

1 Q Your BISHOP DOUGHERTY: How many children
2 were there?

3 THE WITNESS: Eleven.

4 MR. DRISCOLL: Was your father living
5 with your mother?

6 THE WITNESS: My father is deceased.

7 BISHOP DOUGHERTY: Where are you in
8 school now?

9 THE WITNESS: East Orange High.

10 Q How are you doing in school there?

11 A I'm doing all right.

12 Q What are your grades?

13 A They average out all right but I haven't got
14 really the true marks because I just came to school late.

15 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: How is the football

16 team there this year?

17 A They are doing all right.

18 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Richard, thank you

19 very much.

20 * * *

21 REVEREND HERBERT G. DRAESEL,

22 Sworn.

23 EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. FORTUNATO:

1 Q Your address, Father?

2 A 407 Broad Street.

3 Q Your age?

4 A 27.

5 Q Your occupation?

6 A Priest.

7 Q Can you be more specific?

8 A Episcopal priest.

9 Q Your education?

0 A Well, do you mean where?

1 Q Yes.

2 A Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut,
3 and then General Theological Seminary in New York.

4 Q I take it you were in Newark at the time
5 of the civil disorder in July of this past year?

6 A Yes.

7 Q I understand you have some incidents that you
8 personally observed during that disorder?

9 A Yes.

0 Q Will you relate those incidents to us?
1 If you could, be as specific as you can as to date, time
2 and place.

3 If you need some orientation on that I will be
4 happy to give it to you.

5 The Wednesday night, which was July 12, was the

1 arrest of the cab driver and July 13, which was a Thursday
2 night, was the gathering at the Fourth Precinct and the
3 start of the disorder in the late evening on Thursday.

4 A Well, all of my experiences were completely
5 on 7th Avenue, in the area of the Christopher Columbus
6 homes. This is outside of the central ward.

7 On Friday night-- I think that was the 14th, is
8 that right?

9 Q That would be the 14th.

0 A In the early part of the evening there had
1 been no problem up to this point in our area.

2 Q When you say there had been no problem, what
3 do you mean?

4 A There hadn't been any sort of disturbances,
5 there hadn't been any outbreaks to speak of.

6 The riot hadn't come that far at that point, to
7 my knowledge at least. At least it wasn't in the projects.
8 There was no violence or any real problem going on in
9 the projects.

0 Q I take it the windows and windows of stores,
1 for example, would be intact?

2 A Yes, they were intact at that point.

3 As a matter of fact, I don't believe there was
4 any real damage or maybe one or two stores in that area
5 but that's about all.

1 Q Had you heard any shots, for example?

2 A Not in our neighborhood.

3 Q Please continue.

4 A Sometime in the early evening, before curfew,
5 and I am a little fuzzy right now on the exact time, I
6 was standing with a group of other men on the corner
7 on 7th Avenue right by Building 82, which is one of the
8 projects.

9 There were a lot of people on the street but it
0 was a kind of peaceful setting. There wasn't any problem
1 at the time.

2 All of a sudden several police cars drove down the
3 street and stopped in front of the Colonnade Bar and began
4 firing into this bar, which seemed kind of strange because
5 we couldn't see any disturbance there, but they did this.

6 We were on the other side of the street, about a
7 half a block down. Then all of a sudden the policemen
8 changed their firing from this bar to us, to this group
9 of people, at which point we ducked beneath a car to avoid
0 being shot.

1 A Incidentally, in this little problem there were two
2 people actually shot, which means that they weren't firing
3 blanks.

4 Q Do you know their names?

5 A No, I don't. They were just men standing there

1 and then I never saw them after that because with the
2 skirmish, everybody sort of ran.

3 One man was shot in the arm and another man was
4 shot or was just grazed, really, in his stomach.

5 Q I don't mean to interrupt you but when you
6 talk in terms of, for example, police were shooting in
7 the bar and grill, it would be helpful to us if you
8 could describe, for example, the police car and
9 describe, if you will, who you saw in the car in terms
0 of what uniforms they were wearing and that sort of
1 thing.

2 A Well, this is one of the problems.

3 Q If you can.

4 A Yes. They were not National Guardsmen and
5 I do not remember whether they were Newark Police or
6 State Police but they were one or the other.

7 In talking about this later most people felt that
8 they were both but I am not sure myself.

9 Q Maybe I can help you. How many cars did you
0 see?

1 A I think there were two or three.

2 Q Do you recall the color?

3 A No. I have thought of this again and again
4 and I just could not remember because there were so many.

5 Q Do you recall whether or not there was a

1 marking on the top of the car? ... at that point.

