

STATE OF NEW JERSEY)
COUNTY OF ESSEX) SS:

I, Jesse Koon, being duly sworn upon my oath, do depose and say:

1. I am 34 years of age. I reside at 266 Seymour Avenue, Newark, New Jersey. I am a Negro.

2. On Friday, July 14, 1967, at about 3:30 P.M., I was standing outside the R & R Lounge at 61 Jones Street, Newark, along with some friends. Some of the group were standing on the stoop and I was sitting in Donald Holley's car with Donald. We were all discussing the recent events in Newark.

3. Shortly after, I observed 2 white policemen dressed in dark blue uniforms and wearing white helmets, on top of the roof of the Spring Manor. These were two Newark policemen. One carried a shotgun or rifle and the other a pistol.

4. One of these policemen, the one with the pistol, shouted "move". The group began running slowly. One of the policemen then kicked a window in in one of the buildings next to the Spring Manor roof and both policemen went into that building through the window. At that time Cornelius Murray walked up to the scene coming from the direction of 14th Avenue toward Springfield Avenue. I was going toward my car parked near the corner of 14th Avenue and Jones Street.

5. Cornelius said to me, "I got lucky. I'm going on days starting Monday." Cornelius Murray worked at Hatefield Wire and Cable Corp., on Styles Street, Lendon, New Jersey. I answered, "I'm glad to hear that," or words to that effect. Just a few seconds had gone by after the police said move and Cornelius and I had this brief conversation.

6. Before we saw these two policemen on the roof there was nobody shooting at anything in this immediate area. We heard shots in the distance down Springfield Avenue but there was no disturbance of any kind around the R & R Bar. We all usually meet here because it is a quiet spot and all of us who were standing outside the R & R knew one another very well and are good friends.

7. Suddenly the two police opened fire, while we were all obeying the instruction to move away. No one in the group opposed the order to move away. When the police began firing I was sitting in Holley's car and Cornelius was leaning on the passenger side, while standing on the sidewalk, talking to Holley and I.

8. Somebody suggested that Holley and I get out of the car completely which we did, and came around on the sidewalk. We laid flat on the sidewalk with the car shielding us from the line of fire of the policemen. Holley's car was parked immediately in front of the R & R Lounge. Cornelius was already laying on the sidewalk.

9. When the shooting started Edward Davis' car was parked immediately behind Holley's car then there was a space of about one car length between Ed's car and Morris Marsette's car. As soon as the shooting started Edward moved out, made a U-turn, and headed back at full speed toward 14th Avenue. Osborne Kirkland was in Ed's car. There was now a space of about 2 car lengths between Holley's car and Morris' car.

10. The shooting raged on. I got up from the sidewalk on the side of Holley's car and ran toward Morris' car, closing the 2 car gap. My brother Paul Koon was also laying down on the sidewalk and he got up and closed the gap between the two

11. I was now looking directly at Holley's car where Cornelius Murray, "J.K." and Joseph Alonzo Koon were now crouching and getting ready to close the gap at a full run. Cornelius broke first from the group of 3 crouching behind Holley's car. My brother Joseph broke a split second after Cornelius to try and close the gap, and "J.K." broke last to try and close the gap.

12. Nobody had fired back at these two policemen. None of the group had any weapons. None of us carried weapons at any time to the best of my knowledge.

13. Cornelius had just passed me when I was crouching behind the front right fender of Morris' car, when he was hit by a bullet from one of the shooting policemen which bullet passed over me and hit Cornelius on the left side of his back. To the best of my knowledge only 1 bullet hit Cornelius. The force of the bullet flipped him over and he landed face down, right near the lamp post, face down. I watched him when he got hit.

14. I went over to Cornelius and he was laying in a pool of blood. I saw one small red dot on the left side of his back. When I got to him, I kneeled down and said to him "God damn." Cornelius said to me "Jesse, I'm dying", or words to that effect.

15 I left immediately to get my car which was parked on Jones Street near 14th Avenue. I got in my car, started it up and was about to pull out when a new model Plymouth pulled up at the scene and the driver said, "Put him in my car, I'll take him. They won't bother me", or words to that effect. This

man, a Negro, was a total stranger to us. I was standing on the spot when Holley, Paul, J.K. and "Lonnie", and the driver of the car helped pick Cornelius up. Cornelius had one wound in the left side of his back, and was conscious when his friends put him into the Plymouth.

16. I then got into my car along with my brother Paul, Perry, and Douglas, along with Irving Bradley, and Richie Thomas. We went to Martland Medical Center and when we arrived at the hospital Cornelius was already inside.

17. Bradley and I walked up to the emergency entrance where we met Leon Upshaw a Newark Policeman who was on guard at the hospital. I have known Upshaw since approximately 1948. I was in the National Guard with Upshaw from 1949 to 1952. Upshaw came up to me, saw me in tears, and asked what was the matter. I said that, "my brother got shot", or something to that effect. Then he asked how did he come up to the hospital, and I said, "he had come up in a Plymouth". The car had gone from the scene now. As soon as I told Upshaw that Cornelius had come up in the Plymouth, Upshaw knew exactly who I was talking about. Upshaw then said to me, "Oh, he was standing outside the car with the fellows who brought him up and he walked up to the entrance where the stretcher was", or words to that effect.

18. I asked Upshaw why did the Newark police shoot him down like that, and Upshaw said to me, "what can I tell you Jesse, I wasn't there, I don't know." We stood there talking for a short while. Bradley was with me facing Upshaw when Upshaw told me that Cornelius had walked into the hospital.

19. The next time I saw Cornelius was in Wigham's Funeral Parlour on Tuesday night.

20. Cornelius had about \$126 in his wallet and a pinky ring when he was taken into the hospital. I have no knowledge of what happened to this money and the ring. Cornelius had showed me the money in his wallet and told me that he had \$126.

JESSE KOOM

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