

3/22/65

ADA

M. Stein

11th AM

1.

Interview: Langston (X) Savage M-N-30
853 Jeffery St
Bronx, N.Y. Apt #3C.

Date of Birth - 7-14-34 Tel: 893-5595

Place of Birth - Edgemont County - North Carolina

The above named is single and has resided at the above address for one year. Most of the time can be reached at the Hotel Theresa.

He is an electrician, employed by the Con. Edison Co - York Ave + 74 St. Branch Worker the 12-8 AM Shift.

Joined the Mosque #7 in July of 1962 and left in February of 1964.

Stood security at Mosque meetings, rallies, but had no rank - was never a lieutenant or a squad leader.

He knew Thomas (15X) Johnson as a Squad Leader in the Bronx, when he was still a member of Mosque #2.

Stood security with Johnson, who was his superior. He was posted by one of the lieutenants. Also knew Norman (BX) Butler who came to Mosque after Savage joined & stood security with Butler at times, although not at the same time.

Butler came to Savage's house 2 or 3 times after he left Mosque #7. The first time in Feb. of 1964 and wanted to know why Savage was leaving. Never made any threats against him.

Butler was in Brown (15x) Johnson's Squad.
Savage joined the O.A.A.U. in May of 1964.

On 2/2/65 Savage arrived at the Audubon Ballroom, alone, at about 1:30 PM. He was not assigned to security and was not posted. He checked the exit door in the front left facing the stage - found it open, but with the lock through the hoop. Then scanned the audience as he walked down the aisle and sat down on right side facing the stage, near the window, about halfway down.

A Muslim from Jersey was spotted with a F.O.I. pin, was questioned by Reubin, searched, and was allowed to remain after removing pin. (Man behind him wearing a blue suit and red tie).

Malcolm started to speak - a commotion started left side towards front. Shot rang out from in front of stage and then Malcolm fell he died and fell back.

Saw more than three (3) men approaching stage and firing in the direction of stage. There was smoke all around there men all of which had their backs toward Savage. They came from about 4 rows back from stage.

Did not see any weapons and did not see any one doing the shooting.

Did not see their faces, saw them only from the front.

When questioned regarding the removal of a gun that Malcolm had on his person Savage did not answer. Offers immunity + time to consult an attorney as a matter of law.

On 3/25/65 - Savage present in ADA Stern's office, with attorney Mr. Hill and refused to answer questions put to him by the Asst. Dist. Attorney.

Served with a Grand Jury Subpoena returnable for March 30, 1965 at 1:30 PM in 3rd March Grand Jury.

3/25/65 Langston Savage has no record according to PMA. No history of B.C.I.

3/22/65

①

Longston 2x Savage

853 Tiffany St Rm 403C

893 5595

Electronian Cntrl.

74th St, York Ave.

Joined Mosque # 7 in
Summer of 62. Left Feb 4 1964.
Good vicinity a Mosque
meetings and rallies.

Johnson a member when
Longston joined. He was a Squad
leader about the time Savage
joined. Thomas Johnson's Squad in
The Bronx. Savage has stood
security with Johnson.

Savage had been Buster Gooding
Security. Buster had been to
Savage's home 3 or 4 times.

This after Savage left. First
time was in Feb 64. Buster
always came alone. Came during
the day. Buster wanted to
know why Savage was leaving.
This during period of Malcolm's
suspension.

Buster was in Johnson
Squad.

joined O.A.W. about May.

①
3/30/68

Savage

Feb 1964, Mosque Meeting
Sunday. Savage in Audine
Broder married Savage
into a Bedroom. Clarence &
Joseph & and Savage in Room.
told him that he had
done something wrong;
wanted him killed;
wire his car so it should
explode.
2nd meeting sometime later.

Production Dept.

PEOPLE VS. JOHN DOE, et al.

