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these people hit and moved and moved to another physical area, either outside the city or to other portions of the city without knowing where?

THE WITNESS: I have no way of knowing.

MR. JAFFE: That is all, gentlemen, unless you have some equally cogent questions.

Thank you very much, General.

ESTA WILLIAMS, Sucken.

VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Mrs. Williams, we are trying to keep to your schedule and we want to apologize for keeping you beyond your time but I think you understand that sometimes the testimony is extended because either the witness has something else to add or the Commission.

EXAMINATION BY MR. FORTUNATO:

Q Will you give us your address for the record, please?

A I live at 9-17th Avenue, Apartment 3-E. That's in Hayes Homes.

Q In Newark?

A Yes.

Q How long have you been a resident of Newark?

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Q Since 1950.

Q Your age, please?

A Yes. Thirty-five.

Q Your occupation?

A Bookkeeping machine operator.

Q Where are you presently working?

A City Hall, Tax Department.

Q Are you affiliated with any groups?

A Yes.

Q What groups are you affiliated with?

A Hayes Homes Tenants League, First Vice Chairman.

Q Any other groups?

A UCC.

Q In what capacity?

A Area Board Number 2.

Q Any others?

A Assistant treasurer to the corporation and chairman of Fourth Precinct Council, Fourth Precinct.

Q What is the Hayes Homes Tenants League?

A Well, that is an organization that was organized within Hayes Homes to bring about a better relationship between management and tenant.

Q How do you function or how do you operate?

A Well, we have mass meetings monthly, once a month, plus we have executive committee meetings once a month.

1 Q Do you meet with the landlord sometimes?

2 A Well, the managers are always invited to the
3 meeting, yes.

4 Q And you talk to them about mutual problems?

5 A Yes. In fact, we have a Grievance Committee to go
6 direct to management any time any grievances arise.

7 Q Has that relationship between yourselves and the
8 landlord been effective, a good one?

9 A I think we have established a better relationship.

10 Q Are there things you would like to see improved
11 there?

12 A Yes.

13 Q What would you like to see improved?

14 A Do I have to specify these things?

15 Q Well, is it something that you want to go off the
16 record about?

17 A No.

18 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: I think what you mean
19 is you are not prepared to list all the grievances,
20 is that it?

21 THE WITNESS: No, because we have quite a
22 bit of grievances there. Right now we have a
23 grievance of more policemen.

24 Q You want more policemen in the area?

25 A Yes. We have a parking situation, plus we have quit

1 a few situations on certain corners where we would like to
2 have lights installed but as of yet we haven't been fortunate
3 enough to have them installed, traffic lights.

4 Q I think that gives us an idea without necessarily
5 exhausting all the grievances you might have.

6 What is the Fourth Precinct Council?

7 A Well, this is a council that was organized some
8 time ago. The council died down and we activated the council
9 again about 9 months ago.

10 Q What is its purpose?

11 A To bring about a better relationship between the
12 community and the Police Department.

13 Q How have you effectuated that purpose? Who do you
14 talk to and so on?

15 A Well, first of all we had only three meetings
16 before the situation of July 12.

17 Q Meetings with whom?

18 A With people in the community. They were held
19 within the Fourth Precinct.

20 Q Were people from the administration there as well?

21 A Well, no. Captain Zizza was there.

22 Q Who is he?

23 A The Captain of the Fourth Precinct.

24 Q Was he present at the meetings?

25 A Yes. Lieutenant Barnes was our corresponding

1 secretary, and people from the community, Hayes and the
2 surrounding areas.

3 Q Do you think this council idea is a good thing?

4 A I think it is a very good thing if we can get
5 it going as before the situation arose because our last
6 meeting before the riot we had at least 60 to 70 persons there
7 because Miss Bessie Hill, she gave us a little demonstration
8 as to what happens, as a role played in the police community
9 relations class we had, and she was our guest that night.
10 After that, last Monday was the first council meeting we had
11 a very poor attendance.

12 Q Who calls the council meetings?

13 A The chairman of the Precinct Council.

14 Q Yourself?

15 A Yes. Infact, we have an established date every
16 third Monday of the month.

17 Q Who are members of the council? Is this a joint
18 police-civilian membership?

19 A Yes.

20 Q So the captain of the Fourth Precinct is there in
21 his official capacity as captain of the Fourth Precinct?

22 A Yes, he is.

23 Q Do you plan to have more meetings?

24 Q Every third Monday of the month.

25 Q You have a regularly scheduled meeting?

1 A Yes.
2 I see. MR. LOFTON: Mrs. Williams, did you
3 indicate how long this Precinct Council had been
4 in operation? When did it begin? When did it
5 start?

6 THE WITNESS: I couldn't truthfully say,
7 Mr. Lofton, because I had been in the area and
8 it was only by being curious because Mr. Lee had
9 organized what you call a community council there
10 at Fuld House and I happened to run into Mr.
11 Meeks and he said that we did have a Fourth
12 Precinct Council.

