



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, DC 20535

MAY 3 1986

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Jerome Wyatt
President
Jones County Board of Supervisors
415 North 5th Avenue
Laurel, MS 39440

Re: Investigation of the Jones County Jail
in Laurel, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Wyatt:

I am writing to inform you of our intention to investigate conditions at the Jones County Jail ("JCJ") in Laurel, 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 JCJ violates the constitutional rights of its inmates. The investigation will focus on, among other things, allegations concerning (1) fire-safety and other conditions of confinement, (2) JCJ's classification system, (3) medical and mental health care, and (4) abuse of inmates. Initiating this investigation in no way evidences any prejudgment that JCJ 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 JCJ. We shall be in touch with your staff to work out the specifics of our initial investigation.

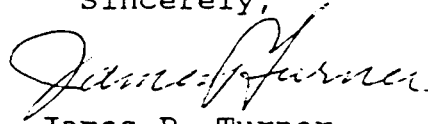
Crosby & U.S. v. Jones Co.



JC-MS-005-001

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



James P. Turner
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: Terry Caves, Esquire
Jones County Attorney

Mr. Maurice Hooks
Jones County Sheriff

George L. Phillips, Esquire
United States Attorney
Southern District
State of Mississippi