
23 same kinds of statements that can be uttered in a
24 judicial setting or a more judicial setting, so what
25 I want Mr. Tisdale to understand is that we're not

1 trying to say don't say this. It's a matter of you
2 have to avoid using people's names, okay.

3 MR. TISDALE: All right, Mr. -- I've throughout
4 my lifetime always called a snake a snake, and I see
5 no reason to discontinue that, you know, when people
6 invite me to give testimony, I'm the one who's
7 culpable and so if somebody wants to sue me, they
8 should sue me. They should not sue this group, but
9 I'll tell you one thing, nobody is going to sue me.
10 I can understand that you have -- if the truth is
11 never told, the truth is never told.

12 MS. KEYS: Mr. Tisdale, you've indicated in
13 your earlier remarks that when you first came and
14 over the two years that you've been here, you
15 witnessed corruption on the street level. Do you
16 still feel that corruption exists and --

17 MR. TISDALE: Worse than ever, much worse than
18 ever. Now the corruption goes to every level of
19 government here in the city. Let me -- if I had time
20 to describe to you the level of corruption, how --
21 the houses that were sold over near Jackson State to
22 so-called enrich Jackson State have been collected
23 from required regulatory by the same people who had
24 them in the first place and have made a whole lot of
25 money doing that, even though they're supposed to

1 belong to Jackson State.

2 Now, they have never explained that. They have
3 never explained also where the money went that was
4 \$18,000 stolen from the -- where they deposit
5 evidence in the city police department.

6 Someone stole it. Nobody has ever explained
7 who stole it. I said who stole it, because the
8 individual who stole it knows so much on everybody
9 else that he hasn't work for six months, and he dares
10 them to say anything about him not coming to work.

11 MS. KEYS: Now, what would in your opinion need
12 to be done to ferret out this corruption?

13 MR. TISDALE: Well, the first thing that has to
14 be done is elect an honest official in government.
15 You know, we have five people who we elected as city
16 council people who let the city legal department run
17 the city.

18 I mean, what we are facing now is a total take-
19 over by a private corporation, called Capital Center,
20 Incorporated. Everything they have done violates the
21 Voting Rights Act of 1965. They presented to the
22 city a contract which said that they wanted to lease
23 all public space from the City of Jackson, like
24 Archimedes said, leave us nowhere to place our feet.

25 What happened was that was such an uproar with

1 -- among African American citizens here that they
2 withdrew the application but proceeded to negotiate
3 with the mayor on a separate basis so that they now
4 have effectively done -- they tax downtown without
5 fear. I mean, there's nobody voted on giving them
6 the right to tax downtown, and if anybody remembers
7 *McCullough versus Maryland*, the Supreme Court clearly
8 stated the power to tax is the power to destroy, and
9 by this taxation they have destroyed the African
10 American community because we are the most taxed
11 people in the county, but we get less than one
12 percent of the benefits of the taxation.

13 That Capital Center, Incorporated recently
14 leased a part of the police department too, this week
15 in fact, Tuesday, and they announced that they are
16 now going to have police riding downtown on bicycles
17 that they bought and they're giving the police
18 department in order to effect this.

19 But that is not constitutional representative
20 government. The only way that we can realize that we
21 are free citizens in a free land is because we decide
22 what we wanted to do ourselves, rather than have the
23 institutions imposed on us from something from
24 outside.

25 So self-determination has been totally

1 destroyed in the city and the people are collecting
2 millions of dollars through simply ignoring state law
3 and federal law, and especially the Voting Rights Act
4 of 1965.

5 SENATOR HARDEN: Mr. Tisdale, I'm interested in
6 your perception as to how crime is reported in the
7 media in Jackson, and I'm not talking about in the
8 Advocate. But as a journalist, how do you perceive
9 the way that crime is reported in Jackson, through
10 all forms of media, the majority newspaper, the
11 television stations, et cetera?

12 MR. TISDALE: Well, you know, the way crime is
13 reported is really a laugh. And you know, besides
14 that it is something that nobody should stand for.
15 Now, there's no segment of the population that
16 commits all the crimes in the community, but let me
17 give you an example.

18 In 1986 there were six young white boys down on
19 Wood Street purchasing drugs from a drug dealer.
20 Apparently that transaction didn't go through
21 correctly. They rolled the glass up on the drug
22 dealer's -- black drug dealer's neck, and drove him
23 up the Monument Street -- I'm sorry. Fortification
24 Street Bridge down off -- I can't remember -- anyway,
25 they drove him over the bridge, rolled the window

1 down, he rolled over and was dead.

2 They arrested all six of the white boys. They
3 never revealed their names and they said it was a
4 childhood prank. And, of course, all of you know
5 about the situation with Andre Jones where -- you
6 see, the more things change, the more they stay the
7 same.

8 Andre Jones is a victim of what we failed to
9 correct in the 1960's. I just -- I brought some
10 copies with me of the murder of Benjamin Brown by the
11 same bunch of cops that killed Andre Jones.

12 Lloyd Jones, et al. Well, that's been reported
13 so that can't be an argument about that.

14 DR. WARD: All right.

15 MR. TISDALE: But at the same time, as Harry
16 Golden said, our enemies grow older. These people
17 are repeating themselves and repeating themselves.
18 This on a court case on a capital murder over in
19 Vicksburg last year, Clive Smith -- rather efficient
20 English lawyer, defended a young black man who was on
21 death row, and this same officer testified that until
22 two weeks before the trial he called African American
23 people niggers. But his lawyer told him not to say
24 that. So he was going to call them colored people
25 from now on.

1 But you've got to realize that the incidents at
2 Jackson State where the young men were killed were
3 all done by the same person. I have testimony from a
4 young man who was 17 at the time who was standing
5 beside the person who shot and killed the two
6 students at Jackson State, and they're the same --
7 this is the same person that killed all these other
8 folks. And we've done nothing about it.

9 DR. WARD: Thank you very much, Mr. Tisdale. I
10 have two other panelists we must hear, but we really
11 appreciate your coming and sharing this information
12 with the committee.

13 MR. TISDALE: Thank you.

14 DR. WARD: All right. Ms. Aurelia Jones-Smith,
15 please. Thank you very much for coming. Following
16 our procedure we've established, we're going to ask
17 that you identify yourself, spelling your last name
18 please, and also providing your mailing address for
19 the record.

20 MS. JONES-SMITH: My name is Aurelia Jones-
21 Smith. My last name is hyphenated. It's J-o-n-e-s,
22 hyphen, S-m-i-t-h. The mailing address is Jackson Branch
23 NAACP, Post Office Box 9166, Jackson, Mississippi
24 39286.

25 DR. WARD: Thank you.

1 MS. JONES-SMITH: Thank you. The National
2 Association for the Advancement of Colored People
3 referred to as the NAACP, is the oldest known civil right
4 organization in the country. Its headquarters are locate
5 in Baltimore, Maryland, and the Jackson branch is one of
6 2,000 branches of the associated chartered nationally and
7 internationally.

8 The NAACP board of directors is chaired by Mrs.
9 Mary Lee Evers Williams. At the state level Mrs.
10 Beatrice J. Branch serves as president of Mississippi
11 State Conference of the NAACP representing over 107
12 branches throughout the state.

13 I'm Aurelia Jones-Smith and I'm president of
14 the Jackson branch representing the membership of the
15 City of Jackson branch. The purpose of the NAACP is to
16 eliminate racial discrimination and segregation from all
17 aspects of public life, to secure free ballot for every
18 qualified American citizen, to seek justice in the court,
19 to secure legislation, banning discrimination and
20 segregation, to secure equal job opportunities based upon
21 individual merit without regard to race, religion or
22 national origin, and to end mob violence and police
23 brutality.

24 In January of this year the second vice
25 president of the Jackson branch, Mrs. Dawn Antione

1 Perkins and I had an opportunity to talk with Ms. Farella
2 Robinson about the relationship between the Jackson
3 Police Department, other law enforcement entities for the
4 Hinds County area, and the Jackson community.

5 On behalf of the Jackson branch I certainly
6 want to express my appreciation to the Advisory Committee
7 in having this opportunity to speak to you this afternoon
8 to provide you what I am interpreting as a follow-up of
9 our candid discussion with Ms. Robinson in January.

10 Given the fact that the primary purpose of the
11 association is to end violence, mob violence and police
12 brutality, the association is particularly interested in
13 giving you some insight into our concerns about community
14 relations.

15 From a historical perspective, the issue of
16 police brutality and harassment has been a longstanding
17 issue, especially in Mississippi. Acts of harassment and
18 violent treatment of numerous blacks, whether in or not
19 in custody of the police, served at one time as an
20 extremely effective means of psychological control of
21 larger masses of the race.

22 For generations rather than being seen as one
23 who protects and serves, the police has been seen by the
24 black community as the one who was quite likely to bring
25 devastating harm by beatings, which sometimes led to

1 accidental death. That's quote, of course.

2 Often it was lack of protection from others
3 that brought about the distrust of police as reports of
4 civil rights violations such as lynching went unhalting,
5 the rapes and murders of blacks went uninvestigated. And
6 in growing up, many black children were actually taught
7 that the police were going to get them, as opposed to
8 serving as a friend.

9 I think that there have been some attempts made
10 to reverse the attitudes toward the police, which stem
11 from this sort of history of abuse. Much of this
12 thinking is still, however, held by many African
13 Americans in these 1990's, and is largely due to the fact
14 that too many instances -- in too many instances the
15 behavior of police toward the African American community
16 have not markedly changed.

17 While lynchings from trees are no longer
18 common, the question of jail lynchings has arose and
19 other mistreatment while in police custody is of grave
20 concern.

21 For example, reports made to us of beatings,
22 which are essentially beatings that were received during
23 arrest, as articulated by former inmates of the Jackson
24 Police Department, and the alleged raping of juveniles by
25 officers while in custody at the Jackson Youth Detention

1 Center, a matter which remains as so far as the African
2 American community is concerned, unresolved.

3 To make more clear the picture of our concerns,
4 first I want to talk briefly about the types of issues
5 which are generally brought to the association from the
6 community, and these issues typically come in the form of
7 complaints from citizens who believe that their rights
8 have been violated or from members, most often parents,
9 who believe their children have been harassed or dealt
10 with inappropriately by the police.

11 Secondly, I want to talk about some of the
12 patterns and trends observed in the treatment of segments
13 of the community, as they relate more to the
14 socioeconomic characteristics rather than the racial
15 makeup of the Jackson community.

16 Thirdly, because of the fact that the Jackson
17 Police Department is a unit of Jackson city government,
18 it will be important to cite some of the decisions made
19 by the city government within the last year or so, which
20 we as an association took issue with because of the
21 adverse effect we anticipated these decisions would have
22 on certain segments of the community.

23 And lastly, I want to share with you the role
24 that we play as a civil rights organization in helping to
25 resolve the issues of concern relative to police and

1 community relations.

