

JUDSON EUGENE GHORMLEY

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3 The said witness, having been first duly sworn,
4 testified as follows:

5 DIRECT EXAMINATION
6 BY MR. FENSTERWALD:

7 Q. Will you state your full name, please?

8 A. Judson Eugene Ghormley.

9 Q. And how are you presently employed?

10 A. With the Shelby County Public Defender's Office.

11 Q. And how were you -- what was your position at the
12 time of Dr. King's murder?

13 A. I was a lieutenant with the Shelby County Sheriff's
14 Department.

15 Q. Could you tell me where you were that day, where you
16 were stationed?

17 A. Do you mean at the time of the death?

18 Q. I think it would save time if you would just tell us
19 from a few minutes before the shot until a few minutes after
20 the shot what your activities were?

21 A. Well, we had -- at the time they were having a garbage
22 strike, and my TAC unit was assigned to patrol Main Street
23 until the garbage strike was over.

24 This usually took two or three hours, and when it was
25 over we went to the fire station at Butler and Main Street.

1 A lot of the men wanted to use the restroom and call home
2 and such as this.

3 Q. And where were you when the shot was fired?

4 A. Inside the fire station in the restroom.

5 Q. And could you tell us what you did immediately there-
6 after?

7 A. Yes, sir. As soon as someone remarked that Dr. King
8 had been shot we -- most of the fellows went out and turned
9 and started going east alongside the fire station toward the
10 motel.

11 And, of course, I followed likewise, and when I got
12 to the wall I looked across at the motel and the people were
13 pointing toward the building on Main Street.

14 And at this time I backtracked and went back to Main
15 Street and up north on Main Street.

16 Q. Did you eventually come to ~~Mr. Canipes'~~ amusement
17 company?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Could you estimate the length of time between the
20 firing of the shot and your arriving at Canipes?

21 A. I don't know, but it was just a very few minutes.
22 I wouldn't say over two or three minutes.

23 Q. You ran to the street and to the back of the lot and
24 then toward Mr. Canipes, is that correct?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Would you describe to us what you found when you
2 arrived at that spot?

3 A. Well, when I got to Mr. Canipes', if memory serves
4 me, I believe there was a suitcase, and there was a blanket
5 and also a rifle box. And one end of the rifle box had
6 bulged up to where there was approximately six to eight
7 inches of the barrel showing in the gun box of the rifle.

8 Q. Was this package completely outside the door, or was
9 it partially outside and partially inside?

10 A. No, sir. As best I can remember it was completely
11 outside the door.

12 Q. And did you notice anyone running away from the
13 scene at that time that you thought might have dropped it?
14 Did that thought cross your mind?

15 A. No, sir, I did not see a sole on Main Street.

16 Q. If someone had been running south on Main Street they
17 would have run into you?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. And you did not see anyone running north?

20 A. No, I didn't see anyone at all.

21 Q. Was there anybody else standing over the package when
22 you discovered it?

23 A. No, sir. Mr. Canipes, and I believe two black
24 gentlemen inside his place of business, but there was no one
25 standing near or around the box or the articles.

1 Q. Did you report this over your walkie-talkie?

2 A. Yes, sir, I did.

3 Q. And assuming that the shot was fired, I think at 6:01
4 p.m., I gather from what you are testifying it would have
5 been two or three minutes thereafter?

6 A. I would say that, yes, sir. I don't know the exact
7 minute, though.

8 Q. I understand.

9 Tell me how long it was between the time you reported
10 on the walkie-talkie and Inspector Zachary arrived?

11 A. Well, it didn't seem like but between five or ten
12 minutes. A very short period of time.

13 MR. FENSTERWALD: No further questions.

14 MR. HAYNES: At this time I move to strike
15 Mr. Ghormley's testimony. It is our position it
16 is just not relevant.

17 MR. FENSTERWALD: Your Honor, I think it is
18 quite relevant, because in the stipulations that
19 were agreed to at the mini trial, it was said that
20 Inspector Zachary discovered this material.

21 I think it is clear from his testimony that
22 part of the stipulation is not correct. I might
23 ask one other question.

24 Q. Did you talk to Mr. Percy Foreman about this?

25 A. Mr. Foreman?

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. Did you talk to Mr. Stanton about it?

4 A. No, sir.

5 MR. FENSTERWALD: Well, I think it goes to
6 the competence of investigation, and counsel.

7 THE COURT: All right. I overrule the motion.
8 If you want to cross examine, you may do so.

9 MR. HAYNES: No cross examination, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

11 (Witness excused.)

12 THE COURT: Call your next witness, please.

13 MR. FENSTERWALD: Mr. James McCraw.

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