

Volume III- Case Incident File  
File 4  
Letters from Senate to Walsh  
04/27/83

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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND  
HUMAN RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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April 27, 1983

Mr. John Walsh  
2801 McKinley Street  
Hollywood, Florida 33020

Dear John,

Enclosed are some summary sheets we have developed in regard to four or five notorious cases of child murders. In our May 12 hearing we intend to examine the problem of serial or pattern murders and the tracking system that does exist to try to solve these horrible crimes.

The hearing will be held at the Juvenile Justice Subcommittee, chaired by Senator Specter. We will use the same procedures as we employed for the February 2 hearing on the FBI.

It would be real helpful if you would be able to make a plea for the VI-CAP tracking system which was created by experienced homicide investigator Pierce Brooks. Pierce will testify at the hearing as well as Ann Rule who is an investigative reporter who has studied some 1,400 murders nationwide. Pierce and Ann will detail some of the serial cases and how a tracking system might be employed to solve them. It would be very helpful if you could testify as to the need for such a system. If you use the basic statistics that we have enclosed in regard to some of the more notorious child murder sequences and indicate your feelings as to the priority that such a system should receive I am sure that you will be very persuasive in convincing the Senators that such a system is imperative.

The VI-CAP tracking system would not simply focus on the traditional random and senseless murder, but would also zero in on the disappearance of children where an abduction by a stranger is suspected. In addition, such a system would also work in the kind of cases that happened in Atlanta and Chicago, Houston and Los Angeles. These kind of disappearances and random and senseless killings would be tracked eventhough the suspect was operating primarily in one locale.

John Walsh  
April 27, 1983  
Page 2

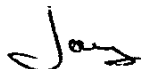
John, I believe that most people in America believe that we already have such a system. Most of the people believe that these kind of horrible crimes are being tracked and analysed. Most people believe that the individual police departments contact other areas to determine whether or not there are similar murders being committed in other parts of the country. Most people believe that nationwide teletype alerts are actually read by other police departments. As you know, all of the above are not true.

Your perspective as a parent, a victim, and an individual who has taken the time to truly learn the perimeters of the problem will be invaluable.

I have been calling your house and will continue to do so in order to make our plans for the 12th. My only consideration is that I hope this kind of testimony and this kind of hearing is not too gruesome and that the information that we have provided will be helpful to you in your testimony. As usual, each witness will probably go for about 15 minutes.

I will be in touch soon.

Sincerely,



Jay Howell  
Investigations Counsel

JH:crw

Atlanta, Georgia

Number of Bodies Found: 29

Ages: 7 - 27, Mostly between 9 and 14 years old

Sex: 2 Females and 25 Males

Location most lived in: Southwest Atlanta

Date of Disappearance: 1979 - 1981

Cauth of Death: Strangulation, suffocation

Location of Body: Many found near river or in woods.

Amount of time they were missing: Most bodies found within  
a month of disappearance

HOUSTON

August 10, 1970 suspects caught

27 bodies

Suspects:

Elmer Wayne Henley, 17  
Dean Allen Coril, 33  
David Owen Brooks, 18

17 bodies put in a rented boat shed. Coril rented it in 1970.

Victims

youngest - 13 years old, missing for 2 years

some bodies encased in plastic, others buried in bathing suits or unclothed and thrown in on graves and covered with lime.

One victim had a cord around the neck.

Victims tortured, and were sexually abused.

17

18

(both identified through dental records, were roommates and were high school dropouts.)

Were both hired by a roofing company two days before they disappeared on July 25, 1970. Both called home on July 26, said that they were in trouble. parents reported him as missing. parents did not.

Both bodies found in boat shed of Coril. was strangled was shot in the head.

\*Coril got to know young boys and get acquainted with many of his victims through owning a candy store. That is how he met David Brooks. The candy store was in a suburb of Houston called the Heights. (lower middle-class neighborhood) Brooks introduced Henley to Coril in 1968.

Dean Allen Coril

Born in Fort Wayne, Indiana

Served one year in the army and got a hardship discharge.

