

1 A Seven years. (Witness excused)

2 Q Can you relate - - - - -

3 Whereupon, I believe the date is?

4 A Well, at all the rioting and

5 called as a witness, first duly sworn, testified as follows:

6 intercom in my CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Thank you, Mrs. Dixon, for  
7 coming to see us.

8 downstairs. The only EXAMINATION

9 By Mr. Fortunato:

10 Q Can you give us your home address?

11 A 258 South Orange Avenue.

12 Q That is in Newark?

13 A Yes. I remember exactly. When the first ring

14 happened. Q How long have you resided at that address?

15 A I have lived there four years, but I have had a  
16 business there for seven years. I don't know whether it was

17 a man Q And your business is at the same address? That

18 the people... A Two-fifty eight and a half.

19 burglar Q What business is that? people across the street kept

20 holler A A restaurant, small restaurant, luncheonette,  
21 whatever you want to call it. downstairs to cut the burglar

22 alarm Q How long have you been a resident of Newark?

23 A About ten years. inspecting what happened. There was shots across the

24 windows Q And how long have you operated the business at  
25 this address? ends and ends and things were broken from the

shots A Seven years.

Q Can you relate your experiences Sunday morning, July 16, I believe the date is?

A Well, of course, you know all the rioting and different things were going on. What happened, I have an intercom in my restaurant and since all this activity was going on I set it so I hear upstairs what was going on downstairs. The only thing I remember, I heard this shot, zing, went through the building and that woke me up.

Q Can you tell us about when this was?

A Off-hand I can't remember exactly, but I made a statement before. It was in the middle of the night some time. I can't remember exactly. When the first zing happened, I was a little startled, a little slow about getting up. Then I heard the rest of the shots. I looked out the window. I saw this -- I don't know whether it was a man, a soldier running up the street with a gun. Then the people across the street -- my alarm went off, the burglar alarm went off. Some people across the street kept hollering, telling me, "Your burglar alarm went off."

I was in a daze. I went downstairs to cut the burglar alarm off. So while I was down there naturally I am inspecting what happened. There was shots across the window, across the door, all on the inside of the building, a few little odds and ends and things were broken from the

1 shots. One bullet went through and came out in the hall.

2 So I was standing there and I cut the alarm off. I  
3 was trying to figure out what could I do to keep -- maybe  
4 somebody might burglarize it because the alarm was off. I  
5 locked the place up, and I walked outside and stood there  
6 for a minute.

7 In the meantime two carloads of State Troopers pulled  
8 up. They said, "What are you doing out here?" I said, "I  
9 came out here to cut my burglar alarm off. You all shot up  
10 my place." All of them said to me, "We will shoot you if  
11 you don't get back upstairs." One of them spoke that. It  
12 was two carloads. I turned and looked and went on upstairs.

13 Q I want to back up a minute. You indicated that  
14 you heard shots and you looked out the window and you saw  
15 a man running?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Can you tell us anything about this man that you  
18 saw? Q Was your store damaged on Friday night?

19 A He had a gun. That is all I know. It was a long  
20 gun. I don't know anything about guns, but it wasn't no  
21 pistol. It was a rifle or whatever you want to call it.

22 Q What sort of dress?

23 A I couldn't see.

24 MR. LEUCHTER: You could not say he was a

25 A soldier?

1 Q Did THE WITNESS: No. He just had a gun. I saw

2 A the gun. think so, but after they nailed them up

3 they put Soul MR. GIBBONS: Could you tell if he was a

4 white man or black? when did you put Soul Sister on

5 your THE WITNESS: No. I saw his back. He was

6 running from me. I think it was Saturday night

7 or S. MR. JAFFE: Was he wearing anything on his

8 head? MR. GIBBONS: Where did you get that idea?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes. I didn't have a hat on.

10 It looked like a cap or something. Soul Sister or

11 By Mr. Fortunato: their place, so I just took a

12 Q Did you have Soul Brother written on your store?

13 A I had Soul Sister written on my store. I thought

14 it would protect my store, not for the idea I belong to any

15 organization or anything of that sort. That is all, I put

16 it up there maybe so maybe they wouldn't break up my

17 glasses or something.

18 Q Was your store damaged on Friday night?

19 A No. I think you indicated that you had stayed outside

20 your Q Was your store damaged on Thursday night? ad that a

21 car A I think the first damage I got was Sunday and

22 Monday. Two cars. State Trooper

23 Q Were there any other stores in your approximate

24 area damaged on Thursday or Friday night?

