Birmingham, Alabama
November 28, 1949

BIRMINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Statement of Lloyd Edgar Murphy, white male, 214 Avenue U, Pratt City, made in the Council Chamber at the City Hall at 2:10 P.M., November 21, 1949, in the presence of Detectives R.A. MacMurdo and W.J.Haley.

RE:	ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO MURDER
VICTIM:	SAMMY LEE WILLIAMS, black male.
DEFENDANT:	H. A. WEEKS, white male.
DATE:	7:25 P.M. on November 20, 1949.
PLACE:	On streetcar #306 in front of 1520 8th Avenue, No.
OFFICERS:	R. A. MacMurdo and W. J. Haley.

(Haley interrogating)

Q. What is your full name?
A. Lloyd Edgar Murphy.

Q. Where do you live?
A. 214 Avenue U, Pratt City.

Q. Where do you work, Lloyd?
A. I work for myself hauling produce.

Q. Were you on the #6 Pratt-Ensley car last night, November 20, 1949, at approximately 7:25 P.M. when some trouble occurred between the conductor and a negro passenger?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where did you board the car?
A. We got on at 4th Avenue and 17th Street, North.

Q. Did you see a negro man get on the car after you turned off onto 8th Avenue going toward Pratt City?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you notice his condition?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. What was his condition with reference to his sobriety?
A. I would say he was half drunk.

Q. Was he noticeably under the influence of whiskey?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know what street he got on at?
A. I wasn't paying any attention.

Q. On that Pratt-Ensley car do they have two operators?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where does the conductor stand?
A. Where he takes in the money at the back.

Q. Do you mean at the center entrance?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. He stands at that entrance?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you hear any words between this negro and the conductor when the negro boarded the car?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Just tell in your own words what you heard and saw.
A. Well, when the negro got on the streetcar he dropped his money in there and he came up there where the white people were and the conductor said to get back and sit where he belongs. He told the conductor he was going to sit up there or to give his money back. They fussed a few minutes and the negro grabbed at him and the conductor shot.

Q. What attracted your attention to the rear portion of the car?
A. When he first got on he and the conductor were arguing.

Q. When you say arguing just what do you mean?
A. That's when he dropped his money in there and came up there and sat with the ~~kkk~~ white people. The conductor told him to go back and sit where he belonged and he wouldn't do this.

Q. How far had the car moved when this attracted your attention?
A. When he first got on. I guess the car had gone a half a block.

Q. Then what attracted your attention to the back of the car?
A. Well, he grabbed him. I was watching it all the time. The negro made a grab at the conductor's hand and the man just pulled out his gun.

Q. Where was the conductor standing when the negro made a grab for him?
A. At the center door where he usually stands.

Q. Did you notice a seat there for the conductor to be seated when he operated this car?
A. No, sir. The seat was up.

Q. Was he standing at the seat or on back?
A. No, sir. He was standing at the seat.

Q. Was there any noise that caused you to look back to the back of the car immediately before the shots were fired?
A. Yes, sir, I heard them scuffling. I just happened to turn around and look out the window. When he grabbed him I just happened to look back. The negro was making a grab at him then.

Q. Was the negro on his feet then?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. He was not seated in the colored section?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did you see any kind of a weapon in the conductor's hand?
A. Not at first, no sir.

Q. Did you see any kind of weapon in the negro's hands?
A. No, sir.

Q. Then what happened?
A. That's when the negro grabbed the conductor and the conductor shot him.

Q. Did any of the other passengers on the car interfer at the time or try to separate them?
A. No, sir.

Q. Did you see anyone else lay their hands on the conductor except the negro that had the argument with him?
A. No, sir.

Q. How many times did the conductor fire?
A. Well, I couldn't tell right off hand but it was four or five times.

Q. Did the negro fall?
A. No, sir.

Q. What did he do at the time the conductor fired?
A. He just kept coming?

Q. He just kept walking toward the conductor?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. He never did fall?
A. No, sir.

Q. What happened at that time?
A. After it was all over and he shot him two or three times the negro began to get weak. The conductor set him down. And they called the police.

Q. Did you see anyone else shot?
A. I didn't see any of them shot but one of them claimed they were shot. And they got up and walked off the streetcar.

Q. The ambulance was summoned?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. In your best judgment how many negroes were on the streetcar?
A. I guess about fourteen or fifteen.

Q. Were any of the negroes that were there having to stand or was there a seat for all of them?
A. They were all seated.

Q. In your best judgment how many white passengers were on the car?
A. Counting myself I'd guess there were about five or six.

Q. After this negro was shot you say two more negroes seated him until the ambulance arrived?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where did they seat him?
A. Right next to the conductor.

Q. Was that on the north side headed west?
A. Yes, sir on the north side. Right close to the middle center door.

Q. Just to the rear of the center door?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is there anything else that we haven't asked you that you would like to tell us about this case?
A. No, sir, not that I know of.

Q. Has this statement been made of your own free will and accord?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you been mistreated, threatened or abused, or promised any rewards or hopes of reward in order to get you to make this statement?
A. No, sir.

I have read (have had read) the foregoing statement and certify that it is true and correct.

(S)_____

WITNESSES:

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Barbara Smith, Stenographer.