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12 from Parker, from the cells all the way through
13 the courthouse and outside on the sidewalk. In
14 response to these orders, I washed up most of
15 the blood, assisted some by Jewel Alford.

16
17 "I have had the above statement read
18 to me by Special Agent [redacted] at my request. It
19 consists of this and four other typewritten pages,
20 and it is true and correct, to the best of my
21 knowledge.

22
23 "/s/ [redacted]

24
25 "Witnessed:

26 "/s/ [redacted] Special Agent, FBI,

27 New Orleans, La.
28 "/s/ [redacted] Special Agent, FBI,
29 Memphis, Tenn."

30
31 In addition to the information furnished
32 in the signed statement, [redacted] questioned specifically
33 about where he was standing when he observed the
34 1958 white Chevrolet sedan, described in his statement.
35 He stated he had gone to the southwest window in the
36 lower tier in the cell block and observed the Chevrolet
37 through the branches of a large bush-like tree which
38 grows in the southwest corner of the courthouse. He
39 declared he was able to see the Chevrolet as the leaves
40 on the tree were not full grown at that time. He re-
41 called, however, he was not able to see the entire car,
42 the portion of the automobile from the rear end toward
43 being hidden by the corner of the courthouse. [redacted]
44 insisted that the car he saw was a 1958 Chevrolet, four-
45 door sedan, white in color, explaining that he has long
46 been associated with automobiles and has worked as a
47 mechanic in the past.

48
49 On May 15, 1959, [redacted] advised that on
50 Saturday AM, April 25, 1959, [redacted] Special
51 prisoner in the jail, told him that he saw [redacted]
52 some of the men who had come for PARKER. [redacted] noted
53 [redacted] also a prisoner, commented on [redacted] [redacted]
54 [redacted], that he had seen one of the men's [redacted] slip from
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his face, leaving the implication that [redacted] had recognized at least one of the men.

[redacted] stated that C. J. MONDY, also a prisoner, had lived in the Picayune, Mississippi area all of his life, adding that MONDY also implied to him on April 25, 1959, that he could identify some of the men.

He stated that about a week after PARKER had been taken [redacted] brought to [redacted] which [redacted] thought were the [redacted] worn by [redacted] on the night of the abduction. [redacted] instructed him to put a piece of [redacted] on the shoes and instructed him to use a [redacted]. In the process of [redacted] started he saw two dark stains on [redacted] each of which were about the size of a ten-year-old [redacted] head. He stated that he immediately concluded that the stains were blood and added that in [redacted] he apparently eradicated these stains. [redacted] however, he advised he exhibited the [redacted] to his girl friend, [redacted], and stated they discussed the probability that the stains were PARKER's blood.

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On May 16, 1959, [redacted] stated he was certain that [redacted] had a [redacted] which was in [redacted] by virtue of the fact [redacted] took his [redacted] in a [redacted] with him. [redacted] at Poplarville on the night of April 23, 1959. [redacted] explained that as a [redacted] at Poplarville he was allowed to go downtown and stated that on the night of April 23, 1959, he and [redacted] were drinking together and [redacted] in a fight, during the course of which [redacted] stated he was not positive [redacted] his [redacted] was definitely on [redacted] and that he was of the opinion it was [redacted].

[redacted] stated emphatically that the automobile he had observed parked on the [redacted] of the Pearl River County Courthouse on the night of PARKER's

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11 abduction was a 1958 white Chevrolet, four-door sedan.
12 He stated he was not certain of the exact position in
13 which this car was parked when he first observed it,
14 but recalls specifically that he could not see the rear
15 end of the car which was blocked by the southwest corner
16 of the courthouse. He stated, however, he got a good
17 look at it as it left the scene in a westerly direction,
18 and recalled that when the driver applied the brakes at
19 the corner of Pearl and Julia Streets he noted the left
20 rear brakelight flashed, but the right light did not
21 flash, thus indicating the right brakelight may have
22 been out.
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2. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] also known as [REDACTED] was a prisoner in the Pearl River County Jail at the time of the abduction of PARKER. She was in the white section, or lower tier. Her address is care of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She was in jail on a charge of removing mortgaged property from the state.

[REDACTED] was interviewed on April 23, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED]

April 23, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] on April 23, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] on May 14, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED]

1959, by SA's [REDACTED] on May 18, 1959, by SA's [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

"April 23, 1959
Poplarville, Miss.

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"I [REDACTED] do hereby make the following free and voluntary statement to [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] who I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in connection with an official investigation.

"I [REDACTED] years of age having been born [REDACTED] by family [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Pearl River County Jail at Poplarville, Miss., for about 3 months on a charge of removing mortgaged property from the state.

"On Friday night 4/24/59 I went to sleep shortly after 10:30 P.M. I was sleeping soundly when I heard noise above me and someone

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12 "yelling 'Don't let them kill me,' 'Mondy,
13 don't let them kill me,' 'Don't let them take
14 me.' This was repeated three or four times.
15 I could hear heavy shuffling of feet and
16 running around. I heard what I would think
17 was a garbage can fall or tip over.
18

19 "I was lying on my stomach and
20 raised my head and noticed a man standing on
21 the landing at the entrance to the cell block,
22 he had a white or blue handkerchief over his
23 face and wore white work gloves now in appear-
24 ance. I believe he had on worn dungarees and
25 a dark jacket with long sleeves. He had what
26 I believe was a billed cap on his head.
27

28 "Moments later he reached up and
29 twisted the light bulb which lies over my cell
30 and slightly to the left. The only light then
31 remaining came down from the upper tier.
32

33 "Directly behind the man standing a-
34 bove on the platform the door to the cell block
35 stood open - there was a continuous noise of
36 shuffling like some one was moving around out-
37 side the door.
38

39 "I was terrified and did not seem
40 to look at this man but got my head down. In
41 just a few minutes I noticed there looked up a
42 number of pairs of legs and hanging down between
43 these men was a negro whom they were holding by
44 his arms and legs. He seemed to be struggling
45 to get away and I heard him say 'I'm going
46 to take me back to work.' Someone said 'no' and
47 then the door closed and all was quiet.
48

49 "I saw only a group of legs to my
50 estimate that they were at least eight or
51 ten in the group. The pants these men were
52 wearing seemed also to be dark, worn, and
53 dungarees.
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12 "After it had gotten quiet just a few
13 minutes elapsed and then Sheriff Moody appeared
14 along with two or three other persons I did not
15 know. He went immediately up stairs and I
16 heard him ask about the keys and I also recall
17 hearing someone ask C. J. Monday what time it
18 was and he replied 'ten minutes to one.'

19
20 "I believe the men that carried the
21 negro out of jail had the keys because I heard
22 someone rattling keys when they were carrying
23 him down the stairs.

24
25 "The only man that I got a good look
26 at was the one standing on the landing and I
27 would say that he was of medium build and possibly
28 a little on the heavy side. His finger tips in
29 the gloves seemed to be turned up on the ends.

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31 "This two and a half page statement
32 has been read to me by [redacted] and it is true to
33 the best of my recollection.

34
35 " /s/ [redacted] b7c
b7D

36
37 "Witnessed by:

38 [redacted], Special Agent, Federal Bureau
39 of Investigation, New Orleans, La.
40 [redacted] Spec. Agt., F.B.I., New Orleans,
41 La.

42
43 She furnished the following additional
44 information regarding the individual whom she observed
45 standing on the landing inside the jail door:

46
47 She described this individual as a white
48 male, approximately 5' 10", 160 pounds, of a stocky
49 build, wearing tightly drawn bandana type
50 mask, dark colored, having more than one color, all
51 colors unknown.

52
53 This individual wore [redacted] work
54 gloves with knit wrists and dark trousers of a blue-jean
55 type and a long sleeve shirt or jumper of the same color.

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13 She stated she could not recall whether this individual
14 wore a hat; however, the area of the eyes and forehead
15 were not covered.
16

17 She stated that this individual appar-
18 ently was stationed as a guard or lookout at the jail door
19 inasmuch as he was at this location during the period of
20 the disturbance above.
21

22 She advised that she observed this indi-
23 vidual from her cell bank and this individual was standing
24 in front of a burning light bulb about 35 feet directly in
25 front of this individual.
26

27 [REDACTED] furnished the following
28 additional signed statement:
29

30 "Hattiesburg, Miss.
31 May 13, 1959
32

33 "I, [REDACTED],
34 following [REDACTED]
35 and [REDACTED] this [REDACTED]
36 solved to [REDACTED] special agents of the FBI. I know
37 of my right to an attorney and a [REDACTED] statement.
38 I know that I do not have to give a statement
39 and that anything I say may be used against me in a
40 court of law. No threats or promises were used to
41 induce this statement.
42

43 "I was born [REDACTED]
44 [REDACTED]
45

46 "I was [REDACTED] during the night of [REDACTED] May
47 25, 1959 I was taken [REDACTED] in the
48 Pearl River County Jail where I have been incarcerated
49 since January, 1959. I looked up [REDACTED] and
50 standing in the doorway next to my cell. This man
51 is known to me as [REDACTED] last [REDACTED]
52 believed to be [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] This
53 man runs a [REDACTED] near
54 the [REDACTED] He was wearing
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12 "blue clothing, with a blue and white handker-
13 chief across his face below his eyes, and white
14 cotton work gloves. I have seen this man on at
15 least one day on occasions with [redacted]

16 [redacted] and [redacted] were in possession
17 of [redacted] this man. After I noticed Homer,
18 [redacted] and [redacted] of mine
19 who I plan on marrying came over and put his
20 hand on my head and held it down so I wouldn't
21 see any more. He said 'Don't worry, everything's
22 alright.' However I saw about seven men drag
23 Parker down the steps. I could not positively
24 identify any of these men as I could not see
25 the legs of these men. I am aware that [redacted]
26 normally wears glasses but that he didn't have
27 them on at this time.

28
29 "About three days later I discovered
30 Parker being taken from the jail with [redacted]
31 [redacted] He told me that [redacted]
32 [redacted] as being one of the mob that [redacted]
33 from the jail. He told me that [redacted] was wear-
34 ing a black hood and was the man who was carrying
35 the gun.

36
37 "About that same day [redacted] case not
38 recalled, [redacted] came into the jail and
39 set down on the steps leading into the jail and
40 changed shoes. He put on [redacted] which
41 he had previously left for [redacted] and
42 left the pair he had been wearing with [redacted]
43 to be polished. [redacted] set these shoes on a
44 night stand within arms reach of [redacted]. As I
45 sat looking at these shoes I noticed some dark
46 stains around the sides of these shoes which
47 appeared to be blood. As I continued to look at
48 these shoes without saying anything [redacted]
49 apparently noticed that I had checked the stains
50 on the shoes and he asked me 'What does it look
51 like.' I said 'It looks like blood.' [redacted]
52 said 'It sure does.' I believe [redacted] the next
53 day that [redacted] polished the shoes at which time

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13 "he used a darker stain polish. This stain
14 or polish seemed to make the shoes darker in
15 color than they were originally.

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17 "Sometime after [redacted] had told me
18 that [redacted] was being a
19 member of the gang and took [redacted] from the
20 jail, he told me not to mention anything to
21 anyone regarding the Parker case as these Masconi
22 people stick together.

23
24 "I have read the statement consisting
25 of the above and 4 other hand written pages and
26 find it to be true to the best of my knowledge.

27
28 " /s/ [redacted]

29
30 Witnesses:

31 [redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I.,

32 [redacted], Special Agent, FBI,
33 New Orleans, La.

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12 [redacted] has advised that [redacted]
13 told her during discussion [redacted]
14 in the PARKER abduction case [redacted]
15 a few days after the incident [redacted]
16 [redacted] said [redacted] [redacted]
17 a splint and carrying a gun. [redacted]
18 [redacted] You're pretty smart.

19
20 She also stated that she could positively
21 identify [redacted] as one of the men who came into
22 the cell block for PARKER since she has seen [redacted] with
23 [redacted] on a number of occasions. She stated that [redacted]
24 [redacted] did not have glasses on in the jail to the best of her
25 recollection nor could she recall seeing a weapon in
26 [redacted] possession. She recalled he was wearing blue
27 overalls and a dark shirt with long sleeves and white
28 cotton work gloves. She thought he was limping and
29 could not recall noticing that one of his fingers was in
30 a splint.

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3. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is a white male. [REDACTED] also known as [REDACTED] and is [REDACTED] and residing at [REDACTED]. He was a prisoner in the white section of the court room [REDACTED] in the south cell and was being held on a charge of breaking and entering. He is now a prisoner at the Mississippi State Penitentiary, Parchman, Mississippi.

[REDACTED] was interviewed by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on April 25, 1959; by SA's [REDACTED] on April 26, 1959; by SA's [REDACTED] on April 26, 1959; by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on May 16 and 17, 1959.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement regarding the abduction of MACK JAMES FARBER:

"April 25, 1959
Poplarville, Miss.

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"I, [REDACTED], make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] whom I know to be special agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

[REDACTED] old and reside at [REDACTED] usual job is [REDACTED] have been in jail many times since [REDACTED] Jail at Poplarville.

"Early on the morning of [REDACTED] 1959, I was asleep in my cell at [REDACTED] of the lower tier. I woke up when I heard scuffling and yelling in the upper tier. I heard someone say, 'Don't kill me, it was Kingo.'

"I got up then and went to the front of the cell to look out. I could see a man standing at the court room door. He had a [REDACTED]

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12 "on which looked like a blue handkerchief with
13 white figures on it. It was a western style
14 bandana. He was wearing work clothes including
15 blue denim pants and khaki shirt. He had no
16 hat.

17
18 "After a little while, I saw four
19 white men wearing work clothes come down the
20 stairs dragging a negro man by the feet. Each
21 one had him by the arm or leg. All of them wore
22 masks, hats and gloves.

23
24 "These men went out the door and then
25 another man came down who had the jailer's keys.
26 He was a slender man, nearly six feet tall. I
27 believe he wore blue overalls with a brown or
28 tan shirt over the top. He also wore a hat, mask,
29 and gloves. It was a white, western style hat
30 with rolled edges on the side.

31
32 "He turned around as if he was talking
33 to someone upstairs. He said 'you guys don't say
34 anything, there is some more of us outside.' His
35 voice was what I call 'countrified.' He pulled
36 the court room door shut but I didn't hear him
37 use the keys.

38
39 "In a little while I heard someone yelling
40 for help out on the south side of the court house
41 but I couldn't see anyone. I next saw three men
42 running from in front of the court house who got in
43 a car parked at the southwest corner of the square.
44 They drove past the west side of the court house.
45 I saw a car wheel west from the front of the court
46 house as a high speed of speed. I didn't hear any-
47 thing more. I called upstairs and the man said it
48 was ten minutes to one.

49
50 "I have read the above statement on two
51 pages and it is true and correct.

52
53 " /s/ [REDACTED]

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12 "Witness:

13 [REDACTED] Special Agent, FBI,
14 New Orleans, La.
15 [REDACTED] Special Agent, F.B.I.,
16 New Orleans, La. 4-25-59"

17 [REDACTED] also advised that the first indi-
18 vidual observed by him was the one standing at the court-
19 room door. He advised that this man was approximately
20 35 to 40 years of age and was white. He was about 5'
21 in height and weighed about 150 pounds and appeared to be
22 of about medium build. [REDACTED] stated that this individual
23 had a mask which was worn just below the eyes and appeared
24 to be a blue bandana handkerchief with some white design
25 on it. Above the mask [REDACTED] could observe that his eyes
26 were about normal width and appearing to be piercing. The
27 man's forehead appeared to be well tanned and there were
28 some pronounced wrinkles on the forehead.
29

30
31 He stated that this individual's hair was
32 brown and combed straight back. The hair was medium
33 thickness with no curl noted and no gray foliage. The hair
34 receded somewhat across the entire front of the head.

35
36 [REDACTED] stated this individual was wearing
37 blue denim pants of slacks-jeans style and khaki shirt. The
38 shirt had long sleeves and the man did not exhibit his
39 hands for [REDACTED] to see. No weapon was seen on this
40 individual and he wore no hat.

41
42 Concerning the second individual seen by him,
43 who carried the jailer's keys, [REDACTED] advised this was a
44 white man who appeared to be about 30 years of age. He
45 was about 5' tall and about 130 pounds in
46 weight. [REDACTED] stated this man was noticeably thin and
47 also showed signs of being built like the back of his own.

48
49 [REDACTED] stated this individual was wearing
50 overalls inasmuch as he saw a blue pocket [REDACTED]
51 pants leg for carrying small tools. Over the overalls
52 a tan or brown shirt with short sleeves, this garment being
53 hanging loose like a sport shirt. He wore a very light colored,
54 western style hat. He had a white cloth mask worn up to
55

his eyes and the hat was pulled down to permit only his eyes to show. This individual carried no weapon.

Concerning the four individuals who carried PARKER out of the jail [redacted] stated these were average size men with nothing recalled specifically about their age, height, or weight. He had the impression that all four wore khaki colored clothes, possibly work clothes or the type that can be made into uniforms. All had long sleeves and none of the shirts showed any type of insignia or decoration. All wore hats of some kind and possibly some of the hats were western style.

[redacted] stated he recalled that one of these four had a sack or hood of some kind over his entire head while the others had masks which may have been made out of large handkerchiefs. Colors of the masks or hood were not recalled by him. All four wore plain white gloves.

Concerning the car which was observed to be parked at the southwest corner of the square, [redacted] stated it was parked in front of the law office of [redacted] and Korse. It was parked on the west side of the street and was headed north. After the three men got in they drove off north and passed the west side of the courthouse. He described the car as a 1968 Ford Custom sedan, probably four-door. He said the car had a dark blue top, light blue center, and dark blue bottom. No special equipment of any kind was observed. [redacted] stated he observed this car while it was both standing and running and was quite positive that he was correct in the make and model.

Concerning the second car seen by him to come from the south side of the courthouse and proceed directly west at a high rate of speed, he stated he got the impression the car was a fairly late model, probably about 1957, and that it looked like a [redacted] over orange or possibly cream over red. [redacted] could not tell from the lines of the car what make it was but got the impression from the acceleration that it may have been a Dodge. He stated he could not identify the car in this car.

