

1                   Would you now scan toward the mid-day <sup>1138</sup>  
2 meal.

3                   Sliced corned beef, fried potatoes.

4                   Could you now move onto the night meal.

5                   Grilled cheeseburger.

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

10                  Is that sliced bologna?

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

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

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

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

21 R O B E R T           M A T T H E W S,           called as a witness,  
22 was examined and testified as follows:

23 EXAMINATION BY MR. ADDISON:

24 Q           Mr. Matthews, what city are you from?

25 A           Buffalo.

1 Q Are you presently an inmate at 139

2 Attica?

3 A Yes, I am.

4 Q Did you go to high school in Buffalo?

5 A Yes, I did.

6 Q Did you complete high school at Buffalo?

7 A No.

8 Q What did you do when you left high school?

9 A I went into the service. United States Marine  
10 Corps.

11 Q Did you volunteer for the Marine Corps?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Why did you volunteer for the Marine Corps?

14 A Well, I had belonged to school and I felt as  
15 if I still owed something to my parents because at the  
16 time my parents had expectations of me, you know, going  
17 to school, getting a diploma, going on to college.  
18 Consequently, I blew it when I got kicked out. So, now  
19 my next best thing that I thought that I could possibly  
20 make of it was to go into service. This is what I did.

21 Q Would you speak up, please.

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q For how long a period did you volunteer?

24 A Four years.

25 Q Did you complete the entire four years?

---

1 A No, I did not.

140

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

4 A Right.

5 Q Upon returning to Buffalo, did you find employ-  
6 ment?

7 A Not right away, no.

8 Q When did you find employment, how long after-  
9 wards did you find employment?

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

3 Q Have you used narcotics?

4 A Yes, I have.

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

7 A Right.

8 Q How long were you involved in narcotics?

9 A Approximately since 1964, 1965, to 1971.

0 Q At any point did you abandon narcotics?

1 A Periodically off and on, yes.

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

3 A Right. After I came out of the service, I,  
4 myself, felt as though I had left my family down for  
5 a second time. I got an undesirable discharge. Through

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1 trying to find myself as to what I should do 141

2 in relation to jobwise, I started to hang out in the  
3 street. Behind this I was subjected to the ghetto life.  
4 Drugs, hustling, stealing, sticking up, things of this  
5 nature. This is what I applied my talents to. This is  
6 the life that I got involved in. And subsequently this  
7 is what I started doing, shooting dope, things of this  
8 nature.

9 Q Was there anything that made you abandon it?

10 A Right. At one point I came to the conclusion  
11 that this is not really what I wanted. This was not what  
12 I was seeking.

13 Q What did you--

14 A I came into contact with the militant groups  
15 that was---had sprouted.

16 Q Any particular group?

17 A I joined the NCCF, National Committee to  
18 Combat Fascism. Organizing bureau of the Black Panther  
19 Party. I thought here is yomeone who is trying to do  
20 something about the situation of the everyday Joe Blow  
21 in the streets, right.

22 I have found out that these particular people,  
23 I thought, were trying to help, so this is what drew me  
24 to this particular organization. I involved myself. I  
25 got involved.

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1 Q What kind of things did you hope to 142

2 to do?

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

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

11 A Yes.

12 Q You finally found some kind of employment?

13 A Right.

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

18 A Yes.

19 Q And then you were arrested?

20 A Right.

21 Q You were arrested for what charge?

22 A Well, my first bust, and I have had a few, my  
23 first one was burglary. This happened in the year of  
24 1967.

25 Q Speak up, please.

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1           A     This happened in the year 1967.

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

6           Q     Were you still using drugs at that time?

7           A     Right. I was using drugs.

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

1           A     Well, I had heard some very frightening tales  
2 about Attica. Nothing that I had heard about Attica  
3 was--how should I say?--nice. Everything that I heard  
4 was frightening.

