

HEARINGS
BEFORE THE
UNITED STATES
U. S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS



HEARINGS HELD
IN
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

September 27, 1960
September 28, 1960
May 5, 1961
May 6, 1961

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1961

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to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the so help you God?

Mr. ATLAS. I do.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Have this seat over here, please, Mr.

TESTIMONY OF FRANCIS JOSEPH ATLAS, EAST CARROLL P

Vice Chairman STOREY. Will you please give your full where you live, your age, and your occupation?

Mr. ATLAS. I am Francis Joseph Atlas. My age is 55 years. I live in East Carroll Parish, Lake Providence, La., and I farmer.

Vice Chairman STOREY. How long have you been farming?

Mr. ATLAS. Well, about 15 or 20 years.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Have you lived in that parish all of life, or not?

Mr. ATLAS. With the exception of some few years I spent in s

Vice Chairman STOREY. Some 3 or 4 years?

Mr. ATLAS. That's right.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Other than that, you have lived there your life?

Mr. ATLAS. All of my life.

Vice Chairman STOREY. What education do you have?

Mr. ATLAS. Well, I finished the school at that time known as East Carroll Baptist School, and I went to Tuskegee. There finished a trade in brickmason plaster.

Vice Chairman STOREY. That is Tuskegee Institute at Tuskegee Ala.?

Mr. ATLAS. That's right.

Vice Chairman STOREY. You completed that course?

Mr. ATLAS. That's right.

Vice Chairman STOREY. How long did you spend in Tuskegee Institute?

Mr. ATLAS. Three years. That was the years I was absent Lake Providence.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Do you belong to any fraternal organization, churches? If so, what are they?

Mr. ATLAS. I am a Mason; I belong to Progressive Missionary Baptist Church. I am superintendent of that Sunday School.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Do you own your own farm?

Mr. ATLAS. I do.

Vice Chairman STOREY. How big is it?

Mr. ATLAS. Well, my own farm is 65 acres, and I am heir to 65 acres.

Vice Chairman STOREY. You own an automobile or truck?

Mr. ATLAS. I do. Automobile.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Have you ever been arrested in your life?

Mr. ATLAS. No.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Did you ever have any military service?

Mr. ATLAS. No more than just registering to go to World War II.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Registered—

Mr. ATLAS. I registered in World War II.

Vice Chairman STOREY. And were not called?

Mr. ATLAS. I was not.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Are you a registered voter?

Mr. ATLAS. I am not.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Have you ever made any attempt to register?

Mr. ATLAS. I have.

Vice Chairman STOREY. When was the first time, and tell us the circumstances.

Mr. ATLAS. Well as near as I can recall, the first time we made an effort to register was when the primary case was broken in Texas and we went before the officials—what gave Negroes the right to participate in white primaries—we went to the officials of the town and questioned them about that, and they refused us.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Do you remember about what year that was?

Mr. ATLAS. Well, as near as I can recall, it was in 1948.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Well, did they give you any reason for not letting you register?

Mr. ATLAS. Well, I would consider them random.

Vice Chairman STOREY. You mean not satisfactory?

Mr. ATLAS. That's right.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Did you ever make any further attempt to register?

Mr. ATLAS. I did.

Vice Chairman STOREY. When?

Mr. ATLAS. As I recall, I believe in 1950, we went to the registration office, and I applied for a registration card, and the lady gave it to me, and I filled it out as best I knew how, and she looked at it and said it was incorrect. So as I recall—

Vice Chairman STOREY. In what respect; did she say?

Mr. ATLAS. She did not tell me what.

Vice Chairman STOREY. All right.

Mr. ATLAS. So I had to leave; so I came back on another occasion; what distance that was apart, I don't recall.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Well, about how long; a year or two?

Mr. ATLAS. No; it wasn't a year; it was right around a month maybe 2 months.

Vice Chairman STOREY. What happened then?

Mr. ATLAS. I filled the card correctly, and she told me to get the electors to identify me.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Did you make an effort—

Mr. ATLAS. So, I made an effort. I contacted some I thought my friends, one man I had been doing business with—

Vice Chairman STOREY. White or colored?

Mr. ATLAS. No colored is registered there, so I had no ground.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Did they require that you get a registered voter to identify you?

Mr. ATLAS. That's right. So they told me, one told me, police and he didn't want to have anything to do with it. And the other one say, "Well, the position I hold, I couldn't have anything to do with it."