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13 [redacted] furnished the following additional
14 description of the individuals he observed at the jail and
15 the automobiles he observed from the window of the jail:

16 [redacted] described an individual whom he
17 believed was a leader of unknown subjects as approximately
18 6' to 6' 2", bean-pole build, wearing overalls or blue
19 dungarees with a light tan or dirty white shirt. He ad-
20 vised that the shirt tails were worn outside the trousers
21 and the shirt tails were caure out. He believed the
22 shirt had long sleeves as he does not recall bare forearms.
23 He stated that he believes this individual was wearing a
24 mask consisting of a brown paper bag with eye holes. He
25 advised this individual was wearing a semi-western type
26 white hat, brim at the sides being raised up.

27
28 He stated that this individual was the last
29 person to leave the jail and just prior to leaving, stood
30 on the second step above the landing and addressed the
31 Negro prisoners by saying, "You all be quiet now. There
32 is plenty more outside." He described this person as
33 having a "countryified voice" with a "long drawl" and be-
34 lieves this individual spoke similar to a native of south
35 central Mississippi.

36
37 [redacted] described another unknown subject
38 as a man who held the jail keys and described this indi-
39 vidual as a white male, 5' 7" or 5' 8", 150 to 165 pounds,
40 medium build, wearing a blue bandana handkerchief over
41 his face below the eyes. He stated this individual was
42 wearing a khaki work shirt and blue-jean pants. He advised
43 that this individual was not wearing a hat and noted this
44 individual had brown straight hair combed straight back.
45 This individual's hairline receded at the sides of the
46 forehead and was [redacted] at the center of the forehead.

47
48 [redacted] stated he also observed two indi-
49 viduals who were dragging a Negro down the steps from the
50 top tier to the jail door. He stated these individuals
51 were masked with handkerchiefs, possibly white in color,
52 and were wearing khaki work clothes. [redacted]
53 believes these individuals were wearing light colored
54 semi-western hats.

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12 [redacted] stated he observed only six unknown
13 subjects and believes only six came into the jail.
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16 Regarding automobiles which he observed
17 at the intersection of Julia and Pearl Streets shortly
18 after unknown subjects left the jail, [redacted] stated he
19 noted three individuals, believed wearing casual clothes,
20 running from the area of the jail toward a 1953 Ford
21 Fairlane, dark blue top, light blue sides, and dark blue
22 bottom, which was parked on Julia Street, directly in
23 front of Horse and Horse Lawyers' Office. He stated he
24 noted a figure seated behind the steering wheel.

25 He advised that as these individuals neared
26 the Ford, he noted a red and white, or possibly orange and
27 white, automobile traveling in a westerly direction on
28 Pearl Street across the intersection. He stated he
29 believes the model of this car would be between 1955 and
30 1958, but he could not recognize the make. He stated that
31 after the red and white car passed through the inter-
32 section, the Ford started off in a northerly direction
33 on Julia Street, crossing the intersection of Pearl.
34

35 [redacted] advised that the street light
36 located on the southeast corner of the intersection of
37 Julia and Pearl Streets was burning. b7c
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38 Upon interview at [redacted] State
39 Penitentiary, Parchman, Mississippi, [redacted] furnished
40 the following additional signed statement:

41 [redacted]
42 [redacted]
43 May 16, 1959

44 "I, [redacted], make the following
45 statement to [redacted] and [redacted]
46 both of whom I have known for some time, and who I
47 to me as Special Agents of the FBI. No threats,
48 promises or any offers of reward have been made to
49 me to induce me to make this statement.
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52 "On April 24, 1959 I was confined in
53 the Pearl River County Jail at Oshterville, Miss.
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12 "Some time around midnight of April 24,
13 1959 I woke up in my cell in the jail & heard
14 someone hollering for help & don't kill me. The
15 yelling was coming from upstairs. I got out of
16 my bunk & saw a man in the doorway that goes into
17 the court room. This man had on a long sleeved
18 khaki shirt, blue jeans & wore a blue bandana
19 handkerchief, as a mask. I didn't notice his
20 hands & couldn't see the lower part of his legs,
21 because I was locked in the south (all in the white
22 section of the jail.

23
24 "When I saw this man & the noise of
25 fighting continued I figured it was a lynching
26 party for Parker.

27
28 "The next thing I saw was a colored man
29 being brought down the steps from the colored section
30 of the jail. Four men were carrying him. One man
31 had each leg & one man had each arm. I could not see
32 any skin on any of the men that were carrying him.

33
34 "I could see the two men on my side both
35 had on khaki uniforms, long sleeved khaki shirts &
36 khaki pants. Each had on a mask, one was a dirty
37 white, the other a light tan or brown. I couldn't
38 see anything but the hats on the two men on the
39 other side. All four men had on western style,
40 white, straw hats with the edge of the brim curled
41 up.

42
43 "The man who had his arm and leg on my
44 side was about medium build about 5' 8" and about
45 150#. The man who had his leg and arm about the same
46 size. I could not tell anything else about them.

47
48 "The man in the court room was close
49 to 6' tall & about 180# and had a flat top. He had
50 dark brown hair, combed straight up and it was
51 higher than usual in the temples and came to a
52 point in the middle. He was possibly 40 years of
53 age -- He had a good sunken face, the nose up.

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"There was a sixth man who was behind the four men carrying the colored man. He was about 6' tall, slim build, weighing about 150 to 160#, bean pole built. He had on either overalls or blue jeans with a tan sport shirt worn on the outside. I don't remember whether it had long sleeves. He had on a white, straw, western type hat with small holes in it. When he got about halfway down the steps, he turned around and said to the prisoners upstairs, something like you fellows be quiet, there's some more of us outside. He had a country accent and I immediately thought I recognized him from his voice and general build. I thought it was _____ who lives _____

_____ who lives _____
_____ since _____
_____ with him in the same way _____
_____ another prisoner & _____
that I thought it was _____
thought was _____ and the keys to the jail on his right hand.

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"I did not recognize any of the other men but I believe that _____ put on a mask and spoke I could identify him because I don't know anyone else that has a voice like his.

b7c

"After they left the jail I looked out of the south window of my cell & heard Parker yell for help twice. I saw 3 men dressed in khaki pants & white hats like the ones inside run from the direction of the court house to a 1957 Ford, dark blue on bottom, light blue in the middle & dark _____ The Ford was parked in front of the _____ office _____ facing north. I saw another car _____ straight west, but I couldn't identify it. _____ off going north. The car that went west was _____ white or orange & white but I don't know what kind it was.

"After I saw these cars leave one of the other prisoners asked what time it was & the _____

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12 "someone else said it was ten minutes to one.
13 I went back to sleep after that & know nothing
14 more about the incident.
15

16 "I have read this statement of five
17 pages and it is true.
18

19 " /s/ [REDACTED]
20

21 "Witness:
22

23 [REDACTED], Special Agent, F.B.I.,

24 [REDACTED], Special Agent, F.B.I.,
25 Memphis, Tenn.
26

27 [REDACTED] when shown a group of pictures
28 which included the photograph of J. F. LEE, JR., held a
29 card over the lower part of LEE's face and stated that
30 the hair and eyes looked like that of the man who stood
31 in the courtroom doorway but said he could not make a
32 positive identification. He said that he did not recog-
33 nize JEWEL ALFORD as being one of the men who participated
34 in the abduction.
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4. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of age and resides with his [REDACTED] Mississippi. He was released from the Pearl River County Jail on April 25, 1959, after serving a sentence of fourteen days for issuing a worthless check.

[REDACTED] was interviewed by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on April 25, 1959; by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], on April 29, 1959.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

"April 25, 1959
Picayune, Miss.

"I, [REDACTED] do hereby make the following free and voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in connection with an official investigation.

"I am [REDACTED] years of age having been born at [REDACTED] Miss., on [REDACTED] I reside principally [REDACTED] in Picayune, Miss. On the morning of 4/25/59 I was released at about 9:00 AM having been in jail about 14 days for issuing a worthless check.

"On the night of 4/24/59 I was locked in my cell located on the white tier of the Pearl River County Jail at Poplarville. The cell I was in along with [REDACTED] is located in the Southwest corner of the building. I went to sleep about 9:30 or 10:00 PM. I was awakened sometime later by a loud series of noises and shuffling about including a trash can banging

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"and a glass breaking. I heard someone screaming 'don't let them take me out of here, don't let them kill me,' at least five or six times.

"At that time I looked up and saw [redacted] was standing just outside my cell and looking toward the platform leading out of the cell block. I noticed as I looked that way that there was a man standing in the landing with a hat on, wearing dark clothes, a dark face mask and wearing white or light grey gloves. As I looked at him he reached up and turned out a light which hangs over the landing and lights the lower tier at night. b7c

"Seconds later I saw about four or possibly five men on the landing or passway down the stairs carrying what appeared to be a man. On the landing someone said something about 'let me walk' and someone else said 'no.' They had been carrying this body by the arms and legs with a man at each arm and leg. At that moment one of the men struck at the body with a club about three or four times.

"I then heard a voice to the effect 'there's a crowd of people gathering outside.' The men then carried the body out, the door closed and I heard the door locked.

"There was just a faint light over head from the upper tier and I can say these unknown men appeared to be masked, wearing gloves and had dark clothing on them.

"Within several minutes I heard someone running, and heard someone yell 'help, help.' I looked out the window and at that time saw a red metallic Dodge about a 1957 model. This car was moving terribly fast and headed directly west away from the side of the Court House. At the same time a light green over a dark green Ford with a gold stripe along the

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13 "side drove away from the Southwest corner of
14 the intersection traveling in northerly
15 direction.

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17 "Within about ten minutes Sheriff
18 Moody appeared on the scene with some other men
19 I did not see. At about that same time [redacted] b7c
20 yelled upstairs to C. J. Moody who had a watch b7D
21 and asked him what time it was. Moody replied
22 ten minutes to one.

23
24 "I know none of the men involved nor
25 am I able to provide any more information con-
26 cerning this matter.

27
28 "I have read this two and a quarter
29 page statement and it is true to the best of
30 my recollection.

31
32 " /s/ [redacted] b7c
33 b7D

34 "Witnessed by:

35 [redacted], Special Agent, Federal Bureau
36 of Investigation, New Orleans, Louisiana
37 [redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I., New Orleans,
38 La., 4/25/57 b7c
39 b7D

40 [redacted] has advised that he could furnish
41 no further description of the unknown subjects. He has
42 stated that after the abductors left the jail with [redacted]
43 he heard two calls for help coming from the vicinity of
44 the south entrance of the jail. He advised that a
45 [redacted] was stopped by two popping sounds, somewhat
46 similar to a saw blade by hitting something hard with
47 a stick. He stated that shortly thereafter, he heard
48 individuals running but did not observe them.

49
50 He stated that just after [redacted] the
51 running, he got a glimpse of a red and white car travel-
52 ing in a westerly direction on Pearl Street, across the
53 intersection of Julia Street. He stated that this car
54 was accelerating rapidly. He stated he believes this
55 car was a 1957 Dodge, basing his opinion on what he
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12 believes was the swept-wing style of the car. [REDACTED] stated
13 that after the red and white car passed, a 1950 two-tone
14 green Ford Fairlane with gold stripes on side, which had been
15 parked on Julia Street in front of the lawyer's office,
16 started off in a northerly direction. He stated that he
17 heard a metallic bang as the Ford proceeded over dips in
18 the intersection, indicating that the bumper of the Ford may
19 have struck the pavement at the dips.

20
21 [REDACTED] further advised that he is of the
22 opinion that a county or city emblem or tag was attached
23 to the front bumper of the Ford in the place used for licenses,
24 but that he did not observe what county or city this tag repre-
25 sented.

26
27 [REDACTED] advised that the street light on the
28 southeast corner of the intersection of Julia and Pearl
29 Streets was burning.

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5. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7c
Mississippi, and is employed as [REDACTED] b7D
[REDACTED] He was a prisoner in the [REDACTED] section,
upper tier, of the Pearl River County Jail.

[REDACTED] was interviewed by SA's [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on April 24, 1959; by SA's
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on April 28,
1959; and by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on May 15,
1959.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed
statement:

"April 26, 1959
Poplarville, Miss.

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"I, [REDACTED], make the following
voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and
[REDACTED] whom I know to be special
agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I am about [REDACTED] years old and
reside at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] for the past
the months I have been confined in the Pearl
River County Jail at Poplarville.

"A little after midnight of April 24,
1959, or the early morning of April 25, 1959, I
was asleep in my bunk. I was in the cell at the
[REDACTED] of the tier. G. J. Soney, another
prisoner, woke me up and I got at the edge of
my bunk. I saw one man standing at the door to
M. C. Parker's cell at the north end of the tier.
I don't know who opened the cell door and
this man go in where Parker was. I couldn't
hear anything but Parker yelling. I didn't see
anyone else go in Parker's cell, and a little
while Parker came running over to my cell.

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12 "He sat down on one of the bunks, I saw
13 he was bleeding around the face. The man I had
14 first seen came over to us. He was a heavy set
15 man in work clothes with some kind of mask over
16 his whole face. This was a black mask with no
17 eye holes. This man carried a short stick about
18 the size of a mop handle.

19
20 "A second man came in my cell, probably
21 coming from the hallway. He was also a heavy set
22 man with work clothes. He had a mask up to his
23 eyes. It was a dark cloth of some kind. He had
24 a short piece of rope with no knots showing. This
25 looked like half inch rope to me.

26
27 "A third man came in who had been stand-
28 ing in the doorway to the cell block. He was a
29 heavy set man in work clothes probably khaki color.
30 He had his whole face covered with a mask that had
31 eye holes. It was a dark color. He wore a hat
32 of dark color and it looked like a felt hat. I
33 saw no weapon of any kind in his hands.

34
35 "After the man with the club hit Parker
36 a time or two, all three of the men grabbed him
37 by the feet and dragged him out of my cell. The
38 same three men had Parker by the feet the last
39 time I saw them and they were just outside the
40 cell. I went back to my bunk and sat down and
41 didn't see any of them again.

42
43 "I didn't hear any conversation at any
44 time by any of these three men. I didn't ever see
45 any of them else in the cell block. Right away I heard
46 the door to the court room shut.

47
48 "I stayed in my bunk and I didn't look
49 at the windows. In a little while I saw some
50 cars start up but couldn't tell where they were
51 going.

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53 "I have read statement of [redacted] and
54 is correct to my knowledge.
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12 " /s/ [REDACTED]
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14 "Witness:
15 [REDACTED], Special Agent, FBI,
16 New Orleans, La.
17 [REDACTED], Special Agent, FBI,
18 New Orleans, La."
19

20 [REDACTED] related that the first individual seen
21 by him was a man about 5' 6", 180 pounds, with a stocky
22 build. The second man who had come from the vicinity of
23 the hallway was a larger man about 5' 11" and weighing
24 between 180 and 190 pounds. He appeared to have some hair
25 showing which [REDACTED] recalled to be sandy colored and quite
26 long. His recollection was that this individual may have
27 worn blue jeans.
28

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29 The third individual standing in the doorway
30 of the cell block was stocky in appearance, 5' 6", and weigh-
31 ing about 180 pounds. [REDACTED] related that from sleepiness
32 and fright, he took no great pains to observe more than
33 necessary. He related that all individuals wore socks and
34 gloves.
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6. CHARLIE JAMES MONDY

CHARLIE JAMES MONDY is 25 years of age and is from Picayune, Mississippi. He is usually occupied as a laborer. He is now residing care of his sister [REDACTED] b7c

MONDY was a prisoner in the upper tier (colored section) of the Pearl River County Jail and was being held on a murder charge.

MONDY was interviewed by SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on April 25, 1959; by SA [REDACTED] on April 26, 1959; by SA [REDACTED] on April 26, 1959; by SA [REDACTED] on April 26, 1959; by SA [REDACTED] on May 12, 1959; and by SA [REDACTED] on May 19, 1959. b7c

CHARLIE JAMES MONDY furnished the following signed statement:

"April 25, 1959
Poplarville, Miss.

"I, Charlie James Mondy, make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] whom I know to be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. b7c

"I am 25 years of age and reside in [REDACTED], Miss. My usual employment is as a laborer at [REDACTED].

"Since November, 1958, I have been in custody in the Pearl River County Jail, Poplarville. On the evening of April 24, 1959, I was playing cards in the prison bull pen with several other prisoners. There were four of us in the bull pen. W. D. Parker, another prisoner, was locked in a separate part of the tier. In the tier downstairs there were 4 white prisoners.

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12 "We played cards until after midnight.
13 A little after midnight I talked to Parker while
14 he was in his bunk. [redacted] was also awake
15 but he was in his bunk. The other 3 on our tier
16 were in their bunks and possibly asleep. b7c

17
18 "At about 12:30 AM on April 25, 1959,
19 I heard someone come to the courthouse door lead-
20 ing to the cell block. I heard some low voices
21 and someone was using a key to open the door. At
22 that time we thought it was the jailer bringing
23 in a prisoner.

24
25 "When the door opened the first man who
26 came in had a black cloth tied over his face with
27 only his eyes showing over it. This man turned
28 to the right which would have been downstairs to
29 the white prisoners but the next man who came in
30 after him stopped him and told him "this way"
31 indicating upstairs to our tier.

32
33 "This first man had a bunch of keys on
34 a ring and went to the first cell door upstairs.
35 He tried several keys before he found the right
36 one. While he tried to open the door, about ten
37 men in all came in through the courthouse door
38 and waited on the stairs. They all had coverings
39 on their faces. Some had women's stockings pulled
40 over the lower part of their faces. Some of these
41 coverings may have been handkerchiefs and there
42 were different colors, both white and black. I
43 believe that each man had a cap or hat. Some of
44 the caps or hats looked new. The hats were like
45 work clothes. Every man I saw had cloth gloves
46 on. The gloves looked new and were solid colors,
47 either white or brown. These were what I call
48 work gloves.