13 MR. LOFTON: Mr. Meeks is a police officer
14 also, is he not?

15 THE WITNESS: Right. They didn't have
16 meetings regularly. In fact, it just died down.
17 So it was at the request of some tenants that we
18 would meet with Captain Zizza and members from
19 the community and try and re-activate this Precinct
20 Council.

21 At this meeting I was voted Temporary Chairman
22 and when we had our elections, I was elected
23 Chairman as of through December 31st because we
24 elect new officers January 1.

25 MR. LOFTON: I would just like to know this:

1 Since you have been associated with the council
2 I would assume that there has been a dialogue
3 or discussion between the community people
4 relating to the officials of the Police Department
5 there of certain grievances, is that proper to
6 say?

7 THE WITNESS: Right.

8 MR. LOFTON: Now to your knowledge, prior
9 to the council going into what would be probably
10 called a defunct state or inoperative state
11 which is now being attempted to get rejuvenated,
12 to your knowledge have any of the grievances
13 that were communicated to the police been acted
14 on at all to the satisfaction of the community
15 prior to the disturbances?

16 THE WITNESS: Well, we had asked for more
17 police protection and I go back to a hot night
18 when they had a rally down in Lincoln Park there
19 when they had pulled all of the police out of
20 the precincts and we had a mass meeting that
21 night and it was then we decided to go over to
22 the precinct and talk to the captain about police
23 protection.

24 We were told we would have to come downtown
25 and see the director, Director Spina, and we

1 would have to see the Mayor, plus we would have
2 to see the Deputy Chief Edden, who is in charge
3 of the special policemen.

4 We were told at this time that the Police
5 Department was understaffed and we couldn't get
6 a number of policemen. Fortunately, we were able
7 to get additional police but it is not enough
8 police protection because we have quite a few
9 addicts there and this was one of our major
10 concerns.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Would you date that
12 Lincoln Park meeting as best you can.

13 THE WITNESS: I think it was in August of
14 last year.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: August of 1966?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes.

17 BISHOP DOUGHERTY: And you got the increase
18 in police protection before the disturbance in
19 July?

20 THE WITNESS: Yes, we had gotten additional
21 police there in Hayes before the disturbance,
22 in authority yes, but we didn't think it was enough.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Against whom did you
24 wish the police protection? What element or what
25 people or what was it that demanded the police

1 protection or caused you to demand the police
2 about the protection?

3 THE WITNESS: Muggings in hallways and a
4 with our couple of incidents happened out on 17th Avenue
5 and it was in broad daylight where their purses was snatched.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Would this involve
7 some out in Negroes and whites or Negroes on both sides?

8 THE WITNESS: On both sides.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Victim and assaulter?

10 THE WITNESS: Right. Then a couple of
11 insurance men were attacked in our buildings.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: They would be people
13 coming in from the outside?

14 THE WITNESS: Right.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: White or Negro?

16 THE WITNESS: Both.

17 Q What are the other concerns of the people who live
18 in the Hayes Project? You mentioned drug addicts, mugging.

19 A Well, at this particular meeting I had spoken
20 about to an extent the police hands being tied as far as
21 addicts were concerned because we were told by a detective
22 in authority from the Narcotics Squad that they couldn't just
23 apprehend an addict just because he was an addict. They would
24 have to catch him in the act or if they would search him, just
25 go up to him and search him they would be liable for a suit.

1 I had asked Captain Zizza at this time what could we do
2 about the laws being revised as to the police having certain
3 authorities concerning addicts? He told us our gripe was
4 with our Legislature. So that died down. Nothing ever happened
5 and it was never brought up again until I was a participant
6 in the Police Community Relations Class and several things
7 came out in that class.

8 Q I am going to ask you about that in a minute.

9 You seem to have a number of communications with the
10 police officials and I guess Director Spina as well. How
11 does this come about?

12 A Because I am interested in what happens in my
13 community.

14 Q Do people seem to look to you when they have
15 problems?

16 A Well, I think it all came about when I was chairman
17 of the Grievance Committee of Hayes Homes and any grievances
18 that we had to take to management or to the Police Department,
19 this was my department. I was chairman of this committee.

20 Q And people still come to you with other problems?

21 A Right.

22 Q Not necessarily grievances in connection with Hayes
23 Homes?

24 A Right.

25 Q I want to come back to that community relations

1 problem but can you tell us what you feel are the causes of
2 the riots or if riot is a bad word you tell us what word you
3 would rather use?

4 A I wouldn't say it was a riot. To me it was a
5 mystery rebellion or revolt.

6 Q Why do you say that?

7 A Because it was something that I myself didn't
8 think could happen but knew it might happen because of
9 certain elements and I think some of the things that contributed
10 to the riot were non-quality education for Negroes, lack of
11 jobs, inadequate housing, police brutality, the bad site
12 situation.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: That would be the
14 medical school?

