

CRAIG ARMSTRONG,

called as a witness for the Defendant, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY

MR. MC NAMARA:

Q Will you state your name, please?

A Craig M. Armstrong.

Q And what is your occupation?

A I am a lawyer.

Q Have you formerly held any official jobs for LaSalle County?

A Yes, sir, I was First Assistant State's Attorney from September 1, 1958, to December 1, 1960.

Q You know the defendant, Chester Otto Weger, here?

A Yes, sir, I do.

Q Calling your attention to September 28, 1960, --

A What date was that? Was that Tuesday or Wednesday?

A No, sir.

Q Did the conversation stop there?

A No.

As we were driving down Congress Street towards the tollway, there was a statement made by Mr. Dummett.

He said, "Chester, you are going to ride a 'thunderbolt'."

That's the conversation, that I believe.

Q What else did he say, if anything, if you recall?

A Chester or Bill?

Q Chester or Bill, either one.

A Chester replied to that statement that he wasn't going to go to the chair because he didn't kill anyone, and that's it.

At that moment I knew what Mr. Dummett meant by the word "thunderbolt." I had never heard the phrase before. I had never heard it mentioned before.

Q Were there any subsequent conversations or threats of that nature made by William Dummett?

A The word "thunderbolt" was repeated more than once, and there was some talk about the chair, and the first person to talk about the chair was Chester.

Q Then subsequently the chair was mentioned by William Dummett?

A The word "chair" I believe was mentioned by both parties.

Q Is that as much as you recall of the conversation at that time?

And what did occur?

A At that time that this occurred, I tried to cover up. I didn't want anything like that actually taking place at that stage in the investigation, or anything else like that, naturally.

And I told Chester I didn't think -- what I didn't know -- I didn't know whether or not he killed the ladies, but that we would be checking him out from that time on very closely, because he had not given us an honest lie test at Reid's office. He moved his arm to make the needle pop.

he would be glad to talk to us; just to call him up. And he told us where he was working at that time, which I believe he was painting at the power house at Libby-Owens-Ford.

I told him I would like to talk to him about what I had talked to him before on the trip from Oglesby -- from 1022 Third Street -- and he said he would be glad to give me a statement about what he said, and asked us to come up any time.

I then told him that I would call him that week and have him come into the office. We left his home and went back to Ottawa. I picked my car up and went to Ottawa and Wayne drove to his home, which was about a mile from the four corners.

Q Directing your attention to the statements which you have previously testified that were made by Bill Dummett on the trip back, did you tell anyone else of those statements?

A Yes, sir, I did.

Q Who did you tell?

A I told Mr. Warren about the "thunderbolt";