

(Confession)

S T A T E M E N T

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N A T H A N F . L E O P O L D , J R . ,

Made in the office of the State's Attorney of Cook County,
Criminal Court Building, Chicago, Illinois, on Saturday,
May 31, 1924, at 4:20 A. M.

Present: Joseph P. Savage, Assistant State's Attorney;
Michael Hughes, Chief of Detectives;
E. M. Allen, Shorthand Reporter.

MR. SAVAGE: Q What is your name?

A Nathan F. Leopold, Junior.

Q And your address? A 4754 Greenwood Avenue.

Q And your business? A Student.

Q Student at what school?

A University of Chicago Law School.

Q And you have attended the University of Chicago
Law School for how long? A For nine months.

Q Prior to that time, what school did you attend?

A University of Chicago.

Q And for how long during that period? A For a
year.

Q And prior to that? A University of Michigan
for a year; prior to that University of Chicago for a

year; prior to that Harvard School for five years; prior to that, Douglas School for four years; prior to that, Spade School for two years.

Q How old are you, Nathan?

A Nineteen.

Q What is the date of your birth? A November 19, 1904.

Q Have you any brothers, Nathan? A I have two brothers.

Q What are their names? A Foreman and Samuel Leopold.

Q And you have one other--- A Cousin who lives with us, Adolph Ballenberger.

Q Your father's name?

A Nathan F. Leopold.

Q What is his business? A Morris Paper Mills.

Q Now, Nathan, I just want you to go on in your own way and tell us the story from the beginning, tell us the whole thing.

A When we planned a general thing of this sort, it was as long ago as last November, I guess, at least; and we started on the process of how to get the money, which was much the most difficult problem. We had, oh, several dozen different plans, all of which were not so good, for one reason or another. Finally

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hit upon the plan of having the money thrown from a moving train, after the train had passed a given landmark. The landmark we finally chose was the factory of the Champion Manufacturing Company at 74th street and the I.C. Railroad tracks.

The next problem was the system of notification to the father. We originally planned a number of relays, in other words, the man was to receive a special delivery letter telling him that his son had been kidnaped and would be held for ransom, to secure ten thousand dollars in denominations as follows: Eight thousand dollars in fifty-dollar bills; two thousand dollars in twenty-dollar bills. He was to get old, unmarked bills, whose numbers were not in sequence. These he was to place in a cigar box, securely tied, wrapped in white paper; the ends were to be sealed with sealing wax. The reason for that was to give him the impression that the box would be delivered personally to a messenger of the real executives of the plan. He was then to receive a phone call at about one or two o'clock in the afternoon, instructing him to proceed to a "Help-Keep-The-City-Clean" box, whose location was to be definitely given; then he was to find another

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note which would instruct him to proceed to a drug store which had a public phone booth; he was to be called at this phone booth, the drug store being very near the I.C. tracks and given only just enough time to rush out, buy a ticket and board a through train without allowing him enough time to instruct detectives or police where he was going. In the train he was to proceed to the rear car, look in the box left for telegraph blanks for another letter. This letter instructed him to go to the rear platform of the car, face the east and look for the first large red brick factory adjacent to the tracks, which had a black water tower bearing a white inscription, "Champion". He was to count two or three after that, and then throw the box as far to the east as he could.

The next problem was getting the victim to kill. This was left undecided until the day we decided to take the most likely looking subject that came our way. The particular occasion happened to be Robert Franks. Richard was acquainted with Robert, and asked him to come over to our car for a moment. This occurred near 49th and Ellis avenue. Robert came over to the car, was introduced to me, and Richard asked him if he did not want to ride home.

Q Richard who?

A Richard Loeb. He replied no, but Richard said, "Well, get in a minute, I want to ask you about a certain tennis racket." After he had gotten in, I stepped on the gas, proceeded south on Ellis avenue to 50th street. In the meantime Richard asked Robert if he minded if we took him around the block; to which Robert said "No."

As soon as we turned the corner, Richard placed his one hand over Robert's mouth to stifle his outcries, with his right beat him on the head several times with a chisel, especially prepared for the purpose. The boy did not succumb as readily as we had believed, so for fear of being observed, Richard seized him, pulled him into the back seat. Here he forced a cloth into his mouth. Apparently the boy died instantly by suffocation shortly thereafter.

We proceeded out to Calumet Boulevard in Indiana, drove along this road that leads to Gary, being a rather deserted place. We even stopped to buy a couple of sandwiches for supper.