15 THE WITNESS: Right. The Parker Callaghan
16 situation.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: That would be the
18 Board of Education, is that correct?

19 THE WITNESS: Right. A complete lack of
20 communication with the power structures. I would
21 like to elaborate on Number 1, when I say non-
22 quality education.

23 I live in the Central Ward and kids that
24 are in 18th Avenue, Cleveland, West Kinney Junior
25 High, that goes into Central and the surrounding

1 high schools, statistics have stated that these
2 kids going to school are at the 4.5 level. This
3 is when they go into 10th grade and when they are
4 reading at this level --

5 Q VICK CHAIRMAN BROWN: You mean 5th grade
6 level? You said 5 point.

7 THE WITNESS: Yes. Some of them are reading
8 at a 4th grade level and here they are going into
9 high school and when they get out of high school
10 they are not equipped to do anything.

11 In fact, I think the school system is
12 crippling them, rather than preparing them to
13 face their responsibilities. This too I think
14 contributes to quite a bit of the drug addiction
15 because when a kid is a drop-out and he is not
16 interested, he don't have anything to entice him
17 to do anything, he is going to get involved in a
18 situation.

19 Most of these kids, I think they don't have
20 the will power to stay away from certain things,
21 become involved and before you know it they are
22 on a habit and that is a grave concern in Hayes
23 because if you have been reading the papers,
24 we have had 34 breaking and entries there in
25 the last two months and most of these entries were

1 committed by dope addicts.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: When you say two
3 months you mean since the disturbances?

4 THE WITNESS: Yes.

5 Q You mean two months back from today?

6 A Yes, the last two months. There were 34 breaking
7 and entries and most of them were committed by addicts who had
8 master keys to enter the apartments.

9 Q You mentioned a number of factors as the possible
10 causes of this mystery rebellion.

11 A Lack of jobs was another.

12 Q Were there any of those factors that you care to
13 emphasize? Is there one that is more important than the
14 others in your mind?

15 A Well, I think all of them are equally as important
16 but then, say police brutality.

17 Q What do you mean by police brutality?

18 A I'll put it this way: Crimes committed by the
19 Newark Police Department in all phases. If a policeman commits
20 a lawless act, I think he should be indicted as well as a
21 civilian and I think records, if you will refer back, show
22 you that Newark policemen have gotten away with situations
23 that they shouldn't have gotten away with, that maybe I as a
24 civilian, if I had committed the same crime, I would have been
25 indicted or would have had to serve some time for.

1 about Q You then believe that there have been incidents
2 of police brutality in the Newark Police Department which
3 have gone unpunished?

4 A Right.

5 Q Will you relate any personal experiences you have
6 had in connection with police brutality?

7 A Yes. Two years ago my husband was arrested in
8 Fourth Precinct and he told me he was beaten.

9 Q To go back a little bit, when did you see your
10 husband?

11 A I saw my husband on a Monday morning. My husband
12 had left the house on a Saturday night and he stays out late
13 some nights but he doesn't make it a habit of staying out two
14 consecutive nights without calling.

15 Now Saturday night he left the house about 10:30 and he
16 didn't come back. So I assumed that since his sister was in
17 from Boston at this time --- she was living up in Boston --
18 that maybe he was visiting relatives. I called there when he
19 should have returned home and I received no words as to his
20 whereabouts.

21 So I didn't know where to turn. I let Sunday pass by.
22 Monday morning I was desperate in finding him because I have
23 two handicapped victims who are C.P. victims, my sons, and
24 these boys had undergone major surgery and they were up in
25 Westfield. This morning we had to go up to see the doctors

1 about them and their conditions.

2 So I called all the precincts and the last precinct
3 I called was the Fourth Precinct and they told me they had
4 my husband there. At this time I spoke to the lieutenant
5 in charge and he told me what he was holding him for.

6 I ran out of the house, went over into the precinct
7 and asked permission to see my husband. When I saw him I
8 talked with him and he told me what happened.

9 Q What did he relate to you?

10 A He told me as he was walking from Laddie's
11 Restaurant down 17th Avenue back toward the house that he
12 thought he was being followed. Now prior to this my husband
13 has been mugged twice, once in my own hallway and once down
14 the corner of Montgomery Street and Broome. Nothing was ever
15 done.

16 So he had went into Laddie's and he broke this \$10 bill.
17 He said he noticed the fellows watching him. When he left the
18 restaurant they started to walk behind him. He said he would
19 walk up by the side of the precinct thinking that he would
20 elude them. They did walk across the street into my parking
21 lot, into the court as if they were going to my building.

22 He said at this point he stooped between the cars, two
23 cars, to see what happened, and at this time he heard a voice
24 from the window, called him a name and told him to get from
25 between the cars. He said he told the officer, "I will come in

1 to you and explain to you what happened", because he said
2 he was frightened.