April 5, 1965

-000-

Before:

A QUORUM OF THE THIRD MARCH 1965

GRAND JURY

Presented by:

HERBERT STERN, Esq.,

Assistant District Attorney

-000-

ALFRED PIEKARSKY
GEORGE FELIXBROD
DAVID SOLOMON
WALTER KLAUSNER
Grand Jury Reporters

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LANGSTON SAVAGE, called as a witness,
having been first affirmed, testified as

follows:

BY MR. STERN:

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Q What is your name, sir?

A Langston Savage.

Q And where do you live Mr. Savage?

A 853 Tiffany Street, Bronx.

Q And what do you do for a living?

A I'm an electrician.

Q Employed by whom?

A Consolidated Edison.

Q Now, Mr. Savage, have you ever been a member of Mosque #7; that is in the nation of Islam?

A Yes, sir. I have.

Q And do you recall approximately when it was that you first joined this Mosque?

A '62.

Q And do you recall when it was that you did leave the Mosque?

A Yes, sir.

Q When was that?

A February, '64.

Q Now, during the period of time that you were a member of Mosque #7, were you in the squad of men for

the purpose of selling newspapers?

A Yes, sir. I was.

Q And which squad were you in?

A Manhattan Squad.

Q And during the period of time that you were in Mosque #7, did you also take training?

A Yes, sir. I did.

Q And what sort of training did you take?

A How to sell newspapers, self-defense and that was it.

Q Now, the training that you took in self-defense, did you take that in the Mosque or out of the Mosque or both?

A Both.

Q And you say you took training in self-defense out of the Mosque is that right. Where did you take that training?

A Bronx.

Q Where in the Bronx?

A Third Avenue I guess, about 144th Street.

Q And was there any special reason why this class met in the Bronx?

A If there was, I don't know about it.

Q Now, the class that met in the Bronx, was there a specific day when that class met?

A I think. I don't know if it was a specific day. I know whenever I went it was opened. And I couldn't be there everyday; so I don't know if it was going everyday or not.

Q Now, did the same men attend the class in the Mosque as the men outside the Mosque?

A Yes. They did.

Q And during the period of time that you were there in Mosque #7, did you come to know a man named Thomas 15X Johnson?

A Yes, sir. I did.

Q And what position did he have in Mosque #7?

A It was squad leader in the Bronx.

Q And also during this period of time, did you come in contact with a man known as Norman 3X Butler?

A Yes, sir. I did.

Q And what important position did he have?

A He did not have one.

Q Do you know which squad he was in?

A Bronx.

Q Is that the Johnson Squad?

A Yes, sir. It could be. I mean --

Q Now, did you take training in self-defense that is Karate with both Johnson and Butler?

A Yes, sir. I did.

Q Would that be both inside the Mosque and in this other class in the Bronx too?

A Yes.

Q Now, Malcom X was the minister of Mosque #7 when you first joined, is that correct?

A Yes. He was.

Q And during this period of time that he was minister and you were a member at Mosque meetings, were you ever assigned to stand front rostrum guard?

A Yes, sir. I was.

Q And when you did stand such guard, did there ever come a time when you stood guard with Butler and Johnson?

A I remember standing with Johnson. I don't remember

whether I stood with Butler or not.

Q At such time that you stood in the front rostrum guard, with Thomas 15X Johnson he would be your superior, is that correct. Your superior officer as squad leader?

A Not that I know.

Q Well who would post you when you stood front rostrum guard?

A Somebody else would post us and it would be like he would have an area and I would have an area and we were not responsible to each other but to the person who posted us.

Q Who would post you on these occasions?

A One of the Lieutenant's.

Q Now, there came a time around December of 1963, when Malcolm X was suspended for ninety days from Mosque #7; is that correct?

A Yes, sir.

Q And after that period of time he no longer returned to Mosque #7; is that right?

A That's right.

Q Well, I direct your attention to February

of 1964 --

A Yes, sir.

Q What happened?