2 A I do not. I have thought of that one a
3 million times but I just couldn't remember.

4 Q All right, continue.

5 A At any rate, they kept firing at us for quite
6 some time and at which point we decided that this
7 wasn't a very safe place to be.

8 So we sort of single-filed and went into the building,
9 crouching and running into the building, at which time
0 they were firing at us.

1 We went into the lobby of Building 82 and then
2 they began to close in on the lobby and so I was con-
3 cerned with getting everybody into different apartments.

4 There was absolutely no provocation from the
5 particular group that was shot at and it just was com-
6 pletely baffling to all of us.

7 Then that Friday night it went on, the shooting,
8 and then they began to shoot in general, Building 82
9 and just showering the place with bullets and this went
0 on for I think probably about a half an hour.

1 It seemed like about an hour and a half or two
2 hours at the time but I don't think it was quite that
3 long.

4 Q You were there all the time this was going on?

5 A I was there all the time. I was in a building.

1 I was trying to get home but I wouldn't at that point.

2 I felt it was dangerous to leave.

3 Q Regarding this incident were you asked to
4 give an affidavit or did you give an affidavit to the
5 Legal Service Group?

6 A Yes.

7 Q How did that come about? I was up on 7th

8 A I don't remember whether they contacted me
9 or I contacted them about it. I had been in contact
0 with them through other things in getting other affidavits
1 from our area.

2 Q The reason I ask that, I note there that
3 there is an indication that while you were observing the
4 police shooting in the Colonnade Bar and Grill or whoever
5 was shooting in the Colonnade Bar and Grill, that you
6 people as a group were laughing or something to that
7 effect.

8 A Well, we were commenting and probably laughing.
9 It is a little far away at this point because we didn't
0 see any reason for this. We couldn't see any reason for
1 shooting up this place at this point.

2 Then they turned around and fired at us, which
3 was no longer an amusing incident.

4 I, of course, like a fool, everybody else when they
5 started shooting ducked and I'm afraid I was brought up

1 in a sort of a setting where I simply couldn't believe
2 that this was going on and so I stood there and somebody
3 actually pulled me down because it was so utterly
4 unbelievable to me that this could possibly happen.

5 ~~inside~~ Q ~~who~~ Do you have another incident to relate to us?

6 ~~wasn't~~ A ~~and~~ Then on Sunday-- well, Sunday I did not see
7 it start and so I can only say that I was up on 7th
8 Avenue and the setting at the time that I was up there--
9 this was in the afternoon sometime, sort of late afternoon,
0 there were children playing in the courtyards and every-
1 thing else and it was fairly normal except that there
2 were just more people out on the street than usual but
3 there were children playing and it was a kind of a
4 Sunday afternoon, a summer Sunday afternoon.

5 ~~Sunday~~ I was on my way home when all of a sudden I heard
6 a lot of shooting and I came back because I was thinking
7 of all these children.

8 I walked back and in the courtyard of 62, 64 and
9 62 and 74 and 72, there were just these bullets being
0 sprayed all over the place and there were small children
1 just scattering and running into lobbies and my main
2 concern at that point was simply to get the kids inside
3 the buildings.

4 Again I don't know what provoked this and I wasn't
5 there as it actually started but the end result was simply

1 another spraying of this entire area with bullets, and
2 again confining people or pushing people into the lobbies.

3 This wasn't quite as bad because there was warning.
4 There were the loudspeakers telling everybody to keep
5 inside, whereas the first time there wasn't any such
6 warning and there was just the shots that made you stay
7 inside.

8 Q Can you tell us perhaps more specifically as
9 to how many? Were there many children or many grownups
0 there?

1 A Well, in this area on a Sunday afternoon
2 everybody is outside anyway. I couldn't tell you how
3 many but I would say there were maybe a few more than
4 normal but it was pretty much an ordinary crowd for a
5 Sunday afternoon in such a place.

6 Q Would that be like 50 or 100, could you
7 tell us that, or 250?

8 A Well, in the courtyard itself there perhaps
9 were 50 to 75 people, children, adults sitting on
0 benches.

1 There were probably more people standing actually
2 on 7th Avenue than usual and I couldn't begin to estimate
3 that.

4 Q Go back a little again I think I may have
5 missed part of this. Had they come through the area with

1 loudspeakers?

2 A Yes.

3 Q What were they telling people?

4 A After the shots, after the first great
5 flare-up and the first shooting, they then came around
6 with loudspeakers and told everybody to stay in the
7 buildings.

