

US v. Eaton, Wilkins & Thomas  
Indictment

51/10

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )  
V. )  
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, )  
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., )  
EUGENE THOMAS )

CR. NO. 11,736-N  
(18 USC 241)

Filed in open Court in the presence of the  
Foreman and 19 other members of the  
Grand Jury this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 1965  
at 4:30 o'clock P. M.

The Grand Jury charges:

R. C. Dabson Clerk

COUNT ONE

By J. J. Davis Deputy

Commencing on or about March 1, 1965 and continuing to on or about  
March 26, 1965, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., and  
EUGENE THOMAS, within the Middle District of Alabama, conspired together,  
with each other and with other persons to the Grand Jury unknown, to  
injure, oppress, threaten and intimidate citizens of the United States in  
the vicinity of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama in the free exercise and  
enjoyment of certain rights and privileges secured to them by the  
Constitution and laws of the United States, and because of their having  
exercised such rights as follows:

- (1) The right to publicly protest unlawful deprivation of the right  
of Negro citizens of Alabama to register to vote and to vote  
for candidates for federal office.
- (2) The right to encourage and assist Negro citizens of Alabama  
in the exercise of their right to register to vote and to vote  
for candidates for federal office.
- (3) The right to peaceably assemble, publicly protest, and petition  
the Governor of the State of Alabama for redress of grievances

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on behalf of Negro citizens of Alabama, free from arbitrary interference by the State of Alabama.

- (4) The right to participate in a protest march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to present a petition to the Governor of Alabama in Montgomery, and to participate in the carrying out of a proposed plan for such march pursuant to an order entered on March 17, 1965, by the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, in the case of Williams v. Wallace, Civil Action Number 2181-N.
- (5) The right to travel to and from the State of Alabama and to use interstate highways and other instrumentalities of interstate commerce in and through Alabama.

It was a part of the plan and purpose of the conspiracy that the defendants would harrass, threaten, pursue and assault citizens of the United States in the area of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama who were participating or had participated in, or who were lending or had lent their support to a demonstration march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, pursuant to the plan, referred to above, that was approved by the order of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama on March 17, 1965.

In violation of Section 241 of Title 18, United States Code.

A True Bill:

  
Foreman

  
BEN HARDEMAN  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

