

MANIS, Johnny
Taken: 04/24/96

Statement

Statement
JOHNNY MANIS

April 24, 1996
Inv. Philip Mundy

THIS IS GOING TO BE A STATEMENT ON STATE ATTORNEY INVESTIGATION NUMBER 96-2-262 AND ALSO HOLLYWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT CASE 81-56073 AND THE FOLLOWING IS GOING TO BE THE STATEMENT OF MR. JOHNNY, J-O-H-N-N-Y, L. MANIS, M-A-N-I-S, A WHITE MALE, DATE OF BIRTH, JUNE 16, 1939 AS GIVEN TO STATE ATTORNEY INVESTIGATOR PHILIP J. MUNDY OF THE BROWARD COUNTY STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE. THIS STATEMENT IS BEING TAKEN AT _____ IN THE CITY OF _____ ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1996 BEGINNING ABOUT 4:40 PM.

THE FOLLOWING NOTATIONS WILL DISTINGUISH SPEAKERS:

PM: PHILIP MUNDY
JM: JOHNNY MANIS

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PM: As an investigator with the State Attorney, I have the authority to take your statement under oath, so I need you to raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm the statement you're about to give to be the truth, the whole truth, so help you god?

JM: I do.

PM: For the record sir, would you please state your full name and date of birth?

JM: Johnny L. Manis, 6/16/39.

PM: Sir, going back to 1983, were you employed by the Brevard County Sheriff's Office?

JM: Yes I was.

PM: How long were you employed by the Sheriff's Department?

JM: 12 1/2 years.

PM: And then approximately October, 1983 do you recall what your assignment was?

JM: I was working numerous homicide cases but one of them concerned a body -

PM: No you were assigned to the detective division?

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JM: Yes homicide.

PM: In connection with your duties as a homicide detective at that time, did you have occasion to come in contact with a white male individual that you come to know as Ottis Toole?

JM: Yes. Yes I did.

PM: And do you recall when and where that was?

JM: Where it was was the Jacksonville jail in Jacksonville, Florida. Exactly when I don't remember the date but it was approximately October.

PM: In 1983?

JM: 1983.

PM: What was the purpose of your contacting Ottis Toole?

JM: I wanted to interview him about possibly his involvement in a homicide of a black girl that was found dumped in a rockpit.

PM: Would that be the same case that Detective Steve Kindrick who was involved in?

JM: Yes it was.

PM: And as I understand it Detective Kindrick had interviewed Ottis Toole regarding that case on October 10, 1983, that is a matter of record as a matter of fact, it is a police record. Would you agree with that?

JM: I agree that he interviewed him prior to me going up there, but the date -

PM: Right you don't have an independent recollection of it but as I say it is a matter of record that it was October 10th so your conversation with Ottis Toole would come after that?

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JM: Yes sir.

PM: I really don't need to get into the details of that homicide. Did there come a time during your contact with Ottis Toole that he mentioned anything about a homicide of a child in the State of Florida?

JM: Yes. I brought it up, I brought up the subject because he I had talked to Detective Kindrick -

PM: Let me interrupt you for one second, if you can recall, when you made contact with Ottis Toole on this occasion before you had any conversation with him about the child's murder, did you identify yourself to him as to who you were?

JM: Oh yes sir.

PM: Did you advise him of his rights?

JM: Yes sir.

PM: And he didn't ask for an attorney?

JM: No sir.

PM: Was that verbal or did he sign a waiver?

JM: Normally I would have him sign a waiver so it is probably in the case file of the case I went to interview him on.

PM: Having got that out of the way, how did the conversation about the child come up?

JM: He told me he had nothing to do with the murder I went to talk to him about and so I just sat there and began talking to him in general and one of the things I brought up was the fact that he had told a friend of mine another detective that he had been involved in the Adam Walsh homicide.

PM: Did you specifically say Adam Walsh?