Vice Chairman STOREY. Did the registrar know you personally?

Mr. ATLAS. Well, now, I really don't feel safe in saying that I know me personally.

Vice Chairman STOREY. But you went back to see her two or three times, did you?

Mr. ATLAS. I did. Two times.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Did you have any trouble identifying yourself to the bank or stores or anybody else in your parish?

Mr. ATLAS. Not that I can recall.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Then when is the next time you went back?

Mr. ATLAS. Well, I didn't go back any more.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Didn't go back any more. Have you ever filed a suit or made any further efforts with any other group?

Mr. ATLAS. Well, I was with the group that did file a suit in 1964. I don't remember the exact or what year it was.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Was that the one Reverend Scott testified about?

Mr. ATLAS. That's right.

Vice Chairman STOREY. You were a party to that suit?

Mr. ATLAS. I was a part of that suit.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Have you been back this year?

Mr. ATLAS. Well, I was with the group, but I didn't go before the registrar of voters because I had met so many of them, and they told me the results and I didn't see where it was necessary.

Vice Chairman STOREY. You say you were with the group. What was that? A group when?

Mr. ATLAS. That was this last July; July 25.

Vice Chairman STOREY. July this year?

Mr. ATLAS. That's right.

Vice Chairman STOREY. About how many went?

Mr. ATLAS. About 21, as I recall.

Vice Chairman STOREY. You found out that some of them couldn't register?

Mr. ATLAS. That's right.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Did any of them register?

Mr. ATLAS. No, not a one.

Vice Chairman STOREY. And when it came to your turn, you just gave up, did you?

Mr. ATLAS. I didn't feel like it was necessary.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Any questions from the Commission? Father Hesburgh?

Commissioner HESBURGH. Mr. Atlas, did you have difficulty registering for the Army?

Mr. ATLAS. No; I did not.

Commissioner HESBURGH. Thank you.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Any other questions? Why do you want to vote, Mr. Atlas?

Mr. ATLAS. I am a taxpayer. I want a voice in the government in which I live. I feel that is my constitutional right, and I just feel like it is my responsibility as a citizen to take whatever—if I can share it as a taxpayer and other reasons, I think I should vote.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Well, thank you. Any other questions? If not, you may be excused.

Colonel ROSENFELD. The next witness is the Reverend William J. Neal, of Madison Parish.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Come around, Reverend Neal. Will you hold up your right hand? Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Reverend NEAL. I do.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Will you have a seat over there, please?

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. NEAL, MADISON PARISH

Vice Chairman STOREY. Mr. Bernhard, do you want to identify this parish?

Mr. BERNHARD. Yes. This parish is Madison Parish. It is directly below East Carroll Parish, the parish in which the prior witness resides. You will observe that in this parish Negro citizens age 21 and over amount to 5,933. There are none registered. The percentage is therefore zero. The white age 21 and over are 3,160; 2,633 are registered, and the percentage of the white registration is therefore 83.3 percent.

Vice Chairman STOREY. Which parish?

Mr. BERNHARD. Caddo Parish.

Vice Chairman STOREY. All right. Any witnesses from Caddo Parish are excused.

Mr. BERNHARD. If the Commission please, I would like to ask Mr. Isbell to make a short staff statement regarding East Carroll Parish.

Vice Chairman STOREY. All right. This is East Carroll, Mr. Isbell, I believe, you are dealing with.

Mr. ISBELL. Yes, sir. I would like to put on the record the fact that the Commission, when it scheduled this hearing, subpoenaed the Registrar of East Carroll Parish. However, on April 28 the U.S. Department of Justice filed a suit with respect to voting irregularities in that parish. On that date, pursuant to Commission direction, the Registrar of that parish was released from subpena. There will be no testimony as to that parish.

I would, however, like to put in the record certain documents pertaining to Francis Joseph Atlas, who was a witness in the Commission's hearing in September. After Mr. Atlas had testified he informed the Commission that he was being subjected to, in effect, an economic boycott. As a result of these complaints a suit was filed by the U.S. Department of Justice on his behalf, and that suit resulted in a stipulation by which the defendants therein agreed to cease the activities complained of. It is our understanding that since that time there has been no further difficulty along this line. I would like to identify as exhibits in this connection: Exhibit Z, affidavit submitted by Mr. Atlas in support of a complaint in that proceeding; as Exhibit Z-1, a copy of the stipulation in that proceeding to which I have referred; as Exhibit Z-2, a letter to Dr. Hannah from the Acting Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division explaining what happened in that suit.

