1	IN THE CRIMINAL COURT OF RECORD IN AND FOR DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
2	
3	CASE NO.: 71-106.05
4	9 FILED -
5	THE STATE OF FLORIDA, : MAR 201972 Plaintiff, : J. F. McCRACKEN
6	Plaintiff, : J. F. McCRACKEN CLERK
7	-vs-
8	LOUIS LICOR, :
9	Defendant. :
10	<u> </u>
11	Suite 414, Conference Room Dade County Justice Building
12	1351 Northwest 12th Street Miami, Florida
13	Friday, 4:10 o'clock p.m.
14	March 3, 1972.
15	
16	EXCERPT OF DEPOSITION
17	
18	
19	DEPOSITION
20	of
21	DENSET SERRALTA taken on behalf of the Defendant
22	pursuant to a Subpoena Duces Tecum
23	
24	

1	APPEARANCES:
2	JEFFREY COHEN, ESQ.,
3	Assistant State Attorney (Not Present)
4	LAWRENCE S. KATZ, ESQ., and
5	ROBERT A. SPIEGEL, ESQ.,
6	Attorneys for the Defendant.
7	ALSO PRESENT:
	LOUIS LICOR
8	ROLLANDO POZO,
9	Interpreter.
10	
	THEREUPON:
11	DENSET SERRALTA
12	was called as a witness and, after having been
13	was carred as a withess and, alter having been
14	first duly sworn, was examined and testified on
	his oath as follows:
15	* * * * * *
16	DIRECT EXAMINATION
17	DIRECT EXAMINATION
18	BY MR. KATZ:
10	* * * * * *
19	Q [By Mr. Katz] Do you remember
20	the date that this thing happened to your father?
21	
00	A Yes, December the 9th.
22	Q Okay. Of 1971?
23	A Yes. It was on a Thursday,
24	- '

1	December the 9th, of 1971.
2	Q All right. Where were you at
3	that time?
4	A You mean when the shooting
5	started?
6	Q Yes, sir.
7	A I was in the interior room, which
8	is his office, but it is called the interior room.
9	Q Okay.
10	Were you with your dad at that
11	time?
12	A Well, I was inside the office,
13	but not with him.
14	Q You were not with him, directly.
15	A No, I wasn't.
16	Q Okay.
17	Now, what was the first thing
18	that you heard or saw?
19	A Two shots.
20	Q Bang. Bang?
21	A Yes. I didn*t see any then,
22	but I heard two shots. See, I mean, I was inside,
23	and that is why I didn't see anything at that time.
24	Q Could you tell where the shots

1	were coming from?
2	A Yes. They were coming from the
3	front, from the printing presses.
4	Q In front of the building?
5	A Uh-huh.
6	Q And then what did you do, after
7	you heard the shots?
8	A I came out to see what was going
9	onI mean, you know [indicating].
10	Q Where did you go, to the front
11	of the building?
12	A No. You see, there is a
13	Q Here are the pictures [indicating].
14	Go ahead and point out which one it was.
15	A Well, they are no good. See,
16	they have to be pictures of the inside. I was inside
17	of the building at the time.
18	Q Well, we do not have any pictures
19	of the inside.
20	A See, I was inside. I was inside
21	an interior office like that [indicating], and from
22	that office, you can go in a hallway
23	See, from that office, from the
24	interior office, you go from there into a hallway,

and, then, that hallway connects you with the
printing presses and the salonyou know, the place
of the meetings, and every other thing.
Then, when I came out in there,
that is when I was able to see what was going on,
you know, in the front of the door of the printing
presses.
Q How far were you away from the
front door of the printing presses or press?
A No, press. Printing press.
Q Okay.
How far were you away from the
front door of the printing press?
A Well, I couldn't give it to you
in feet, but it was right in front of the door of
the office, my dad's office, and I would say that
that would be maybe, maybe fifty feet or so. I
don't know for sure.
Q Okay. That is good enough.
A Now, maybe it is less than that.
Maybe it is less than fifty feet. I don't know for
sure.
Q Okay. That is approximately.
A Uh-huh.

