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VI

East St. Louis Riot Investigation

Friday, Oct 26 - 1917

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Howard B. Smith,  
Stenographer Reporter,  
10-11 Equity Bldg.

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10/26/17

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1917.

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The Committee met at 10.30 a.m., Honorable Ben Johnson, (Chairman) presiding.

STATEMENT OF JOHN EUBANKS, (colored)

628 St. Louis Ave.,

EAST ST. LOUIS, ILLINOIS.

The witness was sworn by Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Johnson: What is your name?

Mr. Eubanks: John Eubanks.

Mr. Johnson: Where do you live?

Mr. Eubanks: 628 St. Louis Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois.

Mr. Johnson: How long have you lived in East St. Louis?

Mr. Eubanks: Twenty-five years.

Mr. Johnson: How old are you?

Mr. Eubanks: Forty-three.

Mr. Johnson: What is your occupation?

Mr. Eubanks: Special Officer.

Mr. Johnson: Police officer?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: How long have you been such?

Mr. Eubanks: About seven years.

Mr. Johnson: What do you mean by special officer?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, it is ordinarily termed city detective.

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Mr. Johnson: Plain clothes man?

Mr. Eubanks: Plain clothes man - work in plain clothes, not in uniform.

Mr. Johnson: What do you know about the May riot, or any cause leading up to it?

Mr. Eubanks: I couldn't say that I know of any cause. I just simply have an opinion.

Mr. Johnson: Well, if that opinion is based on either knowledge or information, even though it be hearsay, tell what it is?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, in my opinion there are several different things that led up to the race riot of May 28th and July 2nd. One of the things in my opinion is the economic labor conditions here.

Mr. Johnson: Tell about that.

Mr. Eubanks: We have quite a large number of big plants, large plants, that employ <sup>thousands</sup> ~~lots~~ of men, and we have had much unrest among the employees of those different plants, and the outcome was that we had several strikes at the different plants.

Mr. Johnson: When?

Mr. Eubanks: Oh, in the last two years.

Mr. Johnson: What strike have you had in 1917?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, we have had at the American Steel Company a certain portion of the labor there struck - the rollers.

Mr. Johnson: When?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, I think to the best of my knowledge during the month of June.

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Mr. Johnson: Plain clothes man?

Mr. Eubanks: Plain clothes man - work in plain clothes, not in uniform.

Mr. Johnson: What do you know about the May riot, or any cause leading up to it?

Mr. Eubanks: I couldn't say that I know of any cause. I just simply have an opinion.

Mr. Johnson: Well, if that opinion is based on either knowledge or information, even though it be hearsay, tell what it is?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, in my opinion there are several different things that led up to the race riot of May 28th and July 2nd. One of the things in my opinion is the economic labor conditions here.

Mr. Johnson: Tell about that.

Mr. Eubanks: We have quite a large number of big plants, large plants, that employ <sup>thousands</sup> ~~lots~~ of men, and we have had much unrest among the employees of those different plants, and the outcome was that we had several strikes at the different plants.

Mr. Johnson: When?

Mr. Eubanks: Oh, in the last two years.

Mr. Johnson: What strike have you had in 1917?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, we have had at the American Steel Company a certain portion of the labor there struck - the molders.

Mr. Johnson: When?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, I think to the best of my knowledge during the month of June.

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Mr. Johnson: That was after the May riots.

Mr. Eubanks: After the May riots.

Mr. Johnson: You say a certain portion of them.

What per cent of them?

Mr. Eubanks: I think the molders, the employees known as molders.

Mr. Eubanks: How many of them?

Mr. Eubanks: I was informed by one of the employees of the foundry that about 100 of them struck.

Mr. Johnson: You are certain now that there was such a strike as you have just described?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir; I personally know there was such a strike.

Mr. Johnson: Well, is there any other cause now, leading up to that strike?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, as to the cause leading up to the strike, I do not know just what the real cause was that led up to the strike.

Mr. Johnson: Well, you said that there were several and that economic conditions was one of them. Now I am asking you for other causes.

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Mr. Eubanks: Well, in many instances I have learned just by hearing conversations, of laboring men, that the colored men were unorganized. I have heard <sup>some of</sup> the employees of the different plants say that on that account they were a menace to organized labor. I know, however, after the first riot on May 28th, a committee of colored men was - there was an audience between a committee of colored men and the central trades labor council. I think Dr. Blewett,

4 and Dr. Bundy and Lawyer Lille, a colored attorney here, comprised that committee, and they met with the Central Trades Labor Union. The object was, if they correctly inferred me, was to see what could be done towards organizing the colored men. They seemed to be of the opinion at that time that in the event the colored men were organized it would practically put an end to the unrest that seemed to exist between organized labor and unorganized labor, especially the colored men, they being unorganized.

Mr. Johnson: Do you know when and where that meeting was held?

Mr. Eubanks: I can't give you the date of it, but I was informed by one of the committee that it was held at the Labor Temple on Collinsville Avenue.

Mr. Johnson: What white men were present?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, I don't know. It seemed to me as a meeting - it seemed to me that those colored men that I mentioned met with the Central Trades Labor Union. I don't know what members of the Union were present - what members of the Central Trades Labor were present.

Mr. Johnson: Can you <sup>state</sup> ~~say~~ approximately when that meeting was?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, I can't give you the exact date, but it was some time between May 18th and -

Mr. Cooper (interposing): And July 2nd?

Mr. Eubanks: And June 15th. It was shortly after the first trouble that we had.

Mr. Johnson: Can you state whether or not it was

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on June 14th?

Mr. Eubanks: I couldn't say positively.

Mr. Johnson: What was the result of that meeting?

Mr. Eubanks: I never learned. I never knew what the outcome was, what conclusion was reached nor what was done towards organizing the colored men. I never learned.

Mr. Johnson: Did you have a conversation with Dr. Bundy after that meeting?

Mr. Eubanks: No, sir; prior to the meeting.

Mr. Johnson: Only prior to the meeting?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Go ahead now in your own way and tell us about any strike or riot, or the cause of any.

Mr. Eubanks: Well, the packing house -

Mr. Johnson: (Interposing) What packing house?

Mr. Eubanks: The company known as the Independent Packing Company. That was just recently. I can't give you the date, but it has been since <sup>since</sup> I think ~~May~~ 28th. It was this spring, however.

Mr. Johnson: To what extent did that strike go. How many men were involved in it?

Mr. Eubanks: It is a small plant. I don't know how many men work.

Mr. Johnson: How long were they out?

Mr. Eubanks: I really don't know that. I know there were a number of uniformed policemen detailed to the neighborhood during, I think, some three days, - something like that, - the matters were settled up ~~by~~



6 satisfactory, <sup>they</sup> and they all went back to work. It was settled in a satisfactory way.

Mr. Johnson: Come along down now to the July riot and tell us what you may know about that, together with the causes that led up to it?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, beginning shortly, immediately after the first outbreak on May 28th, there seemed to be bad feelings in general that existed among the white people against the colored men. I personally know that they were attacked quite often on the street cars, on public highways, going to and from their places of employment.

Mr. Johnson: Were these attacks without provocation?

Mr. Eubanks: I didn't witness them.

Mr. Johnson: You said you personally knew of them?

Mr. Eubanks: I know those attacks were made, but as to the provocation I couldn't ~~possibly~~ <sup>positively</sup> say, not being an eye witness to them.

Mr. Johnson: Did you hear the trial of those who were charged with these offenses, if there was any trial?

Mr. Eubanks: I didn't hear any of the trials. I can cite you to one incident that I remember quite well. On the evening of July 1st, I reported for duty at seven o'clock at police headquarters - seven o'clock in the evening. We have a custom here that has been adopted by this department providing that the men report at nine in the morning and seven in the evening, and I had reported at seven o'clock in the evening, possibly ten minutes after seven. I came down from our department, which is on the

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second floor of police headquarters, down to the first floor, and as I entered the foot of the stairway coming down, I noticed an officer by the name of Pear, Roy Pear. He was employed by some railroad company, I don't remember just what railroad company, but at any rate he had in custody three men, two white men and one negro, and he said to the lieutenant - the lieutenant said to him, "what have you against those men?" "W-11," he says, "I want them booked. This negro was running and these two white men were running after him, and back up the tracks," as he put it, "there must have been fifty white men that seemed to be in pursuit; and I didn't know just what the trouble was, so I arrested all three of them. They were running through the yards, the railway yards." The lieutenant talked with the three of them. They contended that this colored fellow had insulted them and the result was that one of them struck him and he ran. One of the white men admitted that he struck the colored man, and the colored man ran and they ran after him, and explained that that was what they were doing down in the railroad yards. They had run in from the neighborhood of the approach of the Free Bridge down through the yards. The lieutenant released the colored man and told him to go to his home and he said to the clerk, "book those two white fellows and mark them 'hold'" and they were booked. Now the outcome of that case I don't know. I looked in the book the other day, turned to the page where the arrests were recorded on July 1st, and it don't show that officer Pear arrested anybody. I didn't take the names of the men at the time, but it is the custom down there if a police officer makes an arrest,

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or a railway officer, whoever he arrests, they are what is ordinarily known as "booked" to-morrow. For instance, Officer Brown, railroad officer, arrests Jim Crook; why the book shows there that Officer Brown made the arrest.

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Mr. Johnson: Well, I understand you to say that while instructions were given to mark these two - to put the word "hold" opposite the names of these two white men, they were not held.

Mr. Eubanks: The book shows to the best of my knowledge that they were released at 10.30 that night, the same night.

Mr. Johnson: The negro man was released immediately.

Mr. Eubanks: Immediately.

Mr. Johnson: Just on his verbal statement.

Mr. Eubanks: On his verbal statement.

Mr. Johnson: And the two white men were released that night at ten o'clock.

Mr. Eubanks: Ten o'clock.

Mr. Johnson: But you don't know what investigation was made?

Mr. Eubanks: No, I don't know.

Mr. Johnson: And they were arrested by the regular police force?

Mr. Eubanks: Not to my knowledge.

Mr. Johnson: Well, didn't you say they were arrested by an officer employed by the railroad company?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Well, they weren't arrested by a member of the regular police force?

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Mr. Eubanks: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: That was on the night of July 1st?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Well, do you know of anything else that happened that night, any other violence that happened that night?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Tell about it.

Mr. Eubanks: I worked that night until 9 o'clock and then went to my home and retired at 2 o'clock-- I think about 2 o'clock-- to the best of my recollection.

Mr. Johnson: You worked until 9 o'clock and went home and retired at 2 p.m.?

Mr. Eubanks: A. M. I went home, and at 2 o'clock--

Mr. Cooper: You didn't say you retired at 2 o'clock?

Mr. Eubanks: No, sir. I went home and remained there, and at 2 o'clock in the morning someone knocked on my door, and I answered the call, and it was one of the officers from the police department.

Mr. Johnson: A white man or negro?

Mr. Eubanks: Not one of the officers, but one of the officers had telephoned from the police department that I should come to the station at once.

Mr. Johnson: Who knocked on your door?

Mr. Eubanks: I don't know the lady's name. She runs a confectionary store just opposite my home, across the street. I have no phone, and by her permission I use her phone. Of course the lieutenant--

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Mr. Johnson (interposing:) This woman knocked on your door?

Mr. Eubank's: And said "A call came over my phone saying that they wanted Eubank's at the police station right away." I got up and dressed myself and went immediately to the police station, and when I got there the lieutenant said to me, "John, Coppege was killed a short time ago, Sergeant Coppege." I asked him where and how, and he explained it to me; said he was killed in the South End, at 11th and Ford Avenue.

Mr. Johnson: Did he say by whom he had been killed?

Mr. Eubank's: He said by an armed crowd of negroes, by a large crowd of negroes. I said to him, "Well, we had better get out in there, hadn't we?" He said, "No, wait until your boss comes. I have sent a machine out for the chief of detectives"-- that is the man I was directly under-- and he said "Wait a few moments and he will be here, and he will give you orders as to what to do." In a few moments Mr. Stocker, the chief of detectives, arrived, and they had a consultation, he and the chief, and I seen the Mayor with them, and I grew somewhat impatient and said to the chief, "What do you think we had better do?" "What are we going to do?" And he said "Owing to the circumstances it is not safe to attempt to go down in there now with the little handful of men we have. It seems there is a very large body of negroes armed in there, and it isn't safe for us to go down in there." So we didn't go. However, the following morning, shortly after daylight, we went down in there and tried to get some information as to who done the killing.

Mr. Johnson: Well, did you get any information?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, we got no direct information at that time, no, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Did you get any information at any other time?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, later on, on the morning of the 3rd, myself and detail arrested--

Mr. Johnson (interposing:): Who was your detail?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, let me see-- Baxter, J. A. Baxter.

Mr. Johnson: Is he white or colored?

Mr. Eubanks: He is a white man. Officer Smith, Officer Hefner.

Mr. Johnson: Is Hefner colored?

Mr. Eubanks: No, they were white, all of them. And also the chief of police, Ransom Payne, accompanied us. We made two arrests in that neighborhood on the morning of the third. Those two fellows that have been tried and convicted were among the ten that were convicted for riot and murder.

Mr. Johnson: Among ten negroes who have been convicted?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Who arrested the other eight?

Mr. Eubanks: I could n't tell you exactly. I don't remember just now.

Mr. Johnson: And when were they arrested? Immediately or some time afterwards?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, most of them immediately afterwards.

Mr. Johnson: Well, tell us anything else of the riot that you saw, or that you have heard about?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, I have heard quite a great deal about things that occurred there.

Mr. Johnson: Where were you on the day of the riot?

Mr. Eubanks: I was in <sup>E.</sup> St. Louis.

Mr. Johnson: Well now, you have said you went up to the scene where Cop <sup>A</sup> e and Wodley were killed, and some others wounded, and you made two arrests?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: At what time did you abandon your activities in that locality?

Mr. Eubanks: Now, understand me, we didn't make those arrests on the morning of the 2nd. It was the morning of the 3rd.

Mr. Johnson: Well, tell us of your whereabouts on the 2nd.

Mr. Eubanks: Well, I was in the south end part of the forenoon.

Mr. Johnson: That is in the neighborhood of where Cop <sup>A</sup> e was killed?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir. I was riding around, trying to get a clue as to who the fellows were that had done the shooting.

Mr. Johnson: Well, at the scene of the shooting were any empty shells from the shotguns, or any cartridge clips found?

Mr. Eubanks: At the scene of the shooting?

Mr. Johnson: At or near, y-s.

Mr. Eubanks: I heard there was, but I wasn't present when they were found.

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Mr. Johnson: Did you hear how many were found?

Mr. Eubanks: I didn't hear how many. I heard there were some empty shells found that had some kind of a slit or cut in them.

Mr. Johnson: They were paper shot gun shells?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir. They corresponded with the same shells that we found in Peebles' house-- a man by the name of Peebles, who has been convicted since then of the same offense.

Mr. Johnson: Was he one of the ten negroes convicted?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir. I heard that some of the officers had found some shells, some empty shells, that corresponded in size and had the cut slit in them, with the shells that were found in that man Peebles' house the day we arrested him. Of course we searched the house and found a shotgun and those shells-- part of a box of shells, and the empty shells found near the scene of the murder were shells that corresponded in size and had the cut in them-- possibly they have been described to you before.

Mr. Johnson: The shells were identical in cut and gauge?

Mr. Eubanks: That is what I was told. I didn't look at them myself. In fact, I didn't see the shells at the scene of the murder.

Mr. Johnson: Now tell us of your whereabouts on the day of the second.

Mr. Eubanks: The forenoon I spent most of the time--



practically all of the forenoon-- in the south End. At 12 o'clock <sup>I</sup> went to dinner.

Mr. Johnson: How long did you remain there?

Mr. Eubanks: About thirty minutes.

Mr. Johnson: Did you go to your residence?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir. I came back at 12:30, and I noticed quite a large-- I came back downtown at 12:30 and noticed quite a large body of people assembling at Third and Broadway-- Broadway and Collinsville Avenue. I went down among them and heard remarks and insinuations about what they were going to "get the niggers today."

Mr. Johnson: Did you know anybody who made those remarks?

Mr. Eubanks: I didn't know them, no sir. And I went up back Broadway and walked east on Broadway from Collinsville Avenue to a moving and storage firm known as the Short Moving and Storage firm. I went inside and called the chief of police and told him what I observed at Broadway and Collinsville Avenue, and he said yes, someone else had just called up giving the same information, that he was going to dispatch some men there at once, and possibly 1:30--

Mr. Johnson (interposing:): What time of day did you have this conversation?

Mr. Eubanks: That was about 12:30.

Mr. Johnson: Then where were you from 12:30 to 1:30?

Mr. Eubanks: I remained on Broadway. I remained on Broadway until 1:30. At 1:30 I walked over-- I saw a large crowd

of people at Division Avenue and Fourth Street-- that is right rear here-- and I walked over there, and I seen men with revolvers in their hands and people running in this direction and that direction, and I crossed Division Avenue and walked on north on Fourth Street towards Missouri Avenue, and when I neared the Illinois Hotel I seen a fellow running, a negro. He ran into the Illinois cleaning and pressing establishment, which is directly east of the Illinois Hotel on Missouri Avenue-- in and right out-- and as they ran out I happened to know the fellow whom I see running, the negro.

Mr. Johnson: That was his name?

Mr. Eubanks: Tish, John Tisch.

Mr. Johnson: How do you spell it?

Mr. Eubanks: T-i-s-c-h, I think.

Mr. Johnson: Go ahead.

Mr. Eubanks: He recognized me and turned and ran down the alley in the rear of the Illinois pressing shop.

Mr. Johnson: Was he still running the negro, or running away from the scene?

Mr. Eubanks: No, he was running the negro as he came out-- he seemed to be in pursuit of him with a pistol in his hand when he came out of the pressing shop. The negro ran directly across the street into the Illinois Hotel, and he was pursuing him, and I hollered at him, called him by name, "Tisch, Tisch", and he stopped and turned, and seemed to recognize me, and ran around the corner down the alley. I started down there after him, but I came out of the alley. There were two men down in there for me. There were possibly forty or fifty men down there, and

I saw a number of shining revolvers, and I came back out of there as fast as I went into the alley.

Mr. Johnson: That was about what time?

Mr. Rubenks: I presume it was about 1:30 or 1:40, to the best of my knowledge.

Mr. Johnson: What next?

Mr. Rubenks: I came back then to Broadway, and I went in to Regies grocery and called the chief of police again.

Mr. Johnson: By telephone?

Mr. Rubenks: Yes, sir. And I told him what I had seen in the neighborhood of Missouri Avenue and Fourth Street, and he says to me, "Did you see any officers there?" I told him no, I didn't see any officers. He said "Well, I will try to get some over there." In the meantime I went up Broadway, went out to 6th and Broadway, walked up that way and came back I guess at possibly 2 o'clock, and my walking partner, Nelson, I met him there again-- I had lost track of him, and Nelson said to me "I believe I'll go home. Things don't look right, and I believe I'll go home and send my wife over the river." I says "All right; things doesn't look very good-- I've a life we are going to have some trouble around here, the way the people are congregating over the street."

Mr. Johnson: Which one of you said that?

Mr. Rubenks: I said that to him. So he went on home. I came down then to Hawkins' place.

Mr. Johnson: That kind of a place is that?

Mr. Rubenks: That is a saloon.

Mr. Johnson: What by a woman named Hawkins?

Mr. Eubanks: It was at that time-- it is not running now.

Mr. Johnson: A white man or colored man?

Mr. Eubanks. Colored man. I went in there and used the phone and reported where I was, and the officer at the box--

Mr. Johnson: That was Headquarters?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir-- says "Notify all the colored saloons to close and remain closed." And that I immediately  
186 dia by telephone. He told me to notify all the saloons to close and remain closed until given orders to open. I did that.

In the meantime--

Mr. Johnson (interposing:) That time was that, now, that you gave the orders to have the colored saloons closed?

Mr. Eubanks: Somethin' after 2, or right at 2 o'clock. I don't know the exact time. I have some daughters myself-- children-- and I seen so many colored people passing, excited, and then on Broadway I heard of several killings that had already occurred, and I decided that my own family was not safe, so I then got on a automobile and took my father-in-law, who is a very old man, very feeble, and my two daughters, and took them in that automobile and sent them over the river. I went as far as the Free Bridge with them-- as the approach of the free bridge-- and seen them safe up on the bridge. Then I came back downtown. I walked back down Tenth Street from the Free Bridge to Broadway, and I saw a large number of colored women and children there, and many of them knew me, and they pleaded with me to escort them to the bridge. In the meantime I took my star out from under my coat and put it on the outside. I felt that my own life was in jeopardy, that I was not any too safe, and they wanted me to

accompany them, and I went with them to the Free Bridge-- possibly 25 or 30, women and children, who lived in the neighborhood of 12th and Division Avenue. That is a colored locality.

Mr. Ross: Were they white or colored?

Mr. Eubanks: Practically all colored. From Tenth Street to Thirteenth Street, three blocks, that neighborhood is practical-ly-- was at that time practically all colored people residing in there. These women had heard of what was going on, and many of them their husbands were not at home-- at different places of employment-- so I went with them to the Free Bridge. They walked the bridge, and I quit reporting them. At 3 o'clock I didn't report at all. I walked back Tenth Street from the Free Bridge.

Mr. Johnson: You should have reported at 3 o'clock, should you?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, it is customary to report every hour. That was my time to report, but as there was no phones convenient that I knew of at the time I thought of reporting, I didn't report.

I came back to Tenth and Broadway again, and another crowd of women and children assembled there, and they requested that I go with them as far as the Free Bridge. Well, I went with them, and I returned again-- saw them safely to the bridge. Of course I was <sup>not</sup> in a position to do anything more than escort them. Had there been any mob attempted to do anything to them, possibly I would have been killed in the attempt to protect them, but I felt that under the circumstances it was my duty, and they felt at least satisfied, to some extent, to have me with them.

So I returned after making a second trip with refugees on the way to St. Louis. I came back Broadway-- Tenth Street to

Broadway-- and then at 8th Street I reported-- 8th and Broadway--

Mr. Johnson: What time was that?

Mr. Rubenks: A little after 4 o'clock. The chief of detectives told me to come in to the station. I went in as ordered, by the way of Missouri Avenue. I didn't go down Broadway.

Mr. Johnson: You avoided the crowd?

Mr. Rubenks: Yes, sir; I avoided the crowd and went on Missouri Avenue to Main Street and down Main to the police station, and the police said to me, he says, "John, I tell you things are in an awful condition. They are havin' rioting all over town. It seems as if there is a dozen mobs working in the city. I have got to go out of the office, and the men are all out, and I want you to stay here and take charge of this office and look after the phone and answer the calls that come in." Well, I remained there in the office--

Mr. Johnson: Just at this point if you be well to get it into the record-- you are a mulatto, are you not?

Mr. Rubenks: Yes, sir. I remained there in the office indefinitely-- in the office till 12:30 that night.

Mr. Johnson: Did you see any other acts of violence, other than those you have told the Committee of?

Mr. Rubenks: No, sir, I didn't; not with my own eyes.

Mr. Johnson: Did you have any opportunity to observe the conduct of the soldiers during that day or night?

Mr. Rubenks: No, sir; I didn't.

Mr. Johnson: Well, you remained on duty at Police Headquarters until 12 o'clock on the night of the 2nd?

Mr. Rubenks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Then what did you do?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, I remained on duty till that time. Then I went to sleep.

Mr. Johnson: Where?

Mr. Eubanks: At Police Headquarters.

Mr. Johnson: You remained there during the remainder of the night?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: And the next morning did you resume active duties or not?

Mr. Eubanks: I did, yes, sir. The next morning I and the detail that I told you of arrested those two men.

Mr. Johnson: Those two colored men who are supposed to have killed Coppage, or aided in the killing of Coppage?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir. The remaining part of the day and part of the night I put in at the City Hall, where a large number of--

Mr. Johnson (interposing:): That was during the night of the third?

Mr. Eubanks: The night of the 3rd. A large number of refugees were there, that had been brought in there by officers and soldiers for safety. Many of them were sick. For instance, in some cases there were even there who had had new born babies possibly two or three days old, with no clothes except their night-gowns.

Mr. Johnson: How many of those were there?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, I know of two cases.

Mr. Johnson: Give us their names.

Mr. Eubanks: I don't know their names. I couldn't tell

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you that. There were possibly 300 people there. Had I known that I would ever be called on--

Mr. Johnson (interposing:) They were colored people, those 300?

Mr. Rubenks: Yes, sir. I am not saying positively there were 300, but in the neighborhood of 300.

Mr. Johnson: I understand you're approximating?

Mr. Rubenks: Yes, sir. They were many of them without clothes; many of them without food or money to buy food.

Mr. Johnson: You don't mean they were nude when <sup>say they</sup> you were without clothes?

Mr. Rubenks: No, sir; but ~~possibly~~ some of them had on possibly an undergarment; some a nightgown. I didn't see any entirely nude, that had no clothes on at all. We had sick ones there too. 188

Mr. Johnson: Did you make arrests on the 2nd?

Mr. Rubenks: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: For that night?

Mr. Rubenks: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: And you assisted in the arrest of two negroes on the morning of the 3rd?

Mr. Rubenks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Did you come across Colonel Tripp on that day?

Mr. Rubenks: On what day?

Mr. Johnson: On the 2nd.

Mr. Rubenks: No, sir; I don't remember having seen him at all on the 2nd.



Mr. Johnson: You don't know anything about <sup>his</sup> the activities, or lack of activities?

Mr. Eubanks: No; I don't.

Mr. Johnson: Did you see the Mayor that day, on the 2nd?

Mr. Eubanks: I didn't see the Mayor-- I saw him the morning of the 2nd, at two o'clock in the morning, when I was down at the police station. The Mayor was at Police Headquarters.

Mr. Johnson: What was he doing?

Mr. Eubanks: Well now, the Lieutenant told me--

Mr. Johnson (interposing:): Lieutenant who?

Mr. Eubanks: Lieutenant Hickey-- he had been trying to get in touch with the officials.

Mr. Johnson: That who had been trying to get in touch with the officials?

Mr. Eubanks: That the Mayor had been trying to get in touch with the officials at Springfield, to see whether or not he couldn't get troops here at once. He had been trying to get them over the phone. The Lieutenant gave me that information. I seen the Mayor, of course.

Mr. Johnson: I take it for granted that you had ample opportunity to form an opinion as to the Mayor's desires in the premises. Is it your opinion that he was undertaking to protect negroes, or that he was not?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, in my opinion the Mayor done what he could do-- judging from his actions-- from the fact that he was that much interested in their protection that he was there at 2 o'clock in the morning, which is quite an unusual thing, in my opinion. I never seen him on the streets after 12 o'clock before

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in my life. It seemed to me that he was trying to protect them.

Mr. Johnson: But like yourself, he felt unequal to the task?

Mr. Ruben's: Well, I don't know how he felt. I couldn't tell you that, but I am quite sure he was unequal to the task. It developed that he was. I never had cause to believe that he was lax in any way in doing his duty, so far as he could.

Mr. Johnson: The Committee has been told by different witnesses that during the riots eight white men, all told, were killed. Do you know anything about the killing of any of them?

Mr. Ruben's: Well, I can't give you truthfully the statistics on it. I did know, but it slipped my memory.

Mr. Johnson: Tell us the circumstances, if you know, or if you have heard, under which any of these white men were killed.

Mr. Ruben's: Well, I never have heard just how they were killed, no.

Mr. Johnson: Do you know how the two officers, Corpage and the other one, were killed?

Mr. Ruben's: Well, yes, I have some information from the lieutenant as to the purpose of sending them down there. As I understood it, it was reported that there was some trouble down there, and that they went down there to investigate it-- were sent down by the night lieutenant, who had charge of the police department during the night.

Mr. Johnson: Four officers went down there?

Mr. Ruben's: Why, I think there were four-- let's see-- Corpage, Valley, Hobbs and Hunter. Yes, I am quite sure there

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were four.

Mr. Johnson: Two were killed and the other two wounded?

Mr. Eubank's: There was one killed instantly. Coppers was killed instantly, so I understand, and Wolley died three or four days later.

Mr. Johnson: He received mortal wounds at that place that night, and the other two officers were wounded at that place?

Mr. Eubank's: Yes, sir; one had a flesh wound in the arm, and the other one, Wolley, died from the effects of the wounds two or three days after.

Mr. Johnson: Do you know anything either by your own knowledge or from hearsay, as to how the other four white men of the eight were killed?

Mr. Eubank's: No, any more than just what I heard.

Mr. Johnson: One was killed accidentally on the street, was he not?

Mr. Eubank's: Yeyser, yes.

Mr. Johnson: That makes five. Do you know anything about the death of the other three?

Mr. Eubank's: No, sir, I don't.

Mr. Johnson: You never heard how they were killed?

Mr. Eubank's: No, sir; I never heard as to how they were killed?

Mr. Johnson: Nor in what part of town?

Mr. Eubank's: No, sir; not the locality.

Mr. Johnson: You have said that you came upon two large crowds of men, and instead of going through those crowds to the place where you were going, you went round them. Did you get close enough to the crowd to see whether or not there were any soldiers in those crowds, or in either of them?

Mr. Ruben's: No, I didn't. I don't recall having seen but one soldier, and he was standing-- or at least told me he was stationed at Fifth and Broadway.

Mr. Johnson: Then was this that you had the talk with him?

Mr. Ruben's: That was on the 2nd, possibly in the neighborhood of 12 o'clock.

Mr. Johnson: And where was this conversation with the soldier?

Mr. Ruben's: At Fifth and Broadway.

Mr. Johnson: And what conversation passed between you and him?

Mr. Ruben's: I asked him why they didn't get together and move that crowd off Collinsville and Broadway. He said "Well, I haven't got anything to do with that corner up there. I am detailed here at this particular place."

Mr. Johnson: Did he say who detailed him there?

Mr. Ruben's: No; he said "I am detailed at this particular corner."

Mr. Johnson: He was alone; no other soldiers there?

Mr. Ruben's: No one except him.

Mr. Johnson: Was any violence done at that place while he was there?

