

1 A As you may know.

2 Q Do you THE WITNESS: Right. The other lady is

3 A not here. This lady lives across the street.

4 Q She was able to get a better view because her

5 A house is back. There is a small parking lot

6 Q on the corner. The people real close, I don't

7 A blame them. They were not going to get up in

8 from my Max the windows like they were shooting in. I

9 Q wouldn't have gotten up and looked out myself,

10 A to pull a blind back and look out. This lady

11 Q happens to be back far enough that she can look

12 to it during and not worry too much about them shooting at

13 A her. a pet shop. I sell all kinds of pet

14 and supplies. CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Any other questions,

15 I didn't see gentlemen? Thank you very much.

16 that morning I was told by four (Witness excused.)

17 people. Those people I can't find today. Some of them I

18 Whereupon, there is only one fellow I can get my hands on

19 that did see some of the that the National Guards

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

21 the butts of the CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Thank you for coming

22 rifles. here tonight, Mr. Pitts.

23 Q When did EXAMINATION

24 A By Mr. Fortunate: I don't remember the exact

25 dates Q Tell us where you reside.

1 A I live in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

2 Q Do you have a place of business in Newark?

3 A Yes, I do.

4 Q Where is that located?

5 A At 991 Bergen Street, Newark.

6 Q How long have you had that business there?

7 A Since January, 1967. Before that I had moved  
8 from my Market Street address in Newark.

9 Q Do you own and operate that business?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Can you tell us your business and what happened  
12 to it during the Newark riot?

13 A I own a pet shop. I sell all kinds of pets  
14 and supplies. During the riot my glasses were broke out.  
15 I didn't see who broke them out, but when I got there  
16 that morning I was told by four or five, six different  
17 people. Those people I can't find today. Some of them I  
18 can't. There is only one fellow I can get my hands on  
19 that did see some of this action, that the National Guards  
20 and the State Troopers were either knocking them out with  
21 the butts of their guns or shooting glass out with the  
22 rifles.

23 Q When did this occur?

24 A This is in July. I don't remember the exact  
25 dates. Dates mean nothing to me.

1 Q Do you know the day of the week?

2 A It was Sunday morning when I got back and found  
3 my glasses had been broken out.

4 Q Did you work on Saturday?

5 A I work everyday.

6 Q What time did you leave your premises on  
7 Saturday?

8 A I think I left my business about seven-thirty  
9 Saturday.

10 Q Do you work on Sunday normally?

11 A Yes, I do.

12 Q And you came to work?

13 A No. I left my business and I had gone over to  
14 a friend of mine's house, a couple of people's houses.

15 I was pretty well interested in what was going on in the  
16 area. There was a lot of excitement during that time. I

17 was mainly interested in staying in the area to watch my  
18 store to see to it that nothing happened to it from the

19 rioters or anybody else. I never expected anything from  
20 the police. We were under a curfew then. Everybody had

21 to be off the street by ten o'clock anyway. So I had

22 planned to go out of town to a party in Red Bank, and I

23 did with some friends of mine. You really had to travel.

24 You had to have a map to get out of the city or to get in

25 the city because the National Guard had all the streets

1 blocked off. Unless you lived in the area and even if you  
2 had to go home or back in your business until after they had  
3 did live in some areas, they wouldn't let you in or out.

4 We finally got out of the city about nine or nine-

5 There was also a couple of other people that lived  
6 thirty. When I left the store the glass was all in tact.  
7 across the street. Since then they have moved, and a few  
8 There was nothing wrong. I checked things to see nobody  
9 other people that wouldn't even bother coming down. They are  
10 was in the area. When I went by there, there was nobody  
11 afraid or they claim they are afraid something might happen  
12 in the street. The only thing you could see, were the

13 National Guards patrolling up and down, and the State

14 Q Is this Nancy Johnson that operates Nancy's  
15 Police.

16 Sales?

17 So I left with my friends and we were partying and

18 A Right.  
19 stayed out all night long. In fact, I didn't go home. I

20 I had a couple of animals. I had an albino raccoon,  
21 came right back to Newark. This was about six o'clock.

22 a very rare animal, and I had him in the window, and a  
23 There was no sense coming back anyway because you couldn't  
24 monkey. What makes it so bad, they saw these animals.  
25 get back after ten o'clock. When I got back I found all

