

Vol. IV 10/24/17 pp. 690-1921

IV

Exam. St. Louis Riot Investigation  
Wednesday Oct 24 - 1917

Index

John P. Reno  
J. O. Tripp

Pages

690

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Wednesday, October 24, 1917.

The Committee met at 10:30 o'clock a.m., Mon.  
Ben Johnson (Chairman) presiding.

Mr. Johnson. The committee will please come to order.  
Mr. Fero, will you take the stand.

STATEMENT OF JOHN P. FERRO,

SUPERINTENDENT, MALLEABLE IRON CO., E. ST. LOUIS, ILL.

The witness was sworn by Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Johnson. Mr. Fero, will you please give the  
stenographer your name and place of residence?

Mr. Fero. John P. Fero. I live at the Illmo Hotel,  
East St. Louis.

Mr. Johnson. What is your occupation?

Mr. Fero. Superintendent of the Missouri Malleable  
Iron Company.

Mr. Johnson. How many men have you employed?

Mr. Fero. Approximately 900.

Mr. Johnson. What percentage of them are negroes  
at this time?

Mr. Fero. From 150 to 200.

Mr. Johnson. I say what percentage.

Mr. Fero. 10 or 12 per cent.

Mr. Johnson. When we have been dealing with that  
question we have been dealing with percentages.

Mr. Fero. Well, that would be more than that. It  
would be from 15 to 20 per cent. That is approximate.  
I didn't look it up positively.

Mr. Johnson. What per cent of your employees were  
negroes last October?

Mr. Fero. I don't think there would have been any  
great change in the percent age. We may have had a

little greater percentage of negroes last October. I am not positive about that.

Mr. Johnson. Why do you think that?

Mr. Fero. Well, simply because we have not as many colored men as we had.

Mr. Johnson. When did the number of colored men in your employ begin to be reduced, if at all reduced?

Mr. Fero. Immediately after the riot.

Mr. Johnson. The July riot?

Mr. Fero. The July riot.

Mr. Johnson. When did you first commence employing negro labor?

Mr. Fero. We have always employed them.

Mr. Johnson. For how many years back?

Mr. Fero. Oh, for twenty-five years I think. As long as we have been in East St. Louis.

Mr. Johnson. Has the number perhaps grown a little all along?

Mr. Fero. As our business grew, I think, probably.

Mr. Johnson. I am talking about the percentage now.

Mr. Fero. The percentage may have increased.

Mr. Johnson. Who looks after securing labor for your plant? Do you do that yourself?

Mr. Fero. Usually. We have no labor bureau or employment agent there.

Mr. Johnson. That then probably falls on you?

Mr. Fero. Not altogether, unless there is an emergency that has to be met quickly. Usually the men apply for work at the gate.

Mr. Johnson. Has your concern, through you or

through anybody else, sought to bring negro labor from the South to this place?

Mr. Fero: we have advertised in the papers, not only through Illinois and Missouri but I distinctly remember advertising in the Cairo paper; in a Nashville paper, and I think a paper in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Mr. Johnson. When were the Cairo, Nashville and Vicksburg advertisements placed?

Mr. Fero. Early in March.

Mr. Johnson. Of this year?

Mr. Fero. Yes.

Mr. Johnson. How long did those advertisements run, particularly in those three places?

Mr. Fero. One week.

Mr. Johnson. Have you got a copy of any one of those?

Mr. Fero. I have a copy in my office. I made a copy of the ad. as I took it from the paper. They were all alike.

Mr. Johnson. Read it, please.

Mr. Fero. "Wanted, colored laborers for foundry work; wages \$2 to \$2.60 per day; can earn \$3 to \$3.50 working piece work. Steady work for steady men."

Mr. Johnson. What response did you get to those advertisements?

Mr. Fero. We got a great many letters. That was practically all we did get.

Mr. Johnson. You didn't get any help?

Mr. Fero. We haven't been able to trace any help directly from the far south ad., but we have some from

Cairo. We weren't able to trace any from either Memphis or Nashville. Memphis I forgot to mention. Our experience was---I have all kinds of letters from people that were directly traceable to these advertisements, but they all wanted transportation, and we never forwarded one cent for transportation. We never paid a cent for transportation.

Mr. Johnson. What was the occasion of your advertising for help in March, 1917?

Mr. Pero. The growth of business and the scarcity of men.

Mr. Johnson. Was there a scarcity of labor here in March?

Mr. Pero. Yes, our business was growing rapidly and there was a scarcity of men in East St. Louis, the class of men that we required.

Mr. Johnson. Did you have out any other advertisements for labor except these you have just spoken of?

Mr. Pero. Yes, we were advertising for molders and young men to learn molding.

Mr. Johnson. Where were those advertisements placed?

Mr. Pero. They were principally placed in the small towns through Illinois and Missouri.

Mr. Johnson. Did they call for white help or negro help?

Mr. Pero. Why, we didn't specify---young men, as I remember it.

Mr. Johnson. The inference would be that you wanted white help there, then?

Mr. Pero. Yes, because we don't employ negroes except in unskilled labor.

Mr. Johnson. You didn't advertise anywhere for white unskilled labor?

Mr. Pero. No, we did not. There is a reason for that, if you will allow me. That is this: Our work, our business, our plant, is a malleable iron foundry. Our common labor is very, very laborious work. It is not only physically laborious, but it is very exhausting because they work in very hot temperatures, and we have learned that the white labor will no longer do that work, and we have to depend on colored labor for that---and to some extent what is called "foreign labor" for that class of work. White men won't do that work any longer.

Mr. Johnson. Have you got some foreign laborers in there?

Mr. Pero. Yes, we have some foreign laborers.

Mr. Johnson. About what percent of your labor is foreign?

Mr. Pero. Well, our common labor in foreigners would take up the balance---very nearly the balance---of 100 per cent--between the difference in the black and 100 per cent. We have very little common white labor---that is, totally unskilled.

Mr. Johnson. You have practically no common white native labor?

Mr. Pero. Very little in the unskilled part. We have certain classes of labor that require a greater or less degree of skill.

Mr. Johnson. Where did you get this foreign labor?

Mr. Pero. Why, they have been here for years--- and their friends. They bring their friends, and they come and go from one malleable plant to the other all over this section of the country.

Mr. Johnson. Of what country principally are they natives?

Mr. Pero. Well, we have had some Turks. We haven't any now. The foreign labor now is principally Armenian. You understand we employ molders who are poles, and fellows of that class, but our unskilled labor is principally Armenian.

Mr. Johnson. Armenians and negroes?

Mr. Pero. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. Did you advertise for the foreigners?

Mr. Pero. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. Where were those advertisements?

Mr. Pero. Those advertisements were put in their papers. One that I remember was in Milwaukee, and if I remember right, another in Boston and another in New York. They have a few papers and we have to use them when we are looking for that class of men.

Mr. Johnson. So your advertisements for help for all common labor, unskilled labor, have been in the papers of foreigners, and in other papers for negroes?

Mr. Pero. Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson. Do you know anything about the riot?

Mr. Pero. I wasn't here during the riot. I left here Saturday night and didn't get back till Thursday morning. We were closed down for our annual inventory for the first three days of the week, and we had had a

pretty stiff week and I went away three or four days for a rest, and didn't get back till Thursday morning.

Mr. Cooper. What do your common laborers do?

Mr. Pero. Well, they fire the furnaces. We use an air furnace in our process out there---or rather, air furnaces. They fire the furnaces and attend to them, skimming and carrying out the hot slag; carrying the molten metal to the molders, and taking out the castings from the foundry proper to the cleaning room, in addition to getting up stock, picking iron and scrap iron and material which is charged into the furnaces.

Mr. Cooper.. You characterized that as very laborious work?

Mr. Pero. Laborious and exhaustive work, yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. The temperature in which the work is performed has a good deal to do with it, hasn't it?

Mr. Pero. Around the furnaces it is very hot.

Mr. Cooper. What temperature does it reach?

Mr. Pero. Well, I don't know that I could answer that, really, but it is quite an increased temperature over the normal temperature of the shop or of the atmosphere. A man stands right up against the furnace and stands and throws coal into that furnace with the door open at all times; and when he is not throwing coal he is poking it. He throws the coal in and pokes it and spreads it over the firebox, and when that burns out he throws in some more.

Mr. Cooper. He has to keep at it pretty steadily does he?

Mr. Pero. All the time, constantly.

Mr. Cooper. So he is either throwing on coal into the open furnace door, or poking the coal on the fire all the time?

Mr. Pero. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. And the man works how many hours a day in that sort of temperature?

Mr. Pero. Well, we run two heats a day, and each man has a night heat or a day heat. The night men begin at various times, beginning at 1 o'clock in the morning up to 2 or 3 o'clock. When the heat is out they are through and the day gang picks it up from that. They run eight or nine hours perhaps. That varies according to the work of the furnace, and sometimes the fire works better and they get out quicker; and sometimes they are delayed a little.

Mr. Cooper. Now the men who quit at 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning, what time do they begin?

Mr. Pero. They begin at 1 or 2 o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Cooper. And work till how long?

Mr. Pero. Till the other gang comes on, at about 7. But in the meantime, before they start their furnace they have some other little chores to do around there. We have a gang on at night and a gang on in the day, but the firemen on the furnaces, and the men who fire the night heat don't begin firing until 1 o'clock, 2 o'clock or 3 o'clock, as the case may be.

Mr. Cooper. Are there two gangs in the day?

Mr. Pero. No, one gang in the day and one at night.

Mr. Cooper. Two gangs in the 24-hour day?

Mr. Fero. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Do they occupy the whole day in this work?

Mr. Fero. No their work runs from 8, 9 and occasionally 10 hours.

Mr. Cooper. And none of them longer than 10 hours?

Mr. Fero. Not at work. They don't work longer than that.

Mr. Cooper. But they stay up longer than that around the place?

Mr. Fero. Yes, they get up---the night gang will come in at half past 5 sometimes, and lay around there, but they don't go to work.

Mr. Cooper. They get there at half past 5, what do they do from that time on.

Mr. Fero. Well, they just lie around. They don't all get in there at that time. They sometimes come in there at 6 or 7. They are not obliged to come in there at that time.

Mr. Cooper. And you pay them what wages?

Mr. Fero. Why, those men working on day work basis are getting from \$2.60 to \$3.00.

Mr. Cooper. How many of that kind of employees have you, about?

Mr. Fero. Somewhere from 85 to 100, perhaps---as nearly as I can remember.

Mr. Cooper. Do these men all shovel coal?

Mr. Fero. That will be the day gang. Then the night gang runs perhaps 25 or 30. No, we run six furnaces, and there are three or four men at a furnace. The rest of the men carry molten iron to the molders and carry

out the castings to the cleaning room; get in stuff from the yards to charge the furnaces, pig iron and scrap. In addition to that department, in our annealing room the conditions are much the same, and there we have 17 annealing ovens where the castings are annealed. Those ovens are about 15 by 25 feet in area, and they are working under a temperature of 1500 degrees, or 1500 to 1700 degrees. The castings are packed in pots, and of course the condition there is very hot all the time, and we find that while a few years ago we had white men doing that work, they have gradually, of their own volition, dropped out, and we find now we have very few white men in that line of work---a few foreigners and a number of negroes.

Mr. Cooper. How large is that room, did you say?

Mr. Pero. That room is nearly, as I remember it, somewhere about 100 or 110 by 375.

Mr. Cooper. And the temperature in that place gets as high as 1500 degrees?

Mr. Pero. No, the ovens are working at that.

Mr. Cooper. How high is the temperature of the room?

Mr. Pero. The temperature would probably run up to 110, 115 or 120 in the summer---115 at least. Perhaps not all over the room, but in spots.

Mr. Cooper. These men stay in that all day and work?

Mr. Pero. They work there, yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. You say they dropped out, the white men did, of their own volition.

Mr. Pero. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. They simply couldn't endure that heat, that's all?

Mr. Fero. Well, they could find easier jobs.

Mr. Cooper. Yes, but they couldn't endure that heat.

Mr. Fero. Perhaps not. We have white men who have been with us twenty-odd years and are with us yet.

Mr. Cooper. Working in that temperature?

Mr. Fero. Yes---well now, I'm giving you that temperature as I guess it. I don't know that I ever put a thermometer in there, but I know it is very warm in there in the summer time.

Mr. Cooper. Did you say you have men working now, white men, who have worked 10 hours a day for 15 or 20 years?

Mr. Fero. I don't know that I would want to be quoted as saying that the temperature is quite as high as that. I know it is a good deal hotter than the atmospheric temperature. Now the matter of degrees is a pretty hard thing for me to say. I don't want to state that, because I don't know it. I know it is a great deal hotter than it is in the yard or in other parts of the plant.

Mr. Cooper. Is your plant an open shop or closed?

Mr. Fero. Open.

Mr. Cooper. How many Turks have you had working there for you?

Mr. Fero. Why, I don't think we have a Turk in the place now. We have had them at different times.

Mr. Cooper. How many have you had at any one time?

Mr. Fero. I don't know. In fact, I can't tell a Turk from an Armenian.

Mr. Cooper. How many Turks and Armenians have you had there at any one time?

Mr. Pero. Why, I should think perhaps we had as many as 75 or 100 perhaps. Now we may have had more; we may have had less, but I should think something like that.

Mr. Cooper. About what time was it you had 75 or 100 Turks and Armenians working for you?

Mr. Pero. We have had them in varying quantities up to this spring but they went to the railroads this spring. They like to get out door work.

Mr. Cooper. Then did the negroes take their places?

Mr. Pero. Why, in a measure, yes.

Mr. Cooper. You had Turks and Armenians up to this spring, 75 or 100. They quit, and you think the negroes took their places?

Mr. Pero. No, we didn't lose as many men as that. We lost our Turks principally; not the Armenians so much. They had dwindled down so that perhaps we lost from 25 to 35 this spring.

Mr. Cooper. Turks?

Mr. Pero. Yes.

Mr. Cooper. How many Armenians?

Mr. Pero. Very few if any.

Mr. Cooper. Their places were taken by negroes?

Mr. Pero. Yes, sir; negroes and Armenians who came in, not entirely negroes.

Mr. Cooper. Where did these other Armenians come from?

Mr. Pero. Some came from Detroit; some from different malleable centers.

Mr. Cooper. You had your advertisements in papers

published in foreign languages in this country?

Mr. Fero. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Are the papers published in the Armenian language?

Mr. Fero. Yes.

Mr. Cooper. You had your advertisements in those?

Mr. Fero. Yes.

Mr. Cooper. About how many advertisements did you have in southern papers asking for black labor?

Mr. Fero. If I remember correctly I had one in Cairo, one in Memphis, one in Nashville, and one in Vicksburg, Mississippi. I believe those were all.

Mr. Cooper. When did you have those advertisements in those papers?

Mr. Fero. The first week in March.

Mr. Cooper. Last March?

Mr. Fero. This last March, yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. And you had each of those advertisements in each of those cities for about one week?

Mr. Fero. Yes, if I remember correctly, two or three insertions.

Mr. Cooper. Two or three insertions in each city?

Mr. Fero. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Promising negro help how much?

Mr. Fero. \$2.60 per day, I believe. The wages in the different operations were from \$2.00 to \$2.60; and we promised them on a piece work basis---the men were then earning from \$3.00 to \$3.50.

Mr. Cooper. \$2.60 was what you would pay negro common labor if they came there to your shop?

Mr. Pero. Yes. That would depend upon the operation he was in; \$2.00 to \$2.60 in various operations.

Mr. Cooper. What else in the way of common labor did you have besides these men who did that work in that excessive heat?

Mr. Pero. We had in other departments what is called white labor; that is, German-Americans, Americans and others.

Mr. Cooper. What did they do, the white labor, Germans and Americans?

Mr. Pero. They do the finishing processes; the grinding of the castings, chipping, trimming and cleaning.

Mr. Cooper. That is common labor also, isn't it?

Mr. Pero. That is, to a greater or less degree skilled. There is a certain amount of skill in that. It isn't really common labor, because there is a certain amount of skill in it.

Mr. Cooper. When I said "common" I meant unskilled. What other work calling for unskilled labor did you have besides the labor done by these men in this excessive heat?

Mr. Pero. That is practically the bulk of our unskilled---practically all of our really unskilled labor. The only departments in which---in our finishing department, which is really skilled labor---not mechanical work---we don't employ mechanics---but they learn to chip castings; they learn to clean them; they learn to grind them, and work of that sort. It requires some little skill but not the skill of a mechanic---but more skill than the carrying of iron.

Mr. Cooper. What wages do they get?

Mr. Fero. Well, they work on piece work basis, and I think those men earn from \$2.75 to \$3.50 and \$4.00 a day.

Mr. Cooper. All piece work?

Mr. Fero. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. About how many of those did you have?

Mr. Fero. Well, there would be, I think perhaps in the neighborhood of 400, in the various departments.

Mr. Cooper. Those were all white?

Mr. Fero. Those were all different nationalities--- that is, white men, as they are termed, Irish-Americans, German-Americans, and so on.

Mr. Cooper. All Caucasians?

Mr. Fero. All Caucasians, yes.

Mr. Cooper. No negroes in that?

Mr. Fero. None in those departments, no.

Mr. Cooper. Where else did you have negroes employed in your factory?

Mr. Fero. Only in the departments I referred to and in the unloading of coal and iron.

Mr. Cooper. What was the effect of your advertising in those four southern cities, three advertisements a week in each of them, last March, for negro labor, promising them the wages that you have just mentioned?

Mr. Fero. Why, we know positively that we got some men from Cairo, a few, but we have no means of knowing that we---I couldn't state positively whether or not we got any from the other ads. In fact, I hardly think we got any from Nashville, because I have a friend

in the foundry business there, and I knew from him that labor was scarce there, and I hardly think we got any.

Mr. Cooper. Now the grand jury reported, as I understand, that approximately 8,000 negroes had come to the city of East St. Louis within the last year or year and a half---or a little more. That is a most extraordinary influx, and if reports are true, thousands of them began to come here and did come after the winter had started in a year ago. Can you account for that extraordinary influx?

Mr. Fero. No, I can't. I don't know, unless conditions---I do know this: I know that not only the negroes but others of our employees wrote their friends and told them of conditions here and wages that were being paid; and I think it very probably that negroes came under those conditions, and I know that we got a lot of white help under those conditions.

Mr. Cooper. So the inevitable result of an advertisement such as you published in those four southern cities was to bring negroes here with the further inevitable result that they would write to other negroes; and the whole influx then, after March, was in large part attributable to your advertisements, wasn't it?

Mr. Fero. No, I misunderstood you. I understood you to say that the influx began a year ago, before the winter.

Mr. Cooper. At that time.

Mr. Fero. I say, I think it is possible that that writing---now I don't know that there was any writing after March.

Mr. Cooper. But the probabilities are that negroes

who came here in response to your advertising would write letters to the South about their coming here, about the wages, and so forth?

Mr. Pero. That is a possibility, yes.

Mr. Cooper. And that information would go broadcast from one community to another, wouldn't it?

Mr. Pero. I want to say that I don't think we ever got a negro in response to our advertising---or at least we couldn't trace any, except from the city of Cairo. We know some that came from there but I don't think we know of any coming from other places.

Mr. Cooper. Did every colored man who came to ask employment of you, meet with your inquiry whether he had read your advertisement?

Mr. Pero. No, I don't think so.

Mr. Cooper. How otherwise did you try to trace them?

Mr. Pero. Well, there were cases where men came with an ad. and would show his ad. and say that he saw this in the paper; and I know we got some from Cairo, but other places I don't know about.

Mr. Cooper. But you said a moment ago you couldn't trace. Now you didn't try to trace any if you didn't ask them if they came as a result of an advertisement.

Mr. Pero. No, we made no effort to trace them.

Mr. Cooper. So, as a matter of fact, you don't know how many came as a result of your advertisement.

Mr. Pero. No, our only means of knowing would be the talk of the men in the plant.

Mr. Baker. About what is your age Mr. Pero?

Mr. Pero. Sixty.

Mr. Baker. How long have you been in East St. Louis?

Mr. Fero. About nine years.

Mr. Baker. Are you a man of family?

Mr. Fero. I have a son and two daughters.

Mr. Baker. They are living here with you?

Mr. Fero. My daughters are here. My son is in Chicago.

Mr. Baker. Where do you make your home?

Mr. Fero. At the Illmo Hotel.

Mr. Baker. How long have you lived there?

Mr. Fero. Ever since I have been in town.

Mr. Baker. That is on Missouri Avenue?

Mr. Fero. Right across the street here.

Mr. Baker. Right across from where this building is?

Mr. Fero. Between Collinsville and Fourth, on Missouri Avenue.

