

VISITING HOURS:

SENTENCED PERSONS: SAT. 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
2:00 PM to 3:45 PM

PERSONS AWAITING TRIAL:
SUN. 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
2:00 PM to 3:45 PM

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1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON
TO WHOM THIS LETTER IS BEING SENT:

Bro. Albert Washington
14-14 HAZEN St. Bk. 1-B
East Elmhurst N.Y. 11370

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NAME OF SENDER	
Harold Simmons	
COMMUNITY CORRECTIONAL CENTER 72 SEYMS STREET HARTFORD, CONN. 06120	
CELL No.	DATE
148	10/26/74

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WRITE LETTER BELOW THIS LINE AND ON REVERSE SIDE

Comrade Nih.

Hope this message finds you and the other comrades in good health, and high fighting spirits. I'm writing out this article just in case they take it out, like the one you sent. Three B.L.A. members were convicted of armed robbery charges in U.S. District court Wednesday. A jury of 11 whites and one black return guilty verdicts on three counts against each of the defendants after deliberating for nearly six hours. The three men, Harold Simmons, James Haskins, and Michael Alston sat quietly as judge Newman read the verdicts. The month-long trial was marked at times by angry interruptions by the defendants, including a shouting outburst by Simmons that led to his removal from the courtroom. The defendants were charged with the \$10,000 armed holdup of the New Haven Savings bank May 3. Gov. prosecutors Peter Clark and William Dow called nine eyewitnesses to the robbery, who positively identified one or more of the defendants. The defense, which included Simmons acting as his own counsel for most of the trial, portrayed the defendants as "brave" men fighting the forces of racism, oppression and exploitive capitalism. In defense terms the robbery was an "expropriation" of some of the bank's excessive profits. The defendants took the stand and testified to lives of poverty and, what Simmons termed, "black fear". Defense Atty. Williams desc-

-ribed America's ghettos as "the citadels of banks" and said the New Haven Savings bank held mortgages on 15 abandoned slum dwellings in New Haven. But prosecutor Clark told the jury shotguns could not solve social problems. The jurors could empathize with the defendants' lives of poverty, said Clark, but could not grant them hunting licenses to kill innocent persons. Two New Haven policemen were shot after the robbery. The three men face state charges stemming from the shootings. The jury deliberated three and a half hours Tuesday and two hours and 20 minutes Wednesday before returning at 12:20 with their verdict. Williams said the length of the jury's deliberations was "a victory of sorts. We expected an immediate conviction," said the defense counsel. Williams attacked the federal jury selection process as unrepresentative, noting that only two of the 68 prospective jurors for the trial were black. "There is something profoundly and fundamentally wrong with that system," said Williams. "Until it's changed we can't say it's fair." Judge Newman will sentence the three men Nov. 13. The propaganda machine of the ruling class used trickery, and deception to play the reality of the political debate we were able to create ~~out~~ out of our official lynching. Our original strategy was to disrupt the order of the courts processes. Even if ~~we~~ we had to just sit a screen at the top of our throats. But with the help of the New Haven Committee, and N.Y. comrades we were able to pull out a people's victory for courtroom battles. The racist who sits on the juries cannot hear the cry of the suffering. They are blind to poverty conditions. As comrade Malik mentioned, "This is a situation that have long gotten out of hand." We are being forced to draw a line between our friends, and all those who sides with the ~~the~~ enemy. They are backing for the number one spot in police states here in Connecticut. Some ruling class hired hand is asking for the death penalty for arm robbery. Heard about the hit on six people here they call a robbery? Remain strong comrades. "WAR" Hodari