

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: September 28, 1971

TO: WILLIAM L. CAHALAN  
Prosecuting Attorney

FROM: THOMAS H. BAHEN  
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

RE: FATAL SHOOTING OF RICARDO BUCK  
AND CRAIG MITCHELL  
BY PATROLMAN RICHARD E. WOROBEC

On September 17, 1971, at 9:35 p.m., Patrolman Richard E. Worobec, assigned to S.T.R.E.S.S., was acting as a decoy. Worobec was holding a gas can in his hand and was leaning against a pole on the southwest corner of Belmont & John R.

Worobec states that two negro males approached him. Ricardo Buck was holding a red steel rod approximately 18 inches long and said, "Hey, man what's happening?" "Are you lost, brother", and jabbed him in the gut with the steel rod. At this time, Craig Mitchell grabbed his right arm and Buck dropped the steel rod and began to remove Worobec's wrist watch. Buck said, "Give it up". Both men then began hitting and kicking Worobec, forcing him down to one knee. Worobec identified himself as a police officer and ordered them to halt. Both men continued the assault. Worobec again ordered them to halt and again identified himself as a police officer. The assault continued, and Worobec drew his weapon. Both men began to escape, going in opposite directions. Buck went southeast across John R., and Mitchell went northeast across Belmont. Worobec hollered, "Halt, police." When the men did not stop, Worobec fired two shots at Buck, turned and fired two shots at Mitchell, turned and fired two more shots at Buck.

Worobec did not see Mitchell fall, but last saw him run between cars parked on the north side of Belmont. Worobec saw Buck fall, face down on the east side of John R. in front of 9840. Assistance was summoned, and a search was carried out for Mitchell. Mitchell's body was discovered 17 minutes later on the north side of Belmont partially concealed under a parked car.

The watch, identified by Worobec as the one taken from him, was found underneath the body of Buck when he was turned over to be placed on the stretcher.

Patrolmen Donald Schaecher and John Mazzoni, assigned to S.T.R.E.S.S., were about one block south and on the opposite side of John R., following Worobec. They saw the two negro males approach, assault, and knock down Worobec. They saw the two negro males being to run and heard Worobec yell, "Halt, I'm a police officer"; they saw one of the men fall and aided in the search for the second man. Neither officer fired any shots, or subsequently saw a watch.

Patrolman Robert Bradford, assigned to S.T.R.E.S.S., was driving a Checker Cab south on John R., when he heard shots. When he arrived he saw Worobec standing on the southwest corner of John R. and Belmont, and Buck lying on John R. Bradford fired no shots, but remained with Buck's body until the wagon came. As Buck's body was being placed on the stretcher, he saw a watch underneath the body. The watch was picked up by Worobec.



Patrolman Michael Trompak responded to the scene and conveyed Buck to Detroit General Hospital. Trompak observed that Buck was lying face down on the sidewalk. When he turned Buck over to place Buck on the stretcher, he saw a watch underneath the body. A. S.T.R.E.S.S. officer stated, "There's the watch". Trompak did not touch the watch.

Stanley Mays, age 15, was sitting on the front steps of the North End Family Center, 150 Belmont at John R., talking to Monica Brown, and Ladonna Nails. Mays noticed a white man walking up John R., apparently drunk, and saw Mitchell and Buck tussling with the white guy. Mays does not know where Mitchell and Buck came from.

Mays further stated while the tussling was going on, Mitchell was trying to get the man's watch off. The white man fell into the bushes. The white man holloed, "Help, police". Mitchell and Buck started to run, Mitchell running across Belmont and Buck running across John R. The white guy came up from the bushes and shot towards Mitchell, and Mays saw Mitchell fall over the rear of a parked car. Mays also saw the white guy fire toward Buck.

Mays also states that he saw a second white guy fire towards Buck from across John R., and the other side (south) of the alley, and that he saw a third white man in the bushes alongside the center of John R.

Mays then ran away from John R., across the front of the Center, and then to the rear of the building to get help. Mays returned to scene and remained on the opposite side of John R. from where Buck was lying. Mays view of the body was blocked by the crowd, but he heard or saw nothing unusual.

Monica Brown, age 16, was on the steps of the North End Family Center with Stanley Mays, Ladonna Nails, Craig Mitchell, and Ricardo Buck just talking for approximately 5 to 10 minutes.

Mitchell and Buck left, and she saw a man walking on John R., and Mitchell and Buck go up to the man and start talking and then they fell in the bushes. Mitchell started to run across Belmont and Buck started to run across John R. The white man jumped up and fired at Mitchell four times. Brown did not hear anybody say nothing. Brown, Mays, and Nails all ran away from the scene back across the front of the Center to get help. Brown did not notice any other white men in the area before getting help.

After getting help, Brown returned to where Buck was lying. Brown heard or saw nothing unusual, but that her sister, Ramona, was there with their mother, and Ramona said she saw a white man raise Buck up and put this watch under him.

Brown is Mitchell's girlfriend and admits the police were at her house asking about the shooting but did not talk to her.