2 As I talk about these items, what I will do is
3 just cite general examples of what's provided to us, and
4 as I share it I will be brief but I do know that you have
5 a set time for me to give my comments.

6 Regarding complaints, there are largely three
7 categories of complaints that we receive from citizens
8 relative the police treatment. They are the violation of
9 civil rights, police harassment and illegal search and
10 seizure.

11 Under the violation of civil rights victims
12 have reported that in some instances, even though they've
13 called the police, they were arrested when the police
14 arrived on the scene, rather than the perpetrator. Such
15 an incident was reported as having occurred when a
16 convenience store clerk assaulted a customer and the
17 customer, who was an African American female, after
18 calling the police from a phone booth nearby, ended up
19 being the one arrested.

20 Another incident relative to the violation of
21 civil rights was reported by a family in terms of a
22 situation that was reported by their son. It was alleged
23 that a police officer picked up a young African American
24 male, accusing him as a suspect for a robbery which had
25 been reported in the neighborhood by a white female.

1 He took this young man not to the station for
2 processing but to the alleged victim's home for her to
3 identify. We were told that there were no positives --
4 there was no positive identification by the female and
5 when this happened, the young man was placed back into
6 the police car. He was threatened, told not to tell
7 anybody about the incident and later released.

8 Relative to police harassment, many of the
9 reports that we get again are from parents who are
10 reporting concerns, especially relative to African
11 American males.

12 Based on reports, this seems to be the area
13 where most of the harassment, at least again in terms of
14 complaints that we receive, are made. Incidents reported
15 include being stopped and questioned about drugs, if the
16 car driven in particular is a late model car.

17 There is the general impression in certain
18 segments of the city that if an individual is driving a
19 car that is not one that is an older model car, then it
20 is likely to be stolen or likely to be one that was
21 bought with drugs.

22 One incident reported involved police allegedly
23 pulling over two youths. After learning and gaining
24 proof that the automobile belonged to the youth's
25 parents, they verbally harassed the youths.

1 My understanding is that a flashlight was used
2 to bash at a youth, not hitting him simply because of the
3 fact that the youth was able to move out of the way.

4 I before this incident concluded the officer
5 reportedly pulled down the youth's warm-ups and
6 underpants below his buttocks. There was no arrest made
7 of the youth in that there were no charges that could be
8 communicated but again, supposedly the police told the
9 youth that they would be arrested if they were seen in
10 that segment of Jackson again.

11 Regarding illegal search and seizure, we have
12 received reports -- reports have been made to us that
13 police illegally enter homes without proper warrants, and
14 upon illegally entering without warrants, they have not
15 only searched the home but removed property without any
16 valid charges eventually being filed against the
17 individuals.

18 Additionally, while there have been no charges
19 filed, property has not always been returned.

20 In terms of the patterns that are observed, it
21 seems that the relationship between the police and the
22 community is most strained in communities where the
23 crimes rates are higher and more calls for assistance are
24 requested. These areas tend to be those where the income
25 of those residents are at or below the poverty level.

1 Most often the relationship between the
2 officers and the community is colored with the elements
3 of fear and frustration and in my opinion on both parts,
4 but more significantly on the part of the residents.

5 Supposedly residents often will not help
6 officers by identifying suspects. Officers allegedly
7 often fail at resolving cases that are initiated in the
8 segments of the community or intervening effectively,
9 particularly when it comes to domestic disputes.

10 Reportedly many officers speak to residents in
11 a derogatory, dehumanizing manner and are accused of
12 having no real care or concern about what happens to its
13 residents.

14 The general attitude among many is that the
15 level of courtesy, attention to crime issues, seem to
16 increase as the income level of residents dealt with
17 does. At a certain point, however, such general rule is
18 no longer applicable and the factor of race is
19 introduced.

20 I mentioned that there were certain decisions
21 that the association took issue with that we thought
22 would be adverse to African American community and did
23 indeed make our concerns known, expressed them to the
24 mayor, the city council and essentially in some instances
25 did press conferences to make sure that it was understood

1 that the NAACP was taking a certain position.

2 Those positions included but are not limited to
3 the firing of two African American chiefs, Chief Walker,
4 followed by the firing of Chief Jimmy Wilson.

5 The dismantling of the DART unit, which
6 effectively addressed the issue of drug trafficking in
7 certain neighbors of the African American community. The
8 reorganization of the police department, which
9 effectively removed African Americans from key positions
10 of decision making in the Jackson Police Department,
11 therefore, eliminating or reducing any sort of
12 participation in planning and in the management process.

13 Again, these are just some of the more recent
14 issues that we express concern about because of the fact
15 that we knew or felt very strongly that there would be
16 adverse effects.

17 The one relative to the dismantling of the DART
18 unit certainly the elimination of the African American
19 chiefs were the two issues that we were most vehemently
20 opposed to, mainly because of the fact in our opinion we
21 were beginning to see some improvement in police
22 community relationships, especially under the latter,
23 Chief Jimmy Wilson. However, obviously there were some
24 issues that occurred which created some conflict between
25 the strategies for eliminating issues between the police

1 and the mayor, and it is our understanding that that
2 supposedly is the reason that Chief Wilson was released.

3 There still has not been provided adequately to
4 the association or I think the this community any
5 rationale for the dismantling of the DART unit. The unit
6 was headed by an African American male and that
7 individual had extensive history with the Jackson police
8 department. The unit was very effective and not only was
9 there articulation on the part of the Jackson branch
10 NAACP, but other associations and organizations in the
11 community, but to no avail. This elimination or should I
12 say dismantling of this unit took place anyway.

13 In terms of one other issue that we still have
14 concern about is the current employment of a city
15 administrator who appears to govern many of the
16 responsibilities of the law enforcement unit, rather than
17 the chief of police. I'm not suggesting that the chief
18 of police has no authority; however, it appears that the
19 city administrator is an individual who does have a
20 significant role in making decisions relative to the
21 operation of not only other departments but the law
22 enforcement department and city government.

23 To speak of the role of the NAACP as it relates
24 to addressing issues that are presented to us, our
25 primary function is to investigate all complaints for

1 legitimacy and to follow up with recommendations and
2 assistance to the complainant as appropriate.

3 Certainly we recognize that many of the
4 complaints that come to us are complaints that are made
5 by telephone. We do require individuals to come in and
6 sign a complaint. If that is not done, then it does not
7 give us latitude to actually go forth and do a full-scale
8 investigation.

9 If it is done, then our legal redress committee
10 has responsibility for not only further exploring the
11 complaint brought by the individual but to also make sure
12 that we gain information from the other part, and based
13 on that information, we make a decision or recommendation
14 as to whether or not it is a situation that we need to
15 remain involved in in terms of its legitimacy as well as
16 if it is a legitimate complaint, we work to provide
17 assistance such as assisting in obtaining legal
18 representation for an individual when that is warranted.

19 Another role that we have is that of
20 establishing liaison between the police department and
21 the association for problems and issues of resolution.

22 This was particularly effective during the time
23 period again when the former chief was in place. I will
24 have to say that at this stage we have not fully and
25 completely initiated the level of activity that as an

1 association we can initiate with the existing police
2 chief; so, therefore, in all fairness it is important to
3 communicate that I think there is certainly room for
4 growth and improvement there.

5 But as shared with you, I think that it is
6 obvious and clear to us as an association that there is
7 still a mind set that exists in a large segment of the
8 Jackson police department relative to how African
9 American should be treated and particularly those who are
10 individuals who are below or at the poverty level and
11 it's important that I emphasize that, because again when
12 we look at how dichotomous this community is, it is
13 significant to make sure that there is not an over
14 generalization in either direction.

15 The primary concerns do mostly come from the
16 segment of the community where individuals are less able
17 to I suppose represent themselves.

18 I would have to say again that we recognize
19 there are many factors that play a role in feeding what I
20 would consider to be this healthy state of psychological
21 warfare, which continues to be a part of our heritage in
22 the southern culture, and some of those factors are
23 poverty, low wages.

24 The failure of our society to offer
25 alternatives to arrest, particularly of our children, and

1 that includes having not the best education system that
2 we could have in providing job opportunities that should
3 be available to all our citizens, and we know a number of
4 those things play a significant role, but we are still of
5 course battling what would be seen as primary product of
6 racism, and that is continued perpetration of disrespect
7 for a large segment of the African American community.

8 I certainly want to express my appreciation for
9 you giving me again an opportunity to come speak on
10 behalf of the association and your attentiveness.

11 DR. WARD: Thank you. The general question
12 that I would like to pose, Ms. Jones-Smith is this.
13 And you may either answer this as an officer of the
14 NAACP branch here or as a private citizen. Do you
15 think as various organizations and individuals have
16 tried to deal with the problems in Jackson, and
17 especially the efforts, at what we used to call bi-
18 racial cooperation, that much of this has involved
19 superficial discussions that seem well meaning, but
20 are basically not as honest as they should be?

21 MS. JONES-SMITH: I would have to say I guess
22 in terms of my basic response, and certainly first as
23 a private citizen in this community, and I feel
24 comfortable that I can speak on behalf of the
25 association.

1 Jackson is an extremely political environment.
2 It is the capital of the State of Mississippi and
3 much of the politics of Mississippi happens here, and
4 certainly when we talk about the political overtones
5 of many of the efforts that are made, we know that
6 most often it stems from situations where there is a
7 desire to achieve certain things.

8 The economy is another issue here in terms of
9 the well-being of the economy, and how much of the
10 economy in terms of a positive economy can actually
11 be shared with African American community.

12 I think that when we strip away all of the
13 facade and we strip away all of the attempts that
14 supposedly have been made, I think that the answer to
15 that question probably comes best from whether or not
16 there is evidence that any growth has actually taken
17 place or any real success has occurred.

18 I think that certainly there are small efforts
19 or pockets of this community that are able to work
20 together in a bi-racial fashion, and everything it is
21 important to say is not driven by bi-racial issues or
22 differences as it relates to racial concerns.

23 Certainly there are some concerns that are very
24 specific to the African American community. I can
25 assure you that one of the first issues of concern is

1 that of equal opportunity and job employment. But I
2 think that when we talk about the vast majority of
3 this community, African Americans are not really
4 receiving the portion of the pie that it should as it
5 relates to economic growth, given the representation
6 that we have in terms of the census in this
7 community.

8 But the other side of that is always the
9 question of who are actually those individuals that
10 totally and completely control that. We do have a
11 city government and we certainly have a council form
12 of government, but with the council form of
13 government, and the majority essentially being
14 African Americans, we still are not seeing the
15 fruits, if I may use an old cliché, of our labor in
16 terms of having the sort of equity and distribution,
17 should I say, of dollars in the African American
18 community.

19 I have to absolutely speak strongly about --
20 for lack of a better way of putting it, the money
21 because a lot of the things that we've talked about
22 in terms of relationship with the police and a number
23 of other things, all stem from whether or not
24 families have a sense of well-being, whether or not
25 there's proper housing, and whether or not people

1 feel good about themselves and other folks feel good
2 about those people.