Q Where?

A On Calumet Boulevard at, I guess, 132nd street.

5 The body was covered by an automobile robe which we

had brought along for the purpose. We drove around up and down this road, then proceeded over the path which leads out toward Hegewisch from 108th and Avenue F to the prearranged spot for the disposal of the body.

We had previously removed the shoes, socks and trousers of the boy, leaving the shoes and the belt by the side of the road, concealed in the grass.

Having arrived at our destination, we placed the body in the road, carried it to the culvert where it was found. Here we completed the disrobing; then in an attempt to render identification more difficult, poured hydrochloric acid over the face and body. Then we placed the body into the drain pipe, pushed it in as far as we could. We gathered up all the clothes, placed them in the robe.

Apparently at this point the glasses fell from my pocket.

I carried the robe containing the clothes back to the automobile, a distance of some 300 yards, one of the socks apparently dropping from the bundle.

We then proceeded north to 104th and Ewing avenue, from where I telephoned my folks, telling them that I should be a trifle lateⁱⁿ arriving home. We

then drove to 47th and Woodlawn, and from there I telephoned the Franks home. I spoke to Mrs. Franks and told her that my name was George Johnson; that her boy had been kidnaped but was safe, and the further instructions would follow.

In passing 55th street, we had mailed the special delivery letter, which had been completed except for the address, which I printed on. After taking my aunt and uncle home, I returned to my home, and after my father had retired, Richard and I proceeded to his home, where we burned the remaining clothes, hid the robe and washed the more obvious bloodstains from the automobile.

Then I parked the automobile near my home. The next day at two-thirty Central time, or three-thirty Chicago time, we were down at the Illinois Central station at 12th street. Here Richard bought a ticket to Michigan City on the three o'clock train, entered the train and deposited the letter in the telegraph blank box.

In the meantime, I called Franks' home, told Mr. Franks to proceed immediately to a drug store at 1465 East 63rd street, and to wait at the more easterly of the two public phone booths for a telephone

call. I told him a Yellow cab would be at his door to take him; I repeated the number twice, and he asked if he couldn't have a little more time, to which I replied no, it must be immediately.

About the time I was finished, Richard had returned from the train, and he started out south intending to call the drug store from Walgreen's drug store at 67th and Stony Island.

We chanced to see a newspaper lying on the stand with headlines, "Unidentified Boy Found in Swamp." We deliberated a few moments as to what to do, Dick thinking that the game was up. I, however, insisted that it could do no harm to call the drug store. This I did, but was told that no Mr. Franks was in the building.

We then went to 60th and Stony Island, another drug store, and again telephoned. We met with the same reply; then gave it up as a bad job, and returned the car to the place where it had been rented. Our original plan had included a relay which was to send Mr. Franks to a "Help-Keep-The-City-Clean" box at the corner of Vincennes at Pershing; but we had difficulty in making the envelope stick to the cover of the box as we intended, and hence decided to eliminate

this relay.

Thursday, immediately after dinner, we drove the car to our garage, started to clean up the rest of the blood stains. Our chauffeur, Sven Englund, noticed us, and came out to help; whereupon Richard told him it was merely some red wine which had been spilled.

Q Who did clean it up?

A Dick did most of it, and I helped him.

Q Is there anything else you can think of at this time?

A No.

Q Your original plan when you were thinking it out as late as last November, now, then, did you have in mind at that time who was to be the victim?

A Nobody in particular; we had considered Mr. Clarence Coleman, also Mr. Walter Baer, Walter Baer, Jr., was the victim, and Clarence Coleman's son.

Q When was the plan finally effected whereby you considered the Franks boy?

A When we saw him on the street, by pure accident.

Q At that time were you waiting for someone else?

A We had been cruising around, watching several groups of boys playing, waiting for somebody to start home.

Q You had been doing that for how long, Nathan?

A From about three o'clock in the afternoon until about five.

Q And you didn't have any boys prior to that time?

A No.

Q This day in particular, you set out with the idea in mind of getting a boy that day, is that it?

A Yes, sir.

Q What time did you meet Richard Loeb that day, Wednesday, May 21st, 1924?

A At eleven o'clock.

Q Where did you meet him? A At the University.

Q What did you do after that? A Drove down in my car to the Rent-a-Car place.

Q Where is that at? A That is at 1408 or '10 Michigan avenue.

Q Then what did you do? A Rented a Willys-Knight.

Q At that time? A Yes.

Q Under what name? A Morton D. Ballard.