Vice Chairman STOREY. You offer all those in evidence as a part of the record

Mr. ISBELL. I do, sir.

Vice Chairman STOREY. And they are all in connection with the proceedings?

Mr. ISBELL. They are all in connection with the Atlas case; yes, sir.

(The documents referred to were marked for identification and received in evidence as Exhibits Z, Z-1, and Z-2, and are reproduced in the appendix.)

Vice Chairman STOREY. Mr. District Attorney.

Mr. CLARKE. Yes. If Your Honor please, my name is Thompson Clarke. I am District Attorney of the Sixth District. One of the parishes within the district is East Carroll Parish. I notice that counsel for the Commission has introduced stipulations with reference to the settlement of the controversy that grew out of this Atlas

EXHIBIT Y-1

TELEGRAM FROM MR. ALBIN P. LASSITER, DISTRICT ATTORNEY, FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, TO CHAIRMAN JOHN HANNAH, SEPTEMBER 28, 1960

MONROE, LA., *September 28, 1960.*

**FOR JOHN A. HANNAH,
Chairman, Committee on Civil Rights:**

Your public relations man complained to news media that Louisiana would not cooperate, causing expenditure of thousands of dollars. Testimony reference Ouachita Parish is available through FBI investigation and report to U.S. Attorney General since 1956, and through reported Federal cases available every lawyer. See *Hannah v. Larche*, U.S. Supreme Court No. 549; and *Reddix v. Lucky*, No. 16688 U.S. Court of Appeals, New Orleans, and *Sharp v. Lucky*, No. 6687 and No. 17571 of same court; and *U.S. v. Lucky*, No. M7971 pending U.S. District Court, Shreveport. Reddix, his wife, and Carroll challenged along with 938 other negroes and 6,778 white voters. Carroll and wife of Reddix answered and were restored and are voters. Reddix has consistently refused for 4 years to reregister on theory grievance is greater right than privilege to vote, even against advice of his own lawyers, and now of your commission.

Rev. Phillip R. Brown only one time appeared registrar's office about 2 weeks ago and refused to prove 1-year residence as required by law.

Suggest entire record be referred to U.S. attorney for possible perjury charges and Reddix for contempt U.S. judiciary, all in accord with title IV, section H, 1960 Civil Rights Act. Further suggest that President Eisenhower would not be impressed by witness or witnesses after hearing Khrushchev, Castro and Lumumba.

ALBIN P. LASSITER,
District Attorney.

EXHIBIT Z

MR. FRANCIS J. ATLAS' AFFIDAVIT FILED IN THE CASE OF *U.S. v. Deal, et al.*

STATE OF LOUISIANA,
Parish of —:

On this — day of January, 1961 Francis Joseph Atlas, being first duly sworn, says as follows:

My name is Francis Joseph Atlas. I live on a sixty-five acre farm which I own in East Carroll Parish, Louisiana. I am fifty-six years old. I have lived in East Carroll Parish all of my life. I am married. My wife and I have raised twelve children, seven boys and five girls. Three of our children are school teachers; two of the boys are in the army; Susie is a nurse in Chicago; Francis Joseph, Jr., works for the transit company in Chicago; three of the younger children are in college, two at Grambling and one at Tennessee State A & I; one of the girls is at home; and our youngest child Willie James, age fifteen, is going to Griffin High School in Lake Providence. Two grand-children are also living with us.

I have three years of a High School education at Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama where I learned the trade of plastering and brick masonry.

After I finished High School, I came back to my daddy's farm in East Carroll Parish and helped him. His name was Louis Bradford Atlas, and he owned one hundred and eleven acres of farm land in East Carroll Parish.

Since then I have worked as a farmer. When my daddy became ill in 1958, I took over the operation of his farm. My daddy died in July 1958, and I only own one-eighth of the farm. The rest belong to my brothers and sisters.

I am a member of the Progressive Baptist Church in Lake Providence. I have been a deacon for thirty years, superintendent of the Sunday School for twenty years and treasurer of the Church for the past two or three years.

I am also a member of the Parent Teacher's Association of our school in Lake Providence. I was President of the Parent Teacher's Association for about four years. I believe that the last year I acted as President was in 1951. My wife and I are proud of the education that we have given our children. Five of our children have college degrees, three are working toward college degrees, two are in the army and one is in high school.

Except for one traffic ticket I have never been arrested.