3 If we have such a large segment of the majority
4 of the community, still gaffling just to essentially
5 have a meal, especially if it's a meal without the
6 support of public assistance, then there is something
7 significantly wrong.

8 Again, I go back to the question of who are the
9 real controllers of the City of Jackson, and I don't
10 think that at this stage we've touched on any of that
11 or whether or not that's totally obvious and clear,
12 but obviously the real controllers of the City of
13 Jackson are not the individuals who are at this point
14 coming to the table at all.

15 DR. WARD: Thank you. Other questions?

16 MS. KEYS: The complaints that you handle, have
17 you had much success when you bring them to the
18 department to try to get them resolved short of
19 litigation? What has been the police department's
20 response when you investigate and you feel there is
21 some merit?

22 MS. JONES-SMITH: I think that I've shared
23 about the differences in terms of changes in certain
24 police chief. Again, in all fairness with Mr.
25 Walker, Chief Walker, he had a fairly short term. At

1 that particular time I was not president and did not
2 have of course an opportunity to be a part of any of
3 the basic efforts, but from all observation he
4 appeared to be making a very good start in terms of
5 developing a relationship with the community, which
6 included concerns that we had, but of course he was
7 here and gone before we knew it.

8 Chief Wilson was very participatory with the
9 Jackson Branch in terms of even being a member of the
10 association, and worked with us very well in terms of
11 looking at ways to eliminate some of the concerns and
12 complaints on his end. He was also able to express
13 to us his limitations as it related to the fact that
14 in a lot of instances you have individual officers
15 who are perpetrators and most often in civil service
16 positions there is an extensive process that one must
17 go through in order to bring individuals into
18 control, so to speak, but I would have to say that he
19 made a diligent effort to see that happen.

20 In some instances, there were situations which
21 were not necessarily complaints that were brought to
22 us, but those that we observed. We know that
23 terminations were made in terms of individuals being
24 sent home, and of course that did not always go over
25 well.

1 But during his tenure I can say that we had a
2 very good working relationship with the police
3 department and what we felt to be a genuine effort to
4 address many of the issues that were brought to us,
5 not just as they were specific to complainants
6 concerns, but as it related to the overall image of
7 the Jackson police department in terms of trying to
8 weed out individuals or eliminate situations where
9 individuals were creating negative images or
10 perpetrating negative images for the department.

11 Again, it is important for me to say that
12 insofar as Chief Johnson is concerned, there has not
13 been a lot of effort at this particular point. It is
14 our intention to work very closely with him and to
15 give him an opportunity to work with us and from that
16 we'll see what happens.

17 MR. RANGE: I have two quick questions. The
18 first one, on the reorganization of the police
19 department that you were in disagreement with, is
20 that the one that took place before Chief Johnson
21 came on board or this something that he did since he
22 had been there?

23 MS. JONES-SMITH: Prior to Chief Johnson's
24 arrival I think I mentioned to you first of all,
25 dismantling of the DART unit. There were -- that

1 primarily took place -- the reorganization piece took
2 place or began prior to Chief Johnson's arrival, and
3 again this is why the implication is on -- well,
4 should I say the interpretation to a large degree is
5 that there are some very severe limitations that
6 Chief Johnson perhaps has in terms of his authority
7 and latitude.

8 MR. RANGE: One other question. Do you see an
9 advantages or disadvantages in establishing a citizen
10 review panel to oversee the complaints that are made
11 against the police department?

12 MS. JONES-SMITH: I by all means see major
13 advantages there. It will be important, however, to
14 do careful selection of those individuals who would
15 sit on that panel and because I think again it is
16 significant to make sure that the representation is
17 not just from one particular segment of the African
18 American community.

19 If it going to be a genuine panel, it has to be
20 a panel that makes sure that it reaches into the
21 segments of the community that are being
22 significantly effective in terms of concerns
23 regarding police harassment, brutality or whatever
24 the case may be. But I certainly see merit there.

25 DR. WARD: All right. Thank you very much for

1 sharing your insights with us.

2 MS. JONES-SMITH: Thank you.

3 DR. WARD: Okay. Mr. Robinson, please. Mr.
4 Perry Robinson. Mr. Robinson, thank you very much
5 for coming for the fact-finding meeting. I will ask
6 you to follow the procedure that we've established
7 for all of our panelists, and that is that you would
8 state your name, spelling your last name, please, and
9 also for the record providing us with your mailing
10 address.

11 MR. ROBINSON: My name is Perry Robinson, R-o-
12 b-i-n-s-o-n. My mailing address is 1355 Alamo Street,
13 Jackson, Mississippi 39213.

14 I'm here representing the Georgetown Community
15 Association. The name of our organization shall be the
16 Georgetown Community Association hereafter referred to as
17 GCA.

18 GCA is a nonprofit Mississippi corporation.
19 The purpose. GCA shall be a local community association
20 whose goal is to improve the quality of life of a
21 residential community mobilization and empowerment.

22 The area of GCA is concerned is defined
23 geographically as Rivers Drive on the north, boundary of
24 Vacation Street and south boundary; Bailey Avenue on the
25 east boundary. Way Street and Center Street as the west

1 boundary. Consists of probably 15,000 people.

2 What is going on here in our community? Since
3 1990 this community located in northwest Jackson have
4 experienced 20 percent of all the homicides in the
5 Georgetown area.

6 Last year there was 21 peoples murdered there.
7 It's all due to drug trafficking. It's the main problem
8 in that community. And the police knows about it.

9 We have worked with them over the years since
10 the last five years with many unions trying to solve this
11 problem. And we tried to bring to the attention of the
12 city and this community through the news media many of
13 these concerns where the negative have printed through a
14 local newspaper.

15 But anything as positive, they won't print it.
16 You said not to mention names; right? It's a national
17 newspaper, Garrett News Service.

18 When we tried to bring to their attention, to
19 bring to the attention of the public what is going on in
20 that community, drugs is the problem. And it consists of
21 95 percent of all the homicides in that community.

22 We have worked with them time and time -- let
23 me share with you some of the things that we have shared
24 with the police department. And I won't call a name.

25 Okay?

1 Dear chief -- te deputy chief -- thank you for
2 meeting with the members of the Georgetown Community
3 Association to hear our concerns. As I have reported
4 before, 60 people have been murdered in Georgetown in the
5 past 42 months. That's to suggest to me that something
6 is wrong and needs to be fixed.

7 As you know, 95 percent of all the homicides
8 have been drug related. Of all the murders since 1991,
9 as many drug lords are operating in our community.
10 Georgetown is under siege.

11 Attack is just a sample of many places and
12 crack houses, night clubs where drugs are being done and
13 sold. The homeowners met with the Jackson police
14 department in 1992 and '93 and submitted several places
15 of businesses that were placed on drug activity.

16 Detective John Doe with the DART unit were
17 present in those meetings. Today they are more visible
18 and destructive as ever before. Detective John Doe in
19 our community have worked together to get the dealers off
20 the street.

21 Today young black men are still dying because
22 of drug lords. The Jackson Police Department street
23 level drug unit, at that time was DART.

24 Supervised by Sergeant John Doe. We also
25 described how DART was cleaning up the place by sending

1 patrols to keep the peace.

2 The other agency in this operation, including
3 DEA, FBI and the Hinds County sheriff. We have listed
4 John Doe. On Martin Luther King at Dawson Street the
5 most dangerous of all drug trafficking. Also another
6 place on Brown Street and new tactics conceal the
7 identify or take their license plate. Yesterday a young
8 man was critically wounded on Martin Luther King at 11th
9 Avenue.

10 This letter was sent to the mayor as acting
11 chief at the time, the assistant chief, Drug Enforcement,
12 Federal Bureau of Investigation, the sheriff of Hinds
13 County, and Metropolitan Crime Commission to help them
14 identify places, we identified this place and give it to
15 them.

16 And today it's still wide open. Today, and the
17 question we say why. Why these places continue to operate
18 and you focus more concern on places where nude women and
19 mens is singing, those drug units -- bring those people
20 to justice, but at the same time you can't send them to
21 Georgetown to do their job, what they're being paid to
22 do.

23 That's the problem we've had with this
24 department. We also ask the sheriff of Hinds County to
25 come in. We asked the DEA. We asked all the other

1 agencies.

2 Now, somewhere October of last year three
3 people was murdered at one location there, and one of
4 those was murdered was a drug dealer. He was on this
5 list.

6 When asked about why you didn't arrest the man,
7 said well, we were going to do it that night. Too late.
8 We have a problem with all these persons that we went
9 through, and you have a copy. The FBI has a copy,
10 everybody else has a copy. I don't see why you can't
11 have a copy.

12 These places here is still wide open, and today
13 and that we feel like the Jackson Police Department has
14 turned their head when it come to young black men in
15 Georgetown.

16 They know where they are. This piece of paper
17 has been checked out by DART, When they were in the
18 operation, and they said to me for the past several
19 weeks, that's what DART saying now -- the street level
20 narcotics unit, DART has been terminated in the
21 Georgetown area, numerous control operations were
22 planned, but due to other circumstances, these operations
23 were canceled.

24 However, the letter received from your
25 community has been investigated. These areas of concern

1 are ongoing investigation. These areas of concern --
2 excuse me -- we are able to enhance our investigation
3 with the information that we have collected. They okayed
4 it. They checked it out, said yes.

5 The homeowners listed here, the automobiles
6 were listed here, some far away as Adams County, Natchez
7 Mississippi, all up in -- in Georgetown doing drugs --
8 and if they are now doing drugs.

9 Soon after this happened, it was dismantled.
10 The new police chief came in. I carried this to him, to
11 the mayor. I carried it to the new police chief. I
12 carried it to the head of the DART unit. All those guys
13 looked at it, information. But has nothing been done
14 about it.

15 Moving right along. The other concern. To
16 ease some of these problems, when federal monies comes
17 in, community block grant, empowerment zone, several
18 million dollars, we got ahead and the association decide
19 well, we want to sit down -- what we wanted to do with
20 this money on this year, around four or five million
21 dollar community block, other money.

22 And we suggest to them in the same letter,
23 we're sending them -- Georgetown, homicide. Last year
24 there was a record of 20 in Georgetown. Because of the
25 higher crime rate, property values have declined.

1 Tax base has been eroded due to exiting of
2 business and homeowners from the area.

3 We feel that the best use of funds in
4 Georgetown would be money spent to provide the youth some
5 recreation facilities. Currently there's no activities
6 in the community to keep the youth off the street. If we
7 can't keep them busy with wholesome activity and sports,
8 we will see a difference in the drug trade and overall
9 crime will decrease.

10 I recommend thus -- to make -- locate a park,
11 recreation center and playground which could be
12 constructed at the Candlestick (phonetic) Homes on
13 Woodrow Wilson. A community center, a club house, to
14 have meeting and celebration where serve as central place
15 for the entire family.