Q Had you ever rented a car there before?

A Yes, sir.

Q Under what name? A The same.

Q When did you rent a car there? A About three weeks previously.

Q And used it for what purpose? A Merely so we would have no difficulty in getting the car the next time.

Q They handle Willys-Knights and Fords? A Willys-Knights and Fords.

Q Willys-Knights and Fords exclusively, is that right?

A Yes.

Q What did you pay over there? A 17 cents a mile for Willys, and 15 cents a mile for Fords.

Q You could keep the car over night?

A Yes; we made that arrangement Wednesday.

Q After you got the car, what time did you get the car down there that day?

A At eleven-thirty.

Q Do you remember who you talked to there, Nathan?

A It was one of two men, I don't remember.

Q Can you remember the names? A No.

Q You would know them if you would see them?

A Yes.

Q If I came over there for a car, would they require any security? A Yes; the first time they made me deposit fifty dollars, and the last time thirty-five. I was supposed to have an identification card of some sort, but I never received it, so I had to look up my old lease number and give that as reference.

Q What address did you give, Nathan?

A Originally the Morrison Hotel; went down there and rented a room, left a suitcase in it, and sent some mail there, for the purpose of having mail addressed to that address. When we went down there to get our mail on a subsequent date, the suitcase had been taken. Apparently the fact that the beds had not been used had been noticed, something suspicious occurred. The suitcase had apparently been confiscated. I therefore telephone the Rent-A-Car place we had changed our hotel to Oakwood and Grand.

Q You phoned there immediately that was your new address?

A Yes, sir.

Q Did you ever get your suitcase, Nathan, from the Morrison Hotel?

A No.

Q Did you register at the Morrison Hotel? A I didn't; Richard did.

Q Under the name of -- A Morton D. Ballard.

Q What day was that, do you remember, Nathan?

A That was just previously to our getting the first car; I would say two or three weeks before.

Q Whose suitcase was it?

A Dick's.

Q You never applied for the suitcase after that?

A No; I figured the suitcase was worth less than what we owed.

Q What kind of a suitcase was it? A It was a dilapidated suitcase, I could not describe it very well.

Q Do you remember of anything in it? A I think there was some library books in it.

Q You went then to this — what is the name of that hotel?

A The Trenier Hotel. I had expected to stop there, but had changed my plans and asked them to hold mail coming for Morton D. Ballard. I stopped there on a number of occasions after that, I would say as much as half a dozen times, and never did get any mail from there.

This seems very peculiar, inasmuch as Richard addressed two letters to the Trenier Hotel, and they were never received.

Q Did you get the letters back?

A No; no return address on them.

Q Went in the dead letter office?

A I don't see why they should have; we followed them up two days afterwards.

Q You say you did stop there several times after that? A Yes, a number of times.

CHIEF HUGHES: Q You stopped there to call for the mail?

A Yes.

Q You did not register there? A No.

MR. SAVAGE: Q At no time you registered there?

A No.

Q Did you ever register in any other hotel, Nathan, during this period?

A No. I further opened a bank balance in the Hyde Park State Bank, corner of 53rd and Lake Park.

Q Under the name of Morton D. Ballard?

A Yes.

Q How much money did you deposit there? A One hundred dollars.

Q Have you drawn that out since that time? A Yes.

Q Was it a checking account? A Checking account.

Q And you have no balance in the bank now?

A No, sir.

Q That was opened up there during your negotiations with the people on Michigan avenue?

14 A Yes, sir.

Q What was that name, again?

A Rent-a-Car.

Q That was for the purpose of--- A Having a good identification.

Q This day you went down there for the car, who drove the car out? A I did.

Q Where was your car at that time? A Dick had my car on 14th street, just east of Michigan Boulevard.

Q When you left there, what did you do?

A We drove up together -- or rather, we each drove one car up to Kramer's restaurant, at 35th and Cottage.

Q Kramer's restaurant, 35th and Cottage?

A Yes.

Q That was on Wednesday, the 21st? A Wednesday, the 21st.

Q 1924? A 1924.

Q May 21, 1924? A Yes.

Q Kramer's restaurant was where? A 35th and Cottage Grove avenue.

Q What did you do? A Had lunch there.

Q You had lunch at the restaurant? A Put up the side curtains on the rented car.

Q About what time was that? A I imagine we got there about twelve-fifteen.

Q What time did you leave there?

A It must have been one or a little after.

Q When did you put up the side curtains? A Just before going in to eat.

