

Peris - msh - 0X5-5260

'home - ~~804~~ AD4-2321

[right side,
inside of
folder]

March 10, 1965

John D Davis
746 St Nick Ave
AD 4-2321

Per ²⁰ EXHIBIT
N.Y. SUPREME CT. FILE NO.
FEB 2 1965 (342)
MURRAY DEUTSCH
OFFICIAL STENOGRAPHER

In charge of front Restroom
Guards. 9 front Guards. 4 on
each Shift - 1/2 hr. - one
permanent in Booth.

names given to police.

Blackwell and Robert 35X
on duty together.

4 on at one time.

2 in front of Stage, 2 in front of
side doors.

Blackwell Stage right,
35X Stage left - (As you face it on
the stage)

W was behind the back
booths. Signal Guards when to
move up.

Wida Malcolm X about
1 year - since in Sp. of.

Designate Guards duty
by day.

John 57X Gray and
wife in Bathroom.

John was a front Guard,
by wife. Different Shift
from Black R 35X

10 to 2 four guards.
Robert 354, Blockhead, Albert
and Carney took front position
Guards too few on
because Malcolm arrived early.
Went to the dressing room
2:30 Guards Change.

Cecie and Jean, Fred Jones
and ^{George of the} ~~other picture~~ relieved front
four. Stewart in Box #3
all the time

Bryan in Breathing
Guards Changed again at
3 to the original group. W
Signed all the changes.

Mr walked on stage.
~~They~~ heard him say
Salam Aleikum. Knew it.
(Brother ABE in Charge
of Workers)

heard chairs moving,
ruffling, loaded, and
load shots, saw MX face.
Crawled we moving around.
W checked.

W ran behind better Booth.
I looked around it.

Saw lot of people
running and saw Keyser
running up steps with
a gun. heard shooting and
ducked. Shooting from his
area.

Then we ran down
stairs. H already in forest
in front of door on his back
on ground. looked in his face.
Saw someone Tony on his
back.

Whole crowd of people
in the Street.

Ruben X was in overall
change of Security.

John told W that he
had thrown a chair at H.
and that H had fired at him.

2nd 3/10/65-

John Dewey Davis

AD4-2321

9 men for front guard - including
Robert 35X -

Brother Ali - in charge - ushers -

(James & Livingston - had ^{only} been sent to kill)
malcolm x

James Shebazz, Ruben X,
Brother Livingston (Leekmon) (full face
beard) Robert 35X, Brother Ali - (w.m. 6'4")
Charles (37X), John 57X. Grey -

John 57X bet. 2Y2³⁰

Feb 12 at Hotel Theresa -
Ruben, James, etc. -

Ruben & James said those couldn't be -
done - no search - (no word from mum)

Recognizes - Alvin Karpis & Linwood
X as attending prev. mtg - not sure
of Sunday - N.Y. -

10⁵⁰ AM - 3/12/65

Alie Taylor

97-06 Northern Blvd, Lns -

H1-6-1516

Emp. - Savoy Gallery
18 E. 50 St. -

Joined Malcolm's movement June, 64
impressed by his new ideas -

Dec. 1964 - became head usher -

Brother John D. Davis head security -

James Cox & Puckett overall security

head - turned collection to prisoners

arrived on 2/2/65 - at about 12³⁰ PM -

Brother Puckett was setting up security -

At front door awaiting Malcolm, went out
to car - upstairs Malcolm to stage
door -

2⁰⁷⁴ Brother Wallace at upstairs door -

" Brother Leonard at downstairs -

2⁰⁷⁵ Brother Dow upstairs -

" Unknown downstairs -

(Puckett took care of that, wanted a
Muslim)

Two new ushers joined on Tues-
day, 16, unknown -

1 - M-N-5-6-190 - dk. grey. (poss.) med.
brown - 23-24 yrs. - (well dressed) -

2. - M-N-5-10-175 - (well dressed) -

Reporters not allowed to sit up
front - (orders from top level - Brother
Ruben escorted reporters)