16 This is what passed on to them. Now, this is
17 on the study. But my concern is when we pass this on to
18 the news media, we want you to tell them about -- that
19 was a no-no.

20 Local newspaper here. Several reporters -- at
21 the same time it -- one of the city official to come to
22 our meeting, our meeting -- then they would want to do a
23 story.

24 We wanted to get the story out so we -- we
25 wanted people all over the nation to know what the people

1 want in Georgetown, how to use their money.

2 We were suggested to go to focus. I said don't
3 you know that's a second class mail going to -- news
4 going to certain part city, this part of the city. No
5 way.

6 What we want to place a newspaper that Wall
7 Street or Washington, D.C. or New York, everybody else
8 knew about it, because the only way you can get anything
9 here in these community, you must have the news media
10 involved, and that's the problem we don't have -- they
11 will not carry some stories in African American
12 community.

13 There is federal funds involved. During the
14 Christmas season I was in Atlanta and that newspaper
15 carried that story -- the community story, what they
16 wanted, how they wanted to use \$100 million in
17 empowerment money.

18 But here in Jackson, Mississippi, a newspaper
19 would not tell the story of a community's concern, how
20 the federal government send the money into the community.

21 Another concern. There's another concern we
22 had in an area of Ladridge(phonetic) Road. Over the
23 years the drug dealers been coming in through West
24 Jackson to Georgetown. We asked them to close that
25 street some time ago. A few days ago I got a call from

1 the Airport Authority seeking help to get the street
2 closed because they don't want to put \$2.5 million at
3 Hawkins Field for the drug dealers coming by day and
4 night shooting at the airplane, shooting residents along
5 the way.

6 One of the most dangerous streets in the City
7 of Jackson. My question was if you're -- why do you
8 close a street in the Skyline Drive area, to go into the
9 apartment complex? But you can't close a street that
10 just saves young boys and girls from these drug lords
11 that come into Georgetown?

12 This is here before the council. They have not
13 voted on that. But it's supposed to come -- the
14 community was not suggesting a wholesale closing as other
15 parts of the city, only one street to stop the drug lords
16 from coming in and it goes out that way, because the
17 policeman is not going to chase nobody through that golf
18 course. It's dark.

19 That's at problem that we want to address with
20 the police department.

21 Number one, the places I've addressed here
22 today and many more is still wide open. Monies come in
23 from the federal -- to control the drug problem in the
24 City of Jackson, FBI, Jackson Police Department, Hinds
25 County sheriff, all agencies knows about this. It's the

1 most deadly thing in the City of Jackson, and that's
2 where the problem with us today -- why is so many young
3 people dying is because of this thing we call drugs?

4 They will arrest a person and say look, it was
5 about a young lady, it was about this, over 50 cents,
6 about two dollars, but when the community -- many of
7 these persons been murdered, they show up on this list.

8 There was one on Power Avenue, one over on
9 Bailey Avenue. Reporter saw it. He say yes, it's on
10 your list. Several have been -- but they will not follow
11 through until you see them when the blue lights on, when
12 someone has been murdered.

13 Thank you very much.

14 DR. WARD: Okay. Alice, this is your --

15 SENATOR HARDEN: We appreciate, Mr. Robinson,
16 your coming to this fact-finding hearing on behalf of
17 the Georgetown neighborhood. I've got a couple of
18 questions that I'd like to broach with you.

19 The first has to do with the relationship of
20 the residents in the Georgetown area with the Jackson
21 Police Department and the Hinds County Sheriff's
22 Department.

23 MR. ROBINSON: You don't have no relationship
24 as far as law enforcement officers -- as I stated
25 just minutes ago, the sheriff of Hinds County was

1 _ elected and Georgetown given the highest rate of
2 votes -- he stated that.

3 The only time he'll call me was just before the
4 election and I said come on, we need you. He was
5 given a copy of this -- his deputy was given a copy
6 of this, saying this is what we want you to do, okay,
7 meeting.

8 But only deputies came in and one area, what I
9 call the main street apartment and stayed there all
10 night.

11 He was protecting the business owner at
12 apartment. He gave these homeowners no support
13 whatsoever. They have not been back.

14 The same way is Jackson -- I mean, Jackson PD.
15 They are more concerned about protecting citizens
16 than looking at nude women and boys down in
17 Georgetown. The relationship is poor simply because
18 this -- when DART was there, we had I could call
19 pages - home phone, but all those officers are now
20 gone. There is no relationship per se between the
21 Jackson Police Department because they have scattered
22 them, demoted them, transferred them, and today we
23 cannot page them. This is -- it's nobody going to
24 talk to a rookie officer or somebody you know that
25 you don't know about drugs.

1 You must know that person like if you're a
2 lawyer, you're a doctor, you're a minister, or a
3 member of your family. And that's the way -- we
4 don't have none. We don't know the person who I have
5 never met the precinct commander, since the other one
6 passed away.

7 You don't talk to those people about crime and
8 drugs. You must know that officer. When the officer
9 gives you his pager, you know that officer is
10 concerned. He give you his home phone, says call me
11 at home if you need me.

12 But today you just have to put on a waiting
13 list, on the waiting list, and ask you a question
14 again, is poor relationship with both of those.

15 SENATOR HARDEN: Okay. My next question deals
16 with your knowledge of community policing, and if you
17 think that that concept of community policing could
18 in fact contribute to improvements in the Georgetown
19 community relations with the sheriff's department and
20 the police department, and I know you're familiar
21 with community policing and that concept.

22 MR. ROBINSON: That's what we been doing all
23 the time. This part of policing. When you
24 identified these kind of places, ask the police
25 department to make arrests, hey, and they shake their

1 head, that's -- they always saying that the community
2 ought to work with the police department, but the
3 police department should work with the community.
4 This is one community on the move.

5 In trying to save young people's lives -- I
6 think you should -- tell you that -- years, and I'm
7 sure you've read about this -- and most of you have -
8 - if you live in Mississippi, have been reading about
9 what's been going on in Georgetown. The news is out
10 there and once it is three to six months -- we update
11 this list. And we pass it to them. The community
12 say look, we pass it to them, no result.

13 SENATOR HARDEN: So you're saying that you do
14 think that community policing could in facing help
15 you to address the problems that you've addressed on
16 those particular lists, if somebody or some group
17 took the initiative to do that.

18 The other question, and the last thing I want
19 to ask you has to do with your view of the mayor's
20 response and your particular city councilman
21 represents your ward, what has been their response
22 and their role in the operation of JPD over the past
23 four or five years in solving and addressing the
24 problems that you have identified to us? Have you --
25 have the residents of Georgetown been pleased with

1 that response coming from the mayor and the city
2 council or just what is that relationship?

3 MR. ROBINSON: No, our concern as a community.
4 When we go to community, the police department with a
5 problem, they say arrest them, you know, the district
6 attorney is going to turn them loose. The district
7 attorney is going to point his fingers at the police
8 department and say you're not doing a good job. You
9 blown the case and they turn them loose.

10 When they see those guys back out on the street
11 and they never go the prison, that's bad
12 relationship. That something is wrong somewhere, why
13 don't elected officials do their job, instead of
14 pointing his finger like they did Wilson and all --
15 Hinds County sheriff, they all of them do the same
16 thing, they point their finger at one another.
17 That's why the community suffers for the problem.

18 And the crimes of community, and it goes on
19 year after year, but because they continue to point
20 their finger at one another.

21 SENATOR HARDEN: I'd like to ask you one last
22 question. What recommendations do you make because
23 you have certainly been diligent in identifying to us
24 what the problems are? What would be your
25 recommendations, what recommendations would you make

1 to improve the effectiveness of the JPD and the
2 sheriff's department, specifically, one, two, three?

3 MR. ROBINSON: I really don't have a
4 recommendation right now. We have been through every
5 channel to solve those problems. We have had them to
6 come to our community meeting. We've expressed them
7 -- the meeting we're here -- look, we asked the chief
8 of police will you bring us together? We wants to
9 know that people who traveling our street, working
10 our street, we call that the police officers that we
11 call, we want to know that police officer by name.
12 Will you do that? No.

13 We want to know the commander. We want to know
14 those police officers -- that has not been done
15 because of the shakeup. I wished I could make
16 recommendation. The only thing make a recommendation
17 -- solve the crime problem, use the ballot box.

18 MS. KEYS: Mr. Robinson, can you hear me?

19 MR. ROBINSON: Yes.

20 MS. KEYS: I have a couple of questions for
21 you. I want to thank you so much for coming and it
22 appears that you and the residents that you represent
23 have been trying to reduce crime in your community
24 and that list that you have, we certainly want to
25 have access to that, but I would like to know

1 specifically when you provided this information to
2 the police department, the sheriff's department, and
3 the other agencies that you indicated, what was their
4 specific response to that?

5 MR. ROBINSON: I never have got a response. I
6 haven't got a response from a single agency. It went
7 to the mayor -- he acknowledge it at a meeting, say I
8 asked -- did you get my letter, said yes. That was
9 it. All the other agencies has not -- I had asked --
10 I asked the sheriff -- you get -- yes.

11 MS. KEYS: Why is there this total lack of
12 response to a citizens concern and it's obvious that
13 there's a problem in the community that you have, why
14 do you believe that they have failed to respond?

15 MR. ROBINSON: Because there's drugs. That's
16 the main problem, because of the drug problem.
17 That's a good question, but the only thing I can say,
18 I know two other chiefs have left for the same
19 problem. You point your finger at the other two --
20 and those fellows are still there.

21 MS. KEYS: Are you saying that there is
22 deliberate intent to ignore?

23 MR. ROBINSON: Yes, definitely so.

24 MS. KEYS: Your community and the issue of
25 drugs in that community?

1 MR. ROBINSON: For five long years they've been
2 getting a report from the association, and every year
3 in January when the Clarion Ledger does its report,
4 it states in that report, one community sends up --
5 identify these places and that's public record, and
6 they was talking about Georgetown. Every year --
7 again, this report be sent up, and these guys are
8 still walking the street seeing who they can devour
9 next. As of now eight people have been murdered this
10 year in Georgetown of the total number, eight of
11 them.

12 MR. RANGE: You mentioned, Mr. Robinson, you
13 mentioned that you had sent some information to the
14 Metropolitan Crime Commission also.

15 MR. ROBINSON: Yes.

16 MR. RANGE: Are you a member of the
17 Metropolitan Crime Commission?

18 MR. ROBINSON: No, I'm not.

19 MR. RANGE: Is there anybody in Georgetown that
20 you know of a member of the Commission?

21 MR. ROBINSON: Beg your pardon?

22 MR. RANGE: Is there anybody in Georgetown that
23 you know of a member of the Commission?

24 MR. ROBINSON: I don't know. I was asked to
25 become a member of the board, but I was too busy.

1 That's the reason I'm not a member and I was asked
2 for the information, that's the reason I sent it to
3 them. One of the directors asked for the
4 information.

