

1 by these defendants the written memoranda which
2 have been signed by him, in addition to the
3 testimony of this witness before the federal
4 grand jury in Jackson, Mississippi, and in the
5 alternative that which is not pertinent or rele-
6 vant to this case for the Court to inspect encamer
7 for the Court to determine the relevancy and
8 pertinent for the benefit of these defendants.

9 BY MR. HAUBERG:

10 May it please the Court as to the grand jury minutes
11 we stand in the position that we have stood all
12 along, that he is not entitled to the grand jury
13 minutes and we do object to that. We do have for
14 their use and inspection for the purpose of cross
15 examination under the Jancks Act various reports
16 and statements given by this witness to the F. B. I.
17 about matters involving this case. There are
18 certain things that have been deleted because we
19 contend they are not material to this case, and we
20 have these ready for their inspection.

21 BY THE COURT:

22 Yes, I don't think the defense makes any case or
23 claim that would entitle them to the minutes of
24 the grand jury and that part of your request is
25 denied, but the government is directed under the

1 Jencks Act, 18 United States Code, Annotated,
2 3500 to give to the defendants any signed statement
3 of this witness or any statement that this witness
4 has adopted as his statement, and as I understand
5 it, that has already been handed Counsel and there
6 is some deletion and if you wish for me to consider
7 those deletion encamera I will be glad to do so.

8 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

9 Yes, Your Honor, and having obtained this which
10 appears to be very voluminous and since we have
11 these twelve attorneys involved and for the best
12 interest of our clients it will take us considerable
13 time to go over this and try to determine what to
14 use in the way of cross examination, and for that
15 reason we will request some time.

16 BY THE COURT:

17 I think the defense counsel made a good job in
18 examining those volumes yesterday and I'll give you
19 some time today and it is now five minutes until
20 twelve and we are going to take out until 1:30 and
21 in the interim you will examine that volume and
22 Members of the Jury, I will excuse you with the
23 same understanding that we have had each time you
24 have been allowed to disburse until 1:30 and please
25 come directly back to your jury room.

1 BY MR. HAUBERG:

2 May it please the Court, will you make some decision
3 about the F. B. I. reports leaving the building

4 BY THE COURT:

5 Yes, I will make the same ruling and entrust those
6 to defense counsel as officers of this Court as I
7 did yesterday.

8 BY MR. ALFORD:

9 You Honor please I see by going through all of these
10 documents, would it be permissible for this to be
11 separated by the government before they present it
12 to us so that we can look at parts of it at the
13 same time.

14 BY MR. DOAR:

15 If the Court please, we will furnish them with
16 another copy.

17 BY THE COURT:

18 He'll give you another copy.

19 BY MR. DOAR:

20 Here are two sets.

21 BY MR. PIGFORD:

22 May it please the Court, may I approach the bench
23 with government attorney, Your Honor?

24 BY THE COURT:

25 All right.

1 BY THE COURT: (JURY EXCUSED FROM COURTROOM FOR LUNCH)

2 It doesn't do you much good to approach the bench
3 here because I'm wired for sound.

4 BY MR. PIGFORD:

5 May it please the Court, there is a lot of publicity
6 about this case on the television, radio and of course
7 the newspaper, and some of the things, we don't think
8 is the correct testimony and we would like to suggest
9 to the Court that this might be brought to the
10 attention of the Jury.

11 BY THE COURT:

12 Yes, I would have done so before they left a while
13 ago if it had been mentioned to me but I'll do so
14 when they return to the courtroom if you will remind
15 me.

16 BY MR. PIGFORD:

17 Yes sir.

18 BY THE COURT:

19 Remind me of that and I'll be glad to do that. All
20 right. We'll take a recess.

21 (Whereupon the Court took a recess for lunch at
22 11:59 A. M.)

23 AFTER NOON RECESS:

24 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

25 May I proceed, Your Honor?

- 1 Q. Brother Dennis, when was the first time that you
2 met Sam Holloway Bowers, Jr?
- 3 A. I first Sam late in the Summer of '64.
- 4 Q. October or, uhh, August or September, 1964?
- 5 A. Probably was in August.
- 6 Q. It was after July?
- 7 A. Sir, I don't remember exactly when I met Mr. Bowers
- 8 Q. I'm not asking you for the exact date but would you
9 please give it to me as close as you can. Would
10 you say it was the middle of July, 1964?
- 11 A. I believe that it was later than the middle of July
- 12 Q. Are you satisfied that it would be the, uhh,
13 later than the 1st of July, 1964?
- 14 A. I believe so sir, I do not recall.
- 15 Q. All right sir. Did Mr. Bowers ever tell you that
16 he assisted or aided in anyway in having anything
17 to do with the disappearance or the absence of
18 these three people in Philadelphia which the
19 intensive search was on for?
- 20 A. No, he did not tell me that he had anything to do
21 with it.
- 22 Q. Now, did anyone of these defendants ever admit
23 to you any act of violence that they had individua
24 perpertrated other than what you have already
25 mentioned?

- 1 A I don't believe so sir.
- 2 Q You have known Wallace Miller for how long?
- 3 A Since I went into the Klan in 1964 sir.
- 4 Q And how long have you known that Wallace
5 Miller was working for the Federal Bureau of
6 Investigation?
- 7 A I didn't know for sure sir, until he testified
8 here in this case.
- 9 Q You didn't know for sure until then?
- 10 A That's right.
- 11 Q And he didn't tell you anything about it at all
12 in anyway.
- 13 Q Yes, he mentioned it to me a few days ago, but
14 not while he was in the Klan.
- 15 Q What did he mention to you?
- 16 A He said he had a subpoena.
- 17 Q Yes sir, but did he ever tell you about collabora-
18 ting with the F. B. I.
- 19 Q No.
- 20 Q What did he ever tell you about collaborating
21 with the Federal Bureau of Investigation?
- 22 A He didn't, he said he had a subpoena.
- 23 Q Did he ever suggest to you that he was working
24 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation?
- 25 A He never told me he was directly for the F. B. I.

