- I, Edward Nichol, being duly sworn upon my oath, do depose and say:
- 1. I live at 322 Hunterdon Street, Newark, New Jersey. I am thirty years old and have lived in Newark for twenty-seven years.
- 2. At about 6:30 P.M. on Saturday, July 15, 1967, I was dozing in a chair in my apartment. My wife was getting ready to cook.
- 3. Suddenly, there was rapid shooting outside. My wife grabbed me and told me to get on the floor.
- 4. Just a couple of minutes later, my brother-in-law, Edward Thomas, Jr., came into the apartment hollering, "Lois has been shot.: He was talking about my wife's cousin, Eloise Spellman, who lives down on the tenth floor.
- 5. I expressed disbelief. Then I slid over to the phone away from the window and called Newark City Hospital. I told them to send help.
- 6. Then, after telling my wife to stay in the apartment, I went down to the tenth floor with my wife's cousin, Arnold Owens. We made our way down in a crouching position.
- 7. We could hear the police coming up the stairwell, shooting with their shotguns. It sounded as though they were near the sixth floor.
- 8. We went right into Lois' apartment. I saw Lois on the floor. She told me she had been shot. I saw the wound. She grabbed my arm. "Please take care of the kids. Will I be all right, Eddie?"

- 9. I told her she would be all right and that she should take it easy. It was obvious to me that she was in very great pain.
- 10. She told me her arm was numb. She tried to move her fingers, but couldn't. Someone in the apartment house hollered down to the police, "A woman's been shot."
- 11. Soon, one police officer came in. He was very nice. He told us to keep calm and to stay down. He put his shotgun on the couch. He said to get wet towels and to keep a blanket on Lois' neck.
- 12. To stop the shooting, he told Richie Spellman to run in and get a sheet. The officer tied the sheet to his gun and put it in the window.
- 13. The fire stopped in the direction of that particular apartment. The policeman put a wet towel on Lois' forehead and the back of her neck. He then told us how to move her. We slid her onto the daybed to bring her into the hall. Lois was hollering about her arm.
- 14. Two more police came upstairs, still shooting. They were hollering out, "Niggers, get out of the hall." When they came up near us, I told them, "A woman's been shot." They could see her in the hall.
- 15. Meanwhile, the one policeman who had helped us told us to keep calm and not to roam so we wouldn't be hurt. About an hour after Lois had been shot, an ambulance arrived. As they were taking Lois away, she turned to me again and said, "Take care of the kids, all right?" They took her down the elevator.
- 16. Later that night, about 9:00 P.M., I was down on the fifth floor in my father-in-law's apartment. Looking out the window with the shade just slightly open, I could see towards

1

Hunterdon Street and Springfield Avenue.

- 17. About eight state troopers were down there. As two cars came down Hunterdon Street towards 17th Avenue, the troopers said, "halt," meanwhile aiming their guns. The second car started to go around the first but, as the trooper aimed, he stopped. He got out of the car and gave no resistance.
- 18. They made him put his hands on the trunk and told him to spread his legs out. I could hear what was being said since they were shouting and it was now a still night.
- 19. The driver told the police he couldn't spread his legs because he had a bad knee. A trooper put his leg between those of the man and said, "they aren't out far enough." The trooper spread the man's legs and the man fell.
- 20. Another trooper took his rifle and hit the man in the head with the side of it and pulled the trigger at the same time. The gun went off.
  - 21. I couldn't believe what I had seen.
- 22. The man got up. The same trooper who had hit him with the rifle pointed his rifle at his neck and hollered, "If you move, I'll blow your black brains out."
- 23. They searched the car, then questioned him. They threw his key in the gutter and told him to get out. He was holding his head, but was able to drive away.
- 24. About fifteen minutes later, the troopers stopped another fellow. (They had been stopping about every third or fourth car. They told this man and his passenger to get out. They did.
- 25. The troopers found clothes in the car. The man said he had bought them. The troopers said, "You didn't buy them. You were looting." He continued saying he bought them. Four

of the troopers then took the butts of their rifles and beat the man down to the ground.

- 26. Then a National Guardsman stuck his bayonet in the rear left tire of the man's car and gave him a flat. Finally they threw the clothes in the gutter and wouldn't let him pick them up. They said, "Get out of here." He said, How can I with a flat tire?" One trooper took his gun butt and moved it towards him threateningly. The men drove off.
- 27. The following morning, at about 11:00 A.M., Miss Reba Horne, a friend of the family, came up with a friend and told us that Lois Spellman had died.
- 28. Throughout all the shooting the day before, the police never warned people to stay away from the windows. It was only on Sunday evening, after things had quieted down, that a man in a low flying helicopter siad through a megaphone that people should stay away form the windows.

Charl Their EDWARD NICHOL

Sworn to and subscribed before me this find day of August, 1967.

Comment of the same of the

L

I hereby authorize the use of my statement in Connection with any legal action or legal investigation arising out of police conduct in the City of Newark, New Jersey, during the period of the civil disturbances in Newark, during the summer of 1967.

DATED: Chaust 8, 1967

, 1967 Elevare nichel