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Mr. Eubank's: Not to my knowledge.

Mr. Cooper: What time in the night was it that you were called to Police Headquarters?

Mr. Eubank's: About 2 o'clock.

Mr. Cooper: No, but on the night of the 2nd.

Mr. Eubank's: Possibly about fifteen or twenty minutes of four.

Mr. Cooper: In the afternoon?

Mr. Eubank's: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And who called you back there?

Mr. Eubank's: The chief of detectives.

Mr. Cooper: And did he leave you then in charge of the telephone there?

Mr. Eubank's: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Put you in charge of the office?

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Mr. Eubank's: Well, yes, sir; in a manner, so to speak. Most of the time thereafter there was nobody in the office except me. They were all down on the street.

Mr. Cooper: After you were called back and put in the office, you were the only person in the office a good portion of the time, because the other officers were out?

Mr. Eubank's: A good portion of the time, yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: You stayed there how long?

Mr. Eubank's: Well, I stayed there until something after 12.

Mr. Cooper: At midnight?

Mr. Eubank's: Yes, sir. In fact, I stayed there all night, but I mean I looked after the telephones until I was just

worn out, nobody came to relieve me, and I just layed down and went to sleep right in the office.

Mr. Cooper: You couldn't keep awake any longer?

Mr. Ruben's: Well, I was tired and worn, and my nerves weren't in any too good shape. I needed rest pretty badly.

Mr. Cooper: Then you were up on the South Side, did you hear anything about an automobile having gone down through that street, shooting into the houses on each side?

Mr. Ruben's: I did, afterwards, not on that day I didn't hear that, but I did later.

Mr. Cooper: What did you hear about that?

Mr. Ruben's: Well, I heard-- I was told that an automobile went through that neighborhood, the neighborhood of Market Avenue, I believe-- Bond Avenue-- through there-- the south end of town, on the evening of July 1st-- or the night rather-- some time that night-- and that the occupants of the automobile were shooting into the houses as they passed down the street.

Mr. Cooper: You didn't at that time go up and look for bullet marks, or anything of that kind?

Mr. Ruben's: No, I didn't. I didn't make a personal investigation.

Mr. Cooper: That's all.

Mr. Baker: From what source were your calls, from four o'clock to 12 o'clock, while you were in the police station?

Mr. Ruben's: Well, if I understand you rightly, you mean from what section of town, and who the calls came from?

Mr. Baker: Yes, what was the nature of the calls? Who were they calling for?

Mr. Ruben's: Well, in most cases, with possibly few exceptions, most of the calls were from people who wanted to know -- for instance, "Is there an armed body of negroes marching on East St. Louis from Brooklyn to shoot and kill these white men and children and burn their homes?" For instance, I had a call from a lady in Lansdowne, which is quite a great extent from here, in the northern extremity of the city: She had been informed that there was an armed mob coming down from Brooklyn.

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Mr. Baker: Negroes?

Mr. Ruben's: Yes, sir; that she had heard that, and she naturally wanted to know whether or not it was true.

Mr. Baker: What did you tell her?

Mr. Ruben's: Well, I told her that I was quite sure it wasn't true, because I had been informed that a detail of soldiers had been placed at the Black Bridge. That is where they cross the stream of water coming to East St. Louis from Brooklyn. And I had also spoken to the Lieutenant about the same thing.

Mr. Baker: What did he tell you?

Mr. Ruben's: Well, he said there was nothing to it; that it was a rumor, and no probability of any such thing occurring. I had a number of calls about that report, that negroes, armed negroes, a large body of armed negroes, were coming from Brooklyn to East St. Louis to sweep down on the white people, to

avenge the wrongs done them by the mobs that day, and inquiries of that kind came practically from all sections of the city.

Mr. Baker: From the outlying parts of the city calls were coming in from 4 until 12, that they were expecting negroes to gather and to mob the white people?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: Did you inform them generally that there was nothing in it?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: How did you get that information? How could you inform them of that fact?

Mr. Eubanks: From the lieutenant. I kept in touch with him.

Mr. Baker: Where was the lieutenant?

Mr. Eubanks: He was on the next floor below.

Mr. Baker: You didn't see him personally, did you?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: You went down and saw him?

Mr. Eubanks: I went down and saw him.

Mr. Baker: And he could tell you to give them this information, did he?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, he didn't exactly tell me to give them the information.

Mr. Baker: What did he tell you to tell them?

Mr. Eubanks: I would ask him on the first call that came in, inquiring about negroes coming from Brooklyn. He told me there was no probability of any such thing occurring; that there was a detail of soldiers up there to prevent any such movement--



any such thing happening.

Mr. Baker: Were you the only man on the telephone for police headquarters from four until 127.

Mr. Eubanks: I was not the only man, no, sir.

Mr. Baker: Who else was on the phone with you?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, Sergeant McLean was there part of the time, and chief detective Stocker was there part of the time, and they were in and out of the office at different times up until possibly 11 o'clock.

Mr. Baker: But you had charge of the phone?

Mr. Eubanks: When there was nobody else there.

Mr. Baker: Was there anybody else there except these two officers?

Mr. Eubanks: Well now, I don't remember just -- possibly there was other members of that department come in there at different times.

Mr. Baker: Well, do you know where the police officers were from morning until midnight?

Mr. Eubanks: The police officers?

Mr. Baker: Yes, on the 2nd of July.

Mr. Eubanks: No, sir, I don't.

Mr. Baker: Did they report in? In reporting in, would they call up the phone that you had charge of?

Mr. Eubanks: No, sir.

Mr. Baker: That phone would they call on?

Mr. Eubanks: They could call the phone downstairs. You see, we have two sets of phones. We have two separate sets of officers. The plain clothes department is practically ~~in~~

independent of the uniform department. The uniformed men report to the chief of police downstairs during the day, and to the lieutenant during the night. The plain clothes men report to the chief of detectives and the detective sergeant.

Mr. Baker: That is the room upstairs and the phone of which you had charge from the time you have stated?

Mr. Rubens: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: Practically, except when these two men were in there?

Mr. Rubens: Now understand me, the way of reporting is this: ~~Anything~~ For instance, anything relative to a case you are working on, you make your report in writing to the chief of police; a verbal report you make to your chief of detectives, upstairs. Now in reporting-- they have a system there that you report every hour. Each officer reports every hour. Now we all report to the clerk downstairs-- they call him the phone clerk.

Mr. Baker: Well, what I am getting at now is how many of these detectives-- what do you call them-- plain clothes men-- how many of those are in the force?

Mr. Rubens: I think there are about 20.

Mr. Baker: How many of those reported in during the hours from four to 12 that day?

Mr. Rubens: You don't understand me. They don't report over the phone to the detective department.

Mr. Baker: I know, but I am asking you how many called up police headquarters during that time? There are 20 of them

now.

Mr. Eubanks: I don't know, because if they would call up they wouldn't call that department. They report on the hour downstairs?

Mr. Baker: Both plain clothes men and those in uniform?

Mr. Eubanks: Both plain clothes and uniform, yes sir.

Mr. Baker: Well, did you learn of any of these officers making any arrests at all during the day of July 2nd, the whole crowd?

Mr. Eubanks: Did I hear of any of those officers making any arrests?

Mr. Baker: During the day of July 2nd?

Mr. Eubanks: Why, yes, I heard of some of them making arrests.

Mr. Baker: How many arrests were made by the police officers that day?

Mr. Eubanks: I don't know. I can't tell you. I never had occasion to look that up. The records will show it down there. The booking records will show it.

Mr. Baker: Well, you made no arrests?

Mr. Eubanks: No, sir.

Mr. Baker: Your walking partner made no arrests?

Mr. Eubanks: No, not on that day.

Mr. Baker: You saw the man, John Tisch, running a man into a place of business, another man's business, and running him out. You didn't arrest John Tisch?

Mr. Eubanks: No.

Mr. Baker: John had a pistol in his hand?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes.

Mr. Baker: Why didn't you arrest him?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, I would have taken a chance with John Tisch, but in giving chase he ran down an alley, and when I started down the alley I saw a mob down there. There was possibly forty or fifty men down there.

193 Mr. Baker: Did you know any of these men in this mob?

Mr. Eubanks: I didn't get near enough to recognize them, no sir.

Mr. Baker: Well, what did they appear like to you? Absolute strangers or men of East St. Louis?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, I don't remember just what they appeared like to me now.

Mr. Baker: You could give no idea, whether they were white men or colored men?

Mr. Eubanks: They were white men.

Mr. Baker: Dressed in the ordinary manner of men living in East St. Louis during that time?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, I never observed that close enough to see.

Mr. Cooper: Did you see any arms, xxx in the alley among those men?

Mr. Eubanks: I saw several, yes sir.

Mr. Cooper: What were they?

Mr. Eubanks: Revolvers.

Mr. Baker: He stated that on direct examination. I just wanted to know why he didn't arrest some of these men. It is your duty to arrest them, isn't it?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, but it is our duty to use discretion

too. I don't feel that I am guilty of neglect of duty. It is the first case in the history of my experience that I ever attempted to make an arrest, if a fellow didn't outrun me, that I didn't make it. This fellow didn't outrun me, and I didn't make the arrest either.

Mr. Baker: Well, I wasn't assuring the want of duty. I was just trying to find out what you did and why you didn't make the arrest.

Mr. Subanks: Well, the reason why I didn't make the arrest was that the odds against me were too great.

Mr. Baker: All right. Now you felt that keenly, did you?

Mr. Subanks: Yes, sir, I felt that very keenly.

Mr. Baker: Well, do you understand, or do you know that you have the right to call upon citizens whom you know and meet, to bring them to your aid to assist in making arrests?

Mr. Subanks: I seen none.

Mr. Baker: No; now I am asking you if you know that fact.

Mr. Subanks: Well, I have never been informed that I had the power to deputize a man.

Mr. Baker: To call anybody to your aid?

Mr. Subanks: I have never been officially authorized.

Mr. Baker: When a crime was actually being committed, you didn't know that?

Mr. Subanks: Well, I have never been officially authorized that I had that authority to deputize a man. However, I have heard that the deputy sheriffs and chief of police had that authority, but I didn't know that a subordinate officer had the authority.

Mr. Baker: Well, did you call to your aid any of your colored associates who were in the police department?

Mr. Eubanks: No, sir.

Mr. Raker: Why didn't you?

Mr. Eubanks: I will tell you; at the time this occurred I was alone, and I didn't know just where they were.

Mr. Raker: Well, you were only a block and a half or two blocks from the police headquarters. You saw men there-- 40-odd men or more-- with revolvers. You saw John Tisch running a negro; he had a revolver in his hand; why didn't you go down to police headquarters and call for aid from the policemen?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, I had already informed the chief on two different occasions prior to that, that there was large crowds or mobs congregating, and at that time-- that particular time-- this was the most desirable location for me. There was a large mob or crowd at Collinsville and Missouri Avenues, and one at Collinsville and Broadway, and I wasn't but one fellow, and I didn't feel like taking a chance of going through the mob, and I had called him on the previous occasions and told him about the existing conditions in this locality, right in this neighborhood; and I presume he was doing all he could do at that particular time.

Mr. Raker: The strongest thing in this whole matter to me, Mr. Eubanks, is that we have been unable yet, with possibly one instance-- to locate anyone of these policemen, plain clothes, uniform or otherwise, arresting anything or anybody, or doing anything on this day of July 2nd; and I just wondered whether or not there was any sort of a pre-arranged agreement along you that you would practically, all of you, hide

from your duties and do nothing that day?

Mr. Rubanks: There was not such an arrangement to my knowledge. I knew nothing of such an arrangement. Of course it is useless for me to express my feelings to you, as to how I felt.

Mr. Baker: That is just what I am driving at. I am going to get you to express your feelings, and I want you to give it if you have got any. What was your feeling?

Mr. Rubanks: Well, at that time I felt that if I had about three more men besides myself I would corral that gang in the alley; take a chance, though the odds were very great; and I felt that that much ought to be arrested. It bored me very much to have to back out of that alley.

Mr. Baker: But still I can't get, and you haven't given us your reason why you didn't go, instead of telephoning down to police headquarters, and get half a dozen of those white men ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> come up there, and arrest those fellows. What was your reason for not doing it?

Mr. Rubanks: I will tell you my reason for not doing it. It seemed to me at that time that the situation had gone beyond the control of the local police department, and I didn't have the ledge at that time of just how to get to the military authorities that were there on the ground here. Of course had I it to do over again, I would possibly know better what to do.

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Mr. Baker: That is what I wanted to get at. I thought you would give it eventually. You felt it had gone beyond

the control of the police department. Is that right?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: Now what led you to believe that?

Mr. Eubanks: Because I called the chief of police on the previous occasions, and told him of crowds, large crowds, gathering, and instead of the crowd being dispersed, I could stand and see they were getting larger.

Mr. Baker: You are still on the police force, aren't you?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: And were never discharged after the riots?

Mr. Eubanks: No, sir.

Mr. Baker: Now, isn't it a fact that you saw this automobile down there in front of the police station from which <sup>d</sup>Corry had been shot that night, the night before? This Ford machine was down there in front of the police station, wasn't it?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, I saw it.

Mr. Baker: It stood right out there with the bullet holes in it?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: And people around it?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: You had heard the policemen talking about it?

Mr. Eubanks: Why, in a general way, yes.

Mr. Baker: Now isn't it a fact that there was a sentiment among the police, in police headquarters, that the negroes had killed <sup>d</sup>Corry, and the proposition was that there ought to be something done for revenge his death?



Mr. Eubanks: I never heard it said that way.

Mr. Baker: Well, may be I nev- put it a little awkwardly, but state whether or not that was the feeling that you gathered from among the police officers before you left the station there that morning?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, I could truthfully say to you the feeling I gathered was one of sympathy. I heard expressions of sympathy, and such expressions as, "Too bad. If he had only known what he was going up against", and so forth-- "possibly he would be living now." I never heard anything more said in the way of regret.

Mr. Baker: You heard no expressions there, that "we ought to get those fellows"?

Mr. Eubanks: I heard no expressions of "We ought to get revenge"; no, sir. I heard expressions of sympathy, which is customary in most cases where an officer is killed in the discharge of his duty. We all feel that way.

Mr. Baker: Whenever you find a man violating the law, you arrest him, do you?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, yes, sir; if it is possible.

Mr. Baker: What is the law of this city as to a man being beastly drunk upon the streets and reeling around; striking ladies as he passes on the streets; mauling women and cursing-- what is the law in this city as to whether or not you have a right to arrest him?

Mr. Eubanks: I am quite sure you do.

Mr. Baker: Well, do you?

Mr. Eubanks: I think he is in violation of the city code.

Mr. Baker: That is a violation of the city code here, and an officer has a right to arrest him?

Mr. Roberts: He does.

Mr. Baker: Well, isn't it a fact that that has been continued here for years, that very condition, and it is continuing even up to this date, right on your own streets in East St. Louis, and even now there are men, waddlin drunk, staggering, bumping up against the women as he goes along, and you police officers let him do it? Isn't that right?

Mr. Roberts: I don't know that it is. I know many men get drunk here. I know many men are arrested.

Mr. Baker: Well, why don't you arrest this drunken fellow that is on your streets?

Mr. Roberts: Well, we do arrest them when it comes to our knowledge.

Mr. Baker: What is necessary to bring it to your knowledge when you see a man fairly reeling with filth, drunk beside, reeling on your streets?

Mr. Roberts: Why, that is sufficient, of course. When we see them and know it, we should arrest them.

Mr. Baker: Well, do you do it?

Mr. Roberts: We do do it.

Mr. Baker: Well, how does it come there are so many on the streets?

Mr. Roberts: Well, I don't know. Possibly they go in a saloon and they get intoxicated, and they don't go far, I don't think, staggering, in that condition, before they are arrested. I think in most cases where an officer discovers

one of them staggering down the street, he is immediately arrested, if he is in a helpless condition and not able to walk and conduct himself properly.

Mr. Baker: It is a fact-- it has been stated here-- that the fact that there are so many loafers and faceters in East St. Louis, both colored and white-- that that is one of the things that incited this riot, and it is one of the prime causes? Is there anything in that?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, that is a matter of opinion.

Mr. Baker: Oh well, now, what is the use of dodging the question? If it is a fact that it isn't, why state it.

Mr. Eubanks: Well, I believe that, in my own opinion-- this is my opinion-- that intoxication, drunkenness, had possibly something to do with the riot. I have been told that most of the people who participated in the riot on July 2nd-- that is, a large per cent of them-- were under the influence of liquor. My police experience has caused me to believe that many men do things while intoxicated, while under the influence of liquor, that they couldn't do in a sober state of mind. I have had them tell me so in many, many cases.

Mr. Baker: Well, hasn't there been a great deal of lawlessness, drinking and carousing, and crimes being committed by these men, whites and negroes, long before May 29th, and then again before July 2nd?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, the ratio of crime has increased, that is true; the ratio of population, both white and black, has increased.

Mr. Baker: Well, the same condition existed among the

whites.

Mr. Robanks: Yes, sir, practically the same conditions. We have had an increase of crime together with the increase of population.

Mr. Reiter: Well no, let me ask you, have any of these good, law abiding citizens of East St. Louis, bankers, merchants, real estate men or others, appealed to you for protection from this condition, or to the police department, to your knowledge, before the riots of July 2nd?

Mr. Robanks: In answer to you I will say that an appeal was made by what I believe to be the substantial elements of white and colored people. An appeal was made to the Mayor of the city some time prior to the 1st of the year. They seemed to wish to have the saloons, the bad strategic ones, tended to, because they bring about more crime and increase crime. That was done. Numerous white men and white women, and colored men and colored women, went to the Mayor and appealed to him, also different committees and officers of churches and organizations, and they prevailed on him to stamp out some of these things. On the first of the year I think he felt as they did, because he carried out some of the things that they asked to be done. He did it. In some instances-- in one instance, the saloon proposition-- we had at that time some saloons that were considered by the community and the Mayor and the administration as undesirable saloons. They made application for their license the first of the year-- the last of the year-- which expired the last of the year-- and those undesirable saloons were not permitted to have a license. The negroes' saloons and white men's saloons where there had been crimes committed, where it was said that many of

the under tables hung out -- made their headquarters-- those places were not issued a license to do business, and were closed the first of the year.

Mr. Baker: How many were thus closed?, of the white saloons?

Mr. Eubanks: Quite a number of the hit-saloons. I can't just tell you how many.

Mr. Baker: How many of the colored saloons?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, quite a number-- more than 50 per cent of them, I guess.

Mr. Baker: Has there been any comment among the citizens of this city as to there being corruption in the police force?

Mr. Eubanks: Any comment by the people as to the corruption in the police force?

Mr. Baker: Yes. Has it been charged by the colored people or white people that corruption existed in the police force of East St. Louis?

Mr. Eubanks: I am not in a position to answer that question intelligently.

Mr. Baker: All right. Now this menace, instead of getting less, kept growing this last year, didn't it, by virtue of colored people coming into East St. Louis?

Mr. Eubanks: Menace: when you speak of "menace", what do you refer to?

Mr. Baker: These loafers.

Mr. Eubanks: I can't say that it did.

Mr. Baker: You don't think it increased?

Mr. Eubanks: He didn't have as many loafers, in my opinion,

since the 1st of January as we had prior to that time?

198 Mr. Raker: Well, commencing with January things began to get better?

Mr. Eubanks: They did, in my opinion.

Mr. Raker: And they got so good that it culminated in a real genuine festival and carnival on the 2nd of July?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, I don't know what you mean by "things". I don't understand what you mean.

Mr. Raker: The general conditions.

Mr. Eubanks: Well, we had a riot all right. No question about that.

Mr. Raker: I understand you to say there is really no race prejudice existing here in East St. Louis?

Mr. Eubanks: No, I didn't say that. I said there was no race prejudice? Did you say I said that?

Mr. Raker: I possibly misunderstood you.

Mr. Eubanks: No, sir, I didn't say that.

Mr. Raker: Well, is there?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: I understood you to say it grew out of an economic condition.

Mr. Eubanks: Well, you never asked me about race prejudice before. You didn't ask me directly about race prejudice.

Mr. Raker: Well, is there and as there on July the 2nd a very deep seated prejudice against the negroes here?

Mr. Eubanks: There was on July 2nd. There always has been in East St. Louis, race prejudice. Possibly, in my opinion, some of the bad feeling against the colored people has been on

the increase, and did increase after May 29th, after the first outbreak. It seemed that prejudice continued to grow larger.

Mr. Baker: And you have told the Chairman what caused that prejudice, in your judgment?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, some of the things, yes sir.

Mr. Baker: Well, is there anything else in addition to what you have ~~xxx~~ told the Chairman, that was the cause of that prejudice?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, there are other conditions, possibly, that led up to the bad feeling that existed.

Mr. Baker: Well, let me ask you now-- you have been around among these large manufacturing plants and establishments, haven't you, and observed conditions there?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, I never made any inspection, any personal inspection of them. I have been around them in the capacity of an officer looking for some of them who had committed some offense, to arrest them. That is about the only occasion I ever had for going around them. I never went there for the purpose of seeing just what the conditions were, or anything like that.

Mr. Foss: Now let me ask just a few questions. How long have you lived here in East St. Louis?

Mr. Eubanks: 25 years.

Mr. Foss: How long have you been on the police force?

Mr. Eubanks: About seven years.

Mr. Foss: You spoke in the beginning of strikers, and I think you mentioned the steel foundry strike and the packing

house strike. Were there any other strikes during the past year?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, yes, I think; the Aluminum <sup>Co.</sup> ~~Co.~~ Company.

Mr. Foss: Well, wasn't that the largest strike?

Mr. Eubanks: In my opinion it was. Yes, sir; there was more men involved in that strike than any other one that I know of.

Mr. Foss: How many men struck?

Mr. Eubanks: I really don't know; I couldn't tell you accurately how many.

Mr. Foss: Did you hear how many?

Mr. Eubanks: No; I never heard the exact number that came out on that strike.

Mr. Foss: You said that in your judgment, I understand, that the cause of this was industrial-- the cause of these riots was industrial and economic, growing out of the strike?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, that plant in particular, growing out of the strike-- at that plant, yes.

Mr. Foss: What do you think was the immediate cause of these riots?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, I have never been able to determine the exact-- what I would consider the exact immediate cause; but I consider that that is one of the things.

Mr. Foss: Now you spoke of a meeting between the committee of colored people, and also the labor leaders?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss: That took place along about the early part of June, or between the 25th of May and the middle of June?



Mr. Roberts: I am not positive on that as to dates, but sometime along just about that time, I guess.

Mr. Foss: No, do you know what was the purpose of that meeting?

Mr. Roberts: Well, I was told by Dr. Bundy, who was one of the committee that was to meet there, that he and Dr. Blufft and Mr. Lillie had been requested to meet the Central Trades Labor Council on a certain date, which I don't remember, and as Dr. Bundy seemed to understand at that time, it was for the purpose of seeing what could be done towards organizing the colored men.

Mr. Foss: In other words, you think that the union *labor* leaders wanted to unionize the colored labor? Is that it?

Mr. Roberts: Well, I don't know. I told you-- I answered your question just as plainly as I could when I told you that, just what Bundy told me. He didn't say anything about the labor leaders or me. He said that <sup>they</sup> had been requested to meet the Central Trades Labor Council, and I asked him about what the purpose would be, and he explained that to me. But as to who it was, who desired this meeting, and who requested it, and who issued the call for it, I don't know whether it was the labor leaders or whether it was done <sup>voluntarily</sup> ~~by~~ by the colored people, whether they requested to meet the Central Trades Labor Council or not.

Mr. Foss: Well, has there been an attempt here to unionize the colored labor?

Mr. Roberts: Well, I don't certainly know that there has

been, but I have been informed that there was an office on St. Clair Avenue that had in attendance men who were there for the purpose of explaining the rights and benefits of the union, and explaining the advantages, what it meant, so to speak, to colored men to join in the union. But I didn't see that place. I was told by men who had been there.

Mr. Foss: Do you know whether the colored labor is unionized at all, any part of it?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, some parts of it, the unskilled part of it, yes. There is some. For instance, the hod carriers are organized, and the teamsters. That's about all, though, I think. I don't think of any more just now.

Mr. Foss: I believe you got the names of this committee of colored men who went up there?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss: I think you stated there were eight men, eight names were killed during these riots?

Mr. Eubanks: I am not sure.

Mr. Foss: You are not sure, but that was the best of your information?

Mr. Eubanks: Possibly nine.

Mr. Foss: Do you know how many colored men were killed during these riots?

Mr. Eubanks: I can tell you according to the reports from the two morgues where the colored men who were killed were taken. If I am not mistaken, the morning after the riot Mr. Kurruf told me that he had in his morgue 17-- that was not Kurruf; that was Berner-Brichler, 17, and Kurruf, 17, that were

icked up in the different portions of the city dead-- had been killed on the evening or night of July 2nd. In the hospital I learned since the riot there was possibly some seven or eight that died as the result of their injuries received in the riots-- colored men-- and I think together with those killed outright and also from injuries in the hospital, possibly nine or eleven all told, white people.

Mr. Cooper: How many would that make altogether?

Mr. Rubanks: I mean negroes or whites.

Mr. Cooper: Altogether the whole thing?

Mr. Foss: I was trying to get at the number of negroes killed.

Mr. Rubanks: Well, let's see, thirteen and seventeen would be thirty; and then on the following day they got three bodies of dead negroes out of the creek, known as Cahokia Creek. That would be 33. Then there was possibly some six or seven that died in the hospitals later on from injuries received in the riot-- say, 39. I think it is safe to say there were 39 negroes killed that were accounted for. I understand there were some burned in their homes, but I am not figuring in that. We have no facts about that. I am not positive whether those reports are true or not, because I never heard <sup>any</sup> witness say that he knew of anyone that was burned. However, the insurance companies, I understand, have paid <sup>several claims on people</sup> ~~several claims on people~~ <sup>their</sup> ~~their~~ <sup>buildings</sup> ~~buildings~~, negroes, supposed to have been burned in buildings, negroes, supposed to have been burned in their homes.

Mr. Cooper: You say the insurance companies have paid already for the death losses on account of negroes supposed to

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have been burned up in their homes?

Mr. Rubanks. I understand they have.

Mr. Cooper. That is besides the 39?

Mr. Rubanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Do you know how many?

Mr. Rubanks. I don't know how many. I heard of one particular case that came to my knowledge, a woman I knew personally. Her son--- I knew him personally--- I haven't seen him, but I learned that he collected the insurance on the death of his mother, who is supposed to have been burned in her home at 5th and Broadway.

Mr. Cooper. Was the house destroyed?

Mr. Rubanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. How many white men died in the hospitals, do you think?

Mr. Rubanks. I am not sure; possibly some four or five/

Mr. Raker. White men, you mean?

Mr. Rubanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Now how many white men then were killed outright or subsequently died of wounds? What would be the total?

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Mr. Rubanks. I really don't know. Had I known you were going to ask me that question I would have prepared myself to answer it. I really don't know.

Mr. Raker. Do you know about negroes coming here in very considerable numbers--- increased numbers--- within a year or year and a half prior to the riots?

Mr. Rubanks. Yes, sir, we have had quite an influx of colored people to come here in the last two years, and

quite an influx of white people as well. We have had quite a rapid increase in population.

Mr. Baker. And 99 per cent of that was laboring men?

Mr. Eubank's. Well, I don't know. I am not in position to figure what per cent would be laboring men.

Mr. Baker. In your judgment, were a very considerable proportion of them?

Mr. Eubank's. I think a large portion of them; yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Where did they come from, the colored people?

Mr. Eubank's. Well, the colored people came principally from the Southland.

Mr. Cooper. Do you know whether they came as the result of advertisements inserted and published in newspapers in Vicksburg, Memphis, Nashville and Cairo by a plant in this city or in National City, whichever it was?

Mr. Eubank's. No, sir; I have no knowledge of that whatever.

Mr. Cooper. Did you hear the witness, Mr. Nulsen, read what he said was the correct copy of a notice or advertisement which his company had printed in newspapers in those cities I have just named.

Mr. Eubank's. Yes, sir; I heard him read that article yesterday.

Mr. Cooper. When did you first know that those sort of advertisements were being published in Southern papers?

Mr. Eubank's. I never knew it until yesterday. It never came to my knowledge until yesterday.

Mr. Cooper. You heard that agent or agencies or influences of any sort were at work in the South or elsewhere to

induce laboring men to come this city under the promise of employment?

Mr. Eubank's. Why, I had heard it. I had read it. I had read articles in the Journal charging that corporations were importing negroes here.

Mr. Cooper. That is your own local paper here?

Mr. Eubank's. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Published in this city?

Mr. Eubank's. Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss. For industrial purposes or for political purposes?

Mr. Eubank's. Well, I believe they charged--- I believe it was political purposes, as well as I can remember.

Mr. Foss. When were these charges made.

Mr. Eubank's. I think last fall.

Mr. Foss. Before election?

Mr. Eubank's. Prior to election, yes, sir.

Mr. Foss. You say the statements were made in the paper?

Mr. Eubank's. That is the best of my memory it was prior to the election last fall.

Mr. Cooper. Haven't you seen articles in your local paper here long prior to last fall making similar charges?

Mr. Eubank's. I have, I am quite sure.

Mr. Cooper. And you saw those in 1915, too, didn't you, year before last?

Mr. Eubank's. I might have. I don't recall.

Mr. Cooper. Hasn't that been going on for two or three years or more?

Mr. Eubank's. You refer to those articles in the paper?

Mr. Cooper. Yes, those complaints.

Mr. Eubanks. I don't just remember just how long, but I remember quite well the articles that were published last fall prior to the election.

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Mr. Foss. Did you know anything about the fact of the matter, as to whether there was any importation for political purposes?

Mr. Eubanks. No, sir; I had no knowledge of whether there was or was not. I didn't have occasion to make any investigation. In fact, I paid very little attention to it.

Mr. Cooper. How long are you on the beat, how many hours a day?

Mr. Eubanks. Twelve hours.