49
50 "All of the men were work clothes in-
51 cluding blue jeans, khakis and other cotton pants.
52 A part of them had jackets and jumpers on.

53
54 "Most of the men had chains of various
55 kinds. They looked like they had picked up

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11 "different pieces of wood. The clubs were about
12 2 feet long and a little bigger than a broom
13 handle.
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15 "When they got the cell door open, about
16 ten men came in where we were. I noticed maybe
17 two more, dressed like the others, who stood in
18 the courtroom door.
19

20 "After the men got up the stairs, I saw
21 that one of them had a gun, probably in his right
22 hand. It looked like a short barrel gun, probably
23 a 38. It had a dark finish and was a revolver.
24 This man was wearing a black cowboy hat, a dark
25 mask and blue jeans. He spoke to [redacted] in his
26 bunk, saying 'Boy, where is M. C. Parker at.'
27 [redacted] told him Parker was over in his cell,
28 probably asleep.
29

30 "All of the men started over to where
31 the bunk is located in the northwest corner of
32 the tier. This was my bunk and I was over near
33 [redacted] at the time. When they saw the bunk was
34 empty they came back and asked again where Parker
35 was. I don't remember exactly what was said, but
36 I pointed to the cell where Parker was locked in
37 the north west corner of the tier. The men who
38 talked to me went to the cell door and started
39 shaking it. He asked me, 'how do you get in this
40 door, boy.' I showed them where the control box
41 was in the hall.
42

43 "The man with the keys started trying
44 keys again and got the right one about the third
45 time. When he got the box unlocked, he worked the
46 lever to open Parker's cell. This was a medium
47 size man about my size, maybe 5' 9 or 10" and
48 medium weight. I don't remember what he was wearing
49 clothes he wore.
50

51 "The man who asked me how to get to
52 Parker's cell was waiting at the door when the
53 door opened. He had a stick. He was [redacted], heavy
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13 "set man. When the door opened he was the first
14 man in. Parker took a swing at him with a foot
15 tub and this man jumped back out of the cell.
16 After he jumped back, he said 'Come on in with
17 the gun.' He kept asking the man with the gun to
18 shoot him. A number of the men with clubs went
19 in the cell, and I saw a few of the men pick up
20 brooms to use as clubs.

21
22 "Maybe about 4 or 5 of the men started
23 beating on Parker. He yelled and tried to fight
24 back, and broke away and ran over to where I was
25 sitting at the south end of the tier. About the
26 same ones came after him again and one of them
27 picked up a garbage can and threw it and hit
28 Parker.

29
30 "The rest of us started moving away
31 from the south end of the tier and when we got
32 to the hall door, the man with gun is standing
33 there. He said 'Stand right here and don't move.'

34
35 "Some of the others continued to beat
36 on Parker and he was getting weaker. Whenever he
37 moved they would hit him again.

38
39 "When Parker stopped fighting back, they
40 started to drag him out of the cell block. I
41 heard someone say 'pull him on out.' Several of the
42 men grabbed Parker by the feet and started dragging
43 him out. He was trying to hang on to various ob-
44 jects and he was also calling for help. He was
45 pulled down the steps and out the door. He wanted
46 to get away but they kept dragging him.

47
48 "All of the men except the one with the
49 gun had gone out the courtroom door. I came back
50 up the steps with the keys and locked the door at the
51 door. He had no trouble finding the right key to
52 lock the door. He spoke to us and said 'Guys, I
53 don't want a word out of you all because there are
54 plenty more outside waiting.' He went out the court-
55 room door and shut it.

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12 "I went to the south window because I
13 could hear Parker yelling at the south side of the
14 court house. I saw maybe three people standing at
15 the west side of the court house. I saw another
16 man come running from the south side of the court
17 house and go past the west side. About this time
18 I got back from the window and didn't look again.

19
20 "I heard several cars start off with a
21 roar but I couldn't estimate which way they went.
22 This was about 15 or 20 minutes from the time the
23 men entered the cell.

24 "I have read this statement of six pages
25 and it is true to the best of my recollection.

26
27 " /s/ C. J. Peady

28
29 "Witness:

30 [REDACTED], Special Agent, FBI, b7c

31 [REDACTED],
32 [REDACTED], Special Agent, F.B.I.,
33 New Orleans, La., 4-25-59"

34
35 Concerning the first individual seen by him
36 carrying the jailer's keys, MONDY furnished the following
37 physical description: white male, 28 - 29 years of age,
38 5' 9" to 5' 10", 160 pounds, with a local accent.

39
40 Concerning the clothing worn by this indi-
41 vidual, MONDY stated he was wearing work clothes, color not
42 recalled but probably blue jeans and was having a new
43 appearance. He stated that he saw no sign of any type of
44 watch. He stated this first man had a blind
45 covering a scar up to his eyes and a hat pulled down
46 so that only his nose showed.

47
48 Concerning the second individual, who
49 carried the gun, MONDY furnished the following physical
50 description: white male in his early 30's, 5' 11", 215
51 pounds; with stout, muscular build.

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53 Regarding his clothing, MONDY stated that
54 individual wore blue jeans and had a black, wide-brim,
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12 western style hat. He stated that neither the hat nor the
13 other clothing appeared to be new. This individual had no
14 holster.

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16 Regarding the third individual observed by
17 him, who was the first one to enter PARKER's cell, MONDY
18 furnished the following physical description: white male,
19 age 30, 5' 6", 175 pounds, stout build with slight appear-
20 ance of being fat.

21
22 MONDY stated that this individual wore a
23 handkerchief as a neck and was recalled to be wearing faded
24 blue jeans. He stated he could not recall anything further
25 regarding the clothing worn by this individual.

26
27 MONDY furnished the following additional
28 descriptive data concerning the individuals who came into
29 the jail and the automobiles seen from the jail after the
30 abduction:

31
32 MONDY described the individual who possessed
33 the jail keys as being 5' 9", 160 pounds, wearing a black,
34 but possibly red, handkerchief over his nose covering the
35 area over the face below the eyes. He stated he believes
36 this individual was wearing either blue or khaki clothes.
37 He advised that this is the individual who came in and
38 started down the steps and then went back when another
39 individual said "Up here." He stated that this individual
40 asked [redacted] where PARKER's cell was and is also the
41 individual who used a key to open the metal box which
42 contains levers which released the cell doors. He advised
43 that this individual did most of the talking for the group.

44
45 MONDY advised that the individual who
46 is cell door prior to entering the cell was
47 taller than the [redacted] and could weigh approxi-
48 mately 175 pounds. He advised that this individual was
49 wearing faded blue jeans and blue jacket.

50
51 MONDY described another individual as being
52 a man who possessed a .38 caliber blue steel revolver, the
53 being approximately 5' 10" to 5' 11", 160 pounds, wearing
54 new looking blue jeans and old blue jacket. He stated this

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12 individual had a coil of rope about 5/8" in diameter in
13 his right pocket. He stated that this coil of rope
14 appeared to be new and that it was light colored. He
15 advised that he later observed this individual carried a
16 two-foot length of rope approximately 1/2" in diameter. He
17 stated he believes that this individual was wearing a red
18 handkerchief or a mask.

19
20 MONDY could furnish no complete descriptions
21 of other individuals, but recalled one individual with a
22 mask consisting of a stocking cap pulled over his face.
23 This mask was light tan cloth and had eye slits. He
24 stated that this individual was also wearing a hat and
25 was one of the several individuals who went into PARKER's
26 cell and scuffled with PARKER. He described this individual
27 as being of medium build, being neither tall nor short.

28
29 MONDY further stated that he believes nine
30 or ten men came into the jail, all wore masks, and all
31 wore gloves, the gloves being both white and brown cotton
32 work gloves.

33
34 After these individuals removed PARKER from
35 the jail, he advised he noted two automobiles leave the
36 area of the intersection at the southeast corner of the
37 courthouse. He stated that a red and white 1957 Oldsmobile
38 "88" proceeded west on Pearl Street through the intersection
39 of Julia. He advised that he noted a 1958 Ford two-tone
40 blue dark top and bottom with light blue sides parked in
41 front of the law office on Julia. He advised that after
42 the Oldsmobile passed the intersection, the Ford started
43 off in a northerly direction on Julia Street.

44
45 MONDY furnished the following additional
46 signed statement:

47
48 New Orleans, La.
49 May 12, 1957.

50
51 "I, Charlie James Mondy, make the
52 following voluntary statement to [redacted]
53 [redacted] and [redacted] who [redacted] to
54 [redacted]
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12 "be Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of
13 Investigation. I was born November 14, 1933,
14 in Jeff Davis County, Miss. I presently reside
15 at 3117 Laurel Place in New Orleans.
16

17
18 "While I was confined in the Pearl
19 River County Jail in Poplarville, Miss., I saw
20 a gang of men abduct M. C. Parker early on the
21 morning of April 25, 1959. Within about 30
22 minutes after the gang left, Sheriff Moody and
23 a strange man came in the jail and the Sheriff
24 came part way up the stairs to our tier. He
25 looked around the tier and over towards Parker's
26 cell. He asked the group of us, 'Did they get
27 the right one?' I answered 'Yes sir, I guess so.
28 They got Parker.' The Sheriff asked what happened
29 to the keys and we couldn't tell him. He tried
30 our tier door and found it was locked. He then
31 left the jail.

32 "The other prisoners in our tier were
33 [redacted] and [redacted] b7c
34 [redacted] All of them heard the Sheriff say this.
35

36 "I read this statement and it is true
37 to the best of my knowledge.
38

39 " /s/ C. J. Bondy

40
41 "Witnesses:

42 [redacted] Special Agent, FBI, b7c
43 [redacted] NEW ORLEANS, LA.
44 [redacted] Special Agent, FBI,
45

46
47 BONDY stated that the man connected with the
48 Sheriff was white, stout build, about 30 years of age.
49 He could not describe him further or recall what type of
50 clothing was worn.

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52 BONDY stated ALFORD came to the jail on
53 April 24, 1959, at about 7:00 PM and was there at 8:00 PM
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MONDY could recall. ALFORD did not return again until after PARKER's abduction. He stated positively that he never saw ALFORD or anyone else give the jail keys to anyone MONDY believed might have a connection with the abduction. He said he knew there was a rumor going around that probably the jailer gave the keys to the gang, but stated he had no information whatever to support such an allegation.

Regarding security of the jail keys as observed by him during his incarceration, MONDY stated that usually ALFORD unlocked the jail door and came in with any visitors. MONDY recalled seeing one individual who occasionally let himself in with the keys to bring meals to the prisoners. This man is a business partner of ALFORD in the operation of a body shop or garage in Replawville. MONDY could not recall that this individual ever came in by himself while PARKER was incarcerated.

He said he has no fear of telling anything he might know, but that he cannot identify any member of the gang who came in the jail to take ALFORD and knows of no action or failure of action on the part of Sheriff [redacted] or any member of his department which helped set up the abduction.

MONDY has been shown pictures of individuals possibly implicated in this case and has identified from photographs JEWEL ALFORD and [redacted] the latter being [redacted] times [redacted] stated that in no way could he identify [redacted] as being among the mob which entered the jail to abduct PARKER.

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7. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is [REDACTED] of age and resides at [REDACTED] Mississippi. [REDACTED] was a prisoner in the upper [REDACTED] (common [REDACTED]) of the Pearl River County Jail and is presently incarcerated at the Mississippi State Penitentiary, Parchman, Mississippi.

[REDACTED] was interviewed by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on April 29, 1959; by SA's [REDACTED] on April 26, 1959; by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on April 28, 1959; and by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on May 16 and 17, 1959.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

"Poplarville, Miss.
April 25, 1959

"I, [REDACTED] make the following statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the F.B.I. This statement is given freely without any threats or promises and I have been told it might be used in court.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] prisoner in the Pearl River County Jail at Poplarville, Miss. At about 11:30 p.m. on April 25, 1959, I was sitting on my bunk upstairs in the jail cell. I heard a noise at the wooden door that leads from the Court House into the jail and it sounded like somebody was trying to open the door from the other side with a key. It seemed like whoever was trying to open the door tried two or three times before the door finally opened. A man came in and several more men followed him into the front part of the jail. Some of the men started toward the cells of

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12 "the bottom floor but the man who came in first
13 said 'it's this way' and came up the stairs to the
14 second floor where I was. The man who was through
15 the door first asked me 'Where is E. G. Parker?'
16 I told him he was in the other cell - the one on the
17 north side. He went on down to that cell and another
18 man along with him and two or three others asked
19 'How do you get in there?' The man who asked that I
20 noticed had a set of jail keys in his hand. Monday,
21 one of the prisoners told him he had to unlock the
22 box on the outside of the cell before he could get
23 in. The man with the keys then put a key in the box
24 and unlocked the box the first time he tried. He
25 then worked the lever and Parker's cell door came
26 open. He worked the right lever the first time.
27

28 "When the cell door came open the man
29 who had come in the jail first, who had a stick or
30 club in his hand, went into Parker's cell. Several
31 more men went in right behind him. Another man
32 handed a gun to the one with the keys and he then
33 stood at the cell door with the gun. The one with
34 the club ran over to Parker and started hitting him
35 with the club. Some more of the men started hitting
36 him with three brooms they had picked up in the jail.
37 Parker broke loose and ran into the other cell and
38 lay on a bunk. The men followed him in and started
39 beating him again with the club and the brooms. He
40 grabbed the club and got it away from the man who
41 had it. He started hitting at the men with the club
42 but I could not tell if he hit anybody hard enough
43 to hurt. During this beating "asker" screamed three
44 or four times very loud calling for help.
45

46 "He finally beat Parker down and
47 caught him by the vest so he dragged him out of the
48 cell and toward the stairs. As he was going down
49 he went by and they beat and kicked him down and
50 dragged him on downstairs. At the door Parker
51 Parker ask the men to let him walk. They would not
52 do this and dragged him through the door into the
53 Court House. The man with the keys and gun then
54 closed and locked the door.
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12 "A minute or two later I heard Parker
13 cry for help from the yard at the south side of
14 the Court House. He called for help twice loud
15 enough to be heard for some distance. I then
16 heard a car start. It was a V-8 which was quiet
17 and sounded like it was in good shape. This car
18 took off fast and went straight west. I heard
19 at least two other cars start then and leave but
20 I could not tell anything about how they went.
21 One of the other cars was a V-8 and the other a
22 6.

23
24 "I don't believe I can identify any of
25 these men if I saw them again. However, I
26 noticed some of them closely and believe there
27 were about ten in all.

28
29 "The man with the club who was the first
30 one in the jail was a white man wearing a white
31 stocking over his face with eye holes cut in it.
32 He was about five feet eleven, weighed about 180
33 or 190, wore a blue overalls jumper and blue jeans
34 which were old and faded. He had on a khaki shirt
35 and wore brown cloth gloves. His eyes were
36 sandy colored and he was hurrying the others and
37 used the expression 'make haste' at least once.

38
39 "The club this man carried was round
40 and well finished and was made of wood that had
41 a yellow color. It was about 2 feet long and the
42 big end was about the size of a pool cue. It
43 tapered smaller at the other end and looked like
44 a policeman's stick.

45
46 "The man with the club was white and
47 wore a piece of black cloth over his eyes from
48 his forehead down. It did not have any holes in
49 it and must have been thin enough to see through.
50 It was tied at the back of his head. He was
51 wearing an old light colored felt hat which was
52 dirty. Had on blue overalls jumper which had
53 been worn but was not faded. Wore dark pair of
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12 "brown cotton gloves and the skin above the gloves
13 and at the back of neck was sunburned. His voice
14 was deep and rough and did not sound like educated
15 men. This man was short, about five feet six, was
16 heavy built and looked like he weighed about 180
17 or 185. His stomach was moderately large and from
18 actions, voice, and appearance estimate age as 30
19 to 40. Gun which he was handed appeared a .38
20 blue steel snub nose with heavy frame.

21
22 "One of the men I noticed appeared to be
23 young. He had a white handkerchief over his face,
24 wore a cap believed khaki, had on old khaki work
25 clothes, appeared in early 20s, was about 5 feet 4
26 inches, and weighed about 135 pounds.

27
28 "Another man I noticed was the man who
29 handed the gun to the man with keys. He was in his
30 30s, wore a red bandana handkerchief over his face,
31 was bareheaded and had long sandy hair combed straight
32 back. He was about the size of the man with the rifle
33 and wore a blue jumper and khaki pants, both of these
34 old and faded. In his right hand jumper pocket I saw
35 a rope which appeared to be new. It was a green rope
36 and about one half inch in diameter.

37
38 "The other men I did not notice well
39 enough to describe.

40
41 "This statement of 5 handwritten pages
42 has been read to me. It is true to the best of my
43 knowledge.

44
45 " /s/ [REDACTED]

46
47 "Witnessed:

48 [REDACTED] Sp. Agent, F.B.I.

49 New Orleans, 4-23-59

50 [REDACTED] F.B.I., New Orleans, La.

51
52 Having furnished the foregoing of and stated
53 ment [REDACTED] advised that in addition to the information
54 set forth in this statement he recalled that the initials
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12 who abducted M. C. PARKER talked like farmers; that he did
13 not notice if any of the individuals in this mob were left-
14 handed; that he noticed no keys hanging from their belts
15 or any other peculiarities in the type of dress or mannerism
16 of these individuals which would assist in their identifi-
17 cation. He stated to his knowledge those individuals left
18 nothing in the jail other than a broken broom which the
19 prisoners threw into a trash can on the morning of April 25,
20 1959, when they were cleaning up the jail.

21 [redacted] stated that when M. C. PARKER was
22 taken from the jail on the night of April 24, 1959, he was
23 wearing a white, vest-type undershirt and a pair of dark
24 dress pants. He pointed out that PARKER was not wearing
25 either shoes or socks.