Ladonna Nails, age 15, was apparently another witness. According to Sister Elizabeth Harris, her parents do not wish her to make a statement. Sister Elizabeth will contact them again and attempt to obtain their consent.



Ladonna Nails was contacted during the police survey for witnesses. Nails stated that she did not see what happened and that she was in a store on Woodward Avenue. Nails was also implicated with Buck, in an effort to cash a check obtained by Buck in a Larceny From a Person.

Gino Fortune, age 19, was in the North End Family Center when he heard shots. Fortune ran outside and passed Mays and another girl. Fortune saw two or three police officers on the corner looking in the hedges and heard one officer say, "Did you find my watch?" Fortune saw the officers find a little red rod about the size of a pencil. Fortune was one of the first ones to reach Buck. Fortune did not see anyone messing with the body. A police officer was there standing over the body, more or less guarding it. Fortune did not hear anything about someone placing a watch under Buck's body until after the body was removed and doesn't know who told him.

James Ramseur, P.M., Coordinator, and Eugene Moore, Athletic Director of the North End Family Center were in the rear of the Center when summoned by Mays. They were also one of the first ones to reach Buck, and did not see anybody put a watch under Buck's body. They heard this story later on, but don't know who told them or who, in fact, saw this.

While not necessary for the determination of the issues involved here, this story is quite common around the neighborhood and appeared in the North End Family Center Newsletter. I feel a further effort should be made to locate or negate its source. Accordingly, arrangements have been made to take statements from Ramona Jackson and her mother.

The weapon is a steel rod 21-1/2 inches in length and 1/2 inch in diameter, red in color, and it is hollow.

After taking statements at the Neighborhood Legal Services, a discussion was had about the nature of the weapon. In my describing the weapon, Sister Elizabeth Harris asked if it resembled anything like a pole of a badminton set. I said it looked exactly like a section of a pole to hold up a badminton set, and Sister Elizabeth said they had discarded one that afternoon.

Ricardo Buck was 5'8-1/2" tall and weighed 140 pounds and was 15 years old. Buck was shot in the right back once and in the left chest once. One lead bullet and one metal jacket bullet were recovered from his body.

\* Buck had two proven contacts with juvenile authorities, for Larceny from a Person, and one for Larceny from a Store.

Craig Mitchell was 5'8" tall, weighed 135 pounds, age 16, and he wore a mustache. Mitchell was shot once in the left back. One lead bullet was recovered from his body.

\* Mitchell had one unproven contact with juvenile authorities.

Firearm identification verifies that the one lead bullet taken from the body of Mitchell was fired from Worobec's gun, and that the holes in Mitchell's clothing are compatible with the wounds observed on the body of Mitchell.



Memorandum to William L. Cahalan  
September 28, 1971  
Page 4

Firearms identification verifies that the one lead bullet and the one metal jacket bullet taken from the body of Buck were fired from Worobec's gun, and that the hole in Buck's clothing is compatible with the wounds observed on the body of Buck.

All the evidence substantiates that Patrolman Richard E. Worobec knew a felony was being committed as he was assaulted and robbed. His assailants, Buck and Mitchell, then fled in opposite directions. Patrolman Worobec had to make an immediate decision, under the circumstances then existing, as to the apprehension of one or both of the escaping felons.

Patrolman Worobec exercised his judgment and was acting in the performance of his duties in attempting to stop escaping felons when he shot and killed Ricardo Buck and Craig Mitchell.



Memorandum to William L. Casale

ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION IN THE  
FATAL SHOOTING OF RICARDO BUCK  
AND CRAIG MITCHELL

BY PATROLMAN RICHARD E. WOROBEK

Firearms identification verified  
one metal jacket bullet taken from

Ronald Jackson, age 14, was on Belmont east of John R. He saw Mitchell running across Belmont and shots being fired at Mitchell.

Ramona Jackson, age 12, and Da Rona Jackson, age 14, were in their house at 216 Belmont when they heard shots, a pause, and another shot. They ran out of the house and saw a white man shoot at Mitchell who was crawling along the ground near the north side of Belmont. They both then went to where Buck was lying. Ramona saw a white man put his hand underneath Buck's body, but did not see anything in his hand.

Patrolman Richard E. Worobek

\* Kenneth Childs, age 18, heard shots and ran to the scene. Childs saw several white men at John R. and Belmont and one white man standing over Buck. One white man hollered, "Has he got my watch?" and the other white guy lifted Buck's body up by the arm, looked underneath, and hollered back, "No".

Margaret Jackson, stated she was in the house with her daughters, Ramona and Da Rona, when she heard several shots, a pause, and another shot. They all ran out of the house together after the last shot. Margaret Jackson saw a white man standing on the northwest corner of John R. and Belmont with a gun in his hand. She concluded that this man must have shot Mitchell because that was where Mitchell's body was found later.

James Love, age 22, arrived after Buck's body was removed and before Mitchell's body was removed and had a confrontation with a uniformed police officer about his approaching Mitchell's body.