Mr. Cooper. That takes you an hour and a half then to get up and get dressed and get down to work, usually, doesn't it?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, sometimes I can get down quicker than that, if I sleep a little late. It is just like most anything else, you know.

Mr. Cooper. What I was getting at was, how many hours a day do you have to keep awake.

Mr. Eubanks. Well, I am supposed to keep awake 12 hours at least.

Mr. Cooper. Well, you are awake when you are walking home.

Mr. Eubanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. And coming down and eating breakfast and eating supper.

Mr. Eubanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. How many hours a day--- you walk your beat

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12 hours a day--- how many hours a day are you at work or going to or coming from there, and preparing to go and preparing to come back? Take 12 hours and add all the rest of it to it.

Mr. Rubanks. Including the time that it takes to go and come.

Mr. Cooper. That it takes you to go and come and eat your meals and get ready and go to bed.

Mr. Rubanks. I only live a short distance from police headquarters. I don't suppose it takes me more than 10 minutes to walk home, and possibly 30 minutes to eat, which will be 40 minutes I believe, taking just one single trip home at the dinner hour.

Mr. Johnson. That is counted in the 12 hours, however?

Mr. Rubanks. That is counted in on the 12 hours.

Mr. Johnson. You are not on duty 12 hours are you, exclusive of the time it takes you to go and get your meals?

Mr. Rubanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. You are not relieved from duty because of your dinner hour or your lunch hour as the case may be? You are on duty constantly from 9 o'clock in the morning until 7 o'clock in the evening? You don't get any relief because it is the noon hour?

Mr. Rubanks. No, sir; I guess you might say we eat on the city's time.

Mr. Cooper. How far from the City Hall do these other policemen or city detectives live?

Mr. Rubanks. Which ones do you refer to?

Mr. Cooper. Well, Mills and Green.



Mr. Eubanks. Well, Mills lives, I presume--- I think in the 1900-block on Market Avenue. That would be possibly a mile and a quarter or a mile and three-eighths from the police station. Green lives near 13th and Broadway, in 13th Street. I think his address is 16 N. 13th Street. That would be about 9 blocks from the police station, about 9 squares.

Mr. Foss. You have studied this situation here, undoubtedly, to some extent. Have you got any remedy for it, or any preventive for the recurrence of riots and disorder such as obtained here in July?

Mr. Eubanks. Have you any remedy?

Mr. Foss. Yes, to suggest.

Mr. Eubanks. Well, that is the first time I have been called on to offer a remedy, and it is a little bit embarrassing to me to attempt to do so, but if you want my opinion as to what I think would bring about better conditions?

Mr. Foss. Yes.

Mr. Eubanks. Well, to begin with, the enforcement of the law as provided by the statutes, regardless of color, race--- the enforcement of law. Then of course the law is no good unless it is carried out. To see that the law is enforced, to elect the right kind of men to office who will see that the law is enforced. I believe, however, that some adjustments can be made that will in the future do away with much of the existing feeling between whites and blacks as breadwinners. I believe when the day arrives that the negro is permitted to do something other than unskilled labor; I believe when he will have been recognized

as a tradesman, when he possesses a trade and is permitted to work at it, I believe he will be something on the union plan. I know that that will help some of the feeling at least. I don't know how the corporations, the companies, would feel about that, but at least it would bring the white man and the black man closer together. They will be more brotherly, and it will dispense with that breach that now exists between them. The black man is not permitted to affiliate with organizations except just for the purpose of performing common labor. We have in this city here a number of skilled negro mechanics, but they somehow have to work as laborers when they reach this section of the country. There is something about it that I have never quite understood, but <sup>for</sup> some cause or other they are not permitted to join the unions. On several occasions I personally know where colored men have applied to union organizations in this city for membership. I will refer to one of them, doing justice to all--- I am glad to have an opportunity to speak to you on this particular thing.

We had in this city a colored school teacher by the name of Hood--- well, in fact, he was a manual training teacher. He taught the boys the rudiments of certain trades; taught them to use tools and to make measurements, and so forth. He was an electrician, a good one. During the vacation period he worked at his trade as an electrician. We did some work for several firms here in the city, and of course the unions objected to him working, doing electrical work. The result was, he was advised by the Board of Education that if he wanted to work as an electrician at his trade

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during vacations he had better join the union, get a card, and that would stop the protests; there would be no more delegates, no more committees from the unions waiting on them to see why they permitted a man who didn't hold a card to work as<sup>an</sup> electrician. Well, he made application to join the union on suggestion of the members of the Board whose employe he was at that time, and his money was returned.

They didn't accept him and he was not permitted to work at his trade without causing much dissension <sup>between the labor organizations and the board of education</sup> and the result

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was he gave up his trade. That feeling is broadcast among my people in this section. They feel this way: That if you want us to be union men; if we are able and qualified to do something other than unskilled labor, let us do that; let us work at what we are able to do and receive pay for it the same.

Those are things that possibly you folks don't know. Those are things that cause bad feeling on the part of the negro towards the white union organizations, because he is discriminated against to the extent that he may be a tradesman, and naturally he wants to follow his trade; but in this locality if he works at it without causing much trouble he will have to join the union, and on the other hand, when he attempts to join the union he is turned down.

Mr. Foss. Now do you know of any other fundamental grievance here in this community that causes racial differences between the two races?

Mr. Kubank's. Well, yes, unfortunately we have had our share of crime among our people. I won't say that owing to the racial population we had any more than the whites, but

we have had our share, and possibly a little bit more than our share. We have had a number of crimes committed by negroes on white men, for instance. We have had a number of crimes committed on negroes by white men, and that is one of the things, the commission of crime on one race by the other that has helped to intensify the feeling, the existing feeling.

Mr. Foss. Well, isn't it a fact that East St. Louis has been sort of a place of refuge for a great many crooks from other cities?

Mr. Bukans. Well, I don't know that it has been a place of refuge, but from the fact that we have a very large railway center <sup>here</sup> as you know quite well, makes it kind of a dumping ground for any fellow that happens to be going anywhere across this section of the country. He falls off here; the river is between him and the big city, and in many instances here until he commits a crime, and then he is gone. Then we have a cosmopolitan population here. We have, I presume, most every race of people on the face of the Globe represented here, and a larger per cent of people in that floating population that drifts in here are undesirable. In many cases they are on the run from some other city where they have committed a crime--- fugitives in other words. We send from this place large numbers of fugitives who commit crimes in other cities. I presume the police records will show that every year there are between 250 and 300 fugitives, criminals, who have committed crimes in other place, and this being a larger center and the terminal of, I believe, 28 main lines of railway, they have to pass through

here and we get a good many of them here, who stop off. Sometimes they are out of funds when they get here, and they stop off here and work for a few weeks. They stop here sometimes for a month. I presume some of them are here permanently, have been here for years, came here as criminals, fugitives.

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Mr. Foss. Well, I heard that a police officer from New York who came on here one time, walked down the street and saw three rogues that he was looking for.

Mr. Subanks. Well, that is possible.

Mr. Foss. And that there are a great many that have come in here from other cities, criminal classes. Who were the leaders of this mob, do you know who they were?

Mr. Subanks. No, sir; I don't know. I tried very hard to find out.

Mr. Foss. Were they men who lived here for any length of time, in your judgment; or were they made up of the floating people who come in here, who had been here only a short time?

Mr. Subanks. Well, I never reached any particular conclusion about that. I don't know who the leaders of the mob were. The men who were arrested and convicted for killing Coppedge and <sup>Wodley</sup> ~~that they~~ are men that have been here sometime.

Mr. Foss. Were some of them crooks--- had they previous criminal records?

Mr. Subanks. Well, I can't say that they had had records as crooks, no. The two that I arrested, I know their past record very well, and I know that neither one of them--- I don't know that either one of them was ever

arrested before. If so, I have no knowledge of it. I knew one of them since he was a boy. His people I have known since he was a boy in knee pants.

Mr. Cooper. What was his name?

Mr. Hubanks. Nathaniel Peebles. I don't remember that he was ever arrested or had a bad reputation of any kind prior to his arrest for the killing of Coppedge. Brotherman I have known just to see him. On numerous occasions I have heard him sing. He sang with a quartet here, and I have known him a number of years, and I don't remember that he was ever arrested before.

George Roberts, another who was arrested and convicted, I have known for, I guess, 15 years. I never knew him to commit a crime of any kind before. So far as his general reputation was concerned, I think it was fairly good. I never heard any different. I knew his father, a very respectable old man. The boy worked continuously. I never knew him to loaf a week in years.

Mr. Raker. How are your courts as to the enforcement of the law? Are they very strict upon the fellows you bring in? Do they "soak" them, as we say, when they find a fellow guilty?

Mr. Hubanks. I think they do. I never had any cause to criticize the State's Attorney in the way he handled cases.

Mr. Raker. Well, as to the Justices of the Peace; they fairly throw terror into the hearts of criminals when they get before them so they?

Mr. Hubanks. Well, I don't know that they throw any

terror in their hearts, but I think in most cases if a fellow--- if sufficient proofs are offered that a man is guilty the Justice of the Peace ordinarily holds him to the Grand Jury--- fixes a bond and holds <sup>him</sup> to the Grand Jury.

Mr. Johnson. You have said that you were detailed to get all possible information concerning the mob which killed Coppedge and the other officer and wounded two more?

Mr. Eubanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. Did you make a diligent effort to get all information you could regarding them?

Mr. Eubanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. How many negroes, in your judgment, were in that mob?

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Mr. Eubanks. Well, that I couldn't say. I never was able to find out how many, and I tried to.

Mr. Johnson. Well, as many as six?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, from what one of the fellows told me that was in the car, the driver of the car, Hunter, the chauffeur, there must have been a couple of dozen.

Mr. Johnson. And you don't think there were any more than 24?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, I only have his word for it.

Mr. Johnson. You didn't hear from any other source except this one man as to how many negroes there were in the mob?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, he and Mr.--- the reporter for the Journal--- Roy Albertson.

Mr. Johnson. How many did he say?

Mr. Eubanks. I don't remember now exactly how many he said.

Mr. Johnson. You never heard but two people in all of your inquires into the matter say--- express an opinion as to how many negroes were in that mob?

Mr. Eubanks. No, sir.

Mr. Johnson. Do you call that "diligent"?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, I don't know whether I call it diligence or not. Perhaps it wasn't.

Mr. Johnson. Wasn't that one of the first things you would naturally inquire about, how many there were?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, it depends upon a man's opinion as to how he starts a case, you know.

Mr. Johnson. Well, it was your opinion in starting on that case that <sup>you</sup> ~~you~~ were to ascertain how many there were; is that right?

Mr. Eubanks. No; I wanted to find out just one to begin with if I possibly could, just one. I would be satisfied if I could get information on just one who was in it. Of course I thought if I could find one I could find out who the rest were.

Mr. Johnson. Well, you got one didn't you?

Mr. Eubanks. I got two.

Mr. Johnson. Tell them, you ought to have found out something from them, from the investigation which led up to them. You ought to have found out approximately how many there were?

Mr. Eubanks. Yes, had they done what we called "kick-in"; but they didn't do that.



Mr. Johnson. What do you mean by "kick-in"?

Mr. Rubanks. Confessed to having been in the mob themselves. There would have been some possible chance of getting them to implicate somebody else, but they denied having any knowledge of it at all; contended that they were home.

Mr. Johnson. And you can say that you didn't look to more than 24 different sources in ascertaining who were in that mob?

Mr. Rubanks. I don't quite understand you.

Mr. Johnson. You have expressed the opinion from information that you got that there weren't more than 24 in the mob.

Mr. Rubanks. No, I didn't say that was my opinion. I said that was the information I got, that there was possibly 24.

Mr. Johnson. Have you any opinion that you base upon anything else than information?

Mr. Rubanks. No, sir; I haven't.

Mr. Johnson. Then your opinion is that there weren't to exceed 24 in the mob?

Mr. Rubanks. Well---

Mr. Johnson (Interposing). Now don't you know that isn't correct.

Mr. Rubanks. Just forming an opinion by what the reporter told me and the chauffeur of the machine, I would say there were 24 or more.

Mr. Johnson. Twenty-four or more, or not more than 24?

Mr. Rubanks. Well now, I tell you, it was estimated by Hunter, I am quite sure, that there was at least a couple of dozen men. That would mean 24, and I don't remember what

Albertson said.

Mr. Johnson. Why do you remember what one said and not what the other said?

Mr. Eubanks. Because I talked more at length over the matter with Hunter.

Mr. Johnson. Who is Hunter?

Mr. Eubanks. Hunter, I believe his name is. At that time he was police chauffeur, driver of the patrol wagon, driving the car on the night that Copledge and ~~Watson~~<sup>Wodley</sup> were shot.

Mr. Johnson. And he thought there were a couple of dozen?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, that is what he estimated it, yes.

Mr. Johnson. And you didn't ask anybody else how many there were, in your investigation of the matter?

Mr. Eubanks. Oh, I didn't say that I didn't ask.

Mr. Johnson. Well, did you ask anybody else?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, I don't know that I asked anybody else how many there were in the mob.

Mr. Johnson. That was a matter of no concern to you, how many there were?

Mr. Eubanks. I wanted to get just one of them right.

Mr. Johnson. You were only after getting one?

Mr. Eubanks. If I got one then I could possibly, through him, get the rest of them.

Mr. Johnson. Well now you got one. Then what?

Mr. Eubanks. I didn't get anything.

Mr. Johnson. So your thoughts in that respect were miscalculations, were they not?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, they were to some extent.

Mr. Johnson. And you haven't you heard anybody say from the time of that mob until now how many there were in that mob?

Mr. Eubanks. No, sir.

Mr. Johnson. Isn't that remarkable?

Mr. Eubanks. No, sir.

Mr. Johnson. You don't think it is?

Mr. Eubanks. I say I haven't heard.

Mr. Johnson. I asked if you thought that wasn't remarkable.

Mr. Eubanks. I don't think it is remarkable under the circumstances.

Mr. Johnson. What are the circumstances that don't make it remarkable, that you, a police officer, in making inquiries about a mob, should not undertake at all to ascertain the number of the mob?

Mr. Eubanks. Had it been possible that any one of the men arrested had admitted their connection with the mob that shot and killed Corledge and <sup>Wodley</sup>~~Shelley~~ it would have then been possible to have ascertained how many more were in there besides himself.

Mr. Johnson. Do you inquire of anybody living along that street as to whether or not they saw that mob passing?

Mr. Eubanks. Yes, sir; I made all kinds of inquiries.

Mr. Johnson. Of whom did you inquire?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, I don't remember now distinctly of whom I did make inquiries.

Mr. Johnson. Well, you inquired of people living along the streets, didn't you?

Mr. Eubanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. Whose house did you go to and inquire?

Mr. Eubanks. I couldn't possibly say just now who I did inquire for.

Mr. Johnson. You know that you inquired of people living along the street, but you can't say of whom you inquired?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, for certain reasons I don't like to answer that question.

Mr. Johnson. What are your reasons? You must answer.

Mr. Eubanks. Well, I inquired of---

Mr. Johnson (Interposing). Unless it incriminates yourself. If it incriminates yourself I don't want you to answer.

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Mr. Eubanks. No, sir; but for professional---

Mr. Cooper. One moment, Mr. Chairman. We accused a gentleman the other day who had some property interests that he thought might be jeopardized if he answered. He was a white man. If this man says it would jeopardize anybody in any way, why that would be a matter to consider, I should think.

Mr. Johnson. I don't recall anybody being excused from <sup>anything</sup> ~~answering~~.

Mr. Cooper. Mr. Roger, the president of the Grant Chemical Company excused from answering a question because he was a business man here, and for personal reasons thought he ought not to.

Mr. Johnson. He gave his reasons. I am not asking this witness his reasons, just as we asked Mr. Roger.

Mr. Cooper. Mr. Roger declined and we excused him on my suggestion. Mr. Baker asked the question and we all agreed <sup>have not</sup> ~~not~~ agreed. <sup>^</sup>

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to, including Mr. Baker, that Mr. Roger ought not to be forced to answer the question.

Mr. Johnson. Then you desire, Mr. Cooper, that this officer be excused from stating the reasons why he will not give the names of <sup>those of</sup> whom he inquired as to the number of the mob?

Mr. Cooper. Well, the only reason--- well, the number, I thought you asked about the names and so forth.

Mr. Johnson. Yes, I want to know of whom he inquired about the number of the mob. Now he said he made inquiries of the people living along the street as to the number of the mob, but he declined to give the names of those of whom he inquired.

Mr. Cooper. We said that for professional reasons, or business reasons, connected with his profession. Now I didn't know but that he thought it might endanger some of the people with whom he talked. Perhaps if he talked with colored people and they told him--- I don't know anything about what his testimony would be--- or even white people about it, not in the mob, it would jeopardize them, their welfare, property or life in any way--- the chauffeur was the policeman that he saw.

Mr. Johnson. I believe, Mr. Cooper, that you are presuming too much in the premises.

Mr. Cooper. Well, all right. Only I just say that.

Mr. Johnson. Now, I don't want to be harassed at all in this investigation, and certainly not by any member of the committee.

Mr. Cooper. Well, here is one member of the committee that will present his views in a respectful way on anything

that comes up in this investigation.

Mr. Johnson. Do you wish to hamper me now in interrogating this witness?

Mr. Cooper. I don't wish to hamper the Honorable Chairman at all, but I wish to express my own views in a gentlemanly way.

Mr. Johnson. Well, you have done that.

Mr. Cooper. One moment--- this witness, who is a plain-clothesman, said that for reasons connected with his profession--- did you say?

Mr. Rubenks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. He didn't want to answer, and I wondered just what reasons connected with his profession those could be.

Mr. Johnson. And you opposed his stating.

Mr. Cooper. Well, he might state what the character of the reasons is and then we could pass on that before we forced him to answer. If it would endanger anybody's property or life, under all the circumstances, in view of the feeling in this city--- I don't know anything about what his reasons are---

Mr. Johnson (Interposing). But you do object to his giving them.

Mr. Cooper. I did object, without he had an opportunity to state his reasons if he didn't want to give them. That is always done in court. That's all.

Mr. Johnson. Well, I came here with a thorough understanding that there was to be no hindrance put in the way of ascertaining the entire truth about this matter; and that we were to have a wide-open, full and free investigation, and I have put to this witness plainly the question-- a question---

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and qualified it by saying that if his answer didn't tend to incriminate himself I wanted him to answer it. Now I am entitled to that, and I don't want to proceed against--- over your protest.

Mr. Cooper. I am not making any protest; I simply stated my own opinion.

Mr. Johnson. I will repeat my question. Of whom did you inquire--- of what persons living along the street where this mob marched did you inquire as to its number? You have already stated you did inquire.

Mr. Eubanks. I didn't make inquiry along the street where this mob marched. I didn't make any inquiry there.

Mr. Johnson. Where did you make inquiry? You have already said you did make inquiry along the street.

Mr. Eubanks. Along the street, but I didn't understand you to say the street where those men, Coppedge and <sup>Wodley</sup>~~Shatley~~, were killed.

Mr. Johnson. Go on and tell us where you did inquire.

Mr. Eubanks. Well, I made inquiries in the neighborhood of where Peebles and Sootherman lived, the two men arrested.

Mr. Johnson. Did they live along the route of the mob?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, no, not the route of the mob. They lived in the locality not far from the scene of the killing of Coppedge and <sup>Wodley</sup>~~Shatley~~.

Mr. Johnson. From what place had this mob marched to the point of the killing of Coppedge?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, Coppedge and ~~Wodley~~ were killed at--- near 11th and Bond Avenue, if I remember correctly.

Mr. Johnson. And from what direction had the mob come,

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according to your investigation?

Mr. Eubanks. Well now, let me see what I learned about it, according to my investigation. I never learned from where it came.

Mr. Johnson. How were you going to locate the people unless you ascertained from whence they came?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, I don't know that ever I did locate them.

Mr. Johnson. And you didn't undertake then to ascertain the houses from which anybody in this mob started?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, I made inquiries about what I had heard of an assemblage that assembled at 15th and Pickett, but I got no information on it.

Mr. Johnson. Tell, whom did you inquire of?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, I don't remember now who I inquired of about that assemblage there at 15th and Pickett.

Mr. Johnson. You made an inquiry and haven't the remotest idea of whom you inquired?

Mr. Eubanks. Now wait a moment--- give me a chance to refresh my memory.

Mr. Johnson. Yes, it needs refreshing.

310 Mr. Eubanks. I want to give all the truthful information I can possibly collect together. Yes, it comes to me now. I can tell you who I inquired of.

Mr. Johnson. Go ahead and tell it.

Mr. Eubanks. A fellow by the name of Matt Hayes.

Mr. Johnson. Who is he?

Mr. Eubanks. I think he is an employee of the city, that lives in that neighborhood.

Mr. Johnson. In what capacity is he employed?



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Mr. Eubanks. He was in the street department, I believe.

Mr. Johnson. Where did he live? Where did he live at that time?

Mr. Eubanks. I think he lived at 16th--- near 16th and Russel.

Mr. Johnson. What street was this mob on when Coppedge was killed?

Mr. Eubanks. On Bond Avenue.

Mr. Johnson. Between what two streets?

Mr. Eubanks. Between 11th--- between 10th and 11th.

Mr. Johnson. Between 10th and 11th. Was it near 10th or 11th?

Mr. Eubanks. I don't know. It never was pointed out to me, the exact spot.

Mr. Johnson. You never saw the exact spot where Coppedge was killed?

Mr. Eubanks. No, sir; I have never been there with any member of the police department who was on the scene at the time of the killing.

Mr. Johnson. And except--- you think that because no member of the police department ever told you where Coppedge was killed that you had no right to ascertain otherwise?

Mr. Eubanks. Oh, I can't remember the different questions I asked.

Mr. Johnson. Well, if you were going out to ascertain all about the killing of a man, wouldn't you first attempt to ascertain where he was killed.

Mr. Eubanks. Well, I had learned that before I went on

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the case.

Mr. Johnson. Well now, tell me where that was.

Mr. Rubank's. Well, I was told by the chauffuer that drove the car that night, that it was near the corner of 11th and Bond.

Mr. Johnson. Well then, it was nearer 11th, according to his report, than 10th?

Mr. Rubank's. Yes, sir; I judged from what he spoke that it was nearer 11th Street.

Mr. Johnson. You heard from nobody else as to whether it was nearer 11th than 10th?

Mr. Rubank's. No, sir; not that I remember of.

Mr. Johnson. But you accepted the chauffuer's statement that it was nearer <sup>the corner of</sup> 11th?

Mr. Rubank's. Yes, sir; I thought he was in a position to know.

Mr. Johnson. You still think that was correct?

Mr. Rubank's. I still believe what he told me, yes.

Mr. Johnson. Did you go to that particular spot?

Mr. Rubank's. No, I didn't go there that day.

Mr. Johnson. You didn't go there looking for evidence of the crime?

Mr. Rubank's. Not that day.

Mr. Johnson. When did you go there?

Mr. Rubank's. Why, I was there on the 3rd.

Mr. Johnson. You were at that spot where Coledge is said to have been killed?

Mr. Rubank's. I can't say at that spot, but I was in that block.

1204

Mr. Johnson. You were in that block. What were you doing in that block?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, I was coming out of the section known as "Denver Side". I had been down in there trying to get some line on them.

Mr. Johnson. From whom?

Mr. Eubanks. From anybody I thought could possibly give me any information.

Mr. Johnson. Then did you talk with up in there?

Mr. Eubanks. I can't remember who I talked to-- many different people.

Mr. Johnson. You don't remember a single one?

Mr. Eubanks. I can remember some of them, yes, sir.

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Mr. Johnson. Who were they?

Mr. Eubanks. I talked to Hayes and Jones--- Nate Jones --- and a fellow by the name of Zach Palmer.

Mr. Johnson. White or colored?

Mr. Eubanks. Colored.

Mr. Johnson. All of them?

Mr. Eubanks. I don't remember all of them.

Mr. Johnson. Were all of them colored that you talked to?

Mr. Eubanks. Yes, sir. That is, practically--- there are very few white people in that section of the town. It is almost exclusively a colored neighborhood.

Mr. Johnson. You didn't look around--- you didn't undertake to ascertain the exact spot where this officer was killed, so you might look for footprints or cartridges?

Mr. Eubanks. No, there was no possible chance to discover footprints there. You know the place was burned up then.

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Mr. Johnson. Out in the middle of the street was burned?

Mr. Subanks. Well, there was rubbish from the fire.

The whole block was burned.

Mr. Johnson. Who did find these cartridges which led to the detection and conviction of this negro?

Mr. Subanks. I don't <sup>know,</sup> but it was one of the men out of our department.

Mr. Johnson. You did not?

Mr. Subanks. No, sir; some member of our department.

Mr. Johnson. And is it possible you didn't find them because you didn't undertake to find the place where he was killed?

Mr. Subanks. No, I can't say that. I think he was up through there prior to the time I went through there.

Mr. Johnson. But you never went--- you never undertook to ascertain the spot where this man was killed, so you might go there and look for evidence?

Mr. Subanks. No, not the exact spot. The thought never occurred to me to do that.

Mr. Johnson. I don't mean the exact spot by the foot or inch, but I mean the close or small locality in which he might have been killed. I don't suppose anybody could be able to ascertain by locating the spot by the foot or inch as to where he was shot, where the car was when he was shot, but you didn't undertake to arrive at that place in that street he was killed, according to your own statement.

Mr. Subanks. Well, I never did figure on the exact spot very closely. After I was told by Hutter that it was near the corner of Lita and Bond Avenue.

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Mr. Johnson. Did you undertake to find out whether the mob was moving when it was met by the police officers or whether it was standing still?

Mr. Suberks. I found that out. That is, at least, I received that information.

Mr. Johnson. I am trying to find out now something that you did find out.

Mr. Suberks. I learned that it was standing still.

Mr. Johnson. Standing still?

Mr. Suberks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. How long had it been standing still there?

Mr. Suberks. Well, I don't know.

Mr. Johnson. You didn't learn that?

Mr. Suberks. No, I don't think the officers that were with Coppedge and Wadley that night had any knowledge how long it had been there.

Mr. Johnson. I know they didn't, and if they did two of them got killed and couldn't tell it. But you were sent up there to find out things that they didn't tell.

Mr. Suberks. To find out anything I could that would lead up.

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Mr. Johnson. Now you have told that the mob was standing still, according to his opinion. Now that is the only thing you have told us you did ascertain. Now tell us something else you ascertained.

Mr. Suberks. Let's see. Is I know any particular thing I ascertained?

Mr. Johnson. Any more than the mob was standing still?

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Mr. Eubanks. Information of the men that I and the detail arrested, of course.

Mr. Johnson. Did you make arrests just simply because you ascertained that the mob was standing still?

Mr. Eubanks. No.

Mr. Johnson. You certainly had some other information upon which to make arrests didn't you?

Mr. Eubanks. We made arrests because we had information that these men were in the mob.

Mr. Johnson. How did you get that information? Tell me about that.

Mr. Eubanks. Well, by making inquiries.

Mr. Johnson. Of whom?

Mr. Eubanks. I feel that I necessarily do something that is out of the ordinary when I tell who gives me information.

Mr. Johnson. Do you positively refuse to answer that question?

Mr. Eubanks. I don't refuse to answer it--- if you see my point.

Mr. Johnson. No, I don't see your point, except that I don't see that you have done anything towards ascertaining about this negro mob. Now you have told us quite minutely of white mobs, but when it comes to a negro mob I find you have no information except that it was standing still.

Mr. Eubanks. Any information I have obtained I would be glad to give to you.

Mr. Johnson. Your gladness ceases when I ask you the question.

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Mr. Subanks. I think you see it wrong. You ask me a question about anything I know and I will certainly tell you.

Mr. Johnson. Well now, I have asked you to tell me all about that mob up there, and you don't tell me anything about it except that it was standing still when Coppedge was killed.

Mr. Subanks. I told you that I had information that it was standing still.

Mr. Johnson. Well, where did it come from?

Mr. Subanks. Well, I don't know. It would be useless for me to just give you a guess.

Mr. Johnson. And you don't know how they happened to be there?

Mr. Subanks. Well, I don't know that.

Mr. Johnson. Well now, is there any other one thing you do know except that the mob was standing still?

Mr. Subanks. Coppedge and Volley were killed.

Mr. Johnson. That is a self-evident fact. Anybody knows that; but you were a specially detailed officer there for the purpose of getting information about that mob.

Mr. Subanks. Well, I explained to you that I--- not only I, but all the fellows in my department, practically, were sent out in the forenoon on that case.

Mr. Foss. Was anybody with you at the time?

Mr. Subanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss. Who?

Mr. Subanks. Baxter, Smith, Hefner.

Mr. Foss. These were white men?

Mr. Subanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss. Were they making inquiries as to that mob?

As to where it came from, when it formed, etc?

Mr. Eubanks. Yes, sir; they were all trying to get information.

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Mr. Foss. How long had it been marching, or had it just formed at that particular point?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, I don't know just the questions they asked. They questioned people whom they were inquiring<sup>g</sup> and in many instances they talked with them privately and not just where I could hear them.

Mr. Johnson. How many negroes have been convicted for participation in that mob which killed Coppedge and the other officer, and wounded the other two?

Mr. Eubanks. Ten.

Mr. Johnson. Take each one of them up by name and tell where he lives.

Mr. Eubanks. I couldn't do that; I don't remember.

Mr. Johnson. I am undertaking by that question to ascertain the direction from which they came.

Mr. Eubanks. I don't know the exact direction, or don't know--- have any idea--- couldn't tell you definitely, anything about the direction that two or three of them lived in. I can tell you what I know about their addresses, to the best of my knowledge and their locations.

Mr. Johnson. I am undertaking to get their places of residence for the purpose of ascertaining the direction in which they went to the point where Coppedge was killed.

Mr. Eubanks. You mean the fellows who have been convicted?



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Mr. Johnson. Yes. We know they were in the mob. Now we don't know the others, so if we can get the direction in which they went to the place where Coppedge was killed, we can probably ascertain the direction in which the mob was moving.

Mr. Eubanks. I see. Well, Parker.

Mr. Johnson. Would he have to go north, south, east or west to get to the place where Coppedge was killed?