1	Q Now, did you have lights on,
2	inside the building?
3	A Yes.
4	Q Were there lights on outside
5	of the building, too?
6	A Outside?
7	Q Yes.
8	Were there lights on, outside
9	the building?
10	A Yes. We should havewell, I
11	don't really remember. I can't really tell you now
12	if we had them on or not. I mean, maybe somebody
13	shot them off, you know. I don't know. But, any-
14	way, usually, we usually have lights on outside of
15	the building when somebody is inside.
16	Q Okay.
17	Now, what did you do, or what
18	did you see at that time?
19	A Well, like I told you, when I
20	came out of the office, I saw my dadI mean, I
21	couldn't see him very well, but I knew that he was
22	sort-of down in a corner. I mean, I could see that
23	he was sort-of down in a corner.
24	Now, what really put my eyes wide

1	open, or what really caught my eyes, was I saw a
2	wide, super-van, and I could see that this wide,
3	super-van had its doors open, and I could also see
4	two men. I mean, as far as I could see, I could
5	see two men, but I couldn't see them too good. Any-
6	way, I saw these two men inside this super-van, and
7	I saw that they were shooting down to my dad.
8	Now, all I can remember besides
9	that is that there were sparks coming out from the
10	shots, of course, and I heard them. I could hear
11	the shots.
12	Q You heard the shots?
13	A Uh-huh.
14	Q Did you see what kind of guns
15	they had? Could you see them at all?
16	A No, I couldn't tell you what
17	kind of guns they had because I didn't really look
18	at the type of the gun they had in their hands. I
19	mean, all I remember is that I saw the sparks. I
20	saw the sparks.
21	Q Where were the sparks?
22	A Coming from the guns.
23	Q Okay.
24	Were you able to tell how the

1	men were dressed?
2	A No. I mean, I know they had on
3	the regular-type dress. I mean, they were dressed
4	the regular way a person dresses, you know? I mean,
5	I couldn't remember colors, or anything like that,
6	but I know they were dressed the regular way a person
7	dresses.
8	Q Okay. No problem. No problem.
9	Now, how long did you stay there
10	and observe? How long did you stay there and observe
11	the shooting, and how long did the shooting last, if
12	you remember?
13	A Oh, very little. I mean, I
14	couldn't tell you I mean, many things happened
15	that night, you know, but it was all very short.
16	It was all over in a very short time, a very short
17	time.
18	Q Okay.
19	Do you have any idea how many
20	shots were fired?
21	A Well, at least the first two,
22	and, then, after that, I lost count.
23	Q All right. What did you next

observe, after you heard the shots?

24

1	A Well, like I told you, I came
2	out into the hall, and then when I saw the shooting
3	going on, I then came to the frontof the hall and
4	passed back into the office to call the police.
5	Q Did you stay in the front of the
6	building to watch the rest of this, or did you run
7	to the phone?
8	A No. I ran to the phone.
9	Q Then you called the police?
10	A Then, I called the pollice; that
11	is right.
12	Q Where was your father at this
13	time, sir?
14	A In the front.
15	You mean, at the beginning of the
16	shooting
17	Q Yes.
18	A [Continuing]or after I called
19	the police?
20	Q No. The beginning of the shooting
21	is what I am interested in.
22	Where was your father at the
23	beginning of the shooting?
24	A Well, I was in the office. I

1	mean, I knew that he was in the shop working on
2	something, and, then, I was working, too, on some-
3	thing, so I didn't pay too much attention where he
4	was in the shop.
5	Then, after I heard the shooting,
6	though, I came out and I saw the two men, and then
7	I saw my dadsee, my dad was like this [demonstra-
8	ting] but I couldn't see him too good because of
9	where I was standing.
10	Q You were blocked, in other words?
11	A Right, because the halls are
12	narrow, you know, and I could just see small things,
13	that is all.
14	Q After you called the police, where
15	was your father?
16	A Well, after, he came to me.
17	Q He came back to you after?
18	A Yes.
19	Q Were you on the phone at that
20	time, sir?
21	A No. See, I had left the phone
22	at that time.
23	Q You had finished your call to
24	the police, in other words?

1	A Yes, at this time I had finished
2	my call to the police.
3	Q Okay.
4	What did your father say to you
5	at that time?
6	A Well, he suggested to me to call
7	the police. I mean, I had already called the police,
8	but he didn't know.
9	Q He didn't know?
10	A No.
11	Q Okay.
12	Then what happened?
13	A See, he was all bloody on the
14	front of the forehead, and the hands, too. I mean,
15	the hand didn't really bother me too much, because,
16	you know, it was running, but when I saw the head,
17	the head bothered me because I had thought that it
18	was a bullet that had gone threw, you know?
19	Q Did you tell him that you had
20	called the police already?
21	A I can't say yes.
22	Q All right. Don't guess.
23	A I mean, maybe I didn't even
24	think what he was talking about, you know? I mean,