25 A Yes. had State Trooper on the car.

1 Q Did those stores have Soul Brother on them?

2 A I don't think so, but after they nailed them up  
3 they put Soul Brother on them.

4 Q You MR. MEYNER: When did you put Soul Sister on  
5 Did you yours? State Troopers do anything about?

6 A Well, THE WITNESS: I think it was Saturday night  
7 State Tro or Sunday night. front of the mosque around the

8 street from MR. GIBBONS: Where did you get that idea?

9 Q What THE WITNESS: I heard people say that they

10 weren't bothering anybody that had Soul Sister or

11 Q Soul Brother on their place, so I just took a

12 A chance. nights until the days ran into each other

13 for me. It was MR. GIBBONS: People in the neighborhood?

14 morning. THE WITNESS: Yes, people all over.

15 Q Everybody was talking, you know. People would  
16 your place congregate here, talking there. It was one of  
17 same time those things. at time?

18 A By Mr. Fortunato: when the original alarm went off, that is when

19 they Q I think you indicated that you had stayed outside  
20 your store for a few minutes after you came down and that a  
21 car with State Troopers --

22 A Two cars. with State Troopers?

23 Q How were you able to identify them as being State  
24 Troopers?

25 A They had State Trooper on the car. but the burglar

1 off. Q Do you remember the car numbers?  
2 in the A No, I do not. The only thing I remember seeing  
3 was a two and one. That is all.

4 Q You indicated the State Troopers spoke to you.  
5 Did you see the State Troopers do anything else?

6 A Well, one night while this was going on I saw a  
7 State Trooper car stop in front of the mosque across the  
8 street from me and fire bullets in there.

9 Q What night was this?

10 A I think it was Sunday night. Yes, Sunday night.

11 Q What do you mean by Sunday night?

12 A I work nights until the days run into each other  
13 for me. It was either Sunday morning or early Monday  
14 morning. I went upstairs.

15 Q How do you relate it in terms of the time when  
16 your place was shot up and the burglar alarm? Was it the  
17 same time or a different time?

18 A When the burglar alarm went off, that is when  
19 they shot. They break the contact when they break the  
20 window. Did you see six State Troopers --

21 Q Then you said that you came downstairs and saw  
22 two cars filled with State Troopers?

23 A I came downstairs. When I came downstairs I saw  
24 no one in the street except this man running. I unlocked  
25 the store to cut the burglar alarm off. I cut the burglar

1 off, I inspected the damage, and I came out. I was standing  
2 in the street looking at the store when they pulled up and  
3 asked me what was I doing.

4 Q Did you observe those particular State Troopers  
5 doing anything?

6 A Actually I was so frightened and angry I just  
7 stood there. They said, "What are you doing out here?" I  
8 said, "I came downstairs to cut the burglar alarm off; you  
9 all shot up my place." They said, "If you don't get  
10 upstairs we will shoot you." I turned and looked and  
11 went upstairs.

12 Q Did you see those particular State Troopers do  
13 anything thereafter?

14 A I went upstairs.

15 Q Did you look out the window and watch them?

16 A No, sir.

17 Q Specifically did you see those three State Troopers  
18 shoot --

19 A Six.

20 Q Did you see six State Troopers --

21 A Six in a car.

22 Q Did you see any of those six State Troopers shoot  
23 at the temple across the street from your store?

24 A No, I did not. I don't know who the ones were  
25 that shot because it frightened me. I was looking out the

1 window. It frightened me.

2 MR. GIBBONS: When did that take place?

3 THE WITNESS: That taken place the early  
4 part of the night.

5 MR. GIBBONS: Before the burglar alarm went  
6 off?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes.

8 MR. GIBBONS: How long before?

9 THE WITNESS: I don't know. I don't keep  
10 tract of time.

11 MR. GIBBONS: Before you closed up the store?

12 THE WITNESS: No. It happened afterwards  
13 because I closed up at ten o'clock.

14 MR. GIBBONS: It was sometime after ten?

15 THE WITNESS: No, it was early in the  
16 thing and morning, after twelve. I am almost sure it was  
17 or Monday after twelve o'clock.

18 By Mr. Fortunato:

19 Q What did you see these State Troopers doing, the  
20 ones Mr. Gibbons is referring to?

21 A Shooting?

22 Q Yes.

23 A They came up the street slow and got right in front  
24 of the temple, and they started shooting and then they went  
25 on up South Orange Avenue.