Mr. Eubanks. Why, he would have to go west.

Mr. Johnson. Take the next one of the ten who was convicted, in which direction would he have to go?

Mr. Eubanks. Roberts, west.

Mr. Johnson. The third one. Name him and state the direction in which he would have to go.

Mr. Eubanks. Parker, in a westerly direction.

Mr. Raker. You have got him now already, Parker and Roberts.

Mr. Eubanks. Peebles.

Mr. Johnson. In what direction would he have to go to get to the place where Coppedge was killed?

Mr. Eubanks. West, a westerly direction.

Mr. Johnson. Now take another.

Mr. Eubanks. Foster. He would necessarily have to go in a westerly direction.

Mr. Johnson. That was Charles Foster?

Mr. Eubanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. Take another.

Mr. Eubanks. I have named four.

Mr. Raker. Parker, Roberts, Peebles and Foster.

There is another man you say was convicted. You gave his name awhile ago, Clements,-- or something like that.

Mr. Subanks. Who?

Mr. Raker. You gave another man who was convicted, one of the two you arrested.

Mr. Subanks. Sotherman.

Mr. Johnson. In what direction would Sotherman have to go from the place of his residence to the scene of the killing?

Mr. Subanks. He would have to go in a westerly direction.

Mr. Johnson. Is there any one of the ten he would have to go in any other direction except west?

214 Mr. Subanks. I am not so sure of that. I have told you truthfully just the direction, owing to where they resided at the time of the killing for those fellows there, and let me see now-- I can't get my thoughts together sufficiently well to tell you the direction of any of the rest of these fellows.

Mr. Johnson. Did you hear the church bell ring that night?

Mr. Subanks. No, sir; I don't live any where near in that section of town.

Mr. Johnson. Did you hear of the church bell ringing that night?

Mr. Subanks. Why, I heard of it; yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. Then did you hear of it?

Mr. Subanks. Why, I think I heard of it the next morning after the killing.

Mr. Johnson. As an officer, did you undertake to as-

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certain whether or not the bell had been rung?

Mr. Eubanks. I did.

Mr. Johnson. Did you ascertain whether it had been rung or not?

Mr. Eubanks. I didn't find out. I made inquiries about it.

Mr. Johnson. But you didn't find out--- you didn't find anybody who had heard it?

Mr. Eubanks. No, sir.

Mr. Johnson. Did you not consider that an important fact in your inquiry?

Mr. Eubanks. I did.

Mr. Johnson. Whom did you inquire of about the ringing of the bell?

Mr. Eubanks. I don't remember now, but I made several inquiries.

Mr. Johnson. Where is this church located the bell of which is supposed to have been rung?

Mr. Eubanks. To the best of my memory--- let me see --- Bond--- about three blocks from the scene, from where Coppedge was killed.

Mr. Johnson. Did you go to anybody living near that church and ask them if they heard the bell?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, I went to people on Pickett Avenue.

Mr. Johnson. How far away is that from the church?

Mr. Eubanks. About four blocks, I guess--- five blocks.

Mr. Johnson. Did you go to anybody living on the same square where the church was, to ask them?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, there was nobody living in there.

They had gone from that neighborhood where the church was.

Mr. Johnson. The next day after the church bell is supposed to have rung there was nobody left up there?

Mr. Rubank's. Well, the next day after the church bell was supposed to have rung was the day of the riot.

Mr. Johnson. And there was nobody left when you were making your investigation, the 3rd or 4th-- which was it?

Mr. Rubank's. Why, it was on the 3rd.

Mr. Johnson. And there was nobody left closer to the church than four or five blocks?

Mr. Rubank's. No, sir---- well, I didn't see anybody--- that is, I didn't see any colored people around the neighborhood, in the neighborhood, within four or five blocks of where the killing was.

Mr. Johnson. You limited your investigation to the colored people, did you?

Mr. Rubank's. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. And you didn't inquire of the white people whether or not the church bell rung?

Mr. Rubank's. No, I didn't.

Mr. Johnson. Why was that, if you were seeking information?

Mr. Rubank's. Well, we had several white fellows on the case right there in the same locality, and I felt they were in a position to get more information than I was, and my time was pretty well taken up amongst the colored people.

Mr. Johnson. You have already said that you considered the fact <sup>as to</sup> whether or not that bell did ring or didn't ring

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an important thing in the investigation, and yet who asked nobody living in a distance closer than four or five squares of the church as to whether they heard it ring or not?

215 Mr. Eubanks. Well, I say that because I didn't see any colored people--- didn't ask any of the white people.

Mr. Johnson. Race prejudice was running high then, was it not, on both sides?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, the feeling was bad. I don't just know what the extent of the feeling was, but I know it was bad, yes.

Mr. Johnson. And you knew, out of your own common sense, that if the church bell did ring, it was rung by negroes and for their information?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, I thought so. I didn't know it.

Mr. Johnson. Yes, you knew it out of your own common sense.

Mr. Eubanks. It was my opinion all right. It was my opinion that if it had been rung at all---

Mr. Johnson (Interposing). It was your opinion, and according to your own statement it didn't spring from your thoughts.

Mr. Eubanks. Oh, I---

Mr. Johnson (Interposing). What is the difference between what you think and what you give as an opinion?

Mr. Eubanks. I am quite sure that the church bell was rung by colored men.

Mr. Johnson. And you say that---

Mr. Eubanks (Interposing). And I learned that the bell was rung later on. Now the day that I referred to, the day

that I made the first investigation, I learned that the church bell was rung all right.

Mr. Johnson. Why didn't you tell me that before now?

Mr. Subanks. Well, you had me confined so.

Mr. Johnson. I didn't undertake to confine you at all.

Mr. Subanks. I misunderstood you then.

Mr. Johnson. I undertook to get from you the information as to whether this bell was rung or not, and after this long interrogation you come across and tell me it was rung. Now how did you find that out?

Mr. Subanks. I learned through one of the members of the church later.

Mr. Press. How many days afterwards?

Mr. Subanks. I guess a week--- such a matter.

Mr. Johnson. Why was it rung?

Mr. Subanks. Well, he couldn't explain why. He told me that he was in the church and had services. They had some kind of a meeting there.

Mr. Johnson. Yes, they had services that night; the Bishop preached there that night didn't he?

Mr. Subanks. I don't know whether the Bishop preached there or not.

Mr. Johnson. Well, I may be mistaken as to his preaching at that church. It may have been at another church, but they did have services there that night.

Mr. Subanks. Yes, that is what I was told.

Mr. Johnson. Well, go ahead and tell me the rest of it.

Mr. Subanks. I asked this fellow who rang the church bell, and he said he didn't know.

Mr. Johnson. What time did the church bell ring, according to the information you got?

Mr. Hubanks. Well, what he told me, to the best of my memory--- he told me it was shortly before services were over, or just after. I don't remember now exactly, but either shortly before or just after.

Mr. Johnson. It didn't ring until about 12 o'clock, did it?

Mr. Hubanks. I don't remember exactly.

Mr. Johnson. That has been pretty well established by other witnesses.

Mr. Hubanks. I couldn't possibly say.

Mr. Johnson. Did he say whether he rung the bell or not?

Mr. Hubanks. No, he said he didn't. I know I questioned him very closely about that.

Mr. Johnson. Who was it you were talking to?

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Mr. Hubanks. A fellow by the name of Sampson.

Mr. Baker. What is his first name?

Mr. Hubanks. Monroe Sampson.

Mr. Johnson. Did he say what happened after the church bell was rung? Did anybody answer the ringing of the bell by coming to the church?

Mr. Hubanks. Well, I questioned him about that and I got no information from him as to what happened. He claimed he didn't know what happened.

Mr. Johnson. Well, did he say where he was when he heard the church bell ring?

Mr. Hubanks. I think he told me he was on the road home, to the best of my memory now.

Mr. Johnson. Where did he live? There did he live at that time?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, he lived on 7th Street, between St. Louis Avenue and Missouri Avenue.

Mr. Johnson. How far was that from the church?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, that is possibly a mile, I guess.

Mr. Johnson. But he was on the road home when he heard the bell?

Mr. Eubanks. I wouldn't be positive about that. I think he told me he was on the road home.

Mr. Johnson. Did he close up the church that night?

Mr. Eubanks. I don't remember now whether he---

Mr. Johnson (Interposing). He was not the sexton, or do you know?

Mr. Eubanks. I don't think so.

Mr. Johnson. Well now, from your investigation of the mob which killed these officers on the night of the Bri it is not your opinion that they formed for the purpose of waylaying these officers at that particular point and killing them is it?

Mr. Eubanks. No, I don't think that they had knowledge of the fact that these officers were going to be there.

Mr. Johnson. I agree with you about that. What was their mission according to the best of your information?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, from the fact that there had been much trouble between the two races there near the Free Bridge and all kinds of rumors had went broadcast among both white and colored people as to what one was going to do to the



other. In my opinion they were under the impression that the mob was coming down into their neighborhood.

Mr. Johnson. What neighborhood is that?

Mr. Kubanks. Denver Side.

Mr. Johnson. Well, I don't know what that is. Is that <sup>near</sup> the Free Bridge?

Mr. Kubanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. And you think then that this mob had formed in answer to the ringing of the church bell and was on its way down to the Free Bridge?

Mr. Kubanks. Well, I don't believe they were going to the Free Bridge, but in my opinion they had formed there for the purpose of keeping the white men from going into their neighborhood.

Mr. Johnson. To keep the white men from going into the Free Bridge neighborhood?

Mr. Kubanks. No, to the neighborhood of Denver Side.

Mr. Johnson. Well, I don't know just where that is, as compared to this end of the free bridge.

Mr. Foss. That is a neighborhood of colored people?

Mr. Kubanks. Yes, sir; here they reside.

Mr. Foss. A colored settlement?

Mr. Kubanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. Well, there are a number of colored settlements here.

Mr. Kubanks. Well, this is the largest one. Three-fourths of the colored people live in that section of the town, that reside in East St. Louis.

Mr. Johnson. How were they going to prevent the white

people from going to the colored section if the white people had started to go?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, I don't know that they intended to prevent an individual from going, but you asked me my opinion. That is all I have about it.

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Mr. Johnson. Yes, you seem to have no information, and I want to ask your opinion.

Mr. Eubanks. Well, my opinion is that they got together for the purpose of protecting their own neighborhood.

Mr. Johnson. From whom?

Mr. Eubanks. From the assaults of the white men.

Mr. Johnson. Had they made any?

Mr. Eubanks. There had been numerous assaults, yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. Had there been any more assaults made by the whites on the negroes than by the negroes on the whites?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, of late there had been.

Mr. Johnson. Well now, of late. You say of late; before what day?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, between May the 25th and July the 2nd it was quite a constant thing for a negro to get assaulted and be beaten up by white men.

Mr. Johnson. And not a single instance of a white person being assaulted by a negro?

Mr. Eubanks. There was some of that, yes.

Mr. Johnson. On both sides?

Mr. Eubanks. Yes.

Mr. Johnson. That is what I am getting at. It was on both sides?

Mr. Eubanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. And these negroes on the night of the 1st when they killed Copledge had assembled there for the purpose of taking the law into their own hands, just as the white people had done in other instances?

Mr. Rubanks. Possibly so.

Mr. Johnson. Well, possibly so or probably so?

Mr. Rubanks. On the evening of--

Mr. Johnson (Interposing). Possibly so or probably so? Answer my question.

Mr. Rubanks. Well, it is possible that they intended to defend themselves.

Mr. Johnson. It is only possible and not probable?

Mr. Rubanks. Well, I haven't got a very clear version of the expression? "probable or possible".

Mr. Johnson. And according to your opinion--- not to your knowledge or information--- you seem to have neither--- these people were armed and out in the street for the purpose of protecting themselves. Would they not thereby be provoking assault upon themselves instead of being quietly at their own homes?

Mr. Rubanks. They would, yes.

Mr. Johnson. And they were so easily provoked that when officers appeared there in uniform and announced to them in plain and distinct voice that they were officers they nevertheless fired upon them and killed them. That's true, isn't it?

Mr. Rubanks. That is the information I have about it, that it is true. However, the man killed was on the front seat with the chauffeur and didn't have on a uniform. He

was in plain clothes. Sergeant Coppedge was a plainclothesman and didn't have on a uniform.

Mr. Johnson. Two of them were in uniform and two were not?

Mr. Eubanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. And those two that were not uniformed had on their badges?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, I don't know whether he had his badge --- I never made inquiry as to whether he had his badge outside or not. Possibly he did or didn't, I don't know.

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Mr. Cooper. I would like to ask a question right there. Before that church bell rang that night there had been an automobile load of white men going down through that negro settlement, firing indiscriminately upon houses on either side of that avenue, had there not?

Mr. Eubanks. I have heard there was.

Mr. Cooper. You heard Green say this next day, or sometime afterwards, that he saw where a bullet had gone through the corner of one house and into another?

Mr. Eubanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. You remember that Mr. Cotton said that he saw where a bullet had gone through a window, and another bullet had gone through another window, and Detective Green testified yesterday that his brother's wife had gone to the door to open the screen door to go out on the porch, and a bullet struck the house and she shrank back?

Mr. Eubanks. I have heard that testimony.

Mr. Cooper. Now you don't know whether it was somebody on that street or not that went over and rang that bell do you, after that?

Mr. Hubank's. No, sir; I don't know who rang the bell.

Mr. Cooper. The testimony here of Albertson, who was on that automobile in which, unfortunately, officer Coppedge was killed--- Mr. Albertson, the newspaper reporter testified that as they turned the corner it was dark, they were going 15 or 20 miles an hour; the top was down, and he said, "I myself couldn't have told who was in the automobile".

Mr. Baker. He said the top was up.

Mr. Cooper. I mean the top was up, and Mr. Albertson said, "I myself couldn't have told who was in the automobile" Coppedge was on the front seat in civilian clothes; this shooting had just been going on then without any regard, apparently, for life or property. Is it possible that those people standing there in that street, when this other automobile turned around that dark corner, thought that another automobile was going to ride up and shoot through there?

Mr. Hubank's. It is possible that they did.

Mr. Cooper. You don't know anything about it?

Mr. Hubank's. No, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Did some of them claim that was what they thought?

Mr. Hubank's. Well that seemed to have been the opinion of some people, that they didn't know that they were officers, and that they thought that machine was going to simply do what the previous one--- what I learned had passed through the neighborhood a short time prior to the time the police arrived, and they mistook that for the same machine. I have heard that.

At least that seemed to have been the opinion of some people.

Mr. Cooper. Do you know whether any of the men who were there in the street claimed that that is what they thought?

Mr. Eubanks. No, sir; I don't.

Mr. Cooper. You don't know anything about that?

Mr. Eubanks. No, sir.

Mr. Foss. Have you ever been able to find a man who was there at that time?

Mr. Eubanks. No, sir.

Mr. Foss. That testified as to the size of the mob or the size of this crowd, I mean, of negroes, that were forming there and what they were doing?

Mr. Eubanks. Well, I have never heard anybody testify as to the size of the mob, outside of the chauffeur, the driver of the machine, who was in company with Mr. Corledge the night he was killed.

Mr. Foss. How many did he say were there?

Mr. Eubanks. He said there appeared to be two dozen or more.

Mr. Cooper. Was he sitting on the front seat?

Mr. Eubanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. He was the chauffeur on the front seat?

Mr. Eubanks. Yes.

Mr. Cooper. A white man?

Mr. Eubanks. Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss. All of these men that have been convicted, the ten negroes, you say they are decided being there at that night?

Mr. Eubanks. Yes, sir.

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Mr. Robert: And you have never been able yet to find any man who was there, or in that neighborhood, who saw it, except these white men?

Mr. Roberts: No, sir.

Mr. Robert: Has anybody else?

Mr. Roberts: Well, I have never been able to find anybody that told us they were eye witnesses to it and knew about the mob.

Mr. Robert: What name of Norman Simpson? That is a man that said he heard the church bell ring.

Mr. Roberts: I don't know-- Simpson-- y, he is here in East St. Louis. He resides here.

Mr. Robert: Did you ever see him? Where he was relative to the church when the bell rang?

Mr. Roberts: I don't know whether he told us where he was or not.

Mr. Robert: Well, I know, I don't know there or not, and you found a place of one man?

Mr. Roberts: He told me he had been to church, but as to whether he was there when the bell rang, I don't know what he told me.

Mr. Robert: I would think that would be what you would try to get; to pin him right down and find out where he was, how close to the church, where he lived and what he heard in addition to hearing the church bells?

Mr. Roberts: I don't know where he was. If I had had that man, he was on the floor. I am not sure, but to the best of my knowledge-- I don't remember every question I asked

him. I might have asked him that.

Mr. Baker: Now to go to another matter, what is your impression as to the feeling now existing in East St. Louis? That there is a determination yet that the negroes must leave East St. Louis and not interfere with the conditions here?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, that is my opinion?

Mr. Baker: Yes.

Mr. Eubanks: Whether they should or should not?

Mr. Baker: No, from the sentiment of the people of East St. Louis, the white people.

Mr. Eubanks: Well, from the white people I have talked with, I find that most of them have an objection to the law-abiding, industrious, tax-paying negro coming here.

Mr. Baker: Well, is there a sentiment of any that you have talked with since the May riots, and particularly since the July riots, that the negroes were brought here practically as strike-breakers, or men here, and that the only way to rid the condition-- or the town-- of that condition was to drive the negroes out?

Mr. Eubanks: No, there has been no such sentiment made to me by any white men since July.

Mr. Baker: Oh, certainly not.

Mr. Johnson: When I was questioning you as to the probable course of the mob which killed Col. Pledge, you started to say something about the East Bridge, and switched off from that, and never completed your answer about it. What were you about to say concerning the association of your thoughts of the mob with the East Bridge?



Mr. Subanks: The East Bridge?

Mr. Johnson: The Free Bridge, I meant to say.

Mr. Subanks: I guess I was going to describe the location of the Free Bridge to you.

Mr. Johnson: Why were you undertaking to describe the bridge?

Mr. Subanks: The direction from where it was when Corpedge was killed.

Mr. Johnson: Have you ever heard that the negro mob which killed Corpedge was on its way to the Free Bridge?

Mr. Egan's: No, sir.

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~~Mr. Johnson: Why were you undertaking to describe the~~

~~bridge?~~

~~Mr. Subanks: The direction from where it was when~~  
~~Corpedge was killed.~~

~~Mr. Johnson: Have you ever heard that the negro mob~~  
~~which killed Corpedge was on its way to the Free Bridge?~~

~~Mr. Egan's: No, sir.~~

Mr. Johnson: You have never heard that?

Mr. Subanks: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: And you have never heard where it started out to go?

Mr. Subanks: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Have you heard how shortly after the killing of Corpedge this <sup>mob</sup> was dispersed?

Mr. Subanks: No, sir; I don't know that.

Mr. Johnson: Now in what direction they went?

Mr. Subanks: No, I don't know that. There will be two

officers you will have on the stand that were down in the neighborhood the night of the riot.

Mr. Johnson: Who are they?

Mr. Eubanks: Washington and Vardaman.

Mr. Johnson: Are they white or colored?

Mr. Eubanks: Colored. Possibly they could enlighten you on that particular question. You asked me how long it was after Coppedge and Wodley were killed before the mob disbanded. Was that what you said?

Mr. Johnson: Dispersed.

Mr. Eubanks: Dispersed.

Mr. Johnson: Were their opportunities to ascertain this greater than your own?

Mr. Eubanks: Yes, from the fact that they were working nights and were dispatched to the neighborhood immediately after it happened, and all down in the neighborhood where it occurred, and they were in a position to know more about that than I. I was working days.

Mr. Johnson: You think they can find out more about it in the night time than they can in the daytime?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, from the fact that they were on the ground shortly after it occurred, will enable them to have a broader knowledge of what actually went on there than the fellows that didn't get there until the next day.

Mr. Johnson: Have you made any attempt to find out who the white men are in this mob?

Mr. Eubanks: I made an attempt to find out through some of the white men, yes.

Mr. Feber: All those whom you thought you knew or could get information of, how many have been arrested?

Mr. Eubanks: Well, that I can't remember now. I couldn't really say whether they have been arrested or not.

Mr. Cooper: About how many of them have been arrested?

Mr. Eubanks: I really don't know how many have been arrested. I couldn't truthfully say how many.

Mr. Johnson: You aren't sure how many have been indicted either?

Mr. Eubanks: No, sir; I did read where there had been-- well, I couldn't say positively-- I think it was 104 indictments, or something like that. I am not saying that positively, but to the best of my knowledge I think there was 104-- at least, the paper stated there was 104-- the Journal.

Mr. Johnson: You are excused. The Committee will recess until 2 o'clock this afternoon.

(Whereupon, at 1 o'clock p.m., the Committee recessed.)

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The Committee reassembled at 2 o'clock p. m. pursuant to recess.

STATEMENT OF DR. C. P. RENNER, CORONER  
OF ST. CLAIR COUNTY,  
BELLVILLE, ILLINOIS.

The witness was sworn by Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Johnson. Dr. Renner, please give to the stenographer your name and official position.

Dr. Renner. C. P. Renner, of Bellville, Illinois; Coroner of St. Clair County.

Mr. Johnson. Doctor, in your capacity as coroner, how many corpses did you review--or have official knowledge of or any other knowledge of after the May riot, and after the July riot?

Dr. Renner. In between that, I don't know ~~xxxx~~ at the present time. They weren't of riot nature. They were natural causes and accident cases.

Mr. Johnson. Well, I am only after information concerning inquests held over those who were killed as the result of either of these riots.

Dr. Renner. I held 38 inquests following the July riot.

Mr. Johnson. And none following the May riot,

Dr. Renner. No.

Mr. Johnson. I would be glad, Doctor, if you would <sup>the Committee</sup> tell me how many of these inquests were held upon colored persons, and how many of them white, and the nature of the wounds of each.

Dr. Renner. There were 29 colored and 9 white cases. There were 4 deaths resulting from ~~xxxxxxx~~ burns.

Mr. Johnson. Were those four deaths included in the figures you have already given us,

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Dr. Renner. Yes, sir; four that were taken out of Cahokia Creek--that is drowning cases; one that was hauled on Fourth and Broadway; another that died at the hospital resulting from pneumonia following the fracture of the thyroid cartilage, which is the Adam's apple, from the result of being dragged through the streets by a rope; another of a hemorrhage of the brain that the man got while participating in the riot; two other fractured skull and hemorrhage cases, hemorrhage of the brain. They resulted from blows delivered upon the head by some instruments, probably clubs, and the rest were gunshot wounds.

Mr. Johnson. Doctor, tell us of the nature of the gunshot wounds particularly as to whether or not they were made with bullets of large or small caliber, and as nearly as you can state the caliber. State whether or not the bullets passed through the body.

Dr. Renner. There was one case on Collinsville Avenue.

Mr. Johnson. A white case or a negro.

Dr. Renner. A negro.

Mr. Johnson. A man or woman?

Dr. Renner. A man. The boy and his foster father, I think it was, were taken out of a ~~street~~ car.

Mr. Johnson. Out of a street car?

Dr. Renner. Out of a street car. The father was shot in the back; the boy was shot in the back <sup>and</sup> the bullet passed through the body and struck Mr. ~~Kyser~~ <sup>Kyser</sup>.

Mr. Johnson. Well, now, tell us about each of those wounds. Were they or not, in your opinion, made with the same gun and bullet or were they different ones?

Dr. Renner. They were the same gun, I think, on account

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of the caliber and the ~~steel~~ <sup>steel</sup> jacket of the bullet being correspondingly the same."

Mr. Johnson. You don't mean to say it was identically <sup>^</sup> the same gun, but a gun of like make,

Dr. Renner. To me I think it was the same gun that killed the three with two shots.

Mr. Johnson. Well, you reached that opinion not by the wounds but by the testimony?

Dr. Renner. By the bullets extracted from the bodies.

Mr. Johnson. All the soldiers would have had the same kind of guns--did have the same kind of guns and the same kind of bullets, didn't they?

Dr. Renner. Yes.

Mr. Johnson. And it is your opinion--well, now, when I used the expression "gun" I meant rifle. You probably meant <sup>either</sup> rifle or pistol?

Dr. Renner. I think this was a pistol shot.

Mr. Johnson. A steel jacketed bullet?

Dr. Renner. A steel jacketed bullet, yes.

Mr. Johnson. And that would have sufficient force to pass through the body of a man?

Dr. Renner. Yes.

Mr. Johnson. Where was the man shot, what part of the body?

Dr. Renner. In the back, and it came out up here, just below the collar bone.

Mr. Johnson. And struck no bone?

Dr. Renner. No bone.

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Mr. Johnson. You never found the bullet?

Dr. Renner. I found the bullet in old man Keyser.

Mr. Johnson. It had been passed through <sup>the</sup> ~~a~~ negro boy?

Dr. Renner. It passed through the negro boy.

Mr. Johnson. In what part of the body did it strike the negro boy?

Dr. Renner. In the back, on the right side, and coming out on the left side.

Mr. Johnson. Near the same place where the foster father was shot?

Dr. Renner. Yes. The bullet was in the foster father.

Mr. Johnson. The bullet remained in him?

Dr. Renner. Yes.

Mr. Johnson. I thought I asked you if it passed through him, and I thought you said "Yes."

Dr. Renner. No, it was the boy.

Mr. Johnson. Was it a steel jacketed bullet that struck the elder man?

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. And that didn't go through him?

Dr. Renner. That didn't go through.

Mr. Johnson. Have you sufficient knowledge <sup>into fire arms</sup> to be able to state whether it would be more likely that a bullet from a pistol or an army rifle would fail to go through.

Dr. Renner. I am satisfied this was a revolver.

Mr. Johnson. A revolver or an automatic?

Dr. Renner. Probably an automatic.

Mr. Johnson. You meant pistol?

Dr. Renner. Yes.

Mr. Johnson. Did the bullet, after having passed through the negro boy, passed through Keyser's,

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or lodge with in the body?

Dr. Renner: Yes, lodged in the right shoulder.

Mr. Johnson: What kind of a bullet was that?

Dr. Renner: It was a 38 steel jacketed bullet.

Mr. Johnson: What size, what caliber, was the one that lodged in the old man?

Dr. Renner: 38.

Mr. Johnson: Both were 38 steel bullets?

Dr. Renner: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: So called, Doctor, in your own way and describe the other wounds, particularly as to the kind of bullet used and the caliber.

Dr. Renner: Now I held the post mortem on Corp<sup>de</sup> and Beard.

Mr. Johnson: White man or negro?

Dr. Renner: Negroes. On Coppedge, the detective, that entered the right shoulder.

Mr. Johnson: You are speaking now of Coppedge?

Dr. Renner: Of Coppedge. The bullet entered the right shoulder there and the other--

Mr. Johnson: (Interposing:) From behind?

Dr. Renner: From behind, and several the left carotid artery, and passed clear through the body. The next post mortem I held was on Mr. Moor.

Mr. Johnson: Who was he?

Dr. Renner: He was a white man, very stout man.

Mr. Johnson: Where was he?

Dr. Renner: I don't know whether he was killed on Broadway or not. I held that post mortem at Renner-Frickler's Undertaking establishment here on Collinsville Avenue. That bullet was of less caliber.

Mr. Johnson: Not a steel jacketed bullet?



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Dr. Renner. Not a steel jacketed bullet.

Mr. Johnson. What caliber was it?

Dr. Renner. That was probably 38. That passed through the aorta and caused hemorrhage and his death.

I then saw Mr. Keyser at Walsh's Livery and Undertaking Company. That bullet entered at the junction of the collar bone and the breast bone, and it cut the subclavian artery and lodged in the right shoulder. That was the steel bullet I was telling you about that passed through the Beard boy.

Mr. Johnson. Who was the Beard boy? The one taken off the street car?

Dr. Renner. Yes, the one taken off the street car.

Mr. Johnson. You thought the bullet that killed that boy killed Keyser?

Dr. Renner. Yes. Now I am referring to the post mortem I held on Keyser at Walsh's. After that I held a blanket inquest at the suggestion of the State's Attorney Mr. Schaumleffel.

Mr. Johnson. This blanket inquest was on how many?

Dr. Renner. Well, that was the remaining--that was 34. That is I didn't hold any post mortems--didn't go into the body to see as to the exact cause.

Mr. Johnson. Did you look at the exterior of the body to see for the purpose of seeing ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ where the wounds were inflicted?

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. Tell us about that, as to where the wounds were inflicted on the body.

" Dr. Renner. I had three of them there that had fractured skulls, no doubt died from fractured skulls and

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cerebral hemorrhage. I had a man that was shot on the island, was shot through the head, not through the head, but back of the right ear. Now from the testimony we got there, that was probably a soldier's bullet.

Mr. Johnson: Why do you arrive at that conclusion?

Dr. Renner: From the testimony that the bullet had passed through one of the walls.

Mr. Johnson: At what range?

Dr. Renner: No, before it struck the man.

Mr. Johnson: Did you get any evidence as to who the soldier was that fired the shot?

Dr. Renner: No.

Mr. Johnson: Where was he firing when he shot?

Dr. Renner: Well is the case where the police officers on July 3rd went down to the island.

Mr. Johnson: Is that this shooting that occurred in front of a saloon?

Dr. Renner: Yes.

Mr. Johnson: It has been told to us where one of the negroes got shot in an ice box.

Dr. Renner: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: And that is what occurred on the island?

Dr. Renner: Yes.

Mr. Johnson: I am asking that because I have been confused as to just where the island was.

Doctor, did any of these wounds, either on the body or on the clothes, indicate powder burns?

Dr. Renner: There is only probably two out of 25 that show powder burns.

Mr. Johnson: Who were they and where were the wounds?

Dr. Renner: I don't know. No early unidentified negroes.

Mr. Johnson: Never identified?

Dr. Renner: Never identified. I ordered the photographer, Mr. Egan, to take pictures of all the cases involved. Since that, of course, everybody has tried to claim some one as a relative, but I still have lots of them that are unidentified.

I had one little child, a little girl of probably two and a half or three years old, that was shot in the head.

Mr. Johnson: Was she powder burned?