Q After you came out, what time did you get out of there? A We left after one.

Q Then what did you do?

A We drove to my home, and I put my car in the garage; then we drove over to Ingleside avenue, just south of the little alley south of 47th street.

Q What time did you put your car in the garage that day?

A I should say at about one-twenty or one-thirty.

Q In the afternoon?

A Yes.

Q And where was the other when you were putting your car in the garage?

A The other car was right in back of mine, because we wanted to fill it with gas.

Q In the areaway? A Yes.

Q You brought that in and filled it up with gas, did you? A Yes, sir.

Q And left your car there? A Yes, sir.

Q Then what did you do? A Then we drove over to

Ingleside avenue, which is south of the alley south

of 47th street.

Q While you were filling the car up with gas, did you see anyone around the garage there?

A I don't remember if Sven came down or not.

Q Did you see Mr. Sven or Mrs. Sven there? A Mr. and Mrs. Englund. I am under the impression that Mr. Englund was there; I am not sure.

CHIEF HUGHES: Q You talked about the brakes being bad on that car?

A Yes, on my car, it was, on that occasion, that they squeaked and should be oiled. He warned me about using them after they had been oiled.

Q After you filled the car with gas, what did you do?

A We drove to this spot on Ingleside avenue.

Q About what time? A It must have been a quarter of two.

Q Then what did you do, you drove where, you say?

A To a point just south of the alley, south of 47th street, Ingleside.

Q You drove to a point which is south of the alley, south of 47th street?

A Yes; I waited in the car.

Q On Ingleside?

A On Ingleside.

Q What is there, anything?

A Apartment buildings. I waited in the car there while Dick went through the alley to a place where he could either command a view of Harvard School, or if he saw any likely-looking children he could start playing with them. After some time, I should say around three, several of the groups of boys played in the afternoon with the so-called tutors, had left for a vacant lot on 49th and Drexel. We followed them up there, I having made a stop at home for my field glasses in the meantime.

Q What time was that?

A Around three or three-fifteen. And we parked on the opposite of Drexel Boulevard, that is on the west side of Drexel Boulevard, and watched these children at play. We also sneaked around on foot to a point behind the lot where we could observe without being seen. We also had another group of boys spotted in the lot just across the street from my home, 48th and Greenwood. We waited around until about a quarter of five, that is, four-thirty, I should say, when the gangs break up; but one of the boys had run down the alley, as we thought, merely in play, and would be back. Apparently they had merely disappointed

us, we missed our opportunity of following any of them home.

We then went down 41st and Lake Park avenue, where an acquaintance of Richard's lived who had a son who might be expected home at that time.

Q Do you remember the name?

A Levinson.

Q Do you know the address? A No; it is Sol Levinson, a lawyer, 41st and Lake Park. We repassed the lot on Greenwood, 48th and Greenwood, come over 48th street to Ellis -- no, we come over 49th street to Ellis -- it was 48th street to Ellis, and here Dick spied Robert Franks, who was at that time north of 48th street on Ellis avenue, on the west side of the street.

Q You are sure it was on the west side of the street?

A Positive; walking south on the west side of the street.

Q Then you were where, at that time?

A We were at 48th and Ellis.

Q On 48th or Ellis? A On 48th.

Q Facing what direction? A West.

19 Q On what side of the street would it be, on the east side?

A We were driving down there. We immediately turned around, and about the time that we had turned around and given Robert a chance to get a sufficient distance from another pedestrian on the street, he was almost at 49th street. It was here that we picked him up.

Q You turned your car and started south on Ellis avenue; is that it?

A Yes, south on Ellis avenue.

Q On the west side of the street? A On the west side of the street.

Q Robert Franks was at 49th? A He was almost at 49th.

Q On Ellis? A Yes.

Q Was he on the northwest corner, approximately?

A Not quite, yes.

Q You had^{not} had a chance to cross? A No.

Q And you drove up alongside of where he was?

A Yes.

Q And what happened? A Then Dick opened the front door and yelled, "Hey, Bob!" He came over to the car, and Dick asked him if we couldn't give him a lift home. He declined, but Dick said, "Come in a minute, I want to talk to you about the tennis

racket."

Q That was the time he got into the car?

A Yes.

CHIEF HUGHES: Q Where were you sitting at that time?

A I was sitting at the driver's wheel, Dick was in the rear seat.

Q What time was it approximately, Nathan? A Between five and five-fifteen.

Q That was when you proceeded on your journey?

A Yes.

