



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, DC 20035

MAY 3 1981

REGISTERED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Lynn Cartlidge
President
Forrest County Board of Supervisors
Paul B. Johnson Chancery Building
641 Main Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Re: Investigation of the Forrest County Jail
in Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Dear Ms. Cartlidge:

I am writing to inform you of our intention to investigate conditions at the Forrest County Jail ("FCJ") in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The investigation is pursuant to the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act, 42 U.S.C. §1997-1997j (1962).

The purpose of the investigation will be to determine whether FCJ violates the constitutional rights of its inmates. The investigation will focus on, among other things, allegations concerning (1) conditions of confinement, (2) staff training, (3) lack of adequate fire-safety precautions, (4) medical care, and (5) abuse of inmates. Initiating this investigation in no way evidences any prejudice that FCJ 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

U.S. v. Forrest Co.

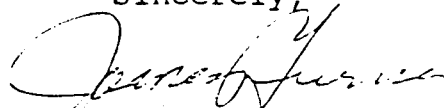


JC-MS-010-001

Federal Bureau of Investigation to visit and tour FCJ. 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: Francis T. Zachary, Jr., Esquire
Forrest County Attorney

Mr. Billy McGee
Forrest County Sheriff

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