A I was called from the audience by somebody that I don't remember who to see the captain.

Q Captain Joseph X?

A Yes.

Q And where did you see Captain Joseph X?

A In an office or some ante room or something like that.

Q When you were called into this room, who was in the room?

A Captain and the First Lieutenant.

Q And the name of the First Lieutenant is Clarence Seminick; is that right?

A Yes, sir.

Q Now, did there come a time when there was just you and Joseph X and Clarence 7X in this backroom?

A Yes, sir.

Q And what happened then?

A The captain started talking to me.

Q What did he talk to you about?

A About Malcom's suspension.

Q I'm sorry. Did he tell you that Malcolm X had done something wrong?

A Yes. He did.

Q What else did he say?

A And he should be punished.

Q Did he say that he was a traitor and hypocrite?

A I don't recall these words exactly. I couldn't say whether he said that or not.

Q Well, he made you to understand that Malcolm X should be punished?

A Yes, sir.

Q And did he suggest any particular way to you?

A Yes, sir. He did.

Q What did he say. What did he suggest?

A He suggested the wiring of Malcolm's car in the manner that would cause it to explode.

Q Now, to you own personal knowledge, Joseph X, Captain Joseph X, knew that you were an electrician; is that correct?

A Yes, sir. This information was given when you joined up. You know, where do you live, what kind of work you

do; like this.

Q When he told you that you should wire up Malcolm's car, did he tell you when you should do that?

A No, sir.

Q Now, when you first enrolled in Mosque #7 in the Nation of Islam, were you taught the duties of a member?

A Yes, sir.

Q And these duties are taught within the lesson plans too; is that correct?

A Yes, sir.

Q And are you taught in Mosque #7 that the captain has certain duties and the lieutenants have certain duties; is that correct?

A Yes, sir.

Q And what are you taught in reference to captains?

A He runs orders. Orders come from him down the chain

to the lieutenants.

Q Now, are you taught that it is the duty of the members to obey the order of their superior officers?

A Yes, sir.

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Q And is it a punishable offense within the Nation of Islam to disobey the orders of an officer?

A Yes, sir.

Q Now, you originally testified or rather at the beginning you testified that you left Mosque #7 in the Nation of Islam in February of 1964; is that right?

A Yes, sir.

Q And was this after the incident that you left?

A What incident?

Q The incident that you just testified to in reference to Captain Joseph?

A Yes. It was.

Q And did you leave because of that or at least partially because of that?

A Yes. I did.

Q And did you at any time take any steps to do what Captain Joseph had suggested to you and told you to do?

A No. I didn't.

Q Did there come a time that you joined Malcolm X?
O A A U and Muslim Mosque Incorporated?

A Muslim Mosque Incorporated.

Q But not the OAAU?

A No, sir.

Q Well, after you joined with Malcolm X and

became one of his followers, did you attend various of
his rallies?

A Yes. I did.

Q And did you have any special assignments?

A No, sir.

Q Were you ever posted as security?

A Yes.

Q Now, directing your attention to February 21,
1965, that Sunday, did you go to the Audubon Ballroom to
hear Malcolm X speak?

A Yes. I did.

Q And do you recall approximately when it was
that you arrived?

A Approximately 1:20; I guess.

Q Was anybody on the podium speaking when you
first arrived?

A No, sir.

Q What did you do after you entered the ballroom?

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A I talked with a few people and commenced to look around. Started to arrange the chairs on the stage. They had band equipment there. Had to move it out of the way. Got off the stage. Went out into the audience and I just stood around until the meeting starts.

Q Now, did you do anything in reference to the doors?

A Yes, sir.

Q What did you do?

A I checked the doors on the left side of the stage.

Q That's as you face the stage; is that right?

A Yes, sir.

Q And what did you see about the doors?

A They were unlocked.

Q Unlocked; is that right?

A Yes. They were.

lock

Q But the unlocked was through the hasp; is that right?