5 MR. RANGE: Are you satisfied or are you -- do
6 you support the role that the Metropolitan Crime
7 Commission is attempting to fulfill in the
8 communities?

9 MR. ROBINSON: Yes, sir, I do.

10 DR. WARD: All right.

11 MS. KEYS: Mr. Robinson, can you described the
12 people that live in your community, elderly, low
13 income, what kind of a mixture do you have in your
14 community?

15 MR. ROBINSON: Elderly, low income. It was the
16 place to live for African Americans during the early
17 century, but since the -- many of the people -- move
18 out to the suburb, it left many empty buildings and
19 vacant homes where drug dealers sleep in these places
20 at night and prostitution ring -- you name it, it's
21 in Georgetown. I think it's one of the highest crime
22 areas in the city.

23 MS. KEYS: Isn't it right near the Millsaps
24 College?

25 MR. ROBINSON: We are close to Hawkins Field in

1 Northwest Jackson and Woodrow Wilson and Martin
2 Luther King area. That's the area on the golf course
3 that -- in that area.

4 DR. WARD: Thank you very much, Mr. Robinson.
5 I will ask that you leave a copy of the listing with
6 Ms. Robinson please, so that we can incorporate that
7 in our record.

8 MR. ROBINSON: Thank you.

9 DR. WARD: The meeting will recess until 6:30
10 tonight.

11 (Recess.)

12 DR. WARD: Before we begin I have to read into
13 the record a statement from the attorney for the
14 sheriff's department. Mr. Tisdale has alleged that
15 the Hinds County Sheriff's Department refused to
16 arrest a person against whom he had sworn out a
17 complain alleging misappropriation of a copying
18 machine.

19 On the contrary, the sheriff's department
20 obtained a warrant for the arrest of that individual.
21 He was indeed arrested on that warrant. He was
22 released into the custody of his attorney and the
23 case was presented to the Hinds County grand jury,
24 which grand jury declined to hand down an indictment.

25 Mr. Tisdale's account of this matter is totally

1 false, signed James Homer Best, attorney for
2 sheriff's department, May 24th, 1995.

3 I'd like to welcome Mr. Wydett Hawkins and
4 thank him for coming as a panelist for our fact-
5 finding meeting. Mr. Hawkins, we would ask you to
6 follow a procedure we established today of
7 identifying yourself and spelling your last name and
8 also providing for the record your mailing address,
9 before you begin your presentation.

10 MR. HAWKINS: My name is Wydett Hawkins, H-a-w-
11 k-i-n-s. My mailing address is 1800 Bailey, B-a-i-l-e-y,
12 Avenue, and that's Jackson, Mississippi 39203.

13 As I said before, my name is Wydett Hawkins.
14 I'm a native Mississippian. I'm a Jacksonian. I
15 attended public school, parochial school, early age,
16 public school, then went off to college, came back and
17 graduated at the local college after my father deceased,
18 went on to DePaul University, got a master's and came
19 back home to make a contribution to the City of Jackson,
20 the city that I love.

21 I was in -- worked for the media for 15 years.
22 Then I went into the private enterprise. My basic
23 business is land development and also retail in the
24 corner laundry dry cleaning business.

25 I've been in business for 22 years. Presently

1 I'm putting in about -- all private money, I'm putting
2 about \$5 million back into the economy from my business.
3 I'm presently developing a subdivision in Northwest
4 Jackson, Hallmark Estates. It's going to be
5 approximately -- I'm just about finished with it -- one
6 and a half million dollars.

7 My operation -- other operation, which happens
8 to be H&H Construction and Washco Town Enterprise, which
9 makes up the other \$4.2 million.

10 For over -- I'm presently -- why and how all
11 this has come about, I'm presently the president of the
12 Mid-City Business Association. I provided to you and for
13 you a kind of a documentation of a past 12-year history
14 of what I have encountered as well as many other
15 businesses and females, as well as males, in the Mid-City
16 Business Association.

17 This group of businessmen and women, we made up
18 of approximately 136 businesses now. There are about 90
19 that's left of us. When we were 136 strong, we put over
20 \$600 million into the economy. We also provided right at
21 800 jobs. Now we are down to about 350 jobs.

22 All this came because of I'll call it lack of
23 public safety protection. I call it lack of police
24 concern, and most important those that were in leadership
25 from the mayor on down refused to do their job because

1 the Mid-City Business Association that happened to be in
2 the -- I call it Central Jackson, we were overlooked and
3 we're still overlooked.

4 What I've done, first of all, to give you a
5 little background of Mid-City Business Association, the
6 Mid-City Business Association was organized back in 1978
7 and we was organized if you see on your front page, to
8 organize the businesses in the Midtown area within the
9 boundary areas formed by West Capital Street on the
10 south, the ICRR Railroad on the east; Woodrow Wilson
11 Avenue on the north; and Maple Street to the Town Creek
12 on the west.

13 For the purpose of protecting our lives,
14 property and customers against criminals and criminals'
15 acts insofar that it is possible under the laws of the
16 State of Mississippi and the municipal ordinances of the
17 City of Jackson, Mississippi.

18 Further, we expect the municipal authorities of
19 Jackson to aid and assist us in every way possible to
20 accomplish this purpose. We pledge to cooperate with the
21 municipal authorities of the City of Jackson in every way
22 possible to accomplish our aims.

23 This was organized back in 1978 before this
24 even -- before we even encountered some of the problems
25 and disasters that we have encountered and some of us

1 have stood steadfast and we are still surviving,
2 gradually holding on, but surviving.

3 I also provided a map for you, so you can get
4 an idea of Midtown. We are running distance from
5 downtown Jackson. If you take a look at downtown Jackson
6 now and take a look at Midtown where you can almost
7 extend your arm from downtown Jackson to Midtown and
8 shake hands with one another, it's kind of like a war
9 zone and Midtown and downtown Jackson is beautified and
10 they're constantly pumping more money into downtown
11 Jackson, that you would have an idea.

12 One of the serious things that make me do what
13 I'm about to bring to your attention is Midtown all of
14 the businesses and I was included, we were getting robbed
15 every night, every day, it didn't matter if it was 8:00
16 a.m. in the morning, 12:00, didn't matter, they was
17 robbing us, taking our money, frightening off our
18 employees. You name it, they did it.

19 As soon as downtown started having these
20 crashing dashes, they put policemen on every corner. You
21 go down there, you thought policemen were getting off of
22 work and coming on, because they had just that many
23 appeared to me walking the streets, whereas Midtown, like
24 I said, only a handshake from downtown had nothing.

25 In the Midtown area, which is considered as

1 precinct three, the documentation which the police report
2 that I gave you from back to 1990, this is an official
3 police report. We have been having to deal with these
4 problems.

5 The residents in the neighborhood have taken it
6 as a part of life after 6:00, now after dusk, dark, you
7 think it's a ghost town. It still exists, but the real
8 seriousness is that I saw downtown being treated like
9 gold and Midtown being treated like trash. That's what
10 brought it to my attention and this is why I'm here
11 today.

12 To begin my action of as one individual to make
13 a difference, I lost in one year back in 1994, which I
14 have made a part of your file, if you'll look and bear
15 with me, somewhere about \$32,000. Well, that was in one
16 year. That was all my net profit. I worked for the
17 criminals that year. I didn't receive a dime. I owed
18 everybody.

19 I sent letters, certified letters to all of the
20 individuals that you see here, including the mayor, chief
21 of police, and everyone else. You have copies of this,
22 everything -- no one responded by about two people.

23 Not only did I send certified letters but I
24 also sent a handful, and I didn't bring all of them, but
25 these are cards. I have enough of these -- this is what

1 you call Jackson Police Department case information card.

2 This is when your businesses are broken into
3 now. Now, I only brought about half of what I have.
4 It's enough -- I have enough cards to play a full whiz --
5 a 14 whiz game with you, if you want to deal. I just
6 brought some of them.

7 After losing -- policemen would come sometime
8 when you have break-ins, not only me, but others. I've
9 always supported the police department. The first, the
10 second chief, I met him at the airport and took him to
11 where he was going to reside, so I want to make it
12 extremely clear there's not a clash or there's not any
13 apathy between me and Midtown business folks, to the best
14 of my knowledge, against the police department.

15 My concern and my total curiosity was why were
16 we left out. In doing this, I wanted to see why --
17 therefore, I sent certified letters to all of the public
18 officials and the mayor, chief of police, no one
19 responded but about three people.

20 After my losses, which I sent them the copies
21 as well, I went to the Hinds County District Attorney's
22 office and there was a subpoena, subpoenaed by the
23 Midtown -- Mid City Business Association. Two of the
24 former presidents and yours truly, and we had --Mayor
25 Kane Ditto, Chief Wilson, Council Person E. C. Foster,

1 and Louis Armstrong subpoenaed in reference to the crisis
2 that we are having to live and deal with.

3 They were subpoenaed. It was quite obvious
4 from the grand jury, Hinds County grand jury finding,
5 that there were I call dual standards. And from that
6 point I did write Ms. Reno a letter, sent her this
7 documentation, and the most serious case of all of this
8 folder that I want to share with you was about four
9 months ago with the last robber at one of my Capital
10 Street stores, which are free-standing stores.

11 I have five free-standing stores. The only
12 difference between my buildings and McDonald's is it says
13 McDonald's on McDonald's and Washco Town on mine.

14 I run clean establishments, pretty much on the
15 style and built on the style of McDonald's, but four
16 months ago there was a tragedy that I hope would never
17 happen again in our community or around my business or
18 any of the Mid-City or any business, and that was we had
19 a burglar shot by one of the employees that happens to be
20 a female.

21 This burglar on Sunday morning at 8:00 a.m.
22 there were 13 people in the business washing their
23 clothes -- this burglar came in, robbed my clerk, pushed
24 her, slapped her, called her all kind of names, and after
25 he did that, he took his time -- all of the customers

1 looking -- he took his time with his gun, went in the
2 register, got all the money, and as he proceeded to come
3 from behind the counter, she was standing there looking,
4 he pushed her down and he told her to get out of the way,
5 you no good SOB, let me get this white man's money --
6 those were his exact words -- and he pushed her down, and
7 when he pushed her down, he pushed her right against her
8 purse, and when she came up, she came up shooting.

9 I hate to say this, no materialistic thing is
10 worth this, but he is handicapped right now. I said all
11 that to say this, that these problems where individuals
12 are -- especially those of us that want to work,
13 shouldn't have to be endangered of this magnitude.

14 There were up until this point probably in my
15 store and other stores up and down Capital Street, but
16 especially my store, about eight to ten burglaries prior
17 to this happening.

18 The only thing we received, I received, was
19 that we are trying to add more police officers.

20 But in the meantime, you would see police
21 officers every so often flying up and down the street,
22 but they had no concern, no commitment to the businesses.
23 In other areas, there were officers stopping, checking
24 in, turning on their lights as they go by at night, and I
25 know what I'm talking about because I've observed it, and

1 have it documented too.