Mr. Baker. Well, it is right on the corner.

Mr. Fero. It is bounded by those three streets, Missouri, Collinsville and Fourth Street.

Mr. Baker. And diagonally across from the hotel is the Illinois State Bank?

Mr. Fero. Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker. Right opposite, across Collinsville Avenue, I see a sign there "White Dentists." What do you call that building?

Mr. Fero. I don't know. That is on the corner of Collinsville and Missouri Avenue. I don't know what the name of that building is. There is a cigar stand right on the corner.

Mr. Baker. And what building is on this other corner?

Mr. Fero. I think that is called the Bowdle Building. I am not sure about that. Bowdle did own it at one time.

Mr. Baker. What is the name of the bank in the Illinois Hotel?

Mr. Pero. The Union Trust and Savings, I think is the name.

Mr. Baker. You are quite well acquainted with the people here in East St. Louis, are you not?

Mr. Pero. No, I am not. I am not a mixer. I have a number of friends, a very few, but I know very few people in the city.

Mr. Baker. Well, you are acquainted with the bankers?

Mr. Pero. Yes, I know some of the bankers. I know them all, I think---that is, those right in the city here.

Mr. Baker. And the merchants?

Mr. Pero. I know a few of the merchants. I meet them perhaps at the Rotary Club or something of that kind.

Mr. Baker. You are a member of the Rotary Club?

Mr. Pero. Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker. About how many members of that club are there?

Mr. Pero. I think 50 or 60.

Mr. Baker. Are there any other organizations you belong to here in East St. Louis?

Mr. Pero. That is the only organization I belong to in East St. Louis.

Mr. Baker. You don't belong to the Chamber of Commerce?

Mr. Pero. Well, my company does, and I go to it occasionally. Either the president or I attend the meetings.

Mr. Baker. Well, you are acquainted more or less with those men who belong to the organization?

Mr. Fero. Yes.

Mr. Baker. Are you a member of the Committee of One Hundred?

Mr. Fero. Why, our company is, and I have attended some of the meetings, and the President attends some of the meetings.

Mr. Baker. Well, the Committee of One Hundred doesn't consist of individuals by name only, but some individuals and some companies?

Mr. Fero. Let me get that right. When the Committee of One Hundred was formed I wasn't there; I was out of town. Our president went down to the meeting, and later on I attended some of the meetings. Now I am not sure whether my name is on the record there or his.

Mr. Baker. Well, have you been present and participated with this Committee of One Hundred.

Mr. Fero. At a number of the meetings, yes.

Mr. Baker. Now going back to your business, I want to find out what you maintained relative to separate rest rooms for the colored people that <sup>are</sup> working for you, and separate rest rooms for the white people.

Mr. Fero. We have not what is termed a "rest room." We have a separate part, and a locker room for the two races.

Mr. Baker. Just a locker. Each one has an individual locker?

Mr. Fero. Each man has an individual locker and key.

Mr. Baker. In a big room?

Mr. Pero. Yes, a very large room. We have the second floor, which is the top floor, of one of our buildings. We have about four-fifths, or perhaps a little more of it given to the whites, and the other to the colored.

Mr. Baker. Well, is there any division in the room?

Mr. Pero. It is absolutely divided, even the stairways. Of course they can climb over the rail and get into each others portions if they want to.

Mr. Baker. Is there a separate stairway going into the colored room and a separate stairway into the white room?

Mr. Pero. Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker. But in the room there is just simply a partition?

Mr. Pero. There is a partition probably six or eight feet high.

Mr. Baker. Solid partition?

Mr. Pero. Concrete.

Mr. Baker. Now you have nothing there for these men save and except a locker?

Mr. Pero. Washing facilities and lockers; showers and bowls and lockers.

Mr. Baker. Hot and cold water?

Mr. Pero. Hot and cold water; and the room is heated. The state factory inspector has commended us about it.

Mr. Baker. Are there separate bath rooms?

Mr. Pero. Separate showers for the colored and separate showers for the white, and the bowls for each.

Mr. Baker. How long have you maintained that?

Mr. Fero. I think about two years.

Mr. Baker. Now have you anything else provided for your working men except what you have just described?

Mr. Fero. you mean recreation?

Mr. Baker. Yes.

Mr. Fero. No, we have nothing of that kind.

Mr. Baker. you have no place for them to get out in the open, in the yards or to get out in the sun, where they can have a little recreation of any kind?

Mr. Fero. Not during working hours. They don't have time.

Mr. Baker. Your plant is fenced off, isn't it?

Mr. Fero. Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker. It is in a yard and they have to go through your gate to get in?

Mr. Fero. Yes.

Mr. Baker. But when they get in the gate there is no place there for them to rest or to lounge--no reading room?

Mr. Fero. No, no reading room or anything of that kind.

Mr. Baker. No magazine room, music room or anything of that kind?

Mr. Fero. No, sir.

Mr. Baker. Now what has your company done towards providing anything for these men outside of the plant? Anything?

Mr. Fero. Well, we are contributing to the Y. M. C. A. and to amusements of that kind. We are taking an active part in that.

Mr. Baker. Have they a colored Y. M. C. A.?

Mr. Pero. I don't think there is one here. There is work being done by the Y. M. C. A. Secretary among those people. I don't think they have reached that. In fact, we have nothing of our own yet. We haven't really a building of our own of the Y. M. C. A.

Mr. Baker. Here in East St. Louis?

Mr. Pero. No. The women have rooms, and the Railroad Y. M. C. A. There is work being done by the Secretary or field Secretary of the Y. M. C. A. among the colored people.

Mr. Baker. Now where can these people go when they get through with their work? Have they got any place of amusement except the movies? Is anything provided for them with this great manufacturing center here with so many people? Is there anything provided for them here in East St. Louis?

Mr. Pero. I don't know of anything except the movies and their homes.

Mr. Baker. Well, now, most of these men---or half of them---are single men, aren't they?

Mr. Pero. A great many of them are, of course.

Mr. Baker. They haven't any place to go except the movies and the saloon? Isn't that it?

Mr. Pero. Except that the Armenians maintain their coffee parlors. They are not usually---not generally speaking---saloon men, the Armenians. They go to their coffee parlors and eat, and drink coffee and smoke cigarettes.

Mr. Baker. Your statement as to your plant there, the Malleable Iron Company, would that apply generally

to the rest of the concerns employing men here in and about East St. Louis, so far as you know?

Mr. Fero. What statement do you refer to?

Mr. Baker. As to the provisions for the men, recreation and so forth?

Mr. Fero. I don't know of anybody employing men alone that have a rest and recreation room. There may be one, but I don't know it. The man's work is continuous and he has no time for recreation during working hours, except during the noon hour, and we have a half hour noon in order to let the men get out at half past 5 and get home early at night.

Mr. Baker. Well, all your people come in at the same gate?

Mr. Fero. We have one gate.

Mr. Baker. Do you maintain an employment office?

Mr. Fero. Well, not in the sense---not in a strict sense. The watchman at the gate knows whether the foreman wants help or not, and if a man comes---

Mr. Baker (interposing). He is the man that attends to that feature?

Mr. Fero. He is the man that tells them whether we want help or not.

Mr. Baker. And they come to the gate to get employment?

Mr. Fero. Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker. Have you had a strike in the last two years in your plant?

Mr. Fero. We have never had a strike in my recollection.

Mr. Baker. Where were you on the 28th and 29th of May, this year?

Mr. Fero. The 28th of May---was that the night of the first riot?

Mr. Baker. Yes.

Mr. Fero. I was in my room at the Hotel that night--- the 28th of May. I remember that very well.

Mr. Baker. By what occurrence do you remember it?

Mr. Fero. Because I heard the crowd when I was ready for bed. I heard the noise of the crowd at the intersection of these four streets here.

Mr. Baker. And you didn't go out to see what was going on?

Mr. Fero. No.

Mr. Baker. Well, did you inquire the next day as to the conditions?

Mr. Fero. Yes, I heard the next day what it was.

Mr. Baker. What was it that you heard?

Mr. Fero. I heard the next day that there had been a meeting in the City Hall and that the crowd came out from the City Hall and assaulted or attacked some colored people.

Mr. Baker. Well, did you make any investigation as to the cause of this riot?

Mr. Fero. No.

Mr. Baker. Have you or your firm, or anyone interested, or did they at that time, make any inquiry as to the cause of the riot?

Mr. Fero. No.

Mr. Baker. Do you know?

Mr. Fero. Not that I know of.

Mr. Baker. From your observation here what was the cause of the May 28 and 29 riot?

Mr. Fero. You must remember I am under oath to tell the truth.

Mr. Baker. That is what I am asking you.

Mr. Fero. In my opinion that riot was directly caused by the meeting in the City Hall that night. That is my opinion of it. The crowd came out, as the newspapers reported it, and I heard that the crowd came directly from the City Hall and began very shortly after that to make trouble.

Mr. Baker. What I am trying to get at is, what is the moving cause for a riot of that kind? What is back of it? You live here now, and stop at the Illinois Hotel right across from the center of the town and you hear a good many people talk as to what is going on in East St. Louis. What is the prime, moving cause, if you know?

Mr. Fero. Why, I should think, in my opinion--- which may or may not be right---my opinion is it is the antagonism of the labor unions to colored people. That is my opinion of it. That may or may not be right.

Mr. Baker. What did you or your firm do now to alleviate the situation between the 28th of May this year and the 1st of July?

Mr. Fero. I don't know of anything we could do. We did nothing. We pursued the even tenor of our way. We assumed that that was a little spasm and that was all there was of it.

Mr. Baker. What?

Mr. Fero. We assumed that this thing had come up

and was over. We did nothing. We knew of no condition that existed with us that we could in any way alleviate. We knew no condition existed with us that would cause anything of that kind. Our men were working for us; were satisfied and were working steadily.

Mr. Baker. And there was no complaint?

Mr. Pero. No complaint. We had no trouble of any kind. Everyone was satisfied with their work and wages, and we were getting along very happily. We had no trouble in our plant, and we knew of no trouble in our plant.

Mr. Baker. Well, I think that is all.

Mr. Foss. How long have you been superintendent of this plant?

Mr. Pero. I think nine years the 1st of February.

Mr. Foss. Where is it located?

Mr. Pero. At 15th street and Southern Railway.

Mr. Foss. How far away from the City Hall?

Mr. Pero. Thirteen or fourteen blocks.

Mr. Foss. Down in the colored settlement?

Mr. Pero. No, it is east. Here is 4th street out here and here is 5th street (indicating)---this corner here---and we are ten blocks east and three blocks south of Broadway.

Mr. Foss. Where did the colored element of the city live, mostly?

Mr. Pero. Farther south, those of the southern portion. Then there is a settlement in the north.

Mr. Foss. Which is the larger settlement, the southern or the northern?

Mr. Fero. I have never seen the northern portion.

Mr. Foss. Did you have any guards or watchmen around your plant ordinarily?

Mr. Fero. Always.

Mr. Foss. How many did you have prior to the riot?

Mr. Fero. We had two night watchmen who made the round, ringing in the fire boxes. That is the fire patrol. Then we had our night force, you know, that were on there, but they weren't guarding the plant--two night watchmen. We didn't think it necessary to guard the plant except from fire.

Mr. Foss. Did you increase the number during this period from the 28th of May until the time of the riot? Did you increase the number of watchmen at all?

Mr. Fero. I don't think we did; to the best of my recollection.

Mr. Foss. Or afterwards?

Mr. Fero. After July we did.

Mr. Foss. After July you increased them about how many?

Mr. Fero. I think we had eight or ten patrolling, walking around the inside of our fence at night.

Mr. Foss. Did the riots in any way interfere with your business?

Mr. Fero. Yes, very materially.

Mr. Foss. In what respect?

Mr. Fero. Well, by our men leaving town.

Mr. Foss. Did any of your employees feel that necessity of moving out of town?

Mr. Fero. Yes.

Mr. Foss. Where did they go?

Mr. Fero. To St. Louis.

Mr. Foss. Can you state what number of men removed from East St. Louis to St. Louis?

Mr. Fero. No, I can't.

Mr. Foss. Are any living over there at the present time?

Mr. Fero. Yes, there are a number going back and forth on the street cars, and over the Free Bridge.

Mr. Foss. Why do they live there at the present time, do you know?

Mr. Fero. They are a little afraid to come back yet. That is, that is the way they express themselves.

Mr. Foss. Was your business interfered with in any other way, that you can state?

Mr. Fero. No, I don't know of any other reason for the interference of our business, except the absence of the men. That was of course temporary.

Mr. Foss. How long did that last, the absence of the men? Were you losing men from the time of the first riot down to the time of the second?

Mr. Fero. No, we didn't lose so many men then.

Mr. Foss. But after the second riot?

Mr. Fero. Our loss began with the second riot. In fact, we did very little business---our plant was shut down Saturday night before the 4th until Thursday morning for our annual inventory; and we were supposed to start in Thursday morning. We started on a very small scale, and I think it took us from a week to ten days to get to running our normal production again---at least

a week.

Mr. Foss. How many men showed up the morning after the riot?

Mr. Pero. I don't know.

Mr. Foss. Were you cut down half?

Mr. Pero. Our production was cut down, I think, fully 80 per cent.

Mr. Foss. What is it you manufacture?

Mr. Pero. Malleable iron castings.

Mr. Foss. Do you send them all over the country?

Mr. Pero. In this immediate vicinity, from here to Chicago.

Mr. Foss. But through these central states?

Mr. Pero. Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss. Do you have a large business?

Mr. Pero. We are turning out about 60 tons a day, of finished castings.

Mr. Foss. Are you increasing your business?

Mr. Pero. It has been increasing. In the past year or year and a half business has been abnormally good, of course.

Mr. Foss. At the present time are you back in a normal condition, so far as labor is concerned?

Mr. Pero. Very nearly.

Mr. Foss. Are you employing as many men as you did before the riot?

Mr. Pero. No, I think we are just about 100 men short of what we were before the riot.

Mr. Foss. Do you desire any more labor at the present time?

Mr. Pero. We have until just now. There is a temporary lull just now, but up to within the last two or three weeks we could have used those hundred men to good advantage.

Mr. Foss. During the riot did you call upon the Mayor for protection of your plant?

Mr. Pero. Well now, I am not so sure about that. As I say, I was out of town.

Mr. Foss. You don't know whether any of the officials of your plant asked for military protection, do you?

Mr. Pero. No, I don't.

Mr. Foss. You say you have had no strikes in your concern?

Mr. Pero. If we have it was before my time.

Mr. Foss. And you run an open shop?

Mr. Pero. Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss. And always have?

Mr. Pero. Always.

Mr. Foss. There was a strike, was there not, in East St. Louis in this past year?

Mr. Pero. Oh yes, there was a strike---an Aluminum Ore strike.

Mr. Foss. Was there a strike in any other plant?

Mr. Pero. Well, there was no strike anything like that. There may have been some little trouble that came up, that may have been settled quickly. I am not so sure about that. But that was a long drawn out strike.

Mr. Foss. That lasted a number of months, did it?

Mr. Pero. Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss. How many months, would you say?

Mr. Pero. I think it began in the early spring, and I don't think it was definitely settled until after the July riot.

Mr. Foss. I want to ask you a question about advertising. You say you advertised in the early part of March for labor. Have you in previous years advertised at all for labor in southern newspapers?

Mr. Pero. No, not to my recollection.

Mr. Foss. This is the only time then that you have done any advertising?

Mr. Pero. Conditions were abnormal this year. There never has been business in our line like it has been in the last year.

Mr. Foss. Well, in your judgment was there any state of affairs such as might be called "colonizing" of labor on the part of any of the industrial establishments?

Mr. Pero. No, sir; I don't know of any. I never have heard of any.

Mr. Foss. Has any charge been made that colored people were brought in here for political purposes, do you know?

Mr. Pero. Why, I think I have seen that in the papers, but I am not a politician. I simply go and vote, and I don't know much about politics in East St. Louis.

Mr. Foss. You have seen it in the papers. What papers?

Mr. Pero. The local papers. We get the St. Louis and East St. Louis papers.

Mr. Foss. When was that? Did you see that this year or last year?

Mr. Pero. About the time of the riot.

Mr. Foss. You were speaking about the cause of the riot, in your judgment. Have you ever given any study to the remedies for a situation such as existed in East St. Louis? What is the preventive of a recurrence of such a condition again, in your judgment?

Mr. Pero. That is a pretty broad question.

Mr. Foss. Yes, I want to ask you if you have ever given any study to the subject.

Mr. Pero. Yes, it is a matter that has come up in that time. It is a matter to which a great deal of thought has been given. I have believed in segregation, for one thing. I don't know that that would stop the trouble.

Mr. Foss. In segregation you say?

Mr. Pero. Yes.

Mr. Foss. What would be your idea on that point?

Mr. Pero. My idea would be to get the colored people in a certain portion of the city; give them every facility and every convenience that the white people have; be sure that they have comfortable homes; get the colony sufficiently large---if you want to call it a "colony." I have talked to some of the negroes along these lines, get a section of the city sufficiently large so that they might have their own little grocery stores, and instead of every other store building being used as a church, that they might have a church of each of the different denominations sufficiently large to secure an able man for pastor and support him, a man who could be not only their spiritual adviser but their temporal adviser as

well. Now I believe that might remove some of the ill feeling that there is against the blacks in East St. Louis.

Mr. Baker. Did you say that they were opposed to segregation?

Mr. Fero. Well, they don't like it.

Mr. Baker. They don't?

Mr. Fero. No, but I told them not to consider it segregation. I told them in that case they would have a ward of their own; and undoubtedly if they were in the ward they would have representation in the city government, and I thought eventually all those things would work out for the best interests of the white and colored people in East St. Louis. Now if the commission form of government comes up, that will take away the possibility of their representation in the city council. I believe that is the solution of the question in East St. Louis. Give them decent living conditions in a section by themselves, where they can have good ministers, able ministers and men who will advise them not only in spiritual matters but in temporal matters.

Mr. Baker. What are you going to do about the saloons?

Mr. Fero. I think the saloon question is being solved pretty rapidly now. I am inclined to think that East St. Louis will be a dry town before many years. I am expressing the sentiment I hear expressed, and that is that the sentiment is very much against the saloons of East St. Louis. I am not expressing my personal view; I am expressing what I hear. And there is certainly one

thing, that if liquor keeps climbing in price as it has, the question will settle itself.

Mr. Foster. I want to ask one or two questions. Is your plant part of what is known as the United States Steel Corporation?

Mr. Fero. No, sir; we are a malleable plant. We are separate. We are our own corporation, a separate concern.

Mr. Foster. You are not subsidiary to the United States Steel Corporation?

Mr. Fero. We are not subsidiary to anything.

Mr. Foster. Now this abnormal business that you spoke about, this large business, what did it consist of?

Mr. Fero. It is our regular line of work, only in greater quantity.

Mr. Foster. Your regular line---not contracts for the Government?

Mr. Fero. We had indirectly some work. For instance, we were making castings for some people who made camp ranges for the Government. But we don't make anything direct. We make the rough castings, and we made these castings for the men who were building ranges for the Government.

Mr. Foster. Was there anything else that you had, that went into the Government business?

Mr. Fero. Not directly. We were making car castings for the American Car and Foundry Company, and some of them were ordered by the Government, and some of them by the Russian Government. But I am not so sure that the United States Government had anything to do with the Russian lot.

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Mr. Foster: Was labor scarce last March in the City of East St. Louis?

Mr. Pero: Oh, yes, sir. That is, labor was scarce in this way: We had orders on our books and were a long way behind on our orders, and we were trying to increase our organization *all over the west.*

Mr. Foster: You could not get enough men here in the city?

Mr. Pero: No, -sir.

Mr. Foster: Was it the case *last fall* ~~elsewhere also?~~

Mr. Pero: Well, sir, not so much so.

Mr. Foster: Say, in October?

Mr. Pero: No. Business was still very good at that time and increasing.

Mr. Foster: And there was no scarcity of labor?

Mr. Pero: Not the extreme scarcity that there was in the Spring.

Mr. Foster: You said *that* these colored people wrote to their friends back in the South. How do you know that?

Mr. Pero: Well, I have heard the men say that they wrote this fellow and that fellow.

Mr. Foster: Can you give us the names of one of them?

Mr. Pero: I don't think I could. In fact, I don't know the names of many of my men.

Mr. Foster: But you think this colored labor was brought in by colored people writing to their friends back in the South to come to East St. Louis?

Mr. Pero: I don't want to say that was it entirely.

I think some of that was done; how much I do not know.

Mr. Foster: What do you notice as to the attitude of colored people coming from the South into the North, to a place like East St. Louis?