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JM: Yes sir. So I asked him about it. It was out of my jurisdiction and so forth and there was nothing I could do about it but it was just something to keep him talking in other words you know to make him feel at ease and so forth. And he when I mentioned it, asked him if he was involved he at first he just said he just looked at and didn't say anything like he was trying to feel me out and I asked him again if he was involved. I told him I didn't come to talk to him about that particular case but I said I was just curious. And he finally said he did it and I said why did you tell Hollywood Police that you didn't do it? And he said in his words he said they just pissed me off. And he said everytime I'd tell them something they would tell me I was lying and I was a liar and he said they finally just made me mad. He said you are right I didn't do it, he says he told them and he said they left then and left him alone.

PM: Now this conversation takes place after Detective Kindrick's. Can you give me any kind of time frame, how many weeks or days or afterwards?

JM: No sir there again I am sure there is a supplement in the case file on the unidentified black girl but I don't have access to those.

PM: So we found the report -

JM: You would find the exact time, copy of the envelope I gave him and all that information.

PM: And that would be your conversation with him about your case?

JM: Yes sir.

PM: Was that girl ever identified?

JM: To my knowledge she wasn't.

PM: Did Toole during this conversation give you any information about how, whys and the wherefores of the murder of Adam Walsh?

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JM: He told me that he was parked at a shopping mall. I don't remember if he told me it was in Hollywood or what city it was, but he said he was parked at a shopping mall and he saw the little boy and he was playing around the machines that you drop money in and ride, the little -

PM: You mean the child machines, merry go rounds, and -

JM: I think there was a little car and rocket ships and little rocking horses and so forth in front of the stores. And he said he noticed he had a baseball cap on so he asked him if he played ball, and he said at first the boy wouldn't talk to him he kind of stayed away from him. He was telling me this in response to a question I asked him about how in the world did you get him in your van, how did you do that? And so he was telling me about how he went about getting the kid in the van and he said he kept talking to him and asked him if he played ball and the kid said he did and he said I have an almost new glove that I will give you if you will come over here and get it. And he said the kid came closer but he wouldn't he didn't come real close and he said he made a pretense of hunting in his van, digging around among his belongings trying to find this glove. The more he dug and the more he talked to the kid the closer the kid got and he finally told him he said I probably left it at my house. And he said if you want to go with me we will go get it. It is just a few minutes it is just around the corner here. And he said the kid looked back toward the mall, and he said don't worry about your mom, we will be back before she even misses you and the kid finally got into the van. And he said once the kid realized that he wasn't taking him back he started crying and everything and he said he slugged him and knocked him unconsciousness to set him up. Said he drove on out on the interstate and went north and eventually the kid I guess started coming around and he said he chopped his head off with a machete and through the head away. I don't think I asked him what he did with the head cause it had been found. I said what did you do with the rest of the body? And he said he drove to Jacksonville to his mother's house and said he put the rest of the body on a trash pit his mother had out in the back yard. I asked him if his mother was home and he said no she wasn't. He said he set the rest of the body on fire. And I said well how did you get it burned and he said there was other trash in this pit and he said so we burned the trash and the kid's body and

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he tasted it and I said what do you mean tasted it, and he said well I ate a little bit of him. And anyway he said that is how he disposed of the body. And I said did you tell Hollywood police department all this and he said well at first I tried to and they kept telling me I was lying and I finally just said I didn't do it. And that is pretty much the extent of our conversation.

PM: When he said the interstate do you recall him saying interstate or is that your term?

JM: Well maybe that was my term, I don't recall him saying interstate he just said he went north.

PM: And than he mentioned the city that this happened in, I know you said Hollywood police but did Toole ever say what city?

JM: I don't recall him saying what city, like I said I don't know if he said it or if I just assumed in was in the Hollywood area.

PM: Did he indicate to you if he was alone?

JM: He said he was alone. Nobody was with him.