2 So I wanted to just share with you all of the
3 documentation. We even went through our Congressman,
4 Congressman Bennie Thompson, and there's a letter in your
5 file where the congressman wrote -- but these are the
6 things that I personally took it upon myself, night and
7 day, in between trying to make payments and trying to
8 stay afloat, to share with you today, that we are still
9 trying and at any point in time if you can give us some
10 help and assistance, we truly would appreciate it here in
11 Jackson, Mississippi.

12 DR. WARD: Thank you.

13 MR. RANGE: Mr. Hawkins, on behalf of the State
14 Advisory Committee I'd like to thank you for that
15 complete and through and compelling information that
16 you brought forward to us. I know it's difficult to
17 run a business under any circumstances and not have
18 to face those kind of problems, and I notice your
19 listed members of your association is a very
20 substantial list of businesses in this community.

21 Can you give us some recommendations of the
22 kinds of things that you think could be done to
23 improve the effectiveness of the police department in
24 response to a situation that you're faced with?

25 MR. HAWKINS: I think from observing Jackson

1 Police Department, my biggest concern and my comments
2 to your question is we have some very good officers
3 out here on the street, and we got some crooks out
4 here on the street as police officers.

5 I'm saying what I'm saying because I've seen
6 unbelievable things happen. I would like somehow,
7 just like a businessman or woman going to business,
8 IRS keep a check and a file on us.

9 If we do not turn in our makings and what have
10 you, and when that party come out, if it appears that
11 we are doing extremely well, we are checked out.
12 Police officers, some of them, you know that they
13 aren't living off the salaries that -- they aren't
14 able to buy the materialistic things that some of
15 them have with the salaries that they are making.
16 That's one thing.

17 The other thing, I'm suggesting that -- well,
18 like we infiltrate everything across this country
19 except the police department. When you go and you
20 tell these things that the crooks and the policemen,
21 some of them, not all of them, have come together --
22 people look at you like you're crazy, but if you're
23 out here trying to run your business and you see
24 people making deals on your corner or in your parking
25 lot, and you know who is who and you make these

1 comments, then it's forgotten.

2 What am I saying? I mean saying that if we had
3 someone that could come in disguised, FBI, somebody,
4 and just work among their own kind, then I think they
5 would understand what I'm trying to respond to you
6 now because otherwise we could talk and every -- my
7 colleagues could come and tell you the same thing,
8 what I'm saying, and until we do that, we got -- we
9 have serious problems.

10 MR. RANGE: One other question. Would you
11 discuss for me the advantages and the disadvantages
12 of establishing a citizens review panel to oversee
13 the police complaints that come into the police
14 department, the citizens complaints that come into
15 the police department? Do you think there would be
16 an advantage or a disadvantage to having a citizens
17 review panel?

18 MR. HAWKINS: I think it would be an advantage,
19 if this panel would function and bring about some
20 actions. I found for the last 12 to 15 years, and
21 you know I come in contact with a lot of mothers that
22 have sons dealing dope and they want to tell
23 somebody, I have a husband dealing in dope, daughter
24 dealing in drugs, they want to tell somebody or the
25 next-door neighbors are selling or what have you, but

1 they are afraid because they don't have anyone that
2 they can truthfully confide in, and then when they
3 put themselves out on the line, no one really --
4 nothing really happens.

5 So I think if this review board is serious and
6 can bring about some actions and accountability from
7 once -- whence people come forth to tell you, give
8 you this information, I think it would be worth
9 organizing.

10 MS. MILNER: Can you think or do you have any
11 recommendations short of FBI infiltration of a way we
12 could keep an evaluation or a report card, if you
13 will, on the police department?

14 MR. HAWKINS: Yes. As I said before, there are
15 a lot of mothers, Christian mothers, Christian
16 fathers, and just very committed citizens in this
17 community that know what's going on because some of
18 their nephews are involved, some of their children's
19 sons are involved, some of their daughters involved,
20 and they are selling for Laurel Fishers.

21 MS. MILNER: Is there a way to have a
22 legitimate community evaluation do you think, that
23 the results could be compiled and do some good?

24 MR. HAWKINS: Yes. For example, if you came
25 into the Midtown area and made it known with some

1 kind of publicity to let the people know that you're
2 there to gather facts and talk about their problems
3 that they have encountered, I think you would have
4 more than enough information -- I mean, accurate
5 information to document anything you want to do.

6 MS. MILNER: Has there been any dialogue at all
7 between Midtown businessmen and the police to address
8 some of these problems in the past?

9 MR. HAWKINS: How many times. Yes.

10 MS. MILNER: Thank you.

11 MS. ROBINSON: Mr. Hawkins, I have two
12 questions for you. Number one, would you describe
13 Midtown to me, the demographics, just generally? Is
14 it predominantly black, white, mixed, and also the
15 businesses that are in that area?

16 MR. HAWKINS: Yes. Midtown is -- from the
17 demographic side it's about 75 or let's say 90
18 percent black, ten percent white, 65 percent white
19 businesses, 35 African American businesses or maybe
20 34 and one percent is Hispanics, what have you,
21 Asian. What you have is it was once upon a time 100
22 percent white.

23 Crime took its course and of course you had
24 what we call white flight in reference to -- because
25 of fear, what have you -- the Midtown area is from

1 the demographic, it's blue collar, working class
2 group of people, on a major thoroughfare, has very
3 good business potential.

4 Some of the stores are still there, white.
5 They're doing extremely well. Of course, you know,
6 the pressure of the criminal acts makes it very
7 stressful, but overall there is a good relationship
8 between the working class, the blue color and the
9 white businessmen as well as -- and women, as well as
10 black businessmen and women.

11 Basically 99 and three-fourths percent of the
12 people really want the businesses to maintain and
13 stay in the community. Believe it or not, some of
14 the businesses that are used are the only outlet that
15 some of these people use, some of the grocery stores,
16 some of the little lumber and hardware stores. You'd
17 be surprised how these -- how the residents in the
18 neighborhood are so appreciative of some of these
19 businesses.

20 MS. ROBINSON: My second question goes to your
21 remarks, your initial remarks that you made. I need
22 clarification. You talked about dual standards and
23 then you also referenced Janet Reno. Could you
24 clarify in a more broader way the dual standards
25 remarks that you made and also the Janet Reno remark

1 that you made?

2 MR. HAWKINS: Well, I talk about dual standards
3 just like I talk about if I get up and walk from here
4 to that table, then an African American been in
5 business 22 years, you discover two things right
6 quick to answer your question.

7 That if you're going to be in business, you're
8 going to have to work extremely hard to make it. And
9 then there's a real side of business that you're
10 going to have to put forth or you have an African
11 American community to come out and stay in the black.
12 When I talk about dual standards, I'm talking about
13 what I have observed and what I have documented.

14 In the Mid-City Businesses Association we have
15 a 68 percent membership with the Chamber of Commerce
16 here in the City of Jackson. The Chamber of Commerce
17 happened to be and still is predominantly white.

18 I have personally been a member of the chamber
19 for the last 21 years. When we first started
20 engulfing the problems in the war zone of crime, and
21 it just amazed me and drained me at the same time,
22 when we were as businessmen and women in Midtown,
23 when we were producing five to six to seven hundred
24 million dollars, and the Chamber of Commerce would go
25 out and spend six and seven hundred thousand dollars

1 to try to bring a business from Kokomo or wherever
2 you want to call it, into the City of Jackson, and
3 was allowing us to go down the drain because of -- I
4 call this didn't care, no concern, or maybe we were
5 on the wrong side of town.

6 Also in observing and being a member of the
7 chamber, when other situations arise in a
8 predominantly white community, and I'm not trying to
9 make this a black or white -- when you deal with m-o-
10 n-e-y, that's why I call it dual standards. Money is
11 money, I don't care where it's coming from.

12 I could see reacting and accountability
13 immediately, just like I told you about the crash and
14 dash in the downtown area -- when that started, some
15 of the members up there know that you saw police
16 officers on the street in twos and they stayed that
17 way until some more arrangements were made.

18 That's what I'm talking about with dual
19 standards where immediate situation takes place, some
20 immediate action takes place to offset it. Nothing
21 has taken place and we have at least almost a 50-year
22 history of the same thing where people become
23 complacent with crime now and they accept it. And
24 it's sad.

25 MS. ROBINSON: Did you write a letter to Janet

1 Reno?

2 MR. HAWKINS: Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. ROBINSON: We have that in our documents
4 too.

5 MR. HAWKINS: I didn't put that in there. I
6 just wrote it and I put my own personal -- but I can
7 supply you with it.

8 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you. I'll get that.

9 DR. WARD: Okay.

10 MR. RANGE: Could you tell us, the Mid-City
11 area, how close is it to the boundaries of the
12 Capital Center area?

13 MR. HAWKINS: I'm sorry.

14 MR. RANGE: The Downtown Capital Center, Inc.,
15 area, how close is the Mid-City area -- do you adjoin
16 the capital center area?

17 MR. HAWKINS: Mill Street divides us. The's
18 why I say, you could almost shake hands -- if you
19 extend your arm long enough, you could shake hands --
20 Mill Street is the dividing line. Capital, Inc.

21 DR. WARD: Mr. Hawkins, I would like to thank
22 you very much for your presentation and we will use
23 the information that you have provided for us very
24 generously in compiling the record of these
25 proceedings. Thank you.

1 MR. HAWKINS: One other thing I'd like to say -
2 - I'm sorry, but I just thought about this. I've had
3 an opportunity for the entire year to talk to young
4 people about going in business, and especially
5 African Americans, and this is one of their greatest
6 concern, that we -- why should we go in business, all
7 we're going to do is have our supplies taken and
8 robbed, why should we go in business?

9 This question -- and I speak to classes -- I
10 basically speak on a monthly basis out at Jackson
11 State University, and when you encourage the young
12 people to go in business, that's the first thing they
13 ask, you know, we do not see the same kind of
14 protection happening even around this university with
15 the small businesses here as we do in other places.

16 They talk about the burglar bars. They talk
17 about the iron doors and all that that they see in
18 the African American community, and when they drive
19 only two miles out, they do not see any of this.

20 So it's very -- it's very disheartening when
21 you talk and try to say look, we can give somebody
22 back to these communities and then they say no, we
23 can't, because.

24 DR. WARD: Thank you. Ms. Clara Spencer.

25 MS. SPENCER: Thank you.

1 DR. WARD: Ms. Spencer, I'd like to thank you
2 for coming to the fact finding meeting of Mississippi
3 Advisory Committee, to the United States Commission
4 on Civil Rights, and I will ask you to do what we
5 have established as a kind of standard operating
6 procedure for everyone, that is, to give us your name
7 and also spell your last name and provide for the
8 record your mailing address before you give your
9 presentation.