Dr. Renner: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: What kind of a gun or bullet did that wound indicate?

Dr. Renner: That was probably a .22. It was a small opening in the skull.

Mr. Johnson: Did it pass directly through?

Dr. Renner: No.

Mr. Johnson: Did you get it out?

Dr. Renner: No. According to a resolution by the Board of Supervisors the state's attorney orders the coroner to hold post mortems.

Mr. Johnson: And you have no order to hold a post mortem in that instance?

Dr. Renner: I had no orders for post mortems after the death of July, with the exception of Scott Clark. I held post mortem on him. That is the one that had the fractured Adam's apple.

Mr. Johnson: About that was the case of that little girl, Doctor?

Dr. Renner: That little girl was about two and

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half or three years old.

I had another boy, probably 15 or 16 years old, who was shot in the head.

Mr. Johnson. Did his wound indicate what kind of a bullet had been used?

Dr. Renner. That was a little larger, probably a 38. It is queer about that little child; it hasn't been identified.

Mr. Johnson. The little girl or the little boy?

Dr. Renner. The little girl.

Mr. Johnson. She was not identified?

Dr. Renner. No.

Mr. Johnson. What became of her remains?

Dr. Renner. They were buried in the potter's field.

Mr. Johnson. Did you see any of the rioting, doctor?

Dr. Renner. I did not. I was in Bellville. That is about 14 miles east.

Mr. Johnson. Have you either knowledge or information as to the cause of its origin?

Dr. Renner. I don't know. I can probably tell you about the homicides I held inquests on since 1912 if that would help you out any.

Mr. Johnson. It wouldn't do any harm. Tell us about them.

Dr. Renner. Probably from ~~18~~ 85 to 90 per cent of the homicides since 1912 were committed by negroes. I had more homicides during the ~~time~~<sup>time</sup> that the saloons were open in ~~the~~ the "Valley" district.

Mr. Johnson. And the "Valley" was inhabited by whom principally, negroes or white persons?

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Dr. Renner. There were two valleys here, so I understood at that time, a white and a colored.

Mr. Johnson. Which valley do you mean, the white or colored, or both.

Dr. Renner. Both of them. And since the closing of the saloons on Sunday, the homicides have decreased.

Another peculiar thing about the homicides is the cheap firearms that have been used. I think that is brought about by the--I sometimes did ask what they paid for them and where they got them, and it was stated that it was in the pawnbrokers shops they got them-- 50 cents, 75 cents, or a dollar.

Mr. Johnson. Pistols?

Dr. Renner. Pistols--a very cheap make, but enough to kill. Lots of the homicides of course have been committed in saloons, where they have partitions; where they "can" beer in the rear or in the yards. I have had inquests that the cause was always from a game of cards, called "coon can into the pocket" <sup>to</sup> for five or ten cents being the ~~cause~~ <sup>cause</sup> of the death. Sometimes the men were intoxicated at the time.

Another thing I found that often the negroes that committed the homicides were from the South, being here probably from one week up to three or four months.

Mr. Johnson. Were any of these homicides the result of highway robbery or burglary?

Dr. Renner. There were some. I remember having an inquest of a negro body, a death that resulted down at the cotton compress south of town, where a young lady and her escort taking a short cut home were accosted in the cotton

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plant by a negro, and the negro had taken the girl aside, and the young man went out and got help, the watchman came and the negro was shot.

Mr. Johnson. The negro shot the girl?

Dr. Renner. No, the negro was killed.

Mr. Johnson. Did the young man kill him or the watchman?

Dr. Renner. The watchman. We have several instances-- I just can't recall at the present time--where there was a little race feeling that came out after the homicide had been committed.

Mr. Johnson. Doctor, don't you think that race feeling has become quite prevalent over this community?

Dr. Renner. I think it has.

Mr. Johnson. That spirit is entertained by both whites and blacks?

Dr. Renner. Well, I couldn't judge that exactly from the location here at East St. Louis, but off and on I pick up a little here and there that shows that there was a little ill feeling.

Mr. Johnson. A little; but wasn't there quite a good deal?

Dr. Renner. Well, I would hear this in the cars coming over to East St. Louis. The press would probably have some story of homicide, murder, and they would then criticise about the parties that do it, and the easy way that they have been doing it, and how they got out of town. That was another point that I didn't state, that negroes that committed the homicides, were generally in the southern part of the town. They immediately would go down into the

railroad districts, or probably across the <sup>free</sup> bridge, or go down towards Dupeau, and there get a train South.

Mr. Johnson. Do you know the reason why you were not permitted to hold post mortems on all of the dead?

Dr. Renner. I don't know any special reason why. The coroner in this county gets \$25. for each post mortem that he holds, and the board of supervisors then passed the resolution that the coroner must get the O. K. and sanction of the state's attorney to hold <sup>such</sup> post mortems.

Mr. Johnson. It is your opinion that you were not authorized to hold post mortems because it cost too much, or because there was an effort to cover up something relative to these deaths?

Dr. Renner. I think it was the cost that <sup>was</sup> in the mind of the state's attorney at the time.

Mr. Johnson. Were any of your inquests held privately?

Dr. Renner. They were.

Mr. Johnson. How many of them?

Dr. Renner. I started out at Benner-Bricoler's Iivery and Undertaking Company on Collinsville Avenue, and after hearing testimony of some of the soldiers--

Mr. Johnson (interposing): Was that an open investigation?

Dr. Renner. That was ~~xx~~closed also.

Mr. Johnson. You started out by hold<sup>ing</sup> secret investigations?

Dr. Renner. Yes. I really don't know if anyone knew it at the time?

Mr. Johnson. Knew what?

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Dr. Renner. The first inquest I held was on Mr. Coppedge. That was open. I got the testimony of Mr. Albertson and the chauffeur-I can't recall his name. The jury in that case--

Mr. Johnson (interposing). You had just two witnesses?

Dr. Renner. Yes; that's all that was available at that time. The jury in that case ~~xxxxx~~ brought in a verdict of death from parties unknown to them. Later on his inquest and the testimony in his behalf came into the blanket forms that were held. The state's attorney, Mr. Schaumleffel and his assistant, Mr. Walcott, and I agreed upon a secret investigation.

Mr. Johnson. Who suggested it, you or they?

Dr. Renner. Well, probably--I don't know--probably he did. I just can't recall.

Mr. Johnson. Now you can determine whether or not you did by ascertaining for yourself whether or not you had any reason for wanting it held privately?

Dr. Renner. I think I asked the state's attorney if we wanted the crowd in there, and I think he stated, "Well let them all stay out."

Mr. Johnson. And who was this particular attorney?

Dr. Renner. Mr. Schaumleffel.

Mr. Johnson. You started to say something about holding your investigation--your inquest--secret, and made some reference to the soldiers. What were you about to say?

Dr. Renner. Well, we started out at Benner-Brichley's. The soldiers then told us about two men that were arrested and were in the police station, ~~xxx~~ that had dragged the



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negro--Scott Clark--at that time they didn't know the name--  
the referred to a boy wearing a green cap and a large man  
wearing a blue shirt; and we then adjourned.

Mr. Johnson. As having done the shooting.

Dr. Renner. As having dragged the rope on the negro.

Mr. Johnson. We then went over to the station  
and they identified the Kean boy and man by the name of  
Wood.

Mr. Johnson. What were they doing over at the station.

Dr. Renner. They were arrested by, ~~XXXXXX~~ I think,  
Colonel Clayton.

Mr. Johnson. Were they at the station trying to  
get out of town?

Dr. Renner. No they were arrested in the act.

Mr. Johnson. You don't mean the railroad station;  
you mean the police station?

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir. We then seen that the  
former headquarters of the detective force was in use  
at the time, and next day we decided to go to the station  
to hold our inquest. Following that morning, William  
Trauttman, who is connected with the Attorney-General's  
office, called Mr. Volcott, the states attorney's representative  
here in East St. Louis and myself to the office. There was  
a representative of the Attorney-General's office there.  
They asked me what I was doing, and I told them the method that  
I was getting the testimony; how I was trying to connect  
individuals to individual cases; and after hearing that they  
told me to proceed in the manner that I had started. So it  
was with the sanction of the state's attorney's office and  
the members of the Attorney General's office that I had the

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secret ~~XXXXX~~ inquests.

Mr. Johnson. It is your opinion, as a physician, coupled with your knowledge of firearms, that some of these persons were killed with rifles that the soldiers came here armed with?

Dr. Renner. ~~XXXXXX~~ The only one I have in mind is the man--from the testimony that I got at the inquest down on the island. I asked the state's attorney if he wouldn't like to have the body examined; ~~and~~ <sup>that</sup> I would hold a post mortem on it.

Mr. Johnson. What did he say?

Dr. Renner. He thought sometimes it would be proper, but never gave me the exact word to go ahead.

Mr. Johnson. Did you hold an inquest, a separate inquest over both or either of the negroes who were shot in the rear of some negro residence here <sup>right near</sup> when the building was on fire, and which negroes were considerably burned?

Dr. Renner. The four bodies that were burned, they were just burned into a crisp.

Mr. Johnson. You held inquests on four bodies that had been burned?

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. How all four of those bodies were negroes?

Dr. Renner. They were negroes, yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. All four of them were men?

Dr. Renner. I couldn't determine that.

Mr. Johnson. You didn't make an effort to determine whether they were women or men?

Dr. Renner. The testimony I think showed that they were men, but I can't recall that, unless I would go over it. Those are still unidentified.

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Mr. Johnson. Were all four of them adults?

Dr. Renner. Yes.

Mr. Johnson. Doctor, to what extent were they burned, ~~xvxxvDvxxvxxvxxv~~ taking each one of them separately?

Dr. Renner. They were just burned to a crisp; as much as a human body can burn without being in ashes; enough to be agglutinated together, showing the form of the human body.

Mr. Johnson. The bones were of course left.

Dr. Renner. The bones were left and the skulls were left.

Mr. Johnson. And the cooked flesh?

Dr. Renner. <sup>cooked</sup> The flesh was in a crisp.

Mr. Johnson. How many did you say were taken from the creek down here?

Dr. Renner. Four.

Mr. Johnson. Had they met death simply by being drowned or were they also shot <sup>or clubbed</sup> or stoned. "

Dr. Renner. They were at the time in a gaseous distention. A drowned case, as you know, infiltrated with water, and then gas is formed.

Mr. Johnson. How long after the second of July were those bodies recovered?

Dr. Renner. They were about the fourth or fifth or sixth.

Mr. Johnson. And were they ~~xxxxxxx~~ recovered in the creek or in the river?

Dr. Renner. In the creek.

Mr. Johnson. They hadn't washed out into the river?

Dr. Renner. I think one was in a little branch of the creek down here, somewhere.

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Mr. Johnson. They hadn't washed out into the river?

Dr. Renner. I didn't get any report from that.

Mr. Johnson. From their condition, you made no examination to see whether <sup>or not</sup> they had been shot, clubbed or stoned?

Dr. Renner. I didn't know.

Mr. Johnson. But the coroner's verdict was death by drowning, I suppose?

Dr. Renner. By drowning.

Mr. Johnson. And that verdict came from the single fact that they were found in the creek, Cahokia Creek?

Dr. Renner. Yes, and it occurring during the mob violence on July 2.

Mr. Cooper. You held an inquest on 29 bodies of colored men?

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. You say 29 or 39?

Dr. Renner. 29.

Mr. Cooper. Well, there has been testimony here, that a little boy four years old, or about that age, was knocked unconscious and then thrown back into a two-story frame building that was on fire; that his body was thrown on the floor of what was the second story, that being on a level with the street, which had been raised in front of the building, and that that building was totally consumed and the body of the little boy went down in the blaze. You don't know <sup>anything</sup> about that body?

Dr. Renner. I don't know anything about that body.

Mr. Cooper. It makes one more then.

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Dr. Renner. That would make one more.

Mr. Cooper. That would make 30.

Now this little girl, about how old was she?

Dr. Renner. Two and a half or three years.

Mr. Cooper. How was she dressed?

Dr. Renner. She had a little bluish dress on.

Mr. Cooper. A little bluish dress. Any shoes?

Dr. Renner. She had shoes on, yes.

Mr. Cooper. And she was shot where?

Dr. Renner. In the head.

Mr. Cooper. Do you remember where the bullet entered and where it came out?

Dr. Renner. On the left side.

Mr. Cooper. Shot from behind?

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Did it pass through the head?

Dr. Renner. No, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~.

Mr. Cooper. It lodged in the brain?

Dr. Renner. It lodged in the brain.

Mr. Cooper. Her body was never identified?

Dr. Renner. Never identified, no.

Mr. Cooper. How long was it kept before burial?

Dr. Renner. It was kept probably three or four days.

Mr. Cooper. You don't know where her parents or friends went?

Dr. Renner. No, sir.

Mr. Cooper. She was buried in the potter's field?

Dr. Renner. In the potter's field.

Mr. Cooper. You held the inquest on office Coppedge open?

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Dr. Renner. Yessir.

Mr. Cooper. Open to spectators?

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. And all the facts about that inquest *then* were printed in the papers?

Dr. Renner. I guess they were.

Mr. Cooper. And they went by word of mouth everywhere through this community, of course, didn't they?

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. What time did you hold that inquest?

Dr. Renner. Somewhere about, between 10 and 11 I think it was.

Mr. Cooper. You held an open inquest on the body of Officer Coppedge at 10 or 11 o'clock on the morning of the 2nd. Spectators could carry the information about the killing. Was the inquest on the other officer at the same time? He hadn't died yet?

Dr. Renner. The other officer died about 20 or 24 hours later.

Mr. Cooper. So that it was known ~~xxxxxxx~~ through the city everywhere before noon of the second that Officer Coppedge had been killed by negroes?

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. And immediately after that you proceeded to hold the inquest on the body of the negroes in secret?

Dr. Renner. That was the following day that I started that.

Mr. Cooper. How many open inquests on the bodies of negroes did you hold?

Dr. Renner. I didn't hold any open on any negroes.

Mr. Cooper. Exactly. All the facts of the unfortunate

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killing of Officer Coppedge were made public in this city and went everywhere but when it came to finding out whether the soldiers or a policeman or anybody else had killed negroes, you held that in secret, and the evidence was never made public; is that so?

Dr. Renner: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: So all that the mob knew was that Officer Coppedge a good officer, had been killed by negroes; who had attacked and assaulted and shot the negroes wasn't made public; that is a fact, isn't it?

Dr. Renner: The papers had that in the morning before I came down to this city.

Mr. Cooper: I know, but I am asking so far as the official inquest was concerned.

Dr. Renner: The inquest was held at Benner-Brickler's. There was no effort to keep any one out.

Mr. Cooper: But there was an effort made to keep everybody out of the other inquest?

Dr. Renner: After that.

Mr. Cooper: After that. Do you know that it is in testimony here-- evidence given by reputable witnesses-- that soldiers with rifles shot negroes that day?

Dr. Renner: I don't know.

Mr. Cooper: You made no more post mortems. How many post mortems did you make altogether?

Dr. Renner: I held a post mortem on Mr. Coppedge, Beard, Cook; on Mr. Scott Clark and William Keyser.

Mr. Cooper: Was William Keyser a white man?

Dr. Renner: Yes, sir; and Mr. Moore is another one.

Mr. Cooper: Moore was a white man.

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Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Three white men.

Dr. Penner. And Cook and Beard, two colored.

Mr. Cooper. Cook and Beard, the foster father and the boy, killed here in the street at the time Keyser was killed?

Mr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. And after that, all was in secret?

Dr. Renner. All secret.

Mr. Cooper. Of course it was known by everybody that the soldiers didn't kill Cook or Beard?

Dr. Renner. That was known, yes.

Mr. Cooper. That inquest was public. Who protested or who suggested that thereafter the inquests be in secret?

Dr. Renner. Well, I guess Mr. Schaulleffel, *sic*.

Mr. Cooper. If you had held post mortems on the bodies of those negroes, you could have determined whether rifle bullets killed any of them, couldn't you?

Dr. Renner. You mean on the rest of them or just on Beard and cook?

Mr. Cooper. No, no.

Dr. Renner. On all of them?

Mr. Cooper. If you had held post mortems on the 34 bodies on which you did not hold post mortems--34 wasn't it?

Dr. Renner. Yes.

Mr. Cooper. If you held post mortems and used the surgeon's knife and made a critical examination, you could have determined whether the bullet which killed any one of those was a revolver bullet or a rifle bullet?



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Dr. Renner. I would have the bullet to show for it.

Mr. Cooper. And you then could have determined whether the soldiers killed these negroes?

Dr. Renner. I could yes.

Mr. Cooper. And not having had a post mortem on those 34, or any portion of them--any number of them--you cannot now tell nor can anybody else except the eye witnesses who actually saw the shooting, that soldiers did the killing, can you?

Dr. Renner. That is the exact thing, yes.

Mr. Cooper. Well, don't that now, in the light of all of the subsequent events, Mr. Coroner, impress <sup>you</sup> as the most remarkable fact?

Dr. Renner. Not holding post mortems?

Mr. Cooper. Yes.

Dr. Renner. I do.

Mr. Cooper. Is <sup>it</sup> not so remarkable that in the light of all the facts that it is nothing short of astounding?

Dr. Renner. It is.

Mr. Cooper. The only evidence that could convict the soldier~~x~~ of having been a murderer when he ought to have been a preserver of the peace and a defender of innocents, was lost the minute you began to hold the secret inquests. Isn't that so? You couldn't help yourself, but whoever is responsible for you doing that must have known that fact. Isn't that so?

Dr. Renner. I don't quite catch your point, Congressman.

Mr. Cooper. The evidence which could have determined to a moral certainty that the soldiers shot one of these negroes -- that is, the bullet itself--that evidence was lost the minute you began to hold secret inquests without a post mortem.

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Dr. Renner. The post mortem is the prime factor there, yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. The Chairman asked you about the "island" murder, the ice-box case. What did you know about that particular murder?

Dr. Renner. That is the case where some police officers had charge of <sup>some of</sup> the soldiers that went down to the island. Probably they may tell you that in the afternoon of the second several men went around telling the ~~saloon~~ <sup>saloon keepers</sup> to close the saloons. The men that ran this place--I can't recall the names--

(Interposing)  
Mr. Cooper. You are telling this from hearsay? You don't know yourself? This is what you were told?

Dr. Renner. I happened to be in an automobile coming down from the Dayton Undertaking Co. that afternoon, and I halted a man with a machine and he happened to be an inspector, as he told me, going around notifying the saloons to close up. I think it was 6 o'clock.

Mr. Johnson. Was he a white officer or a colored officer?

Dr. Renner. A white man. I don't know his name. The following morning the police officers with several soldiers went down to the ~~xxxxxxx~~ island. It was brought out at the request that they were to close the saloon.

Mr. Cooper. Do you know the name of that officer?

Dr. Renner. Officer Keekhan, Officer O'Brien, and a chauffeur whose name I cannot recall.

Mr. Cooper. Only one officer went down to the island saloon?

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Dr. Renner. No, two, Officers Heehan and O'Brien and a chauffeur in charge of one of the machines.

Mr. Cooper. How many soldiers were there?

Dr. Renner. I guess six or seven of them.

There were two automobile loads going down, and they run into the saloon and sort of a little eating place and immediately the shooting began. The officers states that the colored men began shooting, and the colored men state that the officers and the soldiers began. Now that is all I can state as to that.

Mr. Cooper. Do you know about the man that got into the ice-box?

Dr. Renner. There was one man died. There was a negress that had her arm shot off--that is it was hanging and the doctors cut it off; and another one that was wounded at that time.

Mr. Cooper. Do you know who shot off, or what bullet it was that shot off the woman's arm?

Dr. Renner. No, sir; that is just what I got in the testimony.

Mr. Cooper. It must have been a high powered bullet.

Dr. Renner. No doubt it was.

Mr. Cooper. How many negroes were killed there?

Dr. Renner. One.

Mr. Cooper. Were any white men wounded at all?

Dr. Renner. No, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Not even wounded?

Dr. Renner. No, sir. I think the only white men in the party were police officers and the soldiers.

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Mr. Cooper. There were two police officers and five or six soldiers?

Dr. Renner. I think so. The chauffeur also has a commission.

Mr. Cooper. And the chauffeur. And the only persons injured at all there was this colored man who was killed and the woman whose arm was shot off?

Dr. Renner. I don't know the extent of the other man's injury.

Mr. Cooper. Do you know that we had a reputable witness on the stand, an entirely disinterested witness, and intelligent man, apparently honest, who said that these negroes were running, and that the soldiers shot and killed him? And shot the woman that was walking on the street?

Dr. Renner. The case that we are now talking about, the two police officers, are under indictment now. I don't know that it would be well to go into that at this time.

Mr. Cooper. Very well.

Dr. Renner. The police officers will be brought up for trial.

Mr. Cooper. Very well.

Mr. Baker. What are their names:

Dr. Renner. Officer Keehan.

Mr. Baker. What is his first name?

Dr. Renner. I don't know. --Cornelius Keehan, I think it is, yes, Cornelius Keehan; and Officer O'Brien, and the chauffeur, I can't recall his name.

Mr. Cooper. Now you never have been arrested or

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indicted.

Dr. Renner. No, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Your evidence here wouldn't affect you at all then.

Dr. Renner. IN what way.

Mr. Cooper. You don't—there is nothing to incriminate you.

Dr. Renner. Not at all, no.

Mr. Cooper. And there is no professional secret which you <sup>held</sup> ~~own~~, either as coroner or physician, professionally?

Dr. Renner. No.

Mr. Cooper. Then there is no reason why you should not answer.

Dr. Renner. Well, I will answer that.

Mr. Cooper. Who shot at the negroes.

Dr. Renner. The testimony that I got was that the police officers shot and the soldiers shot.

Mr. Cooper. Yes. And nobody else shot the negroes.

Dr. Renner. No, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Somebody killed them, and there is nobody killed or <sup>less</sup> wounded among any of those white men?

Dr. Renner. No, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Neither soldiers nor officers?

Dr. Renner. No, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Do you know who this negro woman was that had her arm shot off?

Dr. Renner. I don't know. She was in one of our hospitals here at East St. Louis.

Mr. Cooper. Did you ever see the woman, the mother of the boy who was killed at the time Mr. Heyser was killed?

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Dr. Penner. I did not.

Mr. Cooper. I didn't understand distinctly what you said about the character of these pistols. You said they were very cheap. Did you ask what they cost?

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Dr. Penner. That is ~~the~~ before, in a general review of the inquest that I held, they were very cheap revolvers, and sometimes I would ask them where they got them, and they said pawnshops, and that they paid fifty cents for them.

Mr. Cooper. So a negro or a white man prior to those riots was able to go to a pawnshop in this city and buy a pistol or a revolver for fifty cents?

Dr. Penner. And upwards.

Mr. Cooper. A deadly weapon.

Dr. Penner. A deadly weapon.

Mr. Cooper. And go out with on the street and get drunk if he wanted to. Is that so?

Dr. Penner. I guess so.

Mr. Cooper. Is that all the regulation they had here about the purchase and the carrying of deadly weapons in this city?

Dr. Penner. That is the only thing I know of.

Mr. Cooper. You say you had a blanket inquest without post mortems on 30 or 40. Did you hold that inquest at one time?

Dr. Penner. No, sir.

Mr. Cooper. How many hearings did you have under that blanket authorization?

Dr. Penner. Well, six or seven, *days*.

Mr. Cooper. Six or seven <sup>days,</sup> but it was one proceeding continued?

Dr. Renner. Interrupted. Sometimes it would be continued the follow day, or two or three days afterwards.

Mr. Cooper. But it was inquest which included all the corpses?

Dr. Renner. Yes.

Mr. Cooper. Continued from day to day?

Dr. Renner. Yes, and one jury.

Mr. Cooper. Where was that held?

Dr. Renner. That was held one day at Benner-Brichler's and the rest of time in the police station.

Mr. Cooper. How many were on the jury?

Dr. Renner. Six men.

Mr. Cooper. A regular coroner's jury?

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Can you give the names of that jury?

Dr. Renner. Mr. Keys, Joseph Keys, Theodore Smith, Charles House, Alonzo Brichler, Charles Scherer, and Mr. C. R. Hisrich.

Mr. Cooper. ~~xxxx~~ Did you give the business of Mr. Hisrich?

Dr. Renner. He is in the building and loan association and real estate.

Mr. Cooper. What is the business of the other men?

Dr. Renner. Mr. Keys is in the real estate business and also secretary of the school board.

Mr. Cooper. That is two in the real estate and secretary of the school board. How what about the third?

Dr. Renner. Mr. Smith is in the real estate and insurance business.

Mr. Cooper. Real estate and insurance. Who else?

Dr. Renner. Mr. Erichler is an undertaker. Mr. House, Chas. House, is in the hardware business.

Mr. Cooper. What is the other one?

Dr. Renner. Mr. Scherer, I think, is a clerk. He was formerly a member of the board of supervisors.

Mr. Cooper. Do you know whether Mr. Smith is any relation to a man called "Red" Smith?

Dr. Renner. I don't think so. There are three brothers here in business.

Mr. Cooper. Or John Smith?

Dr. Renner. His father is ~~John~~ John Smith, living at Belleville.

Mr. Cooper. Or George Smith?

Dr. Renner. I don't think they are any relatives.

Mr. Cooper. Or Arthur Smith?

Dr. Renner. No, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Or C. C. Smith?

Dr. Renner. Those are the only Smiths I know, and I think they are brothers, and the only relatives-- to my knowledge.

Mr. Cooper. What day of the week did you begin the blanket inquest?

Dr. Renner. I think that was on Tuesday.

Mr. Cooper. You began the blanket inquest on Tuesday. What time of the day?

Dr. Renner. About 9 o'clock *in the morning.*

Mr. Cooper. How long did it continue?



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Dr. Renner. Until dinner time. After dinner at 1 until 5.

Mr. Cooper. Then you recessed until when?

Dr. Renner. I don't know if it was the following day or two days after.

Mr. Cooper. How long did you continue that day?

Dr. Renner. About the same time.

Mr. Cooper. Then you recessed until when?

Dr. Renner. For a day or two. It depended upon the names that we got, coming out during the testimony. We got a whole lot of names from Mr. Stocker, the chief of detectives.

Mr. Foster. How many witnesses did you examine?

Dr. Renner. I don't know the exact total, but I should judge we had over a hundred, I think.

Mr. Cooper. Did you examine any soldiers?

Dr. Renner. We examined lots of them, yes.

Mr. Cooper. Did you examine those soldiers who were charged with shooting these men, or this man and this woman's arm off?

Dr. Renner. Yes, we got the testimony of all of those.

Mr. Cooper. Then these soldiers who are now charged with shooting that man testified on an inquest which, had there been a post mortem on that corpse, would have determined whether it was <sup>the</sup> the soldiers' bullets that killed him, wouldn't it?

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. But there having been no post mortem, it was impossible to tell whether the soldiers did kill him?

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Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. That is all.

Mr. Baker. Just going back to this island murder, did you have the soldiers before you, you say?

Dr. Renner. I did, yes.

Mr. Baker. Did they testify that the policemen did the shooting?

Dr. Renner. That the policemen did the shooting, and also give orders to shoot--give the soldiers the orders to shoot.

Mr. Baker. Well, did they testify how many shots the officers shot--how many times they shot?

Dr. Renner. I cannot state that, if they did that or not.

Mr. Baker. Well, which one of these policemen actually shot?

Dr. Renner. Well, from the testimony, Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. Baker. O'Brien shot.

Dr. Renner. Yes.

Mr. Baker. But did you hear at that time how many times?

Dr. Renner. No, I don't remember that.

Mr. Baker. Did the chauffeur do any shooting?

Dr. Renner. NO. That testimony was taken down by a stenographer.

Mr. Baker. I know but I wanted to get your testimony.

Mr. Foss. Has it been preserved?

Dr. Renner. Yes; that is in the circuit clerk's office.

*Baker.*  
Mr. ~~Foss.~~ Did they get any testimony that Meenan did any shooting?

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Dr. Renner. I can't just remember about Mr. Meehan.

Mr. Baker. Did you have Meehan testify before you?

Dr. Penner. I had Meehan and the officers.

Mr. Baker. What did Meehan testify as to the shooting?

Dr. Renner. He testified that the soldiers did the shooting. So did Mr. O'Brien and the chauffeur.

Mr. Baker. The officers, that is, police officers-- that the two officers and the chauffeur all testified that the soldiers did the shooting?

Dr. Renner. And the officers stated that the colored had opened fire.

Mr. Baker. Now did O'Brien admit that he did any shooting?

Dr. Renner. He didn't admit the shooting.

Mr. Baker. Did the officers all deny that they did any shooting?

Dr. Penner. They denied <sup>doing any</sup> ~~xxxxxxx~~ shooting.

Mr. Baker. Then you brought in the officers-- the soldiers I mean--how many soldiers did you have testify?

Dr. Penner. I guess there were six or seven.

Mr. Baker. And the soldiers testified that the officers did the shooting?

Dr. Penner. They testified that the officers did the shooting, and <sup>then</sup> commanded them to shoot.

Mr. Baker. Well now, before they got to their command, did they testify as to how many shots were fired

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before they were commanded to shoot?

Dr. Renner. I don't remember that that question was asked, how many shots were fired.

Mr. Baker. Now, what did the soldiers say was done after they were commanded to fire by the officers?

Dr. Renner. That they fired.

Mr. Baker. They did actually shoot?

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker. Did they say how many shots were fired by them?

Dr. Penner. I don't know that that question was asked. It may be in the testimony, but I can't recall.

Mr. Baker. You didn't get that as to the number?

Dr. Renner. I didn't know.

Mr. Baker. Did you learn that the soldiers all had guns, all of them?

Dr. Renner. Yes.

Mr. Baker. And that the police officers had revolvers?

Dr. Penner. They had revolvers, yes.

Mr. Baker. Did the police officers testify that the negroes had fired on them before the shooting was done?

Dr. Renner. I think the testimony will show that they said that the negroes opened fire, and that they then gave the command to fire.

