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ING ARTS  
EXCHANGE INC.**

Jan. 23-28

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also

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# ATMORE PLANTATION PRISON

On October 10 a peaceable strike took place at the Atmore, Ala., Prison Farm in which approximately 100 prisoners refused to work by sitting down. A list of grievances was presented to the proper authority. Not one prisoner made an unreasonable request. No man asked to be released, no one asked to be paroled. We asked to be listened to.

We didn't demand the food the public is told we receive. We asked mainly that the pig ears and hog heads have the hair removed before cooking, that the food be lean and edible. We asked only for sufficient clothing that is clean and in repair, only for the minimum standard of medical care. We didn't ask for a comfortable shelter, but only for one in accord with basic human dignity. We asked for warm water and soap to bathe with when returning from work in the fields.

We, the strikers, didn't ask for an increase in salary in order to buy necessities. We recently received our first raise in a half century from 16 and two-thirds cents per week to 25 cents per week.

The basic issue about the prison hospital in Montgomery was sidestepped. Prisoners don't find fault

with the hospital *itself*. The complaint is that we don't receive the treatment the hospital represents.

The prisoners are informed that we will continue to receive substandard food, often inedible. Clothing will remain insufficient for normal needs. Indigent inmates suffer most—no relatives with money.

The prisoners are told there is no money to buy soap or to fix the plumbing. Partial medical care will be given only to those suffering most.

And an inhumane environmental situation, officials claim must be perpetuated, because no funds are available even to comply with an existing court order. It is a situation, in which there is crowding, lack of recreation, etc.

The real heroes, not the guards of the recent drama at Atmore State Prison are the 100 men who freely chose punishment as a silent protest against existing conditions. These men knew the punishment that awaited them and the price of asking to be heard. And

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# ARMON



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