

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

I, Rose Wright, being duly sworn upon my oath, do depose and say:

1. I am thirty years old, I reside at 97 South Orange Avenue, Newark, New Jersey. I am a Negro.

2. On Friday, July 14, 1967, at about 4:30 PM, I was standing on the corner of South Orange Avenue and Wicliffe Street with Rufus Council, a Negro.

3. Suddenly, we saw a police car make a turn a block away in the Springfield Avenue area and start down Broome Street, toward where Rufus Council and I were standing. There were several small groups of people standing on the sidewalks of the block on Broome Street between South Orange Avenue and Springfield Avenue. Nothing happened, as we were all standing there, that I think could have attracted the attention of a police car and caused them to drive down Broome from Springfield in our direction. The police car came down Broome speeding, with the light on the roof flashing. I do not recall any siren. Some of the people who were standing along Broome Street began running into doorways as the car sped in their direction.

4. Moving from Springfield to South Orange along Broome, I was standing on the left side of the street across South Orange on the corner of South Orange and Wicliffe. (Wicliffe is the continuation of Broome moving in this direction.) There is the Steak House Restaurant about two houses from the corner where Rufus and I were standing. As the car approached, I was able

able to make out three state troopers inside, two in the front seat and one in the back. The one in the back seat was leaning out the left back window (on my side) and pointing his long gun at people as his car passed by. As the car approached where I was standing I ran to the Steak house door. The car had stopped at the corner of South Orange and Wicliffe. I then ran into the Steak House Restaurant and to the back of the dining room. Rufus Council moved from the sidewalk into the doorway of the Steak House and stood there. I was standing at the rear of the dining room looking at Rufus' back as he stood in the doorway of the restaurant looking out on the street. The time was now about 4:50 PM.

5. I heard several shots which sounded as though they were coming from the car that had just driven up. Before this car came on the scene there had been no shooting at all on this corner where I had been standing with Rufus Council.

6. Suddenly Rufus shouted "Ow!" and he fell right in the doorway, backwards, with his whole body completely within the restaurant entrance. After he fell he never moved. Neither did he say another sound. A few seconds after Rufus fell, I heard the motor of the car roar up, they were gunning the motor, then the car drove away.

7. People then began moving up from the back of the restaurant to the front to see what had happened to Rufus. People began running to the door from all directions on the street to see what had happened to Rufus. Rufus was laying on his back and blood, a thick red clotting type of blood, had formed a big clot in the area of his left temple. Rufus was dead.

ROSE WRIGHT

Sworn to and subscribed this
day of _____, 1967.