~~That~~
Pitcher of water on entrance table for
dus, he got it for Jack -

saw disturbance, two men standing
arguing, Phil D. mentioned that
he would take care of it, started
in that direction - turned away -
heard a loud report - ^{heard} saw a
started toward front - saw people
standing - men up front area
with guns - 3 men -
seems like they were firing - 2
of them - one ran back was
grabbed on left side of room -
gun knocked out of his hand
(fat man - poss. - Phila.) - man
on other side coming back to

wards man on left - doesn't know
for sure where 3 man went -

Man running out - no gun - pass-
ing brother - going - went out door
went door downstairs - saw man
on ground with crowd -

Brother John DX - Brother Rader -

room 603-DA office Wed - 3-10-65 - 2¹⁵ P.M.

John Dewey Davis Jr. HU 34 (John DX)
746 St Nicholas Av (60) AD 42321

Ex. EXHIBIT 21
N.Y. SUPREME CT
FOR 10.
FEB 2 1966
(2 sheets)
MURRAY DEUTSCH
OFFICIAL STENOGRAPHER

— Abe, Brother, know about a disturbance per

— on 2-21-65 I was assigned to supervise front guard.

— guard changed every 1/2 hour on 1/2 hr. & hr.

had 9 guards.

during shorty - front 2 seats Charles Blackburn
a 1st wife Robert 35x (he wasn't at too many recent meetings)

Jim Schiflet was leading org when machine was away
Reuben Francis was the one I would report to

Brother Abe was in charge of ushers.

A clerk that found (James 67x, Reuben, Lukemon AKA Langston
full face beard) Robert 35x, ^{Smith} Brother William 64x AKA Ali;

John 37x Gray was there at audition - He was with Reuben Francis
He came in through door with his wife. He came in between 2 + 2³⁰

PM

Chas 37x Morris was then seated both 46 & 48.

{ at a meeting at Hotel Thorne - Fri 2-12-65

Reuben + most Brother + James 67x - at meeting

James 67x stated people qualified to search people at meeting
wouldn't be feasible due to most people qualified having
other things to do. I suggested give the lower booking we
do search. Reuben 1st said they couldn't then James said above!

— James 67x + Langston were in mosque 7 + it's under Capt James.

— Eric Phillips was not ballroom - is

Arnon Wright (48th Lamont Ave Phila Barbashy)

John + Edward (250 lbs.)

seated in left side chair adjacent to booth 17, 19.

Cardenas

D. John D+ 3-10-65

Saw Hayer running up left side in F/O Booth
toward rear exit with a gun in his hand. A short
while later I came out from behind pole where I was
partially hidden, + ran down stairs + saw Hayer
apprehended with the police. He did not have a gun at the
time. I don't know what kind of gun it was he had while
fleeing. I heard shots when Hayer ran past exit
but I don't know if Hayer was shooting.

Carroll

3/11/65

District Attorney's Office
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

Indicates he
saw a small
handcled sugar
type pe toe on
stage -
one of brother
pick it up wrapped
in coat, drop it
off and pick it
up again.
Doesn't
know who.

Per. ~~EXHIBIT 19~~
~~NY SUPREME CT.~~

FOR ID. (12 pp.)

FEB 2 1966

Davis-7

257

MURRAY DEUTSCH
OFFICIAL STENOGRAPHER

J O H N D A V I S, called a s a witness, being
duly affirmed, testified as follows:

BY MR. STERN:

Q What is your name, please?

A John Davis.

Q And where do you live, Mr. Davis?

A 746 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York.

Q Now, Mr. Davis, prior to February 21, 1965,
were you a member of Malcolm X's OAS organization?

A OAAU, yes.

Q I am sorry, OAAU, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q And for how long have you been in this
group?

A Approximately one year.

Q Now directing your attention to February 21,
1965, a Sunday, did there come a time that you went to
the Audubon Ballroom, here in New York County?

A Yes.

Q Was that in connection with the speech by
Malcolm X?

A That's right.

Q Did you have any special function at this meeting?

A Yes.

Q What was your assignment?

