

Jackson Case

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SEP 28 1964

STATEMENT  
OF  
ANDERSON DAVIS

Taken at 13939 Ohio Street, Detroit, Michigan, on  
the 21st day of September, 1964, commencing at 10:45 o'clock  
P.M.

BY: BRUCE A. MILLER, Attorney

PRESENT: Mrs. Ilene Keats  
The Rev. James Wadsworth

REPORTED BY: Mamie L. Garvin  
1526 Virginia Park  
Detroit, Michigan  
873-7631

\* \* \* \* \*

ANDERSON DAVIS

Having been first duly sworn, was interrogated  
and answered as follows:

BY MR. MILLER:

- Q What is your name?  
A Anderson Davis.  
Q Where do you live?  
A I live at 13939 Ohio.  
Q Are you married?

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COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

3-10 PM

A Yes, I am.

Q What is your wife's name?

A Margaret.

Q Do you have any children?

A Yes, four children.

Q What are their names and ages?

A Richard is eight, Dianne is five, Shawn is two, and Mark is six months old.

Q How old are you?

A Twenty-eight.

Q How long have you lived in Detroit?

A Since 1948.

Q Where did you come from?

A Chicago, Illinois.

Q Were you born in Chicago?

A Yes, I was.

Q By whom are you presently employed?

A Wayne County Sheriff Department.

Q What job do you have in that regard?

A Patrolman.

Q Do you carry a badge?

A Yes, I do.

Q Are you authorized to carry a gun?

A Yes, I am.

Q When you say patrolman, what do you patrol?

A I guard the Wayne County prisoners in the Wayne County jail.

Q Mr. Davis, before you proceeded to answer these questions we had a discussion off the record, is that correct?

A That is right.

Q During that discussion you indicated to us certain fears and anxieties about making a statement, is that correct?

A That is right.

Q You indicated to us that you wanted certain assurances from the NAACP that if you made a statement you would not be subjected to intimidation or harassment, or have your job rights put in jeopardy, is that right?

A That is correct.

Q Present here with you and myself are Reverend James Wadsworth, who is the president of the Detroit Branch of the NAACP. You know him?

A Yes.

Q And Mrs. Ilene Keats, who is secretary of the Detroit Branch of the NAACP. You have been introduced to her.

A Yes, I have.

Q In that off-the-record discussion I told you and Rev. Wadsworth told you the entire resources of the NAACP would be brought to bear to assure you protection, is that correct?

A That is correct.

Q And that I personally, as the attorney for the NAAOP, and through the NAACP and any other area in which I had any influence, would use everything that I had at my disposal to see that your honest statement would cause you no harm, is that right?

A Yes.

Q You understand that?

A Yes, I do.

Q With these assurances, are they satisfactory enough at this time for me to go further in questioning you?

A Yes, they are.

Q Mr. Davis, before you worked for the Wayne County Sheriff department where did you work?

A I was a clerk in the Wayne County Juvenile Court.

Q How long did you work there?

A Almost two years. It would have been two years in October.

Q Prior to that where did you work?

A I was a clerk at Eloise, Wayne County General Hospital.

Q How long did you work there?

A One-half year.

Q What is your total number of years of service with the County?

A Six years September 22.

Q Have you ever had any problems in your work with Wayne County?

A No, I haven't.

Q Have you received raises, increases or promotions?

A Yes, I have.

Q How many?

A Approximately two. Two.

Q What were you promoted from and to?

A I was promoted from Hospital Attendant I to Clerk I, and Clerk I to Patrolman.

Q When you became a patrolman did you apply for that job?

A Yes, I did.

Q Did you have to take a test?

A Yes, I did.

Q Did you pass the test?

A Yes, I did.

Q When did you become certified as a patrolman?

A August 17 of this year.

Q Prior to your employment with County Service what did you do?

A I worked as x-ray orderly at Sinai Hospital.

Q How long did you work there?

A Five years altogether.

Q Prior to that where did you work?

A I was in the United States Marine Corps.

Q How long were you in the Marine Corps?

A Three years.