3 As he went into the precinct this police officer
4 attacked him. He put him under arrest and I thought the
5 first rights of an arrested person was to make a phone call.
6 They would not let him make a phone call to me.

7 Now Monday morning when I went over, knowing that he
8 had been arrested, my first thought was to phone somebody.
9 At this time when I left the precinct I got on the phone and
10 I called Mr. Barnes. From then I called Mr. Still and Mr.
11 Barnes told me what I should do.

12 Q Who is Mr. Barnes?

13 A He is the Human Rights Commissioner. I went back
14 over to the precinct knowing that my husband would be held
15 there because he had to sign papers as well as me to take
16 to the hospital.

17 So they told me they was going to take him to court.
18 Now at this point I asked to see the man in charge and at
19 this time he was Captain Waldron.

20 When I went upstairs he said "My God, not your husband."

21 I said "Yes, my husband. Why was he beaten? If he
22 committed a wrong you could have arrested him but you didn't
23 have to touch him."

24 Now my husband is almost as fair as you are. He is a
25 very light man. At this time he had a bruise, a knot in the

1 back of his neck, his arm, his stomach and his legs, black
2 and blue marks. He had told me that in his urine there was
3 blood, so he was scheduled before the judge at 10 o'clock.
4 10 o'clock I met him in court. He pleaded not guilty. They
5 let him out on bail. I got him out and we went directly to
6 the Human Rights Commission, filed a complaint and from there
7 I took him to Dr. Carter at 299 Clinton Avenue. From Dr.
8 Carter's office he was hospitalized right from the doctor's
9 office. He stayed in the hospital 9 days.

10 Q What was done about that complaint, do you know?

11 A Yes. You mean the complaint I made?

12 Q The complaint you filed with the Human Rights
13 Commission.

14 A Well, they were supposedly investigating it. Now
15 in the meantime, when he went to court they charged him with
16 liquor and loitering.

17 Q That's your husband?

18 A Right. I obtained a lawyer in my husband's defense
19 and my husband's lawyer had so backed him against the wall, I
20 say. They asked for an adjournment to get a rebuttal witness
21 to say that my husband ate food because he said he hadn't
22 eaten. When they brought in this rebuttal witness he was a
23 Negro testifying to the fact that he was in the precinct at
24 the time that my husband came into the precinct but prior, the
25 commanding officer of the precinct had stated that only he and

1 the doorman was there and no other persons were in the precinct
2 but the prisoners.

3 So they found my husband then guilty.

4 MR. DRISCOLL: Guilty of what?

5 THE WITNESS: Liquor and loitering. They
6 suspended sentence. My lawyer was not pleased
7 with this verdict. We appealed the case up at the
8 County Court. They sent us before one judge.
9 They call it L & L. It was switched to another
10 judge and this court after the appeal, he was also
11 found guilty again of L & L and suspended sentence
12 but we had to pay an \$8 court fee or something.

13 Now we in turn filed a complaint with
14 Brendan T. Byrne against the police officer that
15 beat my husband. I have never to the day heard
16 anything on that complaint.

17 Q How long ago was that complaint filed?

18 A Over two years. I called several times and I was
19 told that the docket was filled. I just figured every time
20 they come across this case they put it on the bottom and start
21 from scratch again.

22 Q Have you had conversations with Director Spina
23 about police brutality?

24 A Yes.

25 Q What is the substance of those conversations?

1 What did you say to him?

2 A Well, this was my recommendation to him: Any
3 superiors in a precinct or head of a police department, get rid
4 of your bad cops.

5 Q Do you think that Director Spina knows who the
6 bad policemen are?

7 A Yes. He said he knows of certain bad policemen
8 but on the other hand, he says, his hands are tied because I
9 just had another situation -- it seems as if I am always
10 getting involved -- with a police officer in the council
11 chambers.

12 Q Do you want to tell us about that?

13 A Yes.

14 I will get you on MR. LOFTON: Is that the City Council
15 Chambers?

16 to his Inspector THE WITNESS: Yes.

17 to me Q Is that a recent meeting?

18 A Yes. It was not this meeting but the meeting before.
19 I think it was the meeting of -- I can tell you the exact date--
20 it was the meeting of the 20th.

21 Q The 20th of what, September or August? Well,
22 I don't think the date is that critical anyway.

23 A No. That meeting was held on a Wednesday because
24 of the holiday. I was in the council chambers and I started
25 to light a cigarette. He said "You" and he pointed to me.

1 Q Who is this?

2 A Badge Number 1557. I don't know his name but I
3 know his badgnumber. He said "You don't light that cigarette."
4 So I said "Why?" I looked around and I said there are
5 others in the council chambers that are smoking.
6 He said "I said you don't light that cigarette."
7 I put the cigarette back in my bag. I said "Now if
8 you are going to do your duty as a police officer, tell the
9 others to put it out."