A Yes. It was.

Q So that all you would have to do is squeeze it and then it would be locked?

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A Yes.

Q But you didn't lock the doors, did you?

A No, sir.

Q And when was it that you checked the doors.

Was it when you first came in or when you -- after you did what you do with the chairs?

A After I did what I did with the chairs and the meeting was just about ready. They were adjusting mikes when this happened. In other words the meeting was about to commence.

Q Now, did there come a time when you looked around the audience?

A Yes, sir.

Q To see if anybody was there that you recognized?

A Yes, sir. I did.

Q And when did you do that. Is that when you first walk in?

A Well, yes. I looked but not -- but not very deliberately.

Q That was when you first walked in; is that right?

A Yes. I didn't look very deliberately.

Q Well, did you look again at any time?

A Yes. I did.

Q When was that?

A This was after -- this was after somebody had been spotted as a member of the Nation of Islam. I checked the audience over visually the best that I could.

Q About what time was that?

A I don't know what time it was.

Q Well, that was before the meeting started; is that right. That is before Brother Benjamin began to speak?

A Yes. I was.

Q But at that time there was quite a lot of people in the ballroom; is that correct?

A Yes, sir.

Q As a matter of fact, there were two, three, four hundred people in the ballroom at that time; is that right?

A There were many there. I don't --

Q And where were you standing when you looked around checking the people in the ballroom?

A I walked around the left side across the front and up the right side.

Q Now, you were not able to see everybody's face in the ballroom; is that correct?

A Well, say -- looked at the people who are seated here. I walked down the side and across the front just like this.

Now, if anybody was behind me in the seat or anything like that --

Q Well, were you actually able to look in the face of everybody who was sitting in the ballroom when you walked around?

A Well, I thought I can.

Q What if there were in fact two or three hundred people seated in the ballroom, were you able to look at the face of everyone of them?

A I could have.

Q Or did you just walk down and around glancing as you went?

A No. It was not a casual glance or anything like that. I was deliberately looking for somebody that I formerly knew. That I could recognize as a Black Muslim. Everybody I did not know but these people I knew and I -- that was what I was looking for and I didn't see anything.

Q During this period of time people were filing

in; isn't that correct?

A Yes, sir.

Q They were taking seats; is that right?

A Yes, sir.

Q They were talking in company. Each in turn to each other to talk; isn't that correct, isn't that right. The meeting hadn't started yet?

A No. It hadn't.

Q In other words they were all just seated there in the seats facing straight ahead?

A No. People were coming in.

Q And they were moving around and people seated were seated, chatting with their neighbors?

A Yes. I imagine so.

Q This was even before Brother Benjamin spoke; is that right?

A Yes, sir.

Q And as a matter of fact, he spoke for about half an hour; isn't that right?

A Yes, sir. I'd say about that.

Q And even during the time that he was speaking, more people were coming in; isn't that right? -- Now, your

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didn't see Butler or Johnson when you walked down the aisle;
is that correct?

A No, sir. I didn't.

Q And after you went around the ballroom, did
there come a time that you seated yourself someplace?

A Yes, sir. I did.

Q And where did you seat yourself?

A On the right hand side. In other words rear of the
seats.

Q Near the rear of the seats?

A Yes. The seats stopped I'd say three-quarters of the
way back of the whole hall and I was on the right hand
side near the end.

Q You mean you sat down before Benjamin began
to speak, is that right?

A I don't remember. It was before or shortly after. I
don't remember, really.

Q Mr. Savage, as a result of your looking
around the ballroom, you did not see Butler or Johnson;
is that right?

A No, sir. I did not.

Q But bearing in mind the conditions of the

ballroom, the number of people. The fact that people were filling in taking seats, chatting with their neighbors, on the basis of what you saw, are you certain that they weren't there at the time you looked?

A I could not be certain.