Q You went south, then, to 50th street? A South to 50th.

Q And east on 50th? A East on 50th to, I believe, Dorchester or Blackstone.

Q When was the first time that Richard struck Robert with the chisel; do you know? A Between Ellis and Greenwood, on 50th.

Q Had he become suspicious, or anything, when you returned for him at that time?

A No, because Richard asked him if he minded if we took him around the block, to which he replied no.

Q That was the original plan, to attack him so no one would see him?

21 A Yes, sir.

Q And after you made this trip out in the country and came back, what time did you get back?

A Got back to where?

Q To your home? A Ten-thirty.

Q You still had the car that you had rented from the Rent-a-Car Company?

A Yes, sir.

Q Was that the car that you drove your folks home with? A No.

Q What did you do with the rented car?

A I parked it on Greenwood avenue, just north of our driveway.

Q On Greenwood avenue? A On Greenwood avenue.

Q And you had your own car in the garage?

A I got my own car in the garage, and drove around to the side door.

Q Then what did you do with your other car when you came back?

A When I took Dick home-- let me see -- God, I think they were in my car, because that chisel was thrown from my car, wasn't it? How could that have been accomplished? I am not quite clear on that point, but what he must have done was take the bundle -- no, we didn't do that, either, because I remember wash-

ing the other car.

Q That was the car that you rented?

A Yes; we must have taken the rented car.

Q That was after you got back?

A Yes. I was around there until one o'clock.

Q Where did Richard wait for you? A At my home.

MR. SAVAGE: Q What did you do with the rented car then?

A Washed it fairly thoroughly there.

Q When? That night? A One-thirty, yes.

Q Whereabouts? A On 50th street, at the gate to Loeb's

Q What did they wash it with? A We found a bucket with some water and a brush and some soap.

Q Where? A In Loeb's basement.

Q Then you come out and washed it?

A Yes, sir.

Q You were unable to get all the stains off?

A Well, it was at night, and we didn't want to be monkeying around too much.

Q Where did you take your car to get some of the blood stains off?

A No place.

Q You drove the car in some place to get some of

the blood stains off?

A No. That was the next day, in our garage; it was still Wednesday night, you see.

Q What did you do with the rented car that night?

A I drove it back to the place previously occupied, which is just north of our driveway; stood it in front of an apartment house.

Q That was at one-thirty?

A One thirty.

Q After you drove your aunt and uncle home in your car and come back, what did you do in the house then, Richard Loeb was in the house?

A Went in and had a few drinks; sat and talked with Dad.

Q What time was that, about? A That must have been about eleven o'clock.

Q Then what did you do?

A Dad retired about eleven-thirty or twelve, and we had a few more drinks; left about one o'clock.

Q Did you play any cards while you were there?

A Yes, I think we played two games of casino for fun.

Q Then what did you do after that?

A We went over to Dick's house with the clothes.

Q The clothes in the rented car?

A Yes, sir.

Q And those were out in the rented car all the time? A Yes.

Q In a robe? A In a robe.

Q When you got to Dick's house, what did you do?

A We went in the basement, burned the clothes. We intended burning the robe, it was too large to fit in and would have caused an awful stench. Right after making that phone call to Franks, we were in the rented car, we drove over to Loeb's then in the rented car, burned the clothes, washed the blood stains, then took the rented car to my house and left it there.

Then I got my car out, took the folks home in that; then after I got back to my house, I still had that car. When I took Dick home, it was in that car. It was then we threw the chisel out.

Q When you took Dick home you took the rented car or your own car?

A My own car.

Q What actually happened there when you came in the first time? A We had disposed of the clothes.

Q You had disposed of the clothes in the car?

A Yes, sir.

Q And left the robe hidden in the car?

A No, I had left the robe hidden in some brush there.

Q You mean outside? A Outdoors, yes.

Q And Dick had the chisel in his possession?

A Yes, sir.

Q And when you changed cars, he just took it from one car to another with him? A Yes.

Q Did he leave that in the car or not? A I don't believe so, no.

Q Where did he throw the chisel out at? A It was over there between 48th and -- or between 49th and 50th; I think the latter, on Greenwood.

Q After you left Richard there and came back, you put your car in the garage, did you?

A Yes, sir.

Q Then what did you do? A I turned off the parking lights on the parked car and went to bed.

Q Then what did you do?

A Next morning I got up and went to school as usual at eight o'clock. I met Dick at eleven.

Q Where? A At the University.

