

CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT

PARISH OF ORLEANS

STATEMENT OF: W. L. JEROME

RESIDING AT: 1740 JACKSON AVENUE

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A person by the name of Godfrey Kirkpatrick was recently released from Mandeville at which time he came to work for me for approximately three weeks. After leaving my employ he became friends with a Dr. Gamon who is a brain surgeon at the V. A. Hospital. During the weeks that followed he was constantly regressing to the point where he was forging names on checks. When it was learned that he was forging his mother's name on her checks she suggested that he return to Mandeville for treatment. Godfrey then went to Dr. Gamon and he suggested that he leave town, go to Canada and gave Godfrey a letter to a doctor in Canada and a .32 automatic pistol. On arrival in Detroit on his way to Canada, Godfrey was in such a terrible mental state that the Traveler's Aid Society sent him back to New Orleans. After arriving in New Orleans his mother had him re-committed to Mandeville. Before his departure to Detroit I went to his mother's apartment house at her request because he is known to be very interested in guns. When in his apartment I found the above gun on his desk which I now have in my possession. On June 3 Dr. Gamon called Mrs. Kirkpatrick and requested that she return the gun to him. She instructed Dr. Gamon that I had the gun and she would have to check with me. Before Mrs. Kirkpatrick could get in touch with me Mrs. Morea who is secretary to a Dr. Rafferty who is connected with the After Care Center of Mandeville called Mrs. Kirkpatrick and instructed her to please return the gun to the After Care Center so they might <sup>it</sup> ~~in turn return to Dr. Gamon.~~ The reason I am making this statement is that it is most unusual for the medical department of the State of Louisiana to be involved in retrieving a gun taken from a known mental patient without first informing the Police Department of the District Attorney's Office.

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977-7414  
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