My farming business consists of raising cotton, soy beans, small grain and cattle.

We bought the sixty-five acre farm in 1942 for \$4,580.00. It was purchased under the Bankhead-Jones Tenant Purchase Act. The farm has electricity, running water and last fall we borrowed several thousand dollars from the Farm Home Administration to repair and remodel the house including installing of an inside bathroom. The farm is located in the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 4, Township 21, N. Range 12 East, East Carroll Parish and is about five miles west of Lake Providence. It lies next to the one hundred and eleven acres owned by my daddy. I also rent forty acres of ground from Themon Parnell for a cash rent of \$300.00.

In 1960 the farm carried a cotton allotment of fifty-one acres on Plan A.

I operate my farm with machinery. The farm machinery consists of two John Deere A tractors, a trailer, a three row middle buster, a two row middle buster, two two row cultivating rigs, two two row planting rigs, a fertilizer spreader, a grain drill, two disc harrows, a harrow, a soil pulverizer and an eight row poison machine. I also own a 1952 Chevrolet.

In 1959 I grossed about \$10,400.00 from the farm. About \$7,300.00 of this income was from the sale of cotton; \$1,900.00 from the sale of soy beans. For the past several years I have carried most of my cotton to the Olivedell Gin which is located about two miles from my farm. There the cotton is ginned. The gin tickets which I received from the Olivedell Gin in 1959 for 39 bales of cotton are attached and marked as Exhibit 1. After it is ginned, the ginner hauls the cotton to the Federal Warehouse in Lake Providence. The cotton is then sold from the warehouse. As for the soy beans, they are harvested as follows: each fall I contract with the owners of a combine to combine the beans for a percentage of the sale price of the beans. After the beans are combined, they are hauled to the grain elevator where they are weighed, and graded and sold. I have been selling my beans to the Terral-Norris Seed Company, Inc., Lake Providence or to Warren and Coody Grain Company in Lake Providence. The sales slips for my 1959 bean crop are attached and marked as Exhibits 2 and 3.

I am not registered to vote and since I am not registered I cannot vote in any federal election.

I first tried to register about 1948. Certain Negroes in East Carroll Parish organized a Voters League. I served as Secretary of that organization. As Secretary I was a member of a committee that met with the then Sheriff of East Carroll, Mr. Mac Long to see about registering, but we did not get anywhere. Several years later a group of us went to see the Registrar Mrs. Beard. We told her that we would like to fill out a card to qualify to vote. Mrs. Beard gave me a card and after several attempts on different days, I filled out a card correctly. She then asked me to get two or three qualified electors to identify me. Since there were no Negro electors in East Carroll Parish, I had to go to my white friends but none of my white friends felt that they could afford to do it. So I didn't get registered.

A little later, a group of us filed a lawsuit in the Federal Court. The purpose of this lawsuit was to try to be registered to vote. But the lawsuit was not successful and I still wasn't registered.

In the summer of 1959, one of my neighbors asked me to come to a meeting at the church to see about registering. I went to the meeting and two gentlemen from the Civil Rights Commission were there. They introduced themselves and said they wanted to talk about voting problems of Negroes in East Carroll Parish. I told them what I knew about it. At that time I was subpoenaed to appear before the Civil Rights Commission at Shreveport. However, I never went to Shreveport as I received word that the hearing was cancelled.

Last summer, I was asked to a meeting of Negro citizens who were interested in registering and voting. The object of the meeting was to see if any one of us could register to vote. When I got to the meeting some of the citizens had just returned from the Court House. It was reported that none was allowed to register.

On September 22 or September 23, 1960 I received a subpoena to appear before the Civil Rights Commission in New Orleans on September 27, 1960.

As I am in the farming business, most of my business is done with white people in East Carroll Parish. No Negroes own gins or grain elevators in the County, and aside from small grocery stores, cafes and filling stations, no Negro is active in business in East Carroll Parish large enough to take care of my farming needs or to dispose of my farm products.