Mr. Baker. <sup>Oh,</sup> the negroes opened fire, and here were these two brave police officers, with a chauffeur, who didn't return the fire at all, according to their statement, but <sup>they then</sup> commanded the soldiers to fire?

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker. And the soldiers fired in a squad or separately, did you learn that?

Dr. Renner. Well, they went down to the stream in two auto coaches and they went towards the building-- I think while running, and then the negroes started to flee, and one witness gives it that the negroes started to shoot, and the others say that the police officers started to shoot and then gave the command. There are two different kinds of testimony.

Mr. Baker. Well, did the police officers testify-- I don't mean the police officers--the soldiers, testify that the negroes had opened fire?

Dr. Renner. There are two who state that the police officers opened up fire first.

Mr. Baker. But none of the soldiers <sup>testified</sup> that the negroes opened up the fire?

Dr. Renner. I don't know that there was one or not; but the majority of them stated that it was opened up by the police officers.

Mr. Baker. That the police officers opened up the fire before the negroes had done anything?

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker. What were the negroes supposed to be doing when they rushed on them?

Dr. Renner. There is one history there of the men shooting craps. The men were given order to go down and close the saloon, this saloon, as the proprietor stated he had never been ordered to close that night, and they were running open as usual. From the testimony given there were three <sup>revolvers</sup> ~~revolvers~~, I think, that were gotten by the police officers and the soldiers after search, one

from a negro that was in the ice box--he didn't <sup>know</sup> what was coming and he run in there--another from back of the bar, and another one a fellow by the name of St. John, ~~and~~ I think it is, who is sort of a treasurer down there--or paymaster rather--

Mr. Johnson (interposing). A white man or negro.

Dr. Renner. Colored man.

Mr. Johnson. Was this a negro saloon?

Dr. Renner. Yes, and those are the three revolvers that the police-officers and the soldiers got.

Mr. Baker. ~~xxxx~~ Did you have these negroes before the coroner's jury?

Dr. Renner. I did, yes.

Mr. Baker. The man in the ice-box?

Dr. Renner, yes, sir.

Mr. Baker. What was his name, do you remember?

Dr. Renner. I don't remember that.

Mr. Baker. And the two others--how many negroes did you have on the witness stand before the coroner's jury? I mean on this particular incident? That is what I am referring to? ~~and~~ I

Dr. Renner. Probably five or six.

Mr. Baker. Negroes from this particular saloon?

Dr. Renner. Yes, <sup>some of the men</sup> that were lined up there with their hands above their head while they were searched. I believe there was another man, but I couldn't follow it up on account of so many being in the hospital. The

ambulance would go through the street and pick them up, and sometimes they would be on top of one another, as many as they could get in to carry there; and some they have lost track of as to where they really picked them up.

Mr. Raker: Well, I want to hold our examination just to the island exclusively. Now how many negroes were there at this particular saloon?

Dr. Renner: Probably from 15 to 20, if my memory serves me right.

Mr. Raker: And one was killed, and one was wounded?

Dr. Renner: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: And then the young lady, the woman that had her arm broken, Mineola Magee-- you didn't get her at all?

Dr. Renner: No.

Mr. Raker: She was across the street, was she, when she was shot?

Dr. Renner: I understand she was in a building across the street.

Mr. Raker: And accidentally shot?

Dr. Renner: Accidentally shot.

Mr. Raker: Now did you have the body of the negro that was killed at this saloon on the island in the undertaking parlor, and did you hold an inquest over his body?

Dr. Renner: Yes.

Mr. Cooper: You used that expression "accidentally shot." I want to put in there what I understand the law is on that. If a man fires a deadly weapon, or a rifle, in

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a public thoroughfare, where pedestrians are passing and re-passing, even though he doesn't intend to kill that particular person, he is held responsible for it.

Mr. Raker. Yes.

Mr. Cooper. Or in some states murder in the second degree, because he performs in a reckless manner an act eminently dangerous to human life.

Mr. Raker. Yes. Well I used that word to distinguish between the ones that were being directly shot at and missed and the innocent party that was off doing some other business, just as in the case of the white man that was killed. That is the purpose of trying to make the distinction.

Did the state's attorney, Mr. Schaumleffel, remain present and hear this testimony?

Dr. Renner. He did, and the attorney general's office was represented at the inquest, from time to time.

Mr. Raker. And hear this testimony?

Dr. Renner. They heard the testimony, yes.

Mr. Raker. Now I want to get down to these particular ones. I am going to ask a few more questions about this island affair. Do you think the Attorney General's office was present at that time?

Dr. Renner. Mr. Trauttman is the representative that attended the inquest from time to time, and he probably was there at that time, xxx He probably heard some of the evidence. There are times that we got testimony on this case, you know, this day; and another day we got testimony or something else. You know how we got it. It was not all--not like the regular inquest. We had



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certain men to get. We had to get them as the names came to us.

Mr. Baker. Now you listened attentively and carefully to the testimony given in regard to the Island saloon incident where the negro was killed and the young lady lost her arm. Did you, during that inquest, and following the completion of the testimony relating to that incident, come to a conclusion in your own mind as to who was responsible for the killing of this negro?

Dr. Renner. The coroner's jury?

Mr. Baker. No, no, I don't want <sup>to get</sup> the coroner's jury now. I want to get right to you. Let me get this first, and then I will come back to that. I may be mistaken as to the law in Illinois. After you hear the testimony in a coroner's inquest, and it appears to you that some particular individual is guilty of that particular homicide or that particular death, you then issue a warrant for his arrest, don't you?

Dr. Renner. I issue a coroner's mittimus. That is issued to the sheriff.

Mr. Baker. Well, what I mean is that that coroner's mittimus is what we call a warrant of arrest in my state, but this warrant of arrest reaches out and gives the sheriff or any other officer power to arrest that man, and it is his duty to arrest him.

Dr. Renner. Yes.

Mr. Baker. Now did you issue a mittimus--that is what you call it here--for these police officers?

Dr. Renner. I did.

Mr. Baker. And give it to the sheriff?

Dr. Renner. And gave it to the sheriff.

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Mr. Raker. Now, did you issue a mittimus for these soldiers?

Dr. Renner. No.

Mr. Raker. Now why didn't you?

Dr. Renner. Well, it was explained to us that under military law--

Mr. Raker (interposing). No no; that is what ~~xxxx~~ I want to get at first, why you didn't issue it. yourself. You felt satisfied that they had participated in killing that negro, didn't you?, as an officer?

Dr. Renner. Yes, but from the instructions that ~~xxxx~~ we got--or rather ~~xxxx~~ the explanation of the military law, that the soldiers were justified in shooting after they got the command--

Mr. Raker (interposing). Who gave <sup>you</sup> that law instruction?

Dr. Renner. I think the interpretation was given by Colonel Clayton.

Mr. Raker. Well let's get that. Was Colonel Clayton present and heard this testimony?

Dr. Renner. No he was brought before us.

Mr. Raker. For what purpose? To tell you what the law was?

Dr. Renner. No, what he knew about the different cases that he saw during the mob violence.

Mr. Raker. Yes, but what business had Colonel Clayton to tell you, as an officer, what the law was, when you had heard the testimony--from what you have already given--that here these soldiers participated with

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these three officers in shooting down in cold blood a human being.

Dr. Renner. Well, the state's attorney <sup>was present,</sup> and he gave us some information relative to the law points of the case.

Mr. Baker. What was his information as to the law points on that question?

Dr. Renner. That the police officers were to blame for the shooting.

Mr. Baker. The police officers were to blame for the shooting, and if the soldiers actually did the shooting, did the killing, the soldiers would not be responsible, because the police officers had instructed them to shoot?

Dr. Renner. Yes.

Mr. Baker. Is that the instructions that were given to you there as coroner?

Dr. Renner. I think they were.

Mr. Baker. Well, now, didn't that strike you as sort of weak?

Dr. Renner. It probably was. I am not conversant with all the law points in different states.

Mr. Baker. Well, I will qualify that by this. Of course you are not an attorney.

Dr. Renner. No.

Mr. Baker. You are a doctor.

Dr. Renner. Yes.

Mr. Baker. And in these inquests you had the state's attorney there as your adviser?

Dr. Renner. And the attorney general's office was represented from time to time.

Mr. Raker. And the state's attorney?

Dr. Renner. Or his assistant, was there all the time.

Mr. Raker. The state's attorney or his assistant advised you that these men were not responsible, these soldiers were not responsible, and the mittimus should not be issued?

Dr. Renner. I generally polled the jury to see as to their feeling from the testimony that they got.

Mr. Raker. Did you ~~xxxxxx~~ poll the jury as to these soldiers?

Dr. Renner. I polled the jury as to the soldiers.

Mr. Raker. What was the poll of the soldiers?

Dr. Renner. They thought that they were given orders to shoot, and that cleared them.

Mr. Raker. Well, did you --

Dr. Renner (interposing). The testimony shows though that they were asked to accompany the police officers and be under their command from the time they had left the police station.

Mr. Raker. I know, but somehow or other I don't see how the state's attorney and his assistant who advised you in that coroner's jury that a man doing practically nothing --

Dr. Renner (interposing). The testimony of somebody showed that the police officers done the shooting, and some stated that the police officers shot first.

Mr. Cooper. Did white witnesses testify to that?

Dr. Renner. Colored men and some soldiers.

Mr. Cooper. May I ask one question there? Did some of the soldiers say that the policemen shot first?

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Dr. Renner: Yes.

Mr. Cooper: Before the colored men did?

Dr. Renner: Before the colored men.

Mr. Cooper: The soldiers themselves testified to that?

Dr. Renner: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: Do I understand that the colored men, from the testimony, did shoot?

Dr. Renner: That was from the testimony of the police officers.

Mr. Baker: But I have understood that the soldiers testified that the colored men didn't shoot at all. Is that correct?

Dr. Renner: Yes, sir. I think there is one, if I am not mistaken, that stated that one of the negroes did the shooting. But the only revolvers that were secured there are those three revolvers that were in the building.

Mr. Baker: Taken from the negroes at the time?

Dr. Renner: One in the ice box, one in back of the bar, and one by St. John, that had a desk in the place in the capacity of paymaster.

Mr. Cooper: The rest of them were unarmed?

Mr. Baker: Let us get to the man in the ice box for a moment. They got his revolver?

Dr. Renner: They got his revolver. I think it was on the floor.

Mr. Baker: And did they purport to present it to the coroner's jury as they found it?

Dr. Renner: I didn't see any of those revolvers.

Mr. Baker: There is no testimony as to whether or

not the chambers of these revolvers were empty or loaded?

Dr. Renner. I didn't see any of those revolvers.

Mr. Baker. Was there any testimony on that?

Dr. Renner. I don't think there was. The police officers, O'Brien and Heenan, are the ones that brought them up to the station--brought the revolvers up there.

Mr. Baker. How did they secure this coroner's jury of six men<sup>2</sup> to concur in <sup>not</sup> bringing or order<sup>ing</sup> a writ of habeas corpus against these soldiers, when it was testified, and they heard it, that the original shooting was commenced by the police officers?

Dr. Renner. I don't quite get your point.

Mr. Baker. What I am trying to get at is, here were two conflicting statements made by these men before the coroner's jury, the police officers making one statement, the soldiers making another statement, that they did this shooting when commanded, but that before they shot, the police officers shot also.

Dr. Renner. Yes, I think the most of the evidence there showed that the police officers did the most of the shooting; and the jury took the view that they were under their command from the time that they left the place, and were given the command down there. That is my judgment as to how they reached that conclusion.

Mr. Baker. Do you know where those soldiers are now?

Dr. Renner. I do not. Probably the State's Attorney or the Attorney General knows, and they are probably down on the border.

Mr. Baker. Would you care to express your opinion from what you heard there as to the testimony, if you had been left alone, whether or not you would have issued a

mittimus against the whole bunch?

Dr. Renner: I think I would have held the whole bunch

Mr. Baker: Both policemen and soldiers.

Dr. Renner: I don't know if they call it an O. K. but I also signed the verdict. The six jurymen and I signed it, but the six jurymen are supposed to bring in the verdict.

Mr. Johnson: But you concurred.

Mr. Baker: But I don't see how you can stop and take a rest and find a verdict on one fellow-- didn't they bring in a written verdict?

Dr. Renner: Written verdict, yes.

Mr. Baker: That they would stop ever once in a while and take a rest and roll them and say "we will let this fellow go" or "we will issue a mittimus against that one, and proceed against ~~that~~ another." Isn't that unusual? It is a little unusual, isn't it?

Dr. Renner: Whenever we had sufficient testimony-- when we thought that we couldn't get any more testimony on any particular case, then we polled the jury.

Mr. Baker: I see. Well, that makes it very clear. D'd you-- of course you d'd-- you held the inquest upon the negro that was killed here at the corner of Collinsville Avenue and Fourth Street?

Dr. Renner: Collinsville and Illinois.

Mr. Baker: Collinsville and Illinois? Well, that isn't the one where the two were killed. I am taking the case where the ~~xxx~~ negro was killed farther down the street.

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Dr. Renner: The one with the rope around his neck?

Mr. Baker: Yes. You held an inquest on that case?

Dr. Renner: Yes.

Mr. Baker: Now did you hold an inquest on the negro that had been dragged to death and possibly shot- I think the testimony shows-- and while they were doing that the officers came up and took charge of the crowd and took them to jail-- you held an inquest on that particular instance?

Dr. Renner: Yes.

Mr. Baker: Were you able to ascertain who the participants were in that?

Dr. Renner: We held two men, one man by the name of Wood, and another young lad by the name of King. Those have both been convicted.

Mr. Baker: Those are the two that they went right up and caught hold of?

Dr. Renner: Yes. Outside of that we couldn't find out any other, testimony implicating anyone else.

Mr. Baker: But you didn't go into this 189 men that had been rounded up in the city jail, to find out what had been done with them?

Dr. Renner: Those men had been taken to a justice of the peace, and I think were out on bond. I couldn't bring them before the jury.

Mr. Baker: You could not?

Dr. Renner: Well, they were gone at the time. It was a question as to one bunch of soldiers who would take a crowd of men and give them over to another bunch of



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soldiers, and probably being detoured again to another bunch and taken to the police station. But we happened to have these men here to identify them, and also Colonel Clayton, of these two men.

Mr. Baker. Did you make any inquiry about a negro's body down near the Free Bridge that had been beheaded?

Dr. Renner. I didn't see any beheaded body.

Mr. Johnson. Did you hear of any?

Dr. Renner. I didn't hear of any. We got reports during the time that I was here in the city--I remember one down here--I think a barber shop had been burned, and I went down with the undertaker and we went around the place, and there was an old cess pool there, *and no body*, and the people had thrown lime over it as a matter of disinfectant.

Mr. Johnson. There was *nobody* burned in the barber shop--burned to death at least.

Dr. Renner. Now I think there was one or two bodies if that is Seventh or Eighth Street and Broadway. The bodies were brought up from down here. Now all of these bodies were at the undertakers when I got hold of them.

Mr. Johnson. ~~xixx~~ Well, did the proof disclose whether or not there was anybody burned to death in the barber shop?

Dr. Renner. I don't think so, but there is quite a large area there that was burned down.

Mr. Baker. Now we will take another instance over here at Mr. Roger's plant, the Chemical Company's plant.

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Did you get the body of any negro from over there?  
Or don't you remember?

Dr. Renner. I don't remember.

Mr. Baker. You are unable to state where all these  
bodies came from?

Dr. Renner. You can probably get that information  
in detail by different undertakers.

Mr. Baker. Then, as a matter of fact, <sup>learn</sup> from the  
testimony, you were unable to learn where all of these  
bodies came from?

Dr. Renner. I was unable, yes, on account of the  
ambulance drivers going down, picking them up. They  
even done that at the risk of their lives. There were  
two ambulances here that were shot into. I don't know  
who done it, but I think that after 12 o'clock some of  
the ambulance drivers refused to go out on account of  
the danger to their own lives. One man who is now in  
the army was shot by probably bird or buck shot.

Mr. Cooper. An ambulance driver?

Dr. Renner. Yes. I think that those were fictitious  
calls, from what they told me. You can get that information  
from Penner-Brickley, I think, and of Alonzo Brickley,  
and from from Mr. Karrus, the undertaker.

Mr. Baker. You stated, but did not give us the  
number of homicides that were committed in this town  
within the last eight or nine years. Can you give us  
approximately the number that you participated in as  
coroner.

Dr. Renner. I took office in December, 1912, and I

should judge we have had from 30 to 40 a year.

Mr. Baker: Had you anything to do with the coroner's office before 1912?

Dr. Renner: No.

Mr. Baker: And those originated from a pinocle game, or five cent game, or some other kind of a game in a saloon ~~is~~ where they were playing?

Dr. Renner: Yes. I think that common law marriages had something to do with it too.

Mr. Cooper: Let me ask one question there. Did you say 30 or 40 inquests a year?

Dr. Renner: Homicides.

Mr. Foss: Have they increased in recent years?

Dr. Renner: I don't think they have. I think it is decreasing.

Mr. Foss: Could you put in a statement of each year showing the number of homicides each year while you have held office?

Dr. Renner: I could. I would have to see my books though. I couldn't give it now. Of course that is just my <sup>of</sup> judgment/that at this time.

Mr. Foss: I wish you would give the committee that statement.

Dr. Renner: All right.

Mr. Johnson. What percent of those homicides, did you say, were committed by negroes?

Dr. Renner. I should judge from 85 to 90 per cent.

Mr. Baker. What percentage grew out of this drinking, pinochle, and various other games that you have been speaking about?

Dr. Renner. Oh, the majority of them. I had a case recently, since the riots, of a negro bartender shooting one of the patrons there on account of 15 cents that he had served drinks for.

Mr. Baker. According to your analysis of the homicides here, it would run from 85 to 90 per cent growing out of the saloons and its low character here in East St. Louis.

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker. And the drinking in connection with it?

Dr. Renner. Then I find lots of them on account of common law marriages.

Mr. Baker. I was going to ask you about that in a moment. What do you mean by that, common law marriages?

Dr. Renner. The majority of niggers that live around here, that live together, aren't married.

Mr. Baker. Single girls and single men?

Dr. Renner. Single girls and single men.

Mr. Baker. Has that created a feeling among the negroes themselves?

Dr. Renner. Sometimes, and sometimes it is the cause of homicides.

Mr. Baker. Rivalry for the particular girl?

Dr. Renner: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Then they get into the saloon and get a little booze and go to shooting?

Dr. Renner: It may be that. Sometimes the woman may think the man wants to quit her, as their language implies, and they get angry in that way and then the woman may shoot the man. Then again the woman may probably have attention from other men, and that will cause the homicide.

Mr. Raker: Well, ~~isn't~~ isn't that kind of living a crime, a state's prison offense under the laws of the State of Illinois?

Dr. Renner: Certainly it is.

Mr. Raker: Well now, do you know of any prosecutions being made?

Dr. Renner: I don't know of any.

Mr. Raker: Well, what in the world is the matter? I didn't suppose we would get into that. It seems every conceivable crime known to the category is committed here and not prosecuted.

Dr. Renner: Now I got into that is by asking the man his name, or the name of the deceased--"what is your name? <sup>it,</sup> ~~Way,~~ so and so. Well, how <sup>it,</sup> is that there is a difference in names here? Well, we just agreed to live together."

Mr. Raker: Without being married?

Dr. Renner: Without being married. I at one time looked around the room and said "Well, how many more are there here that are not married?" And you could probably figure, them looking at one another, and I concluded that some of those <sup>that respect,</sup> that they weren't married. I have had a few cases in   /they are common law

marriages.

Mr. Baker. Do the white people understand that here?

Dr. Penner. O, I guess they do.

Mr. Baker. Has that created any feeling that might create race differences or feeling, prejudices?

Dr. Penner. I wouldn't pass judgment on that.

Mr. Cooper. Did you ever hear of any common law marriages among the white people?

Dr. Penner. No, I haven't. I don't get into those conditions.

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Mr. Baker. When you were holding these inquests-- and that would be on the third, fourth and fifth--did you observe a strong feeling of prejudice against the negroes that evidenced to your mind that this riot had been started because of race conditions?

Dr. Penner. I would ask every witness that came before me, and the jury, if he could solve the problem, as to how this came about and they were all ignorant of the facts how it came about.

Mr. Cooper. Nobody knew anything?

Dr. Penner. Nobody knew anything. You can imagine the time I had trying to get some of the evidence.

Mr. Cooper. I think that is all.

Mr. Johnson. From what source did you get a list of those whom you subpoenaed as witnesses before your inquests?

Dr. Penner. I started out and got some of the

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reporters.

Mr. Johnson. The newspaper reports?

Dr. Renner. The newspaper reporters, because they had printed the different articles. I wanted to know where they got their information. Some of them had it 200 to 400 killed, and I wanted to know where they got that information.

Mr. Johnson. That wasn't true that there was any such number killed?

Dr. Renner. That wasn't true, to my knowledge. Then I got some of the police department, some of the sheriff's department--some of the best citizens in town--and asked them if they knew any one in the mob, and it was surprising no one knew who was in the mob.

Mr. Johnson. Were the soldiers present at your inquest?

Dr. Renner. Those names that I got I asked them to appear before me.

Mr. Johnson. Were there any soldiers present around about the building who didn't come into your rooms during your inquests?

Dr. Renner. I don't think there were.

Mr. Johnson. Did any soldiers, officer or private, attend an inquest who was not subpoenaed by you to come?

Dr. Renner. They were <sup>all</sup> subpoenaed that came.

Mr. Johnson. How did you happen to subpoena any soldiers? Upon whose suggestion did you subpoena soldiers?

Dr. Renner. Yes, we got the names--in the particular case of the island, we got the names of the different men that were down there, and we brought them before us.

Mr. Johnson. Did Mr. Roger, the President of The Chemical Company here, testify before the coroner's jury?

Dr. Renner. I don't think he did.

Mr. Johnson. Did you know at that time that he had seen a negro shot down?

Dr. Renner. I did not. This is the first I heard of it.

Mr. Johnson. By a soldier, I mean?

Dr. Renner. This is the first I heard of it.

Another thing I can tell you about, a soldier that was on patrol duty killed a man down in the south end of town, and I think it was the ignorance of the language that brought about the killing.

Mr. Johnson. Tell us about that.

Dr. Renner. I understand that this man--

Mr. Johnson (interposing). Which man? The soldier or the ~~XXXXXX~~ negro?

Dr. Renner. No, the foreigner.

Mr. Foss. He wasn't a negro then?

~~XXXXXX~~

Mr. Johnson. A soldier killed a foreigner.

Dr. Renner. Yes. That was the during the time--

Mr. Johnson (interposing). The foreigner was a white man.

Dr. Renner. A white man. This happened ~~x~~ on a railroad down in the southern part of town.

Mr. Johnson. On what day?

Dr. Renner. I can't recall that.

Mr. Johnson. Was it on the second of July, the



day of the big riot?

Dr. Renner. No, it must have been after that. If you wish to have that date, I can give you that later.

Mr. Johnson. We will be glad to have it. Do you remember what time of day that was?

Dr. Renner. That was at night. But the testimony at the inquest exonerated the soldier because he had called "Halt." three or four times. That man was shot through here (indicating).

Mr. Johnson. Killed instantly.

Dr. Renner. Killed instantly, yes.

Mr. Cooper. How far was he from the man when he shot? Was that in evidence?

Dr. Renner. I think that was thirty or forty feet. Then I ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ had another--

Mr. Johnson (interposing). Was the man who was shot engaged in any unlawful undertaking?

Dr. Renner. No.

Mr. Johnson. Was he walking along the street?

Dr. Renner. He was <sup>walking</sup> ~~along~~ along the railroad track.

Mr. Johnson. And the soldier made an offense out of that for which the penalty was death?

Dr. Renner. Why, he commanded him to "Halt." He called to him three or four times, and then shot.

Mr. Johnson. Well, did the man have the right to walk along there?

Dr. Renner. Well, I guess he did.

Mr. Johnson. Was he doing anything to anybody?

Dr. Renner. I don't know--he was talking to some of

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the men there.

Mr. Johnson. The man shot was talking to some of the men walking along, going home? How many were walking ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ along with this man who was shot and killed?

Dr. Renner. Probably three.

Mr. Johnson. Tell us all the circumstances that you know about that.

Dr. Renner. That is all I know, that he was walking down the track, and this guard was on patrol and he called three or four times upon him to stop, and then he shot him.

Mr. Johnson. Did the others stop or not?

Dr. Renner. The man shot high. He said he was very sorry about it, and the man was ~~xxx~~ in a very nervous collapse .

Mr. Johnson. The man shot high, but he shot high enough to kill him?

Dr. Renner. He was in a nervous collapse at the time.

Mr. Johnson. He ought to have been, hadn't he?

Dr. Renner. Now another case that I had, one of the soldiers stabbed a young man here.

Mr. Johnson. Tell us about that.

Dr. Renner. That occurred up here close to Broadway.

~~XXXXXX~~ I don't know if that is Division Avenue there or not. Now the coroner's jury held him on a homicide mittimus. Then ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ a court martial was held and that was the last I heard of it.

Mr. Johnson. Did you issue a mittimus for him?

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Dr. Renner. I didn't because they had a court martial over him, and I think he was taken out of the state.

Mr. Johnson. The military authorities took him away from the local authorities.

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. After you had held an inquest and the verdict of the jury <sup>was</sup> that he had unlawfully killed him?

Dr. Renner. Unlawfully killed him, yes, sir. That is about all that I can tell you, since I am in office.

Mr. Cooper. How old was this boy that was stabbed with the bayonet?

Dr. Renner. He was about 17 or 18 years old.

Mr. Cooper. Was his name Iain Eysinger?

Dr. Renner. Eysinger, yes.

Mr. Cooper. A German boy?

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. A white boy?

Dr. Renner. A white boy, yes.

Mr. Cooper. Was there evidence before your coroner's jury that <sup>that</sup> soldier was drunk?

Dr. Renner. I think he had some beer in the afternoon, and I think he had a bottle of beer at the time this boy passed. He was on an errand at the time, delivering a pair of trousers..

Mr. Cooper. The boy was on an errand delivering a pair of trousers, and this soldier, who had had beer that afternoon, and at that time had a bottle of

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beer in his possession, bayoneted that boy, and the boy died?

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. The coroner's jury found <sup>that soldier</sup> ~~him~~ guilty of homicide and held him, or tried to hold him?

Dr. Renner. Yes.

Mr. Cooper. Then the board of inquiry, of military officers, militia officers, held a secret inquiry, didn't they?

Dr. Renner. I don't know anything about that.

Mr. Cooper. It was secret, that is the evidence.

Mr. Baker. This was a court martial.

This had nothing to do with the inquiry.

Mr. Cooper. Well, it was a secret affair.

Dr. Renner. I don't know anything about that. I think that state's attorney Schaulleffel was at the court martial at the time ~~xxxxx~~ and he can give you more information than I can.

Mr. Cooper. They took that soldier away from this city, and he is now somewhere down in the front, you understand, don't you?

Dr. Renner. I do.

Mr. Cooper. Down on the border?

Dr. Renner. No, those are the other soldiers that I referred to down on the border.

Mr. Cooper. Testimony was given here that this man had been sent to the border.

Dr. Renner. I don't know anything about that.

Mr. Johnson. What was the soldier's name?

Mr. Cooper. McCafferty?

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Dr. Renner. I think that is his name, yes.

Mr. Cooper. Did you ever have any conversation with any of these officers who assumed jurisdiction of that man to take him away after the coroner's jury had found him guilty?

Dr. Renner. I don't know who they were.

Mr. Cooper. In your judgment that was a case of deliberate homicide, wasn't it?

Dr. Renner. It was, and so held by the jury.

Mr. Cooper. The testimony before the coroner's jury and before you satisfied you that that soldier, drinking beer that afternoon, and with a bottle of beer in his possession at the time, stabbed the boy, and was guilty of murder?

Dr. Renner. Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker. At that time it was unlawful for a soldier to get any intoxicants of any kind, wasn't it?

Dr. Renner. I tried to find out where he got the beer but I couldn't do it.

Mr. Cooper. Now I want to ask one other question. Was it brought out before <sup>you</sup> the coroner's jury, that this boy, 17 years of age, or about that, carrying this pair of trousers on that errand, as a delivery boy, was an orphan?

Dr. Renner. I didn't remember that.

Mr. Cooper. And that other people were dependent upon <sup>in part</sup> him for their livelihood?

Dr. Renner. I couldn't answer that.

Mr. Cooper. There was no evidence at all, was there.

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to establish any blame <sup>whatever</sup> upon that young boy?

Dr. Renner. Not at all.

Mr. Cooper. And this murderer, according to the verdict of your jury, and in your opinion a murderer, and as the facts show, so far as they have been presented here, was by a secret hearing before some officers of militia in this state, taken away and restored to his command, and is now serving in the army of the United States. Isn't that true?

Dr. Renner. They were taken away from the county officials. That is all I can say.

Mr. Foss. You don't know what the finding of the court martial was in that case?

Dr. Renner. I don't know.

Mr. Foss. You say the state's attorney appeared before the court martial?

Dr. Renner. I think he did, Mr. Schaumleffel.

Mr. Foss. To prosecute the soldiers?

Dr. Renner. Yes.

Mr. Raker. Well, a mittimus hadn't actually been issued?

Dr. Renner. No, they took charge of that matter immediately.

Mr. Raker. Well, before you got through with the hearing?

Dr. Renner. Right after the hearing. I don't know who was in charge at the time, but the next I knew that occurred at the time was that the military authorities had taken charge of the man.

Mr. Cooper. After you had closed the evidence in the coroner's inquest?

Dr. Renner. Yes.

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Mr. Cooper. And before you had a chance to finish up your verdict and issue a mittimus, the officers took hold of them?

Dr. Renner. I wouldn't say before that time, because after hearing all the testimony, we excluded everyone with the exception of the jury, and then polled the jury as to what they wanted to do with the man and they found him guilty of the homicide, and so signed up. Then we found out that the--

Mr. Cooper (interposing) Did you try to issue a warrant of arrest then?

Dr. Renner. Well the military authorities had taken the man--and they were going to have a court martial.

