

Statement of: Davis Platt  
Made to: Herbert J. Stern, ADA  
Stenographer: Dennis Sheehan  
Place: CO's Office, 34th Pct.  
Date: February 21, 1965 10:20 P.M.  
Present: Det. J. Keely, #1568, MHN  
Det. W. Confrey, #2161, MHN  
Det. F. Cavallero, #34th Sqd.

\*\*\*\*\*  
BY MR. STERN:

Q What is your name?

A Davis Platt.

Q Where do you live?

A 240 East 24th Street.

Q Mr. Platt, did there come a time today you went

to the Audubon Ballroom here in New York County to hear  
Malcolm X speak?

A I visited the Audubon Hall today, yes.

Q About what time did you get there?

A About 2:30 p.m.

Q Was there a time when you got into the hall  
and sat down?

A That is so.

Q Where did you sit yourself at that time?

A I sat in the very front row of the right hand  
bank of seats near the podium.

Q So that you were in the first row of seats, is

that correct?

A That is right.

Q When you sat down was anybody speaking at the podium?

A Yes.

Q Was Malcolm X on the stage at that time?

A No sir.

Q While the man at the podium was speaking did Malcolm X come on the stage?

A Yes.

Q Did he sit down?

A Yes.

Q Where did he seat himself?

A He sat behind the speaker in one of several chairs there.

Q Was that about 3:00 p.m. or a little before?

A I think about three minutes to three.

Q What happened after Malcolm X sat down?

A The speaker brought his remarks rather suddenly, rather soon to a close and introduced Malcolm X.

Q Did Malcolm X come to the podium?

A He did.

Q What happened? Did he say anything?

A By the way, I would like the record to note the time as closely as I can ascertain it. Malcolm X came to

the podium about four minutes after three. Some people say it was later. It was not.

Q What, if anything, did he say when he got to the podium?

A He said salaam aleikum.

Q Then what happened?

A The crowd answered back a reply. Many of the crowd replied similarly I suppose.

Q Then what happened?

A Then there was a disorder in the back of the room. I heard voices of argument, voices in argument. Turning I saw two men dart, dash toward the stage through the center aisle. They stood or crouched, I'm not sure which, right beside the podium.

Q Right in front of the podium?

A Slightly to the right of the podium, to get a better aim I suppose at Malcolm X and shoot him apparently. I heard shots. They appeared to be shooting guns.

Q Did you see any guns in their hands?

A I confess I do not remember seeing guns.

Q Did you see any gun flashes coming from either of the men?

A I do not remember gun flashes.

Q But you did hear gunfire?

A I heard gunfire and I saw Malcolm drop instantly.

Q Did you hear the gunfire apparently come from these two crouched men?

A Yes.

Q What, if anything --.

A It definitely came from the direction in front of me, the sound of gunfire.

Q What did these two crouched men do then?

A These men who may have been crouched.

Q What do you mean may have been crouched?

A I would think they were short men. I'm not positive they crouched. Yes, they did crouch. I do remember clearly they crouched.

Q What did they do after that?

A They quickly turned around and returned as they had come through the center aisle.

Q Ran up the center aisle?

A They ran toward the exit, away from the stage, along the center aisle.

Q When they ran up the center aisle did you see any guns in their hands at that time?

A I'm sorry I cannot say I have seen any guns in their hands.

Q At any time?

A No.

Q What happened after they ran up the center aisle?



A You mean after they ran away?

Q Yes.

A As they were running down the aisle other gunfire rang out. I believe I heard gunfire either before they turned around or after they stopped I believe gunfire began from the rear of the room but I'm not sure. As they ran to the rear other gunfire rang out apparently from different places in the rear of the room and most of the people in the room, especially the women, were shrieking and most of the people lay flat.

Q They ducked down?

A They appeared to be prepared for something of this kind.

Q Did there come a time you went to Bellevue Hospital?

A Yes, I went this afternoon.

Q With some detectives?

A Taken there by detectives at their request.

Q Were you thereat shown a Thomas Hagan?

A I was shown a man who said he was Thomas Hagan, yes.

Q Had you ever seen that man before?

A This man seemed to resemble closely one of the two men I saw crouched in front of Malcolm.

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-- 10:27 P.M. --



# District Attorney's Office

COUNTY OF NEW YORK

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March 4, 1965-

Davis Platt-

Grand Jury  
appearance-



Platt

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DAVIS PLATT, called as a witness,  
having first been duly sworn, testified as  
follows:

BY MR. STERN:

Q What is your name, sir?

A My name is Davis Platt.

Q Where do you reside?

A I reside at 240 East 24th Street in Manhattan.

Q What do you do for a living, Mr. Platt?

A I'm associated with WMCA radio, and I'm also a teacher.

Q Now, Mr. Platt, I direct your attention  
to February 21, 1965, a Sunday, and on that day did  
there come a time that you went to the Audubon Ballroom  
located here in New York County to hear Malcolm X speak?

A Yes, sir.

Q And on that occasion--withdrawn.

When you got to the ballroom where did you seat yourself?  
Which row?

A I was led to a seat in the very front row on the  
right-hand side.

Q Now, as you sat there did there come

Platt

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a time when Malcolm X took the podium to speak?

A Yes, sir.

Q When Malcolm X came to the podium did he say anything?