- 1 and they never told me he was.
- 2 Q All right sir, you have attended meetings where
- 3 Mr. Bowers was present counselled peace, humility
- 4 and Godliness haven't you?
- 5 A Yes, he said those things.
- 6 Q And you agreed with him on them?
- 7 A I agreed with him on some of the things he said.
- 8 Q I asked you if you agreed with him on those
- 9 things?
- 10 A About Godliness?
- 11 Q Yes.
- 12 A Yes, I agree about Godliness.
- 13 Q And he counseled peace and humility too, didn't
- 14 he?
- 15 A At times.
- 16 Q And you agreed with him on that, didn't you?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q And in fact you were his Lieutenant so to speak.
- 19 A I suppose you could say that.
- 20 Q You were working under him and you yourself in
- 21 fact was the one that was responsible directly
- 22 for the actions of the Klansmen rather than Mr.
- 23 Bowers, were you not?
- 24 A No sir, I wouldn't say that.
- 25 Q You wouldn't say that, well what you would say ther

- 1 A I was an administrative officer who carried
2 message from the men to the Imperial Wizard and
3 messages from the Imperial Wizard to the men.
- 4 Q Yes sir, in other words, you were a link between
5 them and Mr. Bowers were you?
- 6 A I was a link between them and Mr. Bowers, yes sir.
- 7 Q And if any message needed to be conveyed to them
8 from him you conveyed it did you not?
- 9 A Not all the times.
- 10 Q But that was your job wasn't it?
- 11 A That was the job.
- 12 Q And anything that needed to be conveyed to him
13 from up to him down there that was your job
14 under the oath to the organization to convey
15 that message?
- 16 A That's right. After I was the Titan.
- 17 Q So you did so did you not?
- 18 A Several times, yes sir.
- 19 Q And in those acts you were never asked to engage
20 in any acts of violence were you?
- 21 A No.
- 22 Q And in fact you had nothing to do with the
23 beating of Billy Birdsong did you not?
- 24 A No.
- 25 Q You did not participate in it overtly or anyway

1 in giving the orders?

2 A No sir.

3 BY MR. QHAUBERG:

4 If the Court please, I am going to object to any
5 further questioning along that line, its immaterial
6 and irrelevant.

7 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

8 Your Honor please, I believe it is direct cross
9 examination.

10 BY THE COURT:

11 I'll let him proceed, go along.

12 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

13 Q Now, you do know that on at least one occasion
14 that you collected and turned over to one other
15 individual at least three snakes to be used
16 against the Federal Bureau of Investigation?

17 A More than that.

18 Q You turned over the snakes to be used and then
19 you told the Bureau of Investigation when you
20 gave them this information that you agreed with
21 it, the practice at that time because you were
22 afraid of snakes, didn't you?

23 A I told them I was afraid of snakes.

24 Q And did you agree with this method of ----(counsel
25 mumbling) and you were pleased with this.

1 A That I agreed with what, that I turned over
2 this information to them?

3 Q Yes sir.

4 A Yes, I did it and I saw a reason for doing it so
5 I did it.

6 Q Yes sir. Well, there could be not much more reason
7 that a snake could kill a person couldn't it?

8 BY MR. MAUBERG:

9 We object to that, if the Court please?

10 BY THE COURT:

11 Yes, I sustain the objection.

12 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

13 Q For what purpose would these snakes have been
14 used, Mr. Dennis?

15 A According to the Klan---

16 BY MR. HAUBERG:

17 We object.

18 BY THE COURT:

19 I'll let him tell what he knows, not what he thinks.

20 BY THE WITNESS:

21 A The Klan wanted to use the snakes to frighten
22 civil rights workers.

23 Q Oh, I see, you turned over rattle snakes and
24 moccasins to scare people, didn't you?

25

1 A. They were not rattle snakes nor poisonous
2 moccasins.

3 Q. Oh, they were not poisonous?

4 A. Not what they took from me.

5 Q. Are you sure you are telling the truth?

6 A. Yes sir, I'm sure.

7 Q. Are-----

8 BY THE COURT:

9 Counsel, you are not making a very good record.
10 You ask a question and get through with it and
11 don't make it too long and the witness will let
12 you finish your question and you let him finish
13 his answer so we'll get a good record.

14 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

15 Thank you sir.

16 Q. Now, you do know that on one of the occasions
17 that Billy Birdsong wanted to kill Wallace Miller
18 don't you? He stated that in your presence?

19 A. Several times.

20 Q. And you do know that one occasion that Mr.
21 Bowers objected to that, didn't he?

22 BY MR. HAUBERG:

23 We object to that, if the Court please.

24 BY THE COURT:

25 Overruled.

1 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

2 Q Is that the truth?

3 A Was the question did Mr. Bower objected?

4 Q Yes.

5 A Yes, I did know him to object to that.

6 Q First of all, let me ask you if this contains all
7 of the things that you told the Federal Bureau
8 of Investigation?

9 A Sir, I can't be sure if it does or if it does not.

10 Q Well, did you tell everything in regard to what
11 you call Klan activities?

12 A Did I give them all that I knew?

13 Q Yes.

14 A Yes sir, I believe that I did.

15 Q And you were honest for your money wasn't you?

16 A I was honest.

17 Q Yes sir. Oh you was honest? All right, when you
18 uhh, you told, as I understood you in response
19 to some of the questions the United States Attorney
20 asked you, a few moments ago, that by talking with
21 certain individuals, and that these individuals
22 discussed Klan business with you that you conclude
23 by discussion that they were Klansmen, was that
24 what you said,

25 A Yes sir.

- 1 Q Now, the Federal Bureau of Investigation discussed
2 Klan business with you, didn't they?
- 3 A Yes sir.
- 4 Q You didn't conclude from their discussion that
5 they were members of the Klan did you?
- 6 A I did not.
- 7 Q You just concluded that whoever it may be
8 convenient to you to conclude-----
- 9 A No sir, the Bureau of Investigation didn't give
10 me the handshake, nor did they know what was going
11 on in the local Klavern in Neshoba County.
- 12 Q And that is your basis for that?
- 13 A That is the basis for it.
- 14 Q And you don't think that they knew what was going
15 in Neshoba County, the F. B. I?
- 16 A They may have.
- 17 Q Oh, I see. Now during the period of your employ-
18 ment or the time that you have sold information
19 to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as I
20 calculate it, you have received from them the
21 sum of approximately \$15,000.00, is that correct?
- 22 A That's correct.
- 23 Q And during that time you were under subpoena
24 to appear before the House of International
25 Investigating Committee, is that correct?