26
27 [redacted] has furnished the following further
28 description regarding the persons who entered the jail and
29 the automobiles seen by him from the jail window:

30
31 [redacted] described one individual as being
32 5' 10" to 6', slim build, wearing blue-jean pants and
33 blue-jean jumper, and relatively new brown cotton gloves.
34 He advised this person was wearing a mask which consisted
35 of a cotton stocking, light color, pulled over his head.
36 He advised that this mask had eye holes cut out and this
37 individual wore no hat. He stated that this individual was
38 the first individual who entered the jail and started down
39 the steps to the first tier, but turned and went up the
40 steps when someone behind said 'up this way.'

41
42 He advised that this is the same individual
43 who first went to PARKER's cell door and shook the cell door
44 [redacted] the man with the keys opened the cell door this
45 individual entered the cell with two others and scuffled
46 with PARKER. [redacted] stated that this individual carried a
47 club approximately 200 feet long, 1 1/2 inches in diameter at
48 one end and tapered down at the handle.

49
50 He advised that this individual and two
51 others retreated from PARKER's cell after PARKER attempted
52 to hit them with a foot tub throwing water on the wall floor.
53 He stated that this individual called to the man with the
54 [redacted]

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12 keys to bring the gun and shoot PARKER. He said that
13 this individual and two others after the man with the
14 keys apparently did not want to shoot PARKER, re-entered
15 PARKER's cell, and again scuffled with PARKER. He advised
16 that after PARKER ran from his cell into the south cell,
17 this individual and others again attacked PARKER in the
18 south cell. [REDACTED] stated that PARKER took the club
19 away from this individual.

20
21 [REDACTED] described the man with the keys
22 as being approximately 5' 6", stocky build, fat rather than
23 muscular, somewhat potnchy and weighing approximately 170
24 pounds. He advised that this individual wore a mask which
25 looked like a piece of black cloth, probably obtained from
26 a woman's slip. [REDACTED] stated that this material was thin.
27 He also stated he believed this individual was wearing brown
28 cotton work gloves and blue denim jumper. He advised he is
29 not sure as to the color of this individual's pants.

30
31 [REDACTED] stated that this individual is the
32 one who unlocked the door at the top of the stairs which
33 leads to the upper tier cell block. He advised that this
34 individual is also the one who used a key to open the metal
35 box in which were located the levers which control the cell
36 doors. He advised that this individual is the one who,
37 after opening the cell block door, entered where PARKER was.
38 He advised that this individual is the one who was holding
39 a gun when the others requested that he come and shoot
40 PARKER. He advised that this is the individual who asked
41 MONDY how to operate the cell doors.

42
43 [REDACTED] described a third individual as
44 being approximately 5' tall, slim build, wearing blue jumper
45 pants, and wearing a mask consisting of a bandana
46 tied around his head in color. He stated this indi-
47 vidual wore a hat and had short hair. He advised that
48 this individual is the one who was at the door leading
49 into the upper tier cell block. He advised that this
50 individual possessed a blue steel snub-nose revolver, which
51 he handed to the man with the keys upon the
52 individuals' request for the man with the keys to shoot
53 PARKER. [REDACTED] described another individual as being
54 approximately 5' 5" tall, 135 pounds, slim build, wearing

12 old khaki work clothes. [redacted] could furnish no further
13 description of this individual other than that he was
14 wearing a mask and gloves.

16 [redacted] described another individual as
17 being similar in build to the man who possessed the keys.
18 He advised that this individual was standing on the landing
19 inside the jail door and he noted this individual screw out
20 the light bulb in front of him. [redacted] advised that this
21 light bulb is located on the ceiling of the first tier
22 directly in front of the landing. [redacted] could furnish
23 no further description of this individual other than his
24 belief that this individual was wearing a black mask and
25 gloves.

27 [redacted] stated that he recalls another
28 individual stayed in the vicinity of the cell block door
29 near [redacted] bunk; however, he could furnish no description
30 of this individual.

32 [redacted] stated that he believes eight to ten
33 unknown subjects entered the jail. He stated that all were
34 masked and wore gloves. He advised that he observed only
35 one gun, although some of the individuals had their hands
36 inside their shirts giving the appearance of carrying a
37 concealed weapon. [redacted] advised that the gun he observed
38 was a .38 caliber [redacted] blue steel revolver.

40 [redacted] advised that after these individuals
41 took PARKER from the jail, he went back to a window next to
42 his bunk after he heard two screams which he believes came
43 from the area of the south entrance of the courthouse. He
44 had he looked out the window and observed a red car
45 while traveling west on West Street and continu-
46 ing through the intersection at the southeast corner of the
47 courthouse block. [redacted] stated he believes this was a 1937
48 Oldsmobile with a red top and [redacted] color body. He advised he
49 observed no other automobiles.

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8. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] years of age, is a [REDACTED] Louisiana, by occupation and resides on [REDACTED] receiving his mail at [REDACTED]. He was a prisoner in the upper tier (colored section) of the Pearl River County Jail, having been arrested April 7, 1959, on a charge of driving while drunk.

[REDACTED] was interviewed by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on April 25, 1959; by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on April 26, 1959; by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on April 28, 1959; and by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on May 15, 1959.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed statement:

"Poplarville, Mississippi
April 25, 1959

"I, [REDACTED], make the following voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me to induce me to make this statement. I am making it in connection with an official investigation being conducted by the FBI.

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"I am [REDACTED] years of age, having been born on [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] La. I am a [REDACTED] employed at [REDACTED]. I live on [REDACTED], and receive my mail at [REDACTED]. I was arrested on April 7, 1959 for driving while drunk and have been in the Pearl River County Jail at Poplarville since then.

"I occupy a bunk in a cell with [REDACTED]. I went to sleep last night, Friday, April 24, 1959, and was swakened shortly

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13 "after midnight by noises in the cell block. C. J.
14 Mundy, another negro prisoner, was nudging me to
15 try to awaken me.

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17 "When I got awake I noticed about nine or
18 ten men, with faces covered, in the cell block. One
19 of the men was pushing on the door of W. C. Parker's
20 cell while another man was trying to release the
21 lock with the key in the control box. After the
22 door was opened one of the men said to the others to go
23 in and get him. Parker was yelling for help. I
24 noticed a lot of water was splashed on the floor and
25 figured it probably came from a foot tub. I heard
26 Parker being beaten by sticks the men had with them.
27 He got loose from them somehow and ran into our cell.
28 His face was bloodied. The men came after him and
29 one of them threw the garbage can at him. Parker
30 yelled at us and asked if we were going to let them
31 do that to him. Parker had gotten one of the sticks
32 and was swinging it but I don't know if he hit anyone.
33 I ran into the shower stall in our cell and stayed
34 there.

35
36 "I heard the men dragging Parker and
37 looked out of the shower stall and saw them dragging
38 him down the stairs by his heels. When about half
39 way down the stairs I heard Parker yell he would wait
40 if they would let him. One of the men locked the
41 steel door at the head of the stairs and they all
42 left. I heard Parker holler about a few times after they
43 got outside. I heard three or four or more cars pull
44 away from the side street of the jail.

45
46 "I do not think it was more than 10 or 15
47 minutes after [redacted] when everyone was gone.

48
49 "This three page statement is true to me
50 by Mr. [redacted] and it is true.

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52 " /s/ [redacted] b7c
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54 "Witnesses: [redacted] Special Agent, FBI,
55 [redacted] 4-25-59

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[REDACTED], Special Agent, FBI,
New Orleans, La. 4-25-59"

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[REDACTED] additionally described the subjects he saw as follows:

The man with the red handkerchief over his face was 5' 6", between 150 to 160 pounds. He did not remember whether he wore a cap or hat, wore blue jean pants and blue denim jacket.

The man with short nose revolver had a woman's dark stocking over his face and wore blue denim pants. He is not sure whether he had a light or dark shirt or jacket.

Another man was dressed in a light red flannel shirt.

He stated he believed more than one man had a gun, but he could not specify who had the guns or the number of guns present. One man had a short piece of thin white rope, similar to clothesline rope. One man had a roll of the same type of rope (clothesline) in his jacket pocket. This man was dressed in blue denim pants and jacket also.

As to the rest of the men, [REDACTED] stated he saw some with white canvas gloves and he thought possibly that two or three other men may have had stockings pulled over their faces. All had long-sleeved shirts or jackets and most of them had some kind of a stick or club in their hands.

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[REDACTED] furnished the following further descriptive data concerning the individuals who entered the Pearl River County Jail:

[REDACTED] stated that he recalls one individual standing in front of FARMER's cell door and this individual was wearing a mask consisting of a brown stocking. [REDACTED] advised he observed another individual also at the cell door and this individual was wearing a red handkerchief over

his face and was wearing a hat. He advised that he observed another individual standing at the cell block door, holding a snub-nose revolver. He advised that this individual was wearing a handkerchief mask and a hat pulled down over his forehead.

He stated he recalls another individual wearing blue jeans and blue jumper who also carried a piece of rope and who also had a coil of new rope in the pocket of the jumper. [REDACTED] stated he could furnish no better description of the individuals as he retreated to the shower stall when these individuals were in the cell block.

He advised that all persons he observed were wearing masks and were wearing gloves. He stated that all gloves he observed were white cotton gloves. He advised that most of these individuals were wearing blue-jean pants and blue jumpers. He stated that he observed no extremely tall individuals or extremely short individuals and that he observed no extremely fat individuals.

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9. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Mississippi, was a prisoner in the [REDACTED]
the Pearl River County Jail. He was [REDACTED]
charge of murder.

He was interviewed on April 25, 1959, by
SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] by SA's
[REDACTED] on April 28, 1959;
by SA's [REDACTED] on
April 28, 1959; and by SA's [REDACTED]
on May 15, 1959.

[REDACTED] furnished the following signed state-
ment:

"Poplarville, Mississippi
April 25, 1959

"I, [REDACTED],
following voluntary observation of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
identified themselves to me as Special Agents
of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No
threats or promises have been made to induce
me to make this statement.

[REDACTED] years of age [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I am charged [REDACTED]
and [REDACTED] held in the Pearl River
Jail, Poplarville, Mississippi."

"On the midnight of Friday,
April 24, 1959, I was [REDACTED] in my cell in
the jail. I heard someone rattling [REDACTED] on
the wooden door at the bottom of the jail stairs,
which door separates the courtroom from the
jail. I saw one man come up the stairs and he
was carrying keys in his hand. He [REDACTED] several
keys in the lock of the door at the bottom of the
stairs. This door is made of [REDACTED] and leads to

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13 "the cell block. This man had a woman's stocking
14 over his head. The stocking had holes cut for the
15 eyes so the man could see. He opened the door and
16 asked C. J. Mundy, a prisoner, where A. C. Parker
17 was. Mundy pointed to the cell where Parker was
18 and said he was in that cell. The man asked how
19 to get in that cell. Mundy told him how to unlock
20 the cell door, that is, by placing one of the keys
21 the man had in a box that then opens the cell block
22 door. The man then opened the door.

23
24 "By this time there were about eight or
25 nine more men, all masked, in the corridor outside
26 of the cell blocks. After the man with the keys
27 opened Parker's cell door all the men crowded in
28 the cell or corridor.

29
30 "The light bulb in Parker's cell had been
31 out before the men came into the jail so I do not
32 know if Parker was asleep or not. The men did not
33 turn on the bulb. There was a bulb burning in the
34 cell block I was in.

35
36 "The men tried to drag Parker out of his
37 cell. He fought them with his hands and picked up
38 a foot tub and threw it at them. Parker yelled for
39 help and called to Mundy to help him. Parker yelled
40 to all of us and asked if we were going to leave
41 them do that to him. The same man who opened the
42 doors with the keys turned to us and had a gun in
43 his hand. He said not to move.

44
45 "Parker was struggling with the men and
46 ran his head to the cell door in. I occupied
47 a cell with a door near me directly across from
48 Parker's cell. Our cell door opened at the same
49 time. We can't leave because of the corridor door
50 being locked.

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52 "The men beat Parker and dragged him by
53 the heels of his feet. He did not say a word.
54 He had on a pair of greyish leather overalls and
55 an undershirt. He yelled to the men that he would

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13 "walk but they did not leave go of his heels.
14 He yelled for help all the time. The men
15 dragged Parker by his heels down the steps.
16

17 "While the men were beating Parker
18 I stood in my cell with my two cellmates, [redacted] b7c
19 [redacted] and [redacted] Mundy and [redacted] b7D
20 had bunks on the outside of the cell. Brock and
21 they came into our cell, also.
22

23 "After the masked men dragged Parker
24 down the stairs one of them locked the steel
25 door at the head of the stairs. I think he is
26 the same one who had the keys in the beginning.
27 He told us not to make any noise because there
28 were more men outside. We stayed quiet and
29 smoked about three cigarettes. Mr. Moody, the
30 Sheriff, then came and asked if we were all
31 there. We told him some men took Parker away.
32

33 "This statement was read to me. It
34 is four Pages I have signed each Page that it
35 is truth.
36

37 " /s/ [redacted] b7c
38 b7D

39 "Witnesses:
40 [redacted], Special Agent, F.B.I.,
41 [redacted], SA., 4/25/59
42 [redacted], Special Agent, FBI,
43 [redacted], 4/25/59"

44 [redacted] advised additionally that the first man
45 in the jail is [redacted] and as follows:
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47 He wore a lady's jacket; gave his
48 head, dark work clothes, possibly blue [redacted],
49 separate jumper of the same type material, possibly denim,
50 buttoned not zippered, was about 5' 10", 200 pounds, had
51 a firm voice, wore a cap or hat, but could not remember
52 which. This man had the keys to the floor steel door and
53 later on this same man had a blue snub-nose .38 caliber
54 revolver.
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[redacted] advised he could furnish no description relative to unknown subjects, but described the rest of the group as follows:

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He stated all wore hats or caps pulled down to their eyes, with handkerchiefs up to their eyes. All wore work clothes or dark clothes or had long-sleeved shirts or jackets on; wore soft, light-colored cotton gloves, except one man, who wore heavy work gloves. He could not further describe these gloves. He noted there were possibly some straw hats worn by the men, but he could not identify these further. No names were mentioned by any unknown subjects and they merely directed their remarks to one another without specifically naming the individual by any name or any nicknames.

[redacted] furnished the following descriptive data concerning the individuals who entered the Pearl River County Jail:

[redacted] stated that he was awake in his bunk in the south cell when he heard a rattling of keys outside the jail door. He advised that the first individual who entered the jail door was wearing a woman's tan straw hat over his head with eye holes cut out. He advised [redacted] individual did most of the talking for the group. [redacted] stated that he could furnish no description of any particular individual, but estimated nine or ten individuals came into the jail. He advised that all of these individuals wore gloves and most of the individuals wore handkerchief masks.

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He advised that he saw only one gun, this being a blue steel revolver and this gun was in the possession of an individual who never entered either cell, but who stood near the door to the cell block.

He advised that most of these individuals were wearing blue work clothes and that some were wearing khaki pants. He stated he observed one individual wearing a straw hat like most farmers wear.

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12 **B. OTHER WITNESSES**

13
14 **1. JOHN REYER**

15
16 JOHN REYER, Route A, Poplarville, Mississippi,
17 was interviewed on April 25, 1959, by SA [REDACTED]
18 and [REDACTED]. He was again interviewed on April 25
19 & 28, 1959, by SA [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. b7c
20 REYER furnished the following information:

21
22 At about 11:30 p.m., Friday, April 24, 1959,
23 JOE REYER, brother of JOHN REYER, came to JOHN's home and
24 said his wife was sick and wanted JOHN to drive them to
25 the hospital in Poplarville, Mississippi, about three miles
26 distant. JOHN REYER got dressed, got in his pickup truck
27 and drove to JOE's house nearby and looked at his watch
28 and noted it was 11:45 PM. At about that time JOE and his
29 wife came out and he drove them straight to the hospital,
30 arriving at about 11:55 PM.

31
32 JOE took his wife in the front of the hos-
33 pital and JOHN walked out in front of his car. He heard
34 a noise up in the jail which is located across the corner
35 from the hospital in the upper portion of the County
36 Courthouse. At about this time two nurses came out on
37 the front porch of the hospital and he walked up on the
38 front porch with them. He heard a man's voice from the
39 jail call for help several times.

40
41 At about this time he started to walk to
42 the Star Cafe on Main Street to get a cup of coffee. A
43 [REDACTED] was with him. In walking to the cafe, they
44 went to the southwest corner of the courthouse yard and
45 walked on the sidewalk, south of the courthouse,
46 headed east and when he reached a point about twenty feet
47 from the sidewalk leading to the north entrance of the
48 courthouse, he noted a group of men on the steps of the
49 house steps. He estimated there were eight or ten men in
50 this group. About four of these men were carrying a man
51 being, holding him by his arms and legs and carrying him
52 head first. This person appeared to be unconscious and
53 up and he observed that his face was covered with blood.
54 He pointed out the moon was shining and he thought a star
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12 light was shining on a corner nearby and the light was
13 fairly good. He knew PARKER was in jail and was to be
14 tried the following Monday and reached a conclusion
15 that this person must have been PARKER. He pointed out,
16 however, that he had never seen PARKER. He could not
17 definitely state whether or not this person was white
18 or Negro because he had only a brief glimpse of his
19 face and then noted it was covered with blood. He could
20 furnish no description of the clothing, if any, worn by
21 the person being carried, stating this group of men
22 fairly well surrounded the man they were carrying.

23
24 He said this group of men were moving
25 at a "fast trot," neither walking nor running. PARKER
26 stopped, about twenty feet from the courthouse sidewalk,
27 when he first saw this group of men, and did not move
28 from this spot for at least forty-five seconds. While
29 standing there he saw the group approach a car parked at
30 the curb at the end of the sidewalk leading to the
31 courthouse and he first noted the car when one of the
32 group opened the back door of the car, which was a
33 four-door sedan. The men tossed the man they were carry-
34 ing into the back seat of the car, head first, and he
35 believed two of the men got into the back seat with him. PARKER
36 hurriedly got into the front seat. He did not think all
37 the group got into this car but did not know where the
38 remainder of the group went. He could recall seeing no
39 other car parked or leaving this area. The four-door sedan
40 pulled away from the curb with the tires turning toward
41 west, and crossed the street which runs between the court-
42 house and the hospital still headed west. At that time,
43 HEYER commenced walking in an easterly direction on the
44 sidewalk south of the courthouse, still heading east.
45 He does not know what happened to [REDACTED] as he has
46 not seen him since. [REDACTED] was taken to the
47 hospital. He recalls the lights were on when he first
48 observed it parked at the curb. He does not
49 remember whether or not the lights were on when the
50 car left the scene. He could furnish no description
51 of the automobile as to color, make or model,
52 other than to say it was a four-door sedan. He was
53 not frightened, but did not want to get involved in the
54 matter in any manner, and just wanted to get out of there.
55 He did not notice whether or not the car bore a license plate.

