

***STATEMENT OF
THOMAS LAW***

**Inv. Philip Mundy
November 14, 1998**

THIS IS GOING TO BE A WITNESS STATEMENT REGARDING STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE INVESTIGATION, CASE NUMBER 96-02-262. THE FOLLOWING IS GOING TO BE THE STATEMENT OF MR. THOMAS EARL LAW, BLACK MALE, DATE OF BIRTH, DECEMBER 7, 1949 AS GIVEN TO STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE INVESTIGATOR PHILIP J. MUNDY. THIS STATEMENT IS BEING TAKEN AT 8325 AVALON, A-V-A-L-O-N DRIVE, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1998 BEGINNING AT ABOUT 12:01 PM.

THE FOLLOWING NOTATIONS WILL DISTINGUISH SPEAKERS:

PM: PHILIP MUNDY

TL: THOMAS LAW

PM: Mr. Law as an Investigator with the State Attorney's Office I have the authority to take your statement under oath and I just need you to raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear or affirm the statement you are about to give will be the truth, the whole truth so help you God?

TL: I do.

PM: I need you to speak up.

TL: I do.

PM: Mr. Law, the reason I am here is that we are investigating a case in which a suspect that you knew as Ottis Toole has been very prominent and there is a photo array in front of you with six photographs. You recognize anybody in those photographs?

TL: Yes.

PM: Which one?

TL: Number 5.

PM: And that is?

TL: Ottis Toole.

PM: Just so we know we are talking about the same individual. Correct me if I am wrong, you basically knew Ottis in Jacksonville when you and he were both employed at a company called Southeast Color Coat?

TL: Yes.

PM: And that was a deal where crews would go out and do work and Ottis would be amongst your crew?

TL: True.

PM: So your relationship with him was kind of off and on. You didn't see him everyday or anything did you?

TL: No I didn't.

PM: As you know we are investigating the death of a little boy and again Ottis is a suspect in that case and we are doing some follow-up. You were questioned by the police back in 1983 and there was some more information that came to light which brings us to re-question you here today. Basically what I would like to ask you, during the time you knew Ottis Toole do you recall him making any statements that you heard, not what someone told, you but that you heard, regarding the death of a child?

TL: No, not anything specific.

PM: The other question I have is during the time you knew Ottis when he was working with Southeast Color Coat do you remember him driving a black and white Cadillac?

TL: Yes I do.

PM: You didn't know whose car that was right?

TL: No I didn't.

PM: But he drove it?

TL: Right.

PM: Did you ever see any weapons in that car?

TL: I have seen a machete.

PM: And what do you remember about it as far as what it looked like, they were all pretty standard I guess?

TL: Just a regular machete. He had it in the trunk I saw it.

PM: Do you remember anything about the handle of it?

TL: No nothing particular.

PM: Just saw it in the trunk?

TL: Just saw it in the trunk. He showed it to me.

PM: He didn't say anything about it, just that you happened to see it?

TL: Yea I just saw it.

PM: Again back in '83 when you gave a statement to the police, these were two Hollywood detectives that spoke to you at the Duval County Jail. In going over your statement there was a comment in there that Ottis Toole would always talk a lot of trash, what did you mean by that?

TL: I mean that is the way guys made time go by easy. He was just gay. He talked more trash than a woman. He just, he teased about things, you know.

PM: You weren't referring to like crimes of murder were you?

TL: No.

PM: They didn't follow up when you made that statement. They didn't ask you what you meant by that.

TL: No I heard Ottis say things and we took it like just him talking trash you know guys ribbing each other and him ribbing the guy back. You know like I'll cut your head off or I'll kill you or I'll make you my husband or I'll kiss you or something like that, it was just talking trash.

PM: And when he said things like "I'll kill you", "I'll cut your head off", these were just out of the blue statements?

TL: This was just him talking trash.

PM: He wasn't referring to anything he had done?

TL: No he didn't say anything specific, he didn't, that came to him or something.

PM: Do you also remember an individual named Bobby Lee Jones?

TL: Yea I know Bobby.

PM: And how long did you know Bobby?

TL: I would say a few years. 4 or 5. I know Bobby four years.

PM: Was it from working at Southeast?

TL: Yea, right.

PM: And you remember about how old he would have been back then?

TL: 20, 19, he was young because I was young.

PM: Did he ever cause you any problems or anybody else any problems?

TL: No.

PM: Would you say he was a pretty good guy?

TL: He ate a lot. You know we teased him about eating. Fat short guy.

PM: You knew him that long and was it strictly a working relationship or did you know him off the job?

TL: We didn't socialize, but you know I went to Bobby's house on the weekend or you know he came over to mine but you know we weren't what you might call running partners or anything like that.

PM: I am trying to think how to phrase this, what I am trying to get at is if you knew him well enough, could you offer an opinion that if Bobby came and told me something, do you think he would be telling the truth?

TL: More or less. It depends on what it was. If it was something serious and you know I would believe him.

PM: There is nothing else you can think of about this case that you think I should know about right?

TL: No.

PM: Ok Mr. Law. This will conclude the statement. It is about 12:07 PM.

Statement terminated