

Jim, for your
info, I then give
to Bessy.

Jim

Montgomery Advertiser *2nd trial*
ROUGH DRAFT *of*
Wilkins

The Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala., 10/23/65, carried an article concerning the conclusion of the second trial of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS in Lowndes County Circuit Court for murder of VIOLA LIUZZO.

It set forth that ARTHUR HANES, Attorney for WILKINS, called only ten witnesses on 10/22/65. The article set forth:

"Hanes, in his summation, said 'The person who shot Mrs. Liuzzo is not in this courtroom. The person who shot Mrs. Liuzzo is probably riding around over the countryside right now - probably in a red Sprite, laughing about the people of Alabama!'"

(LEROY MOTON had testified that a small red foreign car had tried to run him down minutes before Mrs. LIUZZO was killed.)

HANES was quoted as stating further, "Maybe the murderer is from the Watts area of Los Angeles or over in Crawfordville, Georgia, trying to produce a body to raise money for their nefarious schemes."

HANES called ROWE a "Judas goat" and "an informer who sells his information for money. And if he doesn't have any information to sell, he fabricates information and sells it." The defense attorney called the trial "a parable of two goats - a Judas goat and a scapegoat."

HANES told reporters that he had said from the outset that "I would have no part in having any organization or group or ideology on trial, that I insisted WILKINS be tried as an individual on the merits of the case."

Alabama Journal, Montgomery, Ala., 10/23/65, set forth:

In his final argument to the jury Hanes referred to ROWE as a "Judas goat" and to "this young man, this lad Wilkins," as a "scapegoat." He said ROWE only received pay from the FBI if he delivered information - "no information, no money."

"If there is no information he fabricates information and he goes and peddles it," Hanes charged.

The newspaper article further set forth, "The defense attorney said Wilkins was the scapegoat in a plot cooked up by Flowers and United States Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach" and that the trial was "a sounding board for future legislation - to do something about Southern justice."

HANES also intimated that someone else committed the crime and that the killer probably was "riding around the United States somewhere in a dark car or in a red Sprite, laughing at the simple people of Alabama."