Q You made arrangements the night before to meet the next day?

A Yes, sir; we drove down to my house, and it was then that we drove the rented car to the garage to clean it up more thoroughly.

Q In your garage?

A Outside of my garage, but in my driveway.

Q What did you clean it up with? A With soap and water and some gasoline, a brush.

Q Did anyone help you clean it up?

A Sven tried to, but we told him that was all right, but we were all through.

CHIEF HUGHES: Q Was there any remark made then with reference to the blood stains in the car?

A Yes; Dick was afraid that possibly Sven had seen these blood stains, and he says it was some red wine.

Q He told the chauffeur that?

A Yes, sir.

MR. SAVAGE: Q Who drove the rented car down town?

A I drove the rented car down town.

Q And Dick drove your car, did he? A Dick drove my car.

Q Then you went down, and how much did you pay, do you remember, for the use of the car?

A This was Thursday, was it?

Q Yes.

A Wait just a moment. We cleaned the car out. Where did we eat that day? I have forgotten where we ate. We stopped some place for lunch, and we didn't have my car at all, we both drove the rented car.

Q You didn't have your car at all?

A No, my car was in the garage, and we drove down to the 12th street Illinois Central station, and the rest of the account is contained in the previous part.

Q With the rented car?

A Yes, sir.

Q When did you return the rented car? A We returned the rented car at about five or five-thirty.

Q How much money? A Twenty-five dollars and some cents on it.

Q And he gave you the balance of your deposit back?

A Yes, sir.

CAPTAIN HUGHES: Q You drove the rented car, both of you, to the I. C. station?

A Yes, and then drove back south. After we had found that Mr. Franks was not at the drug store, we drove to my house, got my car and Dick drove my car down while I drove the rented car down. Dick parked

on Wabash avenue, just south of 14th street, while I returned the car.

MR. SAVAGE: Q About what time was that?

A Between five-fifteen and five-thirty. When we returned we stopped to get a soda at the drug store

Q Whereabouts? A 47th and Ellis. I met Mr. Mitchell at that time.

Q You had a conversation with him?

A I had a conversation with him. I took Dick home, on the way back stopped and bought a paper at 48th and Ellis, which told about the fact that this boy was Franks, and went home.

Q Then what happened?

A I got supper, I stayed at home studying law.

Q Did you see Dick the next day? A The next day was Friday, yes.

Q Was that the time you had the conversation of what you would say in the event you were called in?

A I am not sure if it was then or not. We discussed that a number of times.

Q Prior to the happening, or after the happening?

A Possibly after that time; I could not be sure.

Q You discovered there was a pair of glasses found out there, Nathan?

A Yes.

Q You learned that through a newspaper?

A Yes.

Q Then you and Richard Loeb had some conversation about the glasses, and so forth?

A Yes, sir.

Q You contemplated at that time that you would be called in and asked about it? A Yes, sir.

Q In the event they were found. You never thought they would find the owner of the glasses, did you?

A No, I did not.

Q You were called in by--- A Captain Wolfe.

Q What did Captain Wolfe ask you?

A Captain Wolfe wanted to know whether I had visited the particular area frequently, whether there were many ornithologists whom I knew, or fishermen particularly, among the members of the Harvard School or its faculty; also whether the Franks boy had been interested.

Q Q You gave him the information?

A Yes.

Q Did you mention the fact to him at that time that you had worn glasses? A Yes.

Q He never asked you to produce your glasses?

A No.

Q This wine that Richard told about, were you able to remove all those blood stains? A Almost entirely.

Q Enough so that it was not noticeable?

A Yes.

Q What time was it Nathan, now, you saw the newspapers announcing that? A About six o'clock.

Q This chisel that was thrown out of the car by Richard, that you told about, Nathan, that had what kind of tape on it?

A Zinc oxide.

Q Wheredid you get the tape at, from home? A In the bathroom.

Q This was the tape you were telling me about that your brother had in the bathroom when you walked in?

A Yes.

Q Did you take a whole roll of it?

A Yes.

Q Wheredid you leave the rest of it?

A We have discussed that, Dick and I, and we think it must have been in the car.

Q Did you put the tape on near the sharp end or the blunt end?

A The sharp end.

Q Using the head of the chisel or the blunt end,
I guess you would call it, for the purpose of---

Q Striking.

Q Which end did Richard strike with, do you know?
Did he strike with the sharp end or the other end?

A He struck with the other end. That's why I can't
explain the blood stains. Well, probably the bleeding
was rather effusive.

