

COPY OF STATEMENT PREPARED BY BILL WHITFORD ON MAY 10, 1972

I was standing in the crowd in front of the Federal Building during the rally on May 10, 1972, and did not join the students on the steps but stayed around briefly to see what would happen. I was beginning to leave and had reached the north end of the steps, perhaps 10 feet from the bottom, when I noticed some commotion at the top of the steps. It appeared that the students sitting in were being asked by other students to move up to the doors of the building. I then noticed some commotion at the south end of the steps and saw what appeared to be some police officer falling down the steps. He was surrounded by students and although I saw nobody trying to strike him, I started to move over in that direction with the intention of urging the students not to injure him.

At about that time I became aware of the charge of the police officers who had been stationed at the City-County Building. I'm not sure what I did next but I am aware of trying to watch what was going on. I noticed Tom Fisher being wrestled to the ground by the police. I do not know what provoked the police attack on him. I did not see him even struggle seriously. One police officer put his knee on Tom's head after wrestling him to the ground. Another twisted an arm behind his back.

At this time I realized that arrests would be made and that I should prepare myself to be a witness. I noticed Arthur Hall still sitting on the steps, near Betty Boardman. Several policemen, I don't know how many, converged on him and he was thrown down one flight of stairs. He tried to walk back up the stairs -- intending I thought to help Betty Boardman who was being assaulted by many policemen. Arthur Hall was apprehended by other police, seemed to struggle a very little bit at that time in the sense of trying to secure his release, and then seemed to go limp. He was then pushed into the Post Office. At no time did I see Hall strike an officer.

I was able to watch the happenings clearly at all times. I made a deliberate effort during this time to stay in front of the crowd (although behind police lines) and succeeded.

I also witnessed part of the assault on Betty Boardman. She was sitting where she was when hostilities first broke out and obviously had no intention of moving. Several policemen tried to lift her, rather forcibly but without blows. She grasped a railing. I then witnessed an officer strike her hands with his nightstick. I also saw an officer try to force her to release her grip by placing his nightstick horizontally against her throat and shove hard in a manner that tended to force her down the stairs.