Mr. Pero: I don't believe I grasp the question.

Mr. Foster: What is the attitude of a colored man coming from the South into the North, say to a place like East St. Louis? I mean does he put on an air of importance more than he had - would likely have where he came from?

Mr. Pero: Well, sir, I don't know from my own observation that he does or does not. But some of the colored people tell me that these fellows coming from the South are not like the colored men who have lived here. Now, <sup>some of</sup> the colored people tell me that, but from my own observation I don't know.

Mr. Foster : You don't know as to that?

Mr. Pero: No, I don't.

Mr. <sup>Johnson</sup> Foster: What do they say is the difference between them?

Mr. pero: Well, they seem to have a sense of freedom or wrong idea of the freedom that they have here.

Mr. Raker: They have a misconception?

Mr. Pero: A misconception of freedom, yes. A man told me the other day - one of the prominent colored men of the town - that in the South the whites had control of them and when they got up here they seemed to think that nobody had control of them.

Mr. Foster: They sort of turned loose, did <sup>st</sup>they?

Mr. Pero: Yes. I don't know that that applies to all of them. I don't know that from my own observation.

Mr. Cooper: They acted sort of like the white peasantry of Russia just released from thralldom is said to be acting in Russia?

Mr. Pero: That may be the case.

Mr. Cooper: They act as any human being will who has been kept down for a century. Not knowing he had any rights, he misunderstands what his liberty is, white or black. Is that so?

Mr. Pero: I think likely, from what they think, that would be the explanation of it.

Mr. Foster: In your opinion, has that anything to do with the clashes that have occurred here in the last year?

Mr. Pero: No, I don't think that attained such an extent as to cause anything of that kind.

Mr. Foster: You think that had nothing to do with it?

Mr. Pero: I don't think so.

Mr. Foster: I believe that is all.

Mr. Raker: I want to go a little farther there. About what is the value of your plant? I call it yours - the malleable iron plant?

Mr. Pero: I don't know positively, but I should think about three quarters of a million - <sup>about</sup> \$750,000.

Mr. Raker: You pay your regular taxes here in the

City of East St. Louis?

Mr. pero: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Has there been any objection on the part of your Corporation to pay a reasonable amount of taxes so as to maintain a proper and efficient civil government in this town?

Mr. pero: I don't think so.

Mr. Raker: Have you thought of that?

Mr. Pero: No.

Mr. Raker: It has been said here that conditions have been so bad that they have been compelled to rely upon saloon licenses to maintain - to get a revenue to pay their officials; and they were tied up and could not do what they wanted to do. Now has that been occasioned by virtue of such plants as yours getting out and making a contest against the raising of a proper tax to maintain a government?

Mr. Pero: I know nothing of our plant having made such a contest. I think we pay our taxes as they are assessed by the assessors. I am sure we do.

Mr. Raker: Well, do you know whether or not such conditions exist here?

Mr. pero: I think it is generally said in the papers - whether it is true or not I do not know - that the big interests, so called, are not paying their share of the taxes here. Now as a matter of fact I don't know what our taxes are. You understand I am in the manufacturing end of our business. I have all I can do there without following the commercial end of it,

Mr. Raker: Who in your concern would know, if

you do not, whether or not it is a fact that these large manufacturing concerns are manipulating things so as to prevent the taxes placed upon them to run and maintain <sup>a</sup>the proper municipal government in which the plant is situated, from being collected?

Mr. Pero: I don't believe *that condition existed here.* If we are in any way interested in a thing of that kind our president would know because that is his business. That is his end of it; I have the manufacturing.

Mr. Raker: Do you feel as though your company is ready and willing to pay any reasonable tax to maintain an efficient, proper, legitimate government in the City of East St. Louis?

Mr. Pero: I know our company will shirk no obligation that is right. I know that is the sentiment of our company.

Mr. Raker: That is why I am putting it, so there will be no question about it. It has been stated <sup>that</sup> they have been compelled to permit so many saloons to exist here for the purpose of getting the licenses, for the purpose of paying the Mayor, the policemen and other constabularies and officials of the city. What do you know about that?

Mr. Pero: It looks to me that the revenue from the saloons would be a mighty small factor. They are a very small proportion of the maintenance of this city. I think if I was going to look into that I would begin at the other end. I would first see what the receipts of the city were and then see what the expenditures had been

and what they were going for.

Mr. Raker: We want to get that before we get through.

Mr. Pero: I think that would be my way of looking at it. If you take the number of saloons and the amount of taxes paid you will find it is a very small proportion of the expenses of the city.

Mr. Raker: <sup>Can</sup> you give any reason why such a large number of barrel houses and such places exist here in East St. Louis, if they are not keeping them, maintaining them, for the revenue that comes from them?

Mr. Pero: No, I am certain there is not a demand for them. There are two things that I think perhaps - you might be interested as to the number of saloons; and it might be politics - political favors, and it might be the small revenue that comes from them.

Mr. Raker: Well, is it your view that because of so many saloons there are so many hangers on - they call them "floaters" - have contributed to these various riots.

Mr. Pero: Well, that floating element is a dangerous element of course. Now I don't know that they have contributed anything to the riots. I think that when a crowd starts up, they go with it.

Mr. Raker: I know, but what kind of fellows hang around these barrel houses and places here in East St. Louis. Let us get right down and get the facts. These people here want to know it; the public wants to know it, and this resolution directs us to find out whether <sup>or not</sup> it is

a race riot and whether or not they have interfered with interstate commerce and what was the cause of this murder and arson and various other crimes committed. What do you think about it, now, Mr. Pero? Was it the kind and character of men that hang around these places? Were they the participants in this riot?

Mr. Pero: They may have been participants but I don't believe they were the promoters of it.

Mr. Raker: It has been stated here that they were the leading spirit.

Mr. Pero: I really don't think that is the case.

Mr. Raker: What is your view of it?

Mr. Pero: I think these rioters, - now I am expressing an opinion that may not agree with the opinion of others, but that is my opinion, that these riots began at that meeting in the City Hall on the 28th of May. They came out from that hall that night - the mayor, as I understand it, pleaded with them to go to their homes. That was an incendiary meeting. The talk was incendiary and the newspapers reported it. I did not attend it. It was presided over by one of our city officials. The newspapers the next day said <sup>that</sup> one of our attorneys there expressed himself something in this manner - I won't attempt to quote it verbatim, but the sentiment of his expression was that this was a case where mob rule was justifiable. Now that is the sentiment but those are not the words. Now when you get a meeting of that kind and the crowd comes right out and instead of dispersing and going <sup>to their</sup> homes - the mayor saw that night, according to the newspaper reports, the feeling

of that meeting. He saw the danger and stood on the steps of the City Hall as they went out and asked them to go to their homes then. They did not go. Now as I understand it, they came down to Collinsville Avenue to a labor temple and gathered more strength and came up and started the first riot. Now there is the cause of the July riot as I see it. My reasoning may not be good but that is the way I see it.

Mr. Raker: Who was the official that presided?

Mr. Pero: I understand the City Clerk presided.

Mr. Raker: Well, you still get back to your idea that it is race prejudice that caused the trouble? Is that your real belief?

Mr. Pero: I don't think it is race prejudice.

Mr. Raker: Don't you believe that race prejudice has anything to do with it?

Mr. Pero: Unfortunately the action was directed against the colored man, but I don't think it originated between in any dealing white and black. I don't think it is race prejudice. The black was unfortunately the object. He was the man who did'nt - I don't know just how to put that. I think the way I want to put it is this: That the labor unions in East St. Louis do not control the black people. During the <sup>time of the</sup> strike here at the Aluminum Ore Company there was a great deal of talk about the blacks being brought there to break the strike. Whether or not that was so I don't know. People around the plant say it wasn't - and this strike, or rather this meeting that I refer to, as I understand it, was an indignation

meeting called by the strikers to get sentiment, or to get the people aroused ~~through~~<sup>to</sup> the way they were being treated. That was the result. That was the beginning of it, labor agitation as I see it, although there was a month elapsed between those times. Now my reasoning may not be good, but that is my view of it.

Mr. Raker: Well, in your discussion, or hearing it discussed in various conversations about the hotels, and where you go, wasn't it discussed that the negro was here and was a menace to the town, and that they should get rid of them?

Mr. Pero: I tell you, I know very little about the hotels. I don't think I have sat in the lobby of that hotel three hours in a year. I sit in my room.

Mr. Raker: Well then, you haven't heard any conversation about it?

Mr. Pero: I don't get the talk of the town in the hotel lobby at all. It is a peculiar ~~condition~~ but I don't. I have talked with individuals and some of them have expressed themselves in that way; others do not.

Mr. Raker: What is your individual view on the attitude that the saloons have taken on this riot, and their hangers on here? Do you know?

Mr. pero: No, I don't know.

Mr. Raker: Do you think the sentiment is ~~going~~<sup>growing</sup> ~~so strong now that~~ ~~have been down and~~ not only the high price of whiskey ~~concoctions~~ taking from them the manufacturer's self ~~conscience~~, that ~~perhaps~~<sup>that</sup> together with the sentiment of the people here in East St. Louis will close them up shortly?

Mr. Pero: I feel that way about it. I think that will be the case.

Mr. Raker: Is that a good thing?

Mr. Pero: I think so.

Mr. Raker: For both whites and blacks?

Mr. Pero: For both whites and blacks.

Mr. Raker: And will put the town on its feet?

Mr. pero: I think so.

Mr. Raker: Well, have you done anything to bring about this state of affairs now, to rejuvenate conditions in East St. Louis?

Mr. Pero: Yes, I am active in the work for the commission form of government. I believe that is the best.

Mr. Raker: And so far as you know, you and your plant are ready to meet any proportion of your taxes to that end?

Mr. Pero: Our plant is always ready to do their share, both in business and in charity.

Mr. Raker: That is all.

Mr. Johnson: You have made reference to the Southern negro having liberties and privileges here that he does not enjoy in the South. The Southern people came to the full realization of that enjoyment of liberty and freedom for the negro on the second day of July last, did they not?

Mr. Pero: I don't know I am sure.

Mr. Johnson: And in consequence of that there was a general exodus across the Mississippi River into another

state to get away from that extreme liberty and enjoyment he was accorded here?

Mr. Pero: License, yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: When you wanted ~~the Southern negro~~ <sup>the Southern negro</sup> to come here there was not such an exodus from the South to this land of liberty and freedom for the southern negro, that there was to get out of here, was there, on the 2nd of July?

Mr. Pero: I think the exodus across the bridge was any colored man who could get to the bridge whether he was a northern negro or a southern negro. I guess anybody who could get to the bridge made tracks for it.

Mr. Johnson: That is all.

Mr. Raker: Mr. Chairman, I would like <sup>to have</sup> the witness give the names, so that these people may have an opportunity to come before the Committee before we get through - the names of these labor people, the leaders, if you know, so that they may have an opportunity to be heard before the Committee. Do you know any of them?

Mr. Pero: No, I do not.

Mr. Raker: That is all.

Mr. Pero: I would like to say - that I do recall the name of one man. At the meeting recently of the Committee of 100, the question came up of Home Guards, and there was one labor leader who said that he had already formed a home guard and was asking the financial support of the Committee of 100 for it, and he made a statement ~~the statement~~ at that time that that Home Guard was not for the protection of unfair plants, or of "scab labor". That is all I know

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about it.

Mr. Raker: What was that man's name?

Mr. Pero: His name is Crowell, I think.

Mr. Raker: You do not know his first name?

Mr. Pero: No, I don't.

Mr. Raker: And he is a member of the Committee of 100?

Mr. Pero: He is a member, I believe. He attends the meetings at least. He is a walking delegate for some union.

Mr. Foster: Is he a member of the Committee of 100?

Mr. Pero: He attends the meetings, and I assume he is a member.

Mr. Cooper: I would like to ask Mr. Pero a question or two. You impress me as a man of exceptional ability.

Mr. Pero: No, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And undoubtedly efficient in your business. Now I want to question you to get at your point of view. You know, following our respective businesses we are apt to acquire an individual point of view from which we consider industrial problems. Now you said a little while ago in response to a question from one member of the Committee, that you <sup>don't</sup> know the names of but very few of the men in your employ?

Mr. Pero: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: About how many men's names do you suppose you know?

Mr. Pero: Well, I don't believe I know the names of fifty men in my employ.

Mr. Cooper: Fifty men out of nine hundred?

Mr. Pero: Yes, sir. You see my business does not bring me in close contact with the man.

Mr. Cooper: You are the manager?

Mr. Pero: The works manager, production manager, superintendent.

Mr. Cooper: Production manager and superintendent. Well, you are all around about the plant all the time?

Mr. Pero: No, very little.

Mr. Cooper: Do you know who would know the names of the men, if anybody? Who is there about the plant?

Mr. Pero: Why, the different foremen who take care of their men in the different departments, but I don't really know any one man who would be familiar with all of them, except the foremen know the names of the men under them.

Mr. Cooper: What is the authority of the foreman over the men under him?

Mr. Pero: He directs them in their work. He has the authority of hiring and discharging.

Mr. Cooper: The foreman in each department has power to hire and discharge?

Mr. Pero: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And you don't hold that foreman - he is held responsible for anybody. He discharges them at his discretion if he thinks the man is not what he wants?

Mr. Pero: Yes, sir, he is responsible to me, if there is any *injustice* done. But he is responsible for his department. He hires the help and discharges them if they are not satisfactory.

Mr. Cooper: Who is superior to him?

Mr. Pero: I am.

Mr. Cooper: Have you had any workmen come to you within the last year to make any complaint?

Mr. Pero: No, <sup>so far</sup> the workmen take it for granted that the foreman is the final authority to discharge and they do as he instructs them. I have had cases since I have been here, where men have come to me, but I don't recall any in the past year. Everybody in the plant knows that there is a power above the foreman and they could have appealed if they wanted to appeal.

Mr. Cooper: But, generally speaking the foreman is sustained, isn't he?

Mr. Pero: If he is in the right.

Mr. Cooper: Against an individual workman?

Mr. Pero: If he is in the right.

Mr. Cooper; Have you ever put back a man whom the foreman has discharged?

Mr. Pero: I don't recall that I have. I don't recollect that I have.

Mr. Cooper: Now I am not saying what is the right or wrong of it. I am just stating the facts that came within my own personal observation. This is literally a tremendous problem that confronts the American people, this is such a problem, and I want to get your view as to what could be done in a circumstance like this. One Sunday a working man who had worked in a factory over 24 years, who never had had any trouble; who had been a soldier in the Union Army and served over three years, honorably discharged, came to see me about a pension. A friend

was with him, and after the conversation I said, "You look pale; what is the matter?" "Well," he said, "we have been working the last three or four months until nine o'clock at night. I am getting along in years and it is wearing me out. I cannot endure it. I live a mile and a half from the plant and I have to get up so early and get home so late that I cannot get sleep." "Well", I said, "why don't you speak to the people in authority and tell them of your - remind them rather, about it; remind them of your long-service, mention the fact that you have never had any trouble in the plant with your employers and of your inability to continue working these long hours?" "Oh," he said, "I did." "Well, what happened?" "Well, I went to the foreman and told him, and he said 'That is all right, but if you don't like your job you can get out. We can get plenty of men to take your place'"and with that the old soldier broke down and cried in my presence. The other man got up and walked the floor. I mentioned that once to a very great <sup>employer</sup> ~~man~~ of labor who has never had any trouble with his help.

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he said, "It is that kind of <sup>cruel</sup> ~~rule~~ of tyranny that is responsible for 99 per cent of the labor troubles". Now what do you think about a situation of that kind?

Mr. Pero: That kind of thing would not happen in my plant. To begin with, I just want to say that we are a closed corporation. What I mean is, our stock is all taken up by a few people. We are almost a family concern. I am the youngest with one exception, the youngest man in an executive capacity in the employ of the company. I have been with the company for <sup>eight</sup> ~~nine~~ years. There has been one of our foremen who died during my time--- no, he resigned to become deputy sheriff, and I put a foreman in his place.

Now I have never changed the heads of these departments since I have been there. The men in the leading departments, the leading men, are men who have grown up with us, men who have been with us 25 years. We have a number--- understand, gentlemen, this is not a boast, but I am telling you facts, just to show you the other side from your story. We have a number of pensioners on our payroll, men who have been with us a number of years who are not able to work and draw their pay. Their pay is sent to them. We have others who have been with us for a number of years, who insist on coming to the plant. They don't amount to anything there, only the good will they have for us, and they don't have to do a day's work or anything of the kind. They just putter around and do practically what they please, and they are getting paid

I have now one of my men who we are paying a <sup>good big</sup> salary, who is dying with consumption---that is, he is in bad shape and I think he is going to die. We are paying that man his salary, and we have been paying it to him for, I think, about a year. We have put another man in his place and this man is at home and we are paying him his salary just the same.

Now we are pretty close to a family affair. I have never seen closer harmony in any concern with its men, not only with the foremen, but among the men themselves. Our president is a man who is get-atable. Any man <sup>there</sup> can see him <sup>as</sup> easily, <sup>as he can see me,</sup> and any man there can see me any time he wants to.

Mr. Cooper: But suppose the man in charge of the employees is a kind of an arrogant, cruel, hard, grasping man, such as I speak of. What are the <sup>work</sup> men to do there? Are they practically without remedy? An individual workman stands no chance whatever against him.

Mr. Pero: There was a man---

Mr. Cooper (Interposing): I am not talking <sup>about</sup> your plant, but I am talking about the other kind of a plant--- and there is more than one of them.

Mr. Pero: Well, that is a question. If that thing had occurred in my plant and there had been a man--- I know all of these old fellows, I know them well. I make it my business to know them, and I know them better than I know the new ones. If I <sup>missed</sup> ~~not~~ one of those old fellows and he was gone two or three days--- if he was gone a day I wouldn't think anything of it, but if he was gone two or three days I would

want to know where he was, and if my foreman told me such a story as you have told me now, I am afraid he would lose his job. I would certainly put that man back and put him back quick.

Mr. Cooper: The foreman wouldn't tell you that story, but the man would, and the foreman would contradict him and assign any number of excuses for holding his own job and justifying the discharge of that man.

Mr. Pero: I know, but I wouldn't tolerate that in my plant. I am getting pretty close to that line myself, and not through selfish motives; but that is not just.

Mr. Cooper: No, it isn't just.

Mr. Pero: We have men who have been with us for 25 or more years now, and those men are on our payroll while they live.

Mr. Cooper: Some years ago in one of the greatest steel plants in Pennsylvania it was established by a Government investigation conducted by Commissioner Neill, Commissioner of Labor during the Roosevelt administration, that there had been some thousands of men there--- 42,000 as I remember--- <sup>working</sup> ~~for~~ ~~each~~ 12 hours a day, 365 days in the year, Sundays and holidays included, some of them, and the others following them right immediately and working till morning 12 hours. It was not an organized shop; it was an open shop, and the testimony showed--- and it was so reported--- that at last they requested to a committee of four or five--- I don't remember the exact number--- the man at the head of the institution to grant them, if he could, some Sundays or holidays--- something of that kind. Those men were discharged

who came to see him.

Mr. Pero: That is absolutely unjust.

Mr. Cooper: And they were getting very small wages. Now that was nothing but white slavery in essence, was it not?

Mr. Pero: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: What could men do under those circumstances?

Mr. Pero: The man had no recourse there except to leave his job.

Mr. Cooper: In other words, no matter how inhuman the treatment, a man must take it, go to the poorhouse or starve. That is the alternative, isn't it?

Mr. Pero: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Well, you look like a humane man <sup>and an able man</sup> and talk like one. Doesn't that present to employers and to labor and to the entire citizenship of the Republic a problem that demands serious thought and an investigation <sup>a just solution</sup> ~~for~~ all phases of it until, ~~an~~ <sup>adjustment</sup> is reached <sup>of it?</sup>

Mr. Pero: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: One good way would be, would it not, to teach young men who are to have control of the industries--- to be influential in their management--- to be humane ~~and~~ as well as being firm and determined in the management, but to be humane, kind, and disposed to be just? That would be a good way, wouldn't it?

Mr. Pero: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Rather than to exhibit the spirit of the foreman of whom I have spoken?

Mr. Pero: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Now I have just had my attention called to a newspaper clipping, and the heading reads this way: "East St. Louis Begging Race Men to Return".

"East St. Louis, Ill., September 21. The Committee on Civic Affairs issued an appeal to all residents that suffered from mob violence and were forced out of the city, that they will defray the railroad expenses from any part of the country and allow them <sup>two</sup> month's rent free of cost if members of the race will return".

Do you know who had that printed?

Mr. Pero: I have never seen or heard of that before. That is brand new to me.

