

Department of Justice
Washington

16 December 1964

Mr. Warren Olney, Director
Administrative Office of the United
States Courts
Supreme Court Building
One First Street, Northeast
Washington, D. C.

Dear Warren:

In response to your inquiry, I would like to quote to you two paragraphs from a report by government counsel, D. Robert Owen, on the conduct of Miss Carter's hearings on December 4 and 10 relating to the 21 persons arrested in connection with the slaying of the three civil rights workers in Neshoba County, Mississippi, in June 1964.

"The defendants were arrested on Friday, December 4 and taken before Commissioner Esther Carter that afternoon at the Naval Air Station just outside of Meridian, Mississippi. I do not know who authorized use of television cameras at that proceeding. The FBI was there and they had obtained authority from the Naval Air Station Commander to hold this proceeding there because of the facilities. Miss Carter told me that she disapproved of the television cameras being there and asked me if she would have had authority there to exclude them. I told her that certainly in view of the court's order in the Southern District excluding cameras from the courtroom and corridors nearby that

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I didn't think there would have been any doubt that she could have excluded them. She said that she just wasn't sure because it was out at the Naval Air Station.

"At the preliminary hearing on December 10, Tom Stennis, law clerk for Judge Sidney Mize, Southern District of Mississippi, sat by Miss Carter during the hearing and, I believe before the hearing and during the hearing, gave her legal advice with respect to that hearing. I do not know what that advice was. He had been sent there, I understand, by Judge Mize."

I hope this is of assistance in answering Judge Biggs's inquiry.

Sincerely,



Burke Marshall
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division