10 MS. SPENCER: I would like to say good evening
11 to this council and thank you for inviting me and it's a
12 pleasure to be here. My name is Clara Spencer. My
13 address is 911 Randall, R-a-n-d-a-l-l, Street, City of
14 Jackson, and the ZIP code is 39203.

15 DR. WARD: One thing you forgot is they want
16 you to spell your last name.

17 MS. SPENCER: I'm sorry. My last name is
18 spelled like Spencer Tracey, S-p-e-n-c-e-r.

19 DR. WARD: Thank you.

20 MS. SPENCER: Am I to do any type of
21 introduction or -- okay. I'm here on behalf of a grass
22 roots organization called Jackson Peace. We in the past
23 have been very active with many of the issues that are
24 presently extremely vivid here in the City of Jackson
25 that also represents the entire State of Mississippi. It

1 surely is a pleasure to be here before this U.S. Civil
2 Rights Commission tonight because we surely have many
3 problems, especially in the type of communities that are
4 truly oppressed, poor, do not have any socio or economic
5 development.

6 We're in a state that does not have any type of
7 rehabilitation for drugs. We do not have any free
8 services for people that have drug problems that are
9 rapidly committing crimes to support the habit.

10 We have continuously gone before the city
11 council along with other private meetings, trying to get
12 these type of centers open to help reduce crime in areas
13 such as Georgetown, Midtown, Washington Addition, Bird
14 Addition, which are areas that appear to be totally
15 redlined by people in position and title and
16 representation for the City of Jackson.

17 We do have many problems that need to be
18 bridged and resolved, and I have high expectations of the
19 result of meeting here tonight with you, and I thank you
20 for the interest of coming here to Jackson to ask us
21 questions.

22 SENATOR HARDEN: Thank you so much, Mrs.
23 Spencer, for agreeing to participate in this first
24 finding hearing. We're dealing tonight with police
25 community relations in Jackson. And I would first

1 like to ask you how you would describe the level and
2 the types of crime that exist in your neighborhood or
3 the neighborhoods that you are familiar with.

4 MS. SPENCER: The level is severe. The type of
5 crimes, of course, is drug sales and drug use. Well,
6 when you have drug sales in the community and drug
7 use, quite naturally the crime of homicide is next.
8 Georgetown community where I live according to the
9 statistics last year, we were the number one area for
10 homicide rates. And this too is not a black or white
11 issue. I'm a very fair person. However, we have
12 human rights issues here in Jackson and when you
13 discuss issues that are vivid between or among
14 African Americans and the white community, you're
15 immediately thought to be a racist and in my case I
16 would like to say that is not true.

17 Because of the homicide rate in our community,
18 it's critical, and because of us not having any type
19 of drug clinic open in the community where people can
20 walk into to get help, I would just like to state
21 that I live around the corner from 120 units, Jackson
22 Apartments.

23 Of those 120 units, we have 75 percent of
24 single mothers and their children. It is a high area
25 where drug use is vivid. And children at age nine

1 are men. It's critical here.

2 SENATOR HARDEN: What's the relationship
3 between the community and the Jackson Police
4 Department and the sheriff's department, and has
5 there been any kind of coordinated effort between the
6 two groups in order to alleviate some of the problems
7 that exist in the neighborhood?

8 MS. SPENCER: I would like to answer the
9 sheriff's department first. There is probably not,
10 if any, relationship between the community and the
11 sheriff's department; however, Sheriff Mike Nolen
12 recently started a crew of people that have committed
13 crimes coming into the community to help the city do
14 a job that they have not done, which is cleaning up
15 the community, helping the senior citizens who cannot
16 afford to pay people to do things as simply as mow
17 their yards or clean up around their homes, and I
18 certainly expect in the future there will be a
19 bridged relationship between the sheriff's department
20 as well as the community. However, on the other
21 hand, with the Jackson Police Department there is no
22 relationship.

23 To my knowledge the people on my street and
24 certainly a couple of streets either way, we have not
25 had any type of meetings with the police department.

1 They are not vivid in our community. They don't do
2 simple things like stop on the street, if you see a
3 child, and encourage them to go to school.

4 The children are fearful of the police
5 department because of the exploited media that take
6 place, and show our kids the ugly side of crime,
7 opposed to the encouragement of going to school and
8 how you can excel and how you can become somebody.
9 Our senior citizens, there is certainly not a
10 relationship because I live -- and I thank God -- I
11 live on a street where we have so much history, the
12 average age is between 72 and 93, and all of these
13 people are walking, well and alive, and not one
14 police officer do anything as simple as knock on a
15 door and say it's okay if you call me, I'm here in
16 the community, and I just want you to know that we're
17 thinking about you, and if there is a problem call
18 us, we're here to help you.

19 MS. MILNER: Do you have any recommendations
20 for how to create or improve the relationship with
21 the Jackson Police Department either through dialogue
22 or some other recommendation that you may have?

23 MS. SPENCER: I most certainly do. There are
24 many things. Going back to our children, there are
25 things as simple as having a basketball game, if

1 that's what it takes, because again I'm in a
2 community that do not have something as simple as a
3 park, a recreation center, or a library. Those units
4 that I mentioned to you that house 120 families have
5 approximately 176 to 196 children. Those children
6 have a playground within the complex and only have
7 swings, and those swings only have chains, and that's
8 what the children do for entertainment.

9 I recommend highly that some type of bridging
10 take place between the police department and the
11 children with anything as simple as games or dolls or
12 books that you can read or videos that are
13 educational or explain exactly what the police
14 department is all about.

15 I recommend that the police department get
16 involved in some type of sensitivity training, some
17 type of diverse training, because in the community
18 where I live, it is quite free for a caucasian
19 officer to freely rove in the community where I live;
20 however, on the same token in Northeast Jackson,
21 where it is predominantly caucasian and where among
22 the rich and the elite, you have very few African
23 American officers, if any, in that community and if
24 that is the case, then that needs to be changed as
25 well as they need to be trained to deal with the

1 - opposite side of the coin.

2 MS. MILNER: Do you have any concerns that if
3 we spend time training our officers in sensitivity or
4 community type relationships that that would somehow
5 impede the police department's ability to prevent and
6 correct crime?

7 MS. SPENCER: Yes, I do, because I think not
8 only the African American officers don't understand,
9 it depends on the age group they're in. Also
10 caucasian officers, most of our children are men at
11 age nine if not earlier at age six, because they're
12 the head of the household, there's not a male present
13 in most of the communities. We're number one in the
14 United States with teen-age pregnancy, so we have
15 children that don't have parenting because we do not
16 have community parenting classes in the community,
17 and without that being done, and the police officer
18 understand that a child is not born or he does not
19 inherit crime for him to understand that a child is
20 reluctant to be arrested, an African American child,
21 he may run when the police tell him to stop or he may
22 be angry and fight when the police try to hold him,
23 but it's not because the child is being
24 disrespectful, it's out of fear and it's out of the
25 leadership ability and the survival techniques that

1 he has had to take to make it, just make it in the
2 household alone.

3 MS. MILNER: I have one more follow-up. Do you
4 see this as a matter of economics where we need to
5 have more money and more training in the police
6 department, or do we really need another branch to
7 address community problems?

8 MS. SPENCER: That's an excellent question.
9 What I think is that the dilapidated housing that we
10 have in the community, the banks here in Jackson,
11 should consider financing those homes for police
12 officers to move into. One, the officer will become
13 well aware of what is going on in the community. He
14 will become acquainted with the people that live in
15 the community, the car will be extremely vivid in the
16 community, and most people will tip around a police
17 car because you don't want any problems.

18 Secondly, the dilapidated housing that our
19 children pass on a daily basis that have dog
20 skeletons, rat skeletons, burnt walls, that are not
21 boarded that are disease infested, those same houses
22 could be turned -- and by the way, most of them have
23 absent white landlords. Those same houses could be
24 turned into sub-precincts in the community and if it
25 takes doing that on each and every street until we

1 can control crime, and until a relationship can be
2 developed between our children and the police
3 department to show that they are not there to harm
4 our children, to remove the fear and let them
5 understand that they are there to help and to show
6 concern, I think will be a big difference in the
7 problems that we have.

8 SENATOR HARDEN: Ms. Spencer, thanks for
9 coming. In reference to your last statement, when
10 you indicated that you had abandoned houses, I assume
11 cluttered lots, probably abandoned vehicles, it
12 sounds like to me that there's a broader issue here
13 beyond police community relations that goes to city
14 services.

15 MS. SPENCER: Yes.

16 SENATOR HARDEN: Could you address that,
17 please?

18 MS. SPENCER: Yes, ma'am, I'd be happy to.
19 First of all, the police cannot address city services
20 when the city does not address city services. We
21 have a majority African American City Council here in
22 Jackson, as well as board of supervisors, but if
23 you're in a position with the mayor that will veto
24 your decision or if you're really in a position on
25 the City Council where you have people that are on

1 the council serving that don't understand what you're
2 talking about because they've never been in the
3 communities where we live, and it's not because --
4 maybe it's not just because of how most people
5 perceive it as being racism, it's because of sheer
6 ignorance and you just don't know.

7 You know, most people haven't been in a
8 community like mine where the senior citizens don't
9 have a bus bench to sit down on or if it's raining
10 you stand in the rain, because you don't have a seat
11 or if there is a seat down, it's broken down.

12 Therefore, the City Council don't have any
13 control, for example. A couple of weeks ago, maybe
14 three, the City Council voted unanimously to have a
15 review board from the outside to come in and
16 investigate our fire department where it had been
17 accused of racism within the fire department and its
18 ranks.

19 Kane Ditto vetoed that, however, on the same
20 token a special committee that the person that was
21 recommended and voted on by the council, had been
22 said yes, you can go and you can investigate the
23 water and sewer department where we have straight out
24 racism, and he came back with a positive report. It
25 was established that racism does exist among city

1 employees.

2 When you have a council I reiterate that is
3 powerless and that are bickering among themselves and
4 not really concerned about the issues of the
5 community, there is a problem. When you have a mayor
6 who is acting as a police chief that has never had
7 one day of training in a police academy, and I
8 believe the city rules clearly state that you must
9 have training in an academy to hold that position --
10 he was there for six months.

11 Jimmy Wilson was fired, who was an African
12 American, because of the escalating of crime. When
13 he became our police chief slash mayor, our crime
14 escalated far beyond the figures of any other year.

15 So when you have a situation where even the
16 governor of the state says that he cannot give a
17 contract or minority set-aside, and that we don't
18 need the federal government here in this state, that
19 we can make our own decisions, when he markets the
20 President of the United States and a mayor that
21 complement him so kindly by racially splitting and
22 dividing the City of Jackson, it's most difficult for
23 anyone to function under those conditions.

24 DR. WARD: Ms. Spencer, I would like for you to
25 try to just summarize what you said, because I think

1 it's very important and I'd like to know if you're
2 speaking as a concerned citizen or as a
3 representative of Jackson Peace on this matter.