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. Did you in fact ever appear?

3 A. I did not.

4 Q. And on those occasions you informed several
5 people, including myself as I recall, you may
6 correct me if I'm wrong, intended to invoke your
7 privileges of self incrimination if you were so
8 called?

9 BY MR. HAUBERG:

10 We object to Counsel arguing with the witness.

11 BY THE COURT:

12 I sustain the objection. You may rephrase your
13 question Counsel.

14 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

15 Q. Well, just let me ask you another question. Tell
16 me now, for the purpose of refreshing my memory
17 you went to Clarke College, did you not?

18 A. For awhile.

19 Q. You attended Clarke College for how long?

20 A. For one semester.

21 Q. Now, what college did you go to after that?

22 A. I went to Jones Junior College after that.

23 Q. And what did you study there?

24 A. I studied economics, history, Bible.

25 Q. Yes sir, and what college did you go to after tha

- 1 A. Meridian Junior College, I went to night school
2 here.
- 3 Q. Yes sir, and what other college did you attend?
- 4 A. That's all.
- 5 Q. Now, you began your ministry when?
- 6 A. I began my ministry when I was fourteen years old.
- 7 Q. Well, I don't know when you were fourteen years
8 old?
- 9 A. That was in 1954, sir.
- 10 Q. Where?
- 11 A. In Scott County, Mississippi.
- 12 Q. In what church?
- 13 A. At the Ridge Baptist Church.
- 14 Q. All right, from then where?
- 15 A. Wherever I had opportunity ^{you} sir, would/like me to
16 name them?
- 17 A. What was the first church that you served?
- 18 A. The first church that I served was the McDonald
19 Baptist Church in Leake County.
- 20 Q. I'll try to restrict you to the ones that you
21 were the regular pastor of, I won't ask you about
22 the ones that you preached at part-time.
- 23 A. I understand.
- 24 Q. Now, is this the first one that you were a regula
25 pastor at?

1 A That's right.

2 BY THE COURT:

3 I don't know what's the relevancy of this, are you
4 just asking him this to hear yourself talk?

5 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

6 No sir, I'm trying to get to a point, Your Honor.

7 BY THE COURT:

8 Well, let's don't waste too much time that it com-
9 pletely frivolous.

10 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

11 Q Now, this was a Bsptist church was it?

12 A It was.

13 Q How long did you stay in the Baptist Ministry?

14 A Until 1960. 1961 Sir.

15 Q Now, after the Baptist Ministry you preached
16 in what type church?

17 A In 1961 I became an approved supply in the
18 Methodist church.

19 Q You preached in the Methodist church and where
20 was that?

21 A I had a circuit that included Lauderdale and
22 Kemper Counties, sir.

23 Q All right sir now, is this during the time that
24 you left the church and went to where?

25 A Well, when I was pastor of the Methodist Church

1 in the Circuit I just mentioned, when I left
2 there I came to Meridian and pastored a Methodist
3 church where I stayed until June of this year.

4 Q. You served until June and as I recall your
5 testimony you are not a pastor of any church now?

6 A. No sir.

7 Q. Have you quit the ministry?

8 A. No sir. I am supplying pulpits wherever there is
9 an opportunity for me to preach.

10 Q. In this type church?

11 A. In any type church, sir.

12 Q. All right sir, you live now where, I believe you
13 testified where you lived?

14 A. I live at 3228-46th -----(Counsel interrupt

15 BY THE COURT:

16 Counsel do you want a record or not?

17 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

18 I'm sorry I interrupted. Where did you say you live?

19 A. 3228------(Counsel interrupted again)

20 BY THE COURT:

21 Counsel, you just keep interrupting and you are
22 making it impossible for the reporter to take down
23 what you are saying, but if you don't want a record
24 then that's all.

25 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

1 Q Will you answer?

2 BY THE COURT:

3 Counsel, we are not in too big a hurry here to listen
4 to your questions if they intelligible and reasonable.

5 BY THE WITNESS:

6 A I live at 3228-46th Street, Meridian, Mississippi.

7 Q Yes sir, now my next question is, is this the
8 same place that you have resided every since you
9 have been in Meridian?

10 A Since I've been in Meridian proper?

11 A Yes, uhh, let me ask you this. Do you know, or
12 have you ever talked to a lady by the name of
13 Joan Cleveland about this case?

14 A No.

15 Q You have never talked to her about it at all?

16 A No.

17 Q Do you know her?

18 A I do know here.

19 Q And you are sure and positive that you have
20 never talked to anyone by the name of Joan
21 Cleveland, a former pianist at Pine Springs
22 Church about this case in any regard?

23 A Right.

24 Q Now, have you ever talked to your wife about this
25 case?

1 A. I have.

2 Q. And you are sure that you have told her the same
3 things that you have told on this witness stand
4 here in regard to this case?

5 BY MR. HAUBERG:

6 We object if the Court please.

7 BY THE COURT:

8 I'll overrule the objection.

9 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

10 Q. Is that right?

11 A. My wife is aware of my involvement in this case.

12 Q. I don't believe you understood my question, so
13 I'll ask you again. Have you told her the same
14 things about this case that you have told here
15 on the witness stand?

