

REGARDING THE:

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
ASSASSINATIONS OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATEMENT OF OLIVER PATTERSON

Oliver Patterson, being duly sworn, deposes and says that:

1. I reside at 12350 Old Halls Ferry Road, in the City of Black Jack, State of Missouri.
2. For the past several months I have been working as an undercover agent for the House Select Committee on Assassinations.
3. During that period I testified before the Committee's staff in Washington, D.C. During that testimony, I was asked questions by a lawyer for the Committee named Michael Eberhardt and on several occasions I was handed written "answers" to the questions by Conrad Baetz, hereinafter referred to as Baetz, a staff investigator for the House Select Committee on Assassinations, hereinafter referred to as HSCA. I read the Baetz-supplied answers into the record and the stenographer apparently took it down as my own. I do not believe that the members of Congress on the Committee know that their staff is functioning in this fashion.
4. During 1970 or 1971, I was assigned by the FBI, an organization I had worked for since 1968, to meet Jerry Ray, the brother of James Earl Ray, and J.B. Stoner, and to secure information from them. I continued to carry out that assignment for approximately three years.
5. Early this year I was recruited by Conrad Baetz to work for the Select Committee. I was sent to Georgia by the HSCA to meet Jerry Ray and to renew my relationship with him.

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6. Baetz regularly instructed me to telephone Jerry Ray and to tape record those conversations. I often did that while Baetz was in my house. Often Baetz would listen in on the conversations by using earphones through which he monitored those telephone conversations. This went on for several months. Baetz took the tapes of the recorded conversations with him and gave me back new tapes regularly.

7. On one occasion when I was in Washington, D.C. with Jerry Ray and while I was working for the HSCA, I searched Jerry Ray's belongings. I found some letters from James Earl Ray to his brother Jerry and a map which Jerry had placed in his toilet article bag. Following directions from Baetz, I took the letters and the map from the Quality Inn on Capitol Hill where I had discovered them, across the street to the Hyatt Regency Hotel and there I had all of the documents photocopied. I had several copies of each document made. Following the specific directions of Baetz, I then mailed copies of each of the documents to him at his P.O. Box in Wood River, Illinois. Baetz gave me directions to photocopy the documents and send them to him in telephone conversations that I had with him almost immediately after I found the documents. I called Baetz at a special number he had given me and left word that he should call "David Rogers" at once. "David Rogers" was a code name that the Committee used to identify me. Baetz called me back almost immediately and told me that he had been called out of the hearing room. He told me that Jerry Ray was then testifying. When I told Baetz about the documents, he agreed to try to detain Jerry Ray longer before the Committee so that I could make copies of the documents.

8. Later, Baetz told me that the documents were so important that a meeting was held in Washington, D.C. to discuss them. Baetz said those present at that meeting were, G. Robert Blakey, general counsel of HSCA, the Director of the FBI and Attorney General Bell.

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9. During the course of my undercover work for the HSCA, I went to Georgia to see Jerry Ray. I was instructed by Baetz to secure samples of Jerry Ray's hair. A woman named Donna Stayton, (1619 Board Walk, Florissant, Missouri, 63031) who travelled with me at the time, assisted in securing hair samples.

10. Later, after I told Baetz that Donna and I had an argument, Baetz immediately visited Donna and thereafter told me that he had threatened to send her and her husband to a federal penitentiary if either of them ever told of our secret work for the HSCA. Baetz called me and told me that he had threatened Donna with prison.

11. Recently the HSCA discovered that Mark Lane had learned of our operation. Baetz told me that I had three options. He said I could leave town and just disappear. Or, I could hold a press briefing which he could set up and then leave town. Or, he said the FBI could visit me and arrange a new identity for me so that I could not be found.

12. Baetz told me that he had talked with Eberhardt and Blakey. He told me that they wanted me to meet with the New York Times. The House Select Committee arranged with the New York Times for a reporter to come to St. Louis on August 6, 1978 so that I could give him false information. Baetz called me in the afternoon to tell me that because the Pope had died it was a bad news day for our story and he put off the meeting with the New York Times until August 7, 1978.

13. Baetz told me that I was to tell the New York Times that "Mark Lane is a queer." In fact, I have not the slightest indication that that is true.

14. Baetz told me to tell the New York Times that Lane had said that there is no Raoul. Mark Lane has never made such a statement to me and in fact I have heard him say on many occasions that he was convinced that Ray was duped by a man who had identified himself as Raoul.

15. Baetz told me to tell the New York Times that Lane had no new evidence about the King case. Lane has told me just the contrary.

16. Baetz told me to tell the New York Times that I was terrified of Jerry Ray and that was why I was talking to the New York Times and requesting protection from the FBI.

17. Two weeks prior to the time that Mel Waxman and Baetz of the Select Committee had called upon me at my home in Black Jack for the first time, I was warned by the FBI of their impending arrival. Within 48 hours after having been warned by the FBI that the Select Committee was going to interview me, I wrote a letter to Jim Haggerty, Special Agent of the FBI, stating that I wished to withdraw from all further work with the FBI. I stated clearly that I did not wish to be involved any further with the Committee or with the FBI. However, my requests to be left alone were ignored. Not long after I wrote to the FBI, Baetz and Waxman visited me and asked me to work for the Select Committee by spying on Jerry Ray and J.B. Stoner.

18. I am now telling the truth about the secret operation against James Earl Ray, Jerry Ray and their lawyer, Mark Lane, that the Select Committee set up. I am willing to take a lie detector test and to make my statement before an investigating Committee under oath. I am willing to be cross-examined by an impartial investigating body.

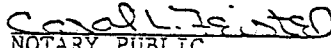
19. In addition to urging me to call Jerry Ray, to tape record those conversations and to learn of Mark Lane's flight schedule and schedule of meetings, Baetz spent a lot of time at my house playing the pinball machine, watching pornographic films and urging me to get one of the girls in the film to my house so that he might have sexual intercourse with her. He was so persistent and so insistent that one day while Baetz was at my house, I did call the young woman. She came over to the

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house and Baetz and she had intercourse in the bedroom next to the room that I was occupying. They were in there for fifteen minutes and Baetz later told me that they had had intercourse.


OLIVER PATTERSON

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me on this 14th day of August, 1978.


NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires: 4/14/83 _____