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Statement of James Easterling, 7 16th Ave., witness of two nights shooting at Hayes Homes.

On Friday July 14, about 7:30, I saw state police firing into the tenth floor of Hayes Homes from two sides of Springfield Ave at Hunterdon (the side next to the bar and side next to the fire station), and from the park at 16th Ave and Springfield. I was in my house at 7 16th Ave. at the window. The firing lasted for about ten minutes constantly, for a long time sporadically. I saw glass falling from tenth floor windows, and I have seen damage done on the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th floors. The fire was concentrated at the tenth floor. I talked to a National Guardsman in front of my house who said they were supposed to be firing at the roof of Hayes. I went into the ~~ten~~ damaged and bullet-riddled apartments the next morning (Saturday). I was told one man was hit in the foot; the night before, I had seen him taken out in between two policemen.

On Saturday night, about the same time, I was in my apartment. State police lined themselves up in front of my building, had themselves stationed again at the same positions, and started again systematically firing at same two apartments (the two which face Springfield). Shooting went on all night. There was a lull about 3 a.m., so I crossed the street and went to the projects. People in the building told me of the shooting of Mrs. ~~Spellman~~ Spellman. They said she was shot through the neck. Her daughter Sharon, about 17, witnessed it and told me. I had seen ~~her~~ <sup>someone</sup> taken out after dark, perhaps about 9, <sup>on</sup> a stretcher in the rain. She was the only one killed, so it must have been her. I went to the apartment today (Sunday) about 9 o'clock, and inspected the two apartments that had been ~~xxx~~ shot. And I collected some bullet fragments. They were .45 submachine gun (automatic) and .30 caliber carbine and Mls. They were shooting with Browning Automatics, Mls, .30 caliber carbine, and submachine gun and shotguns. I can identify all these by sound.

James E. Easterling

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