A I was in charge of the front rostrum guards.

Q Who had given you that assignment?

A Brother Reubin.

Q Reuben X, otherwise --

A Reubin Francis, yes.

Q Now, how many front rostrum guards were there that day?

A Nine.

Q Now, in addition to the front rostrum guards, were there other guards also?

A Ushers.

Q Ushers?

A Yes.

Q And who was in charge of the ushers?

A A gentleman by the name of Abe, last name I don't know.

Q Now, what were the positions of the front rostrum guards?

A Two directly in front of the stage, one on each side in front of the exits.

Q And one was in the booth?

A And one sitting in the booth permanently, yes.

Q And how long would;the front rostrum guards stand duty?

A A half hour.

Q Then the'd be off for a half hour?

A Right.

Q That counts for the nine guards?

A Right.

Q Four on duty in front one time, four off duty, and one always in the front booth?

A That's the way it was this week, yes.

Q Now, among the front rostrum guards was there a Charles Blackwell?

A Yes.

Q And also a Robert 35X?

A Yes.

Q Now, exactly what was Charles Blackwell's assignment, what was his position?

A Facing the stage. He was stage-left.

Q You mean --

A Facing the stage, he was on my left.

Q If he stood in the audience and faced the stage, he'd be on your left?

A Right.

Q And Robert 35X?

A On the right.

Q And those two were the ones directly in front of the stage?

A Right, that's right.

Q And there were two others to the sides of them?

A That's right.

Q What time was it that you signalled the first shift of guards to take their positions?

A The first shift to take their positions?

Q Yes.

A Ten minutes to two.

Q And was there any particular reason why you set that time?

A Yes, because usually it is 2 o'clock when the men are supposed to start, but because Brother Malcolm arrived early, and he was in the dressing room to the right of the stage, looking to the stage, I put the

Davis-11

261

guards on, since he was already in the audience -- I mean in the hall.

Q And what was your position in the hall?

A I was in the rear of the ballroom, behind the rear booth?

Q And from that position you signalled the guards when to take their stand, and when to be relieved?

A I would signal the guards that were to come to relieve them, go up front and relieve the guards, yes.

Q Now, in reference to the designation of the guards, were the guards fixed, were they always the same, or designated day by day, as people would arrive?

A That's right, as people would arrive.

Q And were you among those in charge of selecting the men to be guards?

A That day, yes.

Q Now, you state that approximately ten minutes to two you posted your first guards, is that right?

A That's right.

Q And in that first group of guards was there Charles Blackwell and Robert 35X?

A Right.

Davis-12

Q And they took the positions that you describe?

A That's right.

Q And for how long did they stand in those positions?

A Till 2:30.

Q And that time you signalled the relief to move up?

A Right/.

Q And then once again at 3 o'clock you signalled for the change of guards?

A That's right, yes.

Q And at that time did Charles Blackwell and Robert 35X take the same positions they had at 2 o'clock?

A They did.

Q And at this time, or rather, shortly after that time, did Malcolm X get up to speak?

A Yes, maybe three minutes later.

Q And what happened after Malcolm X got up to speak?

A Well, I heard a commotion to the left of the

auditorium, looking to the stage again. I heard Malcolm say "hold it," then I heard a lot of shots and I saw him fall.

Q Could you see who was shooting?

A No, I couldn't see who was shooting, so many people were standing up at the first shot.

Q What did you do after you heard the shots?

A After getting over the initial shock, I ducked.

Q And then what did you do?

A Then I went to a position right next to the exit, because there was a post that comes out a little bit from the wall, and I stood there.

Q You placed yourself behind that post for cover?

A Next to the wall, yes, and up again after.

Q After?

A After I peeped out.

Q After you peeped out, what did you see?

A Well, I saw that fellow later been identified as Hagan coming up the aisle with a pistol in his hand. He fired a shot at someone.

Q Did you see him fire the shot?

A I heard him fire. I saw somebody coming up the aisle. He has this thing in his hand. I hear a shot from the same proximity, the place where he was. I took it for granted it was he.