Q You don't know whether it was the other end or not,
do you? A Yes, I do.

Q You know it was the blunt end he was struck
with? A Yes, sir.

CHIEF HUGHES: Q Where did the chisel come from ?

A From a hardware store between 45th and 46th,
on Cottage Grove avenue.

MR. SAVAGE: Q Who bought the chisel?

A Dick.

Q That sameday? A No, I think we bought that a
few days previously.

Q For that purpose? A Yes, sir.

Q At the hardware store, where? A 45th and 46th,
on Cottage.

Q Do you remember what you paid for it?

A I think it was seventy-five cents.

Q Which one of you bought it?

A Dick.

Q You bought that two or three days before?

A I think so, yes.

Q How did you carry it around with you? A As I recollect, we put it in the pocket of the rented car; I think we bought that on the very day, on Wednesday, the 21st, I am almost sure of that now.

Q The same day?

A Yes, sir.

Q That was the day you went in and got the tape in the house? A Yes.

Q Now, mm the time you first started to wear glasses was when, Nathan?

A In October or November, 1923.

Q And who was your doctor that prescribed the glasses?

A Emil Deutsch.

Q And he is located where? A 30 North Michigan.

Q And the one who filled the prescription?

A Almer Coe.

Q How long did you wear the glasses, Nathan, afterwards? A Until February or March.

33 Q 1924? A 1924.

Q Then you sort of discontinued wearing them; is that it?

A Yes, sir. They did actually remain in the pocket of the suit that they had been, which happened to be this suit.

Q The suit you have got on now is the suit you wore the night you placed the body there, is that it?

A Yes, sir.

Q After you started out there, Nathan, did you remove your clothes at all while you were placing the body?

A My coat, yes.

Q Just how did you place the body in the drain pipe, just explain how you placed the body in there.

A I think it was head first. I had a pair of rubber boots.

Q Where did you get the rubber boots?

A My own.

Q Did you take them from your home? A Yes.

Q That day in this rented car, did you?

A Yes; put them on right at the culvert, there I stepped into the water, took the feet of the body while Dick took the head end and the hands, and while it struck the water pushed it in, gave it a shove

as far as I could.

Q Was it much of a job, Nathan, to push the body in?

A At first I thought it was rather doubtful whether it would fit at all; but after it once started, it wasn't hard at all.

Q Then after you pushed it in as far as you could push it in with your hands, Nathan, you used your feet to push it up further?

A Yes, sir.

Q Had rigor mortis set in at that time?

A Yes.

Q At the time you had taken your coat off, did you lay it on the ground some place?

A Yes, right by my shoes.

Q That isn't the time you lost your glasses?

A No, that isn't the time. Dick had run across the railroad track to see if anybody could be seen from the other end, and I went up to the top of the railroad track for some reason or other, to put on my shoes, and he brought my coat to me. I think we struck a match — no, we had a flashlight with us; and it must have been at that time that the glasses fell out.

Q What time was it, again, that you put the body in

the drain?

A About nine-thirty --- nine-thirty or nine-twenty.

Q Dick brought your coat up to you where you were putting on your shoes?

A Yes.

Q Now, this letter, Nathan, that you had already prepared, in an envelope without any address on it, you had prepared that letter some time prior to that time? A Yes.

Q Just when did you prepare that letter? A Four or five days ahead of time.

Q No one definitely as to who you were going to send it to? A No; just "Dear Sir".

Q But the address you placed on later on?

A Yes. It wasn't addressed inside, it was just "Dear Sir".

Q You didn't send that additional letter that was supposed to be sent about committing suicide?

A No.

Q Did you ever send a special letter?

A No, sir.

Q Or make any calls after what you have told us about?

A No, sir.

Q Those shoes and belt, you say, Nathan, were placed on what road?

A On a little spur road up the road leading to Gary from Calumet Boulevard.

Q In the woods there; is that it,

A It is near the Russian Orthodox Cemetery.

Q You would be able to show us? A Yes.

Q What kind of acid was that you say you used?

A Hydrochloric

Q On the face and body? A Yes, sir.

Q Does it take some time for that to take action?

A Apparently it must.

Q Evidently it didn't take any action at all?

A There was a faint discoloration noticed.

CHIEF HUGHES: Q Did the poison get into the mouth, do you know? A It probably did.

Q Where did you administer the poison on him?

A At the culvert there.

Q What did you do with the bottle that contained the poison? A I think we took the bottle with us; whether we left it in the rented car or threw it out on the way home, I don't know.