Mr. Cooper. They didn't take him until after you had closed the evidence?

Dr. Renner. I think that is the fact.

Mr. Raker. In that connection, what was the soldier doing this time? Had he been arrested? Was he in jail?

Dr. Renner. He was in charge of the military officers.

Mr. Raker. While you were holding the inquest?

Dr. Renner. He had attended the inquest, but he was under arrest at the military headquarters.

Now I don't know where that was.

Mr. Raker. He was under arrest at the military headquarters, but the civil authorities <sup>never have</sup> had gotten hold of him?

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Dr. Renner. Never had gotten hold of him, no.

Mr. Raker. So there wasn't any chance for a contest as to who was entitled to his possession?

Dr. Renner. No.

Mr. Raker. <sup>Doctor,</sup> ~~xxxx~~ what has been the health and the sanitary conditions of these negro quarters here, poor or otherwise?

Dr. Renner. Well, they are poor. I would very seldom get into some of the negro houses.

Mr. Raker. I know, but on the streets and in the alleys, and <sup>around</sup> ~~on~~ these other places, it was bad, wasn't it? ~~it~~

Dr. Renner. There was lots of room for improvement.

Mr. Raker. How was it around the quarters where the other men <sup>had to</sup> live, the working men?

Dr. Renner. Well, <sup>now in</sup> my coming down here <sup>I would</sup> probably go along the street car lines, going to the different establishments, sometimes in private homes, to hold inquests, and after that I returned to my home.

Mr. Raker. I thought maybe you had made a thorough analysis and investigation of the conditions?

Dr. Renner. No, just from my observation ~~xxxx~~ in passing.

Mr. Raker. You find, as a matter of fact, <sup>the condition for</sup> ~~as~~ the working men here, white men and colored, both, is very poor isn't it?

Dr. Renner. Well, considering the locality--we could probably go into a deeper subject there with sanitation,



smoke, the conditions of the soil, the general make-up of the town and find that the buildings are <sup>lots of</sup> higher than ~~than~~ of the building lots. All those considerations of course make it poor.

Mr. Raker. Well doesn't that have a tendency to make men dissatisfied, ~~unhappy~~ and discontented?

Dr. Renner. The chances are it does. General environments ~~produce~~ probably produce some of that.

Mr. Raker. Have you made any analysis of this riot and have you any remedy to suggest?

Dr. Renner. I have been trying to find out from everyone that I had before me, but I couldn't find out any solution.

Mr. Raker. Have you any solution to offer to the committee, from your own information, that you gathered?

Dr. Renner. You mean for improving?

Mr. Cooper. To prevent another occurrence of this kind.

Dr. Renner. Well, I wouldn't know what to suggest. I have stated that I can see an improvement since the Valley district has been eliminated; since the saloons have been taken away from there--the Sunday closing. It all had its good effect, probably with the elimination of the easy way of getting *fire arms*.

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Mr. Johnson: What has been done in that respect?

Dr. Renner: I don't know. And what we can do with  
common law marriages I don't know. That is about the only  
thing that I can gather from the inquiries that I have held.

Mr. Baker: What effect would it have on the general  
benefit to the community, because of the class of men that come  
in here to stay-- not the men that are living here, working  
here, but those that come in and hang around these saloons--  
what effect would it have on the community if those saloons were  
closed up entirely?

Dr. Renner: Well, I find that that is another point, that  
some of those homicides committed and perpetrated by negroes that  
come here-- probably have been here from a week to two or three  
months. I have found several cases in that respect.

Mr. Baker: Well, let us get it down to the other ques-  
tion.

Dr. Renner: About the saloons?

Mr. Baker: Yes.

Dr. Baker: Well, I guess the men here in town could  
judge about that better than I can. I can say that most of the  
inquiries of homicides have been from that class of people.

Mr. Baker: Well, if that is the case, what effect  
could it have upon the community to close them up?

Dr. Renner: That kind of saloon should be closed.

Mr. Baker: Would it have a good, wholesome effect?

Dr. Renner: It could have a good wholesome effect.

Mr. Baker: And it would not be an evil; why not reach right out  
and hold it and stop it, whether it is a saloon, or what  
it is?

Dr. Renner: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: It ought to be done, to give the community protection.

Dr. Renner: The Bell House, I think, and some of the negro saloons-- I couldn't just state which ones to point out which would be the best to close, but some should be closed or regulated to such an extent as to eliminate that class of people.

Mr. Johnson: Did this soldier, McEafferty, testify before the coroner's inquest?

Dr. Renner: Yes.

Mr. Johnson: Did he admit the killing of the boy?

Dr. Renner: He admitted it, yes sir.

Mr. Johnson: I suppose he offered some sort of justification or provocation for it?

Dr. Renner: Yes.

Mr. Johnson: What was that?

Dr. Renner: That the boy cursed him and then notified with him, and he thought he was going to get the best of him. He pleaded self-defense.

Mr. Johnson: And the boy wasn't armed with anything except a pair of pants in his fists?

Dr. Renner: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Well, we have ascertained that the military punishment is for an armed boy carrying a pair of pants; what was the legal punishment for that offense in the State of Illinois, or simply for carrying a pair of pants through the streets?

Dr. Renner: I don't know that there is any-- you know any

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offense for carrying the trousers?

242 Mr. Johnson: You know that the military offense or punishment for it is. That is punishable by death, but you don't know of any statute or law which punishes it, do you?

Dr. Renner: No.

Mr. Johnson: How many days after the 2nd day of July was it that this soldier killed this boy?

Dr. Renner: I can't recall the date. I can give you that letter by looking at my books.

Mr. Johnson: Will you do that?

Dr. Renner: Yes.

Mr. Johnson: We have the date from a letter, but I could not give to you it officially from you. And the soldier really suffered some remorse of conscience or did he, you say?

Dr. Renner: Oh, that was the killing in the South Sea, not the pants killing. That was the other.

Mr. Johnson: This one didn't have any attack of conscience?

Dr. Renner: No.

Mr. Johnson: If he had any conscience.

Dr. Renner: Well, I don't know.

Mr. Cooper: This 17 year old boy, carrying this pair of pants along, was accosted by the soldier. The soldier had a rifle with a bayonet on it, didn't he?

Dr. Renner: No, I don't know if he had the rifle, or the bayonet sticking in the butt in a holster. I think that is the way it was at the time.

Mr. Johnson: How sized was this soldier?

Dr. Renner: Probably five feet six.

Mr. Johnson: What would he weigh?

Dr. Renner: He would weigh about 150 pounds.

Mr. Johnson: That aged man was he?

Dr. Renner: He was a man about 36.

Mr. Johnson: And the boy, the age of the boy has been stated as ranging between 16 and 17 or 18?

Dr. Renner: Somewhere along there.

Mr. Johnson: How big a boy was he?

Dr. Renner: He was quite a big boy, probably five feet six and a half or five feet seven.

Mr. Johnson: What did he weigh?

Dr. Renner: About 150. He was a growing boy.

Mr. Johnson: Did the soldier say he killed him because he thought the boy might get away with him or with the pair of pants (laughter)?

Dr. Renner: Got away with him.

Mr. Johnson: And was there any justice by that the boy was violating any sort of law when he was attacked by the soldier?

Dr. Renner: He was not violating any law at all; just walking on the street.

Mr. Johnson: Just the offense of carrying a pair of pants?

Dr. Renner: Yes.

Mr. Johnson: That's all. You may be excused.

Call Otto Nelson.

STATEMENT OF OTTO NELSON (colored), Police Officer,  
16 North 15th Street, East St. Louis, Illinois.

(The witness was sworn by Mr. Johnson.)

MR. JOHNSON: Give the stenographer your name and residence.

Mr. Nelson: Otto Nelson; 16 North 15th Street, East St.  
Louis.

Mr. Johnson: How long have you been living in East St.  
Louis?

Mr. Nelson: Nine years.

Mr. Johnson: What is your age?

Mr. Nelson: 39.

Mr. Johnson: What is your occupation?

Mr. Nelson: Police officer.

Mr. Johnson: How long have you been such?

Mr. Nelson: About two years.

Mr. Johnson: Are you what is called a plain clothes man?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: How many negro plain clothes men are there here?

Mr. Nelson: Six.

Mr. Johnson: How many ~~negro~~ <sup>negro</sup> police officers were not plain  
clothes men?

Mr. Nelson: We never had any.

Mr. Johnson: None?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: In your own way, commence at the beginning of  
the May riot, and tell us what you saw back of its origin and of  
the conduct of anybody else concerned in either the May or July  
riots, or anything that intervened between those two dates, includ-

(213) ing the conduct of the Mayor, <sup>the</sup> police officers and the soldiery, commencing back prior to the May riot?

Mr. Nelson: Well, the May riot didn't do anything, only we were on our beat, our duty, out on our beats.

Mr. Johnson: Well, what casualties took place during the May riots?

Mr. Nelson: There was some speaking from the City Hall.

Mr. Johnson: That is what I wanted you to tell about.

Mr. Nelson: I don't know much about it, only what I could hear.

Mr. Johnson: Well now, you are at liberty to state what you know of your own knowledge and that which you gathered from hearsay. Go ahead and give us everything you may have learned concerning it.

Mr. Nelson: That night some time they were talking colored fellows from the street cars.

Mr. Johnson: On May 10th?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Johnson: Tell all about that, giving names, if you can.

Mr. Nelson: I don't know any names at that time. We were around doing the best we could.

Mr. Johnson: You said something about some speeches. What about those speeches?

Mr. Nelson: I didn't hear those speeches.

Mr. Johnson: Did you hear any of them?

Mr. Nelson: I didn't hear one word of the speech that was made at the City Hall. He wasn't there at all. I wasn't;

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neither was my partner-- out on the streets.

Mr. Johnson: Who was your partner?

Mr. Nelson: Dubanks.

Mr. Johnson: The one that testified today?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir; this morning.

Mr. Johnson: Well, if you know nothing more than you have told about the May riot, come along down to the July riot and tell what you may know concerning that.

Mr. Nelson: Well, on last Sunday we came to work at nine o'clock in the morning and worked until 9 at night, 12 hours; I didn't know anything about the killing until Monday morning, until I picked up the paper at home. I guess that was about 5 o'clock before I knew anything of it. So I related to my wife, you know, what happened. I came to the station that morning, Sunday morning--

Mr. Johnson: You were at the police station?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir; and we went down as usual, on our knees, my partner and I, trying to gather up all the information we could during Sunday. So we were unable to find any information at all right at that present time, we didn't.

Mr. Johnson: Now just for fear that you have made an inadvertent use of the days of the week, you said that you went out on Sunday to get information about the killing. You mean you went out on Monday?

Mr. Nelson: I mean Monday, yes. Thank you. We were unable to find anything about it.

Mr. Johnson: You didn't go out to find out anything about



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it until after you had gone to the police station?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir; not until after we had gone to the police station.

Mr. Johnson: Then you were sent out for the purpose of ascertaining something about it?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: How many of you were sent out?

Mr. Nelson: The entire colored force went out.

Mr. Johnson: Six of you?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir, to see what we could get on it.

Mr. Johnson: Had you and Dubanks went together during the day?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Where did you go?

Mr. Nelson: To West 48th and Market and Ford Avenue, around in there where it was thought we could get some information.

Mr. Johnson: The shooting occurred at 48th and Ford?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Of the police officers?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: And where did the other colored detectives go?

Mr. Nelson: They were around in that neighborhood too.

Mr. Johnson: All of you were operating in the same neighborhood?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Do you know anything about the firing from an automobile on Sunday night, either of your own knowledge or hearsay?

Mr. Nelson: Just what I heard.

Mr. Johnson: Tell what you heard.

Mr. Nelson: I heard an autochick was going through Market Avenue shooting into the colored houses-- peopies' residences. That is the only thing I know anything about.

Mr. Johnson: Did you learn what time of night that was, on Sunday night, that that was done?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir, I don't recall or no, exactly when it was.

Mr. Johnson: Did you hear it was as late as midnight?

Mr. Nelson: I don't think it was that late-- between eight or nine o'clock-- I am not sure-- somewhere along in the re. I am not positive about that.

Mr. Johnson: From what did you get the impression or impression that it was as early as eight or nine o'clock?

Mr. Nelson: I think my partner told me, now, I am not sure.

Mr. Johnson: Subjects?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir. I am not sure, but I think it was my partner. It was probably earlier than that.

Mr. Johnson: Not later, but it may have been earlier?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Did you hear anything about the ringing of the negro church bell that night?

Mr. Nelson: I heard of the ringing. That's all I know about it.

Mr. Johnson: Did you hear the time it rang?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir, I just heard that the bell was ringing.

Mr. Johnson: Did you find out for what purpose it was rung?

Mr. Nelson: We tried to, but we were unable to find out.

Mr. Johnson: Were there no rumors afloat as to why it was rung?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir; we could never find out, my partner and I couldn't.

Mr. Johnson: What were the methods pursued by you for the purpose of ascertaining who it was that had killed Coppidge, the officer?

Mr. Nelson: Well, only through what we had learned at the station, trying to find out who it was.

Mr. Johnson: I say, what methods did you use to find out who had done the killing?

Mr. Nelson: Well, we had to get around among friends, our friends, to know all about it.

Mr. Johnson: Among your colored friends?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir, to try to find out all the information we could.

Mr. Johnson: Did they tell you anything worth while?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir, nothing worth while, that we could do much with.

Mr. Johnson: None of them had anything about it?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: You tried to find out anything from the white people about it?

Mr. Nelson: No, I didn't ask any white people -- at least I didn't.

Mr. Johnson: Did you know any particular reason for sending your inquiries to colored people instead of asking both

white and colored?

Mr. Nelson: Well, I thought probably he could get information more from them than from white people. I thought he could get more from our friends than he could from them. That was my idea.

Mr. Johnson: You knew before you went up there to make this inquiry that the killing had been done by colored people?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Have you any knowledge or information either-- I use both terms-- knowledge or information, to see what you may have ascertained there, or that you may have known from your own knowledge or that you learned by hearsay from others-- have you any knowledge or information as to the purpose for which the negro mob had killed the two police officers, Corledge and the man whose name I forget, were up on the streets that night?

Mr. Nelson: I haven't seen or heard. I haven't seen anything of it; no, sir.

Mr. Johnson: You haven't seen or heard anything of that?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir, I didn't hear anything of that.

Mr. Johnson: You have reached no conclusion now, either from your own knowledge of this affair or from hearsay, as to what those negroes were after that night?

Mr. Nelson: Oh! hearsay. I didn't ever get hearsay.

Mr. Johnson: If you have got anything as to their purpose in a hearsay way, tell us that.

Mr. Nelson: Well, the only thing I heard, there were shots-- that they were shot. That's all I heard about it. I never heard that anyone was for firing a shot, or anything like that. They were shot by a mob; that's all.

Mr. Johnson: That the officers were shot by a mob of negroes?

Mr. Nelson: By a mob of negroes. That's the only thing I heard.

Mr. Johnson: How long did you work upon the case?

Mr. Nelson: Well, I worked from Sunday until Monday about 12 o'clock. That is the last that I tried to do anything-- Monday, I mean.

Mr. Johnson: You heard it Monday morning at 2 o'clock, and then you went on down to the police station, and there you received orders to go and investigate it, find out what you could about it?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: You worked until how long?

Mr. Nelson: Monday-- worked on it until Monday.

Mr. Johnson: Part was Monday that you got those orders?

Mr. Nelson: I worked until Tuesday at 12 o'clock.

Mr. Johnson: So on a case where two of your principal police officers were killed, and the more were wounded by a mob, you really worked part of two days?

846 Mr. Nelson: Yes, he worked two days.

Mr. Johnson: Then you also conducted the search?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, he kept on going till the riot started, then, you know, on Tuesday.

Mr. Johnson: And after the riot was over you lost interest in the assassination of those officers?

Mr. Nelson: Well, I left town then.

Mr. Johnson: Where did you go?

Mr. Nelson: To St. Louis.

Mr. Johnson: How long did you remain over there?

Mr. Nelson: Nearly two weeks.

Mr. Johnson: And when you came back you continued on the police force?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Did you again take up that work?

Mr. Nelson: The best I could; yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Do you know from what direction the pack had come to the point where the officers were killed?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir, I don't.

Mr. Johnson: You have no information at all?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: And whether they came from the north, east, south or west?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Nor where they were going?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Well, when you hear, in your official capacity, of a murder being committed, you always try to find where the murderer went, don't you, after the deed?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Did you find out where any of these people who directed this case went after the killing commission of that crime?

Mr. Nelson: I didn't, no, sir.

Mr. Johnson: They just disappeared?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Tell the Committee what you may know, what you may have gathered, concerning the actions of the mob on July 2nd, the next day after the killing of Coppedge?

Mr. Nelson: Well, we were taking our beats as usual.

Mr. Johnson: You saw <sup>two</sup> ~~one~~ <sup>men</sup> reported at police headquarters at 9 o'clock?

Mr. Nelson: Nine o'clock; yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Then you were recalled from there to the murder of ~~Copp~~ <sup>447</sup>?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Well, now then, tell of your whereabouts during all of that day, and what you saw.

Mr. Nelson: Well, we went out in Denver Side and around, until about 12 o'clock. About one o'clock we went to 13th and Division and stayed there awhile, inquired around a few streets, and came down home and stopped at home.

Mr. Johnson: Were you with Tubanks the entire day?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir; about 12 o'clock we parted.

Mr. Johnson: About 12 o'clock you separated?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Where had you and Tubanks been up to 12 o'clock?

Mr. Nelson: Over on Denver Side.

Mr. Johnson: What were you doing?

Mr. Nelson: Trying to get information on this side.

Mr. Johnson: Confining your efforts to that one case?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

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Mr. Johnson: Did you see any of the rioting before 12 o'clock?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: When then you separated from Nichols at 12 o'clock, where did you go?

Mr. Nelson: I went home and discussed it with her. I told her I thought it best for her to go across the river, and she asked me where I was going, and I said, "I can't go any place; I have got to stay here." "Well", she said "if you stay, I'll stay." I says "Well, you don't know the danger like I do. I figure out there is going to be some trouble." "Well", she says, "I don't care for much trouble there is, as long as you stay I'll stay with you." I come up street, and I walked down Fifth Street--

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Mr. Johnson (interposing): You left her there?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir, I says, "You can stay, and I'll come back here after a while. I walked to Fifth Street, about three blocks, and I met a fellow, and he says to me, "Nelson"--

Mr. Johnson (interposing): Who did you meet?

Mr. Nelson: I met some fellow. I couldn't tell who it was.

Mr. Johnson: Do you know him?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir, I don't. He says "Don't go down there. They are raiding again." I says "All right", and I walked back to Eighth and Broadway, and called in to the saloon, and they say-- the man's place where I was going to get phone calls at Eighth Street, on Broadway, and he says "Don't go down there. They are raiding again." and she says, "So come back into the hotel--"



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the house", "into my house. I says "Is that so?" And she says "Yes." Well, it was my time to call into the station, and I reported to the station, and when I called up Mr. McLean he asked me where I was, and I says Eighth and Broadway.

Mr. Johnson: Did she say when the shot was fired?

Mr. Nelson: A few minutes before.

Mr. Johnson: Before she called you?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Did she say who fired it?

Mr. Nelson: No, a gang of about four hits men.

Mr. Johnson: Did she say whether or not they did other shooting in that locality?

Mr. Nelson: No; they just into the house. I says "You wait till I go and call up the station." I went and called up McLean, and he says "Come on in." I says "No, as you has already shot in my house, and I don't think it will be a good idea for me to leave my wife. I think I had better stay with her." He says "That's right where I want you to be." So I went and stayed there until the next day to my house about six o'clock. We stayed in there, and along about six o'clock I was sitting at the window, and all at once they come up-- looked like hundreds of them below me in the flat, and they began to throw bricks into my house. Still I had the blinds pulled down where they couldn't see me and watched at the window. So all at once they just took the blinds down and look and all out, and I guess there was have been four or five shots fired into my house then. There is three more shots I was sitting.

Mr. Johnson: Were you on D. Street?

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Mr. Nelson: No, on the top floor. I was on the second floor of the flats.

Mr. Johnson: Was your second floor on a level with the street?

Mr. Nelson: Just about on the level with the street-- just about on the level. He stood in behind the partition, in the middle room.

Mr. Johnson: Just you and your wife?

Mr. Nelson: No, about five or six colored ladies came in there just about the time they were throwing bricks.

Mr. Johnson: Any children?

Mr. Nelson: No children at all; no, sir. So then I says "Well, I guess the best thing we can do is all of you women-- get under the beds." They all got under the beds, and about that time a fellow named Tim, just nobody moved there-- just about a week before that-- a black man-- come up with his wife.

Mr. Johnson: You were living in the same house?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: But in different apartments?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir. Him and I was the only two men in my house. So we just stayed there, and they shot and threw bricks-- from the street, you know-- and we just stayed in the house. Finally my wife got to the back, and she locked down Walnut Avenue and come back to me and say, "The whole of Walnut Avenue is on fire." I says "What?". She says "Yes." I says, "Well, my goodness, we are in an awful fix." She says "I think so". I didn't know what on earth to do at present, so I see the

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fire-- he was in between the fire and the mob. Well, I didn't know what on earth to do. I knew I didn't have a chance with that mob. Of course I had been in some mighty tough places, but I didn't figure out any chance for me then with that mob standing out in front of my house. I says, "If one of them gets after you, use the best judgment you can." Finally someone says, after they kicked the doors in and shot into my house-- I don't remember no many times they shot in there-- someone says "Let's go to Third Street", and with the mob spirit then right away a few of them--

Mr. Johnson (int rising:): Somebody on the outside said "Let's go to Third Street?"

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir. I was at the time right at the door, looking out the best way I could to see if I could identify anybody in the crowd, but I was unable to identify anybody in there that I had. We stayed there then, and finally I says "We will be well to right in back of us here"-- the fire had spread all the way up toward Avenue--

Mr. Johnson (int rising:): How close was the fire to your house?

Mr. Nelson: Just across the alley.

Mr. Johnson: Within ten feet of you?

Mr. Nelson: No, not at that time, but within ten feet--

Mr. Johnson (interpos'ng:): I have called your attention to the fire. How close was the fire to you then?

Mr. Nelson: Just about the middle of this row-- right by the Broadway Theatre.

Mr. Johnson: Thirty feet?

Mr. Nelson: Probably more than that.

Mr. Johnson: Well, forty feet?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir. It began finally to come right up. One house set right on the corner, and there I was living. I had when that house got on fire, there was no chance in the world then for my place.

Mr. Johnson: Were you in a front house?

Mr. Nelson: A brick house, but the back steps, you know, was all wood, and if the steps burned down there was no chance to get out only by coming out in front of the porch. We stayed there until that house got on fire next to me, right in front of me on the alley. I had if these steps at the back there burned down there was no chance to get out except to go out in front of the porch, and about that time my wife looked out and says "Now look, the bottom steps are on fire now." "No, the steps are gone." I says "Well, I guess we will have to do something. What do you want to do?" She says "Well, anything that you say I am willing to do." "Well", I says, "the only thing I can see to get out of here is to take a chance, and I would rather take a chance to go out there to stay in this house and be burned." "Well, she grabbed this arm first (right arm) and I says "Don't grab this arm", because I had my pistol in this pocket--not these clothes that I have on now.

Mr. Johnson: That was your right-hand pocket?

Mr. Nelson: The right hand. She grabbed this arm and I says "No, you grab this arm" (left arm), and she says "No, I

sent to be on this side". Well, finally she just ran her arms around me and ran behind me, and we just ran down the steps, and when we got to the bottom we had to give a jump, and when she jumped--

Mr. Johnson (interposing): You jumped over the fire?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, the steps was on fire about the third or fourth step, and her dress got on fire and I had to stop about five minutes and put it out before we could go any farther.

Mr. Johnson: Five minutes was a good long <sup>while</sup> at that time.

Mr. Nelson: Of course it may have been less than that.

Mr. Johnson: You could have walked three squares in five minutes?

Mr. Nelson: Well, say 10 or 15 minutes. Then we went to Eighth and Walnut, and when I was going across Eighth Street some fellow was standing right there looking at the fire, and he says "Don't go to Broadway, go out this way."

Mr. Johnson: He was offending you?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Did you recognize him?

Mr. Nelson: No, I tried to find out who he was but I couldn't place him. I know he ran over from Eighth Street, and fell right down in the weeds there, and my wife fell down with me.

Mr. Johnson: What became of the other woman?

Mr. Nelson: I don't know which way they went, but they came out right behind me, but while I was stopping to put out

the fire on my wife's dress they left us going to Eighth Street, and I didn't see them any more until the next morning. We stayed in those weeds, I guess, five or ten minutes.

Mr. Johnson: About what time was it when you went into the weeds?

Mr. Nelson: Just about dark-- not quite dark-- about seven o'clock. We ~~stayed~~ <sup>laid</sup> there about ten minutes until my wife got herself together.

Mr. Johnson: In July dark comes down a little before eight, I think.

Mr. Nelson: Well, we stayed in there I guess ten minutes in the weeds, right there in the weeds, until she got herself together, and then I says "We can't stay here, we have got to get away from here." So we go on and went right around the corner to a saloon run by a man named Logg Ton, and we stayed there about five minutes; but he was gone, there was no one in the building at all. We probably had a few shot glasses.

Mr. Johnson: Was the saloon on fire?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir, it hadn't caught fire then at all.

Mr. Johnson: Was it burned up afterwards?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir, it didn't burn.

Mr. Johnson: The place didn't burn up at all?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir. We stayed in there about five minutes and then I left and ran into a big vacant lot between Eighth and Tenth, where there was a whole lot of life and weeds, and we stayed in there, I guess, until about-- well, I guess ten o'clock. We <sup>laid</sup> ~~stayed~~ there in those weeds, my wife and I together. We stayed there until <sup>after</sup> 1/10 o'clock, and finally after the fire got up on Broadway I says to my wife,

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"I don't think we had better stay here. The light from the fire is exposing us in the weeds." He left then and went across Tenth Street to the Lincoln school. That is a colored school. I told my wife "You lay here in the weeds until I go over there. We can probably get into the school house. I went around and tried every door and window and kicked and done everything in the world, but I wasn't able to get in. So I came back and says I was not able to get in the school-house, and the best thing is to go right out in the weeds and lay right there, and probably we will be safe. She says "I am going to do anything you say." So we went out in the weeds and got a big bunch of weeds and pulled them over us, and we layed right there until broad daylight in the morning. Then I getting it was just daylight, and she says "Go down to the house and see what they have sent to our little home." I says "All right."

Mr. Johnson: That was your own home?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir, we were renting it. So I come on back down, and the only thing I could see there was the chickens. They was running around in the yard.

Mr. Johnson: Was the house burned?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir; burned up everything I had. I went on back to her and says "Well, everything we have got is burned up. There is no place to go in West St. Louis, let's go over to St. Louis to my sister's." I had a sister living at 4011 West Pine Street. We went up to 10th and Bond and then went out to Cahokia River, saying. That is a distance, I

guess, between eight and nine miles. He walked all the way, but he stopped at a saloon-- I think his name was Poacha, a white man. He stopped at his place, and my wife was so tired, and her stockings and everything were so torn laying out in the weeds that Mrs. Poach gave her a waist and a pair of stockings and had her wash her face and comb her hair, and of course I had on a boot and a you might say

Mr. Johnson: You had on one boot and one shoe?

Mr. Nelson: I had on one tin shoe and one white slipper. I had on my slippers at the time I started, and just grabbed anything I could get, and we went to Cahokia River and crossed over to my sister's.

Mr. Johnson: How did you cross the river?

Mr. Nelson: On the ferry.

Mr. Johnson: How did you go from there to your sister's?

Mr. Nelson: We went to Broadway and got Broadway on the car, and got on the car at Avenue. From there we caught a Page Avenue car and went straight until we got to Pullsten Avenue.

Mr. Johnson: What time was it that you got across the river?

Mr. Nelson: That must have been-- well, about nine o'clock, I guess.

Mr. Johnson: Talking from daylight until 9 o'clock?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir; just about daylight-- a little after daylight, because I stopped at Mr. Green's and at King's establishment, trying to get a tackle to take us across the river, but everything was gone, and we could not get any-



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veyances at all to haul us, so we had to walk.

Mr. Johnson: Did your house catch fire from another house?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Not from being fired by the mob?

Mr. Nelson: No, it was set on fire, I guess, from that house next to me, the house right in back of me.

Mr. Johnson: Did the mob shoot into or throw bricks or stones into the houses upon either side of you?

Mr. Nelson: Every window in the flats was broken out by the mob.

Mr. Johnson: I mean in other houses besides the one in which you lived. I don't mean in your flat alone, but in the other houses, separate buildings.

Mr. Nelson: There wasn't any separate buildings there, just a whole row of flats where I lived.

Mr. Johnson: That was between the Broadway Theatre and the library?

Mr. Nelson: Between Seventh and Eighth on Broadway.

Mr. Johnson: How many flats were in the row?

Mr. Nelson: 12, I think; 12 upstairs and 12 downstairs.

Mr. Johnson: Just a long row of tenement houses?

Mr. Nelson: A row of tenement houses, yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Well, all those tenements front on the street?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: What I was undertaking to arrive at was whether or not any other house than yours was shot into there.

Mr. Nelson: Well, there was a house across the street that was shot into. I think her name was Miss Westbrook. That

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was a rooming house, and school teachers stayed in her house.

Mr. Johnson: What was running through my mind was whether or not you had been singled out especially from the other negroes for assault.

Mr. Nelson: No, I was right there in my house.

Mr. Johnson: Well, I know that you were, but you don't think they had any particular animosity towards you?

Mr. Nelson: I don't think so.

Mr. Johnson: Well, that is why I asked you if other houses were shot into.

Mr. Cooper: The Chairman says "other negroes". Was this a mob of negroes assaulting you?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir; white men.

Mr. Johnson: Well, if I said that, I said it inadvertently, because what I was endeavoring to say was whether or not the mob assaulted-- shot into the houses of any other negroes than yours.