Mr. Cooper: It is brand new to me. It is clipped from a newspaper.

Mr. Pero: I have never heard of it. Who is the Civic Committee?

Mr. Cooper: It says Civic Committee.

Mr. Pero: I don't know who they are. I don't know them-- never heard of them.

Mr. Cooper: Well, before the hearing is ended I will find out exactly what paper that is from.

Mr. Pero: I don't know the Civic Committee; I don't know who it could <sup>be</sup> referred to.

Mr. Cooper: I will find out exactly what paper that is from before we get through.

Now you say you have <sup>not</sup> set in the hotel office for three hours in a year?

Mr. Pero: I don't believe I have all told.

Mr. Cooper: You go right to your room?

~~Mr. Pero: I don't believe I have all told.~~

Mr. Pero: Unless I go over to the club, the Missouri Athletic Club. I go over there three nights at least to swim, and in the summer time five or six times a week for a swim, and when I come back it is time to go to my room.

Mr. Cooper: Well, I have asked that to make it clear, because a casual reader of the record might gather the idea, in view of the testimony of violence, you were fearful of something of that sort, of bodily violence.

Mr. Pero: No, no; not in the slightest.

Mr. Cooper: Well, I want that to be clear in the record.

Mr. Pero: No, I don't think I have an enemy in town, and I don't know of anybody that would want to hurt me.

Mr. Cooper: I only wanted to get it in the record, that is all.

Mr. Pero: No; it is simply my habit, and I have no home only that; and I have a couple of daughters--- they are <sup>alone in the daytime</sup> ~~at home with me~~--- and I spend my evenings with them.

Mr. Foster: What is your system of dealing with your employees who may be hurt; the Illinois Compensation Law?

Mr. Pero: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Again referring to the subject, do you know of anybody in Illinois who last July undertook to deprive the people of the right to be shot, beaten up and burned up here?

Mr. Pero: No, I don't: simply because, as I say, I was not in town and I have no knowledge of anything that took place.

Mr. Johnson: Haven't you understood that that right to be shot up and burned up and beat was fairly established by the State Militia indulging in it on the 2d day of July last?

Mr. Pero: I saw something of that in the papers, but I don't know that I have seen a single person who saw anything of that kind.

Mr. Johnson. I don't recall ever meeting anybody who said he saw it. The papers spoke of that to some extent. Do you know Mr. Roger, the president of the chemical company here?

Mr. Pero: Yes, sir, I do.

Mr. Johnson: Have you ever talked to him relative to the July riots?

Mr. Pero: No, sir. I know him but I have never talked to him much.

Mr. Johnson: If you had, and he had told you what he testified to before this committee, he would have told you that he saw a member of the State troops here guaranteed the negro that right by shooting one of them himself (Laughter).

Mr. Pero: Ho; I have seen something of that in the different papers, but I have not seen anybody who saw it.

Mr. Johnson: And it has been testified to here by an eyewitness--- and as the Committee believes by a reputable man--- that four or five soldiers selected from among the the State of citizens of Illinois, guaranteed to <sup>two negroes who were</sup> ~~people~~ running out of a house that was on fire the right to be shot, <sup>and</sup> ~~or~~ left there to be burned. Have you heard of that?

Mr. Pero: I saw something of that in the papers, but I haven't heard of it otherwise. The only man that I

have heard express himself on the riot matter was Rev. Allison, and I heard him tell of something he saw at the riot.

Mr. Johnson: But you don't know of anybody in Illinois, citizen or soldier, who has ~~to~~ undertaken during your troubles to deprive the negro of his right in Illinois to be shot, beat up and burned up? (Laughter).

Mr. Pero: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Very well. That is all.

Mr. Foss: What are the hours of labor in your plant?

Mr. Pero: The day gang from 7 to 12 and 12.30 to 5.30.

Mr. Foss: How many working hours?

Mr. Pero: Ten hours. But our men don't work ten hours. For instance our molders come in and put up a <sup>when</sup> certain amount of work, and/their heat is through and their work is over, they go home. Many of our men work eight hours; some of them work nine, and in some departments in which the work is done by machinery, they work ten hours.

Mr. Foss: Do you know how it is in other plants here in the city?

Mr. Pero: I think ten hours is supposed to be a day's work; but in a foundry a man don't work by the hour, then his heat--- when his iron is ready and poured and the iron is in the mold, he is through and he goes home.

Mr. Foss: He has <sup>done</sup> ~~enough~~ time to rest in the meantime, within the eight or ten hours?

Mr. Pero: Yes. If you would stand at our gate you would see our men begin to go home at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, our molders; their day's work is done and they go

home. Where our men work with machinery they work ten hours, but the other men do their work and get out.

Mr. Foss: And that is so in most manufacturing plants here in the city?

Mr. Pero: Well, in plants like ours I think that is true,--- the foundries, the steel foundry, perhaps.

Mr. Foss: How many foundries or steel plants are there here?

Mr. Pero: There is but one in East St. Louis proper.

Mr. Foss: What are these other manufacturing plants where they employ large numbers of laborers?

Mr. Pero: Well, the Elliott Frog & Switch employ quite a number of men. And then there are the chemical plant and the Aluminum Ore plant, of course is the largest employer of labor in the city.

Mr. Foss: Then the packing plant, too?

Mr. Pero: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: No class of men or lot of men or individuals have interfered with your plant in the last six or seven years?

Mr. Pero: Now make yourself clear on that; let me get you right. You say no class of men inside of our plant?

Mr. Raker: Yes.

Mr. Pero: We have had no trouble. We have had no occasion for trouble.

Mr. Raker: The only reason you maintained a guard within the walls of the lot or enclosure is to guard against the possibility of fire or accident of that kind?

Mr. Pero: Yes, we have two men who make half-hourly rounds.

Mr. Raker: You maintained no guard on the outer part or outside of the <sup>plant</sup> ~~yard~~?

Mr. Pero: No.

Mr. Raker: At no time?

Mr. Pero: We have, of course; <sup>since</sup> ~~in~~ the July trouble. We have, but it is not our practice; never up to that time.

Mr. Raker: You had no guard or men stationed at the entrance to your plant?

Mr. Pero: Our watchmen are there when they are not on tour.

Mr. Raker: Tell you <sup>have</sup> ~~no~~ special men there charged with the special duty of watching <sup>who</sup> ~~you~~ come and went?

Mr. Pero: No.

Mr. Raker: You had no occasion for that?

Mr. Pero: We had no occasion for that.

Mr. Raker: Then there has been no individual or crowd of men who tried to cause any trouble or inconvenience or deprecation or otherwise <sup>with</sup> ~~at~~ your plant?

Mr. Pero: No.

Mr. Raker: Or among your men?

Mr. Pero: No.

Mr. Raker: You have gone along in a nice, smooth, easy way, getting all the labor you wanted?

Mr. Pero: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: And no organization of labor has interfered with your plant?

Mr. Pero: Yes, they have tried to organize our

molders, but they didn't succeed.

Mr. Raker: Oh, well they didn't interfere with your business in the plant?

Mr. Pero: Not in the slightest.

Mr. Raker: Or the running of it?

Mr. Pero: Not in the slightest.

Mr. Raker: You believe that men have the right to organize to better their condition, do you not?

Mr. Pero: Yes, if they will give me my rights.

Mr. Raker: If they can make their home surroundings better and the town better, and the living conditions better, they ought to do it, ought they not?

Mr. Pero: That is a matter for the man to decide.

Mr. Raker: Now, just a moment. You don't mean that, I know. I say any man that can, by legitimate means.

Mr. Pero: Yes, by legitimate means.

Mr. Raker: Coming within the confines of law, if he is interfering with no one else's liberty, property or right; that organization for the purpose of bettering his condition, his physical welfare and that of his family, his mental welfare, ought to be encouraged, ought it not?

Mr. Pero: I should support it; yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Why, it is the only thing that makes it possible to exist.

Mr. Pero: As you put it, yes.

Mr. Cooper: You have an open shop?

Mr. Pero: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: That is, you do not permit the unions

to organize your labor?

Mr. Pero: No.

Mr. Cooper: Now, without saying which is right or which is wrong, the two sides of that are this, aren't they? Where in the instance of that foreman, where the shop is run as that shop was run, men are treated as that foreman treated his men, or if the surroundings in which the men work are bad; if the ventilation was miserable, the place unnecessarily dusty and <sup>dirty</sup> ~~sooty~~ and the wages the lowest possible rate so that men were just able to live, how could those men get justice in a plant of that kind without organizing? The individual laborer stood no chance whatever. The only thing for them to do then was to individually present their claims and walk out if they didn't get them?

Mr. Pero: They might do it that way, or they might among themselves send a representation to the powers that be. I haven't had any experience in that line in any plant that I have ever been in.

Mr. Cooper: I was only presenting the facts as they present themselves to the laboring men where if there are 50 men at the shop and there are only 25 jobs, if they are unorganized and indulge in cutthroat competition among themselves, they are inclined to cut under the price until somebody takes wages just barely able to support them. That is a fact is it not?

Mr. Pero: Yes, sir; and I have been a foreman and a superintendent since 1882, and I have never run a union shop, nor have I ever had trouble in a shop. I want to treat ~~them~~ my men and I want to see <sup>that they are</sup> ~~them~~ treated as I expect to be

treated myself.

Mr. Johnson: You may stand aside. Colonel Tripp, will you come to the stand please?

STATEMENT OF COLONEL S. O. TRIPP,  
OF SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

The witness was sworn by Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Johnson: Colonel, please give to the stenographer your full name, residence and occupation?

Col. Tripp: S. O. Tripp; residence, Springfield, Ill.; occupation, Assistant Quartermaster General, State of Illinois, with the rank of colonel.

Mr. Johnson: And what was your occupation previous to that?

Col. Tripp: My occupation previous to that time was Deputy United States Marshal <sup>in charge</sup> of the Southern Division, Northern District, of Illinois, at Peoria, for a period of 14 years.

Prior to that time I served some three years in the State Attorney's office of <sup>Peoria</sup> Peoria County as a <sup>Criminal</sup> deputy sheriff. Prior to that time for two years captain of police, Peoria. Prior to that time, some three years more or less, foreman of the Truesdale Lumber Company. Prior to that time five years in the United States Army; before that time in school in the State of New York.

Mr. Johnson: Did you ever work any? (Laughter)

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; in my time I have worked hard.

Mr. Johnson: Colonel, I believe you wish to make a statement to the committee?

Col. Tripp: I would state that I came down here voluntarily to present to the Committee a report prepared by me as to the duties done by myself, the officers and enlisted men of the National Guard ordered to East St. Louis by the Governor of the State of Illinois on the morning of July 2nd. This report covers their duties and instructions from <sup>8 o'clock the morning of</sup> ~~the~~ ~~morning~~ of July 2nd until 2 o'clock that night. The statement is prepared--- dictated--- by myself, is signed and is supported by a statement from Thomas L. Fekete, city attorney for the City of East St. Louis and the acting mayor of the City of East St. Louis, designated by the present mayor to act with myself in the <sup>matter of</sup> mapping out ~~of~~ a program for the restoring of order in the city, which had grown out of the riot coming up on the night <sup>before</sup> ~~or~~ the early morning of July 2nd.

Mr. Johnson: Colonel, I have no doubt myself--- and the same opinion has been expressed by one member of the committee already since you have been on the stand, that the committee would <sup>prefer</sup> ~~be glad~~ to hear a recital from you rather than to have submitted a paper which you prepared before you came here.

Col. Tripp: This paper was prepared on the morning of July 3rd, <sup>I think, right here in this city</sup> when all the facts and circumstances were fresh; the nature of the case, the nature of the people, etc., and it would be almost impossible to recite that without referring to or reading the record.

Mr. Johnson It is certain, Colonel, that some things will arise in the minds of the different members of the committee as you might proceed to relate these happenings here.

to which your mind might not carry, and in consequence the different members of the committee would ask you some questions, and therefore it would be far better if, in just your own way now, you could go ahead and make verbal recital of each thing, better than reading from a prepared paper on the subject, because if that paper were inserted in the record just as it is, the committee would read it at some other time, and probably after you were gone, and cross examination were desired. So if you will just go ahead and in your own way--- take your own time about it--- and make such statement as you choose, subject, however, to being questioned here and there by the committee.

Mr. Foss: Well, the witness can refer to the <sup>report</sup> ~~paper~~, I suppose.

Mr. Johnson: Well, I invite him to go ahead and make his statement just as he chooses to make, subject, however, to questions at any time.

Col. Tripp: I will be very glad to do that. I will start in and read the report, because it gives the time, the organization, number of officers, men, etc., which it would be impossible for me to remember *without referring to the communication.*

Mr. Cooper: Mr. Chairman, for a man of the Colonel's experience, I think it would be well--- and enable us to judge of the accuracy of his recollection--- <sup>the strength of his</sup> ~~these things are~~ ~~memory~~ memory--- if he were to testify as to what he can remember and then read the report afterwards, if he wishes to refresh his recollection; but not to take a written statement prepared in that way and read it. The only way to test the strength of the witness' memory or for him to exhibit its strength is by testifying. Then he can refresh his

recollection; but I have never known a witness to go upon the stand and read a statement at first. Isn't that customary?

Col. Tripp: I think I can probably outline the matter.

Mr. Johnson: You can proceed in that verbal way rather than by reading your paper, and the committee will be better satisfied.

Col. Tripp: About 3 o'clock on the morning of July 2nd, 1917, I was called from my bed at my residence, Springfield, Ill., by the Assistant Adjutant General of the State of Illinois, to come to the Adjutant General's office; that some trouble had come up in East St. Louis to talk over.

I immediately reported to the office in civilian clothing, met Col. R. J. Shann, Assistant Adjutant General and acting Adjutant General. He stated that the mayor of East St. Louis had telephoned to him that another riot was on; that two police officers had been killed, and that he had requested the mayor to send a telegram to the Governor, making his formal request for troops; that he had already taken steps to order in to East St. Louis a number of organizations.

Mr. Johnson: Military organizations?

Col. Tripp: ~~Military~~ organizations, and asked me if I would go to East St. Louis at once and meet with the mayor, talk over the situation and cooperate with the mayor in the matter of enforcing the law. I told him I would be glad <sup>to</sup> and started, I believe, on the 4.50 C. M. A. train, reaching East St. Louis sometime about 8 o'clock on the morning of July 2nd, and immediately went to the city hall to report my presence to his honor the mayor. I found the mayor, introduce

duced myself, told him I was there for the purpose of cooperating with him in the matter of enforcing law, and gave him a list of military organizations that had been ordered in to East St. Louis.

In brief, the Mayor told me that he was not feeling well and had been advised not to go out in the open, but on the arrival of the troops they should be distributed over certain streets in the city, and gave me a verbal list of the streets where troops were to be located for sentry duty.

Soon after this conversation I met Mr. Thomas L. Fekete, assistant city attorney, whom the Mayor said he would designate as the proper officer to represent him on all matters pertaining to the matter of giving of orders and the enforcement of the laws; and at that moment--- or soon after --- I met Lieut. Col. C. B. Clayton of the 4th Infantry, in civilian clothing. I told Col. Clayton that an effort had been made to reach him at Vandalia during the early morning, but found he could not be located. He stated that he was in St. Louis but had come over to East St. Louis, after reading in the paper that there was trouble here. I said to Col. Clayton, "Consider yourself on duty; assume command of the organizations--- military organizations--- upon their arrival and cooperate with the Mayor in all matters for the enforcement of the law;" to report to him his presence, and I would call up the Adjutant General's Office, stating that the Col. was here, and have the order placed designating him for the particular duty.

Mr. Johnson: By telling him to take command of the forces as they arrived, did you mean by that to place your-

him over yourself?

Col. Tripp: He would be the field officer and in command of the troops; myself being a staff officer do not command troops. I am a quartermaster, not of the line, and for him to take command of the troops.

Mr. Johnson: At what time of the day was it that you told him that?

Col. Tripp: About 8.30 in the morning.

Mr. Foss: He was a field officer?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; but in the line.

Mr. Raker: Where was Col. Clayton when you told him that?

Col. Tripp: In the city hall, in this city.

Mr. Raker: Who else was present except yourself and Col. Clayton?

Col. Tripp: I don't recall.

Mr. Raker: Was the Mayor present?

Col. Tripp: The Mayor was present. I had him at once report to the Mayor, following this right up--- report his presence and report for duty.

Mr. Raker: Was the city attorney there too?

Col. Tripp: And the city attorney and the Mayor at this moment suggested that Col. Clayton, the city attorney and myself go over the city maps and decide upon the streets which should be patrolled. We all retired--- that is, Mr. Fekete, city attorney, Col. Clayton and myself,--- to the office of the city attorney, where we went over the city map and began to mark out, according to the city attorney's idea, where troops should be placed upon their arrival.

Mr. Johnson: Colonel, I don't know anything about military affairs, and perhaps to you some of my questions will seem absurd, but tell me please for what you were sent here?

Col. Tripp: Well, I was sent here as a representative of our department, but not to command troops.

Mr. Johnson: You were sent here in the capacity of the quartermaster's department?

Col. Tripp: I was sent here as a representative, not to assume command of the troops, because under our code, commanding officers of all troops are line and field officers, not administrative officers. We cooperate with them; we help them.

Mr. Johnson: In what way do you help?

Col. Tripp: In every way that it is possible--- assist them, transport them and arrange for their care in the city, and go over the duties which they are to do; give the best instructions we can, and help them work it out.

Mr. Johnson: I don't quite understand just why you came as a superior officer.

Col. Tripp: I was the ranking officer; not superior in command, sir.

Mr. Cooper: How could you direct Col. Clayton, then?

Col. Tripp: By the name of the Governor; by the directions of the Governor, the same as all orders are given.

Mr. Johnson: But not in your capacity as an officer, but as a messenger or as a representative of the Governor?

Col. Tripp: I came down here, sir, in the capacity of an officer in my rank and in my staff, for the purpose of representing our department and carrying out the orders that had been received to cooperate with the Mayor. I had an order on

it--- I am not sure <sup>that</sup> it is here-- a written order to that effect.

Mr. Raker: From the Governor?

Col. Tripp: I have a written order, yes, sir, that was published after the arrival here.

Mr. Raker: Now just in this connection, you say you were to assist these officers?

Col. Tripp: In an administrative sort of way.

Mr. Raker: That is what I was getting at. In an administrative sort of way was it your duty to see that there were plenty of rounds of cartridges and plenty of guns on hand?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; I did, however, make some corrections of that after reaching here. Later on I could tell the committee about that. I ~~mmmh~~ go right along, and I think I take care of all those situations, through my story.

As I said, we went over the city map, <sup>marked</sup> ~~mapped~~ out the streets and immediately upon the arrival of the first organization, the officer in charge reported to me, and I said, "Report your presence to Col. Clayton, who will be in command of the troops, and also to the Mayor". This was done, and in the meantime, while we were in the office ~~of~~ going over the maps, we mapped out a line of instructions to be given according to the desire of the Mayor <sup>or</sup> ~~acting~~ <sup>acting</sup> mayor,--- that is these sentries to be placed along the streets at intervals as near together as the number of the troops reporting permitted, with instructions to keep the crowds moving; preventing, if possible, the gathering of unlawful assemblages, and to constantly patrol the streets, and if anyone was found with firearms to arrest them and take the firearms away from them, and to cooperate with the police department in the enforcement of the

law. That was, in brief, our instructions.

Mr. Raker: No order was made to use the bayonet or to shoot if they didn't desist?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; no such orders were given.

Soon after the first organization reached here and the second one came in, it was found that there was very little ammunition--- some ball cartridges, possibly, but no guard ammunition. So I got in communication with the company from Benton, Ill., asking them to bring all the available ammunition they had. That was the next organization I could get over the telephone. Efforts were made to get other organizations. Later on I reported to the Adjutant General's office, who gave the orders for the assignment of the troops, that there was a very small lot of ammunition on hand. Now, as soon as the troops came, they were distributed over these streets and continued on with that duty--- one organization reported and the second one going on.

Mr. Johnson: By whom were they distributed over the city?

Col. Tripp: By the officers in charge of the troops, under directions of Col. Clayton. The line officer reported with the enlisted men.

Mr. Johnson: What instructions were given to these men distributed over the town?

Col. Tripp: The general instructions as I said a moment ago, were, to the effect that the sentries would see that the crowds kept moving. That was the instructions they got; to permit no unlawful assembly, and to detain anyone found with firearms.

Mr. Johnson: Did they prevent the unlawful assembly?

Col. Tripp: That I can't tell you there. That is what was the instructions. They were given that-- the instructions there.