1	I don't know.
2	Q But you remember that he told
3	you that, to call the police?
4	A Yes, I remember that he told me
5	that.
6	Q What did the two of you do at
7	that time?
8	A After that, he just took his
9	position, and kind-of like shifted down [indica-
10	ting], you know, and I don't remember where he
11	kind-of shifted down, but I do remember that he
12	kind-of shifted down at that time. You know, I
13	mean, he kind-of took cover, you know, because he
14	was afraid that they might come back, again.
15	Q Do you know if they had left
16	at that time, after the police came?
17	A No. I mean, they moved over to
18	the side, you know, but I could hear a motor running,
19	too, but I couldn't see if they left at that time
20	or not because I didn't go out to see.
21	Q Okay. So, what happened next?
22	A Well, you mean, after the motor
23	and all that?
24	Q Well, after you stayed back there

1	with your fad? In other words, after you stayed
2	back there with your dad, did you go back to the
3	front of the door at all?
4	A No. No.
5	See, after that, we heard the
6	sirens, you know, and then we figured that they
7	must have gone, or something, you know, and then
8	the police came right fast through the front of
9	the door.
10	Q Did they come through the
11	front of the door?
12	A No. No, because there is a
13	small road See, there is a small road, you know,
14	there. You see, right here [indicating], right
15	here is a road, and that is where they came threw,
16	and from the road, they came right threw the front
17	of the door over here [indicating].
18	Q You are using picture lA for
19	Identification now, right?
20	A Right.
21	Q And you say that the police
22	pulled right up in front of the bullding; is that
23	right?
24	A Yes.

1	Q And they came right in front
2	of the door with the circle with a cross in the
3	center?
4	A What?
5	Q They came in threw the door
6	that has a circle above it with a cross in the
7	center of it; right?
8	A Yes.
9	Q Okay.
10	Did the police go outside,
11	or did you go outside to them?
12	A Did the police go outside?
13	Q Did you go outside to the police
14	when they came, or did the police go outside after
15	they came in, first, or just what happened at that
16	point?
17	A No, they came in to us.
18	Q Then did you and your father
19	have a conversation with the police?
20	A Well, yes. They started asking
21	us, you know, what happened here, and all that kind
22	of stuff, you know, and then there was another man
23	there on the floor, too, that [indicating]
24	Q You say you saw somebody on the

1	floor?
2	A Yes, the man. I mean, he was
3	all bloody, you know, when I saw him there. I
4	mean, I don't remember whether it was him [indi-
5	cating]. I mean, I guess it was him [indicating].
6	Q You say you guess "it was him",
7	why do you say that?
8	A Well, he is over here. I
9	mean, I can't say for sure it was him. I mean,
10	I couldn't recognize him for sure because he was
11	too bloody, you know, when I saw him there, on
12	the floor.
13	I mean, when I saw him, he
14	just went like that [indicating] and looked up a
15	little, and then went down, again, like this [indi-
16	cating], so I don't recognize him too good, but
17	I just guessed that because he was here, you know?
18	Q You don't recognize him, then,
19	do you?
20	A No.
21	Even if he looked at me for some
22	time, I couldn't recognize him, really.
23	Q That's okay. No problem.
24	But you saw the man lying down;

1	right?
2	A Yes.
3	Q Where was he in relation to
4	your building?
5	A He was right beneath the door.
6	I mean, the name of the door, I don't know, but he
7	was right beneath the door.
8	Q Okay.
9	Did he have a gun with him at
10	that time?
11	A He had a shotgun below him.
12	I remember that he had a shotgun below him.
13	Q It was underneath him?
14	A Yes.
15	I remember when I saw him that
16	he had a shotgun below him, underneath him.
17	See, I didn't know he was there
18	until I came out from my hiding placeI mean, the
19	office.
20	Q Were you with your father when
21	he gave a statement to the police?
22	A Not all the time, no. I mean,
23	he started talking to the police. Then I moved
24	over because some friends had come, and all that,

1	so I couldn't really tell you what the order of
2	things were, you know?
3	Q Okay.
4	Did you give a statement to the
5	police?
6	A Yes.
7	Q What did you tell them?
8	A Well, they talked to me and,
9	you know, they asked me stuff like why did I think
10	this happened, and all that kind of stuff, and that
11	was it.
12	Q Why did you think it happened?
13	A Well, I couldn't really tell them
14	what it was, you know, of why this thing happened.
15	I mean, I am not sure why it happened, you know,
16	but I think maybe the politics had something to do
17	with it, you know. I mean, that is the only thing
18	I can think of of why they would have done it, you
19	know?
20	Q Okay.
21	Do you think it was a political
22	reason?
23	A Well, that is possible. There
24	is no other reason.