Q After you sat yourself down and after Benjamin finished speaking, did there come a time that Malcolm X took the podium?

A Yes, sir.

Q And what happened after he took the podium?

A He gave a greeting and started a sentence or something and a fight broke out.

Q Where did this fight break out?

A On the left hand side of the bar room near the rear, the rear of the seats.

Q Could you see the -- what was happening?

A Yes, sir.

Q What did you see?

A Somebody was fighting.

Q Did you see how many people were fighting?

A No. I couldn't say how many.

Q Did you see the faces of the men who were

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fighting?

A No, sir. I stood up and some of the brothers went over to try to quite it off. There was enough of them so I sat down.

Q Then what happened?

A I heard a shot.

Q And what happened after you heard the shot?

A Wait a minute, what happened, Malcolm said something when he stepped out from behind the podium and said something on the mike, "Take it easy," or something to that effect and I heard a shot then lot of other shots.

Q Then what did you see?

A I saw some men down in the front approaching the stage.

Q Approximately how many men did you see?

A Four or five, hard to say.

Q And what were these men doing as they approached the stage?

A Shooting, I presume.

Q Did you see any guns in their hands?

A I couldn't find any.

Q You couldn't see any guns?

A No. I could only see smoke. You know because evidently

they were small,-- you know, but you could see smoke from where I was and you could hear the cracks and you could see the man reacting to something you know -- as it was happening.

Q Which man?

A Malcolm.

Q He was still standing at that time?

A Yes. He stood. He stood even after the first one.

Q You're indicating that he clutched his chest?

A Yes. And then these fellows were approaching the stage -- pam pam pam like that, and he stood, and after a while -- he drops.

Q And after he dropped they continued to approach the stage; is that right?

A I couldn't see. The people stood up and there were a hundred of people between me and the stage and I'm kind of short. I couldn't see whether they were still approaching or what.

Q What about the odds but the firing did not stop?

A What was that?

Q The firing did continue?

A Yes. It did.

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Q Now, you don't know actual how many men were firing at the stage; is that correct?

A No. I don't.

Q But you know it was more than one; is that right?

A Yes, sir.

Q And you know you saw these men advancing toward the stage. You did hear firing coming from the direction of the stage; is that right?

A Yes. I did.

Q Did you see where these men went after you lost sight of them as you described or did you just loose sight of them?

A I lost sight of them when the crowd stood.

Q Now, up until the last glimpse that you had of them rather as they walked up the stage, you saw their back; is that correct?

A Yes, sir. I did.

Q You didn't see their faces; is that right?

A No, sir.

Q You don't know who these men are; is that right?

A No. I don't.

Q You do not know if they were Butler or Johnson; is that right?

A I do not.

Q And you do not know if they were not Butler or Johnson?

A I do not.

Q In addition to the crowd interfering with your vision, did there come a time when one of the people in the audience running, knocked you down, interfere with you?

A Yes, sir. That did happen.

Q MR. STERN: Are there any questions from the Grand Jury?

BY MR. STERN:

Q Now, you mentioned that there was somebody seated in the audience which caused you to look around; is that correct?

A Yes, sir.

Q Do you know who that was?

A Not previously but I was told his name afterwards.

Q What name were you told?

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A His name was Lemon. I don't know the last name.

Q I mention the word Cafcart, Lynwood Cafcart.

A I never knew anybody told me that.

Q What happened after he was noticed in the audience?

A He was asked to come out of the audience and to the back and he was questioned. I walked up and they were in the process of questioning him then I left and he was seated.

Q Was he searched while you were there?

A Not while I was there.

Q Now, after all the shooting had finished, did there come a time when you approached the stage?

A Yes, sir. I did.

Q And at that time did you see Lynwood Cafcart still there?

A No. I did not. I didn't notice.

MR. STERN: Are there any other questions from the Grand Jury. Thank you very much Mr. Savage.

(WITNESS EXCUSED)