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12 REYER heard no conversation whatsoever from
13 this group of men and did not hear a sound from the person
14 being carried. None of the group said anything to REYER
15 and he does not think they even noticed his standing there.
16 He did not notice anyone else in the area during this
17 period of time.

18
19 REYER described the group as all wearing
20 common work clothing, not dressed-up clothing, and thinks
21 at least part of the men were wearing dungarees. He
22 could not say whether or not they wore white shirts, as they
23 were all masked. He did not know whether or not they wore
24 gloves. He saw no sticks or clubs or guns in possession
25 of any of the group. He could not say whether or not
26 any of the men were wearing hats. It was difficult for
27 him to furnish a physical description of the men as some
28 of them were walking humped over carrying the person and
29 they were all moving fast. REYER is 5'6" in height. He
30 did not think any of the men were taller. ~~There~~ were no
31 real tall men in the group. *There*

32
33 REYER could not recognize any of the group
34 as someone he might know.

35
36 REYER pointed out he has read a magazine, does
37 not wear glasses except to read, and was not wearing glasses
38 on this occasion.

39
40 REYER noted one man to be wearing a white
41 mask which appeared to have been pulled over his head and
42 which reached to his neck. He noted no eye holes in this
43 mask. He thought one man had a blue bandana under his
44 chin. He noted no white masks in the group.

45
46 With ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~ masks reportedly
47 worn by the group of men walking ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~the~~
48 very positive that he never told anyone that any of the
49 masks had slipped down on the faces of any of the men
50 and that to the best of his recollection all of the men
51 the group were still wearing their masks at the time he
52 saw them.

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54 REYER was also very emphatic in stating
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12 he was misunderstood or misquoted if anyone quoted him as
13 saying he had seen three or four cars south of the courthouse
14 or leaving that area at about the time victim PARKER was
15 abducted.
16

17 He still claimed he was unable to furnish
18 a description of the car parked at the curb into which
19 PARKER was thrown, other than to say that the car was not
20 a white car and that it was a four-door car.
21

22 REYER was also positive that no vehicle
23 proceeded from a point south of the courthouse in an
24 easterly direction at about the time the car containing
25 the victim proceeded in a westerly direction.
26

27 REYER was very persistent in his statement
28 that he did not recognize any of this group of men, was
29 unable to furnish a good physical description of them
30 because they were hurrying and because of the poor light,
31 and was not positive but thought some of the group might
32 have been wearing gloves. He again emphasized he did not
33 see any of this group with their masks off or partially
34 off their faces.
35

36 REYER was also very positive in his statements
37 that he did not turn around and watch the departing car
38 which contained the victim after it had pulled away from the
39 curb and was positive in his statement that he immediately
40 proceeded to the Star Cafe, located several blocks away on
41 Main Street, for a cup of coffee. He spent a short period
42 of time drinking coffee and then returned to the courthouse
43 and went into the Sheriff's Office with a small group of
44 men. He was positive he went into the Sheriff's Office
45 at [redacted] before going to the Star Cafe.
46

47 REYER also recalled that when he first looked
48 up at the jail after hearing a car which had the lights
49 were on in the jail. Shortly thereafter, the lights went
50 out.
51

52 REYER advised he had received no threats,
53 was in collusion with no one to withhold any information
54 and was, in fact, doing his very best to furnish all the
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13 information in his possession as to what transpired on
14 the night of April 24, 1959. He pointed out again that
15 things happened so fast and so suddenly that he was just
16 unable to note anything that happened other than what he
17 had previously related.

18
19 2. [REDACTED]

20
21 [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED] was interviewed on April 25, 1959, by SA's
23 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He furnished
24 the following information:

25
26 He advised that on Friday, April 24, 1959,
27 he had been working in New Orleans, Louisiana, and that
28 he caught a bus Friday evening for Poplarville, Missis-
29 sippi, arrived at Poplarville at approximately 10:20 P. M.,
30 April 24, 1959, after which he walked to the Pearl River
31 County Hospital to the rear of the Pearl River County
32 Courthouse. He explained that his father was ill at the
33 hospital and that on his arrival his wife was there and
34 had parked the family automobile directly in front of the
35 hospital. He stated his father was confined to a bed in
36 the southwest corner and in the front of the hospital; he
37 stated he stayed with his father until he was taken away and
38 9:00 the following morning, April 25, 1959.

39
40 [REDACTED] stated that sometime near midnight
41 he heard some of the nurses at the hospital, but he advised
42 he cannot furnish, say that some Negroes were in a fight
43 at the jail. He said he went out in front of the hospital
44 to take a jacket from his car, when he did,
45 he saw some Negroes, not more than one or two, standing
46 from his car and he heard some of them talking by what he
47 could hear. He stated that he saw some Negroes
48 along the south side of the courthouse. [REDACTED] did he
49 could not tell if the individuals he saw were white or
50 white. He stated he did not go to the jail and he
51 was afraid that he would know some of the individuals who

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14 not want to get into any argument. He said the loud
15 talking sounded to him like an argument was in progress.
16 [redacted] stated he walked back from his car to the front
17 sidewalk of the hospital, at which time he heard two or
18 three cars leave in a hurry, stating he heard the tires
19 squealing as they left. He insisted he did not see the
20 cars and said he could not furnish a description of them.

21
22 [redacted] stated that from his position he
23 did not see anyone he knew at the south end of the
24 courthouse.

25
26 [redacted] stated that shortly thereafter
27 Sheriff MOODY came to a point in front of the hospital
28 and that he accompanied the Sheriff and J. J. WILKINSON,
29 PETE CARVER, B. F. ORR and [redacted] into the
30 courthouse via the south stairs. [redacted] stated that when he
31 went up the south steps to the courthouse he did not see
32 any keys lying around, but he did see what appeared to be
33 a few drops of blood along the corridor of the courthouse.

34
35 [redacted] stated he accompanied the above
36 individuals up the stairs to the jail area, at which
37 time the door was locked and that all returned to the
38 first floor to look for the keys. He stated he, in fact,
39 assisted in a search along the corridor for the keys to
40 the jail and that during the search someone found the
41 keys and gave them to the Sheriff.

42
43 [redacted] was closely questioned as to
44 whether he knew any of the individuals who were
45 in the jail a few minutes earlier at the
46 south entrance to the courthouse. He denied knowing any
47 of the persons who were there.

48
49 [redacted] was asked to advise
50 2, 1959, by SA's [redacted] and [redacted]
51 [redacted] at which time he advised that he was employed
52 at the Grasso Glass & Mirror Company, 1115 [redacted] and
53 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. He then furnished
54 the following information regarding his activities on the
55 night of April 24, 1959:
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[redacted] arrived in Poplarville, Mississippi, at about 10:20 PM by bus from New Orleans, Louisiana. Upon getting off of the bus he went immediately to the Pearl River County Hospital where he found his car parked in the parking area in front of the hospital at the end of the sidewalk leading from the front of the hospital to the parking area. After placing his clothes in the car, he entered the hospital and went directly to the room of his father, [redacted]

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In the room of [redacted] he saw his wife, [redacted] another patient named [redacted] and a couple who were visiting [redacted]. He went in and out of the room several times to get coffee, water and to check mail around the hospital corridor.

Sometime later, exact time not recalled, he went out to his car to obtain a jacket, at which time he saw seven or eight men standing in the street between the south corner of the courthouse and the Poplarville Furniture Company. [redacted] was unable to describe any of these men and said he had no recollection of their dress. He also could not recall whether these men were wearing masks of any kind. He did not approach these men and gave as a reason the fact he was not of a curious nature.

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After arriving at the hospital and while at the hospital, he recalled he had heard a noise which was unable to describe this noise. He recalled one of the nurses, name unknown, came to his father's room and said they must have broke that "nigger" out of there to that effect. He did not discuss this remark with anyone and did not have any conversation regarding the incident.

[redacted] recalled while he was in the hospital he saw an "old man" out on the sidewalk who was dressed in dark clothes. He said he did not know the identity of this man but felt he had come to the hospital with a sick woman during the night. He was unable to recall what time of night he saw this man standing on the sidewalk.

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11 [redacted] denied approaching the men standing
12 in the street between the courthouse and the furniture
13 company, but during the latter portion of this interview
14 said the men in the street had a "nigger" and that the
15 thought went through his mind that they were attempting
16 to put a drunk "nigger" in jail. He said he recalled
17 another visitor in the hospital room of his father who
18 was visiting [redacted] and that this individual was a
19 white male, wearing cowboy boots and a cowboy hat, but
20 he did not personally know this individual. When asked
21 if he saw this same man standing outside the hospital when
22 he, [redacted] was outside and saw the men in the street,
23 [redacted] denied seeing this individual in cowboy dress
24 outside the hospital.

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26
27 When the Sheriff arrived he, [redacted]
28 went across the street to the courthouse where he saw
29 blood on the steps and in the courthouse. He returned
30 to the hospital. He did not recall seeing or talking
31 to Mr. WILLIAM STEWART, the County Prosecuting Attorney.

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32
33 Upon termination of this interview [redacted]
34 [redacted] advised he did not wish to furnish a signed state-
35 ment incorporating the information set forth above.

36
37 C. INDIVIDUALS OVERHEARING CONVERSATION
38 ATTENDANT TO ABDUCTION

39
40 1. Mrs. FOREST BURGE

41 On April 20, 1959, Mrs. [redacted]
42 advised SA's [redacted] and [redacted]
43 that she is also known as [redacted] and [redacted] and
44 as [redacted] driver for mail c/o General Delivery,
45 Poplarville, Miss. She stated she is employed as
46 a nurse at the Pearl River County Hospital. On the
47 night of April 24, 1959, she went to the hospital at
48 approximately 7:00 PM and worked on private duty
49 [redacted] until 11:00 PM, at which time
50 she went on her general duties at the hospital. She stated
51 her normal shift on the night of April 24, 1959, was from
52 11:00 PM until 7:00 AM.

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11 Mrs. BURGE then furnished the following
12 information regarding her activities from 11:00 P.M. until
13 the following morning:
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15 The change of shift at 11:00 P.M. at the
16 hospital was a little slow on the night of April 24,
17 1959, and she obtained her papers and reported them
18 she carried to the desk and began working with them
19 at a little after 11:00 P.M. She had been to the front
20 of the hospital and did not recall any unusual activity
21 in the front of the hospital in that there were no cars
22 moving about or unusually large numbers of people
23 walking in front of the hospital or near the Indian River
24 County Courthouse, which is located directly across the
25 street from the hospital. As she was working on her
26 reports on her desk, she heard a call, but did not think
27 that it would be considered a scream. She pointed out
28 that it was not unusual for prisoners in the Indian River
29 County Jail to call across the street to the nurses at
30 the hospital and ask them to perform favors for them,
31 such as telephoning friends and doing errands. Therefore,
32 she started to walk to the front desk of the
33 hospital as she felt someone was calling. When she got
34 to the nurses at the hospital. As she approached the
35 door, she overheard a call for help, which she was unable
36 to specifically describe, but stated after hearing this
37 call she realized that something "horrible" was happening
38 in the jail.

39
40 When asked to further describe the call
41 from the jail, Mrs. BURGE said she could not recall
42 that it was a continuous call for help. She did not
43 immediately to the telephone and called the jail.
44 She stated that it was 11:50 P.M. when she called the
45 jail. She stated that this was by the Sheriff's office
46 talking to her. She stated that she immediately
47 to the Sheriff's office at the jail. She stated
48 suffering what was stated to be a heart attack. She
49 then called Dr. [redacted] and that [redacted]
50 condition. [redacted] instructed her to
51 give [redacted] a hypodermic which contained [redacted] and
52 at once prepared the hypodermic, which [redacted]
53 took approximately two or three minutes, and [redacted]
54 to Mrs. [redacted] at which time she received the [redacted]
55 this [redacted] since it contained a narcotic. She stated she
56 had examined her records and determined that [redacted]
57 the shot at 11:45 P.M. on April 24, 1959.

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12 She, therefore, estimated she had phoned
13 the Sheriff at about 11:40 PM and told him it sounded
14 like something "horrible" was going on at the jail and
15 to come quickly. She said she could not recall the
16 Sheriff asking her any questions or giving her any in-
17 structions.

18
19 While she was taking care of [REDACTED] b7c
20 the other nurse on duty, ORILL LOVELL, telephoned the
21 Star Cafe and asked them to notify the Night Marshal.
22 She could not recall why LOVELL telephoned the Star
23 Cafe and could not recall she requested her to do this.

24
25 Having completed her immediate duties
26 with [REDACTED] she went to the door of the hospital
27 and commenced to hear the calls for help. She did not
28 notice any unusual activity in the front of the hospital
29 at this time; however, she stated she did see a car
30 parked at the south entrance to the courthouse near the
31 sidewalk which runs from the south entrance of the court-
32 house to the street. She said this car was partially
33 hidden behind a bush at the southwest corner of the
34 courthouse, but she could see the left front fender of
35 the car and a portion of the grill. She described the
36 left front fender of the car as being a light color and
37 that the grill was of chromium and chrome in the light.

38
39 She said that sometime during the night
40 she was calling the Sheriff or attorney [REDACTED] b7c
41 that she went to the door of the hospital and saw an
42 old-model car which was a dull light color driving on
43 South Julia Street between the hospital and the courthouse
44 and that the car was near the intersection of South
45 Julia Street and Willie Street. She stated that the car
46 Willie Street in the [REDACTED] area was pro-
47 ceeding slowly. Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that this
48 car was not in any way involved in the [REDACTED]
49 was possibly a car leaving the hospital or [REDACTED]
50 someone driving up Julia Street.

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52 Mrs. [REDACTED] stated she saw the [REDACTED]
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12 seeing anyone come out of the courthouse and she did
13 not see any cars driving away from the vicinity of the
14 courthouse immediately following her phone call to the
15 Sheriff. She pointed out she had become busy tending
16 to [redacted] and other patients and it was quite possi- b7c
17 ble she was at the rear of the hospital if any cars had
18 driven away at a high rate of speed and she would have
19 been unable to have heard them in the back of the hospital.

21 Mrs. BURKE stated she was unable to recall
22 who came to the courthouse first, but she did recall that
23 the Sheriff arrived and also B. T. ORR, the Day Nurse,
24 and "PETE" CARVER, the Night Marshal. She said to the
25 best of her recollection the officers went to the jail
26 first before coming to the hospital and she only recalled
27 talking to GEORGE MOODY, who is the son of the Sheriff
28 and a Deputy in the Sheriff's Department.

30 Mrs. BURKE said that following the incident
31 she had been busy with [redacted] and other patients and
32 she had had no time to talk to officers in the hospital
33 regarding what they had observed during the period from
34 11:45 to 12:30 AM. She said she had had no time to
35 develop any further information regarding what had
36 happened, but that should any information come to her
37 attention she would immediately advise the FBI.

38 2. Miss OVELL LOWELESS

40 On April 20, 1959, SA [redacted] advised SA's [redacted] and [redacted] b7c
42 that she received her mail at box 24, [redacted], dis-
43 si [redacted] that the street on which the residence was
44 is [redacted] it is near the outskirts of
45 Poplarville. She said she had been employed for the
46 past two years as a nurse at the [redacted] Hospital
47 and that for the past week, including April 24, 1959,
48 April 24, 1959, she has been working from [redacted] until
49 7:00 AM.

51 Miss LOWELESS stated she [redacted]
52 approximately 11:00 PM, the night of April 24, 1959, and
53 [redacted]

12 she performed her regular duties until approximately 12
13 midnight; that sometime either just before or just after
14 midnight, a Mrs. [REDACTED] was brought to the hospital suf-
15 fering from what was believed to be at that time, a heart
16 attack. She stated her attention was directed to [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED] and that apparently at the time the incident occurred
18 in the jail she had the stethoscope in her ears and that
19 her only recollection is that there was possibly a commotion
20 during this time. She then stated that she continued her
21 duties in the hospital working until approximately 7:00 AM
22 the next morning, and that during her entire tour of duty
23 she had no knowledge of what had transpired in the Pearl
24 River County Courthouse until 7:00 AM the next morning, at
25 which time she was at home eating breakfast with her mother
26 and they heard the news on the radio.

28 Miss LOVELESS was interviewed extensively
29 for any information regarding visitors to the hospital,
30 conversation that she possibly could have heard and asked
31 specifically if DIMPLE BURSE, the other nurse who was on
32 duty with her, had not mentioned the incident to her during
33 their tour of duty, and Miss LOVELESS continued to maintain
34 she had no further information other than that originally
35 furnished.

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3. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed on April 10, 1959, and [REDACTED] advised that
she is a nurse at the Pearl River County Hospital and
had worked the 3:00 PM to 11:00 PM shift at the hospital
on April 9, 1959. After completing her regular shift
at [REDACTED] approximately 11:30 PM, she was on
on private duty at [REDACTED] hospital with a patient, [REDACTED]
This patient occupied a room in the south wing of
the hospital. She heard a noise which [REDACTED] could not
describe about an hour or more after she had [REDACTED]
with the private patient. She was unable to fix [REDACTED] when
this noise occurred. She could not describe the noise
she had heard other than to say that it sounded like
her some kind of emergency had occurred. She went to

12 the lobby of the hospital and in the lobby she noted
13 that nurse Mrs. DIMPLE BURGE was on the telephone and
14 appeared to be handling the emergency that had occurred.
15 She had heard no distinct words or sounds which she
16 could describe, but had gained the impression that some
17 commotion was going on in the jail. She had noted
18 that nurse Miss ODELL LOVELESS was attending a patient
19 in the lobby of the hospital. She had not noticed
20 anyone else in the lobby. She did not question Mrs.
21 BURGE as to what had occurred. She returned to attend
22 her patient and it was not until later that she learned
23 what had happened.

