Birmingham, Alabama.
December 21, 1949

BIRMINGHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Statement of Mrs. J. R. Praytor, white female, of 107½ North 24th Street made in the Council Chamber at the City Hall on December 12, 1949 at 3:50 P.M. in the presence of Detectives R. A. MacMurdo and W. J. Haley.

RE:	MURDER
VICTIM:	SAMMIE LEE WILLIAMS, black male.
DEFENDANT:	M. A. WEEKS, white male.
DATE:	November 20, 1949 at 7:35 P.M.
LOCATION:	On Streetcar #306 in front of 1520 8th Avenue, We
OFFICERS:	Detectives R.A. MacMurdo and W. J. Haley

(MacMurdo interrogating)

Q. What is your name?
A. Mrs. J. R. (Lillian) Praytor.

Q. Where do you live?
A. 107½ North 24th Street.

Q. On the night of November 20, this year, did you have occasion to be on a Pratt City street
A. Yes, sir, I was going to Pratt City after my son.

Q. To your best recollections what time of the night was that?
A. About 7:30.

Q. Was there any trouble on that streetcar that night that attracted your attention?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Tell me in your own words to the best that you recall what you saw and heard.
A. This colored man got on and was drunk. He wanted to sit in the white compartment. Mr. Weeks told him to go on and sit where he ought to. Some negro man came and got him and sat him down in his seat. The negro said to Mr. Weeks, "Now don't you get smart with me." And he, Mr. Weeks, went over there to say something to him and when he did the negro grabbed him and Mr. Weeks got his hand aloose and started shooting and the negro kept fighting him while he was shooting him all the time.

Q. Was the negro on his feet?
A. Yes, sir. He came up on his feet and took hold of Mr. Weeks. Took hold of his right hand and the shooting started.

Q. While they were standing on their feet?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. In your judgment the negro was drunk?
A. Yes, sir, he was drunk. He started the argument just as soon as he got on the streetcar.

Q. In your best judgment this argument started over the negro trying to sit in the white section?
A. Yes, sir, he wanted to sit in one of them because the colored compartment was full. He wanted to sit down.

Q. At the time the negro got on was there a negro standing?
A. Just one, the one that got up and gave him the seat.

Q. At the time the negro got on was everyone seated in the colored section?
A. Yes, sir. A young one got up and gave the negro his seat.

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

Q. You haven't been threatened, mistreated, or abused in order to get you to make statement?
A. No, sir.

Q. You haven't been promised any reward or hopes of reward to get you to make this statement?
A. No, sir.

Q. And it is the truth?
A. Yes, 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, Steno.