10 He turned around, went back into the corner. About
11 five minutes passed. So I said "Well, I am going to light
12 this cigarette just to see what he is going to do."

13 He walked up to me and said "If you light that cigarette
14 I will put you under arrest. Call my bluff."

15 I got up. I had seen an inspector in the hall. I went
16 to his inspector and I told him, I said, "Am I not allowed
17 to smoke in the council chambers?"

18 He said "Yes. Why not?" So I referred to his badge
19 number again. I said "Well, your police officer, Badge Number
20 1557, tells me I can't smoke."

21 So he came in to the police officer and he said "Why
22 can't she smoke?"

23 He said "I didn't know she could smoke." I interrupted
24 and I said "Well, why didn't you tell the others not to smoke?
25 The same people that are smoking now were smoking then."

1 Q Who were the other people?

2 A They were white people, plus there were some
3 colored people smoking too but they were down the front
4 section. I was in the complete back row. I think there were
5 other policemen down in the front policing that area. So I
6 think he would have been a little out of line to walk way
7 down in the front since he was at the back.

8 Now he apologized to me. I said "I accept your apology
9 but I will report you to your superior officer."

10 So as a follow-up I reported him to Spina. I went over
11 and gave a deposition to the Police Department because I
12 think it was negligence on his part as a police officer. If
13 he was not going to allow me to smoke and in fact, to me he
14 was discriminative.

15 Q Can you tell us how an incident such as this is
16 reacted to by the Negro population in the ghettos?

17 A Well, see, with your prior situation, at this
18 particular point when I went out of the council chambers
19 several Negroes followed me out. Now all he would have had
20 to have done at this point was to touch me and another incident
21 could have happened right in the council chambers because he
22 threatened me and from the way he was talking, everybody around
23 me heard him. He said he would put me under arrest and I think
24 it is these type police officers that we don't need in the
25 police department.

1 Q Could you tell us if it is the view that there
2 are a limited number of such police officers who you charac-
3 terize as bad cops?

4 A Yes, I think so, because I am only speaking for
5 myself.

6 Q You talk to a lot of other people though, don't
7 you?

8 A Yes.

9 Q A lot of people talk to you?

10 A Sure. They don't think that we have a complete
11 bad police department, no, as a whole.

12 Q Could you estimate for us the number of policemen
13 that the Negro community in the ghetto area thinks as being
14 bad policemen?

15 A No, I couldn't specifically say that. The only
16 thing the Negro community is concerned about, if a police
17 officer commits a lawless act, do him as you would a civilian.

18 Q Can I ask you where you were in the riot, at
19 the time of the riot, Wednesday, July 12, for example?

20 A I was in the Area Board on Clinton Avenue.

21 Q I take it there were telephone calls to the Area
22 Board meeting?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Telling that a crowd was gathering at the Fourth
25 Precinct?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Did you leave the Area Board meeting and go to
3 the Fourth Precinct?

4 A Yes. I left the Area Board meeting by car, went
5 direct to the Fourth Precinct. On my arrival at the Fourth
6 Precinct I came in contact with James Walker, Mr. Kerwin, Mr.
7 Tucker and other persons from the Area Board had reached the
8 site by that time. I immediately went into the Fourth Precinct.

9 Q Did you get inside the Fourth Precinct?

10 A Yes, I did.

11 Q Did you see Mr. Smith there?

12 A Yes, I did.

13 Q What did you observe?

14 A Well, we went into the cell block and my obser-
15 vation of Mr. Smith at this time, he was in agony from his
16 facial expressions to be a man to be crying. This man was
17 crying. He was complaining of his stomach and his ribs.

18 He said "I think I have some broken ribs." I didn't do
19 any questioning. I just stood by and listened to others
20 questioning him.

21 He said "And I have a terrible headache. They beat me on
22 my head."

23 Q Did you talk to any police officers about this?

24 A No, I did not.

25 Q When was the next time you saw Mr. Smith?

1 A The next time I saw Mr. Smith was that Thursday.
2 I saw Mr. Smith in the courtroom.

3 Q How did he appear to you at that time?

4 A Well, he appeared to look as if he was a sick
5 man to me. Now I am not an authority to say as to whether he
6 was or not but from his facial appearance and the way he
7 appeared and he was sitting holding his stomach and he
8 appeared to be in pain sitting in the courtroom.