Q Did you receive an honorable discharge?

A Yes.

Q What was your rank?

A Pfc.

Q While you were in the Marine Corps were you ever court-martialed?

A Yes, I was.

Q What was that for?

A Being five minutes late for duty.

Q Have you had any other arrests or convictions?

A No, I haven't.

Q You have never been arrested for anything?

A No.

Q Never been convicted for anything?

A No.

Q How far did you go in school?

A Twelfth grade. I finished highschool.

Q What highschool was that?

A Northwestern High.

Q Did you ever have any problem with juvenile authorities?

A No.

Q Do you go to church?

A Yes.

Q What church?

A New Light Baptist Church.

Q Are you a regular attendant in the church?

A Yes, I am.

Q Do you do anything in the church?

A Sing in the choir.

Q What is the name of the pastor?

A Cornell E. Talley.

Q Does your wife attend the same church?

A Yes.

Q Is she active in the church?

A Not too active.

Q How long have you been a member of that church?

A Since 1958.

Q Are you presently a member of the NAACP?

A No.

Q Have you ever been a member of the NAACP?

A Yes, I was.

Q How long ago?

A Approximately two years ago.

Q It has been two years since you have been a member?

A Yes.

Q You are familiar with the NAACP?

A Yes, I am.

Q Do you know its purpose?

A Yes, I do.

Q Mr. Davis, were you a witness to an incident in the evening of August 24, 1964, at the Police garage at 13th and Beaubien?

A Yes, I was.

Q Do you recall that day?

A Yes, I do.

Q Did you work that day?

A Yes.

Q What time did you start work on that day?

A I started work at 3:00 o'clock.

Q Was that in the morning?

A That is the afternoon shift -- 3:00 to 11:00.

Q Did you leave at eleven?

A I left at eleven and I went home, and I found that I had the keys to one of the cell blocks in my pocket. So I went back.

Q When you say you went home, did you drive home or take a bus?

A I drove home.

Q Is that your own car?

A Yes.

Q When you got home, about what time was it?

A I would say it was about 11:20.



Q When you got home what did you discover?

A I had the keys to one of the cell blocks in my pocket. It is an extra set of keys, and I turned right around and took them back.

Q Did you come home in a uniform?

A Yes, I did.

Q You found these keys were in the pants pocket of your uniform?

A Yes.

Q You didn't change clothes when you left?

A No.

Q You went back?

A Yes.

Q Did you return the keys?

A Yes, I did.

Q Did you return them to anybody in particular?

A I can't remember who I turned them in to. I think I gave them to someone on the desk that called home about them and wanted them returned.

Q When you got home there was actually a call to that effect?

A The call came after I left -- about ten minutes, my wife said.

Q You were on your way back to the station when the call came?

A Yes.

Q When you got back they expected you to return with the keys?

A Yes.

Q You must have given them to somebody?

A This is true.

Q You don't remember who that was?

A No, I don't.

Q This would be at the desk?

A Yes.

Q Where is the desk located?

A In the lobby of the Wayne County jail.

Q Is that on the first floor?

A It is on the first floor.

Q About what time was it you got back to the jail?

A About a quarter to twelve or ten minutes to twelve.

Q Is that your best recollection?

A So far as I can remember, yes, sir.

Q You weren't necessarily looking at a watch, or anything?

A No.

Q You just estimated these times?

A Yes.

Q They could be off a little bit, is that right?

A They could be.

Q Did you drive back in your own car?

A Yes.

Q Did you notice anything unforeseen or untoward when you got back to the jail?

A Yes, I did. As I was going into the jail I happened to look across the street.

Q This is when you were on your way back?

A Yes.

Q Before you returned the keys?

A Yes.

Q Go on.

A I looked into the garage.

Q What street does the garage face on?

A On Clinton.

Q What street is the entrance to the jail on?

A On Clinton, also.

Q In order to come to the entrance you have to pass the garage?

A That is right.

Q Was the garage door open or closed?

A They were open.

Q Approximately how far from the garage were you when you saw something going on?

A About a hundred yards, I guess, across the street.