4 What I heard was that for a significant number
5 of people in the City of Jackson, there's
6 hopelessness because of the -- there is an absolute
7 crisis of confidence.

8 MS. SPENCER: Yes, sir, that's absolutely
9 correct. I hope I can answer this question, and if
10 I'm venturing off from what you asked me, please
11 bring me back on course. In summary, sir, I strongly
12 feel that when you have top officials that are in
13 position, that no one else -- it appears to be a high
14 level corruption here in the entire State of
15 Mississippi and when you have a high level of
16 corruption, it becomes extremely sophisticated and it
17 links like the Star of David -- there's no way of
18 getting out of that star, it does not matter what
19 point you go to, you end up in that star.

20 When you have a DA, sir like Ed Peters that
21 represents the state --

22 DR. WARD: I have to cut the -- because you
23 can't -- that borders on defamation so --

24 MS. SPENCER: Maybe you need to ask me the
25 question again, because I --

1 DR. WARD: I just wanted a summary comment. If
2 you want to just say officials, top officials, that
3 was okay, but you can't name any official or person
4 specifically because that breaches the protection for
5 organizations and individuals against defamation.

6 MS. SPENCER: Thank you. Do you want me to
7 continue?

8 DR. WARD: Yes, please.

9 MS. SPENCER: Okay. When we have top officials
10 that represent the State of Mississippi such as we
11 have in various levels, it is most difficult for
12 anyone to do anything to help the situation or the
13 problems that we presently have.

14 It's on every level, education. We have a
15 serious problem with that, and we know that if our
16 children are not educated, there is no way that they
17 can perform or get a job to keep them out of the
18 poverty and oppression that exists.

19 We also know that on every level that there's
20 not any type of training skill available, that you
21 cannot get a job.

22 We also know that if you're on the welfare and
23 you're a mother and you don't have anyone to keep
24 your children, there's no way you can go out and get
25 a job. We also know that if you are a victim of

1 drugs and alcohol and has been proven to be a
2 disease, and if you only are allowed X amount of
3 visits on your free card that you have, and you
4 cannot afford to pay to go to any type of rehab
5 center, then we know that you will continue to stay
6 in the conditions that you're in.

7 We also know that if the children are in a
8 household where the mother never comes home, that
9 they have other brothers and sisters and the food
10 stamps are gone and there is no food there, that the
11 children will do whatever they have to, to survive
12 and I'm speaking as a person today, a true citizen of
13 Jackson. Yes, I represent a grass root group and I
14 try to be sometimes as conservative as I can, but
15 when I speak, I speak from my heart because it's
16 troubled. I have much compassion for the community
17 where I live and the surrounding communities. I have
18 truly consummated a marriage to the community and the
19 city where I live and it's very difficult not to talk
20 right now as a mother, not to speak as a citizen, not
21 to have hurt and pain of the children, not to stand
22 in the shoes of the public officials, not to stand on
23 the different committees and auxiliaries that have
24 been appointed to represent communities where we
25 live, and it seems to me that all the people most of

1 the time that they put on these committees are
2 tokens, and these tokens that are chosen because of a
3 skin color to represent us, are not representing us
4 because they have sanctified themselves and separated
5 from the true reality that exists here in the City of
6 Jackson.

7 DR. WARD: Okay, thank you.

8 MS. ROBINSON: I have one more question. I
9 have one question. In your view what is the state of
10 race relations in Jackson?

11 MS. SPENCER: I think it's sitting -- I think
12 it's sitting right now on a power keg. The race
13 relations is extremely poor and I really think if
14 something doesn't happen very soon to men, people as
15 people, not people as African American or not people
16 as white, but people as people for us to be able to
17 understand who we are, to be able to communicate.
18 You see, when you are in the business sector of the
19 world and you are successful white person, you never
20 get to talk to people like myself, because you don't
21 have to.

22 But there is no way anybody can make a decision
23 without talking to the people that are truly
24 involved, and if crime is a problem with our
25 children, you see, nobody feels that young children

1 that are good should be rewarded more than myself.

2 But it seems to be something that everyone
3 seemed to miss. It's what we don't say. We're not
4 concerned about really talking to the people, of
5 getting to the root of the problem, who for example
6 are the children who are committing the crimes or if
7 you go to the Youth Detention Center 15 times and
8 officials have denied the budget to have a
9 psychiatrist to test the children to find out if
10 that's the problem, or to allocate funds for teachers
11 to continue your education when you're incarcerated.
12 When you don't have any type of key points to work
13 with because you're not talking to the real people,
14 there is no way you can solve any of the problems.

15 DR. WARD: Ms. Spencer, on behalf of the
16 committee I'd like to thank you very much for your
17 very eloquent statement on behalf of the people who
18 are so little spoken to.

19 MS. SPENCER: Thank you. And I thank you for
20 having me here.

21 DR. WARD: Okay. We have now entered the final
22 stages of the first day and as I announced this
23 morning at the opening, we have provide for people
24 who were not invited to make statements a time at
25 which they might speak.

1 The timing is a little different because we're
2 asking those who are speaking during the open session
3 to confine their remarks to approximately five
4 minutes, and there was a procedure for speaking here
5 and that was to first talk with one of the staff
6 people so that you might officially be put on the
7 list.

8 I do have one person who desired to make a
9 statement. Ms. Delores Daniels. Is she here? Yes.
10 Ms. Daniels, would you please come forward and just
11 give us your full name, your mailing address as the
12 previous speaker did, and then you may make your
13 statement to the committee.

14 MS. DANIELS: Good evening. I am Delores
15 Daniels. I live at 1595 West Holland Drive, Apartment
16 R207.

17 I'm here to --

18 DR. WARD: All right. And I've been asked by
19 staff, I think your statement is about police
20 harassment. Please so that I don't get signals from
21 staff, do not use the names of the officers, but you
22 may use their ranks.

23 MS. DANIELS: On March 26th roughly 6:30 in the
24 afternoon or a little bit before that time, I was
25 visiting a department store. While there, I saw one of

1 my friends who was visiting or protesting the bingo hall
2 which is right next door.

3 He had been told to leave the premises or he
4 would be arrested. He did that immediately. Upon doing
5 so, one of the persons from the bingo hall took his
6 protest signs.

7 He asked me if I would secure the signs for
8 him. I saw three caucasian officers standing there and I
9 asked them who had the signs. They stated to me that the
10 guy from the bingo hall had them.

11 So he came out and I asked for them. Upon
12 asking, he responded to me that if the wind had blown
13 them away, that he wouldn't have them, and so my response
14 was the wind didn't blow them away, you have them, and
15 they belongs to this person.

16 We stood there and talked several minutes. Of
17 course, we wasn't in harmony, but not loud, not using
18 profanity at all. It was at the very moment that I made
19 the statement that if blacks didn't support the bingo
20 halls, there would be no bingo halls -- at that very
21 moment the officer charged me from my left side. He said
22 you're going to jail, and I backed away.

23 And I said what for. He said -- well, at that
24 time he said -- resisting arrest when I begged away from
25 him. I was put in handcuffs. I had a daughter that was

1 at dance practice.

2 I asked him if I could just be allowed to make
3 a call so I could make sure that my daughters would get
4 home, because I am a single parent.

5 He made the statement that you should have
6 thought of this before becoming involved. Yes, I was
7 taken to jail. I spent about two hours in the cell. I
8 was never allowed to make one phone call, just so
9 happened a friend was there with me, who did get my
10 children and secure them for me.

11 Since that time I've spoken with the chief of
12 police here in Jackson. I filed with internal affairs.
13 Been down to the city council meeting numerous times, and
14 after trying to do all these things, I haven't had any
15 help or response at all.

16 I feel like my rights was violated. Had I been
17 out there loud, using profanity, doing anything that I
18 felt that was injustice to the law, I would accept my
19 arrest, but this I feel was unjust. And I would like any
20 consideration that anyone in here can give me on this
21 situation.

22 MR. JENKINS: In filing a formal complaint with
23 the police department, did you receive a copy of the
24 complaint that you filed?

25 MS. DANIELS: No, sir, they did not give me a

1 copy.

2 MR. JENKINS: Did you request a copy of the
3 complaint?

4 MS. DANIELS: Sir, I did not know to request
5 one.

6 MR. JENKINS: I'm trying to establish for the
7 record --

8 MS. DANIELS: That's why I have no -- that's
9 okay.

10 MR. JENKINS: In your conversations with the
11 police chief, what was his response to your concern?

12 MS. DANIELS: Sir, he told me that as a citizen
13 I had no right to even become involved, with trying
14 to secure the posters, and he kept questioning me and
15 I finally asked him, was he trying to judge my
16 character as opposed to trying to see if his officer
17 had violated my rights.

18 So it was more or less put back on that I
19 should have never become involved.

20 MR. JENKINS: Let me ask you this for a base --
21 what was your allegation against the police officer
22 that you filed with internal affairs?

23 MS. DANIELS: Well, I would -- let's see --
24 well, when I spoke with internal affairs, it was my
25 complaint was that my rights had been violated.

1 MS. DANIELS: Did the officer ask you any
2 additional questions? Did he take a complaint then
3 or what exactly happened?

4 MS. DANIELS: Are you speaking to the person
5 that is at internal affairs?

6 MR. JENKINS: Mm-hmm.

7 MS. DANIELS: Yes, sir, he took a complaint.

8 MR. JENKINS: But you have not heard from that?

9 MS. DANIELS: I spoke back with him yesterday
10 and I do understand that the officer is no longer
11 employed with the Jackson Police Department. He has
12 relocated. Therefore, they told me there was no kind
13 of reprimand that they could do towards him. I'm not
14 so much concerned about what they do to him as
15 opposed to how they're going to do me, because I feel
16 like I've been violated for simply making a
17 statement.

18 MR. JENKINS: One final question. Have you
19 visited with a private attorney to discuss this
20 matter?

21 MS. DANIELS: Yes, sir, very briefly.

22 MR. JENKINS: That's all I have.

23 DR. WARD: Your statement along with the
24 responses to Mr. Jenkins, who is a staff member of
25 the commission, have been recorded for the record.

1 Now, of course, as a committee we can forward the
2 information to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights
3 for further review, but we're not empowered to take
4 any action, but we will see that the information goes
5 forward in your behalf.

6 MS. DANIELS: Thank you very much.

7 DR. WARD: Thank you. Is there anyone else who
8 desires to make a brief statement before I adjourn
9 this meeting? No. All right. Well, I hereby
10 declare, since I've been told I must learn to use
11 this instrument, I hereby declare this meeting
12 adjourned until 9:00 tomorrow morning.

13 (Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.)

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STATE OF GEORGIA)

COUNTY OF GWINNETT)

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true, correct, and complete record of the said proceedings; that I am not a relative, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties; am not a relative of attorney or counsel for any of the parties; nor am I financially interested in the action.

This, the 2nd day of June, 1995.

Thomas M. Stites

Thomas M. Stites