9 Q Did you during the course of the riot witness any
10 incidents which you believe to be police brutality?

11 A Yes, I did.

12 Q Can you tell us first when, where and where you
13 were at the time?

14 A I left work Thursday. I went to an executive
15 committee meeting of UCC and I left UCC and I went into the
16 area. When I got into the area where I live the cab could not
17 go into my area because the police had the street so blocked
18 off. I got the cab at Montgomery and Belmont Avenue and as I
19 was going down the walk, some kid yelling said "That Smith, that
20 cabbie, he died." To me I knew at this point it was a vicious
21 rumor because I had just left him prior, unless he died in
22 the course of my leaving a meeting and coming into the area.
23 About this time I heard a shot, like a sound in front of the
24 precinct and people started to disperse, going in different
25 directions. I didn't go or in fact I couldn't go up 17th

1 Avenue, so I went around the building through the parking
2 lot area and went into my home.

3 Q There came a time that you went up into your
4 apartment house?

5 A Yes. I was accompanied by a girlfriend of mine.

6 Q Were you looking out the window, you and your
7 girlfriend?

8 A Yes.

9 Q What did you see?

10 A From my living room window I saw a Negro photo-
11 grapher beaten by the police.

12 Q Do you know who he was?

13 A Yes, I do. His name was David Croon. He lives in
14 the co-ops. This is the only incident that I saw that just

15 Q Will you tell the Commission what you saw?

16 A When I went into my apartment -- well, from my
17 bedroom window I can look direct at the Fourth Precinct desk.
18 The cops ran out and they was hollering "Get moving, get
19 moving. Disperse the crowds."

20 Well, people were moving and they were shoving people
21 to get them to move but Mr. Croon -- I left my bedroom window
22 and came into my living room window. My girlfriend, my son --
23 I have a son, the one who is on crutches -- he was standing by
24 me and in fact he was between my girlfriend and I and we were
25 looking out the window because he was curious. "Mommy, I want

1 to see." What did you see?

2 Q What did you see?

3 A I saw the police -- Mr. Croon was walking and this
4 kid's back was turned and the police struck him from the back
5 and they just really beat him and they kicked him and they
6 snatched his camera.

7 Q How many policemen were there?

8 A There must have been about 8 or 9 policemen in
9 this little particular group that was surrounding him and it
10 looked like everybody there was having a field day.

11 Q Were there other individuals around besides Mr.
12 Croon other than the policemen?

13 A Well, the people were running in different
14 directions. This is the only incident that I saw them just
15 stop there and beat this kid.

16 Q What, if anything, did they hit him with insofar
17 as you could see?

18 A The billy clubs they had and they used their feet.
19 He got up, he walked back and he had to walk like almost
20 underneath my window and when this kid's face was a mass of
21 blood and when my son saw it he just slumped in his crutches
22 and had not my girlfriend caught him I think he could have been
23 seriously injured because I was just petrified. I couldn't move

24 Q Did your girlfriend see this incident?

25 A Yes, she did.

1 Q What did you do?

2 A I left her upstairs. I said "Edie, watch the boys."
3 Now my other kid, the other kid was sitting on the floor and
4 this kid had a helmet and a little Tommy gun. He said "Mommy
5 I'm going to shoot them. I'll shoot them." He is talking
6 about the police.

7 Now this is a 10-year-old kid. I went downstairs, went
8 over to Croon and at this time they had set him against the
9 wire fence in there and he said "I didn't do anything." At
10 this point Commissioner Black walked up and he asked him, he
11 said "What happened?"

12 I said "I saw this from the window." He said "If you
13 are ever called and asked to testify about this situation
14 would you?" I said "Certainly I will."

15 Q Do you know where this individual, Mr. Croon, was
16 a reporter or with what newspaper?

17 A No. This kid, he is a photographer. He just takes
18 pictures.

19 Q Did he have any identification on him that you
20 know of?

21 A Well, he had a little red sign on him at this
22 particular time because as I was coming into my court this kid
23 was standing outside. In fact, I saw him on my way upstairs.

24 Q Did you have an opportunity to read the sign at
25 that time?

1 A No, I didn't. I wasn't that close to him.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Have you ever been
3 asked or called to testify or asked by police
4 or other investigators to give this account as you
5 have just given?

6 THE WITNESS: Of this riot?

7 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: No. Of this specific
8 incident concerning Mr. Croon?

9 THE WITNESS: No, I have not.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: This is the first time
11 you have ever had a chance to tell it to anybody?

12 THE WITNESS: Yes.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Mr. Black was on the
14 Human Rights Commission?

15 THE WITNESS: Yes.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You hadn't been called
17 by him?

18 THE WITNESS: No. Mr. Black had talked to me.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: But you have not been
20 asked to give this testimony either by affidavit
21 or personal testimony to anybody?

22 THE WITNESS: No.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: So to your knowledge,
24 whether the Croon incident has been investigated
25 or not, you have not been called?

1 THE WITNESS: I don't know. I only know
2 about another meeting.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Now with respect
4 to your meetings your group is supposed to
5 cooperate with the police?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Did you ever take this
8 up with the police and was a formal complaint or
9 any complaint ever filed?

10 THE WITNESS: No, because we were informed in
11 the area that incidents that had happened in
12 connection with the riot, the legal procedures
13 were being taken.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: So your group as far
15 as you know did nothing, nor had they reported
16 it? For example, I think you said this was a
17 cooperative group of which police officers were
18 members, is that right?