The fall of the year, before the crops are harvested is the time of the year that I owe the most money. In the fall of 1960 I owed the Tallulah Production Credit Association around \$6,000.00. I also owed the following amounts:

Farm Home Administration—approximately-----	\$6,500.00
Farmers Seed and Feed Company-----	580.10
John Deere Company-----	219.80
Planter Butane Company—approximately-----	150.00
Goodstein Furniture Company—approximately-----	83.00
Lake Providence Equipment Company—approximately-----	75.00
Texaco Inc.—approximately-----	315.00
Olivedell Gin—approximately-----	250.00
Miscellaneous bills—approximately-----	250.00

The loan from the Farm Home Administration was secured by my farm. My farm is appraised for \$6,500 by the Farm Home Administration. This is a low appraisal as is less than the market value. It does not take into account the improvements we made last spring. The loan from the Production Credit Association was secured by a chattel mortgage on my cotton and bean crop and on all the machinery and cattle (24 head). The John Deere Company debt was for the unpaid balance on the grain drill. It was also secured with a chattel mortgage. The Farmer Seed and Feed Store had cut my credit off last spring because I could not clear up the \$580.10 indebtedness. So this year all the supplies I bought there were bought for cash with the exception of one little purchase in September, 1960 of poison for about \$36.00. On that purchase I was given thirty days.

The other business places were not pushing me, although I did get periodic notices from them and I was paying them what I could on these bills.

On Saturday, September 24, 1960 I took a trailer load of cotton to the Olivedell Gin which is about two miles from my farm. When I got there I drove the wagon under the sucker and the cotton was ginned.

While I waited for the cotton to be ginned, I talked to Mr. Howard Gittinger. He is the son-in-law of Mr. Tib Mitchiner who owns the gin. We talked about the cotton crop. I remember that Mr. Gittinger asked me if I would consider renting eighty acres of land that lies next to my place. I told him I would rather buy than rent. He said it was not for sale, but he said I could rent it for a bargain. He said the reason he didn't want to sell was because there might be oil on it some day. As I have said, at that time I owed the Olivedell Gin between \$200.00 and \$300.00. This was mostly for some ditching on the farm, but it was also for cotton seed and ginning charges. They had been good about this. In 1959 I had signed a note for the largest part of it, for the ditching. They had never pressed me on this, but usually sent me one or two notices per year and I would see them and explain to them my financial condition. Mr. Gittinger didn't ask me about it at this time.

On September 27, 1960 I went to New Orleans. I appeared before the Civil Rights Commission and testified as to my difficulties in attempting to register for voting in East Carroll Parish. I returned home the following day. I know that my testimony received publicity as both the Monroe and a New Orleans paper had a report of it.

The next day, September 28, in the evening Mr. John Gilbert who is Sheriff in East Carroll Parish came to my house and asked me to come out and I asked him to come on in. He came up on the porch and told me that the ginners told him to tell me don't bring no more cotton to their gins. I asked him why and he said "Civil Rights". I asked him if it was a violation of the law to carry it to their gins and he said no, and neither is it a violation of the law for them not to gin it. The sheriff went back to the car and left. There were some one else in the car, but I couldn't recognize anyone.

On the next morning, September 29, 1960 I went over to the Olivedell Gin and talked to Mr. Mitchiner and Mr. Gittinger. I told them what the Sheriff had told me and Mr. Mitchiner said that he hated it as much as I did, but he couldn't do anything about it. He said it hit him like a ton of bricks, but the ginners agreed to it. I understood this to mean the ginners in the Parish. He asked me if I had been subpoenaed to go to New Orleans and I told him I had and we had some further discussion about the relationship between the white and colored and he remarked how instrumental he had been in keeping harmony. He said, your daddy Lou and I were good friends. He finally said if something could be worked out he would let me know.

Later that day or early the next morning Mr. Gittinger came over to my house and told me don't bring any cotton over to be ginned, he said it would embarrass him if I brought some over. I asked him why, and he said "pressure". He said there had been meetings held and pressure had built up so. I asked him who it was that was having the meetings, but he didn't answer. I asked him wasn't it his gin and what has other people got to do with it. I told him I was worrying about it, and he said that it wasn't worth getting into a such a worrying condition. He didn't have no suggestions about it though.

A few days later I went to Mr. George Hider, who also owns a gin in East Carroll. I have had some cotton ginned there in the past. He said what is it, and I told him that the Sheriff had said not to bring any cotton to the gins. I told him he had asked me to gin some with him this year. He said the ginners association had agreed not to gin my cotton because I had done something, in his judgment, not in the best interest of the Parish and that from now on I'd have to hustle for myself. I asked him if he would hear my side of the story, and he said to come back that night. I went back and we talked about it. We talked about the conditions in the Parish and about how long he had been doing business with me. He could remember when I hauled cotton to his gin for my daddy when I was a boy. He said he would put it before the group and that he'd let Mr. Tip Mitchiner handle it because he was the most influential man in the Parish. He said he'd let me know. After the weekend I went back to see him and he told me that was it, and I was stuck with a hot potato. He asked me if I had been subpoenaed to go to New Orleans and I told him that I had and that they had paid my way.