A Yes, sir.

Q What did he say?

A He said, "Salaam Aleikem."

Q Then what happened?

A And then the crowd responded with--I later found that it was the same thing turned around. This means God be with you in Arabic.

Q After this salutation what happened?

Did you hear any disorder?

A There was a disorder immediately.

Q Was it to the rear of you?

A It was to the rear of me.

Q After you heard this disorder to the rear, what did you next see?

A After I heard the disorder I turned my head to see where it was coming from, and I noticed people standing up and craning their necks. There were loud voices in the

Platt

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rear, and almost immediately two men who seemed of short stature to me raced forward through the center aisle

directly heading--heading directly to the podium behind which Malcolm had just begun to speak.

Q And what, if anything, did you see these two men do?

A These men took a position beneath the podium, slightly to the right of it, it seemed to me, and they seemed to crouch and they seemed to shoot Malcolm, both of them.

Q When you say they seemed to shoot him, did you see any guns in their hands?

A I do not remember seeing guns.

Q What sort of position--

A They took crouching positions.

Q Were their arms extended?

A I do not remember where their arms were. It seems to me they took positions one would normally take to shoot.

Q As they crouched there did you hear any gunfire?

A Yes.

Platt

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Q Where did the gunfire seem to come from?

A It seemed to come from them.

Q Did anything happen to Malcolm X after you heard the gunfire?

A He toppled over immediately behind, directly backwards.

Q After you heard and saw that what did these two men do?

A These two men almost immediately turned around and went back in the same direction from which they had come.

Q Towards--

A Towards the exit, the principal exit or entrance to the ballroom, at the rear of the ballroom.

Q That was the last that you saw of them in the Audubon Ballroom; is that correct?

A That is correct.

Q Now, Mr. Platt, I show you these three photographs which have been marked Grand Jury Exhibit

Number 1, 2 and 3, and I ask you if you can recognize any of the men portrayed in those photographs?

Platt

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A This picture seems to be of the man, of one of the two men who raced forward to the podium. This is a man in bed.

Q You are referring, now, to Grand Jury Exhibit Number 2; is that correct, Mr. Platt?

A Exhibit Number 2, yes.

Q Now, you say that this seems to be--

A Yes, he bears a close resemblance, as I remember it, to one of the two men who raced forward in that room.

Q Do you recognize any of the other men portrayed in those photographs?

A This picture, Exhibit 1, I do not recognize that face. This one, Exhibit 3, also seems to be one of the two men who raced forward in that room. I'm not as sure of this one as I am of the other, and I wish I could swear but I cannot swear they are the men.

Q They--

A They seem to resemble, yes.

Q Now, Mr. Platt, are there other details about these events that you haven't testified to because

Platt

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you haven't been asked questions about them?

A That's correct, sir, many.

MR. STERN: Are there any questions  
from the grand jury?

Thank you very much, Mr. Platt.

THE FOREMAN: Thank you, Mr. Platt.

(Witness excused.)



Saw Hagan in Hospital -  
Closely resembles one of the two men.  
But not positive.

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY OF NEW YORK  
NEW YORK, N. Y., 10013



David Platt

240 E. 24 St

NY 10

OR 9-1554

WMCA-Radio -

Arrived at home about 2:30 PM.

Saw in front row - right back

man speaking. At about 3pm, or a little before, I came on stage through a door on stage left and saw down on a chair behind podium this speaker introduced himself. I heard him say Shalom Alekhem, Crawled behind podium. Disturbance in back of room. We turned. Shouting, some song of lamentation. Saw 2 men run down aisle. Knocked directly in front of podium. Saw both crawl. Didn't see guns or flesh, but heard the gunfire - heard it coming from the 2 men, heard 4-6 shots. Then other gunfire from all over the rear of the room.

Both men quickly turned and ran back up the center aisle  
(area)

04.26, 1966

Int →

# Malcolm X

Mr Platt

Before the Mayflower

Mischow Bookstore

DOA

Dr Brewer W 117<sup>th</sup> - Bway

Barber on 125<sup>th</sup> Freddie Barnett near Madison Ave - AT 125<sup>th</sup> + 1<sup>st</sup> Ave went to buy a book. Mr Mischow, in bookstore invited him to the Meeting at the Audubon Ballroom. I arrived on or about ~~5~~<sup>3:30 PM</sup> I have been connected with WMCA radio. I was recognized by Gene Simpson - And I went with him to the front row, to the right, when I sat down there were several white persons were seated in front row Goodman was speaking and seemed to be killing time. Malcolm came through a side door with a brief case Goodman then left And Malcolm took over. I became aware of a commotion to the rear of the room, behind me, I looked around And I saw two men short running toward the stage, in a crouching position one was slightly behind the other, both were dressed in non descript clothing, they were negro's, they ran down the center aisle, they ran to podium And in a crouch And fired guns, they were light skinned people then began to run. I saw the faces of the two men, has a connection with the 5% ~~what?~~ how? who arraigned the meeting? what type of instructions given to 5%?

How was he introduced to members of the 5%?  
By whom?

What instructions do he give the 5%?

What connection with MR. Mischev. from bookshop?

He stated that Malcolm was standing when the two arrived at the stage, and began shooting.

Has he been shown a picture of Johnson?