

BF - Start on III, 10/23/74

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Q. In the middle of page 27 I just want to read these, 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. Did you find difficulty in getting private citizens to talk with you?

1 A. I didn't find any difficulty myself.

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

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

7 Q. Did the order indicate that?

8 A. No, sir.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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