PM: From one of the comments you made about you knew the head had been found, give me a time frame, I take it that when you spoke to Ottis about this you knew that he had recanted his original confession?

JM: Yes sir.

PM: And how did you learn about that?

JM: Let me back up a little bit. I don't know if I knew that he was ever interviewed by Hollywood PD. The only think I knew about it was what Kindrick had told me, he had talked to him. And I guess when Kindrick came back and was telling me this that is the only reason I brought it up in the conversation to start with. I thought maybe he told Kindrick that and I was there again trying just to talk to him to get him at ease and I wanted to talk to him about the other homicide. Because there was not much I could do about his confession even if he did tell me he did it.

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Other than passing the information to Hollywood. And I guess they had pretty much lived him off as just being -

PM: Did you ever call anybody at Hollywood PD in the way of your conversation?

JM: No.

PM: Did you relate your conversation to Det. Kindrick?

JM: Yes. And also my Lt. which is Jim Bolick.

PM: How do you spell that Bolick?

JM: B-O-L-I-C-K.

PM: Now basically it was left there right I mean there was no move for direction from you or anybody else from Brevard County?

JM: I guess my Lt. was already aware that Hollywood had written him off. So I didn't really contact them.

PM: Now this conversation that you had with Toole, you weren't with anybody were you?

JM: No.

PM: And it wasn't recorded?

JM: No sir.

PM: You don't have any notes from it?

JM: No sir.

PM: And there was no police report made?

JM: There again we are talking 15 years ago and I am positive I put a supplement in that case that I had talked about.

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PM: You are talking about your case from Brevard County. But that wouldn't contain comments he made about the Walsh case would it?

JM: Probably not, but it I may have put something in there cause I usually put all my notes right into the case files that I am working on.

PM: Did you ever have any further contact with Ottis Toole in any fashion?

JM: No sir.

PM: After he related this to you that he had basically confessed to Hollywood and then recanted that confession, did you put it to him as to whether or not he actually did kill the child?

JM: Did I put it to Ottis?

PM: I mean, what I am getting out did he tell you that he killed the child?

JM: Yes.

PM: He told you he had recanted because the Hollywood Police basically called him a liar?

JM: Yes.

PM: Did he give you any ot her reason that he recanted his statements to Hollywood Police?

JM: He just said at first he said they pissed me off, and I said how's that. He said they kept calling me a liar, they kept telling me I was lying everytime I would try to tell them about it they would tell me I was lying.

PM: Did you by any chance discuss Ottis Toole and his statements that he made about the Walsh case with any Jacksonville detectives?

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JM: No.

PM: Do you know Det. Terry?

JM: No sir.

PM: Is there anything else that you can think of in regard to the Walsh case, Toole or anyone else for that matter that you think I should know about?

JM: The only thing I have been kind of curious about and I don't know exactly what he told Hollywood Police but I personally think somebody should go to his mother's house and see if there is a pit and maybe try to dig it or something, but I don't know if Hollywood PD ever did that or not. See I had no details of their case and that is one reason I didn't pursue it, I thought maybe he was lying about it. Maybe they caught him in some lies and I didn't pursue it.

PM: When you spoke to Ottis Toole and this Walsh thing came up, had you seen or paid particular attention of any news media reports about the Walsh case?

JM: The only thing I knew about it and I don't know where I got the information that his head had been found in a canal somewhere around 60 and 95.

PM: So your conversation with Toole would have been after the media reported that Walsh's head had been found.

JM: Yes. Well working with the Sheriff's Department I might have gotten that information some place besides the media.

PM: Among relatives, police information sources?

JM: Right.

PM: But the conversation was definitely after the head was found?

JM: Yes.

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PM: You wouldn't have any idea how much after that
the conversation would have been?

JM: No sir.

PM: But again we can go to the report and find a
supplement and that would give us the date.

PM: Yes sir.

PM: This will conclude the statement at
approximately 4:55 PM.

STATEMENT TERMINATED

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