1 place again. MR. LEUCHTER: Also a car that you recognized?

2 point I just THE WITNESS: There was a number on it, but

3 during the time all this activity was going on I

4 was like somebody in a daze. I didn't take any

5 numbers. Q tell you who had shot up your place?

6 MR. LEUCHTER: But you recognized it as a

7 they did State Police car rather than a National Guard

8 vehicle? Q damage covered by insurance?

9 A No. THE WITNESS: Yes. Between the cars,

10 because they had big numbers on the top of them.

11 A Yes. MR. LEUCHTER: On the roofs of the cars?

12 THE WITNESS: Yes, the roofs, big numbers.

13 in Newark By Mr. Fortunato: this is going to happen again

14 Q Do you have any other incidents to relate to us?

15 A No more than Sunday morning they did the same  
16 thing and had gotten to the place -- was it Sunday morning  
17 or Monday morning? One of these mornings. They shot the  
18 place up twice. I just got exhausted and didn't bother  
19 about going down and seeing them.

20 Q This second incident you didn't see what happened?

21 A Not the second time. that doesn't make it right.

22 Q You did not see who was involved in it? incident

23 A No. Only from what the people said. to anyone

24 Q Can you tell us who said something to you about it?

25 A A lady up the street told me, "They shot up your

1 "place again." I said yes. Actually I had gotten to the  
2 point I just lost interest in the whole thing.

3 Q. Do you know who the lady was up the street?

4 Urban A. I could find her I think.

5 Q. Did she tell you who had shot up your place?

6 Servino A. Yes. She said the State Troopers did it. Whether  
7 they did it or not, that is a different thing.

8 Q. Was your damage covered by insurance?

9 A. No, it was not.

10 had w Q. Are you continuing to do business in Newark?

11 A. Yes, I am.

12 Project Q. How do you feel about continuing to do business  
13 in Newark? Are you worried this is going to happen again?

14 A. No. I feel two wrongs don't make a right, so  
15 somebody has got to come to some understanding along the  
16 line. I think it can be done.

17 Q. What is your feeling about law enforcement and  
18 officials in general?

19 some A. I feel like this: We have to have law and order  
20 and sometimes I guess being human you get a little carried  
21 away every now and then, but that doesn't make it right.

22 Q. Did you give a statement concerning this incident  
23 to anyone?

24 off. A. Yes.

25 got w Q. Can you describe the procedure? How did it come

1 about that you gave a statement?

2 A Here is what happened: I called -- I can't even  
3 remember. Just a minute. I will tell you who I called.  
4 Urban League. They advised me to go to 114 Branford Place.

5 Q Would that be the office of the Newark Legal  
6 Services Project?

7 A Yes. I didn't see the State Trooper car. They said

8 Q Then a statement was taken?

9 A Yes. Pictures were taken and all the bullets I  
10 had was taken also, the fragments.

11 Q And you gave them to the Newark Legal Services  
12 Project?

13 A Yes. MR. PORTUNARO: No further questions.

14 Q Do you remember what individual there took this  
15 statement?

16 A No, I do not. MR. PORTUNARO: I really don't know because

17 Q I just want to go back on one point again and that  
18 is that you were upstairs in your apartment and this was  
19 some time early Sunday morning. I believe you said 3 a.m.  
20 in the statement.

21 A I don't know. I can't remember.

22 Q And that you had the intercom connected in the  
23 store, and then you heard shots and your burglar alarm went  
24 off. There then is an indication in the statement that you  
25 got up and went to the window.

1 A Yes.

2 Q At that point the statement goes on and there is  
3 an indication that at that time you saw the State Trooper  
4 car.

5 A No, no.

6 Q That is not accurate, is it?

7 A No, I didn't see the State Trooper car. They said  
8 something to me on the street after I had cut off the alarm  
9 and come out of the store.

10 Q I think your testimony was clear. I just wanted  
11 to make sure I had cleared up what was in the affidavit.

12 A I understand.

13 MR. PORTUNATO: No further questions.

14 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Any questions?

15 MR. MEYNER: How many shots were fired?

16 THE WITNESS: I really don't know because  
17 the first time that they shot in the place it made  
18 a hole, and I found three or four fragments. One  
19 fragment had went through the wall over into the  
20 hall, and we picked that one up. I have a  
21 barbecue rotisserie in the window and you could  
22 see where it peppered it, but how many shots was  
23 fired I don't know. It didn't make just clear  
24 bullet holes; it made a hole.

