

File No. 20-2524



Statement of Sheriff V. L. Peters  
Coosa County  
Rockford, Alabama  
Office Telephone 377-4922

Date: Friday, July 28, 1978  
Time: 11:30 a.m.  
Place: Coosa County Sheriff's Office, Rockford, Alabama  
By: Investigator J. H. Abbett, ABI, Alexander City, Alabama  
Lieutenant E. J. Gosdin, ABI, Opelika, Alabama

On Thursday, July 20, 1978 at approximately 5:40 p.m., I received a call by radio from the dispatcher at the Coosa County Jail stating to me to go to Alford's Grocery located on the Fishpond Road in Coosa County. At approximately 5:50 p.m. I arrived at Alford's Grocery Store and found that Avis Alford had been stabbed to death in the store. I came out of the store and had the store secured by a rope. I re-entered the store to look for any evidence. I left the store and walked outside, when Sergeant J. S. Boggs with the State Troopers called me over where him and some other people were standing. Sgt. Boggs and these people were standing in the parking lot on the northside of the store. Sgt. Boggs stated to me that I need to talk to these people or either these people wanted to talk to me. I saw a young white male (I later learned to be Tim Davis), a young white female (I later learned to be Tim Davis' wife), a white female (I later learned to be Tim Davis' Mother) and another white female whom I believe was Mrs. Neese, (I later learned to be Tim Davis' Grandmother). Tim Davis' Mother stated to me that her son, Tim, found the body (Mrs. Alford). Tim's mother told Tim to tell me what had happened. At this time Tim Davis told he that he (Tim) went into the store and found Mrs. Alford lying on the floor face down and that he (Tim) reached over and felt of her (Mrs. Alford) and saw that she (Mrs. Alford) was dead and then stated to me that he (Tim) panicked and run or left the store. Sgt. Boggs suggested to me go to the car and talk with Tim because the people starting to gather around to listen. Corporal Robert Gilliland and myself went to the Deputy car and started talking to Tim Davis. Tim Davis told me the same thing but also stated that he saw two Niggers walking up the road toward Alex City. Tim repeated the story to me and Corporal Gilliland again. I asked Tim where he was employed and Tim stated to me the Distribution Center. I asked Tim if the clothes he was wearing was the same clothes he had worked in that day and he stated to me that these were the clothes he had worked in. I stated to Tim that the clothes he was wearing were mighty clean to have worked in the Mill that day. Tim stated that I will tell you, I raised her up (Mrs. Alford) and got blood on me. Then I

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advised Tim Davis of his constitutional rights. Corporal Gilliland got out of the car before I advised Tim of his rights. I asked Tim the reason he (Tim) had changed clothes and Tim told me that his Mother said we might think he (Tim) had done it. Tim Davis was later transported to the Coosa County Jail in Rockford by Deputy Windsor where Tim was committed to the jail by orders of Judge Bobby Teel, who was also at the jail. Tim was locked up downstairs in a single cell.