

BBC "Tonight" 4/4/78

TNT SPECIAL - KING

TAPE ROLL 7

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CAPT SMITH: cont'd

~~quarters in it or where someone would  
eh be in a position to shoot Dr. King.~~

DAVID:

And who did you find inside the  
rooming house at the time? Who where  
you able to talk to?

CAPT SMITH:

Well we were able to talk to Charlie  
Stephens who occupied one of the rooms  
up there and eh, his wife was in the  
room we were not able to talk to her.

~~Anyway, eh, this was a, a sort of,~~  
a team effort, I... nobody does every-  
thing, certain people do certain things  
and my main concern was photographing  
the scene and talking to the witnesses  
that we had there

DAVID:

So, you talked to Mr. Stephens and  
to Mrs. Stephens?

CAPT SMITH:

We talked to Mr.... I talked to  
Mr. Stephens initially up there,  
briefly in.....

DAVID:

And what sort of condition was he in?  
And what was he able to tell you?

CAPT SMITH:

Charlie Stephens was in an intoxicated  
position eh, condition and could not  
tell us too much at that particular  
time. So, I left it up to other  
investigators to talk to him at a later  
time.

DAVID:

Were you, or any of your colleagues  
able to talk to anybody in the rooming  
house who had seen the person who might  
have shot Dr. King?

CAPT SMITH:

No, I eh, not that I can recall. The  
only one I talked to was Charlie  
Stephens himself at that particular  
time, he didn't have much information  
to give us then, ~~so I went about my~~  
business of making the photographs  
and looking for evidence or whatever.

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START

DAVID:

And you say that he was eh, he was intoxicated.

CAPT SMITH:

Eh, he was in an intoxicated state.

DAVID:

How about his wife, where was she?

CAPT SMITH:

She was on the bed. She never did get off the bed.

DAVID:

And was she able to say that she had seen anybody coming backwards.....

CAPT SMITH:

No, she was not able to talk to us.

DAVID:

And where is she now?

CAPT SMITH:

I have no idea.

DAVID:

Were you able to talk to anybody else around the area who might have seen the person who could have killed Dr. King?

CAPT SMITH:

Well we talked to many people down there. I talked to Solomon Jones, the chauffuer who was standing down there, who eh, was pointing back over towards the building where the shot had come from and eh, at that ~~xxx~~ time there were multiple mulberry bushes upon a hill.....and Solomon Jones told me that he had seen a person running down the bushes. Through the bushes, of course we explored that...

DAVID:

What somebody with a gun?

CAPT SMITH:

No, he didn't say he had a gun, he said eh, he told me that eh, he had turned around and saw a male figure running that was hooded, a white hood on, through the mulberry bushes.

DAVID:

So there were people who said that they thought the shot had come from.. ..from one of the windows, and there was somebody else said that the shot

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"From here"  
means  
first night  
after initial  
MPD work

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CAPT: SMITH:

Not really. We...we were doing our normal thing and then eh, of course the FBI were called in because of the assassination which they would handle. And eh, they took the investigation from here.

DAVID:

X And were you actually prevented from doing things that you would have liked to have done in the normal way?

CAPT SMITH:

No, I...not personally, I was not eh, don't know of anybody that was... I later brought certain people to our homicide office and took statements from them in the presence of the FBI who got copies of our statements. so forth. It's a usual thing when we, when we have anything that the FBI's involved in they like to have our copies and so forth, and it was a normal situation as far as I'm concerned, on that.

DAVID:

So you, all your information went to the FBI. Did you yourself get any of the FBI's information?

DAPT SMITH:

Personally I did not because I was an investigator and not in charge of the homicide squad at that time.

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