26 They were in big cages. A raccoon is not a small animal.  
27 my glasses broken out and people were standing all over

28 He was right in the front, and whoever it was that knocked  
29 the streets in bathrobes and all, and they were telling

30 the glass out knocked it right in. I thought he was doing  
31 me actually what happened, and some of the people I had

32 when I came in. He had glass over him, and he was out  
33 been out with that night. Some of the people that live

34 but not very badly. Evidently he was secured inside be-  
35 across the street were telling me how the National Guard

36 cause I sold him later after they had a big go-down about  
37 had broke out the glass. One lady across the street has

38 the area. Somebody came in and bought it. In fact, my  
39 a furniture store, and she told me that they had shot

40 shop was on television. A day or so later somebody came  
41 her glasses out and made her come outside while they broke

42 in and bought this animal and took him off. I haven't  
43 into her store.

44 seen anything since then.

45 Q What is the name of that lady?

46 A I had a monkey also injured. During the time I had

47 A Nancy. Nancy's Sales Company. She told me she

1 saw them break out my glasses, and they wouldn't even let  
 2 her go home or back in her business until after they had  
 3 went on.

4 There was also a couple of other people that lived  
 5 across the street. Since then they have moved, and a few  
 6 other people that won't even bother coming down. They are  
 7 afraid or they claim they are afraid something might happen,  
 8 or they are too damned lazy.

9 Q Is this Nancy Ferguson that operates Nancy's  
 10 Sales?

11 A That's about all I can tell you.

12 A Right.

13 I had a couple of animals. I had an Albino raccoon,  
 14 a very rare animal, and I had him in the window, and a  
 15 monkey. What makes it so bad, they saw these animals.

16 They were in big cages. A raccoon is not a small animal.  
 17 He was right in the front, and whoever it was that knocked  
 18 the glass out knocked it right in. I thought he was dead  
 19 when I came in. He had glass over him, and he was cut  
 20 but not very badly. Evidently he was secured inside be-

21 cause I sold him later after they had a big to-do about  
 22 the area. Somebody came in and bought it. In fact, my  
 23 shop was on television. A day or so later somebody came  
 24 in and bought this animal and took him off. I haven't  
 25 seen anything since then.

I had a monkey also injured. During the time I had

1 let my dog -- I have a watchdog. I let her loose to keep  
2 any of the kids from coming, you know, in or out. She  
3 killed about six or seven puppies on me. They just happened  
4 to get out of the case at night. I had a pen. They were  
5 all penned up, back there, and they just happened to climb  
6 over, and she killed them. This I don't blame on anybody.  
7 I just had to let her loose because I was afraid somebody  
8 might come in my shop. With her there they wouldn't. She  
9 is a good watchdog.

10 That's about all I can tell you. questions? Thank

11 Q You indicated most of the people had moved away.

12 A There are quite a few people there, but the other  
13 people won't come down to testify. Some of them don't  
14 even know about this. I have been told about it, but I  
15 forget. They reminded me today about this meeting. I was  
16 kind of late getting down here as it was.

17 Q But one neighbor is this Mr. Hayden you speci-  
18 fically referred to?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Did you report this incident to any law enforce-  
21 ment officials, Federal or State?

22 A Yes. There are a couple of them we reported  
23 it to. The Legal Aid Society, and there is one other  
24 group. I gave them the names of the people that I could  
25 get. The only one I could get to testify is this Joseph

1 Hayden. There was another fellow, two brothers that lived  
2 directly across the street from my shop. They were right  
3 there and saw everything. I gave them their names, but  
4 since then they moved away. Where I don't know. There is  
5 also another party who lives on the same level that these  
6 two fellows, but in the back apartment. They were right  
7 there and they saw everything, too. They said they don't  
8 even want to get involved in the whole thing.

9 That is about all that I can tell you on that.

10 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Any questions? Thank  
11 you very much for coming.

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13  
14 C E R T I F I C A T E

15 I, JOSEPH F. READING, a Certified Shorthand Reporter  
16 and Notary Public in and for the State of New Jersey, do  
17 hereby certify that the foregoing is an accurate transcript  
18 of my stenographic notes to the best of my ability.

19  
20 Joseph F. Reading

21 Nov. 20, 1967