

JAMES HENDERSON

1. On September 9, 1971, Detroit Police Officers, Raymond Peterson and James Brown, shot at and killed James Henderson in the Neal Hotel, which is located on Woodward Avenue just north of Charlotte Street in the City of Detroit. The fatal bullet was fired into Henderson's back from the gun of Raymond Peterson. (See Appendix B, Page 1 through 5).

2. Prior to September 9, 1971, Raymond Peterson had been in contact with James Henderson. In fact, on May 11, 1971, James Henderson was a witness to the killing of Herbert Childress who was shot and killed by Raymond Peterson, in Henderson's apartment on Charlotte Street, one-half block west of Woodward Avenue in the City of Detroit. Though arrested in that case for murder or assault with intent to murder, the case was disposed of by a thirty day sentence of Henderson for the misdemeanor offense. (See Appendix B, Pages 13 through 17, and Recorder's Court File No. 71-8091).

3. The police claimed that Henderson and a Raleigh McDuffie had attempted to rob Officer Brown at knife point and that upon Officer Peterson's arrival, the two ran thus leading to the shooting of Henderson. The police further claimed that McDuffie attacked other armed officers with a can of paint and had to be subdued. (See Appendix B, Pages 8 through 10).

4. Raleigh McDuffie, though arrested for the capital offense of robbery armed, was charged with attempted larceny from a person and was permitted to plead guilty to disorderly person, a ninety day misdemeanor, and was given a suspended sentence. (See Recorder's Court File No. 71-8091).

5. Although he plead guilty, Raleigh McDuffie claims that he was guilty of nothing. McDuffie had been arrested on capital charges, had his nose broken by the police, had witnessed a murder and plead guilty upon the advice of his court-appointed counsel. (See Recorder's Court File No. 71-8091 and Detroit General Hospital File No. 767-200).

6. Raleigh McDuffie swears that while working as the night clerk in the Neal Hotel he saw two large white men in plain clothes drag a black male into the lobby and proceed to beat him. McDuffie asked them to take their fight outside and was struck by the larger white male, at which time he saw a gun in the waistband of the white male, became frightened and went to a room near the clerk's office from where he saw and heard one of the white men tell the black who was being beaten to "run, nigger" and he saw the black male run and heard shots, after which men identifying themselves as police officers ordered him out of the room in which he was hiding. After leaving the room, the men commenced to beat him, hitting him with the barrel of a gun, punching and kicking him. The bigger of the two men said "I am going to kill your ass, too, but someone else said 'no, not him,'" and McDuffie lost consciousness awakening in the hospital. (See Appendix B, Pages 18 through 27).

7. The autopsy report offers corroboration of Mr. McDuffie as it reveals multiple lacerations and abrasions around the face of the deceased, James Henderson. (See Appendix B, Pages 37 through 42).