AT 44-880

WILLIE D. LATIMER was interviewed on June 5, 1958, at which time he furnished the following signed statement:

"

Dawson, Georgia
June 5, 1958

"I, WILLIE D_ LATIMER, make the following free and voluntary statement to HENRY L. BURGETT and JAMES J. WARD who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. I realize I do not have to make a statement and that any statement I do make may be used in a court of law. I have been advised of my right to consult an attorney. No threats or promises have been made to me in order to obtain this statement.

"I am 45 years of age, having been born May 12, 1913 at Terrell County, Georgia. I reside at 401 East Second Avenue, Dawson, Georgia, with my mother, LULA SESSION, at the present time. I own my own home at 312 South Orange Street, Dawson.

"On Friday, May 23, 1958, I was having a party, at my home on South Orange Street, with a group of my friends. We had some moonshine liquor at the party.

"At about 10:30 PM, Officers CHERRY and CHAPMAN of the Dawson Police Department came to my home. They entered through the front door. When I saw the police come in the house, I ran out of the front door with a quart jar of moonshine liquor I had been holding. As I started out of the house, Officer CHERRY started running after me. I believe he told me to stop but I don't recall definitely that he did.

"When I ran out of my house, I started toward my brothers house which is about 40 yards from mine on Orange Street. When I got close to my brothers house I stumbled and fell. I was still holding the moonshine liquor. As I fell, I crawled toward my brothers house and got my body half way under the house. At this time Officer CHERRY was standing right over me, and he told me if I busted the jug he was going to shoot me. I busted the jug, and Officer CHERRY shot me. I was lying on my stomach and Officer CHERRY shot me in the buttocks.

"Officer CHERRY said nothing to me prior to telling me he was going to shoot me, nor did he say anything to me immediately after shooting me.

"After Officer CHERRY shot me, two colored fellows got me out from underneath my brother's house and put me in the police car. I was then taken to the Terrell County, Georgia Hospital.

"On Saturday evening, May 24, 1958, the bullet was removed from the upper thigh of my left leg. On Sunday, May 25, 1958, I was removed from the hospital and taken to the Terrell County Jail. I told the officer who came to the hospital, Officer HAROLD JONES, that the doctor hadn't dismissed me from the hospital. I told him I couldn't walk. JONES asked me if I was going to pay the bill. I told him I wasn't.

"On Monday, May 26, 1958, I was supposed to go to Mayor's Court, but being unable to walk I was allowed to remain in jail. Later that day my brother, CECIL, found out that I had a $25.00 cash bond to appear in Mayor's Court and that I had a $200.00 bond to county court. My brother arranged to have the bonds posted and I was released from jail the next day. I do not know what charges were placed against me by the police.

"I wish to state that while I was still under the house after Officer CHERRY shot me, I heard CHERRY remark that 'TOBE should know he couldn't take my gun away from me.'

"I wish to state further that Officer CHAPMAN took no part in chasing me, was not at the scene when I was shot and did not see me until I was being taken to the police car.

I have had the foregoing statement of fore pages inclouding this page read to me and it is true and correct.

/s/ WILLIE D LATIMER

"Witnessed: HENRY L. BURGETT, Special Agent, FBI, Atlanta, Ga. 6/5/58
JAMES J. WARD, Special Agent, FBI, Atlanta, Ga. 6/5/58"