Q Was the garage lighted?

A Yes.

Q Was the street dark or lighted?

A The streets were lighted.

Q Was there anything between you and what you saw in the garage to obstruct your vision?

A Not at that particular time. There is a door, and there is a wall separating two doors to the garage, but -- and that is all, I guess. There are two entrances.

Q Two entrances to the garage?

A Yes, two entrances to the garage.

Q Can you see a clear shot right into the garage?

A Yes.

Q There were no cars parked in your line of vision?

A Not in my line of vision.

Q What did you see?

A Two police officers and a fellow in plain clothes had a woman prisoner.

Q Describe the police officers.

A One was a big fellow, tall, approximately six feet, three, I guess. I don't know how many pounds. The other one was maybe six feet, five.

Q Were they white men?

A All three of them were white.

Q Can you describe the man who was not in uniform?

A He was the shorter of the three. He had on a jacket and a straw hat, I believe. He was behind the parties. There were two policemen, the lady and this gentleman.

Q Were they talking when you saw them?

A There was a commotion there.

Q What was the first thing they were doing when you saw them?

A The first thing they were doing when I saw them, they were coming out of the car.

Q Did you see them getting out of the car?

A Yes. They slammed the door and was coming out of the car.

Q The first thing you saw was these people getting out of the car?

A Yes, and they had --

Q Wait. Who was in the front seat of the car?

A I didn't see them in the front seat of the car. When I spoke of them getting out of the car, the door had slammed and they were proceeding into the station.

Q Did you hear the door slam?

A Yes.

Q Is that what called your attention?

A Yes, and a lot of noise.

Q What noise did you hear?

A Well, being inquisitive, I always look over on the Detroit side. It is light, and I can see what is going on. This

big officer had this woman prisoner, and some words were passed.

Q Could you hear the words?

A No, I couldn't.

Q Who was speaking?

A I guess he was speaking to her, or vice versa. I don't know

Q for sure.

Q Were they speaking in a low tone or a loud tone?

A It was kind of loud, because the voices carried in the garage, I guess. She attempted to kick back at him, or something. She turned around. Maybe she didn't want him to have his hands on her. I don't know the reason why she did it.

Q Did she kick at him?

A Yes, she did. I saw her kick at him.

Q Did she touch him when she kicked at him?

A I don't think she touched him, but she kicked at him.

Q You think she missed?

A She must have missed. At that time he took her by the arm with her arms behind her and grabbed her by the shoulders and threw her down head first, and she hit her left side. This other officer comes up and pulls a wig off her head, and he kicks her in the back. Then they picked her up, and the big one made a statement, "Now you are really going to the hospital." They went on, and that is when, I guess, they went on up into the station,

and that is all I could see. That is all I could remember, because I was pretty well tore up behind that.

Q Did she say anything after that?

A No, she didn't say anything.

Q When you saw her kick at the tall officer, where was the other officer?

A He was behind her. She was in between. The big one, the lady, the other officer behind her.

Q The last one, was that the --

A The plain-clothes man was bringing up the rear.

Q Did you at that time know who the girl was?

A No, I didn't.

Q The third man you assumed to be a plain-clothes officer?

A I found out later that is what he was.

Q Who told you he was a plain-clothes officer?

A I spoke to Rev. Wadsworth's assistant. At that time I think he stated this was a plain-clothes officer.

Q You say that she was thrown to the ground?

A Yes.

Q At the time that you saw that happen, did you see whether or not her arms were locked? Was she handcuffed?

A Yes, she was handcuffed.

Q When the officer threw her to the ground she was facing him?

A No. He was behind her, to the rear.

Q He was to the rear of her?

A Yes.

Q Did she kick to the rear?

A Not while he was throwing her.

Q At the time she kicked at him was she facing him?

A No.

Q Was he behind her when she kicked at him?

A That is right.

Q Then she kicked to the rear?

A That is right.

Q Then, did you say, he picked her up?

A It seemed to be that way.

Q Did he lift her off the ground?

A Yes..He is a pretty strong fellow. That is what I got so shook up about. It was just like a baby.