16 A. Yes sir.

17 Q. You have not told her anything different about it?

18 A. No sir. She may know more than has been told here
19 but nothing different.

20 Q. I see, and she knew when Mr. Bowers came to your
21 house, did he ever come in your house?

22 A. He came in my house a time or two when she was
23 there.

24 Q. And did she know who he was?

25 A. I suppose she did.

1 Q Did you introduce him to her?

2 A I did.

3 Q Did you introduce him by name?

4 A I did.

5 Q You tell me Mr. Dennis that on one occasion in
6 fact when I came up here with Mr. Bowers regarding
7 a political matter, that you didn't introduce
8 her in my presence to Mr. Sinclair?

9 A I wasn't talking about that time.

10 Q Oh, you weren't talking about that time, I see.

11 Q He has been in my home when you weren't there, sir.

12 Q Oh, I see, but you don't tell me on that occasion
13 that you didn't introduce him as Mr. Sinclair
14 did you?

15 BY MR. HAUBERG:

16 If the Court please, he's arguing with the witness
17 and we object.

18 BY THE COURT:

19 I'll overrule your objection.

20 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

21 Q Mr. Dennis, would you answer my question?

22 A I do not recall introducing him in any other manner
23 than that of Mr. Bowers, I may not even have intro-
24 duced him as Mr. Bowers, I don't know what was
25 said when she came in the room. She came in the

1 room and brought coffee and did not stay for
2 any of the confersation.

3 Q. If you had so introduced him it would have been
4 an useless gesture because she already knew who
5 he was from what you testified?

6 A. That she would have already known who he was?

7 Q. Yes sir.

8 A. Yes, I think so.

9 Q. Mr. Dennis, you are aware of the obligation when
10 you are under oath to tell the truth, don't you?

11 A. Yes sir.

12 Q. And you realize that the penalty of it, uh God
13 before man, can be convicted in fact if you
14 lie falsely or falsely testify under oath, you
15 are familiar with that, aren't you?

16 A. Yes sir.

17 Q. And you don't want to be the object of that
18 reward, do you?

19 A. No sir.

20 Q. And Brother Dennis, you realize that upon your
21 taking an oath as a Klansman you are sworn to
22 secrecy, don't you?

23 A. Well, what part of the oath are you referring to
24 sir?

25 A. The part you read a while ago?

- 1 A. Yeah.
- 2 Q. And this oath was taken as related in the presence
3 of Almighty God, wasn't it?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And you were aware of the fact that this oath
6 of obligation in the presence of Almighty God
7 were you not?
- 8 A. Well of course we were told at the time of the
9 oath that we would never be asked to do anything
10 that was in conflict with our religion and that
11 the oath did not include anything that would
12 cause us to go against that which we believed
13 to be right before God.
- 14 Q. Yes sir, now would you please answer my question?
- 15 A. What's the question sir?
- 16 A. I ask you did you not realize that this was a
17 continuing oath and obligation?
- 18 A. The oath of secrecy?
- 19 Q. Yes.
- 20 A. Yes, I realized that was the intent of it.
- 21 Q. And you realize also that at any time the Klan
22 had a ritual whereby you could be swore out ~~and~~
23 and you were under no longer a obligation to
24 attend the meetings or to provide, uhh, abide
25 by their rituals or disassociate themselves

1 from you, there would not be any action against
2 you, did you not?

3 A. We were told that was true.

4 Q. But you didn't know it to happen?

5 A. I believe there was one sworn out when I first got
6 in the Klan.

7 Q. You knew before God Almighty that you could be
8 sworn out rather than violate that oath and go
9 and be paid the sum of \$15,000.00 over a three
10 year period for information against these people
11 you had been sworn to protect, didn't you?

12 A. I long ago took an oath to my God and my country
13 to do that which is right and nothing else can
14 transind me to do away with that oath. It was
15 mere important for me to do what I felt was right
16 at that time and I felt the Klan was not what they
17 say it was, it was not what it claimed to be, and
18 therefore I did not feel bound by any oath that
19 was given to a group of men and then they turned
20 right around and asked them to do things that
21 were in violation of our principals after they
22 told us we wouldn't have to.

23 Q. You took that oath before God, didn't you?

24 A. Yes sir.

25 Q. You were sincere when you took it wasn't you?

1 BY THE COURT:

2 Counsel I'm apprehensive that you are badgering the
3 witness, so get on something else?

4 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

5 Well Your Honor if it please the Court, I don't mean
6 to but I just didn't feel that he was responding
7 to my questions.

8 BY THE COURT:

9 Well I kinda got that idea.

10 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

11 Q. Brother Dennis, I ask you one more time, which
12 was an honorable alternative.

13 Q. It would not have been honorable for me-----

14 Q. If you will let me finish please.

15 A. I'm sorry.

16 Q. Honorable alternative which was consistent with
17 your obligation to God and to your oath in getting
18 out and you would not have been a part of an
19 organization which you did not agree with, would
20 you not?

21 A. I could have been and when the F. B. I. Agents
22 came and talked with me I explained that to them
23 they convinced me that it would be worth more to
24 my country and to the cause of Christ if I con-
25 tinued in that organization and supplied them that

- 1 information.
- 2 Q In other words you listened to the Federal
3 Bureau of Investigation Agents, rather than
4 your oath?
- 5 A I listened to my conscious as well as the F. B. I.
6 Agents.
- 7 Q Brother Dennis, you know of course that this
8 \$15,000.00 didn't have anything to do with it?
- 9 A It did not sir.
- 10 Q In other words, this \$15,000.00 was beside the
11 point. You were not interested in it at all
12 you were only interested in doing right?
- 13 A I was interested in the money, I preach and I
14 expect to be paid for that, but I do not preach
15 for money, and I worked for the Bureau and the
16 Bureau gave me money, I expected it, and I received
17 it, but I wasn't doing the work for it, it was
18 necessary that I be paid, and there was no sum
19 of \$15,000.00 paid to me at that time.
- 20 Q You say you were not expecting the money but as
21 I understand you on direct testimony----
- 22 A I was expecting it sir, I'm sorry if I said that
23 wrong, I said I worked for it, I received it and
24 I was expecting it.
- 25 Q Are you finished now? If you are I would like to

1 ask you if what you said was that you were not
2 working for the money? Or that was not your
3 reason?

