

9-20-1955

## Correspondence, Samuel Spencer, John C. Stennis, September 20, 1955

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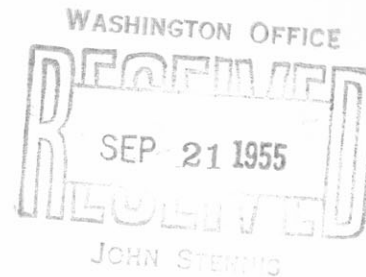


SAMUEL SPENCER  
PRESIDENT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON

September 20, 1955

Honorable John Stennis  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D.C.



My dear Senator Stennis:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 6, regarding the vicious attack which was made upon three young white boys of high school age from Mississippi by two unknown colored men on June 4, 1955, in the vicinity of 6th and K Streets, Northwest.

As you know, I have talked with Chief Murray on several occasions about this case and have told him of your interest in it. After receiving your letter I had a further discussion of it with him. He assured me that the police have made a most thorough investigation of this case, and have made every effort to apprehend the criminals. He also said that the police are in no way abating their efforts to solve this crime, and pointed out that not infrequently crimes of violence are solved many months after they occur by continuing, persistent police work.

I asked Chief Murray to have a thorough report of just what had been done in this case, and of its present status, made so that you could be fully informed with respect to it. I enclose a copy of this report by Captain Richard J. Felber of the Homicide Squad, together with the endorsements of Inspector Aubrey M. Tolson, Acting Chief of Detectives, and Chief Robert V. Murray. I believe that this report is self-explanatory.

I regret that the efforts of the police so far have not resulted in the apprehension of the persons committing this crime. I can assure you, however, that the police will continue their efforts in this case with unabated vigor.

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Hon. John Stennis (Cont.)

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Samuel Spencer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Samuel Spencer".

President  
Board of Commissioners, D.C.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

HOMICIDE SQUAD

September 14, 1955.

To: Robert V. Murray,  
Chief of Police.

Through: Aubrey M. Tolson, Inspector,  
Acting Chief of Detectives.

Subject: Assault committed on Wayne Leon Ashby, white, 19 years, RFD No. 1, Lyons, Mississippi, Morris Anderson, white, 18 years, Lula, Mississippi, and Frank Hudson, white, 16 years, Jonestown, Mississippi, about 1:50 A.M., June 4, 1955, in front of 1012 6th Street, Northwest, by two unknown colored men.

Sir:

In conjunction with Captain Alexander S. Douglass, Jr., Commanding Officer of the Second Precinct, the undersigned submits the following report in connection with the above-mentioned case.

A prompt and exhaustive investigation was begun immediately upon receipt of the first report of this assault and it has been continued, unabated, at the time of the compiling of this report, and shall continue until the guilty parties are arrested.

A telephonic report was received from Sibley Hospital about 2:00 A.M., June 4, 1955, to the effect that three men were in the Emergency Room of the hospital receiving treatment for cuts and stab wounds, which they allegedly received in an altercation on the street, in the vicinity of Sixth and K Streets, Northwest, a short time before.

Scout Car No. 21, manned by two uniformed officers from the Second Precinct, was dispatched to Sibley Hospital immediately and the following report was obtained:

About 1:50 A.M., June 4, 1955, Wayne Leon Ashby, white, 19 years, RFD No. 1, Lyons, Mississippi, Morris Anderson, white, 18 years, Lula, Mississippi, Frank Hudson, white, 16 years, Jonestown, Mississippi, Frank Lee, yellow, 18 years, Lula, Mississippi, and Wesley Foster, white, 18 years, Lula, Mississippi, while walking north in the 1000 block of Sixth Street, Northwest, were met by two young colored men, walking south on Sixth Street. When in front of 1012 Sixth Street, one of this group accidentally bumped into the two unknown colored men, which resulted in an argument and altercation in which Wayne Leon Ashby was stabbed in the lower abdomen; Frank Hudson was stabbed in the left side of the back and Morris Anderson was stabbed in the left side of the back, by knives held in the hands of the two colored men. Ashby, Hudson and Anderson were taken by their companions to Sibley Hospital in an unknown taxicab.

Members of the Homicide Squad also interviewed each of the complainants and it was learned that on June 4, 1955, Wayne Leon Ashby and the other four boys mentioned, had been sitting around the lobby of the Lee House, where they were

staying, and about 1:00 A.M., they asked the man in charge of their group for permission to take a walk. Permission was granted and the five then left the hotel. They had heard about the Famous Restaurant and they started walking, looking for it. When, about 1:50 A.M., they were in the 1000 block of Sixth Street, Northwest, on the west sidewalk, they bumped into two colored men and the altercation and assault ensued.