The second organization that reported was under the same instructions, and went out over the streets as mapped out by the city attorney.

At about 1 o'clock I called on the Mayor and I said, "Mr. Mayor, it would be well for you to go out with me over this territory where this trouble is liable to come up, and we will go over it more thoroughly with Col. Clayton and see what is to be done there. You are familiar with the streets and the crowds that are liable to gather, and we will ~~go~~ go over this together and see where we are going in the city". He said, "I couldn't do it, but Mr. Fekete will go with you."

So Mr. Fekete, Col. Clayton, Captain Aul, assistant surgeon of the 4th Infantry, and myself took an automobile and started out right over these streets, going right on around over them to see that the orders were being carried out; to see that the sentries were on their duty; and Col. Clayton gave instructions to the line officers as to what they must do along those lines, and when we had proceeded up Collinsville Ave, to a point up there near the Labor Temple where a large assemblage had gathered, probably 1500 in number, a shot was fired. We all jumped right out of the automobile, rushed over to the crowd, separating them---

Mr. Johnson (Interposing): Where was this shot fired?

Col. Tripp: Right near the Labor Temple on Collins-

ville Avenue.

Mr. Johnson: Did anybody get shot?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; we went over there and I found a colored man lying in the street almost right in front of where I got into the crowd. There were two-- not more than three--- enlisted men in that whole block. The crowd was something like 1500. With one of the enlisted men I took his gun flatways and pressed right into the crowd and got into the center of the crowd, and there I commanded the crowd to disperse in the name of the laws of the State of Illinois; to break up and disperse that unlawful assemblage and to get off of the streets and to stop rioting. There I was handled like a football on that proposition, tossed round and round with the crowd.

Mr. Johnson: You and the troops that were there were helpless?

Col. Tripp: They were simply helpless at that point. But I got the crowd to move on, broke up with this command I gave, and then each officer working---

Mr. Johnson (Interposing): Then according to that last statement the crowd obeyed your orders?

Col. Tripp: They moved out, only to come right back in and reform again, but they scattered on the streets--- that is, a crowd would go this way and another that way. It commenced to break away into smaller gatherings. At that point, as <sup>soon as</sup> I got through into the crowd, we had at that time a detachment of infantry on duty here in East St. Louis.

Mr. Johnson: Where was Col. Clayton?

Col. Tripp: Col. Clayton was acting independently.

Mr. Johnson: Was he there?

Col. Tripp: Yes; he was right there at that time acting independently. Each officer was acting independently. He was taking his part in there. I was taking my part; Mr. Fekete was taking his part, and each one was acting independently.

My first duty which I did was to take this gun and get into the mob without waiting for any other officer to make any effort. I did get in there. And then I went to a nearby drug store right at the corner there, and called up the Federal Camp and asked them to send all available troops at once to that point, to assist the National Guard organizations in breaking up the unlawful assemblages.

Mr. Johnson: Where was that Federal Camp?

Col. Tripp: They were located out near the Stock Yards, I believe. I can't just give the location. We had less than 60 men here scattered all over the city at the time.

Mr. Johnson: What time was that?

Col. Tripp: One-thirty in the afternoon. I could give you the number, if you wish me to refer to them.

I got into communication with the officer in charge and he said he would send them right there. I asked them to report to me.

At this time this assemblage was pretty well broken up, although at that time and during that assemblage, someone broke into a pawn shop right nearby, shot a pawnbroker and he died afterwards. It was during that movement there.

When the troops came I distributed them along those

streets and broke up the crowd completely, and kept them on duty--- asked them to remain on duty until 12 o'clock that night, which they did, and I went over certain streets with them just as soon as I could get the troops distributed.

Mr. Foss: How many Federal troops were there?

Col. Tripp: About sixty.

Mr. Foss: And you had the Militia prior to that time?

Col. Tripp: We had, altogether, something like sixty --- 32 and 28, if I remember correctly, two organizations.

Then I came right back into this very locality where there was much evidence of drinking liquor. You could see it in the crowd. The men looked and acted as though they were under the influence of liquor, so I said to Mr. Feskete, "It is evident there is liquor in the crowd; that may be the cause of their gathering here, and the saloons must be closed." He said, "That's right; I have seen the same thing."

So we got to the telephone and called up the Mayor's office and asked him to have the saloons closed. He said the order had just gone out to close them and they would be closed.

Then we came back to this corner and we heard information coming out--- I wouldn't say from who or what, but there were a lot of colored men gathered in a side street, in a *two story* brick house, and there was information to the effect that they were going to attack that place.

Mr. Johnson: Who was going to attack it?

Col. Tripp: The mob; that the mob would attack the place.

Mr. Johnson: Not that the colored persons were going to

make any attack?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; the colored persons had taken refuge in the place. So I said to Mr. Fekete, "The thing to do is to go to the building and get the colored people out." He said they were under arms and there was looked for an attack on that place.

cl 19  
1-JWA

~~They were looking for an attack on that place.~~

Mr. Johnson: What was under arms?

Col. Tripp: The colored people in the house. I went down there with a small detachment, half a dozen men - not more ~~than~~ that - possibly four - and called up to the man in charge of the building, who was known to the City Attorney. There was a saloon below, a billiard hall, and a kind of rooking house above.

Mr. Johnson: Who was this man you called?

Col. Tripp: - We called on the proprietor of the place.

Mr. Johnson: Do you know his name?

Col. Tripp: No, I don't know. He was known to the City Attorney. We called on him to come down and I would escort them to the City Hall, and to bring all their firearms out. So they came down and a truck was provided and they were sent down to the City Hall. We got down to the City Hall -

Mr. Johnson: (quoting) Did you leave them arms?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; we took up the arms and turned them over to the police department upon our arrival there. We had no police with us at that time at all.

So they were taken down to the City Hall.

Mr. Johnson: Did you disarm the whites who killed that negro beside the building there?

Col. Tripp: We disarmed a number of them. We picked up a great many arms during the day, in the afternoon there, but the men that killed the negro, I don't know who did it, I never saw the shot fired, and I don't know who

2-JWA had the arms that killed the negro.

When we got to the City Hall the colored people were put into the City Hall. Some of them preferred going to St. Louis. Mr. Fekete in his automobile took a few of them over to St. Louis, that wanted to go over there and who said their homes were in St. Louis and not East St. Louis. They stayed at the City Hall.

Just a while after I got back there one other organization had come in and they had been distributed on the scene.

Mr. Johnson: What time did that organization get in?

Col. Tripp: Well, I would say sir, about - the first organization to arrive - if you don't mind, I will read you the organization and the number of men there. The first organization to arrive was Company G.

Mr. Johnson: What was the first to arrive?

Col. Tripp: Company G of the 4th Infantry, 8.40 a.m. 3 officers and 27 enlisted men on the morning of July 2nd.

The second organization to arrive was Company H, 10.20 a.m., 2 officers and 32 enlisted men. That made 27 and 32 - 61 men. That is all we had in the city when the Collinsville Avenue mob gathered.

Mr. Cooper: How many officers?

Col. Tripp: Five officers.

Mr. Cooper: Five officers and 61 men?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; at 1.30.

Mr. Foss: That was 27 and 32, you say?

3

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss: That would make 59.

cyl 20

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir: and five officers. Now the next organization arrived at 1.30 and at the time this riot was on, on Collinsville Avenue, I called up the City Hall to send up any available men that were there, or any organization to come up on that scene with Major Klausner - to come right up there and take command of them. This order was given by Col. Clayton. They did arrive there some minutes after 1.30. They came right up there and they had three officers and 44 men.

Now when I got back to the City Hall -

Mr. Cooper: (Interpsing) What time was that?

Col. Tripp: They got in at 1.30 p.m. We only had two organizations in the city prior to this 1.30 gathering on Collinsville Avenue.

Mr. Cooper: But when the 1.30 contingent arrived you had then an aggregate of how many men?

Col. Tripp: Then we had an increase of 44 men.

Mr. Cooper: That made 103?

Col. Tripp: Yes. They came up there then after this was over and patrolled the street and completely restored order.

Mr. Cooper: But wait a moment. After 1.30 you had 103 enlisted men and how many officers?

Col. Tripp: We had eight officers.

Mr. Cooper: From 1.30 on you had 103 enlisted men in this city and eight officers?

Col. Tripp: Yes; that is right, from that time on until the next organization arrived.

4 Mr. Cooper: What time did that organization arrive?

Col. Tripp: The next organization arrived at - well, we had here - Company "F" arrived at 8.00 p.m. with three officers and 41 men and they took part in another riot just as they arrived from the depot.

When I got back to the City Hall some arrests had been made by two or three of the officers and men at that time, and the prisoners were brought down to the City Hall, independent from the colored men that I escorted back on the truck personally. The Mayor told me there was a meeting of the Commercial Club just across the way and asked me to go over to the meeting. Now that was, I would guess, about half past two, probably, or a quarter to three - right in that neighborhood - and I went over to the meeting and asked Col. Clayton to join me as soon as he got some prisoners away - taken care of - and he came over and joined me in this meeting. The Mayor - I was introduced by the Mayor - and the Club stated that they had just passed a resolution declaring martial law - calling for the Governor to declare martial law, and asked me to acquiesce in this desire. They also stated that the Governor's Office was then on the line and asked me if I would not talk to them over the telephone, and I did talk to the Governor's secretary over the telephone and attempted to tell him in a brief way -

Mr. Johnson (interposing): As nearly as you can now, state what time this was?

Col. Tripp: Well, I would say about a quarter to three, as near as I can recollect - more or less.

5 I stated to the Governor briefly what had happened up there, about my getting the assistance of the Federal Troops to cooperate with us, and that the Commercial Club had passed a resolution for martial law and I stated to the Governor's office -

Mr. Cooper: (interposing) Now the witness is reading with his finger on that paper, and I think he ought to tell, if he can, without reading there, and see what your recollection is.

Col. Tripp: I have not read anything.

Mr. Foss: Well, I think he has a right to refer to it.

Mr. Cooper: But the way usually for a witness to testify is to testify as much as he can of his own recollection and then he refreshes it afterwards.

Col. Tripp: I was not reading anything. I was looking at the number of officers and men that came in there. I couldn't see if I wanted to, without my glasses; only I just had my finger on there - the time the organizations arrived, so I could give you some information on it.

I told the Commercial Club that in my judgment martial law should not be declared, because if martial law was declared we would lose the help of the city officials; and so far as I could see, the Mayor, his officers and the police who were working in harmony with the officers and enlisted men of the Guard, and we were working with them, and with the two organizations working together better results could be had <sup>than</sup> ~~there~~, as though martial law was declared. Then I talked to the Governor's office.

6

Mr. Johnson: You say martial law was declared?

Col. Tripp: I said if martial law was declared. It would be better for us not to declare it. I talked to the Governor's office and outlined what I had done as to the Collinsville Avenue affair and explained to them that in my judgment martial law should not be declared, because we needed the cooperation of the civil authorities and they needed our cooperation.

Mr. Johnson: If martial law had been declared in what official position would that have placed you?

Col. Tripp: It would depend altogether upon the proclamation of the Governor. If he had declared martial law he would issue a proclamation and designate the officer to be in charge of the troops.

Mr. Johnson: Well, you had come down here as his representative, had you not?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir, and I recommended to him that I did not believe that martial law should be declared.

Mr. Johnson: But <sup>since</sup> ~~if~~ you did come as his representative it is reasonably certain that if martial law had been declared you would have been put in command?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; I couldn't say that.

Mr. Johnson: Well, I didn't ask you for a certainty about it, but I asked you if it wasn't a reasonable certainty.

Col. Tripp: I would hate to answer that question, sir, because I don't know what he would have done in the matter.

Mr. Johnson: But no other officer was in communication with the Governor on the situation, was there?

Col. Tripp: Well, there was no one there except

7

myself, but whether he would have named me or not, I cannot say.

Mr. Johnson: You do entertain some apprehension that he might have gone over your head in the matter?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir. There were other officers in the State which it would possibly have been more logical to have taken.

Mr. Johnson: Was that apprehension on your part that he might have done - does that grow out of any particular feature of the service rendered on that day?

Col. Tripp: Of course I did not give it a thought. My judgment was that we should not declare martial law and separate the militia from the civil authorities or the civil authorities from the militia, and weaken our organizations. That was my idea in suggesting it, and I outlined that to the gentlemen present.

Mr. Johnson: Then is that the basic argument on which you would be against the declaration of martial law in almost any instance, in all instances?

Col. Tripp: Well, I would say that with the small force that we had on hand right there, and with a city of nearly 100,000 inhabitants, with practically everybody in disorder here - that to have assumed the responsibility wholly, with the few officers and men we had, and not have the cooperation of the civil authorities, would not have been acting in the best judgment, as I saw it.

Mr. Johnson: Did you, in the telephone communication with the Governor, of which you have just spoken,

advise the Governor that the situation here was well in hand, and that that was your opposition to martial law?

Col. Tripp: I advised the Governor that we had broken up the Collinsville Avenue riot; that with the five hundred troops ordered in - when they should get there - the five hundred troops, as I saw it, should restore order. However, the troops did not get here as we expected.

Mr. Johnson: Did they come at all?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: When did they arrive?

Col. Tripp: The next organization to arrive was at eight p.m., with three officers and 41 men.

Mr. Johnson: When had you expected them to arrive?

Col. Tripp: They were ordered ~~here~~<sup>in</sup> at three o'clock, the morning that I left.

Mr. Johnson: But when did you arrive?

Col. Tripp: We expected them all here by noon during the day, because they were from towns where they could get here. But the difficulty in getting men in from those small towns is that they are all employed on farms, and they could not get word to them <sup>in time</sup> and they came in in small numbers and they were delayed. I had every reason to believe that all organizations that had been ordered ought to reach here about noon of that day.

Mr. Foss: Now previous to that time, I understand you had 103 men and eight officers?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

9

Mr. Foss: Previous to eight p.m. when the other troops arrived?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; that is right. Then as soon as I left the meeting I came back to the City Hall and the Mayor told me there had been a number of requests coming in from outlying districts - the streets, the names of the streets I don't recall, but out in the colored districts - where a large number of colored men were forming with arms, and stated that that ought to be locked into at once, and asked me to go right out there personally and to break up the assemblage and to recover the arms if possible. So I took a truck, an automobile with four or five men, such as we could gather together - a very few - and Mr. Fekete, the City Attorney, and I went out to what is known as a saloon way out in the outskirts where the colored men were forming, and we found that the saloon was open and some fifteen colored men were in there. Beer was on the table, but there was no disorder and I told them if they lived there they had a right to remain; if not, we would like for them to go to their homes, and if they had any arms to surrender them; and that it had been reported, I said, that they were forming out there, and I asked the proprietor if he was organizing any forces of colored people.

Mr. Johnson: In what numbers had they formed there ?

Col. Tripp: There were some fifteen or sixteen there when I reached the scene. And he stated that they were not.

10

Mr. Johnson: He stated, were not what?

cyl 22

Col. Tripp: Were not forming. I asked them to surrender their arms, which they didn't offer to do.

Mr. Johnson: You didn't insist?

Col. Tripp: The Chief of Police was with me, and he said that they had arms and that he wanted them searched, so we started in searching them with the help of the men, and we found one man with twelve or fifteen cartridges, shotgun cartridges, that had been split in the center, and they corresponded with the kind of cartridges that had been fired into the automobile the night before, that killed the officer, so I took those cartridges *up* and I went upstairs with the proprietor and the Chief of Police.

Mr. Johnson: Was that man arrested?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir, and brought to the City Hall immediately. I went upstairs and searched the place.

Mr. Johnson: Did he have a weapon of any kind?

Col. Tripp. No, sir: There were arms supposed to have been hidden by a Dr. Coppedge—I think that was his name - and in searching his boxes of stores that had been carried in there we found nothing but automobile supplies and some stationary. We went back down in to the saloon and opened up a side place where they had a ~~box~~ *box*, and there I found a rifle which had some twelve ball cartridges in it. I unloaded the rifle and took the rifle and the ball cartridges and urged the colored men to go home. I turned that over to the Chief of Police,

11 and the colored man in charge of the saloon said, "there is a place across the way where you will find arms, a white saloon."

Mr. Johnson: Colonel, for my information, tell me about those split cartridges?

Col. Tripp: Well, sir, the best I can explain that, they are the regular shotgun cartridges, having large sized shot in them. They take and cut the cartridge right in the center, split it right in the center so that the cartridge only hangs by a piece of paper, and when it is fired it goes right out in a lump instead of scattering; and that corresponded with what they picked up around the automobile the night before, where the officers were killed. They found them the next morning. We went across the way where this white saloon was in operation and found one revolver only lying on the bar loaded. We turned that over to the Chief of Police, searched his place, and he assured us there was no organization there, nor none had formed; that there was no effort to make any and that perfect order would be restored. I asked him to close his saloon and permit no one to gather in there during the day, and he said he would, but suggested, "you go down to Dr. Coppedge's garage and right near by there you will find some trouble," he said. So I went down there and I found two colored men in the garage, and a woman representing herself to be Mrs. Coppedge, and I searched around there for arms and made inquiry for them. They said there were none there. I asked for Dr. Coppedge and he said they had <sup>not</sup> been there since the night before. They did not know where he was. So I asked

12

these colored men to go to their homes, and stay in off the streets during that day; not to go out or take part in any riots. They assured me they would go home. We did the same with those ~~who~~ <sup>left</sup> ~~and~~ ~~been~~ in the saloon and they all started out and went in different directions <sup>to their</sup> home, except two, I believe, that remained there as they claimed that that was their residence.

On reaching the City Hall - it was getting along then towards six o'clock, and when we got back Colonel Clayton reported there was a big fire off in the neighborhood where there had been great disorder, and that he had no troops to send there. I went right <sup>out</sup> ~~and~~ with the City Attorney to the blaze and found some 1500, I would say, gathered there, and only one or two sentries around there.

Mr. Johnson: Was this 1500 made up of white people?

Col. Tripp: White and colored I would say. I think they were white and colored. So I went right into this mob.

Mr. Johnson: Were they equal proportions of white and colored?

Col. Tripp: I couldn't say that, sir. I did not make close enough observation as to the color in there. It was very dark - getting along towards dark.

Mr. Foss: What time was it?

Col. Tripp: I would say possibly 6.30. I don't recall. It may have been seven.

13

Mr. Johnson: What time did the sun set?

Col. Tripp: After we had returned, as near as I can tell you, it was along after we had returned from there, in the evening. I went right into the mob, however, and commanded them in the name of the law of the State of Illinois and the Governor to disperse this unlawful assembly<sup>age</sup> and go to their homes and to discontinue the rioting. I was just simply thrown out of there like a football. I made this demand on them as strong as I could, and I got right back into the automobile -

Mr. Cooper (interposing): Were you in uniform?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Cooper: How were you dressed that day?

Col. Tripp: I had on a two piece grey suit and a straw hat. Before leaving for there I was informed - we were expecting a company at seven p.m., that would be in there - that Col. Clayton<sup>had</sup> ~~got~~ some information there would be a company there, so the City Attorney and myself returned to the City Hall with the view of picking up this company, which must have got in a little after seven p.m. We loaded them on an automobile truck and I gave Col. Clayton instructions to take personal command of the provisional company, picking up what he could find there and to go right to the scene, with instructions to flank the men around this mob where they were burning buildings, where they were hanging<sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ man, where they were reported to have hung a man, where they had killed another, and I

14

would be right there to take part in it.

Mr. Johnson: Colonel, if you don't mind now, the Committee would be glad to take a recess.

Col. Tripp: I shall be very glad to come back.

Mr. Johnson: You can come back at two o'clock.

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

23

(Whereupon, at one o'clock p.m. the Committee recessed.)

16

## AFTER RECESS.

(The Committee reassembled at two o'clock p.m.)

Mr. Johnson: Colonel, you may proceed with your testimony.

Col. Tripp: I believe I left off where we returned to the City Hall and started down where this mob had been organized, and I had been down to that scene on Broadway, I believe, in company with Mr. Fekete, and went into the crowd and ordered them to disband and break up the assemblage in the name of the law. There being no response I said to Mr. Fekete, "with four enlisted men, and with 1500 or 2000 men here we cannot make advance movement towards breaking up the mob. There is a company about to arrive at the City Hall, and we had better plan for me to go back and pick up that company, pick up as many ~~men~~ <sup>additional</sup> men as possible, and return to the scene and endeavor to arrest the entire mob."

Mr. Johnson: <sup>To whom</sup> Did you say that?