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

7           Q     How much time were you going to spend there?

8           A     I was going to spend--I got five to ten. Five  
9 to ten years.

0           Q     What else did you hear about Attica?

1           A     Well, I had heard that the correction officers,  
2 the correctional department did not take any jive. You  
3 gave them any type of static, you would be severely dealt  
4 with.

5           Q     So you were convicted and sentenced to Attica,

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and in anticipation of going to Attica, you 144

heard about all--you heard about the nightmare of Attica?

A Right.

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

A Right.

Q And how long did you spend in reception?

A Approximately 30 days, about a month.

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

A Right.

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

A Right.

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

A Right.

Q These were now your impressions of Attica?

A Right.

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

A Having been there in reception for approximately 30 days, I had a very dim view of Attica. As far as the correctional department was concerned, as far as the of-

1        ficers were concerned, because I could see that        145  
2        there was a wide gap in relationship as to inmate and  
3        officer. I could also see that there was very little  
4        or none at all rehabilitation program. I could see  
5        that they had a very limited school education program.  
6        And all of this, quite naturally, I am taking in because  
7        these are the things that was told to me before, to re-  
8        orientate myself, to better myself.

9            Q        You were sent to Attica for rehabilitation?

10          A        Supposedly, yes.

11          Q        I understood you had an interview at Attica  
12        at the reception center.

13          A        Right.

14          Q        What takes place during this interview?

15          A        Well, you are called down in front of the PK.

16          Q        PK is--

17          A        Right.

18          Q        The principal keeper?

19          A        Right. He has two bars on his shoulder, white  
20        shirt, black tie, cap with a gold braid. And you go to  
21        him. He asked you, he has your--he have your record in  
22        front of him on a piece of card about so wide (indicat-  
23        ing). So he says to me, he says, "Well, you got five  
24        to ten years, Matthews."

25            I said, "Right."

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1 He said, "What do you want to do?" 146

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

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

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

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

13 So now, I'm already aware of the limited pro-  
14 gram that they had and at that particular time they had  
15 the metal shop, tailor shop and school.

16 Q You were a junkie prior to coming to Attica?

17 A Right.

18 Q And you not long before abandoned that?

19 A Right.

20 Q Did you have any rehabilitation prior to coming  
21 to Attica?

22 A As far as drug addiction, none whatsoever.

23 Q So, how did you kick your drug habit when you  
24 got to Attica?

25 A When I got to Attica, I had to more or less

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1 reorientate myself. I had to rehabilitate 147  
2 myself. You see, I realized that I shot dope for a  
3 particular reason. Now, what I had to do is find out  
4 the reason and now, after I find--after I found out the  
5 reason, I had to make a supplement for this. I had to  
6 put the drugs aside and put something that would take  
7 the place of the drugs.

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

10 Q So, you requested a school program?

11 A I requested school program, right.

12 Q And you were assigned to what program at Attica?

13 A I requested to go to school and I requested for  
14 the tailor shop, and I wound up in the metal shop, which  
15 I had anticipated anyway.

16 Q Why did you anticipate going to the metal shop?

17 A Well, in the first place the prisoners that were  
18 already in there told me, that's where you're going. You  
19 can ask for this. You can shoot for that. You can't re-  
20 quest this or that, but you are going to wind up in the  
21 metal shop. This is where I wound up, the metal shop.

22 Q Why did you think--why did they tell you that  
23 you would be going to the metal shop? Why do you think  
24 they told you that?

25 A The fellow inmates?

1 Q Yes.

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

5 Q Which is what?

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

9 Q So you were assigned to the metal shop?

10 A Right.

11 Q I understand there are two metal shops there.

12 A Right.

13 Q You were assigned to which one?

14 A Metal 1.

15 Q And what was your first job assignment?

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

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

20 A They have assembly lines. They have two shears  
21 where they cut sheets of metal about--which are from three  
22 to four feet wide to five to six or seven feet long. They  
23 have machines that punch holes in the metal, where you put  
24 your screws and bolts in. They have machines that cuts  
25 several angles in the metal to place them together.

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1 Q Are there a large number of black  
2 inmates in the metal shop?

