BF-Shelton III, 10/23/74

Q. In the middle of page 27 I just want to read thse, beginning at line 10, "It is reported that Mr. DuPratt is unwilling to talk with any person connected with the defense because of an understanding he has from having been told by the representatives of the attorney general's office that the order of Judge Battle about discussing the case will make him liable to contempt of court and jail. Explore this avenue and find out who gave him this idea."

Now, we are here talking about private citizens rather than FBI agents or police or firemen. Didyou find difficulty in getting private citizens to talk with you?

A. I didn't find any difficulty myself.

I understand that there were some people that thought that Judge Battle's contempt order about publicity applied to them not talking to us, and we had to get over that.

That, I believe, occurred on perhaps more than one occasion.

Q. Did the order indicate that?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you find out who it was from the attorney general's office who was leaving this impression?

A. I didn't. I don't know that it was somebody from the attorney general's office. It may have been the witnesses misapplication himself or misunderstanding. I think they just didn't understand that they could talk to us if they wanted to.

Perhaps the attorney general may have told them they didn't have to talk to us.

We normally got over that. It was just a matter of explaining to these people.

Q. Do you recall yourself or anyone else complaining either to the attorney general's office or to Judge Battle on this point?

A. I never made a complaint. I don't know whether anyone else did or not.

Q. At the bottom of page 27 it says, "Also ask Mr. Jeffress