

PEOPLE v. JOHN DOE, et al.

March 11, 1965.

Before:

A QUORUM OF THE THIRD MARCH 1965

GRAND JURY

Presented by:

HERBERT STERN, Esq.

Assistant District Attorney

MORTIMER SOLOMON
Official Grand Jury Reporter

ANGELA PLASKETT, called as a witness,

being duly sworn, testified as follows:

BY MR. STERN:

Q What is your name, please?

A Angela Plaskett.

Q Now, would you speak up real loud so
everybody can hear you. And where do you live, Miss
Plaskett?

A 45 West 132nd Street.

Q Are you employed?

A Yes.

Q In what capacity?

A New York Telephone Company, teller.

Q Now, Miss Plaskett, I direct your attention to Sunday, February 21, 1965. Did there come a time on that day when you went to the Audubon Ballroom here in New York County to hear Malcolm X speak.

A Yes, that's right.

Q And on that occasion, when you seated yourself, did you seat yourself in one of the booths to the left, as you face the stage?

A I did.

Q And who was in the booth with you at that time?

A Well, when I got there, there was no one there. I got there very early. And then I saw Mrs. Kachlana coming in, and she was going to a seat in the aisle, and I beckoned to her, and she and her son together.

Q That's William Kachlana?

A I know him as ~~HE~~ Billy.

Q Now, as you at that time sat there, did there come a time when Malcolm X got to the stage, and eventually approached the podium and began to speak?

A Yes.

Q And did something happen then?

Plaskett-3

A Well, he came on the stage and he greeted the audience, and they responded. And he was getting his papers, you know, to go to put it on the podium, and a man jumped up, he was sitting almost directly across from where we were sitting. He said, "Take your hand out of my pocket," and we turned to see, you know, to look at the disturbance, and as we turned, simultaneously there was a shot.

Q From which direction did the shot come?

A The shot came from the front.

Q Did you turn toward the shot?

A Yes.

Q What did you see when you turned toward the shot?

A When I turned toward the front, there was a man standing in the aisle. He was standing between the first row of seats and the head of the platform.

Q How many men did you see standing there?

A There was one man standing in the aisle, and there was another man standing, he might have been in the second or third row to the right of this man.

Q And what were these men doing?

A

A They -- they were shooting.

Q You saw them shooting, and where were they shooting at?

A Well, they were shooting directly at Malcolm.

Q So in all you saw three men then, one standing, after you heard "get your hand out of my pocket," then the shot, and you turned to the front, and you saw two other men standing and shooting at Malcolm

X, is that right?

A Right.

Q Now, did you see the faces of any of these men?

A Well, I saw the face of the man who stood up to say "take your hand out of my pocket," but I didn't see the face of the other two men, because I saw just the back. They were facing toward the front and I was in back of them.

Q Now, I direct your attention to the photographs on the table before you, which have been labeled Grand Jury Exhibits 1, 2, 3, and 4, and I ask you whether or not you recognize, or have ever seen any of the men portrayed in those photographs?

A No, I have never seen them. I don't recognize them

at all.

Q Now, in reference to the man who you saw standing, after you heard the phrase "get your hand out of my pocket," can you tell whether or not any of the men portrayed in those photographs is that man that you saw?

A No, I couldn't say that it was, no.

Q Can you say that none of the men in these photographs is the man that you saw standing?

A I can't say that.

Q In other words, you don't remember what he looks like?

A I am not sure. I really can't say nothing. I am sorry.

Q In other words, you do not know whether any of those men is the man, and on the other hand, you cannot say that not any one of those -- I withdraw that. In other words, you cannot identify one of these men as being there? A No, I can't.

Q On the other hand, you can't positively say that none of the men portrayed in those photographs is the man, neither, is that right?

A That's right.

Q Now, after you saw the two men firing at Malcolm X on the stage, what did you do?

A I sat there a while, because I said that he must be kidding, it just didn't seem real, and then I realized that they weren't kidding, and so I got out of the booth.

Q And you stayed under cover until the shooting had stopped?

A Yes.

Q And by the time you got up, the whole crowd was milling around?

A Actually, the crowd wasn't milling around. Everyone was trying to get out, because while I was under the booth, all you could hear was chairs falling and people running, so there wasn't really a crowd.

MR. STERN: Are there any questions by the grand jury? Thank you very much.

(WITNESS EXCUSED)