Q Your purpose for doing that was to disfigure the face and body so it would not be recognized?

A So it would not be recognized immediately.

CHIEF HUGHES: Q You told us what drug store you called up when you called Franks?

A The first time, you mean?

Q Yes; that night, at 12:30.

Q That was the drug store at 47th and Woodlawn.

A Yes, sir.

Q Was Dick with you? A Yes.

MR. SAVAGE: Q Was he inside or outside?

A We were both in the telephone booth.

Q Did you always do the talking over the phone?

A Yes. My voice is considerably lower pitched than Dick's, and Dick's is more distinct over the phone.

CHIEF HUGHES: Q What drug store did you call from when you called the drug store on 63rd street to see whether Mr. Franks was there?

A It was from Walgreen's drug store on the corner of 67th and Stony Island avenue; and then from a drug store on the southwest corner of 68th and Stony Island avenue.

Q Where was the place that you selected where he was to throw the box out?

A At 74th street and the I. C. tracks.

Q There is a factory there that is just the same as you described?

A Yes; you couldn't miss it.

Q And you were to be there, you and Richard were to be there at the time the box was to be thrown out?

A Yes.

Q What became of the ticket that Richard bought for Gary?

A He bought a ticket and we talked about trying to cash the ticket in again; but it had been punched, and we decided to tear them both up.

Q Did you buy two tickets?

A No, just one.

Q Who wrote the letter that Richard dropped in the mail box in the car?

A Who wrote that letter? Q Yes.

A You mean who typed it, or who composed it?

Q Who typed it?

A I wrote it.

Q On the same machine? A On the same machine.

Q Do you remember how it read?

A "Dear Sir" —

Q It was addressed to Mr. Franks on the outside?

A Yes, Mr. Jacob Franks. On the inside it read:

"Dear Sir: Proceed immediately to the rear platform of the train, have your package ready, face the east immediately after you have passed the first large red brick factory with a black water tower, with the wording 'Champion' in white on it. Count three

or four", I don't know just what it was, "then throw the package as far as you can. Your son will be delivered to you within six hours after our receipt of the money". Signed "George Johnson".

Q That was also mentioned in the letter that you wrote to Franks?

A The one of six hours?

Q Yes. A Then it wasn't in this letter. I thought it was this letter.

MR. SAVAGE: Q You have not been abused in any way by anyone?

A No, sir.

CHIEF HUGHES: Q Let me ask you this; was there any blood on Richard's clothes?

A Yes, sir.

Q What became of the clothing? A He scrubbed it so it didn't show.

Q Is that the suit he is wearing? A No.

Q He has got a very light gray? A No, that isn't the one; it was more of a greenish-gray suit.

Q Where did he wash the stains off?

A At home.

Q In the basement? A No.

Q Where? A Upstairs, after I left finally,

after I finally took him home.

Q That night? A That night.

Q Were his folks in bed? A Yes.

Q Has he worn those clothes since? A Yes.

MR. SAVAGE: Q Did you have any blood on your clothes?

A I had only very, very small stains.

Q Where was that? A On the back of my coat.

Q How did you take it off? A Soaked it off.

Q You at no time struck Robert Franks at all?

A No, sir.

Q You at no time choked him? A No, sir.

Q At the time you conceived kidnaping some young fellow around there, did you intend to murder him, what was your intention, to murder him first and hide the body?

A No, we intended to murder him.

Q your intentions were to murder him and hide the body and collect the money afterwards?

A Yes.

Q That was the general plan? A yes.

Q Why did you conceive that idea? Why did you intend to murder him? A Because he couldn't expose us.

Q What did you intend to do with the money, the

ten thousand dollars, when you collected it?

A Hide it away, either in a safety deposit box or some other safe place, for a year, and then spend it very carefully.

Q That was the agreement reached between you and Richard

A Yes.

Q When Richard hit Robert first, was it down in the tonneau of the car, the bottom of the car, or was it on the seat he choked him?

A It was on the seat; Robert was sitting on the front seat, Dick was in the back seat.

Q Robert was sitting in the front with you?

A Yes; and Dick sort of leaned over and put his hand over his mouth, like this.

Q Did he pull him back in the rear? A Not until later.

Q After he cracked him on the head, did he fall down then, Robert?

A No, he struggled.

Q Now, then, since you have been here with the Chief and the Assistant State's Attorneys and the other police officers, no one has abused you in any way, have they?

A No, sir.