8 Q Did you know who engaged in the first flare-up?

9 A No. I have never heard or I have never seen
0 or during this period I never saw any snipers, nor
1 have I ever talked with anybody who did see any snipers
2 in our neighborhood.

3 There has been lots of different sorts of rumors on
4 how the shooting started but I have never heard anybody
5 say they saw a sniper in our neighborhood.

6 Q Your color is white?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Can you tell us a little bit about your work
9 in your occupation, what brings you out into the areas
0 in which you were?

1 A Well, the House of Prayer, Episcopal Church,
2 is about one block away from the Christopher Columbus
3 homes. Most of the people that are involved with the
4 House of Prayer come from the Christopher Columbus homes
5 and a lot of the children on 7th Avenue are involved in

1 our program and in our church, which means that that's
2 my parish.

3 Q Specifically with respect to the people
4 whom you were with on that Friday evening, do you know
5 some or most of them?

6 A Yes. I was with one particular man who is
7 from my parish and we were walking along and he knew
8 some people and we were just stopping and talking to them.

9 Q I didn't know most of them, the people that we were
0 standing with. Most of the people were persons in this
1 group that was shot at.

2 Q The gentleman I was with was a Negro.

3 Q How about on Sunday? What was the make-up
4 of that group?

5 A Well, the Christopher Columbus homes is a
6 very integrated project.

7 Q In what sense is that?

8 A Well, there were persons, Negroes and white
9 people. I don't know whether you would be interested in
0 these but some people in my parish took some pictures.

1 Q We would be interested.

2 A They are not very exciting pictures but they
3 are of apartment buildings that were just shot at, the
4 bullets, the stray bullets that went around.

5 There is a picture of a man who was sitting in his

1 apartment and who was not struck by a bullet but struck
2 by I guess a bouncing bullet or something. It wasn't
3 a direct shot.

4 You might want to take a look at those or you
5 might want to keep them, as a matter of fact.

6 Q These pictures do not, I take it, depict
7 incidents that you have personally observed?

8 A No. That's why I haven't really used them
9 or anything.

10 I just brought them along in case you might be
11 interested. They are just pictures of apartments where
12 you can see bullet holes from the general spraying of
13 bullets throughout the projects.

14 MR. DRISCOLL: Father, when you said that
15 you were being shot at on Friday, when you
16 ducked down or you were pulled down, were the
17 bullets hitting the car behind which you were?

18 THE WITNESS: They were hitting the
19 building in back of us.

20 MR. DRISCOLL: They were going over your
21 head?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes. One of the people
23 in this crowd, however, was shot, which means
24 they weren't just shooting over our heads.

25 MR. DRISCOLL: Was the tavern open, if

1 least? you know?

2 THE WITNESS: It was closed.

3 it was dark and MR. DRISCOLL: Was it dark or not?

4 THE WITNESS: It was dark. We could
5 see no reason why it was being shot at.

6 Of course, there may have been lots of
7 reasons but it was quiet, it was closed up
8 and quiet.

9 MR. DRISCOLL: Now on the second day,
10 on Sunday, could you identify the policemen?

11 Were they State Troopers or Newark
12 Policemen?

13 THE WITNESS: I believe they were State
14 Troopers but I wouldn't be absolutely certain
15 of that either.

16 Unfortunately, at the time when these
17 things are going on you are not thinking
18 directly about justifying later.

19 BISHOP DOUGHERTY: Did you ever have
20 any reasonable doubt at any time in these
21 two incidents that they were police?

22 THE WITNESS: No. They were definitely
23 policemen.

24 Q Did you observe any letter markings on the
25 car or anything on that order, on the side of the car at

1 least? You did the building in your area and up?

2 You is A Well, it was dark at the time or at least
3 it was dusk and I really didn't.

4 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Any further ques-
5 tions?

6 Q Do you have anything that you would like to
7 add? For example, tell me this: What is the reaction of
8 an incident such as you described in terms of your own
9 parishioners or the people who were there?

0 Have they been talking to you about it? Is it
1 a subject of concern?

2 A What I noticed before that, we in my neighbor-
3 hood were talking about how terrible this business was
4 going on in Newark, this business of all this rioting
5 across town, it was a terrible thing that people are
6 doing this.

7 Then after that there was so much heat and it
8 was just about to explode from then on.

9 I sensed very little atmosphere that would have been
0 conducive to rioting until that Friday night, and then
1 from that night on it was just a matter of touch and go,
2 whether the place was going to explode.