4 A That's right.

5 Q But if I recall your testimony on direct examinati
6 you said that you were paid on the basis of the
7 expenses you incurred and then the amount of
8 information that you surrendered?

9 BY MR. HAUBERG:

10 We object to his arguing with the witness.

11 BY THE COURT:

12 Sustain the objection.

13 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

14 What I'm saying is this----

15 BY THE COURT:

16 If you are assigning the same thing he object to its
17 been sustained.

18 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

19 Well Your Honor I don't think it is, its not my
20 intent to.

21 BY THE COURT:

22 All right.

23 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

24 Q Your pay would have been greatly diminished or
25 it would completely cut off had you not surrendered

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to them something in the form of information
that they accepted would it not?

A. Certainly.

Q. In other words the money that you got was dependant
upon what you told them?

A. That's right.

Q. And they listened to everything you told them
didn't they?

A. They listened, yes sir.

Q. And they paid you anything you told them to?

A. No, I wouldn't say that. They evaluated it.

Q. They didn't evaluate it after they paid you?

A. They evaluated it before. I was paid on the basis
of what I brought them.

Q. In other words if it wasn't what they wanted to
hear they didn't pay you for it?

BY MR. HAUBERG:

Your Honor, he's gone into that several times, we
object.

BY THE COURT:

I'll overrule your objection.

BY THE WITNESS:

A. If they did not consider it important it was not
paid for.

Q. Now Brother Dennis, you of course felt the deep
sense and binding duty to every person that

1 is called to preach the Christian gospel and
2 surrenders himself, don't you?

3 A. All Christians have that obligation.

4 Q. And of course you feel it is your duty and your
5 obligation to preach to people who you feel are
6 doing wrong and try to get them to come closer
7 to your Christian ideals and doctrines of Christ
8 do you not?

9 A. Yes sir, I preach whenever I have the opportunity.

10 Q. And when you lead prayer at various Klan meetings
11 you always invoked the blessings of Almighty God
12 on those meetings, did you not?

13 A. Not necessarily on the meetings, but on the people
14 who were there.

15 Q. On the people who were there. Did you or not
16 consider it your duty and obligation Brother
17 Dennis to sit down and counsel with these people
18 and to tell them where you felt that they were
19 in fact departing from the Christian principle
20 in accordance with your ideals?

21 A. There were occasions when I did just that sir.

22 Q. To people who are in this room, Mr. Dennis?

23 A. The people who are here as defendant may not
24 have been there, but they may have been, I don't
25 know.

1 Q Well, I want to know about them particularly,
2 if you recall, and I wish you would refresh
3 your memory for a second and tell me if you ever
4 talked to them that you felt they were doing wrong

5 A Not individually if they were present at any of
6 those meetings, I did.

7 Q All right now, Brother Dennis, do you know that
8 it is an important time and an important part
9 of your professional obligation for you not
10 to appeal to anyone that which you learned as
11 as result of your ministerial work, don't you?

12 A No sir, that's not necessary, sir.

13 Q You mean to tell me and you tell this Court and
14 this Jury that a person can come up and talk
15 to you about yourself to you as a Preacher and
16 you can go out and broadcast it to the world and
17 not feel any pangs of guilt and feel that you
18 have violated your obligation to Almighty God?

19 A If he came and brought it to me as a minister
20 and as my responsibility as a pastor, I'm not
21 obligated to keep everything I hear a secret
22 just because I'm a minister, but those things
23 that are stated in confidence as a minister
24 to parishoners, yes.

25 Q And you are under obligation if you can't do it

1 not to go around revealing it or warn them to
2 keep quiet though, aren't you?

3 A. Warn them to keep quiet?

4 Q. Yes sir, that's one of your ministerial work
5 one has to be above those things, doesn't he.
6 He has enough burden without those, don't he?

7 A. Without what, Mr.?

8 Q. Without listening to the problems and troubles
9 of the world that he does not hope to help or
10 to heal?

11 A. Well, I wouldn't say I'm obligated to go around
12 and tell people don't talk to me about their
13 uh, anything, unless its inconfidence. I don't
14 understand what you are asking me, I'm not
15 trying to evade your question?

16 Q. Well you answered me before I got through with
17 my question so just let me ask it again.
18 When a person reveals to you something in confi-
19 dence, something he reveals that you will not
20 reveal, and something he has lead you to believe
21 that you would not reveal, it is a part or portion
22 of your professional obligation to not reveal
23 it and keep it a secret, isn't it?

24 BY MR. HAUBERG:

25 We object, if the Court please.

1 BY THE COURT:

2 I'll let him answer.

3 BY THE WITNESS:

4 A. If you give me this information as a pastor
5 I would be obligated to keep that.

6 Q. Well sir, if he gives it to you in a confidential
7 way, knowing that you are a pastor, knowing that
8 you are a missionary of Christ, and knowing that
9 uhh, believing that you believe it is confidential
10 it
11 isn't/your professional obligation to keep it
12 secret?

13 A. I would still say sir it all depended upon whether
14 he gave it to me in a confidential manner and
15 as a pastor. None of these men were members of
16 my church, none of the information that I have
17 given in this trial was given to me as a pastor
18 or as a parishoner to his pastor, in a religious
19 or spiritual sense, but it was in my capacity as
20 an officer of the Klan or a member of the Klan.

21 Q. Brother Dennis, you do counsel with and talk to
22 people about their souls, about their lives
23 who are not members of a church don't you?