Parents separated and remarried. Coril moved to Houston in the early 1960's. His father lived there also.

David Owen Brooks

Met Coril while visiting Houston several years ago (approx. 1966)  
Lived with Coril from time to time. Married and his wife  
was pregnant at time of arrest. Brooks met Henley in junior  
high.

Elmer Wayne Henley, Jr.

Brooks introduced Henley to Coril. Dropped out of school  
in the 9th grade. Wanted to enlist in Navy, but was rejected.

Henley and Brooks were paid \$5 to \$10 to commit sodomy with  
Coril. Coril offered Henley \$200 to recruit other boys.  
Henley did take him up on the offer. Picked up many victims  
when they hitchhiked. Boys were leared into Coril's parties  
with offers of food, marijuana or sniff.

Coril was a regular in the Henley household. Mrs. Henley  
said that Coril treated Henley like a son and Henley treated  
Coril like a father. Mrs. Henley said Coril didn't  
act his age.

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Coril had 5 apartments in the Heights where he killed boys.

First few bodies were supposed to have been sent off to  
California somewhere.

Account of murder of Coril

Henley, Timothy Kerley, 20 and Rhonda Williams, 15 went  
to Coril's house in Pasadena, suburb of Houston. They sniffed  
vapors from a spray can of acrylic lacquer and passed out.  
When they awoke Coril had handcuffed them and bound  
their feet.

Coril said he would kill them, but Henley got to the  
gun when Coril set it down and Henley shot Coril.

17 bodies under the boat shed

4 bodies in woods by cabin owned by Coril's father in the  
Angelina National Forest

2 bodies buried in High Island beach - 60 miles east of  
Houston.

Henley was found to have committed justifiable homicide in  
the murder of Coril. Henley was arrested for 2 murders,  
and Brooks was arrested for the murder of a 15 year  
old boy whose body was found at High Island beach.

Chicago, Illinois

Suspect: John Gacy  
36 years old  
Des Plaines - Northwest of Chicago

Charged with murders December 23, 1978

\*Convicted in 1968 for sodomy in Iowa.  
Served only 18 months of 10 year sentence.

Twice divorced  
Occupation: Building contractor

Victims:

32 young boys  
boys found under Gacy's house in Des Plaines, Illinois  
all victims were strangled (though a .32 caliber  
automatic was found buried in the concrete  
steps of Gacy's home)

27 bodies were found in the house  
Gacy said that others were dumped in a lake.

15 years old  
(Robert's disappearance lead the police to  
investigate the Gacy home. Mr. and Mr.  
filed a \$85 million damage suit against  
the Chicago police, prison and parole authorities  
in Iowa who discharged Gacy prematurely after  
serving only 18 months of a 10 year sentence  
imposed in 1968 for sodomy.

20 years old, Kalamazoo, Michigan

19, of Crystal Lake, Illinois

22, of Cloquet, Minnesota

17, Chicago

19, Chicago

16, Chicago

18, Chicago

15, Chicago

20, Chicago

\*Other bodies were not identified

Chicago cont.

\*There were accusations of kidnapping and rape against Gacy in December 1977 and in March 1978 in Chicago.

\*Police watched Gacy's home for two weeks after the disappearance of \_\_\_\_\_ 15. After two weeks the police then went in and arrested Gacy.

Medical Examiner - Cook County, Mr. Robert J. Stein

State Attorney - Mr. Bernard Carey

\*All victims were between the ages of 17 and 20 except 15 year old \_\_\_\_\_ of Des Plaines. Gacy was also charged with aggravated kidnapping, deviate sexual assault and taking indecent liberties with a minor. Gacy admitted that he kill \_\_\_\_\_ and then dumped his body into the river.

One of the victims was the son of Sgt \_\_\_\_\_ of the Chicago Police Department. \_\_\_\_\_ lived four blocks from Gacy but was never linked with Gacy during the investigation of the disappearance of the boy.

Gacy often entertained children by dressing up as a clown. He met \_\_\_\_\_ who applied for a job at Gacy's contracting firm. Two other bodies found were former employees of Gacy. Both of these boys were in their late teens.