1	Q Have you learned, since the
2	incident, why they may have done it?
3	A Well, I couldn't really tell
4	you that, sir. I mean, I haven't learned why they
5	could have done it. I mean, there are a thousand
6	suspicions, you know, as to why it could have been
7	done.
8	Now, it could have been this
9	guy [indicating] or another guy, or another guy,
10	or another group. I mean, I don't know. I really
11	don't know.
12	Q Okay. But it is political; right?
13	A Well, the most part of it, yes.
14	I mean, if it is not political, then it is something
15	that my dad knows and I don't know.
16	Q Okay.
17	Now, did your father have a gun?
18	A Like, how?
19	Q Well, did he have a gun with him
20	that night?
21	A Well, he always keeps a gun in
22	the office. I mean, he always keeps a gun in the
23	office in case of any assault or hold up, or any-
24	thing like that. I mean, he always keeps the gun

1	with him or on him, you know; at least, that is
2	what I know of.
3	Q What type of pistol is that,
4	or what type of pistol was that?
5	A [No response]
6	Q It was a pistol, wasn't it?
7	A What he had, you mean?
8	Q Yes.
9	A No.
10	See, it was a revolver. I mean,
11	it is the one that goes around, you know? It is
12	the type that goes around. Revolver, right?
13	Q Okay. Revolver.
14	A Well, I mean, I don't know if
15	it is the same one he used or not, but that is the
16	one he uses or keeps in there with him all the time,
17	you know?
18	Q But, at the time, he had a
19	revolver on him.
20	A That is right. He had a revolver
21	on him, like he always has.
22	Q Okay.
23	Where did he normally keep the
24	revolver?

1	A Inside his burery sometimes,
2	and sometimes inside the printing press office.
3	I mean, it depends.
4	Q Okay. Did he ever carry it
5	around with him?
6	A You mean with him or on him, or
7	what?
8	Q Yes.
9	A No. No, not usually. Not
10	usually he didn't.
11	Q Okay.
12	Were you with him on this parti-
13	cular night?
14	A [No response]
15	Q You were with your dad, weren't
16	you?
17	A Yes.
18	Q Did you happen to see his gun
19	that night, before this thing happened?
20	A No, I didn't really pay that
21	much attention to it because I never thought we
22	were going to ever use it, you know? I mean, I
23	thought it wasn't
24	Q Let me ask you this, then: If

1	he had it in his handsand, I am now talking
2	about immediately before this thing happened, like
3	immediately before
4	A Wait a minute. You better start
5	over, please.
6	Q Okay.
7	Immediately before this thing
8	happened, if he had it in his hands, or if he was
9	wearing it around, in his holster, or if he was
10	wearing it in his belt, or if he had it in his
11	sock, or if he was carrying it around in his hands,
12	you would have seen it, wouldn't you?
13	A Yes, I guess, unless he had it
14	concealed.
15	Q But if it wasn't concealed, you
16	would have seen it; right?
17	A I would have noticed it on him,
18	yes.
19	Q Okay.
20	Did he make a habitif you
21	knowof carrying it around on his person?
22	A No. I never seen it on him.
23	I mean, I knew he always had one in the bureau,
24	or in the printing press, but I never seen it on
,	

1	him just, say, for him to carry it around like,
2	for nothing.
3	Q In other words, you are saying
4	that he doesn't make like a cowboy, carrying a gun
5	around; right?
6	A Huh?
7	Q He doesn't make like a cowboy,
8	carrying a gun, does he?
9	A No.
10	Q Okay.
11	Do you know if your father was
12	ever threatened before this?
13	A Threatened?
14	Q Yes.
15	A No. I mean, you can't say
16	threaten, you know, is like we are going to do
17	what they did to him. I mean, you know, what they
18	tried to do is they tried to kill him; however,
19	before, we did have about, almost exactly two weeks
20	hefore, somebody passed in front of the office,
21	this store here [indicating], and they, you know
22	[indicating].
23	Q Right in front of the building?
24	A Yeah. See, they shot six shots,

or something like that, and then they just left. 1 I mean, it sounded like six shots, you know, but 2 we all thought it was some drunk from the back, 3 or something. We didn't really think it was some-4 body shooting at us. 5 See, there is a bar right over 6 here [indicating], and we thought that they were 7 crazy or something over there, you know. 8 it might have been something else, but we just 9 thought it was some drunk; that is all. 10 Did your father get disturbed 11 after that shooting? 12 Everybody got disturbed after Α 13 that; sure. 14 15 Did he take precautions after Q that? 16 A Well, yes, he did. For example, 17 he never goes away alone anymore. I mean, in that 18 day, it was only me and him, you know, 'cause we 19 didn't expect anything, you know, but from since 20 then on, now everybody goes out at the same time 21 from there. 22 Okay. Q 23 Now these people, whoever they 24