Q You say he picked her up like a baby?

A Yes.

Q And then threw her to the ground?

A Yes. He just slammed her down.

Q You are sure she didn't trip?

A No, she didn't trip.

Q You are clear about that?

A I am sure.

Q When she landed on the ground did she land on the front



of her body to the ground or the back of her body to the ground?

A She landed on her head on the left side.

Q What was the first part of her body that struck the ground?

A Her head.

Q Did you hear her say anything when she hit?

A No. I just heard the blow; that is about all.

Q How far away from you was that when it happened?

A I was right across the street watching.

Q You could hear and see that from across the street?

A Yes.

Q You say it was about a hundred yards?

A Yes. It could have been closer.

Q When you saw this did you move up closer?

A Quite naturally. I didn't go out in the street, but so I could get a full view so I could see what was going on.

Q What was the closest you would say you were all the time?

A Approximately the same distance. I would get to the left and to the right. That is all.

Q The next thing you saw was another police officer come over to her?

A Yes.

Q That was the shorter police officer?

A Yes.

Q Did he say anything you recall hearing?

A I didn't hear anything.

Q What did you see him do?

A He grabbed her by her wig and pulled her wig off her head.

Q Did he pull that wig off as if he knew it was a wig?

A No. He just grabbed it. I guess he didn't know it was a wig, and it just came off.

Q If she didn't have a wig on what would have happened?

A It would have been her head.

Q Did he grab it harshly or easy?

A He grabbed it harshly.

Q Then, you say, a wig came off?

A Right.

Q Did her head come up?

A As the wig came off, yes.

Q Her head came up?

A Yes.

Q What happened then?

A He kicked her in the lower part of her back.

Q Do you know how many times?

A Once.

Q Do you know what part of his foot he used?

A Well, the foot, I guess. But — well, the toe or the whole foot, I guess.

Q Was he standing over her when he did this?

A Yes, he was standing over her.

Q Could you illustrate?

A He goes up and grabs her by the hair and just (demonstrating) lets her have it. That's all.

Q What you just illustrated was a combination of grabbing her by the hair and kicking her at the same time?

A It wasn't at the same time. He pulled the wig off first.

Q He pulled the wig off first?

A Yes.

Q And then he kicked her in the back?

A Right.

Q Can you describe the kick? Was it a light kick, medium kick or heavy kick?

A It wasn't light. It was a kick that could do some damage, I guess, to a woman of her size.

Q How big a woman was she?

A She was pretty small.

Q Can you estimate her size?

A I would say about a hundred ten pounds.

Q About how tall?

A About five feet-one or two. I don't know.

Q Do you recall the color of her hair?

A No.

Q Or the wig?

A No.

Q Do you remember how she was dressed?

A No, I don't.

Q Did you see any blood, Mr. Davis?

A No, I didn't.

Q After the kick, then what happened?

A He picked her up.

Q Who picked her up?

A The tall officer.

Q The big officer?

A Yes.

Q How did he pick her up?

A He had her by what hair she had left on her head.

Q He grabbed her by the hair?

A Yes, and raised her up by the shoulders and then pushed her on ahead and told her "Now you are really going to the hospital."

Q What was the plain-clothes man doing all that time?

A Just following.

Q Did he seem normal to you?

A Seemed normal. I thought he was maybe somebody that had been brought in together. I didn't know.

Q Did he participate in this at all?

A No.

Q Did he say anything that you could hear?

A No.

Q How long did it take for this incident to occur?

A I guess maybe three or four minutes. I guess.

Q What did you do after the incident occurred?

A Well, I was pretty well shook up behind that. I went on in to the jail.

Q When you say shook up, what do you mean?

A I was disturbed, I was mad, I was angry; because I hate to see anybody use force. The lady was already, I would say, detained, and she was handcuffed, and I saw no cause for it. It is not because she was a Negro. She could have been white as far as that is concerned. Just being a lady and having to go through with that, it kind of touched me. Because it could be my wife, your wife, or anybody, and I wouldn't have went for it. I was mad and it hurt me.