25 MR. MEYNER: How many shots did you hear over

1 the intercom?

2 THE WITNESS: I heard the first two and after  
3 that I didn't pay any attention.

4 MR. MEYNER: Then there was a second time.  
5 How many then?

6 THE WITNESS: There was a large hole in the  
7 door this time and two or three small holes.

8 MR. MEYNER: When after the riots did you  
9 resume business?

10 THE WITNESS: Actually I never stopped. I  
11 closed up earlier, but I never stopped.

12 MR. MEYNER: But even during the riots, even  
13 the morning after?

14 THE WITNESS: No, no. What happened, there  
15 was so much going on I couldn't sleep. So we sat  
16 downstairs the beginning of the riot, and I just  
17 sat there in front of the store the first two  
18 nights. After that things got a little rough,  
19 and you couldn't sit out because they didn't want  
20 you on the street.

21 MR. MEYNER: But you were serving meals all  
22 during the riot?

23 THE WITNESS: Oh, no. Like if someone wanted  
24 a soda or a pack of cigarettes, I sold them, but  
25 as far as me serving meals, I just wasn't up to it.

1 MR. MEYNER: When did you resume?

2 THE WITNESS: During the day, you know, after  
3 the riot quieted --

4 MR. MEYNER: Was this Monday or Tuesday?

5 THE WITNESS: After it quieted a little I  
6 started serving food. I would sell cigarettes and  
7 candy and things like that. I have a lot of stuff  
8 in my place.

9 Q MR. MEYNER: Roughly what was your damage?

10 THE WITNESS: Roughly I would say around

11 A \$500. I had to replace a plate glass window and

12 Q a plate glass door. One of the bullets hit the

13 A circuit breakers and knocked off all my boxes, and

14 I lost quite a bit of meat. I had to get that

15 repaired. I had some little statuettes in the

16 window. They shot the heads off of them. Bullet

17 holes, and one went through one of the chairs.

18 Two chairs I had to replace because of that. I

19 guess that is about it.

20 MR. MEYNER: How many people would your

21 restaurant accommodate?

22 THE WITNESS: Well, I have about twelve at a

23 time.

24 MR. MEYNER: You have a refrigerator and deep

25 freezers?

1 THE WITNESS: I have a deep freeze. I have  
2 refrigerators and this big rotisserie. Most of  
3 my business is going out.

4 MR. MEYNER: They come in and order something?

5 THE WITNESS: Yes, going out.

6 MR. MEYNER: A broiled chicken or something?

7 THE WITNESS: Ribs and stuff like that.

8 By Mr. Fortunato: Actually I have

9 Q Mrs. Dixon, this incident of the shooting of the  
10 temple, what kind of temple is it?

11 A Muslim temple as far as I know.

12 Q How do you know?

13 A The only thing I can do is go by what people say.  
14 Other than that I don't know. I was there when they came  
15 and I see people going there now, and that is what they say  
16 they are. I really don't know. I have never been inside  
17 or over there, so I couldn't tell you. The only thing is  
18 hearsay. Thank you very much.

19 MR. LEUCHTER: Mrs. Dixon, when you are  
20 asleep and you are awakened your mind sometimes  
21 doesn't function too clearly, and then much later  
22 on it is tough to remember exactly what happened.  
23 I am going to ask you if you can really dig back  
24 to that night when you woke up. Can you recollect,  
25 just from sound now, not from anything you saw,

1 whether the sound was ping -- ping -- ping, or  
 2 was it ping, ping, ping, fast? Were the sounds  
 3 rapid, close together, or was it ping, like one

4 at a time?

5 THE WITNESS: The first thing I heard was a  
 6 zing. After that I can't quite remember but the

7 thing was a little more fresh in my mind when I

8 gave the statement downtown. Actually I have been  
 9 trying to forget it.

10 MR. LEUCHTER: You don't recall that question  
 11 might ever have been asked in terms of the

12 rapidity, how close together the noises were,

13 whether they were spaced apart one shot at a time  
 14 or whether there was a burst of shooting?

15 THE WITNESS: I remember hearing that zing  
 16 and I heard so much shooting.

17 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Anything else, gentlemen?

18 Thank you very much.

19 (Witness excused)

20 Whereupon,  
 21

22 BOW WOO WONG

23 called as a witness, first duly sworn, testified as follows:

24 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Thank you, Mr. Wong for

25 coming here.