3 A Right. The majority of them are black.

4 Q This is Metal Shop 1?

5 A This is Metal 1.

6 Q What was your first assignment?

7 A My first assignment was assembling of the  
8 lockers.

9 Q How much money did you earn?

10 A About 30 cents a day.

11 Q 30 cents a day?

12 A Right.

13 Q How much money was the average inmate earning  
14 there in Metal Shop 1?

15 A The average inmate, about that. Unless he  
16 had been there for a period of time. Maybe 8 to 6  
17 months or a year or two, he might earn 45 cents, 50  
18 cents.

19 Q Are the inmates in the Metal Shop 2 earning a  
20 similar salary?

21 A Metal 2?

22 Q Yes.

23 A The majority of the inmates in Metal 2, the  
24 majority of them are earning much, or we can say in prison,  
25 a great amount more than the guys in Metal 1.

1 Q How much would that be? 150

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

4 Q That would be considered a very good job?

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

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

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

17 Q Why did you decide to do that?

18 A Because they had put me some place where I  
19 didn't request to go. And I thought the man was going  
20 to be what is known as fair with me. He had me under  
21 the impression that there is a great possibility I would  
22 go to school and that I would get the tailor shop, which  
23 didn't jump up. I wound up in the metal shop, so, quite  
24 naturally, I'm made. I got an attitude. So, I'm not  
25 going to work anywhere.

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1 Q So at this point did you abandon your 151  
2 hopes for obtaining some sort of education?

3 A Right. A couple of guys walked by my cell,  
4 they said "This new dude, he don't know what happened.  
5 You might as well go to the metal shop as lay in that  
6 cell."

7 Q You mean if you don't go to work, you lay in  
8 the cell?

9 A Right.

10 Q Did you lay in the cell 24 hours a day, with  
11 the exception of meals?

12 A Right.

13 Q If you are not working?

14 A Except for--

15 Q If you are not working, you have to spend all  
16 of your time with the exception of meal times?

17 A Right.

18 Q So, you were told that you would get, you would  
19 be assigned to a program?

20 A Right.

21 Q Or you requested a program?

22 A Right.

23 Q You were denied the program, but assigned to  
24 the metal shop?

25 A Right.

---

1 Q You became hostile?

2 A Right.

3 Q Did you ultimately go to work?

4 A Yeah. Well, I had to pick the lesser between  
5 two evils. I had either to lay there or go to work.  
6 So, I got tired of laying there and I went to work.

7 Q So, you spent approximately five hours a day  
8 working?

9 A Five hours a day working?

10 Q Yes.

11 A No, it's more or less like eight.

12 Q Approximately eight hours a day working?

13 A Yes.

14 Q At this point, did you abandon your intention  
15 of getting an education or did you pursue something  
16 else?

17 A No. I had not abandoned it, but I was great-  
18 ly disappointed in the way that operations were going.  
19 I had asked for schooling. They told me the reason I  
20 was here to rehabilitate myself and this is what I am  
21 trying to do. Consequently, they shoot me a curve.  
22 Behind this, I am angry, I got a hostile attitude. I  
23 have nobody to turn to. So, I have to roll with the  
24 punches and go with the work or lay in the cell. I go  
25 to work, but I still have the intentions, I still want to

1 pursue my education, right.

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2 Q Did you make further inquiries?