The boys involved, as well as witnesses in the vicinity, furnished the following composite description of the assailants:

No. 1 - Colored, male, dark skin, 20 to 22 years, 5 feet, 6 inches, stocky build, full round face, wearing deep yellow short-sleeved T shirt, bareheaded, short haircut.

No. 2 - Colored, male, dark skin, 22 to 23 years, 5 feet, 10 inches, medium build, wearing a medium brown straw cap.

An immediate lookout was flashed to all cars which then converged on the area in an effort to apprehend the two unknown colored culprits. Approximately forty men - twenty uniformed officers from the Second Precinct, four detectives from the Second Precinct and sixteen detectives from the Detective Bureau, immediately canvassed the area and made a thorough search for the assailants. Also, Detective Knott of the Second Precinct, was assigned by Captain Felber, the undersigned, to escort the complainants Hudson, who had been released from the hospital, Foster and Lee, with Mr. Bolt, the boys' chaperon, around the area where the attack occurred, in an effort to locate the wanted men. The three boys from Mississippi stated that they felt sure that they could identify the subjects responsible. They toured the area for several hours, without success, and were then returned to their hotel. Later, the same night, the complainants again accompanied detectives from the Second Precinct in another exhaustive search of this area - canvassing the various business establishments, pool rooms, etc., as well as places of ill-repute, in an effort to effect an identification of the assailants.

The investigating officers interviewed all available witnesses for any tangible information in this case, without success. However, Mandy Gramatikos, co-operator of Mickey's Grill, 1016 Sixth Street, Northwest, stated that she felt that she could identify the men. Mrs. Gramatikos has viewed our Rogues' Gallery Files in an attempt to effect an identification of the wanted men. She selected from the files a number of photographs of persons who resemble the men she saw leaving the scene. However, every one was thoroughly investigated and were eliminated. From time to time, she has also viewed suspects in our daily line-ups, but, to date, has been unable to make an identification.

From the very first day of the occurrence of this crime every available man in the Detective Bureau - especially the Homicide Squad, General Assignment Squad, Robbery Squad and the Juvenile Bureau, has taken a very active part in this investigation, covering the area at all hours of the day and night.

Since one of the witnesses had stated he thought one of the men was carrying a large black lunch pail on a shoulder strap, it was felt that this person might have been returning from work. Therefore, for two weeks following this crime, the Second Precinct placed four uniformed men on special detail in this area from 10:00 P.M., to 6:00 A.M., daily, in an intensive search for this man and his companion.

Also, every clue on bloody clothing being cleaned was thoroughly investigated, to no avail.

During the course of this investigation several persons have been given lie-detector tests in an effort to learn their connection with this case or to eliminate them as suspects.

At our daily line-ups, all possible suspects are still being questioned in our endeavor to learn the identity of the persons responsible for this crime.

All detectives from the Second Precinct, plus several uniformed men, who are assigned especially to this investigation, have arrested approximately one hundred persons, some of whom have been viewed in line-ups, but all were eliminated as being responsible for this assault. At this time, the Second Precinct still has four men assigned exclusively to this investigation in a continuing effort to bring this case to a proper conclusion.

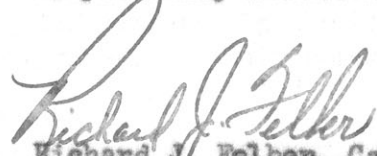
The various units of the Detective Bureau, in their extensive investigation, have arrested about one hundred persons and have questioned several hundred others, in their exhaustive attempts to obtain information which might reveal the identity of the wanted men. At this time there are, at least, two detectives from each squad assigned exclusively to continue on this investigation until such time as the persons responsible are apprehended. This is in addition to all the men on the street on other assignments who are also giving special attention to this investigation.

At the present time this investigation is continuing on a full-scale basis, and unabated, and particular emphasis is being placed on that area during the night-time hours. Our men are keeping in mind the possibility that the same persons might attempt to commit other assaults in the vicinity and thus be apprehended.

There is no phase in this investigation which has not been explored thoroughly, and will continue to be until this case is brought to a proper solution. Every possible attention is being given to the search for the two men responsible for this crime.

It is respectfully brought to your attention that this present case could be a parallel one to the investigation conducted in the Lindstedt Case. The murder of young William Joseph Lindstedt occurred on the night of December 11, 1953, when two unknown colored assailants shot Lindstedt and escaped. This investigation was carried on, on a full-scale basis, for several months until an arrest was effected on April 23, 1954. This arrest resulted in the trial and conviction of the guilty parties. During the course of the investigation of this case three thousand persons were interrogated in the matter or arrested for questioning in the case.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Richard J. Felber, Captain,  
Homicide Squad.

RJF:o'c