24
25 4. [REDACTED]

26 [REDACTED]
27 [REDACTED]
28 regularly employed at the [REDACTED] hospital,
29 and who resides over [REDACTED]
30 across the street [REDACTED]
31 River County Courthouse, was interviewed on May 1, 1959,
32 by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

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34 She stated that on the night of April
35 24, 1959, she was a patient in [REDACTED] of the River
36 County Hospital, which room is located in the right hand
37 wing of the hospital. She had taken a medicine to help
38 her sleep and sometime during the night was awakened by
39 cries for help coming from somewhere in the ward vicinity.
40 In addition to the cries for help, she could hear the
41 definite sound of blows being struck, the only sound
42 being obtained that a board or strap was being used.
43 She arose and went from her room to the door of the Negro
44 ward located to the rear of the hospital, as she believed
45 the disturbance was there. Observing
46 nothing at that location she went to the nurses' station,
47 which adjoins the lobby of the hospital, and
48 concluded at that time that someone was being beaten in the
49 Negro tier of the jail located across the street. She
50 stated she gathered the impression that it was in the Negro
51 tier because the man's voice crying for help sounded to her
52 to be that of a colored individual.

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11 Further, she recalled it was not unusual
12 for persons to be confined who were intoxicated and called
13 out from the windows.

14
15 Upon approaching the front portion of the
16 hospital, she noted that [REDACTED] and JOHN
17 REYER were entering the lobby. She also noted that DIMPLE
18 BURGE was on the telephone attempting to locate members
19 of the Sheriff's Department. She stated that she had no idea
20 of the exact time, except that she knew it was after the
21 11:00 P. M. shift came on duty. From the window of the nurses'
22 quarters, she looked out the window toward the direction
23 of the jail and observed nothing except that there were a
24 few cars parked in front of the hospital, headed as they
25 are usually parked for hospital visitors. She stated there
26 were some people on the hospital porch, but she did not
27 go out there.

28
29 She recalled that DIMPLE BURGE was trying
30 to call JEWEL ALFORD, the jailer, and evidently reached
31 Sheriff W. O. MOODY. Immediately following her call to
32 the Sheriff, DIMPLE BURGE called [REDACTED]
33 concerning his patient, [REDACTED]
34 had just arrived for medication.

35
36 Upon further observation [REDACTED]
37 noted that the jail lights appeared to be [REDACTED]
38 except for dim illumination away from the windows. She
39 also noted that the two REYER men went out on the front
40 porch and that she also saw R. J. WHITE, a Sheriff's Officer,
41 as well as two nurses, Mrs. ODELL [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

42
43
44 At about this time, she believes [REDACTED]
45 [REDACTED] said, "What did that
46 nigger out of there." [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED]. The
47 Town Marshal, was out [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
48 first spoke of what had happened.

49
50 She said that she did not recall [REDACTED]
51 either ORR or CARVER closely, but recognized [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
52 when they approached.

53
54 She stated she was still not certain of
55 the exact time of these occurrences, but was able to determine
56 minutes after DIMPLE BURGE was attempting to make her call.

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13 **WILLIAM STEWART**, Pearl River County Attorney, arrived
14 at the hospital and inquired as to what she had seen
15 and she stated that she did not want him to call anyone
16 that she had heard anything. (It being noted that
17 according to Miss HOWARD she saw none of the activity
18 at the courthouse and jail).

19
20 She then returned to her room and, upon
21 looking out the window, she could observe the street
22 which runs west past the hospital and the north side of
23 the courthouse. She said there is considerable shrubbery
24 and other obstructions between the window in Room 12
25 and the street, but that she did take note of the passing
26 of two cars going west at a fairly slow rate of speed.
27 She said that beyond knowing that there were two cars
28 which traveled quite closely together, there was no
29 other detail of the cars or occupants known to her; that
30 at no time during the night of April 24, 1959, did she
31 see any car or person apparently involved in the abduction
32 of the prisoner. She stated further that from her contacts
33 with other members, patients, and visitors, she has learned
34 of no information which she believes relates to the abduction.
35

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37
38 **5. JOE REYER**

39 **JOE REYER**, Route 1, Box 12, Poplarville,
40 Mississippi, was interviewed on April 25, 1959, at 2:00 PM, 1959,
41 by SA's [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. b2c
42 **REYER** advised that on Friday night, April 24, 1959, his
43 wife got sick during the night at about 11:00 or 12:00
44 PM, exact time not known. He walked about a quarter of
45 a mile across the fields to the home of his brother, JOHN
46 REYER, and JOHN came by and bring his wife to
47 the hospital in Poplarville, Miss.

48 He walked back across the fields to his
49 wife ready to go, and shortly thereafter, at about 1:00 AM,
50 arrived in JOHN's pickup truck and brought her to
51 the hospital in Poplarville, Mississippi.

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53 As they were parking in front of the hospital
54 in Poplarville, he heard a "racket" over at the County
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11 which is located upstairs in the courthouse directly
12 across the street from the Pearl River County Hospital.
13 When they parked in front of the hospital, he noted
14 there were no other cars parked in front of the hospital.
15

16 REYER was worried about his wife's condi-
17 tion and did not recall exactly what happened but thought
18 his brother, JOHN, went into the lobby of the hospital
19 with them where his wife took a seat to wait for the
20 nurse to call for a doctor. Thereafter, he did not know
21 what had happened to his brother, JOHN.
22

23 Before he got inside the hospital he
24 heard someone "hollering" for help. The sound appeared
25 to come from the jail, which is located on the upper
26 floors of the courthouse. He heard this voice calling
27 and shouting for at least what appeared to him to be
28 seven or eight minutes. The calling continued after
29 he got into the lobby of the hospital and he got up and
30 closed the front doors to the hospital so his wife would
31 not be disturbed by the noise.
32

33 Sometime later, his brother, JOHN, came
34 into the hospital, but he did not have time to ask JOHN
35 much about what happened outside.
36

37 Since bringing his wife to the hospital,
38 he has received no further information and has had no
39 further opportunity to talk to his brother, JOHN.
40

41 REYER advised he is a former car thief
42 but is now a farmer. He has lived for most of his life
43 in Pearl River County, has always been for law enforce-
44 ment and has always been against mob rule. REYER
45 advised he would cooperate fully in any way possible.
46

47 6. [REDACTED]
48 [REDACTED]
49 [REDACTED]
50 [REDACTED] was interviewed on [REDACTED]
51 [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
52 she was at the Pearl River County Hospital in Poplarville,
53 [REDACTED]
54 [REDACTED]
55 [REDACTED]
56 [REDACTED]
57 [REDACTED]
58 [REDACTED]
59 [REDACTED]
60 [REDACTED]
61 [REDACTED]
62 [REDACTED]

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12 Mississippi, on the night of April 24, 1959, at which time
13 she was sitting with her father-in-law, [REDACTED] who
14 is ill. She stated she was in the room with her father-in-
15 law and Mr. [REDACTED] who was also ill. She stated she
16 did not recall any other individuals that were present in
17 the hospital other than her husband [REDACTED] Mrs.
18 [REDACTED] advised she recalled her husband went out to their
19 car and obtained a jacket and when he returned to the hospital
20 he said, "They got that nigger." [REDACTED] then stated
21 she did not hear anything else regarding the incident and
22 stated she was unable to furnish any information whatsoever.
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24 It was pointed out to [REDACTED] that
25 it did not appear logical that, since her husband had told
26 her that "they got that nigger", she did not make any
27 further inquiry among the visitors or employees of the
28 hospital, and did not overhear or observe any activity
29 by the individuals in the hospital. She stated she did
30 not desire to furnish any further information in connection
31 with this matter, and stated her husband had previously
32 been interviewed by two agents of the FBI and that possibly
33 her husband could furnish further information, but she did
34 not wish to do so.
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36 7. [REDACTED]
37 [REDACTED]
38 [REDACTED]
39 [REDACTED] Mississippi, in the [REDACTED]
40 interviewed on April 25, 1959 by SA's [REDACTED]
41 and [REDACTED]. He was again interviewed [REDACTED]
42 1959, by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
43 [REDACTED] advised he is a carpenter, bricklayer and general
44 [REDACTED]
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46 On the night of April 24, 1959, [REDACTED] and his
47 wife drove into Poplarville to [REDACTED] at the
48 hospital, arriving at the hospital at about [REDACTED] A. M.
49 He left the hospital and came back to the [REDACTED]
50 arriving at about 9:00 to 9:30 P. M. He left [REDACTED] for
51 a short while and got back to the hospital at about [REDACTED]
52 P. M. and then stayed at the hospital [REDACTED] of the time he
53 the room of [REDACTED] until R. J. [REDACTED] called him and, at
54 about 12:20 A. M., April 25, 1959, he and his wife [REDACTED]
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11 to the north entrance of the hospital, got into their
12 car, and drove home.

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14 He recalled that at approximately 11:25
15 P. M., April 24, 1959, his wife left the room to get a
16 Coca-Cola, was gone a few minutes, and returned. At
17 this time, he left the room to go to the candy dispensing
18 machine to get a bar of candy, and went back to the
19 room. He was very groggy and sleepy and tired, inasmuch
20 as he had been working hard during the day and lost
21 quite a bit of sleep at night staying at the hospital
22 and was anxious for T. J. WILKINS to come and see, therefore,
23 looked up at the clock in the hall of the hospital and
24 noted it was 12:05 A. M., April 25, 1959, at the time he
25 got the candy bar.

26
27 A man named [REDACTED] had been in the same
28 room staying with his father just prior to midnight,
29 April 24, 1959, and [REDACTED] had also been in the
30 room at about this time. He asked some and did not
31 recall exactly when [REDACTED] and FRANK WILKINS left the
32 room, and he last remembers seeing them just before going
33 out to get the candy bar and did not see them afterwards.
34 Just prior to this time, [REDACTED] had told them "they"
35 had said something had happened at the [REDACTED] and someone
36 was hollering.

37
38 [REDACTED] wife had also been in the room;
39 however, he did not recall when she left the room. It was
40 his recollection that he first noticed [REDACTED]
41 [REDACTED] at about 11:05 P. M., April 24, 1959.

42
43 At no time did he hear anyone calling for
44 [REDACTED] or hear any cars driving past the hospital.

45
46 He [REDACTED] that his room [REDACTED] that
47 the room in which [REDACTED] had [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
48 opening only to the north end that [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
49 would not have a view of any street [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
50 difficult for anyone in this room to see anything [REDACTED]
51 place outside of the hospital.

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11 He also recalled that JOE BOWER had brought
12 his wife into the hospital at about midnight on April 24,
13 1959, and that JOE and his wife were in the lobby at about
14 the time he got the candy bar.

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16 [redacted] slept late the next morning, did not
17 know what happened until the next morning, and could not
18 state exactly how he found out it happened, but stated it
19 was by either reading a newspaper or hearing a radio
20 broadcast.

21
22 To the best of his recollection, R. J.
23 WHEAT came to relieve [redacted] and his wife at about 12:15
24 A. M., April 25, 1959. He did not recall hearing R. J.
25 WHEAT mention anything about a disturbance at the jail.
26 He did not stay and talk to WHEAT because he was in a big
27 hurry to get home.

28
29 Shortly after [redacted] got back to the room
30 with his candy bar, his wife got up and walked back down
31 the hall toward the Coca-Cola machine and he left the
32 room and walked to the main hall located around the corner
33 and saw his wife in the hall looking into the lobby of
34 the hospital. She came back to the room shortly there-
35 after, but did not comment as to whether or not she had
36 seen anything about the commotion at the jail.

37
38 [redacted] promised to cooperate fully and
39 immediately report any information which might come to his
40 attention which would be pertinent in connection with
41 this case.

42
43 8. [redacted]
44 [redacted]
45 [redacted] interviewed
46 on April 24, 1959, at [redacted]
47 [redacted], a [redacted]
48 [redacted] and [redacted]
49 who resides at [redacted] Republic, [redacted]
50 father [redacted] had been a patient at the [redacted] of

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12 County Hospital, Poplarville, Mississippi, from April
13 16-29, 1959. She said that approximately 9:30 P.M., April
14 24, 1959, her husband drove her from their home to the
15 hospital so that she could stay with her father. She
16 said her husband left the hospital immediately after
17 dropping her there and returned later that night. She
18 said her father's room in the hospital was located on
19 the north, which is in the rear of the hospital. She
20 said that it is not possible to see any streets from
21 these windows. She stated that approximately 9:00 P.M.,
22 April 24, 1959, her husband returned to the hospital
23 alone. She said a short time after he came to the
24 hospital he went for coffee and returned approximately
25 fifteen to twenty minutes later. She did not have the
26 exact time that he left and returned.

27
28 [REDACTED] stated that she was in her
29 father's room at approximately midnight on April 24,
30 1959, and left the room for a few minutes to get a
31 Coca-Cola at the machine in the hospital. She said
32 that this Coca-Cola machine is located approximately
33 five feet north of the lobby entrance in the main
34 corridor of the hospital. It was her recollection that
35 she had gone for the Coca-Cola at approximately midnight
36 or 12:05 A.M., April 25, 1959. She said that when she
37 obtained the Coca-Cola and had started back to her room
38 of her father, she heard screaming. She said she learned
39 from the sounds that the screams were coming from the
40 jail, located in the courthouse across the street from
41 the hospital. She could not recall if the jail
42 doors were open. She definitely recalled hearing at
43 least one cry for help. She could not say whether the
44 person who was crying was white or Negro. She said that at
45 the time she heard the screams she was one of
46 the nurses in the corridor. She did not know the man's
47 name and recalled her only as being the man who was
48 recalled that at this time there were no other people in the
49 lobby of the hospital, although she could not recall the man's
50 identity. It was her recollection that she was in the
51 at the clock at about this time, because she was waiting for
52 her brother, R. J. SMITH, at the hospital. She said that
53 She said that it was her belief it was about five
54 minutes after midnight.

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12 She said she proceeded immediately to
13 her father's room after hearing the screaming and after
14 entering the room told her husband, "I heard someone
15 hollering up in the jail. Someone must be getting
16 beat up or something's happening." She stated she did
17 not even think of the possibility that the person
18 screaming was W. C. PARKER, but that from the sound
19 of the screams it seemed like someone was being beaten
20 or was sick and needed help. She stated she could
21 recall only one specific call for help.

22
23 She said as soon as she had told her
24 husband of the above he left the room. She was of the
25 opinion that he went to get a bar of candy and said
26 he returned not more than five minutes later and with
27 a candy bar.

28
29 She stated that it was her recollection
30 that at the time she had left the room to get her
31 Coca-Cola ~~...~~ were at the time
32 with their father, ~~...~~ who was in the room
33 in the same room with her father. She recalled that
34 ~~...~~ had been in and out of her father's room
35 most of the evening, but she could not specifically
36 recall whether or not he had been in the room at ap-
37 proximately midnight. She said she could not recall
38 specifically whether or not ~~...~~ was in
39 the room when she returned and told her husband of the
40 she had heard. She said that her husband, who remains,
41 about the screams and mentioned nothing, the only con-
42 cerning happenings at the jail when he returned with
43 his candy bar.

44
45 She and her husband left the
46 hospital at approximately 11:30 p.m. on April 23, 1968,
47 at which time they had been told by the nurse, ~~...~~
48 R. J. WHEAT. She said she saw no one when they left
49 the hospital. She pointed out their car was parked
50 on the street directly north of the hospital at the
51 suburb closest to the hospital and headed north on the
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13 that they drove directly from the hospital to their
14 home and saw nothing unusual while on the way home.
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16 She could not recall the names of any
17 other persons whom she had seen in the hospital at the
18 time of hearing the screams.
19

20 She recalled that when R. J. WENT came
21 into the hospital to relieve her she told him about
22 the screams she had heard. She does not recall what
23 he said, if anything, about the incident. It was her
24 recollection that when he came into the hospital he
25 was accompanied by someone whom he was talking to in
26 the hallway, but she could not remember who the person
27 was.
28

29 She said the first she knew that M. G.
30 PARKER had been abducted from the Carney Jail was on
31 the morning of April 26, 1939, when she heard the
32 story on a radio broadcast. She said that on the
33 night of April 25, 1939, R. J. WENT mentioned to her
34 that someone had taken M. G. PARKER from the jail, but
35 he furnished her with no additional details.
36

37 She explained that she had left her
38 father's room on only one occasion at approximately
39 midnight and that was the time she left to obtain the
40 Coca-Cola. She recalled that when she was leaving
41 the hospital at approximately 12:30 AM, she
42 she stopped briefly at the entrance to the lobby, then
43 the main corridor and looked out into the lobby, but
44 she could not recall the value to this investigation.
45

46 She stated that she was supposed to be in
47 matter and had no further information at that time.
48 that time. She promised to call, except for furnishing
49 any information which might come to her attention
50 that would be of value in this case.
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9. [REDACTED]

On April 27, 1969, [REDACTED],
[REDACTED] Poplarville, Mississippi, advised
SA'S [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that on
the night of April 24, 1969, she had been visited by
her sisters until about 11:00 PM, at which time she
went to bed on a sofa in the living room, which is
located in the front portion of her house located one
block from the south entrance of the courthouse. She
stated before going to sleep she had heard someone
calling for help and she believed that this call came
from the direction of the courthouse. She was unable
to describe the call specifically but had the recollection
that it was a cry for help. She stated when
she heard this cry the thought passed through her mind
that some of the law enforcement officers were to
jailing a drunk and that she gave no further thought
to the matter. [REDACTED] stated that she did not
recall hearing the [REDACTED] of any [REDACTED] or cars
passing her home at a high rate of speed near the time
of the cry for help. She added that she did not get
out of bed when she heard the call and that she had no
additional information concerning the incident.