Col. Tripp: I said that to Mr. Fekete, the City Attorney, acting mayor. He acquiesced in my suggestion and we returned to the City Hall and found Col. Clayton and this company which had just come in, Company B, I believe, with 60 men. I told him to take personal charge of the company and such additional men as he could find and load them on to trucks that had been sent to the City Hall, and proceed to the scene; and I would accompany him in an automobile right in advance and be there to assist them; that on arrival at the place I suggested that we deploy our line to the right and left flank and

17 . encircle the mob, which Col. Clayton thought we had better do. On reaching there I found the mob had just broken away from the point I had found them in, and were marching up the street. There were probably nearly a thousand, and they were dragging a negro by the neck, with a rope around his neck and the negro on the ground head forward, and some eight or ten men a hold of the rope. We immediately deployed our troops, unloaded the trucks by the right and left flank, and I preceded the troops and aided them in completing the circle around the mob, and Col. Clayton grabbed two of the men - or his enlisted men, that had hold of the rope. The other eight ran back into the crowd and were lost for identification. I helped the organization complete this circle by closing in and arrested probably anywhere from forty to fifty men myself and drew them into the circle. After we got our circle completed the rope was released from the colored man's neck, and Mr. Fekete put him in his automobile and took him to the hospital. The two men that had hold of the rope were taken to the City Hall separately and these others were marched into the City Hall, where I gave instructions to Colonel Clayton to instruct the police to book them all, to take their names, search them for arms, and to confine them. This we attempted to do and did succeed in getting them all into the City Hall - practically all of them - and during that time, while we were putting them into the City Hall, probably ~~had~~ had, a third of them confined, the Mayor came out and I was directing the work leaving Col. Clayton free to attend

18 . to some other work and to send out on another call where troops had been requested - where mobs were forming - a small detachment to put those men in. After he ~~got~~ had started to disperse this mob, this second mob gathering on the street, a call came for another command, where a second mob was forming, and at that moment Company F of Fenton came in with something like sixty six men, three officers, Capt. Smith reporting to me, and I ordered him to proceed immediately up the street with double time, without taking time to remove his sacks or any field equipment and circle the mob and make arrests as we had done before. He started out with his organization at double quick time. I remained back to confine the prisoners in the jail. By the time that Capt. Smith reached the street, he deployed by the flanks and the crowd, the mob was <sup>completely</sup> broken up without an arrest being made on the second occasion.

By this time a report came to me in front of the City Hall that numbers of our prisoners were going out the back way and as soon as I could get word to Colonel Clayton to detail enlisted men to guard the back part of the jail, and which he did as soon as he could pick up men available for that work - take them off of other duties.

At the point of confining the prisoners the Mayor came to me and said he had just talked with the Governor and the Governor told him the city was practically under martial law. He then asked me to assume full charge of the city and the details of all the work, similar to that

784

19

- I have his statement in my report, and I called out to the crowd - there was quite a crowd gathering to see the prisoners drove in - that the city was now practically under martial law as the Mayor ~~was~~ <sup>had stated</sup>, and for all people to return to their homes and to discontinue any disorder. I remained there until all the prisoners were taken into the jail. By this time numerous fires were starting all over the city. Col. Clayton was directed to go out with as many men as he could and protect the hose. It had been reported that the hose was being cut, and for him to give all the aid to the firemen possible.

26

No other unlawful gatherings appeared to be in operation and that left the troops available to guard the fire department, which was constantly growing very rapidly - and as soon as that was done which was in a very short time, I called up St. Louis and got in communication from the City Hall with the Fire Department and asked them for additional equipment, saying that East St. Louis had not sufficient equipment to extinguish the fires and distribute their equipment over the territory where fires were being started. After considerable delay, I would say half an hours' time, I finally got in communication with the City Hall over there and the Fire Department, and the gentleman on the line said they could not send over equipment because they would not run the risk of having it destroyed. I assured them that we could give them a guard to protect it, and after another hour, I would say, the Chief of the Fire Department came over and I talked to him and pointed out that

20

these fires were growing and that unless we had help I was of the opinion that the city would burn down and the Chief of the Fire Department then consented to send over some equipment, and I gave him a guard and asked Col. Clayton to detail a number of men to guard the equipment on its arrival. He sent it over, and they did efficient work and the fire was extinguished.

Going along after that time until twelve o'clock the detail work was going on all over the city, perfecting the organization, perfecting the line of guard, and doing all sorts of work on calls where troops were coming in, sending them to various places over the city where the reports were coming in that there was disorder, and sending them out as fast as we could. There were no more mobs after those two large ones that I am speaking of, and we continued to fight the fires, guarding the equipment the balance of the night. I believe that *states* all of my story. As I said it is all the streets, ~~scenes~~ *named* and maps, are marked and the details of it; the instructions to the troops and the time of arrival of all of the troops, and those who took part at the different places, and the names of the officers, the organizations, are embodied in my report, which is dictated, was made up immediately after the trouble was over - the next day or two.

Mr. Fekete, the City Attorney and acting mayor, was with me practically all of the time, and every demand made on me for any kind of duty was absolutely carried out

21 to the letter.

Mr. Cooper: You said that when you heard that a mob was forming - a large mob, etc. - that Col. Clayton was ordered to go out and do what?

Col. Tripp: At the time we were getting prisoners at the City Hall?

Mr. Cooper: Something like that?

Col. Tripp: Well, we were confining the prisoners at the City Hall, and the report came - we were keeping in communication with all the disorder by telephone or by messengers - that a mob was forming up on Illinois Avenue. Col. Clayton immediately left with such men as he had there to look after that mob, leaving <sup>me</sup> back with a small detachment to complete the work of confining the prisoners already arrested, which numbered something like between three hundred and fifty and five hundred men.

Mr. Cooper: You said several times ~~this~~ <sup>and</sup> this afternoon - ~~you~~ you did this morning - that Col. Clayton was ordered to go and do so and so. Who ordered Col. Clayton to do that thing?

Col. Tripp: Well, I say "order". The call came for assistance, and we were there to perform the work and Col. Clayton went. I asked him to go and I would attend to the other work.

cyl 27

Mr. Cooper: Well, what do you mean by saying that Col. Clayton - you said it several times - was ordered to do so and so?

Col. Tripp: It meant that he should proceed there

22 with all the available help

Mr. Cooper: Who ordered him?

Col. Tripp: I did, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Well, if you were not in command what authority had you to order Col. Clayton to do anything?

Col. Tripp: Because I was acting as a representative of the Adjutant General's Office, and an order of that sort, a request of that sort, is equivalent to an order - that he would obey it. We were working together.

Mr. Cooper: Well, you said this morning that you weren't in command. As a matter of fact, you were, weren't you?

Col. Tripp: No, sir, I don't consider myself in command of the troops.

Mr. Cooper: How could you order the commander of the troops to go anywhere unless you were in command?

Col. Tripp: Well, the ordering of the troops - the ordering of the officer in charge of the troops to go - he would naturally take the orders from me.

Mr. Cooper: Well, you were in command of the officer in command of the troops?

Col. Tripp: I represented the Governor's office, and a request on my part would be equivalent to an order.

Mr. Cooper: Then you were in command of the troops in East St. Louis on that day, essentially?

Col. Tripp: I don't say so.

Mr. Cooper: I am not saying whether you say so or not.

23

Col. Tripp: I testified that I was not in command.

Mr. Cooper: I know you did, but what do the facts show. The facts show that you ordered the next highest officer here, Col. Clayton, to go and do a certain thing, and he did it.

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And you said that your request of him to go and do that was equivalent to a command.

Col. Tripp: Certainly.

Mr. Cooper: How could you give a command to a military officer unless you were the military officer in command?

Col. Tripp: I was the representative from the Governor's Office, and orders from the Governor's Office are obeyed.

Mr. Cooper: Exactly. Then you were in control of the situation?

Col. Tripp: I was his representative.

Mr. Cooper: The Governor wasn't <sup>here</sup> there, was he?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And your request on behalf of the Governor was equivalent to a command?

Col. Tripp: I didn't say on behalf of the Governor. I said, "Col. Clayton, you go and do that, and I will take charge of this work."

Mr. Cooper: Exactly, and Col. Clayton obeyed?

Col. Tripp: Absolutely.

Mr. Cooper: Well, if he acted in obedience to your

25 orders, you could order him, couldn't you?

Col. Tripp: Well, you might term it that, if you wish to.

Mr. Cooper: You might term it that. Then you were in command, weren't you?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; I was not.

Mr. Cooper: Was Col. Clayton in command of you?

Col. Tripp: Col. Clayton was ordered to take command of all of the troops, being the rank <sup>in</sup> ~~and~~ field officer of the line present, as I stated in the beginning of my statement to the Committee, which is correct.

Mr. Cooper: What did you mean by your statement of a moment ago in reply to my question, that you were the representative of the Governor here and that your request was equivalent to a command?

Col. Tripp: Well, because an order from the Governor, *being* the commander-in-chief of the forces, would be obeyed.

Mr. Cooper: Well, but the Governor was not here to deliver it.

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Well, then, - you in the Governor's place did deliver it, didn't you?

Col. Tripp: I directed him to go and disperse the second mob.

Mr. Cooper: How could you direct a soldier - how  
cyl 28 could you direct an officer unless you were in command of that officer?

Col. Tripp: That is a matter of interpretation. I do not, as I told you before, consider myself in command

25

of the forces. I was the representative of the Governor's Office who goes out on those duties, but we don't consider ourselves the commanding officer of the troops, nor attempt to drill the troops or discipline them or instruct them on matters of that sort.

Mr. Cooper: You were ~~working~~ <sup>acting</sup>, we will say, as a sort of deputy governor?

Col. Tripp: You can make any interpretation of it you wish. I was stating that I was not in command of the line of the organizations here; that we had designated <sup>Lieutenant</sup> ~~to~~ Col. Clayton of the line to command, I being an administrative officer <sup>did</sup> ~~in~~ my duties from an administrative standpoint.

Mr. Cooper: Now never mind the language; get down to the facts. You gave the directions to the commander of the forces, Col. Clayton, to do so and so, and he went, didn't he?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Exactly. Will you tell me how you could direct on behalf of the Governor, a military officer to execute a certain order for the suppression of a riot if you hadn't the authority to direct him?

Col. Tripp: Well, the orders would not be questioned. It was for the best interest of the city that he go and do that very thing.

Mr. Cooper: What power did you have to tell Col. Clayton where to go and where not to go?

Col. Tripp: Well, I take it my power was as a representative of the Governor.

Mr. Cooper: Well, if you as a representative of the Governor, sort of acting for the Governor here - <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~

26

directing the soldiers and the officers, <sup>and</sup> all of the soldiers and officers to go here and to go there, you were in command of the forces here, were you not?

Col. Tripp: Well, sir, you may term it that, if you wished. I don't take that interpretation of it. I don't think our office does.

Mr. Cooper: Was Col. Clayton authorized to send troops against your wishes here <sup>or</sup> and there?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; positively - to attend to the situation absolutely ~~the same~~, we conferred together.

Mr. Cooper: Did he exercise it?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; right along.

Mr. Cooper: Against your wishes?

Col. Tripp: I didn't have any words or contradiction on anything that was done.

Mr. Cooper: He did just as you said every time?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; he acted on his own orders right along all the time.

Mr. Cooper: Well, what did you mean when you said -

Col. Tripp: (interposing) I meant this -

Mr. Cooper (interposing): Let me ask the questions now for a moment. You said before recess, and you have said several times since recess, that Col. Clayton was order to go so and so.

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And you gave the order?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; positively, in this way, -

Mr. Cooper (interposing) On behalf of the Governor?

Col. Tripp: I ordered Capt. Smith to go immedi-

792

27

ately and take command of that situation, because it was necessary to give the orders.

Mr. Cooper: You did?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; I stated so, and my report shows that. Capt. Smith arrived during the time the prisoners were being confined in the jail.

cyl 28

Mr. Cooper: Well, lets get back to the time you ordered Col. Clayton around <sup>in the afternoon</sup> ~~too~~, to go here and there to suppress a riot, this or that place, and take troops with him, and Col. Clayton obeyed your orders

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Will you tell me how you can command a military officer unless you have authority to command him?

Col. Tripp: Well, my authority, as I stated before, sir, - my authority is being the representative of the Adjutant General's office, where all orders emanate.

Mr. Cooper: Did you exceed your authority any time that afternoon?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; positively I did not.

Mr. Cooper: <sup>do</sup> ~~Then~~ you were entitled or authorized to order Col. Clayton to take troops and go here and there in this city that day?

Col. Tripp: I think so.

Mr. Cooper: And in pursuance of your authority you gave the orders?

Col. Tripp: I gave him instructions to go there, yes <sup>Sir</sup> ~~indeed~~.

Mr. Cooper: How you weren't in uniform that day?

28

Col. Tripp: No, sir:

Mr. Cooper: You were in a straw hat and a grey suit?

Col. Tripp: That is right.

Mr. Cooper: The uniform you have on to-day is the uniform that you surely would have had on if you had been dressed in a uniform that day?

Col. Tripp: This is the prescribed uniform, sir, I am wearing to-day.

Mr. Cooper: Why didn't you put on your uniform that day?

Col. Tripp: I was called out of my bed at three o'clock in the morning and I went to the Adjutant General's Office and worked with the Assistant Adjutant General in getting out the troops and left on the early morning train leaving there some time between four and five o'clock, and it would have been impossible for me to make the early train and get down here, to go home and get in a uniform.

Mr. Cooper: Where was your uniform?

Col. Tripp: Back at my residence.

Mr. Cooper: That is where you were in bed?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: What was the message that came to you?

Col. Tripp: From the Assistant Adjutant General?

Mr. Cooper: What was the message that got you out of bed in the morning?

Col. Tripp: I received a telephone message from the

29

Assistant Adjutant General, Col. R. J. Shann, to come to the office and talk over the matter of sending troops down to East St. Louis. I went right down there without the waste of time. I might state for the information of the Committee that all riots that I have been on and I have been on a number of them in the last seven years, while serving as assistant quartermaster general of this state - I have never been out in uniform.

Mr. Cooper: Why did you come down in full uniform <sup>to day?</sup> There is no riot on to-day.

Col. Tripp: Because the troops are in the service and we have been in uniform since about the first of September.

Mr. Raker: The troops have been Federalized?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir. Now we are ordered to wear the uniform.

Mr. Cooper: Now you knew you were coming down here with the militia?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; I didn't know it until a few minutes before I started. I went to the office to work with the Assistant Adjutant General, to get out the troops, and at the last moment he asked me if I would go down here and I consented and came immediately.

cyl 30

Mr. Cooper: Now witnesses, a number, apparently of high character, have been before this Committee <sup>and</sup> under oath and have testified that on the second of July, soldiers were stationed here and there in the city; one detachment under the command or accompanied by a member of the police force; and these witnesses have testified to the actual

30

murder of negroes by the militia men on the second of July in this city. Do you know anything about that?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; no such information came to our office. There was <sup>an</sup> erroneous report came down there that a soldier had killed a negro or fired on him, and I asked all the officers around the City Hall to investigate the matter and report on it, and gather any information possible on the subject, and no information or tangible proof came to me on such a proposition.

Mr. Cooper: Were you on the board of military inquiry here?

Col. Tripp: I was a witness before the board.

Mr. Cooper: Do you know that a witness went before that board and testified under oath that he could identify the murderer if he were afforded an opportunity - one of the militiamen?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; I do not.

Mr. Cooper: Did you ever hear about that?

Col. Tripp: I have heard newspaper reports of the proposition, sir.

Mr. Cooper: This was all in secret, this military inquiry, wasn't it?

Col. Tripp: Well, I was there probably a very short time, and didn't stay through the inquiry. I never read over their proceedings.

Mr. Cooper: Did you know that Mr. Roger, the president of the Grant Chemical Company, who says their plant, \$300,000 worth of property here, was on fire at one time just before the fire started, did you know that he

31

testified under oath here that he heard some soldiers at a distance of about thirty feet from him, militiamen in uniform, having rifles in their hands, conversing with each other, and one said to the other, "you couldn't hurt anything with that gun," and the other said, "the hell, I couldn't," and thereupon he deliberately raised his rifle and shot at a group of five or six - approximately that number - of harmless negroes a distance of three or four hundred feet, standing terrorized and one of them dropped to the ground when the rifle went off? Did you know that?

Col. Tripp: No, sir, I don't.

Mr. Cooper: Did you know that a man came here *on the stand* and testified here under oath that he saw four or five militiamen stand here in this city, by a building which had been constructed at a certain level, and after its erection the street had been filled in front of it, so that the floor of the second story was on the level with the street - the sidewalk, and that he saw that building on fire and from the rear door down in the depression he saw two negroes run, and that these militiamen deliberately raised their guns and killed both of those negroes as they were trying to escape from the burning building? Did you know that?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; I do not. I never heard the story.

Mr. Cooper: Was all the record of this court martial kept from the newspapers?

32  
cyl 31

Col. Tripp: I couldn't tell <sup>you</sup> sir.

Mr. Cooper: Have you ever heard of any of that testimony being published?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Did you know that several reputable witnesses identified a man by the name of McCafferty, - or whatever his name is, and they saw him drunk, stab a boy by the name of Eysinger to death with a bayonet?

Col. Tripp: On what day?

Mr. Cooper: On the second.

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Or any other day?

Col. Tripp: I understood there was a boy stabbed - a man stabbed along later on, probably.

Mr. Cooper: Two weeks later?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir, I heard of that, sir.

Mr. Cooper: This boy was the support of relatives, an orphan boy.

Col. Tripp: I have heard that story, yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Did you know that all who know him speak of him in the very highest terms, as an industrious, good boy?

Col. Tripp: No, sir, I did not.

Mr. Cooper: Did you know that some of them that saw the assault, said that the soldier was drunk?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And that he stabbed this boy and pierced the femoral artery and he bled to death?

Col. Tripp: No, sir, I know nothing about the

33

testimony, of that.

Mr. Cooper: Did you ever hear anything about it?

Col. Tripp: I heard there was a court martial here and the boy was tried for stabbing a man. That was after I left.

Mr. Cooper: Did you ever know of that testimony being published?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; I never read it.

Mr. Cooper: Did you ever know what became of that soldier?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Cooper: If a soldier did murder a boy like that, was there any reason why that testimony should not have been published, and the fellow apprehended and punished?

Col. Tripp: I know of none, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Were you here at the time this boy was stabbed?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Where were you on that day?

Col. Tripp: I couldn't recall where I was, but I was on duty some place in Illinois. I had been relieved from duty and gone out on other work. I might have been in Peoria, I might have been in Moline, or Chicago.

Mr. Cooper: Did you ever hear about witnesses coming here and testifying - I understand they have said the same thing elsewhere, - that they saw a soldier in uniform with a gun in his hands tell some man who stood with a revolver and had been firing into the residence of a negro and had exhausted the cartridges in his revolver,

34 to load up again and shoot some more?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Cooper: That he stood there and watched it?

Col. Tripp: No, sir, I never heard it before.

Mr. Cooper: How thorough an investigation did you ever make, or anybody else make, of the conduct of those militiamen here on that day?

Col. Tripp: I didn't make any, sir. I merely reported the facts that few hours I was here, as near as I could, what took place, what went on up to twelve o'clock of that night, when General Dickson arrived here and took command of the situation, and I made no report after that time and no investigation. I did work, however, with the troops and with the General for a number of days, trying to restore order, and putting out fires, etc., but I made no investigations. My investigation ended at twelve o'clock that night.

cyl 32

Mr. Cooper: Did you ever hear of the testimony of a man seeing a soldier who displayed seventeen cartridge clips, I believe they call them, after they had been discharged?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; cartridge clips or cases.

Mr. Cooper: And a conversation like this ensued: "Did you shoot all those at the mob?" "Oh, no," says he, "I never can hit anything but a black target." Did you ever hear that?

Col. Tripp: No, sir, I never did. I might say that I only know of two shots being fired, and that was reported after the following day that they were fired by---

800

35

on one of the streets in the air. There were only two shots fired that I know anything about, coming from any of the soldiers. My report shows that.

Mr. Cooper: You had one hundred and how many men here at half past one, that day? Before two o'clock 103 men, I think, and eight officers?

Col. Tripp: I can tell you that exactly. (consulting papers) At 8.40 a.m. on July 2nd -

Mr. Cooper (interposing): I said 1.30 in the afternoon.

Col. Tripp: Well, I was giving you all the organizations of the day.

Mr. Cooper: But I want to know how many you had at 1.30 in the afternoon, while this rioting was going on?

Col. Tripp: Just excuse me a minute. (Consulting paper) Now at 1.30, participating in the work we had 59 men and five officers. At 1.30, after leaving the City Hall for Collinsville Avenue, came another organization which came up there and took part in that work with three officers and 44 men. There is 44 to add to it. They did not, ~~come~~, however, ~~and~~ do any duty in connection with breaking up the riot on Collinsville Avenue.

