

February 3, 1969 1:20 PM

(36)

Statement of Mr. James M. McCraw, to George R. King and John Gets

On April 4, 1968, I was driving for Yellow Cab Co. and was dispatched to 422 1/2 So. Main St. to pick up a fare. When I arrived at this address, I double parked as there were cars and trucks parked at the curb. I observed a Cadillac auto, owned by Mr. Jones, owner of Jims' Grill on So. Main, 526-9910, I also observed two white Mustangs parked at the curb and several delivery trucks all of this traffic was parked on the east side of So. Main St. facing North. A woman who ran the rooming house directed Mr. McCraw to a certain room, stating that the occupant of that room directed that a cab be called. The door of the room was open and McCraw went in the room and found Charles Stevens (Stephens) lying on the bed fully clothed, he was in a very drunken condition. Stephens was well known to Mr. McCraw, as he (McCraw) had picked him up many times before. Mr. McCraw refused to transport Stephens as a fare because of his drunken condition. Mr. McCraw stated that Stephens could not get off the bed. Mr. McCraw left the rooming house, got back into his cab, made a U turn and went South on So. Main St. When Mr. McCraw got to the corner of So. Main and Calhoun Sts. the dispatcher said that Dr. M. L. King had been shot and for all cabs to stay out of the So. Main area. Mr. McCraw, after he got back into his cab, received a call to Frankie & Johnrmys Boat Store on the Mississippi River at the Bridge. Mr. McCraw estimates that he was in the rooming house about three minutes and that from the time he left the rooming house until the time the dispatcher called about King being shot was about two minutes.

McCraw has driven Stephens to many liquor stores through the city at many different times. Stephens drank all kinds of whiskey or beer. Mr. McCraw could not tell whether Stephens drank more on the first and the fifteenth of the month as he (Stephens) was a heavy drinker at all times.

James M McCraw

2047 Nelson Apt #4

278-7837

works at Veterans Cab Co.

525-3535
525-6681

Witness:

George R. King

John Gets

Witnessed, signed statement attached