19 THE WITNESS: Well, we had no meeting. We
20 were doing fine. In fact, the last council meeting
21 we had, believe it or not, we left the Fourth
22 Precinct and this meeting was in heat behind the
23 Parker Callaghan situation.

24 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: I just want to ask
25 this to follow up Bishop Dougherty's question.

1 His question, which Mr. Fortunato put to you,
2 was this: Were there members of the Fourth
3 Precinct Council -- they are actually members just
4 as you are a member? The police officers are
5 members just as you are a member?

6 THE WITNESS: The only police officer at
7 this time that is a member and has been attending
8 the meetings was our corresponding secretary,
9 Sergeant Barnes.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Did Sergeant Barnes
11 attend the meeting where you discussed the Croom
12 affair?

13 THE WITNESS: Sure.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Did you through him
15 make any complaint? One of your positions is that
16 the police don't follow up in terms of investi-
17 gating their own who are accused of violations
18 of law, is that right?

19 THE WITNESS: Right.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Now has anything been
21 done by your group or by you personally or anyone
22 to ask that this be followed up on, the Croom
23 affair? I am just limiting it to that.

24 THE WITNESS: No, we did not.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: I have no further

1 questions.

2 THE WITNESS: Could I say one last thing?

3 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Yes. Don't feel that
4 you are being limited. Say what you want to say.

5 THE WITNESS: In concluding, I think this
6 was --

7 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You don't have to be
8 concluding. Just tell us what you want to.

9 THE WITNESS: This was a desperate action
10 of desperate people and the temperance felt among
11 the black community here in Newark was not only
12 felt here, it was felt all over and I think Newark
13 was only a pivoting point and I will say now, if
14 nothing is done about some of these conditions,
15 I say the same thing could happen again.

16 But I don't think this time it will be a
17 mystery rebellion. This will be a racial situation,
18 I think it will be black versus white.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You don't think that
20 the mystery rebellion was black versus white?

21 THE WITNESS: No, I do not think so.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You mean that you think
23 certain elements among Negroes had to do with this?

24 THE WITNESS: I don't think this was completely
25 white versus black or that issue because in a riot

1 it is a set pattern. If you go down certain
2 streets, certain streets were just not touched and
3 in a race riot everything goes.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Are you saying to us
5 that as opposed to this mystery rebellion
6 that even now unless something is done, an actual
7 race riot could happen?

8 THE WITNESS: An actual race situation could
9 take place where it will then be black versus white.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Then you think things
11 are worse now in terms of racial conflict than
12 they were at the time of the incident in July?

13 THE WITNESS: Do you want an honest opinion?

14 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: There is no other kind
15 we are interested in.

16 THE WITNESS: Yes.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You think they are
18 steadily worsening?

19 THE WITNESS: I don't think anything has
20 improved. I think different leaders and community
21 people are getting together to do something about
22 the situation but here again I say to me the key
23 to communication is lost. Where it is to be found
24 I am not to determine that.

25 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Let me ask you just this

1 question: You talk about leaders. Do you mean
2 Negro leaders and white leaders?

3 THE WITNESS: Both.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Is this communication
5 having any effect on the feelings of the people,
6 ordinary folks as you are talking about? Is the
7 leader, white-black leader situation, the new
8 communication or whatever it is, is it having
9 any effect to justify confidence in the people
10 in the street in any officials, white or black,
11 doing anything about anything?

12 THE WITNESS: I think to a point, yes, and
13 on the other hand, no, because you see, for so
14 long the little man had been omitted. This is the
15 man that is down.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Is he being included
17 now?

18 THE WITNESS: Not completely.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Do you think that the
20 so-called Negro leaders represent the needs and
21 wants and feelings of this little man you are
22 talking about?

23 THE WITNESS: Well, I think here again there
24 has to be complete unity between the Negro leaders
25 too.

1 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You have to try to
2 answer my question as I put it. Do you think
3 that the now functioning Negro leaders -- this
4 includes anyone you consider in a leadership
5 role -- are reflecting the needs and wants of
6 the people?

7 THE WITNESS: I think they are trying.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Well, do you think
9 they are so that such a conflagration as a black-
10 white might be avoided?

11 THE WITNESS: I think so.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You don't think they
13 are being effective, apparently? You saythings
14 are worsening?

15 THE WITNESS: Could I put it this way?
16 Certain people or certain leaders only represent
17 a certain people. Can you understand what I am
18 saying to you? Say in a certain community you
19 have maybe three or four Negro groups and maybe
20 this Negro group along with whites, the same
21 as exists in the white community also, I think,
22 because I have had the privilege to talk to some
23 white people that I consider in the ghettos just
24 as I am and having the same problems, they have
25 been omitted. This was brought out in the police

1 Community Relations Class where the little, poor
2 white and the little, poor black man have been
3 eliminated from things and they feel as if they
4 want their cut of the pie too.