I went into the jail after that, and the Sheriff -- not the Sheriff, but one of the officers had asked some of the men to volunteer to stamp some brochures to be handed out on Primary Election day. So I went in and helped out there for a while, and after that I left.

Q Did you tell anybody about it?

A I told only my wife when I come home.

Q When you left did you meet anybody?

A No.

Q Did you come home by yourself?

A Yes.

Q And you told your wife about it?

A Yes.

Q Did you contact the NAACP or did the NAACP contact you?

A Well, my friend told me they were interested in having a witness to testify to what happened.

Q Was this somebody you told the story to?

A Yes. My friend.

Q Did you tell him about it?

A Yes.

Q Did you tell it to anybody besides your friend and your wife?

A Yes, I did -- because when it came out in the Chronicle and I saw the picture of the lady -- it was also in the Courier, I think, and it mentioned on that day in the First Precinct, and I was talking to a fellow, and I said, "I bet this is the girl I saw they beat up. I just bet." You know? Like that.

I told one of the Sheriff's deputies there, and he said, "I wish it had been me because I would have went to Rev. Wadsworth and told him."

Q That is what the Sheriff's deputies said?

A Yes.

Q What did you say?

A I didn't know. I was wondering what to do. There were other witnesses in the garage. The place had a lot of workers in there, colored and white, I guess, and other officers coming and going. Reading it in the paper, no one said anything, and I didn't know. Not knowing police

policy, whether it was right for to elaborate on something of this nature.

Q Were you afraid?

A Yes, I was; because I didn't know whether I was doing right or wrong, you see. So I asked -- told a number of people, close friends, of the incident, and I wanted to know what would they do.

Q Were these police officers?

A One in particular.

Q In other words, involved in law enforcement?

A Well, two of them was.

Q Two involved in law enforcement?

A Yes.

Q Go ahead.

A And they told me they wished it had been them.

Q You say they wished it had been them?

A Yes, that saw something like that.

Q Why did they say that, did they say?

A I guess they would have come right away and tried to -- went over and got some badge numbers and faces and reported it.

I said, "Well, I don't know about all this. You have been on longer than I have and, I don't know." You know?

So I just went along with it and kept it to myself, and told my wife and a different number of people, and I

thought it was the end of it.

But the other day my friend told me, "You know, you ought to talk to Rev. Wadsworth because the State Civil Rights is on this case about this Barbara Jackson and they need a witness." He was telling me there was a woman police that saw me watching -- she was watching out the window -- and she didn't know who I was because I was one of the newer fellows there.

He said, "They know you saw something, but they don't know who you are."

Q When you say they, who do you mean?

A Me.

Q Who is "they know you saw something"?

A I don't know who it was. My friend was saying "They don't know who you are." I don't know whether he was speaking of the NAAOP or not. I believe he had previously talked to Rev. Wadsworth about it, and he spoke to me confidentially.

Q Who spoke to you confidentially?

A This officer, and he asked me if I would come in and give my testimony, and I told him I would. I did that Friday.

Q Did you go in yourself?

A Yes, I did.

Q Who did you speak to when you went in?

A Rev. Wadsworth's assistant, and another man I don't know his name.



Q Was Rev. Wadsworth there at the time?

A No, he wasn't.

Q Did you sign any statement at that time?

A No, just spoke.

Q You just spoke and told him your story?

A I just spoke and told him what I saw, and he was taking notes.

Q Was that discussion as detailed as the one we are having now?

A Well, it was not as much in detail because there is more questions here now than before.

Q We have gone into it much more deeply?

A Yes, more specifically.

Q Do you know who the policewoman was who saw you?

A No, I don't. I wasn't aware anyone was watching me.

Q Is there anything further you want to say?

A I think I have covered it pretty clearly.

Q Your wife is here now, isn't she?

A Yes.

Q She has heard everything you have talked about?

A Yes.

Q Did you talk with your wife about your decision to tell the NAACP about this?

A Yes, I did.

Q Did she agree that you should do that?

A She is kind of sceptical about it because of fear of my job.