24 A. Yes sir.

25 Q. You are familiar with the 27th Chapter of Matthev
the fifth verse, aren't you?

1 A Well not sir, I would like to see.

2 Q Well, I don't have it with me.

3 BY MR. HAUBERG:

4 If the Court please, we object to this.

5 BY THE COURT:

6 I think so too. Sustain.

7 BY MR. BUCKLEY:

8 That's all Your Honor.

9 BY MR. WEIR:

10 May I proceed, Your Honor?

11 BY THE COURT:

12 Yes, with one question

13 BY MR. WEIR:

14 Thank you sir.

15 Q Reverend Dennis, you thought that Reverend Killen
16 was so innocent that you offered to go statewide
17 and help raise funds for his defense, didn't you?

18 A I was asked by Sam Bowers to take a position on
19 the committee that would be organized for raising
20 funds and I was asked by the Agents to take this
21 position and it was in connection with my position
22 with them.

23 Q And that was a committee to help the preacher
24 raise funds to defend himself in this case wasn't
25 it?

1 A. As I understand it it was for all of the defendant

2 Q. Well, as far as that is concerned, Brother Killen
3 has never told you that he had any part in this
4 incident has he?

5 A. No sir.

6 Q. In fact of the business you told Mr. Watkins
7 here and you told Mr. uh His Honor on the bench
8 here on direct examination none of the defendants
9 being tried here in this case never intimidated
10 or threaten any of these civil rights workers
11 do you deny that?

12 A. In my presence.

13 BY MR. HAUBERG:

14 We object, Your Honor, that's been asked.

15 BY THE COURT:

16 I think its repetitious but I'll overrule your
17 objection.

18 BY MR. WEIR:

19 Q. And that's still your answer now?

20 A. Yes sir.

21 Q. Now, you say you received some \$5, uh \$15,000.00
22 or more dollars, how much more did you receive?

23 A. I said approximately \$15,000.00 sir and I don't
24 have the actual figures.

25

- 1 Q. Just who was it that paid you this \$15,000.00?
- 2 A. It was the Agents that I talked with.
- 3 Q. What are their names?
- 4 A. John Martin and Don Ceasar.
- 5 Q. Don Caeser?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. Just how much money has Don Ceasar paid you?
- 8 A. He's been paying me since John left, which was
- 9 for the last two years.
- 10 Q. Is that an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investi-
- 11 gation?
- 12 A. Yes sir.
- 13 Q. And is these payments made by cash, check or
- 14 money order?
- 15 A. They are made by cash.
- 16 Q. Do you know where they get their money to pay you
- 17 with?
- 18 A. Congress appropriates the money to operate the
- 19 Bureau.
- 20 Q. And they pay it out of the Bureau funds in cash.
- 21 A. Well they pay me in cash, what it comes out of
- 22 I don't know.
- 23 Q. Michael Schwerner, you knew him some?
- 24 A. I didn't know him.
- 25 Q. Did you ever see him?

1 A Not that I know of.

2 Q Never in your lifetime?

3 A I said I didn't know him, and if I ever saw him

4 I didn't know it to be him.

5 Q Did you know that he was an athesit?

6 BY MR. HAUBERG:

7 We object, Your Honor.

8 BY THE COURT:

9 Sustain the objection. That's been asked at least

10 twice since this witness has been on the stand.

11 BY MR. WEIR:

12 Excuse me, Your Honor, I don't mean to ask anything

13 that's been asked and I beg Your Honor's pardon.

14 Q You did testify that Mr. Billy Birdsen was one

15 of the most actives in any incident that you might

16 testify here about?

17 A I said he was a very active member when he was

18 a Klansman.

19 Q Well, didn't you tell Mr. Watkins that he was the

20 most active?

21 BY MR. HAUBERG:

22 If the Court please, that's repetitious again.

23 BY THE COURT:

24 I'll let him answer.

25

1 Q Didn't you tell him that on direct examination?

2 A Yes, he was active.

3 Q And if he was the most active one, can you explain
4 why he is not being tried or one of the one being
5 tried?

6 BY MR. HAUBERG:

7 We object to that.

8 BY THE COURT:

9 Sustain the objection.

10 BY MR. WEIR:

11 Q Now, Brother Dennis, whenever you decided to
12 become a federal informer isn't it a fact that
13 these federal agents furnished uh uh undertook
14 to connect you up in some manner in this case?

15 A No sir.

16 Q Have you ever been accused of taking part
17 or participated in the event that is alleged to
18 have occurred?

19 A Not that I know of.

20 Q They didn't come to you when they came with that
21 kind of proposition whatever?

22 A No sir.

23 Q They just came with you with the money?

24 A They did not come to me with the money.

25 Q To start with?

- 1 A. They brought money later, yes sir.
- 2 Q. Are you still a member of the Klan?
- 3 A. I don't know where they consider me a member or not
- 4 sir.
- 5 Q. Well what do you consider yourself as?
- 6 A. Well I would say I'm not.
- 7 Q. Well, when did you decide that you were not?
- 8 A. When I testified today.
- 9 Q. Today is the first day that you have considered
- 10 yourself as not a member of the Klan?
- 11 A. Well I heard you say a while ago that you thought
- 12 one thing they had to do was to banish Delmar
- 13 Dennis from the Klan.
- 14 Q. When was this now?
- 15 A. Just a while ago, before we broke for lunch.
- 16 Q. Where were you sitting?
- 17 A. Right here.
- 18 Q. You mean you heard me say something on here?
- 19 A. Yes sir, I took it to be a joke but I did hear
- 20 you say that.
- 21 Q. Did you say you understood it was a joke?
- 22 A. I said I took it as a joke and several of the
- 23 others did too.
- 24 Q. Well----if you don't mind, let me ask the question
- 25 BY THE MARSHAL
- Let's have order.

1 BY MR. WEIR:

2 Q Let's see now, Brother Dennis, you've been-----
3 excuse me Judge, I guess I, well----anyway,
4 Brother Dennis, at one time you did report to
5 the federal authorities that you originally joined
6 the Klan with the idea of riding in excess of its
7 activities, didn't you?

