[MS-0436.001.008.006]

As to the reasons why I broke the law, they are the same as I present to the court as a reason for being granted probation ar leniency. why CORE defendants should be granted suspension of sentence.

The paramount purpose was that of showing the bank of America that ~~the~~ its failure to join the ranks of the numerous Fair Employment Employers was going to be brought to the attention of the public, even if we who were attempting to do it had to incur the opprobrium of the courts and risk imprisonment to do so. We believe that the fact we were willing to take this risk adds not to our disgrace or humiliation, but to the bank's, for ~~their~~ persistence in ~~th~~ its unfairness to this sorry end. Our efforts to work with the bank through the FEPC had met with lack of results due to the short staff and persistence of the bank in pursuing its course of unfair hiring. The bank, now that it realizes what we are willing to endure for the sake of justice, has started to take a different view of the problem and the manifest unfairness has been alleviated to some extent.

However, basic to our consideration of this course of action is the fact that, although there are means to be pursued through the courts and administrative bodies of our legal processes, these means have not been enough to satisfy the desperate need of the Negro people for equality. As a nominal leader of these people, I am more aware than anyone that the hunger cannot go much longer unsatisfied. My people will follow me only so long as they can see that advances towards the goal of equality are being made. As Rev. Martin Luther King so aptly stated in the Nov. 7 issue of Post Magazine, ~~XXXX~~ "the Negro created the theory of non-violence as it applies to American conditions." But it can exist only in an atmosphere of justice. If I cannot, through peaceful nonviolent means, lead my people to some sort of compromise and progress towards equality, they will no longer give service to this means. They will find other leaders, and other means.

Therefore, in acting and urging others to act in the manner which has caused our being branded as criminals, we feel that we may be sparing the American people far more problems than these trials have caused. If the ~~xxxxx~~ breaking of these laws we have broken, BY THE MEANS WHICH WE HAVE BROKEN THEM, peaceful, nonviolent, we can ~~xpare~~ reach goals, the Negro will have no reason to resort to the violence we all wish to avoid. In other words, I feel that I have risked disgrace, public humiliation, and imprisonment to spare, or attempt to spare, ~~the~~ a far greater disorder than our activities caused. My actions were not meant to show contempt of court, although I know they did. This is the anomaly

On the same day that two of our demonstrators were sentenced to serve thirty days in jail as a result of convictions for this offense, straight probation, with no conditions of fine or custody was granted nine southern white bomb-throwers by a court in the South. This was not Justice, as we see it. Perhaps we ask that this court not do exact or letter-like justice. We do feel that the courts outside of the south Could should give consideration to our problem and to lend their moral support to us and reaction against these injustices of the south by balancing against these injustices lighter sentences or greater leniency in cases involving Civil Rights problems.