3 A No, I dropped the tab.

4 Q What do you mean when you say you dropped the  
5 tab?

6 A It's a little piece of paper. You write down  
7 what you are requesting, and you drop it in the mailbox.

8 Q To whom?

9 A Correspondence, PK, whoever you want to get an  
10 interview from.

11 Q You dropped a tab to whom?

12 A I dropped a tab to PK.

13 Q Requesting what?

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

19 Q Speak up, please.

20 A English, math, algebra, social studies, all  
21 compiled in one book.

22 Q Was this for a social program?

23 A This is what is known as self-study program.

24 Q What would you achieve upon completing a pro-  
25 gram like that?

---



1 A What I would achieve is the book, GEB, 154

2 I believe, or something to--

3 Q GED?

4 A Yes.

5 Q High school equivalency diploma?

6 A Yes.

7 Q By self-study, do you mean it is a program that  
8 the inmate has to work through himself?

9 A Right. The inmate has to get it on his own.

10 Q What subjects do you have to cover there?

11 A Math, English, science, history. Maybe those  
12 four compiled.

13 Q What was your reaction to this program?

14 A I beg your pardon?

15 Q What was your reaction to this?

16 A My reaction to this was, it was none too cool  
17 because I had left school in the 10th grade. I didn't  
18 even finish the 10th grade. So, now when I came to  
19 Attica, I requested to go to school, right, to further  
20 my education. After being denied this, six, seven months  
21 later they shoot a book up on me and they say "Get it for  
22 yourself." So now, I don't know anything in this book.  
23 This book to me is Greek. Because I didn't need anyone  
24 to shoot a book at me. What I needed was a teacher to  
25 tell me the difference between an amoeba and a protozoa.

1 I needed a teacher to tell me the difference 155  
2 between a pronoun and an adjective. I needed a teacher  
3 to tell me how to get the square root of pi minus X. I  
4 needed a teacher to tell me what made Rome fall and why  
5 Rome fell. I didn't need anybody to slide a book upon  
6 me. Because when they did this, quite naturally, I got  
7 the attitude again.

8 Now, I'm made all over again, because this is  
9 inadequate. They got words in here that I don't under-  
10 stand, I never seen before.

11 Q Did you abandon your educational--

12 A I forgot about that.

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

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

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

21 A Very much. Quite a bit.

22 Q Can you give us some examples of those?

23 A Well, like take me, for instance. When I  
24 first came to B-block, they were lined up going to chow  
25 one day, the messhall, right; so I got in the line. I

1 went on to chow. This happened about three or four 156  
2 days. So, this one particular correction officer come  
3 up to me, he said, "Well, now--dig this," he said, "I  
4 want you to get in front of the line because you are  
5 kind of a tall fellow."

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

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

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

24 He says, "I don't care where you get in line,  
25 man. Just line up and go. Don't give me no trouble."

---

1 This is what I did. I got into the line

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2 again. And it seems like the guys up in front were  
3 more pleased. They felt more comfortable and I did,  
4 too. So, now, everything was groovey.

5 Q Have you generally found that you cannot an-  
6 ticipate a rule or how rules are going to be applied by  
7 the officers?

8 A Would you repeat that?

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

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

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

22 Q The officers at Attica carry nightsticks or  
23 sticks?

24 A Right.

25 Q How are these sticks used by the officers?

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1           A     You are having a conversation with an       158  
2 officer and he is standing up with his arms folded and  
3 he has his stick in his hand like this (indicating).  
4 So, right there you get aware of intimidation.

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

9           Q     How do you feel about that? How does that  
10 tick make you feel?

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

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

19  
20                             (continued on page 159)  
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Q Mr. Matthews, you were talking about the use of the sticks by officers.

A Right.

Q You said they beat them against the wall?

A Right. They use this particular procedure to quiet inmates down.

Q Do they use it for any other reason?

A Intimidation. Intimidation so you know they are the establishment and you are the prisoner. This is more or less second nature. This is an everyday occurrence. Everywhere you go, you got a correction officer with the stick.

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

If I was to talk to you and I got a big stick in my hand, hey, you know.

Q So your relationship with officers has been one, you don't know what to expect because the rules are applied inconsistently?

A Right.

Q Two, the general attitude and particularly the fact that the sticks are used, one, to direct you from

3 one place to another, and most importantly, to intimidate  
4 your manhood.

5 A Right.

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

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

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

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

21 A Every year, the 4th of July, they have a very--  
22 they have a big gala festival where they open all the  
23 yards and they let the inmates circulate. A big party.