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10. [REDACTED]

On April 27, 1969, [REDACTED],
[REDACTED] Poplarville, Mississippi, advised
SA'S [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that he was
awakened at about midnight [REDACTED] by
the voice of someone who was calling out
"go [REDACTED] quick" or words to that effect. [REDACTED]
stated that he heard this voice several times, but he does
know if it came from jail. [REDACTED] said that he did get
out of bed, but did not go outside and, upon questioning
his wife, she suggested that he go back to jail, but
he said he did. [REDACTED] advised that neither he nor
his wife heard or saw anything other than his own
heard the above-described voice.

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11. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], on May 12, 1959, that she had attended the dance at the Pearl River Junior College on the evening of April 24, 1959. She said that her escort was [REDACTED]. She said that she and [REDACTED] departed the dance at its termination at approximately 11:00 PM, and drove out to Pat's Drive-In Service Station for refreshments. She said that they drove one block south of the courthouse and then west toward her residence. She said that they arrived at her residence at approximately 11:20 to 11:30 PM and, upon walking to her door steps, she observed a 1955 or 1956 Chevrolet parking and with the lights out on the hospital side of West Pearl Street, about three-quarters of a block east of the intersection of West Pearl Street and Strahan. She said that she could not further observe or describe this automobile or see anyone get out of it.

She said that she did not hear any sound upon arriving home from the dance; however, the car that had stopped on West Pearl may have squeaked its tires upon stopping, which could have drawn her attention to it. She said that she did not recall hearing any other noises.

On May 15, 1959, [REDACTED] advised SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] that at approximately 11:00 PM, on April 24, 1959, she had observed the [REDACTED] from window a 1955 or 1956 automobile pass under one street light at the intersection of Pearl and Julia Streets. She said that this car was headed up Pearl Street toward [REDACTED]. She said that the car was partially white and that she had not observed anything unusual concerning this car, other than its fast speed. She said that she was able to identify this car by the type of tail lights that it had.

12. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] college student at Pearl River Junior College, and a resident of Prentiss, Mississippi,

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12 advised SA's [redacted], and [redacted]
13 [redacted] on May 12, 1959, that he had attended the dance at
14 the college on the evening of April 24, 1959, and escorted
15 [redacted]. He said that they departed the dance
16 at its termination at approximately 11:00 PM and then
17 drove to Pat's Drive-In Service Station for refreshments.
18

19 He said that they then drove back north on
20 Route 11 to the intersection of Route 725 where he turned
21 right and drove into Main Street where he headed south.
22 He said that they drove one block south of the courthouse
23 and then right toward the residence of [redacted]. He
24 said that they arrived there at about 11:30 PM as he
25 was walking her to her doorstep she asked him if he had
26 heard a scream or a screech. He replied that he did not
27 hear anything. He said that he did not hear or see anything
28 unusual en route to his home.
29

30 13. [redacted]
31

32 Miss [redacted] Poplarville,
33 Mississippi, was interviewed on April 25, 1959, by SA's
34 [redacted] and [redacted]. She advised
35 she is employed as a waitress at the [redacted] cafe, Poplarville,
36 [redacted]. She stated that on
37 April 24, 1959, she came to work at 5:00 PM and worked
38 until 5:00 AM, April 25, 1959. It was her recollection
39 that Mrs. [redacted] aka Mrs. [redacted] was
40 working as a waitress until 10:00 PM, on April 24, 1959.
41 Miss [redacted] stated it is customary that at 10:00 PM the
42 doors to the cafe are locked and she then cleans up and
43 begins preparation for breakfast, re-opening the cafe again
44 at 11 AM. She stated it is customary for her to admit
45 customers to her after locking up in the event they
46 desire coffee or tea. She said that it
47 is customary for [redacted] Poplarville, Mississippi,
48 to stop at the cafe shortly after 10:00 PM to get coffee for
49 coffee. She said he picks up mail at the depot and takes
50 it to the depot for deposit on a train which leaves Poplarville
51 at approximately 11:00 PM. She was quite certain that he had been in
52 shortly after 10:00 on the night of April 24, 1959. She
53 stated she was unable to recall whether anyone else had been in
54 [redacted] had been in the store the night of April 24, 1959,
55 but definitely recalled no strangers had been in the cafe.
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12 She stated that at an unknown time on the
13 night of April 24, 1959, or early morning of April 25,
14 1959, she received a phone call at the cafe from a woman.
15 This woman did not identify herself and [redacted] did
16 not recognize her voice. The woman said, [redacted]
17 [redacted] said she knew the woman was referring to PETE
18 CARVER, the Night Marshal, and she told the woman he was
19 not there. She said she went to the door and looked out
20 on the street and did not see any automobiles moving nor
21 any persons on the street and did not see CARVER. She
22 returned to the phone and advised the woman she could
23 not see him and the woman said, "Tell him to come to the
24 jail," and then hung up.

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26 She said about fifteen to thirty minutes
27 after receiving this phone call she went to the door of
28 the cafe and stayed for a few minutes. She then saw a
29 car coming down Main Street headed south. As it neared
30 the cafe, it slowed down and she recognized PETE CARVER
31 in the car. She said she believed someone was with him,
32 but she could not see who it was nor how many were in it.
33 She said he stopped a short distance beyond the door
34 and she called to him and told him she had received a
35 call asking that he come to the jail. She said he then
36 started up the car, but she did not observe which direction
37 he drove and she went back inside the cafe immediately.

38
39 [redacted] said no one else came to the
40 cafe after she had spoken to CARVER until [redacted] E
41 appeared at the door. She did not know the time CARVER
42 REYER came to the cafe, but estimated it was not less
43 than fifteen minutes or more than two hours after PETE
44 CARVER left. She said she recognized CARVER and noted
45 it was [redacted] to come to the cafe at this hour.
46 She answered [redacted] with a [redacted] call [redacted] in it.
47 When he came into the cafe, he [redacted] a cup of
48 coffee, which she served him. She said [redacted] some-
49 thing to the effect that "they were having [redacted]
50 trouble at the jail" and that the "law" was [redacted].
51 She said she asked him what kind of trouble [redacted] in
52 effect "it looked like they were bringing [redacted] in."
53 She said he furnished no other information [redacted] the cafe
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b7c
b7D

question him further concerning this matter. She said he stayed at the cafe approximately five minutes and during that time they discussed the fact that he had brought his sister-in-law, a Mrs. [REDACTED] to the hospital. She said she had not seen or talked to JOHN REYER since that time.

b2c

It was her recollection that, approximately one hour after JOHN REYER left, PENE CARVER, the Night Marshal, B. F. ORR, the Day Marshal, and H. J. OWENS came to the cafe for coffee. She said B. F. ORR said something to her to the effect that "the negro that was to be tried has gotten out or has been taken out. She said that was her first information that the victim had been abducted from the county jail. She said there was no further conversation between her and any of the other men concerning the incident and she overheard no conversation on their part regarding this matter. It was her recollection that the above three men had come to the cafe at approximately 3:00 A. M., April 25, 1959.

She said she did not recall seeing any strangers at the cafe the night of April 24 or morning of April 25, 1959. She said she heard no unusual noises and saw no unusual activities during that period. She said there were no phone calls to the cafe or from the men mentioned above. She said she had no interest in this matter, but promised her cooperation in furnishing any information of value she might receive.

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IV. LOCATION AND IDENTIFICATION
OF BUCK CHARLES PARSONS

On May 4, 1959, at 10:50 A. M., a body was located in a driftwood jam in the Pearl River one-half mile upstream from Richardson's Landing. The body was approximately fifty feet from the Mississippi bank of the Pearl River, the river being approximately 100 yards wide at that point. The body was first noticed by MSP Trooper [REDACTED] who was in a boat with SA [REDACTED] of the FBI, searching Pearl River. b7c

The body was facing upstream and only the right arm, shoulder and head protruded from the jam of driftwood. This location is approximately two and one-half miles south of the Highway 26 Bridge over the Pearl River.

Upon location of the body, Pearl River County Attorney WILLIAM H. STEWART was notified and, at his request, Justice of the Peace WALTER DAVIS, Gretna, Louisiana, was contacted and advised of the location of an unidentified body. DAVIS located persons to serve on the coroner's jury and proceeded to Richardson's Landing on the Pearl River. Following adjournment of the coroner's jury, the body was removed to Charity Hospital at Bogalusa, Louisiana, for the purpose of autopsy and identification.

Attached hereto are ten photographs taken by SA [REDACTED] of the location where the body was found and the removal of the body to Richardson's Landing. These photographs are described as follows: b2c

1. A view of the point where the pile of driftwood is located.
2. View downstream showing the location where the pile of driftwood is located.
3. The pile of driftwood where the body was located, taken from the Mississippi side of the river.

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(4) A view of the pile of driftwood, taken about fifteen (15) feet upstream, showing the location of the body in the driftwood.

(5, 6 & 7) Views of the body being removed from the pile of driftwood.

(8) A view of the body hanging over the front end of the boat at Richardson's Landing showing the method by which the body was pulled back from the driftwood to the landing.

(9 & 10) Two views of the body after it was removed to the beach at the landing.

On May 4, 1959, SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], obtained ink fingerprints from fingers one through nine of the body at Charity Hospital, and no impression could be obtained from finger ten due to extensive decomposition. Comparison of these impressions was made with a known set of fingerprints from the Pearl River County Sheriff's Office of MACK CHARLES PARKER and they were found to be identical by SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The Identification Division of the FBI confirmed this identification. b7c

In the presence of SA JOSEPH M. MEYERS, Jr. W. F. STRINGER, Poplarville, Mississippi, conducted an autopsy of MACK CHARLES PARKER in a small building at the rear of Charity Hospital, Bogalusa, Louisiana, from 9:00 PM to 10:55 PM on May 4, 1959, and advised of the following re

Dr. STRINGER advised there were no signs of a bullet hole or any penetrating marks in the skull and there were no visible fractures in the skull or neck. Dr. STRINGER advised that the skull was perfectly intact. The brain was completely degenerated.

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12 Dr. STRINGER advised that the neck was not
13 broken; however, the back of the neck was completely eaten
14 away by maggots. A bruise of about four inches by eight
15 inches was noted on the right shoulder blade by Dr. STRINGER,
16 which he stated could have been caused by an injury. Dr.
17 STRINGER further stated that this injury could have also
18 extended into the back of the neck.

19
20 Dr. STRINGER advised further that there was
21 a penetrating hole of one-fourth inch in diameter in the
22 right chest, which made entrance in the lower border of
23 the fifth rib and this hole corresponded to a one-half
24 inch hole at the lower level of the tenth rib. A one-eighth
25 inch hole was probed by Dr. STRINGER in the back of the body
26 between the shoulder blades. Dr. STRINGER stated that this
27 hole was one-fourth inch in diameter and appeared to have
28 what looked like powder burns around the diameter outside
29 area. This hole went through the left auricle of the heart
30 and out through the front breast bone, although the bones
31 were broken. At the exit this hole was approximately one-
32 half inch in diameter.

33
34 The tenth rib on the left side of the body
35 had, according to Dr. STRINGER, what appeared to be a
36 chipped place, which he believed could have been caused by
37 a ricocheting foreign body. Part of this rib was removed
38 from the body by Dr. STRINGER and it appeared to have a
39 fracture.

40
41 Dr. STRINGER stated that the lungs did not
42 appear to have any water in them, although this would have
43 to be definitely determined by the pathologist. Dr. STRINGER
44 stated that the lungs appeared to have only air and no
45 liquid. Dr. STRINGER also stated that, if the
46 deceased had drowned, the lungs would have had water in them.

47
48 Dr. STRINGER further stated that the deceased's
49 genitalia was intact.

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51 Dr. STRINGER stated that the following parts
52 of the deceased body were to be examined
53 by pathologists:
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1. Skin from entrance and exit holes.
2. Lungs and heart.
3. Part of the tenth rib.
4. Skin from the right shoulder blade.

Dr. STRINGER stated that, in view of the one-fourth inch hole in the left auricle of the heart and the blood in the chest cavity, it was his opinion that death was caused by a penetration in the left auricle of the heart. Dr. STRINGER added that, because of decomposition, there was no way to definitely determine whether victim was beaten.

Dr. STRINGER also added that it appeared that, in view of the lack of water in the lungs, death probably took place prior to the body going into the water. Dr. STRINGER stated that he could not determine from the decomposition of the body exactly how long it had been in the water, but the body had been in the water for some time.

Dr. STRINGER stated that he had probed considerably in the body, but was unable to locate any bullets or fragments of bullets.

The records of the Department of Defense, Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri, reflect that the blood type of JACK CHARLES PARKER, Serial Number RA 14499151, is "O."

On May 5, 1959, the Coroner's Jury, Poplarville, Mississippi, found that the body was that of PARKER and death was caused by wounds made by two one-fourth inch projectiles at the hands of person or persons unknown.

The following is copy of affidavit prepared by Dr. W. F. STANLEY regarding the body as furnished by County Attorney WILLIAM H. STANLEY:

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13 "STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
14 COUNTY OF PEARL RIVER
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16 AFFIDAVIT
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18 "This day personally appeared before me,
19 the undersigned authority, in and for the aforesaid juris-
20 diction, Dr. W. F. STRINGER, M. D., personally known to me,
21 who after having been duly sworn by me deposes and says
22 that he is a duly licensed and practicing Doctor of Medicine
23 in the State of Mississippi and that on May 4, pursuant
24 to an order issued by Judge WALTER E. DAVIS, acting coroner,
25 he performed an autopsy on a male body which was found on
26 said date and that his findings were as follows:
27

28 "General: This is the body of an adult colored
29 male in a bad state of decomposition. Fly larvae are covering
30 the head and neck. The tissues of the neck and face are
31 in such a state of decomposition and partial digestion by the
32 maggots that none of the facial characteristics are identifiable.
33 There is a large area over the left shoulder,
34 posteriorly, which appears to be roughened. This merges into
35 the maggot infested area back of the neck. Possibly the
36 superficial layers of the epidermis are missing. There are
37 two quarter-inch circular openings in the anterior chest
38 wall: one located in the fifth intercostal space just to
39 the right of the sternum; the other located in the 2nd inter-
40 costal space just to the right of the sternum. Posteriorly
41 on the chest wall there are two circular openings approxi-
42 mately one-quarter inch in diameter. Each of these openings
43 are surrounded by a blackened area approximately one-half
44 inch thick. A superior opening is found just to the
45 left of the vertebral column, but medial to the scapula.
46 An inferior opening is located along the posterior axillary
47 line at the level of the 5th or 6th rib. There are no
48 other marks of identification or of injury on the body. The
49 body is clad in shorts and undershirt.
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51 "Skull: The tissues covering the skull are
52 retracted easily. There is no evidence of any fracture or
53 other injury to the cranium.
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12 "Neck: The soft tissues of the neck are
13 badly disfigured by the fly larvae. The cervical verte-
14 brae are freely moveable and there is no evidence of
15 fracture or displacement.

16
17 "Description of the course of the circular
18 openings which resemble a wound made by quarter-inch,
19 high-speed projectiles.

20
21 "Anterior superior wound left a course of
22 tissue injury from the skin through the left auricle of
23 the heart making an exit at the level of the 4th rib
24 posteriorly to the right of the vertebral column but
25 medial to the scapula. The inferior wound made a pene-
26 trating course from the 5th intercostal space to the
27 right of the sternum to the posterior portion of the 10th
28 rib. There is a groove in the superior border of this
29 rib. No points of entrance or exit are established from
30 the gross specimens of the heart and lungs along the course
31 of the supposed inferior foreign body penetration.

32
33 "As the chest cavity was opened the heart was
34 found to be flabby, and apparently partially ruptured. The
35 lungs are collapsed and darkly discolored. Both sides of
36 the chest cavity contain approximately 500 cc of dark
37 unclotted blood. No clots are noted. No perforation of
38 the diaphragm is detected. There are some fine granular
39 crystals of uniform size in the fluid of the chest cavity.
40 The specific gravity of these was greater than that of the
41 fluid. The crystals have the appearance of coarse sand.
42 No fragments or pieces of any other foreign body are
43 identified.

44
45 "Abdominal cavity: On opening of the ab-
46 dominal cavity no fluid is detected. This cavity
47 was explored no further.

48
49 "On phone conversation with Dr. J. H. DEWITT
50 permission to release the following was obtained.
51 Lungs showed no evidence of fluid. There was no evidence of
52 injury in the left auricle and of the pulmonary artery. These
53 are believed to be incompatible with life.

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"SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED before me this 5th
day of May, A. D., 1959.

"
NOTARY PUBLIC

"My Commission Expires
_____"

On May 11, 1959, Dr. W. F. SMITH, Poplarville, Mississippi, provided a copy of his report of "Autopsy Examination", submitted to him by [REDACTED], Pathologist, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, which report is dated May 9, 1959: b7c

"AUTOPSY

"GROSS: Material labeled 'Small lower chest, right, anterior' consists of a fragment of skin and underlying tissue, measuring 4.5 cm. in diameter, the epithelium black with brownish thick discolored areas surrounding a 0.4 cm. defect in the central portion which leads into the underlying tissue, the edges of this defect grayish and friable. Material labeled A, and representative portions embedded.

"Material labeled 'Small face upper anterior chest' consists of a roughly rectangular fragment of black skin and some underlying tissue, specimen measuring 7.0 x 4.0 cm., the epithelial surface rather stiff and leathery, the central portion having a 0.5 cm. round defect through which [REDACTED] passed. The edges of this defect are also [REDACTED] and friable. Representative portion embedded.

"Specimen labeled 'Small lower chest, anterior chest' consists of an oblong fragment of skin and underlying tissue, measuring 7.0 cm. long, up to 4.0 cm. wide and 4.0 cm. thick, the epithelial surface rather leathery, partially discolored at one end. There is a defect in the skin at the top of a penetrating injury 0.3 cm. in diameter, the epithelium [REDACTED]

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12 "surrounding this partially denuded, the total defect so
13 denuded approximately 1.0 cm. in diameter. Representative
14 portion embedded, material labeled C.