3 Saturday was incredible around there and luckily it
4 rained. That was the day that it seemed like there were
5 more people on the street and there was so much anger.

1 Q How did the buildings in your area end up?
2 You indicated they were intact on Friday.

3 What about Saturday or Friday night?

4 A The stores never really got it. Most of
5 the feeling in my neighborhood, I feel, was directed
6 against the police, and all of the anger that I heard
7 was directed toward the police and it was just really
8 centralized, which is a little different from other
9 areas.

10 MR. DRISCOLL: Now you have had a good
11 many meetings since these unfortunate
12 incidents.

13 Do you find that the Afro-Americans
14 and the whites seem to get along together
15 or do you sense a greater tension there?

16 THE WITNESS: Well, right now my area
17 is the scene of the Barringer incidents and
18 there is an awful lot of tension right now
19 between black people and white people and
20 this has been going on-- well, it has probably
21 always been there but it seems to be more
22 open now and there is more outward hostility
23 than there ever was before, to my experience.
24 I really don't know about in the past
25 because I have only been there for 2 or 3 years.

1 BISHOP TAYLOR: Is the hostility
2 escalating?

3 THE WITNESS: It is escalating, in my
4 estimation.

5 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Father, you are
6 giving a piece of your life to living with this
7 problem. This is a commission that, if it
8 can, is simultaneously trying to ascertain
9 the causes and make recommendations that do
0 something about this.

1 Would you have any words for us in this
2 area, generally speaking, about this whole
3 problem?

4 THE WITNESS: Yes. Well, right now we
5 are in the midst of it and I can much more
6 talk about it in the context of the Barringer
7 incident because I think you could see in the
8 whole problem it is all there in a way on a
9 smaller scale. There is only one black male
0 and I Here we have a situation where there
1 are great numbers of black students and no
2 black teachers to speak of and administrators
3 and counselors and there is much more of a
4 concentration on keeping these people down,
5 you know, keeping them quiet instead of letting

1 them have what they deserve.

2 I think this is the sense that I get
3 when I talk with people since the riots,
4 that now all they are worried about is how
5 to keep us quiet instead of doing the things
6 that are necessary to make our life a little
7 more dignified.

8 This is what is going on in Barringer
9 as far as I am concerned right now, that they
0 are still not making any move toward making
1 the improvements that are necessary.

2 They are just rather bringing more and
3 more policemen up there to keep things quiet.

4 MR. LEUCHTER: What are the improvements
5 that are necessary in Barringer, Father?

6 THE WITNESS: Well, I think Number 1,
7 they certainly need some black teachers and
8 black administrators and counselors.

9 Right now there is only one black male
0 and I think he is a counselor.

1 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: He is about to leave,
2 isn't he?

3 THE WITNESS: He is about to leave and
4 apparently that means there will not be any.

5 BISHOP TAYLOR: Is there any special

1 reason why this is so?

2 THE WITNESS: There is a lot of feeling,
3 there is a lot of reasons why a lot of people
4 think it is so but these are really counter-
5 prejudice feelings rather than factual.

6 As far as factually speaking, I have
7 no idea other than the fact that this is
8 North Newark and there is a lot of tension
9 in North Newark. There is all sorts of
10 white citizens councils type organizations in
11 our neighborhood.

12 We were ourselves the scene last Tuesday
13 night, if any of you read this in the news-
14 paper, of a group that came into our parish
15 hall harassing our meeting of students from
16 Barringer.

17 MR. LEUCHTER: I didn't see it, Father,
18 so would you tell us a little more in detail
19 about it?

20 Were the students by and large black
21 students?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, they were. They were
23 the students from Barringer.

24 MR. LEUCHTER: What is the percentage of
25 black and white students at Barringer?

1 THE WITNESS: There seems to be some
2 real question about this but in the newspapers
3 the other day they said it is almost 50
4 and I hadn't realized it was that high. The
5 schools give the percentage as 25 and it is
6 generally thought to be somewhere about 40.

7 MR. LEUCHTER: The group that came in
8 the parish hall was a white group?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes.

10 MR. DRISCOLL: What did they do?

11 THE WITNESS: They came in there to
12 harass or they came in there because it was
13 an open meeting.
14 They called me first to ask me if white
15 people were allowed and obviously I said of
16 course they are.