Mr. Nelson: That is something I couldn't say, but I know they shot into mine. I am satisfied of that.

Mr. Johnson: You don't think the mob made a special visit up there just on your account?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir; I don't.

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Mr. Johnson: Neither did they specially on account of the negro school teachers?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir; I don't think so.

Mr. Johnson: You identified nobody?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir; I had no chance in the world.

Mr. Johnson: Did you see any soldiers in the crowd?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: They were with the assaulting party?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir; right in front of my house.

Mr. Johnson: Undertaking to check them?

Mr. Nelson: They tried to do nothing.

Mr. Johnson: But did you see any soldier shoot?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir, I didn't.

Mr. Johnson: How many soldiers do you think were up there?

Mr. Nelson: There were six. I positively know there were six soldiers right in front of my house.

Mr. Johnson: And there was nobody in the rear of your house?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir. It was all on fire in the back of my house at the time the crowd was out in front.

Mr. Foss: How many were in the mob?

Mr. Nelson: I couldn't tell you. The whole street was blocked from 7th to 8th.

Mr. Johnson: If you were to make a rough guess, how many were in it, how many would you say?

Mr. Nelson: Well, in that square there must have been 500, I guess-- 350-- something like that.

Mr. Johnson: According to the best information you could get, how many men were in the negro mob which killed Coppedge?

Mr. Nelson: Well, I haven't the least idea.

Mr. Johnson: You never got any information on that subject?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir; I have not.

Mr. Johnson: You never heard anybody else say?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Cooper: where was the first fire that you saw on the 2nd?

Mr. Nelson: The first fire? Well, it was right in back of the Broadway Theatre.

Mr. Cooper: Back of the Broadway Theatre?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir. That is within half a block from where I lived.

Mr. Cooper: Now just where was this Broadway Theatre located?

Mr. Nelson: Right on Seventh and Broadway.

Mr. Cooper: Which direction from this room?

Mr. Nelson: Right on the south side of the street, right straight on out Broadway, on the south side of Broadway.

Mr. Cooper: Broadway runs which way?

Mr. Nelson: East and West.

Mr. Cooper: And if you were going out of this building you would go which way, south?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir; you would go south to Broadway.

Mr. Cooper: And Broadway runs parallel with Missouri Avenue?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: How many blocks is it south of Missouri Avenue?

Mr. Nelson: Broadway from here?

Mr. Cooper: Yes.

Mr. Nelson: Two blocks.

Mr. Cooper: And you go from this building south to Broadway and then you turn to the left?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And go how far?

Mr. Nelson: Straight out Broadway.

Mr. Cooper: How far till you come to the Broadway Theatre? You go to Broadway and then turn to the left, and then how many blocks do you go till you get to <sup>the</sup> Broadway Theatre?

Mr. Nelson: About three blocks.

Mr. Cooper: About three blocks from here?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And your house, or the tenement row in which you were living, was about how far from this theatre?

Mr. Nelson: Well, about half a block-- right down the street.

Mr. Cooper: What was there burning in behind this Broadway <sup>Theater?</sup>

Mr. Nelson: All frame houses. I don't think there was one brick house-- yes, one brick house on Fifth and Rock Road-- Fifth and walnut. There is a few brick houses along in there, half brick and half frame. I never did see that afire at all. The only time I noticed the fire was when it got right even with the Broadway Theatre.

Mr. Cooper: You said you and your wife didn't know what to do when you saw the mob in front and the fire behind?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And finally you heard somebody out in front say, "let's go" where? "Let's go to Third Street"?

Mr. Nelson: "Let's go to Third Street", yes.

Mr. Cooper: Which way would that be from there?

Mr. Nelson: That would be right straight down Broadway.

Mr. Cooper: Right back down this way (east)?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Were those tenement apartments burned, the whole row?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir; every one of them. Even the Broadway Theatre was burned.

Mr. Cooper: The Broadway Theatre and the whole row of tenements?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: How many tenements do you say were in that row?

Mr. Nelson: 24; 12 down and 12 upstairs.

Mr. Cooper: So there were 12 tenements?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: That is, houses?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Who owns the Broadway Theatre?

Mr. Nelson: I think the Broadway Theatre was owned by a man by the name of Butler in St. Louis, Old Man Ed Butler, I think they called him.

Mr. Cooper: A white man?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And the mob came up in front of your house and threw bricks threw the windows?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And shot into it?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And you say you learned afterwards that they shot into the school teachers' house across the way?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Well, if it hadn't been for somebody in the mob saying "Let's go to Third Street", you would have been in mortal danger there, wouldn't you?

Mr. Nelson: Well, I don't think I would have been sitting up here.

Mr. Cooper: And the steps were on fire?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir, at the rear.

Mr. Cooper: Do you think those caught fire from the adjoining building which was on fire?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir; that is what I think. That is my judgment on it.

Mr. Cooper: You have lived in this town nine years?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And have been a member of the police force how long?

Mr. Nelson: Two years.

Mr. Cooper: Do you know about negroes coming here in large numbers the last year and a half or two years?

255 Mr. Nelson: Oh, they have been coming in, yes, sir, back and forth, going and coming.

Mr. Cooper: Do you know about advertisements having been put in southern newspapers promising negroes \$2 to \$2.60 a day for doing unskilled work, and for doing piece-work \$3 and up-

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wards and promising steady jobs to steady men?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Cooper: A prominent employer testified that such advertisements had been put into those southern newspapers in four southern cities last spring. You don't know anything about that?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Have you any idea how many thousand negroes came to this town within a year and a half or a year before the July riots?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir, I do not.  
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Mr. Cooper: Then you ~~went~~ down on Collinsville Avenue, and didn't see any of these murders?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir; I didn't.

Mr. Cooper: You saw no lynchings?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Cooper: What were these soldiers that were standing with the mob in front of your house that night apparently doing?

Mr. Nelson: Nothing at all.

Mr. Cooper: Did they have on uniforms?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Could you see whether or not they had guns?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: The light of the fire made the mob perfectly plain, of course?

Mr. Nelson: well, that wasn't quite dark then, when they were there.

Mr. Cooper: It was just getting along towards dark?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir. My wife wanted to look out at the



crowd, and she said "Let me look out and see it." I says "You keep your head away from that window or you will get a brick over your head." She says "I ain't afraid", and then she says "Here comes <sup>the</sup> soldiers, right at Broadway"; and when I got to the window they were standing right in front of my house. I says "Everything is all right now; I will go out in front and see the soldier." She said "Pin your badge outside of your coat." I says "All right", and I went on back, and about that time a brick came right in the front of my house, and she says "My God, don't you see those soldiers not paying any attention", and I looked out and-- "Um-m-m," right here where I stood come a brick right into the house when I was fixing to go out there and thought I had some protection, and was going to pin my star on the outside of my coat, and she said "See them throwing bricks into the next door", and they were throwing bricks into my house, and I just figured that I would go down the steps and go out, and I was down part way, fixing to open the door to go out.

Mr. Foss: How near were they to your door?

Mr. Nelson: About the distance, I guess, from here across the room.

Mr. Foss: Could you recognize any of those in the mob?

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Mr. Nelson: Every time I would put my head to the window somebody would throw a brick at it, and there was no chance in the world to see anybody. As soon as I would peep, here would come a brick. I couldn't hardly identify my father in that kind of a mob.

Mr. Raker: What did you do on the 2nd of July to get in

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touch with police headquarters, to call for aid and assistance to come out to where you lived near the Broadway Theatre?

Mr. Nelson: I hadn't a chance.

Mr. Raker: Why not?

Mr. Nelson: Well, when I calls at the station, after they shot into my house, and I thought I was perfectly safe to go home-- because where I lived in that row of flats we had a nice class of people, of working people, and we never were bothered during the May riots; they never come near there, and I figured out they would do the same thing again. That was the reason I figured I wouldn't need any protection from the police department.

Mr. Raker: Well, protection not only for yourself but for the people living there.

Mr. Nelson: Well, it seemed the people living there, they were perfectly satisfied. They had never asked me anything about it. when I come by that evening, the lady next door to me, a particular friend of my wife, and I told them ~~it~~ <sup>things</sup> didn't look very good, and she said "My husband is not at home; what will I do?" And I told her to come to our house. I said "Come upstairs to my house." And so they came up there and they thought everything was all right because I was an ~~an~~ officer. They thought I could whip the whole of East St. Louis, I guess. They all come to my house for protection.

Mr. Raker: This was about what time?

Mr. Nelson: About 6:15.

Mr. Raker: Well, you had heard up to that time that riot

generally was prevailing all over the city of East St. Louis?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir; I heard it only through the telephone after I called in, and they told me to get off the streets.

Mr. Raker: You heard it over the telephone and believed it to be true?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Did you understand it was colored people rioting against white people?

Mr. Nelson: No, I thought it was white people rioting against colored people. That's what I thought it was.

Mr. Raker: Well now, why didn't you appeal to the police officers from Headquarters to come up there and assist you, a police officer, in protecting the people?

Mr. Nelson: Well, I thought I was perfectly safe where I was. That's the reason why I didn't do it.

Mr. Raker: I know, yourself, but I am talking about the rest of the citizens. There was a good many besides yourself that needed protection.

Mr. Nelson: I should say there was, yes.

Mr. Raker: Did you think about protecting them?

Mr. Nelson: I thought of it then, but, my goodness, at the time I called in, there was no chance for anybody to be on the streets.

Mr. Raker: You felt that a colored man, a policeman with a star, was helpless?

Mr. Nelson: Helpless as anybody else, especially when his face was the color of mine. I figured that the badge I had

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257 on that evening when I called in was worth nothing. I might as well have had it in my pocket. And I think myself, if I had gone out and shown this badge I would have gotten killed the same as anybody else. That is the reason why I didn't go. That was a gang that took all the run out of me.

Mr. Raker: You were gone from East St. Louis after the riot about how long?

Mr. Nelson: About two weeks.

Mr. Raker: Then you came back and started to work?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: And are on the police force now?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: So it must be evident by that fact that they have no particular grudge against you?

Mr. Nelson: I don't think so. I don't think they have, no sir. If I thought so I wouldn't work.

Mr. Raker: Well, haven't you made any investigation to determine what was the cause of this riot; what was the fundamental <sup>underlying</sup> cause that started it?

Mr. Nelson: Well, we have tried, but we have never been able to do anything.

Mr. Raker: Well now, Mr. Nelson, you are a police officer, hunting down criminals and crooks, and protecting the lives of both whites and blacks, and protecting their property, aren't you?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: And as a police officer you have run down

many a crook and criminal, haven't you?

Mr. Nelson: Oh, yes.

Mr. Raker: And have arrested men charged with murder?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: And testified against them?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: You have <sup>arrested</sup> ~~arrested~~ hold-up men?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: And those charged with arson?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Men guilty of arson, robbery, ticket stealing and everything else?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir. Well, I tell you on this occasion right here now--

Mr. Raker: Just before you answer it now, let me ask you this: You have got a job that pays you how much a month?

Mr. Nelson: \$100.

Mr. Raker: You have no other business?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Raker: Your property was all destroyed?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Your household goods and your clothing, of yourself and your wife?

Mr. Nelson: Everyth'ng we had in the world.

Mr. Raker: And you came back here with ~~just~~ just the old clothes that you and your wife had on?

Mr. Nelson: No, I didn't.

Mr. Raker: What I mean to say, you had no other clothes

except what you got from Saint Louis?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: You had no money in the bank?

Mr. Nelson: No.

Mr. Raker: How did you happen to get back into the police department?

Mr. Nelson: Well, I thought they took pity on me. I had lost everything I had. I had always been a pretty good fellow; always done my duty; never been before the board, and always kept myself as is the duty of an officer. That is the reason, I guess, they kept me. That is the only reason I can see.

Mr. Raker: You haven't any fear in giving any testimony before the Committee, have you?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Raker: It doesn't affect your job in any way?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Raker: Well now, to recur again to my former questions, you must have analyzed the causes of this riot, and I would like you to tell the Committee what has been your deduction from the investigations you have made as to the cause of this riot.

Mr. Nelson: Well, I couldn't exactly explain to you the cause of this riot, to tell you the truth. Really, that is my own judgment about the thing. I really couldn't sit here and tell this Committee that I positively know the cause of this riot. If I did, I would be telling you something that was false.

Mr. Raker: Have you any idea as to any of the causes?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Raker: None whatever?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Raker: Well, isn't that remarkable? You, a police officer, have been for many years; have been around investigating the conditions; have heard the colored people talk and the white people talk; knowing of the fact that a good many colored people have been brought in here from the South and a number of white people have lost their jobs; knowing that there has been a strike on; that some thought the negroes were strike breakers; knowing that there was some feeling against the negroes because they were here working, and then you state you haven't any idea as to the cause of this riot at all?

Mr. Nelson: No, I haven't, not to say the real riot, I haven't. It is only labor. That is all I can see to it, but I have never tried to find out.

Mr. Raker: What did you say?

Mr. Nelson: Well, only labor. That is all I heard.

Mr. Raker: Well, what did that have to do with it?

Mr. Nelson: That is what I want to know. That is what I have been trying to find out.

Mr. Raker: You haven't even found that out?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir. Some say it is labor, but I don't know it. I have just heard it.

Mr. Raker: Then I take it that this is about the statement: You as a police officer, hunting down causes of all kinds of disturbances, and that some 42 or 43 people have been killed, some 320 buildings destroyed, the whole day and part of a night marauding and rioting upon the streets of your city here in

the thickly populated part of East St. Louis, you have been unable to find out any reason or any cause or any prompting inducement to cause this riot and this wholesale murder of people and destruction of property. Is that about a clear statement that you desire to give the Committee?

Mr. Nelson: That is all I can give you.

Mr. Baker: Do you believe-- you haven't any idea whether or not there is any possibility of any more riots occurring?

Mr. Nelson: I don't think there ever will be another, not in this town.

Mr. Baker: And harmony and good will prevails?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: Practically the differences that have been in existence have been settled and adjusted?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir; that is my opinion.

Mr. Baker: The conditions of labor here are good?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: They are well provided for?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: They have good houses?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: Good homes?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: Good sanitary conditions? And they have about all the things that a man needs to maintain his spiritual as well as his general welfare?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.



Mr. Raker: In other words, a man that should complain of living conditions in East Saint Louis, there must be something wrong with him? That would be about your deduction?

Mr. Nelson: Oh, sure.

Mr. Foss: I want to ask you, when you made this hasty departure for St. Louis, were there others going over there?

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Mr. Nelson: Oh, yes.

Mr. Foss: In large numbers?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss: Walking over the bridge?

Mr. Nelson: No, they were walking over the old country road, Cahokia-- Cahokia Creek road, they call it.

Mr. Foss: Then how would they get over the river?

Mr. Nelson: They went from there to the ferry boats, what they call, I think, ~~Immidixmhm~~ Sidney Street ferry. That is in South St. Louis.

Mr. Foss: They didn't go over the Free bridge?

Mr. Nelson: No. I guess there may have been a few went over there, but the people that I seen went over at the same time I did. A few of them, I think I know one or two might have gone over the Free bridge, and some of them over the Rads Bridge.

Mr. Foss: But there was a general exodus, was there, of the negro population out of this city at that time?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss: Did you ever make any estimate as to how many

left?

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Mr. Nelson: No, I think not.

Mr. Foss: Were they mostly people living down in the negro part of the town, in that settlement down there?

Mr. Nelson: Yes.

Mr. Foss: Did they leave from the North End?

Mr. Nelson: Some of them did, yes sir, but mostly from this end of town.

Mr. Foss: Have they come back?

Mr. Nelson: Some have.

Mr. Foss: There are a great many still away?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss: A good many have <sup>never</sup> come back?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Foss: Is there still a feeling of fear on the part of some of them?

Mr. Nelson: Some of them, yes sir.

Mr. Foss: That still obtains?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss: On the part of those now living in the city?

Mr. Nelson: They seem to be all safe and satisfied. I never hear any complaint. They seem to be all right, what is in here now.

Mr. Foss: Are others coming back from time to time, that lived here formerly?

Mr. Nelson: Well, I couldn't answer that. I don't know about that question. Sometimes you can see some of them that are living in Missouri, and you ask them about coming back and they may say, "Yes, we will come back", and then you see them

in a week after that and they say, "We are never coming back to the town." Now that is just what they say.

Mr. Foss: How many negro houses, all told, were burned?

Mr. Nelson: Oh, I couldn't tell you.

Mr. Foss: Do you know?

Mr. Nelson: No; I don't.

Mr. Foss: But they were down in that part of the city there?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Did you ever hear that Congressman Mann, from Chicago, through a newspaper reporter, was making an investigation of the riot?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Did you say at any time to the newspaper reporter that you did identify the sergeant who was with the soldiers when your house was attacked?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir, I never did. If I did I would be more than glad to tell it.

Mr. Johnson: You have not said so in so many words, but by taking your recital as a whole, there is but one inference, and that is that you didn't <sup>give</sup> protection to any of those who were assaulted?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: And you didn't do that because you thought that you weren't equal to the task of doing so?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: You had to take care of your own life,

Mr. Nelson: My wife and I, yes sir; that is who I was looking after at that time.

Mr. Johnson: You figured that you were in a position to know what was the real attitude of the Mayor towards the situation-- relative to the situation?

Mr. Nelson: I couldn't say, of course.

Mr. Raker: Do you believe that if he could have done so he would have protected the negroes upon that occasion?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir; I do.

Mr. Johnson: You answered so readily that it leads me to believe that you entertain no sort of doubt about that?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: That is your opinion?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir; that is my opinion.

Mr. Johnson: And you have no blame to lay at his door for the occurrences that day?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: That is all.

Mr. Raker: I would like to examine him a little further. Just where did you stop in St. Louis?

Mr. Nelson: 4311 west Belle.

Mr. Raker: Now who stopped there with you?

Mr. Nelson: My wife.

Mr. Raker: What is her name?

Mr. Nelson: Nellie Nelson.

Mr. Raker: Who else?

Mr. Nelson: That's all.

Mr. Raker: Well now, you were stopping there at this

number 4311 West Felle in St. Louis?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Who lived in that house?

Mr. Nelson: My sister.

Mr. Raker: Well, that is what I want to know. What is her name?

Mr. Nelson: Gussie Inglehart.

Mr. Raker: How do you spell it?

Mr. Nelson: I-n-g-l-e-h-a-r-t.

Mr. Raker: Is she married?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: What is her husband's name?

Mr. Nelson: Charlie.

Mr. Raker: Who else lived in this house?

Mr. Nelson: Why, I don't know. They were all strangers to me. she runs a rooming house. I don't know who else lives there.

Mr. Raker: But you saw others there? Other refugees?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Raker: People that lived in St. Louis?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: How old is your sister?

Mr. Nelson: I guess she is about 52.

Mr. Raker: How old is her husband?

Mr. Nelson: About forty, I guess.

Mr. Raker: And your wife's age is what?

Mr. Nelson: 32.

Mr. Raker: You have no children?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

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Mr. Raker: You stayed in St. Louis from the day that you got there following the day of the riot for about two weeks?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: You stopped there at this particular place all the time?

Mr. Nelson: All the time.

Mr. Raker: What were you doing while you were there?

Mr. Nelson: Why, my wife was sick at the time.

Mr. Raker: What did you do?

Mr. Nelson: Nothing at all.

Mr. Raker: You just did work any place?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Raker: You didn't earn any money. Your wife was sick and you stayed attending to her?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

261 Mr. Raker: Where did you get money to live on?

Mr. Nelson: Well, my wife had a little money with her. She had about forty dollars.

Mr. Raker: On her person when you left East St. Louis?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Did you have any?

Mr. Nelson: Not a dime.

Mr. Raker: How many white men visited you while you were there?

Mr. Nelson: I don't remember any at all.

Mr. Raker: Well now, stop and think.

Mr. Nelson: I don't remember any.

Mr. Raker: Now listen just a moment. Just think a moment

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before you answer my question, so you won't be confused. Did any white man meet you while you were in St. Louis?

Mr. Nelson: The only white man that met me was a chauffeur on this side of the river, I think; that went after me on a case that I had in Belleville.

Mr. Baker: Well, that is one. What was his name?

Mr. Nelson: Hunter, I believe-- not Hunter, but I can't think of it.

Mr. Baker: A police officer?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: He was not the chauffeur who was along when Corpedge was killed?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir; he is a motor-cycle cop now-- Hersey, that's his name.

Mr. Baker: Now to refresh your mind, don't you remember a man coming to the house where you lived, coming into the house, engaging in conversation with you and your wife, discussing with you the incidents as they occurred in East St. Louis? Now just stop a moment and think.

Mr. Nelson: I don't remember. I believe there was some one come there, but I think he was talking to my wife. But I don't know that for sure.

Mr. Baker: Well, I want you to be positive.

Mr. Nelson: I want to be if I can, because I don't want to make any mistake in it.

Mr. Baker: Don't you remember a white man coming to the house where you were living and engaging in conversation then

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with your wife, I will put it, in regard to the incidents that occurred in your presence-- in regard to the incidents that occurred in East St. Louis, what occurred, how it occurred, and the marvelous way in which you and your wife got out of East St. Louis and saved your lives?

Mr. Nelson: I remember that too. I think there was-- I think so. I am not sure now.

Mr. Baker: You, or your wife, in your presence, gave this man a resumé and history of what you saw?

Mr. Nelson: My wife gave it.

Mr. Baker: In your presence?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir; but I don't know whether it was in my presence; I don't remember now.

Mr. Baker: Your wife in your presence there at 4311 West Pelle Place gave to this man a resumé and what purported to be a history of the occurrences in East St. Louis?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: The deplorable conditions, and how and what you did to save your lives?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: Now during that conversation you talked some, just a little?

Mr. Nelson: I don't remember what I said to him.

Mr. Baker: Don't prejudge me too fast, because you have been an officer and familiar with these things, and have been a witness a good many times. I know you have.

Now let's get back-- during this conversation you did talk with this man at some time when your wife lagged a little? You



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chipped in and made some remarks?

Mr. Nelson: I really can't remember that. I would give anything in the world if I could bring my memory back to it.

Mr. Baker: Let me give you this incident. I think you will remember when I call your attention to it.

Mr. Nelson: I certainly will tell you if I can. I wouldn't shun anything.

Mr. Baker: Now didn't you say this in that conversation in the presence of this gentleman-- a light haired gentleman, a man about 32 or 33 years of age-- I don't remember his name now, but I will get it-- when your wife was present, that you were afraid of your life in East St. Louis, which was the reason you left?

Mr. Nelson: At that time, yes.

Mr. Baker: You remember telling him that?

Mr. Nelson: Yes. I don't remember telling anyone that, only a few of the colored people of East St. Louis. I don't remember saying it to any white person. I do not. I really can't bring that to memory.

Mr. Baker: Do you remember telling this reporter that you had seen the sergeant in charge of the soldiers there that day and recognized him?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir; not this boy. I never told anyone in the world that I ever recognized anyone.

Mr. Baker: Now you are prejudging me, don't you see, again. You saw the soldiers that day?

Mr. Nelson: I did. I did, yes sir.

Mr. Baker: You saw a number of them?

Mr. Nelson: Six; that's what I saw.

Mr. Raker: I am not talking about the fire. That is the trouble, you are thinking about the fire, and I am thinking about the whole day's proceedings. You saw the soldiers here that day?

Mr. Nelson: I saw the soldiers; yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: You saw more than these six?

Mr. Nelson: Well, I don't know. I guess I did.

Mr. Raker: Before the house was assaulted?

Mr. Nelson: ~~Yes, sir.~~ *I might have.*

Mr. Raker: Well, didn't you?

Mr. Nelson: I don't say-- I seen a few around on Broadway there; yes, sir; but I never had any conversation with any of them.

Mr. Raker: I didn't ask you about the conversation. You saw the men in charge of the officer known as the sergeant, didn't you?

Mr. Nelson: I don't know who I was talking to. I don't remember talking to anyone at all. I have asked several, trying to find out who they was, but never was able to find out any of them during that day.

Mr. Raker: Now didn't you in this same conversation in St. Louis tell this man that you saw the Sergeant in the daytime, before the fire down at your place; that you knew he was the sergeant, and that during the fire, while you were in your building, you looked out of the window and you saw this same sergeant standing in front of your building?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Raker: And that you knew it was the same man, because

you had seen him downtown the day before?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Baker: And could and would positively identify him if you were given an opportunity?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir.

Mr. Baker: And that you plead with that man not to give your name because it would endanger not only your job but your life?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir; I didn't.

Mr. Baker: And you had no such conversation?

Mr. Nelson: I haven't had-- the only conversation I ever had with a soldier since the time--

Mr. Baker: I am not talking about the soldier.

Mr. Nelson: I mean anybody. I don't remember talking to any officer at all.

Mr. Baker: I am talking about this reporter.

Mr. Nelson: No, sir; I have never said anything to him.

Mr. Baker: And you said <sup>to him</sup> that you gave him this in confidence <sup>your name</sup> but ~~that~~ <sup>it</sup> must never be divulged, but you would eventually point out this sergeant who stood in front of your house when it was burning?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir; I only wish I could.

Mr. Baker: Well, I have been informed that these are all facts.

Mr. Nelson: Well, I am sorry to say--

Mr. Baker (interrupting:): And if I would ask you, you would tell me about it?

Mr. Nelson: I would certainly tell you anything that I

could tell.

Mr. Raker: Well, it is a most peculiar thing, Mr. witness, it appeals to me and you haven't explained it, that you take the witness stand here and contrary to what every witness has said, you say that all the race riot, all the bad feeling and all the ill feeling has passed and ended and that there is no possibility of any trouble here in East St. Louis.

Mr. Nelson: I will bring my wife to this Committee and let you all talk with her. I don't remember making any such statement. I am not that sort of a man, that I wouldn't know I was talking to anyone at all. I can bring her here to you and she can explain it to you. She may have done some talking. I remember talking to no one at all. If she has done any talking, I don't know anything about it.

Mr. Raker: You still persist in saying to the Committee that the conditions in East. St. Louis are all right, <sup>both</sup> for white and black?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: And that there is no trouble nor danger--

Mr. Nelson (interposing:) I don't think that I said--

Mr. Raker (interposing:) -- of any more riots or troubles?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: You feel that is absolutely a fact?

Mr. Nelson: I do, yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: And you sit upon the witness stand and tell us again that you haven't the slightest idea or the slightest information of what caused this terrible riot?

Mr. Nelson: I don't; no, sir, I don't know the cause of this riot. To tell you the truth, I don't know.

Mr. Raker: Did the white police leave this city and abandon their jobs like you did on that day of the riot?

Mr. Nelson: Well, no, they didn't leave.

Mr. Raker: Well, why didn't they?

264 Mr. Nelson: Their faces were white, is the only reason I can see why they didn't. Now during the time of the mob any white man in town could walk down Broadway and Collinsville Avenue and not be bothered at all, but if I had gone down there I guess I would have been broke right off the reel. They would have killed me. Any white man was safe on the street during the time of the mob.

Mr. Raker: And still you say, after again saying that-- still you say to the Committee, a sworn police officer in this city, that you haven't any doubt but what the conditions, the relations, between these white men and the black men are absolutely without any trouble, and that there was no occasion here for a race riot, and it didn't grow out of a race riot?

Mr. Nelson: Well, I don't know; I can't say.

Mr. Raker: Well, that's all.

Mr. Cooper: You said a little while ago, in response to questions, that you thought the trouble-- the only thing that you could think of that caused it was labor trouble.

Mr. Nelson: That is the only thing I thought. That is all I could think of.

Mr. Cooper: Something has been said about you deserting your duties that day.

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Do you know that Mr. Mills-- I think his name was Mills-- and another one by the name of Green, two colored

officers, were instructed by their white superiors to stop their duties at 3 o'clock and go home?

Mr. Nelson: So did I.

Mr. Cooper: There was nothing wrong about your going, as there?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir. I went home too.

Mr. Cooper: You went home because your wife reported to you that your house had been shot into?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And you got home and found it had been?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: You thought your first duty under the circumstances-- your white superior having sent two colored officers home at 3 o'clock because their lives were in jeopardy, and your wife reporting to you that your own house had been shot into in the afternoon-- you thought your own duty was at that time to go home and save your own life, and if possible protect her from murder?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: So you went home?

Mr. Nelson: I did.

Mr. Cooper: were there some dives here kept by colored people before the riots, in the valley?

Mr. Nelson: There were saloons there; yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And some of them were pretty tough places, weren't they?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Did you ever get any instructions from your

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superiors-- that is, before the riot, to let those places alone?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir; we all got instructions, every time we seen anything going on around these dives, to pick up everybody we seen, crap games, card playing, anything.

Mr. Cooper: Anything that you saw you were to pick them up; but suppose you didn't go there to see?

Mr. Nelson: We generally always went there to see.

Mr. Cooper: Well, sometimes you omitted it?

Mr. Nelson: We never did always.

Mr. Cooper: Didn't you receive instructions to let those places alone?

Mr. Nelson: No, sir; I never have since I have been on the job. I never have, by noone.

Mr. Cooper: But you have been on only two years?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: That's all.

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Mr. Johnson: If you understood from the questions that I put to you, that I was censuring you for having abandoned the streets and gone home, you misunderstood me, because I approve of your doing that, as I approve the conduct of the officer who gave you the authority to get out of the way.

Now you have said that you thought that any colored man who would have shown up in the mob of July 2nd would have been assaulted?

Mr. Nelson: I do.

Mr. Johnson: Don't you think it is equally true that any white man who had shown up on the night before, before the negro mob, would have been assaulted?

Mr. Nelson: I don't know. I couldn't answer that question,  
~~I think~~  
*hardly.*

Mr. Johnson: Well, you do know that they assaulted the first ones they saw?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: And the only ones they saw, so far as you know?

Mr. Nelson: So far as I know, yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: And they assaulted them-- and they were officers-- and killed two of them and shot two other officers?

Mr. Nelson: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: You may be excused.

(whereupon, at 5:15 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned until 10 o'clock a.m., Saturday, October 27, 1917.)

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