5 If they have to do certain things, why
6 shouldn't everything apply to all the people?

7 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: This is really my
8 last question. Could you give to this Committee
9 or the staff the names of the white deprived
10 people whom you say are interested and left out,
11 to whom we can talk? Have you given to the staff
12 the names of any white people who feel as you do,
13 that the man down below is not being included in
14 these concerns today?

15 THE WITNESS: Yes. After I leave here I will
16 contact some of the people that I feel as if in
17 discussions with them they feel the same as I
18 feel.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Would you give those
20 names to the staff?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Mrs. Williams, I don't
23 want you to feel curtailed at all but we have run
24 out of time for us and for you.

25 MR. DRISCOLL: I just have a couple of

1 questions that she can answer very quickly.

2 You were referring to grievances in the
3 early part of your testimony.

4 Was one of the grievances a lack of
5 cleanliness, in other words, trash and so forth
6 around the housing projects?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes. At one point we did go in
8 to management about maintenance men performing
9 their duties. This to a point was corrected but
10 not completely.

11 MR. DRISCOLL: You also referred to the
12 number of breaking and entries that you said
13 were by addicts. I think you referred to the fact
14 that they had master keys?

15 THE WITNESS: Yes, they did.

16 MR. DRISCOLL: Do you have any knowledge as
17 to how they obtained master keys?

18 THE WITNESS: No, I don't. In fact, my
19 apartment was one that was buglarized.

20 MR. DRISCOLL: That's all I have.

21 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Mr. Justice?

22 MR. WACHENFELD: No, sir.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Mr. Lofton?

24 MR. LOFTON: I have just one question.

25 With respect to the worsening conditions

1 that you described, Mrs. Williams, that might
2 cause the black-white confrontation, is it
3 your opinion or can you give us an opinion in
4 terms of your judgment as to whether or not the
5 Negro and white leadership that you indicate
6 are attempting to ameliorate the situation,
7 are they being effective as it relates not to the
8 people now but to the people who sit in the
9 administrative positions, for example, the people
10 in City Hall?

11 THE WITNESS: I am glad you asked me that
12 question because I think there has been a complete
13 mistrust not with this present administration maybe
14 or power structure. This is something that just
15 didn't come about.

16 I think this mistrust stems further back
17 than the present administration.

18 MR. LOFTON: Would you say that the situation
19 has gotten better with the present administration
20 or worse or do you have an opinion about that?

21 MR. DRISCOLL: Do you have civil service?

22 THE WITNESS: Sure.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: This is what I must tell
24 you before you answer the question. I want to put
25 this on the record. Mrs. Williams, ultimately all

1 records and all sworn testimony of this Commission
2 will be made public at a future time to be
3 determined by the Commission.

4 So whatever you say -- and we are concerned
5 because I think the Governor reflects my concern,
6 you are a woman, you have children and you have
7 a job.

8 Now whatever you say is going on that
9 record unless you ask that it be put off.

10 Now if you wish him to stop typing, subject
11 to Mr. Lofton who is a member of the Commission
12 and has a right to insist that it go on, you
13 may either talk to us on the record, talk tous
14 off the record or not answer certain questions
15 that you think mayhurt you.

16 THE WITNESS: Well, I don't think you asked
17 me any type of questions to incriminate me. As
18 Director Spina has told me, as far as certain
19 things, especially if he wanted to do something
20 that Civil Service maynot permit so.

21 Now I am not too familiar with civil law
22 or Civil Service procedures or what will a person
23 have to do. I am Civil Service myself and I
24 don't know what I will have to actually do to be
25 fired from my job. I know I can be suspended for

1 insubordination to a superior but as to being
2 really fired what the determining factor is I
3 don't know.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Is that answering
5 your question?

6 MR. LOFTON: Not really but I won't pursue
7 it.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: Well, unless there is
9 something you wish to tell the Commission which
10 is of particular importance at this time we
11 would call a halt to the session.

12 Is it satisfactory to you that we end at
13 this moment?

14 THE WITNESS: Yes.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN BROWN: You don't feel that you
16 have been curtailed or in any way been refused
17 the right to speak?

18 THE WITNESS: No, I don't feel that way.

19 MR. WACHENFELD: I think you ought to get
20 in touch with Brendan Byrne and get the record
21 of her complaint against the police incident
22 with her husband.

23 THE WITNESS: I gave Mr. Fortunato the
24 lawyer's name and everything is there plus hospital
25 records and everything and even the doctor if need

be.

MR. JAFFE: Thank you very much.

* * *

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, DOMINICK ANNUNZIATA, a Certified Short-hand Reporter of the State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true record of the proceedings and testimony as taken stenographically by me at the time and place indicated.



DOMINICK ANNUNZIATA
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

DATED: October 21, 1967