



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

MAY 3 1993

CRIPA Investigation



JC-MS-002-001

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Alfred W. Rice
President
Lee County Board of Supervisors
200 West Jefferson Street
Tupelo, MS 38801

Re: Investigation of the Lee County Jail
in Tupelo, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Rice:

I am writing to inform you of our intention to investigate conditions at the Lee County Jail ("LCJ") in Tupelo, Mississippi. The investigation is pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. §1997-1997j (1982).

The purpose of the investigation will be to determine whether LCJ violates the constitutional rights of its inmates. The investigation will focus on, among other things, allegations concerning (1) security and safety, (2) conditions of confinement, (3) structural deficiencies, (4) staffing, (5) medical services, and (6) fire safety. Initiating this investigation in no way evidences any prejudgment that LCJ violates its inmates' constitutional rights. If any violations are found, however, we will confer with you and your staff concerning appropriate corrective actions.

As a means of commencing this investigation, we wish to arrange for our attorneys, consultants, and perhaps agents of the

Federal Bureau of Investigation to visit and tour LCJ. We shall be in touch with your staff to work out the specifics of our initial investigation.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



James P. Turner
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: Charles R. Brett, Esquire
Lee County Attorney

Mr. Edward Crider
Lee County Sheriff

Alfred E. Moreton III, Esquire
United States Attorney
Northern District
State of Mississippi