Mr. Cooper: I am not asking you what they did; I am asking you how many men you had here at that hour, at two o'clock. At 1.30 we had 59 officers and five men.

Mr. Cooper: When did the 44 come in?

Col. Tripp: At 1.30.

Mr. Cooper: How many did you have at two o'clock? You had 103 men and how many officers?

36

Col. Tripp: We had at 1.30, 44 additional men, but they weren't there to take part with us.

Mr. Cooper: You had them at two o'clock?

Col. Tripp: Well, they came up after the Collinsville Avenue mob had been dispersed.

Mr. Cooper: Then you had 103 men after that mob had been dispersed?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; 103.

Mr. Cooper: Now, suppose that you had taken 50 men - two detachments of 50 men each, and officered properly; these men had rifles with bayonets in place, guns loaded, and you had given instructions to them to go up and down these streets and everywhere else about, and notified the mob that you would have no more murders on these streets, and no more burnings, how many do you suppose there would have been? How much of a mob would there have been if they had seen fifty determined men with loaded rifles and bayonets in place?

Col. Tripp: At two o'clock after the mob was dispersed on Collinsville Avenue, and after that time men were patrolling the streets; they were giving out instructions, moving men on and breaking up unlawful assemblages, etc. That was the instructions they received. They were to do that and at that time up until the time, 1.30 in the afternoon, there hadn't been anyone killed. At two o'clock when that mob was broken up these sentries were all put on their beat, instructing and working - we brought in something like from that hour <sup>until</sup> ~~and~~ eight o'clock, between five hundred and six hundred refugees that we had

37

gotten away from these people and brought them down to the City Hall. And I might say that if we had used those fifty that you are speaking of as a unit on each of those mobs, it would have been more effective, but it would not have been carrying out the orders of the Mayor, to whom we had reported for instructions and duty.

Mr. Cooper: Now you are putting the responsibility for those being broke up into detachments upon the Mayor?

Col. Tripp: I say that we absolutely distributed our men according to the orders of the Mayor, whom we were directed to report to and carry out his wishes and orders, and help him to suppress the riots and keep order.

Mr. Cooper: Now that is most interesting information.

Col. Tripp: That is the orders we received, to report to the Mayor.

Mr. Cooper: So that the putting of four or five men over at this building which was burning and from which the men tried to escape and were killed - the putting of those men over there was in accordance with the wishes of Mayor Mollman?

Col. Tripp: We distributed them exactly as the Mayor directed, or his acting mayor.

Mr. Cooper: Or the acting mayor?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Well, who was acting mayor?

Col. Tripp: Thos. L. Fekete, City Attorney.

Mr. Cooper: How large groups were these men divided into?

38

Col. Tripp: They were distributed, say two or three in a block - our first sentries. They were distributed in that number over this territory we had to guard. A few of them were down at the free bridge, we had a few down there, and they were there as a squad. Others were distributed along the streets at intervals of, well, I should judge anywhere from 250 to 300 feet or more apart.

Mr. Cooper: That was when you first came in the morning?

Col. Tripp: All the way through, in the afternoon. And when we acted as a unit, we had to gather our men up from off the streets to form a provisional company.

Mr. Cooper: Well, now there is a mob, the picture of a mob (exhibiting photograph) and the picture is taken by the International Film Service. It says here "60,270, Photograph, International Film Service, scene in East St. Louis Race Riots." I am reading what is attached to it, "companion picture to 60271. The negro in front of the car has been caught by the mob. Note the militiamen standing around, apparently doing nothing."

See if you know anything about that? (Handing photograph to witness).

Col. Tripp: (After examining photograph) I don't know where that was taken. I can't locate it.

Mr. Cooper: Do you recognize that scene?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Do you see those militiamen there with their rifles standing straight up?

804

39

Col. Tripp: There were four militiamen - not more than four.

Mr. Cooper: Not more than four? Look at that again.

Col. Tripp: I am telling you what I know.

Mr. Cooper: Well, now wait a moment. Don't have the record show that you are talking about this picture when you are not. That is something you say you don't know anything about.

Col. Tripp: I say I don't recognize that picture.

Mr. Cooper: Well, then don't talk about what you saw four militiamen do, because that don't relate to this picture and the record would confuse people. I should think from looking that over, that that there are as many as fifteen or twenty militiamen there while this negro is being mobbed, taken from the car. You don't know anything about that?

Col. Tripp: Give me the time and place and I ~~could~~ probably <sup>could</sup> know something about that, sir.

Mr. Cooper: But can you tell by looking at the picture?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; I couldn't recognize that picture at all.

Not speaking about the picture, on Collinsville Avenue, at 1.30 after I was in that mob, a street car was stopped and men went through the car, so I am told - I did not see it - to look for colored men. I was in this mob, as I told you before, with one enlisted man with

40 his gun flat ways pushing into the middle of the crowd.

Mr. Baker : This was what time, now?

Col. Tripp: Thetime I am speaking of was about  
1.30 in the afternoon.

Mr. Cooper: What street was that?

Col. Tripp: Collinsville Avenue near the Labor  
Temple.

Mr. Cooper: And you with one militiaman -

Col. Tripp: (interposing) With one militiaman -

Mr. Cooper: (interposing) Were there any more  
there?

Col. Tripp: I said there were at least two, not  
over four in that block, but I took one with his gun when  
I jumped out of the automobile and pressed into the crowd  
with it. That is all I saw until I got to the telephone.

cyl 35

Mr. Cooper: Well, was there anything in your  
clothing or anything which you displayed to the crowd to  
indicate that you were the representative of the Governor?

Col. Tripp: Except, as I gave my order to them to  
disperse, sir. I had no uniform, no insignia.

Mr. Cooper: You had no uniform or badge, but were  
in ordinary civilian costume?

Col. Tripp: That is right.

Mr. Cooper: Did you bring a grip with you?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: How long did you remain before you  
returned to Springfield?

Col. Tripp: Four or five days.

41 Mr. Cooper: Was it a suitcase or a small grip?

Col. Tripp: It was a little bit of a grip with a few toilet articles. I know I didn't have the change, if I remember, of a shirt. I simply had to wear what I had.

Mr. Cooper: Didn't it occur to you that if you were coming to a city of this size to suppress a riot which from the message you had reason to infer would be one of some violence, some size, that it would be well to bring something to show your official position?

Col. Tripp: When I received the information at my home, at three o'clock in the morning, I got no information from the Assistant Adjutant General to the effect that I would go to St. Louis, - none at all.

Mr. Cooper: How did you come to take the grip with you?

Col. Tripp: Well, I just grabbed my grip when I went out of my room - maybe a shirt in it and a few things I had there.

Mr. Cooper: You didn't grab your grip just to go over to the Adjutant General's Office, did you?

Col. Tripp: Well, sir, I grabbed my grip, as I told you, to go down there, not knowing that I was coming down here, nor I didn't know I was coming down here until a very few minutes before it was necessary for me to catch the morning train.

Mr. Cooper: You got out of bed and caught up your grip. Where did you suppose you were going with the grip?

Col. Tripp: I was going to the Adjutant General's

42

Office.

Mr. Cooper: You usually take a grip to go to the Adjutant General's Office?

Col. Tripp: I took it along.

Mr. Cooper: You took it along because you thought you were going out of the city, didn't you?

Col. Tripp: Well, I didn't know, but I never wear a uniform on those occasions. If I had known it I would not have put my uniform on.

Mr. Cooper: A military officer, going out to perform what amounts to a military duty, wouldn't take his uniform with him?

Col. Tripp: It has not been customary to take our uniforms on those details. I have been on a number of riot details this year.

Mr. Cooper: You take an ordinary mob -

Col. Tripp: (interposing) We don't go out in the military capacity, commanding troops. We go down there to look into the matter and make some report on it.

Mr. Cooper: But the soldiers all came here in uniform?

Col. Tripp: They were ordered down in uniform, yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Who ordered them down in uniform?

Col. Tripp: The Adjutant General ordered them to proceed in the regular way.

Mr. Cooper: Did he order them in your presence?

43 Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; some of them were ordered over the telephone in my presence.

Mr. Cooper: They were ordered in your presence by the Adjutant General to come down here in uniform?

cyl 36 Col. Tripp: Well, the word "uniform" was not used.

Mr. Cooper: Because that is understood?

Col. Tripp: That is understood, that a company called out for any duty at all would be in uniform.

Mr. Cooper: And you, having heard that the military companies were ordered to the scene of this riot, the order having been issued in your presence, knowing of course, as you say, that they would be in uniform; that it is their duty to be in uniform, you came down here and were coming down here to assume command -

Col. Tripp (Interposing): No, sir, I wasn't -

Mr. Cooper: (Interposing) Well, but you ordered Col. Clayton and the troops around.

Col. Tripp: Well, you may admit all of that, but I wasn't coming down here as designated in command.

Mr. Cooper: You came right down here and issued orders on behalf of the Governor?

Col. Tripp: I came down here and had a meeting with all the officers.

Mr. Cooper: But just answer the question. You came down and directed the troops here and there, and you told Col. Clayton where to go?

Col. Tripp: I told Col. Clayton when we got back from the City Hall there, to go right up with what troops that he had to suppress that mob. I remained there to

44 take care of getting those prisoners confined. That he did, and I did the same - remained there and did the work there.

Mr. Cooper: Well, the officer who was to execute the orders, executed your orders that day?

Col. Tripp: No, there wouldn't be any question about it.

Mr. Cooper: Well, that is all, I guess.

Mr. Raker: What time do you say you got here?

Col. Tripp: About eight o'clock, sir.

Mr. Raker: And where did you first land in town?

Col. Tripp: I came over from St. Louis on a street car.

Mr. Raker: You went to St. Louis?

Col. Tripp: No, I got off here on this side and <sup>if I remember right</sup> came right up to the City Hall.

Mr. Raker: Now be definite on that?

Col. Tripp: I can't be definite to tell the truth. I am not sure whether I road over to St. Louis on that train. I think I did, and then came over here from there. At any rate, I went right to the City Hall as soon as I could get - as soon as I reached here. I first dropped into the Police Department, and then from there over to the City Hall.

Mr. Raker: Were you alone?

Col. Tripp: I was alone.

Mr. Raker: Well, you found when you got to the City Hall, the Mayor?

Col. Tripp: No, he was not in. I waited some little time before he came in, some few minutes.

45

Mr. Raker: And the City Attorney?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: And the City Clerk?

Col. Tripp: Yes, the City Clerk.

Mr. Raker: Who else was there?

Col. Tripp: Col. Clayton.

Mr. Raker: Where did you have this conversation, in the Mayor's office?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Could you give us the substance now of that conversation? Just what transpired or was said by each one, giving the conversation from the beginning to the end, before anyone left the room?

Col. Tripp: Well, I can give it in substance. I stated as soon as I got in there, I said to the Mayor, that I was down here to cooperate with him in the matter of enforcing the laws, taking his orders, and I said to him that there was some 500 troops ordered. I had a piece of paper and gave him a list of the organizations ordered in here. That was my first conversation with him.

cyl 37

Mr. Raker: What did the Mayor say in response to that?

Col. Tripp: The Mayor said in response to that that these troops, as fast as they came in, they should be distributed over the streets where the trouble was most likely to be had, and I said, "All right, sir, when the troops come, we will do that." Then Col. Clayton met him right-a few minutes after that time - right at that time and I said to the Colonel in their presence

46

that an effort had been made to get hold of him in Vandalia, to take command of the troops, and he said he was in St. Louis where we couldn't reach him. He saw a notice in the paper and came over here. "Now," I says, "Col. Clayton, you will consider yourself on duty and take command of the troops as fast as they come and report your presence to the Mayor for instructions." And he did so, and he did that in my hearing and presence.

Mr. Raker: Was that agreed upon there, now?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Well, now, what was the participation of the City Attorney?

Col. Tripp: I said to the Mayor, "Now, how will we have these troops distributed?" Just how are they going to do and what will be their duties? Will you go out with us and look over the territory?" Then he says, "I am not feeling well," - that is what he said - "and I don't want to go out. I have been advised not to." And if I remember right, after that I said it would be necessary to have him do that; that we were not familiar with the streets and conditions here and it would be better for him to do it. He says, "I will have Mr. Fekete, the City Attorney, who will be my representative, and his orders will be my orders and anything that he does is my orders." I said, "All right." Then Mr. Fekete came in and I was introduced to him and talked to him on that line. Then I suggested that we take a city map and look over where we were going to distribute these troops. None had arrived at that time and we got a

812

47

city map and I went into the City Attorney's Office and spread the map out and the City Attorney after talking with the Mayor - he talked with him considerable - pointed out where they should go to, etc. And Col. Clayton as fast as the troops came in -

Mr. Raker: (Interposing) I don't want to get away from that meeting, now. Now is this practically all that occurred at the City Hall before you left?

Col. Tripp: That was practically my mornings' meeting.

Mr. Raker: I want to confine myself to the morning meeting.

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Now, the Mayor said he was advised not to go out?

Col. Tripp: That is right, sir; that he wasn't feeling well and was advised not to go out. "I am advised not to go out, to stay in,".

Mr. Raker: He said he was advised not to go out and to stay in?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; that is what he said.

Mr. Raker: Well, now what did that refer to?

Col. Tripp: Well, I couldn't say.

Mr. Raker: Did he convey any idea what it meant, that he was advised not to go out and stay in.

Col. Tripp: No, sir, not to me.

Mr. Raker: Now you saw him around there that morning and practically at various times during the day?

Col. Tripp: Well, I have my own idea, sir, but I

cyl 38

48

didn't <sup>ask</sup> him.

Mr. Raker: But when you did see him he didn't appear to be sick, did he?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; he was on duty all the day and night.

Mr. Raker: He was on duty day and night?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Now, isn't that strange that he should be advised not to go out, and to stay in, unless it meant something else?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; it meant something else.

Mr. Raker: That is your opinion?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Well, now, tell the Committee what you thought he meant or conveyed to you when the Mayor said that he was advised not to go out and to stay in? What did that convey to you?

Col. Tripp: Well, that would be just my own opinion. My own opinion is there were influences here in the City of East St. Louis that had been working with him and getting him to lay down - that wanted him to lay down on all propositions. That is what I thought.

Mr. Raker: Well, "lay down" how?

Col. Tripp: Give up, don't go out, get out of this, snift the responsibility, do everything, get away from it. That is the way that it looked to me. I felt that all the way through, but I did not ask him.

Mr. Johnson: And while you felt that he was laying down on his duties -

49

Col. Tripp: (Interposing) That is my own idea.

Mr. Johnson: While you felt -

Col. Tripp: (Interposing) *They* had trouble here before.

Mr. Johnson: Let me ask you a question? While you felt convinced in your own mind that the Mayor, to use your own expression was "laying down" on his duty, you cooperated with him, according to your own statement?

Col. Tripp: Who did? Who was the influence?

Mr. Johnson: I am not saying anything about the influence at all. You have stated that you cooperated to your fullest ability with the Mayor.

Col. Tripp: I did, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Now then you say the Mayor, in your opinion was laying down on his duties while you were cooperating with him?

Col. Tripp: He would not go out. He would not go out of his office, he would not go into the crowds with me.

Mr. Johnson: And in his refusal to go out and perform his duty you cooperated with him?

Col. Tripp: Just to the fullest extent. He turned it over to another man and I did cooperate with him to the fullest extent.

Mr. Johnson: At the time he was laying down on his duty you were cooperating with him?

Col. Tripp: Just to the very best I possibly could, yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: You cooperated with <sup>him</sup> in not laying down?

50

Col. Tripp: I gave it as my opinion that influences stopped him from going out.

Mr. Raker: Now, what was said by you <sup>as</sup> to Col. Clayton, or by Col. Clayton <sup>about the fact</sup> to you, that the Mayor was advised not to go out?

Col. Tripp: Col. Clayton heard the conversation.

Mr. Raker: What was discussed between you at that time?

Col. Tripp: <sup>Between</sup> Col. Clayton and myself?

cyl. 39

Mr. Raker: Yes, about the mayor not going out?

Col. Tripp: Well, when they designated the City Attorney, we thought we would have a good representative from the mayor's office, and we would get along just as well without him going out in the streets and going over these conditions as we would with him; that we thought he had designated a very capable man for that work.

Mr. Raker: Well, did you and Col. Clayton discuss the fact of Mayor Mollman not going out?

Col. Tripp: Well, there were a few little things came up, I believe.

Mr. Raker: Well, tell us about them?

Col. Tripp: Well, I don't recall the conversation, but I know there was a remark or two made to Fekete how that was - I don't recall that conversation.

Mr. Raker: Well, what was the substance of it? What was the substance or purport of this conversation? Now I know you must have had some thought.

Col. Tripp: I did have some.

Mr. Raker: And that it must have been impressed

51

on you. Here was a city of from 50,000 to 60,000; *Souls* - you had been sent here by the Governor's Office, fearful of a riot breaking out, that many lives may have been lost and much property destroyed. Now you found when you arrived, none of the militia here, none of the regular army -

Col. Tripp: (Interposing) The regular army was in the city.

Mr. Raker: But you hadn't found it?

Col. Tripp: It was not under our orders.

Mr. Raker: You hadn't found them?

Col. Tripp: No, sir:

Mr. Raker: But you found the Mayor in his office telling you to start with that he was advised not to go out?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: And that he wouldn't go and he didn't go.

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir, he said, "I am advised not to go."

Mr. Raker: What did that lead you to believe?

Col. Tripp: I believed that there were influences - that someone had an influence over him, whether it was political or whether he felt he might get mixed up in a crowd and that he had better not go out. They had had a riot here once before, and I looked at it that way. That is about all there is to it.

Mr. Raker: Well, what was the major matter in your mind? That he was afraid to go for fear he him-

52

self would suffer personal violence, or that he had better stay in because if he got out he might run across some of his friends in the melees and intercept some of their machinations that might be desired to be brought about, had they?

Col. Tripp: My personal opinion is that he, was being influenced by somebody here in East St. Louis that told him to keep in. Now I don't know whether it was political or some other body.

Mr. Raker: Did you find that - did you find that out?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Raker: Did you try to go into it?

Col. Tripp: I did not.

Mr. Raker: Now didn't you feel - lets get your feeling to start with.

~~Col. Tripp: I felt.~~

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818

Col. Tripp: I felt it was a very <sup>strange</sup> ~~safe~~ proposition.

Mr. Raker: Let's get your feeling. You came down here to be on hand to suppress any riot that might start. That is right, isn't it?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Now that means bloodshed, and that means that a man takes his own life in his hands when he goes out on the streets and meets a crowd, a mob, taking the life of some negro or some white man?

Col. Tripp: It certainly does.

Mr. Raker: You found the Mayor in a condition not to give assistance. Now that must be the fact of it, is it?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir. Well, the Mayor directed the police---

Mr. Raker (Interposing): Now, just a moment; I will get to the police business later.

It must be true, or is it not, that the Mayor didn't do anything?

Col. Tripp: The only time that I saw the Mayor outside of his office is the time he walked across the street into the Commercial Club.

Mr. Raker: I haven't left that building yet. I want to stay right to that building.

Col. Tripp: It would only be just a guess on my part why he didn't.

Mr. Raker: It seems to me that had the Mayor desired to do anything else, with your assistance, ten men or twenty men, could have gathered a hundred citizens of this town that

day and suppressed any riot that might have started.

Col. Tripp: I can answer that by saying that there was not a citizen of any class offered his assistance or came to us in any way, shape, manner or form for help to do any duty.

Mr. Raker: I haven't got to that yet. I don't want to get off of this morning's meeting.

When you left the Mayor that morning, didn't you feel in your own mind and conscience that you were in a desperate position there today with the Mayor in the attitude <sup>that</sup> he was in?

Col. Tripp: Well, I looked at it from the political standpoint, sir.

Mr. Raker: Well, I know. Politics don't affect a man's life.

Col. Tripp: But I looked at it from the political standpoint. He didn't want to get mixed up in this thing. He wanted to avoid it all.

Mr. Raker: Did you feel that he was willing to let the lives of citizens be destroyed and their property, rather than to injure or run contrary to the opinion of some political hack or boss that might live in this town?

Col. Tripp: Well, now, that would be just--- I couldn't answer that.

Mr. Raker: Those are good strong words, and I mean it; because if a man stays in his office when the lives of citizens are at stake and their property, it must have had some impression on you, and I want you to give this committee before you get through your full inward feeling of your mind and heart before you left that morning as to what you expected when you

got on the street. Did you feel that the Mayor was in that attitude?

