STATE OF NEW JERSEY )
) SS:
COUNTY OF ESSEX )

I, Morris Marsette, being duly sworn upon my oath, do depose and say:

1. I reside at 86 Littleton Avenue, Newark, New Jersey. I am 35 years of age. I am a Negro.

2. I work for Motor Freight on North Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey.

3. I had been a friend of Cornelius Murray, deceased, for about 10 years.

4. On Friday, July 14, 1967, at about 3:30 P.M., I was standing outside the R & R Lounge, 61 or 63 Jones Street, with several friends, including Joseph Koon, and J. Kelley, who works at Mayo's Dodge Company, in East Orange, We were standing around the lounge discussing the current events in Newark. The Lounge was closed for business. Shortly after 3:30 P.M. Cornelius Murray arrived and joined the group. From my information Cornelius had had just ordered a new car which had not yet arrived, and he was then employed at Hatefield Wire & Cable Company with main office at Hillside, New Jersey.

5. We had all heard some shooting in the area but I did not see who was shooting. We all ignored the shooting. At about 4 P.M. we saw two Newark policemen (white) across the street. The policemen shouted across the street to my group to "break it up and move out", or words to that effect. These two policemen were in a window on the second floor of the building across the street when they spoke to us. We did not move right away because we were not doing anything wrong and thought

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there was no reason to become alarmed. Then the crowd began to disperse slowly. Those who were sitting on steps and on the end of cars got up and began moving. There were about 10 persons in the whole group.

6. Some of the group began moving toward the automobile owned by Donald Holleg, of 379 Littleton Avenue, 1st. floor, and others began to move toward my car. Cornelius Murray was one of those moving toward Donald Holleg's car.

7. While we were thus obeying the order of the two policemen, I saw these two policemen open fire. They had no reason for opening deadly fire at us because (1) we were in the process of obeying their order and (2) we had given them no reason. I saw one policeman open fire with his pistol and the other with a shotgun or rifle.

8. We thought they were shooting blanks at first. Someone said, "I think they're shooting blanks." Then I heard two bullets crash into Donald Holleg's car, then somebody shouted "those ain't blanks, those are real bullets."

9. When these two bullets hit Holleg's car those of the group who were already sitting in that car got out and began to run toward my car which was parked about three car lengths in back of Holleg's car. We assumed that my car might have been out of range of the police bullets. While everyone was then running toward my car, I heard more shots and heard bullets crash into the building alongside of which I was running. My car was parked right outside the Seventh Day Adventist Church in the area.

10. Cornelius Murray was in the process of running back to my car and crossing the gap between Holleg's car and my car when he was shot. There were <u>three</u> cars parked near each other



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near the curb. I had reached Holleg's car and started running back to my car when I stopped and lay down between the car in the middle (between Holleg's car and mine) and the curb, and I did not attempt to close the gap between this car in the middle and my car (which gap was about 2 car lengths).

11. While I was laying there others in my group were still attempting to close that gap. I was laying with my face lowered and was not able to see who was running past me.

12. Suddenly I heard someone cry "they got me", or "I'm hit", or words to that effect. When I heard this cry I raised my face from the ground and looked toward the gap between the cars in front of me. I saw Cornelius Murray being flipped over with the impact of the bullet. He was running toward 14th Avenue when he was hit, and I saw blood streaming down the left side of his back. The building from which the two policemen were shooting was at an angle of about 45° from the church in front of which Cornelius Murray was hit. When he was flipped over with the impact of the bullet, he came to rest near a lamp post on the sidewalk.

13. The shooting suddenly stopped after Murray was hit. I got up immediately and went over to see what damage had been done to my friend Cornelius Murray. Joseph Alonzo Koon was already kneeling beside Murray. I saw Cornelius laying on his back in a pool of blood, with his eyes rolled back so that all of the eye now visible was white. I then turned away. I then walked down to the corner of Springfield Avenue and Jones Street because I was physically upset and could not stand the sight of my friend laying shot like that for no reason. The time was about 5 P.M. I stayed at the corner for a few minutes then I turned around and walked back to where a group of persons



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were standing around. When I got back to this group of persons standing near where Cornelius was hit, Jesse Koon the brother of Joseph Koon and some others told me that "they just took him to the hospital."

14. I then got into my car and some others entered my car also but I am unable now to recall exactly which of the group were in my car.

15. I drove up to the Emergency Exit of the Martland Medical Center where I met Joseph Koon who said to me! "you might as well go back. You can't get in. They ain't letting anybody see him." When I arrived I saw a ford car double parked a little distance up Camden Street. I assumed at that time that Lonnie had brought Cornelius to the hospital in this car, and later that same day Lonnie told me that they had taken Cornelius to the hospital in that Ford.

16. We all came back downtown to the R & R Lounge and began looking at the 2 bullet holes in Holley's Car.

17. At Cornelius' funeral on the 20th July, I had the opportunity to talk to Cornelius' father. He told me that he had gone to identify the body that past Sunday, 16th, and he asked me "where did he get hit?", or words to that effect. We, (Jesse Koon of 46 No. 15th Street, East Orange and I who were at the funeral) replied that Cornelius was hit in the left side of his body.

18. Cornelius' father then asked, "didn't he get hit in the head?", or words to that effect. We replied, "No." Then he (Cornelius' father) said, "the reason why I asked is that when I went to identify the body last Sunday his head was open across the top and I had to push it back together a little." Then Mr. Murray asked myself and Jesse Koon if we would repeat this in court and we replied "Yes".

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

MORRIS MARSETTE



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