A few days later about October 14, 1960, I took some cotton to the Olivédell Gin. The gin wasn't running at that time but Ernest Beard, a colored employee of the gin, tagged the cotton. I put it under the shed and then went home. About an hour or so later the deputy sheriffs, Mr. Clair Warner and Mr. Bill Ragland came to my house and called me out. Mr. Warner said that someone said I had some cotton over at the gin. I said yes, I had carried over about a bale and left it to be ginned. He said someone said the gin was not running and for me to go over and see about the cotton. I said I would go over to the gin and I asked Mr. Warner if they had sent him over here. He did not answer. I went over to the gin and talked to Mr. Mitchiner and Mr. Gittinger. Mr. Mitchiner told me they couldn't gin my cotton. I asked him if I could let it stay 'til morning because it was getting dark and I did not want my tractor on the road at night because the lights were not working. They said okay and they would put a watchman at the gin. I also asked them if they sent the deputies over and they didn't answer. They told me if Tallulah told them to gin it they would gin it. The Tallulah Production Credit Association holds a chattel mortgage on my crops. They said they would gin it under the name of Production Credit.

The next day I went over and got the cotton and carried it down the road to Mr. Hider's gin. Mr. Hider said I can't gin that cotton don't bring it here. I asked him if I could leave it here so I could call Tallulah and he said no don't leave it on the yard. So I brought it home.

On Saturday, October 15, 1960, I went over to Briggs Gin at Oak Grove in West Carroll Parish and asked the man who writes tickets if they ginned any cotton from outside the Parish. He said yes and I told him I didn't have it with me but I would bring it over. About that time another man who appeared to run the gin came up and asked if I wanted to see him. I asked him if they ginned cotton from out of the Parish and he said yes whose cotton is it. I told him "Atlas" and he said oh no we won't gin that. He said we gin some people out of the Parish and some we don't, so I went on home.

On about October 18, 1960 I talked to the owner of Hollybrook Gin which is six miles south of Lake Providence on highway 65, in East Carroll Parish, Mr. Robert Amaker. Mr. Amaker told me he had turned over management of the gin to another man but he understood they wouldn't gin it; he said that some one had called him and told him that they could not gin my cotton.

Later that day I went to the Tallulah Production Credit Association and told them my story. They read me my contract and said that under it the only way we can come in is if you abandon the crop. I asked them to give me a little time so I could see what I could do.

Around the 27th of October, 1960, I went to the Farmer's Seed and Feed Store in Lake Providence with a purchase order from the ASC Office to buy some grass seed. The Government will pay a portion of the cost of the seed. However, Mr. Reed who is a clerk in the store told me that he has orders not to handle it and I would have to see Mr. Norris who is the manager.

the next day I returned to the Farmer's Seed and Feed Store to see Mr. Norris. I told him what Mr. Reed said. Mr. Norris said yes, I gave him order. He said, I have enough customers without you. I do not need your mess. I would appreciate it if you don't come back. I asked him why, and he said "I just don't need your business".

I asked him if that went for the grain elevator, and he said yes. The grain elevator is the Terral-Norris Seed Co. at Lake Providence. Mr. Norris owns the elevator.

After Mr. Norris told me he didn't want my business, he turned over my old account of \$580.10 to a lawyer for collection. I have paid this amount in full and the matter is settled except that the lawyer says I still owe some 12 dollars in interest.

The John Deere Co. also turned my account over to a lawyer and I received a letter from their lawyer. I have settled this account. The company was sending collection letters last summer.

A few days later about November 1, 1960 I went to Shreveport, Louisiana and talked to Mr. Wilson the United States Attorney. He told me that he understood that the Outpost Gin at Alsatia, East Carroll Parish, would gin my cotton and to go by and check with them. On November 2, 1960, I drove over to the Outpost Gin which is located about 18 miles from my farm and talked to the manager of the Outpost Gin and told him who I was and asked him if he would gin my cotton. He said he was a public ginner and would be glad to do it. He told me he had had good experience in working colored labor. So I

ordered a truck from a neighbor—18 miles is too far for a tractor and trailer the next day November 3, 1960 I had four bales ginned at the Outpost Gin. I had two bales ginned on November 5, 1960. The manager asked me at that time why I brought the cotton so far and I told him there was a misunderstanding with the ginner in Lake Providence and I couldn't get it ginned there. He asked me how many bales I would have and I told him twenty-five bales and he said he'd be glad to gin it.

