

November 14, 1997

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT #29

TO: RALPH J. RAY, JR.
Chief Assistant State Attorney

FROM: PHILIP J. MUNDY
Investigator

SUBJ: Fingerprint Evidence

RE: Homicide Investigation of Adam Walsh

ENCL: (1) Copy of F.D.L.E. report of August 9, 1997 by Ernest D. Hamm,
Latent Print Examiner

On November 2, 1983 Det's HICKMAN and HOFFMAN recovered a machete from a Mr. Spencer C. BENNETT, owner of Spencer Motors in Jacksonville. This machete had black electrical tape wrapped around the handle. Mr. BENNETT had this item in his office and told police that he had taken it from one of the vehicles that he had taken in for re-sale. The weapon did match the description of a machete described by Ottis TOOLE in one of his statements, however, this investigator is not aware that this weapon has ever been forensically connected to TOOLE.

The electrical tape did yield prints which were compared to Ottis TOOLE's and they did not match.

When reviewing this case it was noted that TOOLE had mentioned that his brother, whom he sometimes worked with, would wrap electrical tape around the handle of the machetes they used to reduce friction and thus blisters. TOOLE had two brothers, and after consulting with Mr. HAMM, who was the original latent examiner, it was decided to re-submit this evidence for further examination in an effort to raise additional prints through the use of new technology and to compare any latents to the known prints of TOOLE's brother Howell and Meredith. As reflected in the enclosed report success was not achieved in either effort.

INV. PHILIP J. MUNDY

cc: Det. John Kerns, Hollywood P.D.