8 A An expose, was the word you were trying to
9 define?

10 Q Yes sir.

11 A This was in my mind when I joined, yes sir.

12 Q Just a moment, Your Honor. Now, to your knowledge
13 none of the Meridian members had anything to do
14 with this incident of civil rights workers?

15 A I'm sorry sir, would you repeat the question?

16 Q Just a minute now, and I'll clarify that with
17 Counsel. Let me withdraw that proceeding and
18 then I'll get back into it. Now let's see
19 Brother Dennis, you've been a methodist preacher
20 is that right?

21 A I was approved by the Methodist church, I was
22 never ordained a Methodist.

23 Q But you have preached as a Methodist minister?

24 A Yes sir.

25 Q But no longer?

1 Q. And you have preached as a Baptist preacher?

2 A. That's right.

3 Q. But no longer?

4 A. Well, I still hold license in the Southern Baptist
5 Church, yes.

6 Q. And-----

7 BY THE COURT:

8 I don't believe you let him finish Counsel.

9 BY MR. WEIR:

10 I'm sorry Judge, you may answer.

11 BY THE WITNESS:

12 A. These license are good for a lifetime and reads
13 that I may preach wherever I may have an opportunity
14 to serve, and I admit here that I have served in
15 several churches if this is the point that you
16 want to make, and will again wherever there is an
17 opportunity for me to preach. I'm inter-denomina-
18 tional in my religious beliefs.

19 Q. Now, did you quit the churches or did the churches
20 quit you?

21 A. I quit them when I moved from one to another.

22 Q. Well, you are preaching at none of them now, is
23 that right?

24 A. That's right.

25 Q. And you are not a Methodist minister now?

1 A. That's right.

2 Q. Well, are you a Baptist or Methodist?

3 A. I would say I'm a non-denominational sir, I hold
4 ordination papers and license in the Southern
5 Baptist Church, and preach wherever I have an
6 opportunity. I am not the pastor of a church
7 at the present time.

8 Q. And was it mentioned that you are no longer
9 living with your wife?

10 A. I don't think its been mentioned here, but I'm
11 not.

12 Q. And have you been married before this?

13 BY MR. HAUBERG:

14 We object to that, if the Court please.

15 BY MR. HAUBERG:

16 Sustain the objection.

17 BY MR. WEIR:

18 Q. Oh, is the reason that you are not living with
19 her involved in any way the fact that you are
20 testifying here as an informer?

21 BY MR. HAUBERG:

22 We object, Your Honor.

23 BY THE COURT:

24 I'll let him answer that.

25 BY THE WITNESS:

1 A I don't know why I'm not living with my wife
2 except she isn't there. That's where I've been
3 and she left so that's why I'm not living with her
4 here

5 Q Yes sir.

6 A And we would have to see her and ask her if the
7 reason has anything to do with the relationship
8 to this case.

9 BY THE COURT:

10 I think you've found out all about that so let's
11 ask him something else.

12 BY MR. WEIR:

13 Your Honor I will.

14 Q Brother Dennis, you are not with the Klan, you
15 are not with your wife, and you are not with
16 your church, but instead you are with the
17 federal government, as their employee at this
18 time?

19 BY MR. HAUBERG:

20 We object to that if the Court please.

21 BY THE COURT:

22 Sustain the objection.

23 BY MR. WEIR:

24 Q Well, at this time you are an employee of the
25 federal government?

1 A I'm a witness at this time, sir.

2 Q Well, you are paid for it ain't you?

3 A Not to be a witness.

4 Q But you are paid for the information?

5 A I have been paid for the information, yes sir.

6 Q Information that you are now testifying about?

7 A Yes sir. Same information.

8 Q And instead of thirty pieces of silver you got

9 MARSHAL: \$15,000.00?
ORDER PLEASE, LET'S HAVE ORDER.

10 BY MR. HAUBERG:

11 We object to that.

12 BY THE COURT:

13 Sustain the objection.

14 BY MR. WEIR:

15 Q Now, Brother Dennis----

16 BY THE COURT:

17 Counsel, if we have any quips like that I'm going
18 to let you sit down.

19 BY MR. WEIR:

20 Your Honor please, this is in reference to----

21 BY THE COURT:

22 I know what its in reference to and I know what I'm
23 telling you, don't let that happen again.

24 BY MR. WEIR:

25 Q Now, Reverend Dennis, did you purchase five guns

1 from someone, have you purchased guns, five guns
2 lately?

3 BY MR. HAUBERG:

4 We object to that.

5 BY THE COURT:

6 Overruled.

7 BY THE WITNESS:

8 A I haven't purchased any guns lately. I have
9 bought many guns in my life.

10 Q Do you generally carry a gun with you?

11 A I have for the last three years.

12 Q Do you have one with you now?

13 A No sir, I do not.

14 Q You generally do carry a gun with you don't you?

15 A I generally carry a gun, yes sir.

16 Q A Pistol?

17 A It is.

18 Q And do you generally, uh, well, do you know a
19 Mr. Mack Currie?

20 A Yes sir.

21 Q Did you purchase five guns from him?

22 A I don't think I purchased five, it could have been
23 five over the years.

24 Q Did you purchase five at one time?

25 A No sir. I did not.

- 1 Q. Now, I notice that Mr. Buckley asked you if
2 you appeared before the House of Unamerican
3 Activities Committee, and you said that you did
4 not, why did you not appear?
- 5 A. Sir, they postponed it several times and finally
6 I got a statement from them that I was no longer
7 under subpoena, so I don't know why.
- 8 Q. Were you advised that the reason might have been
9 because you were expected to testify here today?
- 10 A. Sir, I don't know why they postponed it.
- 11 Q. Could it have been the fact that you might have
12 been a purported defendant in this case?
- 13 A. Sir, I don't know why I didn't testify.
- 14 Q. Reverend Dennis, I believe you've already testified
15 that you never attended any Klan meeting with
16 Cecil Price?
- 17 A. That's right.
- 18 Q. And do you tell the Court and Jury now that this
19 meeting that was held out at the school house,
20 you remember telling about that don't you, that
21 Cecil Price was not there, was he?
- 22 A. Not that I know of sir.
- 23 Q. Well, you knew him, didn't you?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. If he had been there you would in all probability

1 have known it, or you would have seen it?