Q You say you think. Did you see a gun in his hand?

A Yes, I saw a gun in his hand. And when I see the gun, naturally, I put my head back in again.

Q You ducked back again?

A Yes.

Q And at the time you saw Hagan running, were there other people running in the aisles?

A Everybody was running, jumping, hopping, screaming, carrying on.

Q And you ducked back behind the post. Did there come a time that you ran down the stairs?

A Yes, about ten seconds later I followed him down the stairs, me and a bunch of other people, naturally, and next time I see him, he is right in front of the auditorium in the hands of a crowd and the police.

Q You indicate this man as Hagan?

A Yes.

Q What position did you see him in when you saw him downstairs?

A Well, he was with his back to the ground. His hands were being held by the police and our people, and he is grimacing, trying to get away.

Q You are indicating he is flat on his back, on the pavement?

A Well, almost flat.

Q He is struggling?

A Yes, but his face was up toward me.

Q You could see his features?

A Yes,;right in the face.

Q Is that the same man you saw running up the aisle with the gun in his hand?

A Yes.

Q Did you see anything the crowd was doing?

A Well, I saw one fellow stomp on his ankle.

Q Now I direct your attention to the group of photographs labeled Grand Jury Exhibits 1 through 4, on the table in front of you, and ask you if you could identify among those pictures the man you saw running up the aisle with the gun in his hand, and later again in the hands

Davis-16

of the crowd, as you describe him?

A The fellow in the bed, yes, this one here.

Q And you are now indicating the photograph labeled Grand Jury Exhibit 2. Well, if you were the man in charge of the front, rostrum guards, and the man you described as Brother Abe was in charge of the ushers, which would be the rear guard -- is that correct?

A Yes. Well, not really guards, because these would be the less experience members of the OAEU, and as far as security and order, they would be used to direct people to seats, and pick up collections, and that sort of thing.

Q Who was in overall charge of security, then?

A Reubin, Reubin Francis.

Q Did you have any weapon on you at the time?

A No, I didn't.

Q Of your own personal knowledge, did you see any of the guards under your control and supervision with any pistols in their hands?

A No.

Q Other than the pistol you saw in the hand of Hagan, the man that you have indicated in that photograph,

did there come a time when you saw another pistol in the premises?

A Yes.

Q When was that?

A On the platform, after I had gone downstairs, come back upstairs, and they were working over Malcolm, with artificial respiration.

Q As you approached the body of Malcolm X, as he lay on the stage?

A That's right. I approached the stage, it being elevated, then it looked like there was a coat on the stage, on top of this pistol, and somebody directed somebody to pick this thing up, and so much confusion, I don't know who these people are, they tried to pick it up, and it fell on the floor, and they picked it up again.

Q And did you see the pistol when it fell on the floor?

A Yes.

Q What did it look like?

A It looked like a Luger, with a pink handle.

Q A pink handled Luger?

A Yes.

Q You testified that Blackwell and Robert 35X
were up front, directly facing the audience, is that
correct?

A Right.

Q And their position and their assignment was
to stand in front of the stage, and facing the audience?

A That's right.

Q And you also indicate there were two other
guards, also standing in the front, facing the audience?

A No, not really facing the audience. They were facing
like this one standing here, looking this way, one
standing here, looking this way, but with your eye on
the audience, more or less.

Q And who were those two guards at the time
Malcolm X was shot?

A Men known as Brother Albert and Brother Carney.

MR. STERN: Thank you very much, Mr.
Davis.

(WITNESS EXCUSED)

District Attorney's Office
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

John Davis

B # 330717

8/5/53. Accessory after the
fact. reduced to moving
a dead human body.
no disposition.

He says he got 3 months
SS.

5-5-53

John Pais.

Saw Hayer running with gun
in hand.

Gene told him he threw a chair
at Hayer and that Hayer fired at
him.

Cross of Davis (John) by Sabbath

He did not lose sight of men with gun (By the way)
Then he says he was there looking for a few seconds

He did not see anyone shoot anyone.