1	were, shot threw that door; right?
2	A Yes.
3	Q And the time this incident
4	happened was on a Thursday night
5	A Yeah.
6	Q [Continuing]and from that
7	day on, did he take any precautions from that night
8	on?
9	A You mean from today?
10	Q No.
11	You said before this incident
12	happenedand, this happened on December 9th, right,
13	of 1971?
14	A Yes.
15	Q Okay.
16	Well, you said that about two
17	weeks before this incident happened
18	A Yeah, two weeks.
19	Q [Continuing]somehow somebody
20	shot threw that door; right?
21	A Yes.
22	Q Okay. Between that two-week
23	period, was your father upset or did he take any

1	A No, not that day. Not that I
2	know of.
3	See, he never communicated that
4	he was upset to me, and I wasn't upset, either, about
5	it, you know, because, like I said, I really thought
6	it was some drunk or something.
7	Q That is the reason why you did
8	not care about it; right?
9	A Right.
10	Q So you spoke to the police
11	officers on that nightgetting back to December
12	the 9thright?
13	A Uh-huh.
14	Q Okay.
15	Did you speak to them after
16	that night?
17	A The police officers?
18	Q Yes, sir, in regard to this
19	case.
20	A Huh?
21	Q I mean, we all speak to them
22	every day
23	A Right.
24	Q [Continuing]but did you speak

to them after that night, the night of December 9th, 1 in regard to this case? 2 See, once in a while 3 Well, yes. I would see a police officer pass by there every 4 day, you know, and he would or they would go buy some-5 6 thing in the store over there, you know, and I would 7 see them once in a while there, you know, but that was all. 8 0 But you never discussed this 9 case with them? 10 Α No. 11 12 Actually, is this the first Q 13 time you have talked about this case to anybody? 14 Α This, here? 15 0 Yes. 16 Α No--I mean, we talked about the---17 Ø I mean, has anybody who is an attorney or police officer talked to you about this 18 case? 19 20 An official, you mean? Α 21 Q Yes. 22 Well, I talked to a detective, a detective that went over there, you know, and he 23 24 asked me some questions, and all that about this

1	case here, but, then, that was it. No more than
2	that, you know? I didn't talk about it no more
3	than that.
4	Q But what we discussed today,
5	the questions we already discussed today, no one
6	asked you questions like that?
7	A Like I say, the detective, he
8	asked me a couple questions, but that was it. It
9	was no more than that.
10	Q Did he ask you if you thought
11	this was a political thing?
12	A Yes. You know, he asked me who
13	did you think did it, and has anybody been going
14	around here, and has anybody threatened us or my
15	dad, and stuff like that; the same thing.
16	Q Okay.
17	What were the answers to those
18	questions?
19	A No, because I didn't expect
20	anything, because that I know of nobody took any
21	precautions, or anything like that, so we weren't
22	expecting anything like that to happen.
23	Q Okay. Is there anything that
24	happened on this night, in relation to this incident,

1	that has gone on, that I don't know anything about?
2	A No.
3	I mean, I went to the hospital
4	with my dad, and that was it.
5	Q That is the whole thing, them.
6	A Yes, and then, after that, after
7	I went to the hospital with my dad that night, then
8	I went home with him; that is all.
9	MR. KATZ: Thank you very much.
10	Off the record a minute, Madam
11	Reporter.
12	[Thereupon, discussion was
13	held off the record.
14	[Thereupon, the witness
15	waived the reading and
16	signing of the deposition,
17	and the taking of the depo-
18	sition was concluded at
19	4:25 p.m.]
20	****
21	
22	
23	
24	

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA

DE

COUNTY OF DADE

,SS: 1

I, ESTHER ANTHONY, Court Reporter and
Notary Public in and for the State of Florida at
Large, do hereby certify that I reported in shorthand the deposition of ENSET SERRALTA; that the
deponent was first duly worn by me; and that the
foregoing pages, numbered 1 through 28, inclusive,
constitutes a true and correct report of the excerpt

I further certify that I am not an attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor financially interested in the action.

WITNESS my hand and official seal in the City of Miami, County of Dade, State of Florida, this 6th day of March, 1972.

ESTHER ANTHONY, Notary Public in And For The State Of Florida At Large.

NOTARY PUBLIC. STATE OF FLORIDA at LARGE
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES DEC. 1, 1975
BONDED THRU GENERAL INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS