

File No. 20-2524



Statement of Thomas Francis Hodges

W/M, DOB: 8/03/49, Age 29
 13B Tower Drive
 Savannah, Georgia
 Home Telephone: 912-232-5909
 Office Telephone: 912-352-9730
 Employed: Chatom County Juvenile Detention Center
 Title: Child Care Aide
 Date: Thursday, August 31, 1978
 Time: 1:35 p.m.
 Place: Chatom County Juvenile Detention Center,
 Savannah, Georgia
 By: Investigator J. H. Abbett, ABI, Alexander
 City, Alabama and Sheriff V. L. Peters,
 Coosa County, Rockford, Alabama

I have been employed as a child care aide at the Chatom County Juvenile Detention Center in Savannah, Georgia for approximately four months.

On Tuesday, 8/22/78, at approximately, time unknown, but I do know it was after supper, Tracey Bignault, who is being held in the Juvenile Detention Center came up to me in the gym and said that he (Tracey) had spoken to Tim Davis in a joking manner and told Tim that I had an uncle in Alabama who was a Senator and could probably help him out for the right amount of money. Tim Davis is being held in the Juvenile Detention Center and I have known him off and on for approximately three weeks. Tim left the center on one occasion and was put in the County Jail, but later brought back to the Center.



I told Tracey Bignault that we should not lead him on in such a manner because he may believe it and approach me about it. After talking with Tracey on Tuesday. I did not think about the conversation anymore. I was off the next two days, Wednesday and Thursday. I came back to work on Friday and worked Saturday and on Sunday, 8/27/78 I came into work at something after 10 o'clock and I was approached by Tracey Bignault and was told by Tracey that Tim Davis wanted to talk with me.

On this Sunday night 8/27/78 at approximately 12 midnight I went to Tim Davis' room. Tim told me that he (Tim) wanted to talk about things in general. Tim started talking to me about the case he (Tim) was involved in in Alabama. Tim told me more than once that he (Tim) did not kill the lady in Alabama. I told Tim to tell me what did happen. Tim told me that he (Tim) had gotten off of work at about 4:15 p.m. and came straight home on his motorcycle. When Tim got home a black kid who lived nearby came and borrowed his motorcycle. Tim stated to me that the black kid had the motorcycle for approximately 45 minutes and at approximately 5:05 p.m. the black kid brought the motorcycle back to his house and Tim stated that he (Tim) told his wife he was going to get some gas. Tim stated that he (Tim) went to a store to get gas for his motorcycle. When Tim got to the store he stated that when he (Tim) got inside the store he found her lying face down in the store. At this time Tim did not name the person. Tim stated that he picked up on her and then he (Tim) saw the blood and dropped her down and the blood got on his shoes and pants. He stated that he (Tim) panicked and left the store and went back home and told his wife what he had found. Tim stated that he was shaking so bad that his wife had to carry him back to the store in the car. Tim stated that when he got back to the store that the police were there and that the police put him in the back of the car and started questioning him. At this point Tim and I started talking about religion. Tim then ask me if I believed him and replied no. We started talking about religion again and then I told Tim I had to get back to the control room. Tim wanted to know why I did not believe him and I told Tim that I had worked in a prison for four months and that everyone always grabbed the Bible once they got caught. Tim then said Tracey told me you had an uncle in Alabama that might be able to help me out. I told Tim that if he weren't guilty he wouldn't be asking me about an uncle. I do not have an uncle in Alabama who is a Senator. Tim did not come right out and ask me if I had an uncle. AT this point Tim said "just between you and me Mr. Hodge, I did kill her." I sat back down on Tim's bed and told Tim to tell me just what

did happen. Tim told me that he went to the store and went inside and told the lady to give him the money from the cash register. Tim stated that the lady told him to wait a minute, I have some more in my purse. Tim stated to me that at this point he (Tim) wanted to give the money back and just leave the store. Instead he (Tim) killed her. I asked Tim if he stabbed the lady 17 times and Tim replied yes. I asked Tim if he was on drugs and why didn't he (Tim) just stab her once and Tim said he panicked. Tim told me that he had found the knife in his Grandmother's yard. Tim did not state to me what type of knife it was. Tim told me after he had robbed her and stabbed her that he ran out of the store. I asked Tim if he was also charged with Sodomy. Tim told me that he did that, that he wanted to make it look like rape. I asked Tim what she was wearing and Tim said pants and a blouse. Tim stated that he threw the knife in opposite direction from where he lived after coming out of the store. Tim told me that on the way home he took the money from the billfold and threw the billfold in the ditch, went a little further and placed the money in the ditch. Tim told me there was \$80.00 or \$90.00 in the billfold. Tim stated that he went home and returned back to the store with his wife. Tim told me that the lady that run the store was Alvis Alford. I was not sure of the last name and asked him to spell it.

After all the conversation Tim asked me if I thought my uncle could help him and I told him I would see him later that I had to get back to the control room.

Tim and I talked from approximately 12 midnight to 1:30 a.m. I did not promise Tim anything. Everything Tim told me was volunteered. No one else was present during our conversation.

This is a true statement to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: Thomas Francis Hodge
Date: 8/31/78, Thursday
Time: 2/45 p.m.

Witnesses: J. H. Abbett, ABI, Thursday, 8/31/78 2:45 p.m.
V. L. Peters, Sheriff