On election day I took two more bales over to Outpost to be ginned, and when the trailer was under the sucker the manager called me aside and said "I can't do it"; he said they got him on Saturday and Sunday and he couldn't gin it. I asked him why and he said it was the pressure from the people. The manager told me that some people had gone to Mound, Louisiana and had talked to the owner of the gin, Mr. Yerger. He said that Mr. Yerger had contacted him and instructed him not to gin Atlas' cotton. I offered him the money to gin the two bales I already had there and he said he couldn't do it. So I brought the cotton back home.

About November 11, 1960 I went back to Olivedell Gin and asked Mr. Gittler if he could gin the cotton for me. He shook his head indicating that he couldn't. I asked him does that mean we can't do business anymore, and he said "I didn't say that."

I have made attempts through my friends at other gins in East Carroll Parish to see if they would gin my cotton, but no one seems to be willing to do it. I went to the Transylvania Gin in Transylvania, East Carroll Parish, and talked to Mr. Louis Dalfeume the manager of the gin. He told me the gin was not running and that they couldn't gin it no way.

I also talked to Mr. J. P. Brown of the Galliard Plantation Gin at Lake Providence. He expressed his regrets about the situation and said he would like to work something out. I saw him several times about it over a three week period in December and he finally said I would have to go back to the people I had been doing business with. He said that if I had been his customer he would have had the cotton ginned. But he refused to gin the cotton. A week or so ago I talked to Mr. Mitchiner again and he told me that he regretted that things were like they were and that he couldn't do anything about it, but, if he could, he would.

I first started using butane gas in my farm house in about 1953. Since then I have run a butane stove and a heater which sits in the living room and which heats the house with butane gas. Last spring I installed a gas hot water heater. I have been buying gas from the Planters Butane Heat & Power Co. in Lake Providence. Up until this fall I have been able to purchase on credit there.

This fall, after the trouble about ginning my cotton started, I got a letter from the Planters Butane Heat & Power Co., advising me that if I didn't pay the approximately \$150 which I owed them, they would start legal proceedings.

In the past they have written notes to me about past due accounts when they sent me my monthly statements. I was able to pay this bill over a short period of time and for a while I was able to buy additional gas from Planters for cash.

Just before Christmas, my tank was getting low so I went into Planters and talked to one of the clerks about an order of gas. The clerk said that he didn't know. At that point another clerk spoke up and said, "Put us down and we'll get to him when we can."

A day or so later I called Mr. Deal, the owner of the gas company. I asked him about an order and he said that he would see about it. He said he was busy that day as he had to go to Oak Grove.

A day or so later, I went into Planters and spoke to a lady there. She said she didn't know anything about it and told me to come back. I came back and asked her if anybody had sent my gas out and she said, not that she knew anything about. The lady said she would mark it down.

I went back again a day or so later and I asked the clerk about leaving some money there for a delivery of gas. But the clerk said, we are not doing that anymore. The clerk told me that I would have to see Mr. Baxter Deal as that was his company.

I kept watching for him and finally saw him a few days later. He said "No, Joe, I can't carry no gas out there."

Then I went to the Delta Butane Co. at Lake Providence. This company also sells gas. I spoke to the manager about buying some gas. He asked me who it was going to. I said it was going to Atlas. He said, we are out. I asked him when will you have some and he said he didn't know, so I left.

Since the gas ran out just before Christmas, I have heated the house with a \$4.75 wood stove and my wife cooks with a \$72.00 wood kitchen stove that I went out and purchased.

Early in the fall, I arranged with Irving Jackson, a colored man who owns a combine to combine my soy beans for one-fifth of the sale price.

In the middle of November, the beans were ready to be harvested. It was a pretty good crop, as good as last year. I went to Irving Jackson but he said "Joe, I can't do it." He said, "I am afraid the white people might take reprisals against me for helping you combine your beans."

He suggested that I contact Mr. Warren of Warren and Coody Grain Company, Lake Providence, about combining the beans. Warren and Coody Grain Company is an elevator to whom I have sold beans in the past. It also operates combines. But Mr. Warren said he couldn't handle it.