2 A. Well I probably would, the lighting there wasn't
3 so good and there were people there with dark
4 glasses on.

5 Q. But the chances would have been good that you
6 would have seen him if he had been there, and
7 you tell the Court and Jury that you did not see
8 him that night?

9 A. That's right.

10 Q. Your Honor, may I have just a very brief conferenc

11 BY MR. ALFORD:

12 Your Honor, we need to ask one of our defendants
13 a question, right here in the courtroom?

14 BY THE COURT:

15 All right

16 BY MR. WEIR:

17 May it please the Court I believe that's all and
18 my three minutes are up.

19 BY THE COURT:

20 All right, any further questions?

21 BY MR. FIGFORD:

22 Yes, Your Honor.

23 BY THE COURT:

24 All right.

25 BY MR. FIGFORD:

- 1 Q Mr. Dennis, I will ask you please sir, in this
2 meeting that you related that you attended in
3 Neshoba County, what kind of car was it that Mr.
4 Akin traveled up there in?
- 5 A No sir, I don't know.
- 6 Q Could you tell us what color it was?
- 7 A It was white.
- 8 Q Could you tell us the make of it?
- 9 A No sir, I couldn't.
- 10 Q Now, you didn't see him after you left until you
11 got there?
- 12 A That's right.
- 13 Q When the testimony about people leaving that
14 meeting, Mr. Akin remained at the meeting, did he
15 not?
- 16 A That's right.
- 17 Q Now, you all weren't talking there while people were
18 out?
- 19 A That's right.
- 20 Q Now, this was in early May, I believe you said it w
21 A No, the 16th of June.
- 22 Q 16th of June?
- 23 A Yes sir.
- 24 Q And that's your best recollection?
- 25 A Yes sir.

- 1 Q. That's your best recollection?
- 2 A. That's right.
- 3 Q. On the 16th of June you stated you did not pay
4 your dues, was that a dues paying meeting or
5 something?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. Or did you just decide after that date not to
8 pay your dues?
- 9 A. That's right.
- 10 Q. How were they payable?
- 11 A. They could be paid quarterly or monthly.
- 12 Q. And after that date you did not pay?
- 13 A. That's right.
- 14 Q. But you did the best you could to get what
15 information you could to report to the Federal
16 Bureau of Investigation?
- 17 A. I wasn't reporting to the Bureau then.
- 18 Q. But you did later didn't you?
- 19 A. Yes sir, I did later.
- 20 Q. And you continued to do that up until December
21 of 1964?
- 22 A. Well I started in November of 1964 and continued
23 up until the present time.
- 24 Q. The present time.
- 25 A. Uh hum.

- 1 Q. Now Reverend Dennis, do you remember the occasion
2 at the Pine Springs Methodist Church when suit
3 was brought against you by the officials of the
4 Methodist church to have you to desist from
5 occupying a pulpit and holding services in that
6 church?
- 7 A. No sir that wasn't the Pine Springs Church.
- 8 Q. What church was it?
- 9 A. There was a suit brought asking me not to go
10 into the Antioch Church in the Collinsville
11 Community.
- 12 Q. That suit was brought asking you not to come there
13 to hold services?
- 14 A. The suit was brought asking an injunction for
15 me going on that property, no injunction was
16 granted because I volunteered not to go back there.
- 17 Q. Not to go again.
- 18 A. That's right.
- 19 Q. All right, now that particular church would you
20 consider that church part of your pastorate?
- 21 A. This church asked me to come and serve as their
22 pastor shortly before then, the court action.
- 23 Q. I see. Now, it has been alleged, I'll withdraw
24 that question. Mr. Dennis, Mr. B. L. Akins has
25 never discussed with you in any regard anything

1 about Michael Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and
2 James Chaney, has he?

3 A. Yes sir, we've discussed it together.

4 Q. And when was that?

5 A. He discussed it in the summer of '64, and then
6 again sometime around the middle of '65.

7 Q. And where was that in the summer of '64?

8 A. It was at the trailer of Mr. Akins, and sometimes-

9 Q. Was that more than one time?

10 A. Yes sir. We talked about Goatee, the discussion
11 did not include the other two.

12 Q. I see. Anything subsequent to '64?

13 A. He mentioned it once again late in '65 or it
14 may have been '66, it was after a publication of
15 a book that had been written concerning the case
16 and he mentioned it again then.

17 Q. What's your best recollection as to when it was
18 in '64 that you say he said something to you about
19 it?

20 A. Goatee?

21 Q. Yes sir.

22 A. Sometimes in May of 1964.

23 Q. I see. Was not after June of '64?

24 A. It was discussed again briefly after that.

25 Q. Now how many times did you talk about it in '64?

- 1 A Sir he was present during a lot of the discussion
2 in 1964, more than one time during the summer of
3 '64.
- 4 Q I don't believe you understood my question, Mr.th
5 Dennis. I asked you if he discussed not if he
6 was present where it was discussed but did he
7 discuss it with you is my question to you?
- 8 A I understand.
- 9 Q Will you answer?
- 10 A Soon after he had been arrested in connection with
11 the case he mentioned it and then again after
12 the book came out.
- 13 Q Let me interrupt you here just for clarity, that
14 was after June, 1964?
- 15 A That's correct. In fact that was in August of
16 1964.
- 17 Q But he never discussed with you anything about
18 these three men prior to that time did he?
- 19 A No sir, I don't recall him saying anything about
20 them.
- 21 Q Now, Mr. Dennis, have you read the bill of complaint
22 filed against you by your wife in a divorce pro-
23 ceeding?
- 24 A Yes sir.
- 25 Q Is this---