15
16 "Material labeled 'skin from left shoulder,
17 posterior' consists of an irregular shaped mass of leathery,
18 partially decomposed tissue measuring approximately 10.0
19 x 7.0 cm., the epithelial surface not recognizable except
20 that it contrasts with the underlying muscle and subcutaneous
21 tissue. There is cystic change beneath the ragged surface.
22 Representative portion embedded and material labeled D.

23
24 "Specimen labeled 'rib from anterior chest,
25 upper wound' consists of the cartilagenous portion of a
26 rib, the structure being 5.0 cm. long, showing the usual
27 architecture, cut surface showing calcification in the
28 perichondrium, in some areas the structure surrounded by
29 rubbery, partially decomposed muscle showing a dark area
30 of discoloration. This area does not penetrate the
31 cartilagenous portion of the rib. Representative portion
32 embedded.

33
34 "Received separately are heart and lungs,
35 the lungs badly decomposed, containing many small cystic
36 areas and blebs, these most probably secondary to gas
37 forming bacilli. No gross lesions of the lungs can be
38 made out.

39
40 "There is a defect in the anterior portion
41 of the pulmonary artery in the form of a penetrating injury,
42 the hole approximately 0.4 to 0.5 cm. in diameter, the edge
43 ragged. This passes backwards and the opposite side of the
44 pulmonary artery has a much larger hole. The defect is
45 on the left auricle, penetrates the auricle
46 above the aortic ring, extends toward the posterior
47 portion and destroying a good portion of the inter-auricular
48 septum; enters the left ventricle just above the aortic ring
49 and leaves the left ventricle just below the large branch of
50 the left coronary artery. The defect here is approximately
51 0.4 cm. in diameter.

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53 "Also received by mail 7/23/43 is a segment
54 of bone and attached muscle labeled 'section of both ribs'

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12 "This is a segment of rib approximately 10.0 cm. long and of
13 the usual architecture. In the near central portion there
14 is a defect on the edge of the rib resulting in a slight
15 groove and a splintering on the posterior or inner surface
16 such as would be left by a projectile coming from the
17 outside and 'nicking' the rib. The marrow cavity does not
18 appear to have been entered. Only the cortical bone is
19 involved. No sections taken.

20
21 "MICROSCOPIC: Sections of specimen A
22 ('wound lower chest right') show a centrally located pene-
23 trating injury, the configuration of the fibers indicating
24 that it is a wound of entrance. Cellular detail is
25 obscured by necrosis of tissue. There are numerous foreign
26 particles in the deeper portions of the track, some having
27 the appearance of pollen or diatoms, some dark brown wavy
28 fibrils and some clear crystalline fragments. There is a
29 'contact zone' involving the overlying skin.

30
31 "Sections of specimen B show similar findings,
32 again a wound of entrance with less foreign material, only
33 brownish granular amorphous material being present.

34
35 "Sections of specimen C, indicate a wound of
36 exit on the basis of the distortion of the fibers. Preser-
37 vation is poor, there is much foreign material including parts
38 of insects.

39
40 "Sections of specimen D also show a track
41 though it is less clear cut. Subcutaneous tissue is pushed
42 upwards and the lesion is interpreted as a wound of exit.

43
44 "Sections of the anterior portion of the
45 pulm. ... show a wound of entrance on the basis of
46 the distortion of the fibers.

47
48 "SUMMARY: Material expressed from the peri-
49 pheral portions of the lungs contained no organic matter.
50 Specimens from the anterior portion of the body (specimens
51 were interpreted as containing wounds of entrance, those
52 from the posterior as containing wounds of exit. The stage
53 of decomposition of the lungs was such that no wounds could

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12 be identified. The character and alignment of the holes in
13 the pulmonary artery and heart were such that it is inter-
14 preted that they were all made by the same missile and the
15 appearance of the wounds make it unlikely that they were
16 caused by a sharp instrument that was used to pierce them.
17 The defect in the rib, said to be approximately the 11th
18 rib, would indicate that the path of projectile was from
19 below upwards and the missile most probably left the body
20 through the defect in the left shoulder.

21
22 "Since the defects in the pulmonary artery
23 and heart are not compatible with life for more than a few
24 minutes and no organs suffer or show any signs of damage
25 could be expressed from the peripheral portion of the body,
26 my opinion is that death resulted from the damage to the
27 pulmonary artery and heart and that they were pierced by a
28 missile that passed through the body.

29
30 On May 11, 1959, [REDACTED] b7c
31 cussed the above report with Dr. [REDACTED].
32 said the report was complete, except that the [REDACTED]
33 did not mention one specimen sent to him, the [REDACTED]
34 the exit point of the lower of the two wounds. He stated
35 that material labeled "A" in the report was [REDACTED]
36 lying tissue taken from the front of the [REDACTED]
37 wound in the lower chest. Portions of this [REDACTED]
38 indicating a penetrating injury with entrance [REDACTED]
39 front that nicked the torn rib on the [REDACTED]
40 This wound did not go below the diaphragm and [REDACTED]
41 at a slight angle to exit at the back. [REDACTED]
42 numerous foreign particles in the [REDACTED]
43 track, some having the appearance of [REDACTED]
44 (small, microscopic high having a [REDACTED]
45 [REDACTED] way fibrous and some [REDACTED]
46 STRINER suggested [REDACTED]
47 decide or better that [REDACTED]
48 placed in the water.

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50 He advised specimens [REDACTED]
51 and tissue from the [REDACTED]
52 In line with this entrance wound [REDACTED]
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12 the artery going to the lung, with a larger hole in the back
13 side of this artery, showing that the entrance was from the
14 front. This track then passes through the left upper
15 chamber of the heart above the mitral valve and exits just
16 below the large branch of the left coronary artery after
17 destroying a good portion of the septum (section of heart
18 dividing the left and right portions of the heart). The
19 exit wound through the back indicated a direct path as set
20 out above. There was less foreign matter in this wound with
21 only brownish granular amorphous material being present.

22
23 This upper wound could not have been made
24 a sharp instrument that was withdrawn because the fibers of
25 the track all showed passage of a missile from front to
26 back. This one wound would have caused death in a very
27 few minutes, and the finding was that death resulted from
28 defects in the pulmonary artery and heart and that these
29 defects were caused by a missile that passed through the
30 body.

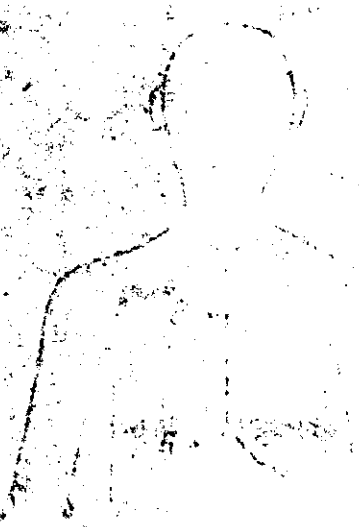
31
32 Dr. STRINGER said it was his opinion that
33 the two wounds were caused by high-speed projectiles,
34 probably jacketed bullets, fired from a rifle or target-type
35 pistol. These exited from the body in only slightly larger
36 wounds than the point of entry and they would have caused
37 very little bleeding. An ordinary lead bullet would have
38 expanded on passing through the body and would have left
39 large exit wounds entirely different from those in the body.

40
41 Dr. STRINGER also said it was his opinion that
42 both wounds ranged upward slightly. Their position in the
43 body indicated that they were made while the victim was
44 propped up with the person doing the shooting standing at the
45 feet of the victim, but he said this was only an opinion and
46 that there might be other circumstances that would have
47 caused the same missile path.

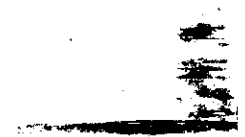
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49 The following sketch was called from the
50 prepared by Dr. STRINGER to show the relative positions of
51 the entrance and exit wounds:
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V. KNOWN AND SUSPECTED PARTICIPANTS
IN THE ASSAULT ON MARTIN LUTHER
LUTHER KING FROM THE PEARL RIVER COUNTY
JAIL, POPLARVILLE, MISSISSIPPI.

A. NAME CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS REYER,
also known as Criss Columbus
Reyer, Crip .

RESIDENCE RFD, McNeill, Mississippi

OCCUPATION Farmer and part-time barber

AGE 43

HAROLD PIERRE CARVER, also known as Pete
Carver, Night Marshal, Poplarville, Mississippi, advised
SA's [redacted] and [redacted] on May
6, 1968, that a man known to him as "Crip" REYER owned a
red Oldsmobile "60" which was used as the getaway car.
He advised that his reason for believing that the car of
REYER was used was the fact that "Crip" REYER came to
him at the Amoco Service Station north of Poplarville at
approximately midnight on the night of April 24, 1968,
and called to him, after which REYER talked to him for
approximately five or ten minutes. CARVER said that this
occurred as he, B. F. ORR, R. J. WHEAT, and [redacted]
[redacted] were leaving the Amoco Service Station after
they had had coffee and were en route downtown. CARVER
was of the opinion that REYER had detained him in order
to [redacted] not get to the vicinity of the Pearl River
County Jail during the time of REYER's abduction. He
pointed out that this incident occurred at what he believed
to be the exact time that PARKER was released from
the jail. He further pointed out that [redacted] previously
furnished regarding his car stalling and being
starting was not true and that he had actually been delayed
by "Crip" REYER.

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13 **CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS REYER, McNeill**

14 Mississippi was contacted by SA's [redacted]
15 and [redacted] on May 7, 1969. In the course of
16 that interview, REYER claimed that on the night of April
17 24, 1969, he went to Poplarville with [redacted] SHIPPI to
18 see a cattle dealer known as [redacted]. Upon not
19 finding him, he went to the bar area, stayed in
20 Poplarville for a short while and then returned to his
21 home in McNeill about 10:30 PM. He denied having been
22 in Poplarville about midnight on the night of April 24,
23 1969.
24

25 At this time, REYER admitted he is the
26 owner of a 1957 Oldsmobile "38", bearing 1969 Mississippi
27 license 723-358. He consented to an examination of this
28 automobile by Agents of the FBI and without being asked
29 said that there would possibly be blood in the car from a
30 lasso used in the handling of cattle. Upon being further
31 questioned regarding the car without mention of the blood,
32 he stated that in addition there would possibly be blood
33 in the car from game chickens which he had carried to
34 New Orleans, Louisiana, on May 3, 1969. When asked why
35 he was volunteering information regarding blood which
36 would be found in his car and which had not been asked for
37 or mentioned by the Agents, he replied that it was his
38 understanding that Agents of the FBI were looking for
39 automobiles in and about Poplarville with blood in them
40 and he merely wanted to explain why there was possibly
41 blood in the back of his car. When he was told that it
42 was possible to distinguish between animal blood and human
43 blood he then said that it was possible that he had cut
44 himself while handling cattle. He exhibited two finger
45 nail scratches on his right hand and pointed to
46 a place at the base of the ring nail as being the place
47 he had been cut.
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49 A preliminary examination of the vehicle was
50 made on May 7, 1969, and the car was placed under
51 physical surveillance until the morning of May 8, 1969.
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12 On May 8, 1959, the 1957 Oldsmobile, bearing
13 Mississippi tag 723-358, was inspected by SA [redacted] b7c
14 [redacted], dusted for latent fingerprints and the follow-
15 ing latents were located and lifts were made:

- 16 (1) Two latents located and lifts
17 prepared on rear license plate.
18 (2) Numerous latents located and
19 lifts prepared from back of rear-view mirror.
20

21 Photographs were made of the latents.
22

23 On May 14, 1959, the Latent Fingerprint
24 Section of the Identification Division of the FBI advised
25 that two latent fingerprints of value appeared on the lifts
26 and in the film negatives described as being from the
27 license plate of the 1957 Oldsmobile of C. C. MEYER. Two
28 latent fingerprints and one fingertip impression appeared
29 on lifts and in negatives described as being from the rear-
30 view mirror. The two latent fingerprints described as being
31 from the license plate were found identical with the right
32 index and middle fingerprints of MEYER. One fingertip
33 impression described as being from the rear-view mirror
34 is identical with the right little fingerprint of MEYER.
35 Two latent fingerprints from the rear-view mirror remain
36 unidentified.
37

38 On May 8, 1959, an FBI Laboratory Examiner
39 examined the 1957 Oldsmobile of C. C. MEYER by MEYER's home
40 at McNeill, Mississippi, and removed the following from the
41 automobile:

- 42
43 (1) Scrapings from right rear door
44
45 (2) Scrapings from left rear door
46 panel.
47
48 (3) Scrapings from back of rear seat.
49 (4) Scrapings from left portion of
50 rear seat.
51 (5) Scrapings from left middle portion
52 of rear seat.
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12 (6) Scrapings from right middle
13 portion of rear seat.
14 (7) Scrapings from left side of rear
15 seat.
16 (8) Scrapings from right side of rear
17 seat.
18 (9) Pieces of matting from under left
19 side of rear floor mat.
20 (10) Pieces of matting from under right
21 side of rear floor mat.
22 (11) Rope from trunk.
23 (12) Sweepings from right portion of
24 rear floor mat.
25 (13) Sweepings from left portion of
26 rear floor mat.
27 (14) Sweepings from front floor mat.
28 (15) Debris from rear seat.
29 (16) Hairs from trunk.
30

31 On May 13, 1959, the FBI Laboratory advised
32 that specimens 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 were found to consist
33 of human blood. The amount of blood present in these
34 specimens was insufficient for grouping purposes. Blood
35 stains of bovine origin were identified on Item 11 from
36 the trunk of the car. A black Negroid head hair was found
37 in Item 12 but is dissimilar in microscopic characteristics
38 to the known head hairs from PARKER. Numerous light brown
39 Caucasian head hairs were found in Items 13 through 14 and
40 in Item 15. Numerous beef hairs were adhering to the rope,
41 Item 11. No human hairs were found on the rope. The hairs
42 in Item 13 from the trunk are of beef origin.
43

44 On May 7, 1959, LENA MAE CRISS, McComb, Mississippi,
45 was interviewed at Picayune, Mississippi,
46 by SA [REDACTED]. She stated that at about
47 7:00 AM on Friday, April 24, 1959, her husband left
48 their home, which is some four miles west of McComb,
49 Mississippi, and was to go to the barber shop which CRISS
50 REYER operates on a part-time basis at McComb, Mississippi.
51 CRISS REYER did not return home until about 3:00 AM, on
52 Friday evening, April 24, 1959, and there was no contact with
53 him when he came home. He was driving a Chevrolet pick-
54 up truck when he arrived home. When CRISS arrived home,
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10 [REDACTED], and Mrs.
11 REYER were at the REYER residence and were watching tele-
12 vision but she could not recall what television program
13 was on. CRISS informed her that he had been to Poplarville
14 before he came home that evening.

15
16 LENA MAE REYER stated that her husband, CRISS
17 REYER, did not leave home again after around eight o'clock
18 during the entire night. She slept with her husband that
19 night and she is positive he did not leave the house. Her
20 husband went to bed about 11:00 or 11:15 PM, which was
21 before she and the rest of the family went to bed. The
22 only people who have ever had possession and driven the
23 1957 Oldsmobile which is owned by the REYER family are
24 [REDACTED] and CRISS REYER. There are
25 only two sets of keys for this car and one set of the keys
26 belongs to CRISS REYER and the other to [REDACTED]
27 [REDACTED]

28
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31 [REDACTED] advised SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
32 on May 7, 1959, that she and her mother spent the
33 night of April 24, 1959, with her mother and step-father at
34 McNeill, Mississippi. She and her husband arrived at the
35 home of "Crip" REYER sometime between 8:00 and 8:30 PM on
36 April 24, 1959, at which time her mother and her sister
37 were the only ones at the house. She advised that her
38 step-father arrived home at approximately 9:30 or 10:00 PM
39 on April 24, 1959, had supper and thereafter drove to
40 Poplarville, Mississippi, to see about some cattle. He
41 returned home about 10:30 PM on that night and on this
42 occasion he was accompanied by ARTHUR SMITH who remained
43 at the house when REYER came into the house, but
44 that REYER, after SMITH to his home, returned to his
45 residence and did not leave again that night.

46
47
48 REYER was reinterviewed on [REDACTED] by
49 SA's [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], at
50 which time he advised that his [REDACTED] in the
51 abduction of FARMER. He was reinterviewed on [REDACTED], 1959,
52 by SA's [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
53 12, 1959, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
54 and on May 14, 1959, furnished the following signed statement:
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11 "Poplarville, Mississippi
12 "May 14, 1959

13
14 "I, Christopher Columbus Meyer, make the
15 following statement freely and voluntarily to
16 Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] b7c
17 [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as
18 Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
19 I have been told that I do not have to make a state-
20 ment and any statement made by me can be used against
21 me in a court of law. I have also been advised that
22 I have the right to talk with an attorney but do not
23 desire one at this time. No threats or promises have
24 been made to me to get me to make this statement. I
25 have been advised that any false information given by
26 me with regard to this matter to the above Agents
27 can be used as basis for prosecution against me
28 under Title 18 Section 1001 US Code.

29
30 "I was born January 10, 1914, Lamar County,
31 Mississippi. I have a high school education.

32
33 "On April 24, 1959 I closed my barber shop
34 at McNeill, Mississippi at about 8:30 P. M. Arthur
35 Smith was waiting for me and we had a cup of coffee
36 at Pat's store in McNeill, Miss.

37
38 "I wish to state that shortly after noon
39 on April 24, 1959 Francis Barker came to my barber
40 shop and I shaved him. At this time Barker told me
41 that there was going to be a meeting on Virginia
42 road east of Poplarville, that night somewhere
43 Barker who was in jail at Poplarville. Barker then
44 asked me if I wanted to go and gave me directions
45 to the meeting place. He told me to cross
46 Wolf creek and go out one mile and turn left on a
47 crooked road which would be the second road and the
48 the first house on the right. I told Barker I didn't
49 care 'particularly' about going. I did not see
50 Barker and he did not tell me at this time the names
51 of anybody who was to be at this meeting. I had no
52 further discussion with Barker at this time regarding
53 the meeting.