I contacted another Negro who owns a combine and he agreed to do it as soon as he finished harvesting his own bean crop. But his combine burned and he has not been able to do it.

I contacted Rev. Otis Virgil a Negro. Virgil also owns a combine. He told me that Mr. Warren said he would not buy my beans. Virgil told me he asked Mr. Warren about the possibility of buying the beans in the field and then combining them and selling them to Mr. Warren. According to Rev. Virgil, Mr. Warren said he wouldn't handle it that way either.

My beans are still in the field. I am afraid over 50% of the crop is lost. I think I may be able to borrow a combine and when I can get into the field I will harvest what is left of the crop.

As of today, I have been able to gin ten bales of cotton from my season's crop. Two of the bales were ginned before I testified in New Orleans, six at the Outpost Gin in November. These gin tickets are attached and marked Exhibits 4 and 5. The other two were ginned in the name of a friend of mine. I have about thirteen bales of cotton picked, which I have not been able to gin. This cotton is stored in my barn and two old tenant houses on my place. There is about six bales in the field which I haven't picked because I don't know whether I can get it ginned and I don't have any other place to store it. The tenant houses do not keep out the rain too well. One house leaks awfully bad and I don't dare fill that up with any more cotton. The other is pretty much full.

I am still trying to get the cotton ginned. I am talking with the people at the Production Credit Association to see if they can work out a way to get the cotton ginned. All of the proceeds from the cotton will be applied on my debt to them so they may be willing to take a power of attorney from me and have

the cotton ginned and credit their account with the proceeds. I don't know whether this will cost me anything extra or whether they will be able to do it.

I have already lost part of my crop because I couldn't get the cotton ginned when it was ready. This loss of the crop, plus the fact that my beans are shelling out in the field, means that I will not be able to pay off as much as I should have been able to on the Production Credit loan. The amount of that debt as of December 12, 1960 was \$5,883.20, including interest.

I am in a bad way financially because I will need to borrow additional money to run my farm. That is, if I can get gas, seed, fertilizer, poison, and other farm supplies necessary to operate, and if I can get some ginner and some elevator to purchase my cotton and soy beans.

The farm season starts soon in East Carroll and I must make some decisions with respect to the operation of the farm. I can't operate the farm unless the ordinary business channels in East Carroll Parish are open to me. If I can't operate, there is no sense in my planting these crops. If these conditions are not alleviated I feel I will be forced out of business.

Unless the ordinary business channels are open to me as a farmer as they are to other white and Negro citizens of the Parish, and I am forced out of business, registration and voting by Negroes in East Carroll Parish will never become a reality.

This is because of the fear that most of the Negro people have of the white community in East Carroll Parish. Already I notice that my Negro friends in East Carroll seem afraid to know me; they shake hands quickly and walk on by. I am sure that the squeeze that I have been put in will, unless stopped, keep many Negro citizens from attempting to register to vote in East Carroll Parish.

FRANCIS JOSEPH ATLAS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this the — day of January 1961.

_____, Notary Public.

My commission expires —.

EXHIBIT Z-1

STIPULATION IN THE CASE OF U.S. v. DEAL, ET AL.

In the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana,
Monroe Division

Civil Action No. 8132

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PLAINTIFF v. BAXTER DEAL, ET AL., DEFENDANTS

STIPULATION

It is stipulated by all parties hereto that the above entitled and numbered action be continued indefinitely, the said parties having agreed as follows:

A. Defendants will arrange for:

- (1) The prompt ginning of all Francis Joseph Atlas' 1960 cotton crop;
- (2) A purchaser, at fair current market value, of all Francis Joseph Atlas' 1960 soybean crop; and,

(3) A supplier of liquefied petroleum gas for the said Francis Joseph Atlas; provided the said Francis Joseph Atlas:

(1) will be solely responsible for harvesting and transporting to market of his said crops of cotton and soybeans; provided, however, with respect to the 1960 cotton crop, Francis Joseph Atlas shall not be required to bear hauling expenses greater than the expense necessary to transport the cotton to the nearest gin;

(2) will pay the usual and customary costs of ginning cotton, drying and cleaning soybeans, and other such processing as may be necessary; and,

(3) will pay cash money at the time of delivery of all supplies of liquefied petroleum gas.

3. Defendants further agree that they will not intimidate, threaten, coerce, or attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce the said Francis Joseph Atlas for the purpose of interfering with the right of the said Francis Joseph Atlas to