17 So then they came in and started
18 heckling the group and there was a very near
19 flare-up in that.

20 Then they finally left when they realized
21 that they couldn't provoke a fight.

22 Our kids were incredibly well controlled
23 that night. It was quite amazing.

24 Then they went out and they were driving
25 up and down the street and screaming things

1 out of their cars and showing guns. They
2 were armed, incidentally. Many of the
3 children said that they were pointing guns
4 at them.

5 I didn't see any guns because I was
6 in the meeting and they didn't bring out their
7 guns in the meeting.

8 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Were the police
9 effective in this incident?

0 THE WITNESS: Well, we called the police
1 and they didn't come for about a half an hour.

2 When they did come, of course, our kids
3 were afraid to leave because of this business
4 of them being armed and the threats that they
5 had heard from them, you know, "Just come out
6 here, you niggers, and we will get you."

7 They were afraid to go out and I was
8 trying to keep them in there until the police
9 got there.

0 When the police did get there I asked
1 The vigilantes them if they could stay around just long
2 call them enough for the kids to get home. They were
3 the meeting only a block away from where they lived, which
4 is the projects.

5 The police said they were too busy to do

1 this, which I found kind of incredible since
2 it was probably the most important thing that
3 was going on in North Newark at that particular
4 moment.

5 Director Spina then arrived at the
6 House of Prayer later and talked with me at
7 length about this and he expressed disapproval
8 of the fact that they wouldn't stay himself.

9 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: He did?

10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

1 BISHOP DOUGHERTY: Did the children have
2 to go home on their own then?

3 THE WITNESS: Yes.

4 BISHOP TAYLOR: Did you say he expressed
5 his approval?

6 THE WITNESS: Disapproval. He felt that
7 they should have stayed around, which didn't
8 seem too much to ask for.

9 Q What age group are we talking about?

10 A Our kids were between probably 15 and 17.

1 The vigilantes were probably between 20 and 30. I shouldn't
2 call them vigilantes but these other people who came into
3 the meeting.

4 BISHOP DOUGHERTY: You have heard of
5 white organized groups, have you?

1 THE WITNESS: Oh, yes. There are
2 several of them.

3 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: Father, you pointed
4 out that Barringer is something of a proto-
5 type of the difficulties and if you had the
6 power that none of us have, what would you
7 do in this situation?

8 THE WITNESS: I would certainly begin
9 by placing black people in positions of
0 authority there.

1 Also I think I would try to undo some of
2 the damage that was done as a result of the
3 suspensions.

4 At the time of the riots at Barringer
5 the heads that rolled, so to speak, were
6 generally black.

7 At least this is the feeling of the black
8 community.

9 But of course, there is absolutely no
0 discussion between the black and the white
1 communities and therefore, nobody really knows
2 how many white kids were suspended.

3 I was at the precinct at the time when
4 the kids were being brought in and there was
5 not one white child brought down to the pre-

1 cinct and the next night when the parents
 2 was there in the presence of the
 3 sanctuary and the parents
 4 were to come down for something else, there
 5 was again not one white parent there.

6 There was an awful lot of feeling about
 7 this on the part of the black parents and
 8 students.

9 This has sort of made the tension far
 0 greater in the neighborhood since there were
 1 no white kids suspended.

2 Well, there probably were but at least
 3 the numbers were far smaller than the black
 4 students.

5 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: As a clergyman do you
 6 have any influence at the precinct?
 7

8 Can you go and convince the lieutenant
 9 that a boy is all right, the practical way
 0 that clergymen are often able to work?
 1

2 Do you feel this is possible for you?

3 THE WITNESS: On some occasions. Well,
 4 I feel less and less.

5 I used to have this feeling but I feel
 6 that my welcome is wearing quite thin at this
 7 point.

8 Q How long have you been at the House of Prayer?

9 A Two and a half years, as the rector. Then I

1 was there in the summer as a student when I was in
2 seminary and so forth.

3 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: How do you feel
4 Engineers. about your mission?

5 Are you going to hang on?

6 THE WITNESS: Oh, yes.

7 CHAIRMAN LILLEY: That's good to hear.

8 Any other questions, gentlemen?

9 Thank you very much, Father.

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ALBERT BLACK, Sworn.

EXAMINATION

BY MR. FORTUNATO:

Q Your address?

A 42 Eckert Avenue in Newark, New Jersey.

Q How long have you been a resident of Newark?

A About 14 years.

Q Your occupation?

A I am Industrial Relations Director of the Hillside Metal Products Company, 300 Passaic Street, Newark, New Jersey, and Chairman of the Newark Human Rights Commission but that's not my employment.

Q With what groups are you affiliated? That's what I was going to ask you next.