24 Guys have Kool-ade, lemonade, and they are  
25 out in the yard. Bands being played. A guy can circu-  
late and see his brother or a friend of his that he hasn't

1  
2 seen in maybe six years, seven, 10 years.

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

6           So they throw the ice on the ground.

7           Q    Which inmates line up?

8           A    The white guys get this ice. This is what  
9 is known as white ice.

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

15           The black guys get their ice.

16           Q    You were there the last 4th of July?

17           A    Yes.

18           Q    Do they still continue this practice of issuing  
19 black and white ice?

20           A    No. They simply have gone underground now and  
21 say go for yourself.

22           Q    You came into the institution last year. You  
23 said one practice has been abandoned. You said there  
24 are other examples of discrimination on the part of  
25 officers?

---



1 # A Yes.

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2 As a matter of fact, the package room, where  
3 you get your packages. Now, I myself don't eat any  
4 pork, right?

5 Q Is that because you are a Muslim?

6 A Yes. Now, in my packages, which is supposed  
7 to be a certain many pounds, 15, 20 pounds, something  
8 of this sort. The majority of the things they turn away  
9 from me is the majority of things that I want. They  
10 say I cannot have this. I was down a particular time  
11 and I had a Dickie.

12 Q What is a Dickie?

13 A It used to be in style a couple years back.  
14 Turtleneck with a little piece of cloth. You slip it  
15 over your head on your shirt.

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

24 Now, I am at the gate and I am getting ready  
25 to go back to the block. So before I leave I am going

1  
5 to see what the dude is going to tell him. Before 163  
2  
3 I go out he don't tell him anything, right. When I  
4 am looking back and I am proceeding, right, I am waiting  
5 for him to tell him you have to take that off, but  
6 that don't jump off. He got his packages and nobody  
7 said anything.

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

10 Q Would this generally be truth with most black  
11 inmates?

12 A That's right.

13 Q You talked about discrimination in the appli-  
14 cation of rules. You talked a great deal about the  
15 correction officers.

16 A Yes.

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

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

23 So now I was rapping. The officer came sliding  
24 down the gallery, he busted me. I got keeplock. I  
25 said, all right, big deal, give me another one. So  
I said two at one time.

1 Q What do you mean by keeplock?  
6

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

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

8 A 15 hours.

9 Q So therefore--

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

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

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

19 Q It's the segregation?

20 A Segregation.

21 Q What about verbal abuse?

22 A Verbal abuse, right. The correction officers,  
23 they are by no means dummies, you know. They know if  
24 they call you, you can write them up. What they do,  
25 they play you out of position. They use a little drug-

7<sup>1</sup> store psychology. They get you to a point where 165  
2 you blow.

3 Q What do you mean?

4 A They needle you, then pick. You may be  
5 talking in the hall when you know that you can talk  
6 in a moderate tone, right. When he tells you all  
7 right, Matthews, knock it off. The first thing you  
8 are going to do, you are going to turn around and say  
9 look, man, the rules says I can talk as long as it's  
10 in a moderate tone.

11 He says, I said knock it off. I don't want  
12 you to say nothing. I said the dudes up there are talk-  
13 ing. He said, don't worry about them, worry about  
14 you, understand?

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

19 Q You will be locked up?

20 A Right.

21 Q Do you think the relationship between correc-  
22 tion officers and inmates would be much better if you  
23 had black officers at Attica?

24 A Not so much so because you got some black  
25 officers that are a dilly too.

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Q What's needed?

A What's really needed is they need to go to school. They need a human relations program. That's what they need. They need to learn how to relate to another individual as a human being, as a man and not as it, thing or subhuman.

That's what they need.

Q You don't think that black inmates would be treated much better unless you had that kind of orientation?

A Right.

Q Mr. Matthews, we talked about abuse of inmates in general.

Let's talk now about political groups. You are a Muslim?

A Right.

Q Are Muslim's treated any differently?

A Let me--

Q At Attica?

A Let me say this, that at the present in order to call myself a Muslim I would have to be one who submits his entire will to Allah, God, Almighty God, Allah.

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