Col. Tripp: I felt that the Mayor just simply didn't want to get tangled up in this thing, and he wanted to "pass the buck" as we call it.

Mr. Raker: Tangled up how?

Mr. Cooper: What is that, passing the buck?

Col. Tripp: I felt that he wanted to pass the buck, to use a slang expression; to some other person. That is the way I felt in my own heart.

Mr. Raker: Well, to pass the buck, that would leave him in an attitude of not being responsible, but throwing the responsibility on somebody else. Is that the way it impressed you that morning?

Col. Tripp: He delegated it over to Mr. Fekete, which was shifting the responsibility. We kept the Mayor informed on everything that went on during the day, during the night, in every way; but Mr. Fekete was the acting mayor of the day.

Mr. Raker: Well, you felt now that morning either you were going to get the active assistance of the Mayor together with his entire police force and together with the citizens of the town at the command of the Mayor, or that he wasn't going to get them, one of the two. Which way did you feel when you left there that morning?

Col. Tripp: I felt this way: that the Mayor didn't want to get out at that time and take an active part; that he wanted to stay back in the office and direct it from that point and not mix up in it; and the outdoor work, everything that was outside, he wanted it done under the direction of his

city attorney. That is what I thought; that he didn't want to do it. Now, I can't tell you why he didn't want to do it. I don't know. I would like to.

Mr. Raker: Was there anything that occurred during that day that impressed upon your mind--- that you could refer back to the time you had the talk with the Mayor when you left in the morning--- that caused you to learn why the Mayor didn't get out?

Col. Tripp: Well, I didn't come to any real conclusion in the matter, nor I didn't embody anything in there. Why? because I don't know.

Mr. Raker: Well, you didn't come to any real conclusion but you had a pretty well formed opinion in your own mind, unexpressed, didn't you?

Col. Tripp: I thought that he wanted to shift the responsibility.

Mr. Raker: Well, now I will get on to the other man, Mr. Fekete. How old a man was Mr. Fekete?

Col. Tripp: I would judge Mr. Fekete to be 35 anyhow.

Mr. Raker: Was he full of snap, ginger and virility that morning?

Col. Tripp: Absolutely.

Mr. Raker: Ready to cope with anything?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; take any risk, go anywhere; give the best advice possible and not hesitate on a single thing from start to finish.

Mr. Raker: That was in the morning about 8 o'clock?

Col. Tripp: It was--- when he got Mr Fekete it was

probably nearer 9.

Mr. Raker: At that time in the day the riots were then in full play in East St. Louis?

Col. Tripp: No, there had been no disorder that morning except the crowds were leaving their work and coming down the streets and filling up the streets.

Mr. Raker: Would you call it a disorder to take a man down here on Collinsville Avenue, down here between 4th street, and pull him off and shoot him?

Col. Tripp: I think you are referring to the afternoon at 1.30.

Mr. Raker: I was trying to get one in the forenoon.

Col. Tripp: There was some little disorder in the forenoon about 10.30, where there was a report came in and officers were despatched over there and found the police officers--- I am testifying this just as I heard it, but I don't know it and I couldn't state it, because it didn't come under my personal observation, but I know such a report came in--- the officers went right over there and found the police had arrested a man for shooting, and he had gotten away from the police officers. The Militia re-arrested him, took the gun away from him and brought him to the City Hall. That I know. They brought him to the Police Department, but that was nearer 11 o'clock, as I recall it, sir.

Mr. Raker: Well, did you ride around town with Mr. Fekete that day?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Did you discuss the facts with him. "Now, if the Militia isn't able to cope with this, we will bring in our police; that if the Militia and police together

were not equal to cope with it we, under the law, have the power here to swear in 50 or 100 of our citizens who will cope with this situation today, and we will quell this riot?"

Col. Tripp: There was a suggestion somewhere in our conversation--- I am not able to tell you what it was, because I don't recall it--- where Mr. Fekete made some sort of a remark about citizens not going to take any part in it. Now he said some little intimation of that. He can testify on that, but I know there was some little intimation about the citizens proposition not being willing to take part in it.

Mr. Raker: Now from what you saw in the Mayor's office; from what the strong, virile young fellow, Fekete, said to you, you drew the conclusion that you weren't going to get any support from the citizenship of East St. Louis that day. Is that right?

Col. Tripp: I came to that conclusion, sir, in the afternoon before I started out to the Black Belt, when I was at the Commercial Club. I didn't see any evidence of going out and helping. There were lots of good suggestions to make that man move, or someone else, but I didn't see any evidence of anybody volunteering help to any officer of the city or to the militia.

Mr. Raker: Well now, let's go back again to the City Hall and get another start. How many of the policemen did you meet there that morning?

Col. Tripp: I met the chief of police, Ransome Payne, early in the morning before I met the Mayor, at his office,

and told him what I was there for, and he said, "The Mayor will be in after a bit, and you see him." Then after talking with the Mayor and Mr. Fekete we met the chief, and he stated that his officers would call on these militiamen from time to time as they wanted on the patrols, and we instructed them to cooperate with the police.

Mr. Raker: To do what?

Col. Tripp: To call on them for help if they needed it; to call on them as they were out over these districts, patrolling them. And we instructed these men to cooperate with the policemen when called on. They would call on us when they needed us; and during the forenoon, during the beginning of the afternoon, the police appeared to be active --- no great number, but they appeared to be active. The chief went with me in the afternoon and seemed to be wide-awake and seemed to take hold of his work all right. He seemed to be willing, and I didn't see any evidence but what he was doing the best he could on the proposition. He had the men brought in and took care of those brought in during the afternoon, and the first discovery that I saw where there was no real good cooperation there, where it looked bad, was letting so many of those prisoners out that we had arrested for participation in the mob.

c48

Mr. Raker: In other words, you were arresting them and putting them in the front door and the police were letting them go out the back door?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; because the next morning we only found something like 100 in there, and I am truthful in saying I believe there were 250 or 500, because there was a

big mob of them-- just judging the number--- and many of those were going out when I got word to Col. Clayton for guards, and he sent guards there to stop the leak, and then afterwards at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning I went through, after things had quieted down, the fires were under control, to look over the prisoners and see how they were, how they were being taken of; I asked the sergeant if he had made bookings of them.

Mr. Baker: What did he tell you about the bookings?

Col. Tripp: Yes, he said he had got them all booked.

Mr. Baker: Did you hear afterwards that the Justice of the Peace dismissed about 90 at one time ?

Col. Tripp: I can tell you positively about that. I went right over there where these men were up, and I says to Mr. Fekete, "It would be well for you to look after the prosecution of these cases". He said it would, and he says, "Instead of looking at it from a city standpoint, it can be turned over to the State's attorney". "Well", I said, "had we ought to go over there, you and I?" He said, "Probably we had". I said, "I will be glad to accompany you". And I did go there, and as I got in I found a gentleman talking with the prisoners that had been brought over in advance, and he was conversing with them, and he commenced to tell myself and others what had to be proven up on it, what had to be done, that they had to be identified as the identical man taking part. I said to Mr. Fekete, "Who is the gentleman defending those parties?" He said, "He isn't defending them. That is the prosecuting attorney".

Mr. Baker: How is that now? Let us get that again.

Col. Tripp: I suggested to the City Attorney when it came time to arraign the prisoners that he ought to look after them himself, and he said probably he had.

Mr. Cooper: What day was this?

Col. Tripp: The following day.

Mr. Cooper: On the 3rd?

Col. Tripp: I think so, whatever day it was, the following day. It had got along pretty well in the afternoon. I said, "Are you going to look after it?" And he said it would be turned over to the State's Attorney's office rather than the City Attorney for prosecution. "Well", I says, "hadn't you ought to go over and see--- be present on this court hearing?" He says, "I expect I had". "Well", I says, "I will be very glad to accompany you over there, and lets go over to the court and see what is the procedure"---- something of that sort, and we went to that court.

Mr. Cooper: Which court was that?

c44 Col. Tripp: Now I couldn't tell you. It is on the street opposite the City Hall, and I wouldn't remember the name because it is not part of my record, but I went there with him and I found a gentlemen there talking about what had to be proven up on these cases, and I said to Mr. Fekete, "Who is the gentleman defending the prisoners?" "Why", he says, "That is the prosecuting attorney".

Mr. Cooper: Of the county?

Col. Tripp: Of the county. And finally two were brought in and they were questioned in sort of a different way

than I ever saw in court for men charged with that crime, and they were making the complaint; and I said to Mr. Fekete, "Oughtn't the complaint to run against all of them that were in the crowd and not single out two? They were all participants." He said, "Yes, that ought to be the procedure". And the State's Attorney said, "No, I want to take these separately. I will try them". And he went right on questioning them for a little bit, and he was about to fix bond to let them go, and I finally said to Mr. Fekete, "Somebody has got to make a statement here; lets be heard". He said, "You make your statement to the Court". I introduced myself to the Court by saying that there had been no injunction laid here; that we had had a riot, an unlawful assemblage, and that there had been men killed and there had been buildings burned, and I said, "Now would you like to hear me make a statement of that for your own information here, for some evidence for you?" He said, "You may be permitted to make a statement." But none of my statement was taken down, so I asked him if he would swear me, and I made my statement of what had happened, how these prisoners were arrested, how people had been killed, how buildings had been burned, and all those sort of things, and that arrests had been made, a number of them, and I thought they all ought to be held for further investigation on this riot. Then I set down and he never questioned me. Then he tried these two and fixed the bail, if I remember correctly, at \$300. Then he commenced to bring one or two of the owners in, and he would say, "Did you see this man in there?" He would say that to the identical ones, and they

11

would say, "No, I didn't see him". "Then let him go". They commenced to let them right out until they let out a large number of them. I said to Mr. Fekete, "I don't think I can be of any service to you." He says, "I don't think I can either". And we left the court room, and they were discharging them that way. That is the way a hundred went out.

I want to suggest this to you: I can't testify on this point because I couldn't identify any man in there that was arrested, by name or face. I couldn't do it, there were too many of them; but I suggest that you hear Mr. Fekete as to the names of some of those that were participants in that mob down on Second Street, as well as Collinsville Avenue, and I think he can tell you, if he is questioned about it.

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Mr. Cooper: Let me put in there, so the record will show it--- you say that Mr. Fekete--- how do you spell that?

Col. Tripp: I will tell you right here, F-e-k-e-te.

Mr. Cooper: Now you suggest that he be called. The Doctor says just now he is in military service in Texas.

Col. Tripp: He can be reached. I suggest to you that he is acquainted here and he possibly can tell you the names of some of those that were participants in both of those big riots at the time of these arrests. I can not.

Mr. Raker: Then I take it from that that a lot of these men escaped without anybody knowing who they were or any evidence against them?

Col. Tripp: None at all. They walked right out.

Mr. Baker: After they were arrested and put in the jail and taken over to the Justice court, the prosecuting attorney was there and telling the Justice to let them go, and they turned them loose without the names or anything being done?

Col. Tripp: They just walked right out as fast as the cases could be called. I came back and suggested to General Dixon, I says, "I don't believe you are going to get much prosecution out of those that have been taken in". He said, "We have done our duty; we have turned them over to the authorities. They are making the complaint". That is the way it went.

Mr. Baker: Now I want to continue a little more as to the morning meeting on the 2nd, after you made the rounds of the town or the city, you went back to the Mayor's office?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: And you found the Mayor still there?

Col. Tripp: No, I will tell you, I didn't go out during the forenoon to make this round. It became noon before we got through with this detail work. It was 12 o'clock before I went out, and then I went and got a bite to eat, and just as soon as we finished our lunch I took an automobile and went all around Collinsville Avenue, and that was after lunch, and that led up to the 1.30 occasion where I happened to be on Collinsville Avenue.

Mr. Baker: Well, that morning meeting, as to Chief <sup>he</sup> Payne--- is <sup>he</sup> the only one you met?

Col. Tripp: That is the only one I met that morning, to engage in conversation with. I believe, however, I did

830

13

meet a sergeant, but I don't recall his name.

Mr. Cooper: May I ask one question? I think the record ought to show it. You got here at what time?

Col. Tripp: Well, it was in the neighborhood of 8 o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Cooper: And you went to the City Hall?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And stayed there until noon?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: You didn't go out on the streets at all?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Until after 12 o'clock?

Col. Tripp: I stayed right there with the detail work until I went to lunch. That is the first time I went out. That was after 12, because when we finished lunch it got to be close to 1.30, and we hurried our lunch through.

Mr. Johnson: You remained at the City Hall to cooperate with the Mayor?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir, and the city attorney.

Mr. Johnson: Particularly with the Mayor?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: That was until after 1 o'clock?

Col. Tripp: No, after 12.

Mr. Cooper: Then you went to lunch?

Col. Tripp: Then I went to lunch.

Mr. Cooper: You got through lunch at what time?

Col. Tripp: Well, we got through lunch in time so it got us on Collinsville Avenue, a distance from here, say from

c46

the City Hall, about 7 or 8 blocks, by about 1.30, if I remember right.

Mr. Cooper: Now then you got here at 8 o'clock and went to the City Hall and you stayed there until you went to luncheon, and you got through luncheon about half past one, and up to that time you hadn't been out to where this rioting was going on?

Col. Tripp: No, the men were being placed as they came in.

Mr. Cooper: But you hadn't been out to look over the field?

Col. Tripp: Not at all, sir.

Mr. Cooper: You don't know how many had been killed before that time?

Col. Tripp: There had been none reported killed, sir. There had been none reported killed at that time, except that one as I was telling you, who was shot, that we sent the detail right out. I was with the city attorney, mapping out plans, meeting officers as they came in and giving proper instructions, and they were going out on their duty.

Mr. Raker: Now, in talking with the Chief, did you find out anything from him as to the attitude of the police or what might occur that day?

Col. Tripp: Nothing unusual.

Mr. Raker: Well, were any of the other police officers---

Col. Tripp (Interposing): The Chief of Police said that his police officers would cooperate with the soldiers and call on them from time to time as they needed their

help.

Mr. Raker: Well now, when you got there that morning you found an automobile standing in front of the police station?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Riddled with bullets?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: A police officer had been killed and was then lying in state; and another who was supposed to be dead, or dying, and the police officers told you that of course, *and* they would look out at this automobile and see the holes in it, and say, "We will do everything we can to suppress anything that might occur, and give assistance to your men". Did they say what kind of assistance they were going to give to your men?

Col. Tripp: No, our men would give them assistance. They would call on our men for help as they needed them.

Mr. Raker: Now, as you sent out men that morning, or were getting ready to send them out, did each man have a cartridge belt?

Col. Tripp: I think most of them did.

Mr. Raker: About how many cartridges would one of those belts carry?

Col. Tripp: They would carry, say, 40 rounds.

Mr. Raker: What is the caliber?

Col. Tripp: 30-30.

Mr. Raker: And what kind of rifles were they?

Col. Tripp: Springfield rifle, Model 1903, U.S. Magazine.

Mr. Baker: With bayonets?

Col. Tripp: With bayonets.

Mr. Baker: Good guns that would kill?

Col. Tripp: Without a bit of doubt, if he had used ball cartridges anywhere near we would have killed more innocents, in my judgment, <sup>ten to one,</sup> than others, because they were supplied with ball cartridges.

c47

Mr. Baker: But now can you look to an innocent pulling a man off of a street car and killing him, and the rest standing around and nobody trying to save the poor unfortunate wretch that is being dragged off, and then talk about you might kill somebody who was innocent? What instructions did you give your men that morning?

Col. Tripp: I didn't see that. If they had-- just for example, if any of the men had fired on the street car, or fired on the men that were doing that, I venture to say they would have killed a great many more innocent's people than they would those that were engaged in pulling them off the car.

Mr. Cooper: How about it if they had rushed on them with fixed bayonets? What would the average man do if four or five soldiers came at him with fixed bayonets? Would they rush into the bayonets or go on their way?

Col. Tripp: It depends a good deal on the man, of course.

Mr. Johnson: It is your theory that these rifles should not be fired on that day, was it?

Col. Tripp: Well, I saw no occasion. I would have fired if the mob had attacked when we gathered down at Broadway.

I had made up my mind that if there had been any resistance in the way of an attack, shots being fired on the militia to prevent the escape of those persons I probably would have used the extreme measure.

Mr. Johnson: What point was that?

Col. Tripp: That was where these 500 men were arrested. But there was no firing at the time.

Mr. Johnson: What point was that?

Col. Tripp: It was on Second--- if you don't mind I will look here and see if I can tell you. I am not familiar with these streets (consulting papers). Fourth and Broadway.

Mr. Johnson: Was anybody killed there?

Col. Tripp: Prior to the time I got there with the troops?

Mr. Johnson: Any time during the day.

Col. Tripp: Yes, a few minutes before I got there with the troops there was one or two killed.

Mr. Johnson: Didn't they hang a man there too?

Col. Tripp: The man they were hanging--- something happened and he got down--- the one we rescued.

Mr. Johnson: They hung a man and dragged another through the streets there with a rope.

Col. Tripp: Let me see just a minute here (examining papers). I see here we found that the mob had broken from the alley on Fourth Street and were marching West on Broadway, dragging a negro with a rope around his neck, with ten or twelve men around the rope.

Mr. Johnson: How then you say that if the mob had been

doing violence there you would have fired on them?

Col. Tripp: No, I didn't say doing violence. If we had been attacked by firing from the crowd I would probably have used the extreme measure, although I don't know whether I would or not. It is a hard question to decide what a man should do in those places.

Mr. Johnson: Did you take it that your mission here was to defend your own self only?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Your mission here was to defend that very man that was being dragged through the street, was it not?

Col. Tripp: That is what I was endeavoring to do, to the very best of my ability.

c48 Mr. Johnson: But you saw no occasion anywhere during the day to order the troops to fire?

Col. Tripp: I was afraid that if I should give the order to fire at any time I would have killed more innocent people than it would have been possible to kill of those engaged in it, because those guns carry a mile, and it is a very dangerous thing to use a ball cartridge in a city like this.

Mr. Johnson: And you just acquiesced in the killing of those that were killed, rather than to fire?

Col. Tripp: I used my judgment as to whether it was best to use the arms, to fire on the crowd or not, and I captured them without.

Mr. Johnson: And the result of your use of that judgment was that your troops should not fire?

Col. Tripp: The instructions--- it is in the Criminal

Code, never to use or attempt to use your arms unless it is positively necessary to do it to prevent the escape of the prisoner. Now they didn't get away from me. I got them with my men. I did it without that. How why should I fire on them?

Mr. Johnson: So you don't shoot to save the lives of innocent people?

Col. Tripp: Well, if I had shot to save the life of the man that was killed, I possibly would have killed a great many more innocents who hadn't taken part in it.

Mr. Johnson: And your interpretation of the law which bound you was that you were not allowed to shoot except either to stop an escape of somebody who had been guilty of murder?

Col. Tripp: That is right, at that time. If they had fired on us or attempted to escape <sup>we</sup> might have used the guns.

Mr. Johnson: If they had fired on you you might have fired back?

Col. Tripp: If they fired on the attacking line.

Mr. Johnson: But as long as they weren't killing anybody but negroes, you didn't want to fire?

Col. Tripp: I wouldn't assume the responsibility of firing.

Mr. Johnson: Now then, up to noon, or at 1 o'clock, did you say you were down at the City Hall cooperating with the Mayor?

Col. Tripp: I remained there ~~until~~ <sup>from</sup> the time of my arrival, with the city counsel and the Mayor, mostly the city

attorney--- from the time of the arrival of the troops until noon.

Mr. Johnson: What time was that?

Col. Tripp: About 8 o'clock that morning.

Mr. Johnson: You got there at 8 o'clock in the morning?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: And remained there until 8 o'clock in the morning? I asked you how long you remained there.

Col. Tripp: I was at the City Hall without leaving the City Hall the greater part <sup>of the morning---</sup> practically all of it, in the different offices there with the troops, with the city attorney, until I left for lunch after 12 o'clock.

Mr. Johnson: But you haven't yet told me what time it was.

Col. Tripp: Leaving the City Hall?

Mr. Johnson: I have asked you three times how long you remained from the time you went there in the morning.

Col. Tripp: Until after 12 o'clock.

Mr. Johnson: How much after 12 o'clock?

Col. Tripp: A few minutes. I didn't make a note of the exact time. I don't want to testify positively.

Mr. Johnson: But you are sure it was after midday?

Col. Tripp: That is my best judgment.

Mr. Johnson: And while you were there cooperating with the Mayor for the purpose of quelling the riot, he was saying that he was indisposed and had been advised not to go out? Is that correct?

Col. Tripp: That was early in the morning, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Well, did his indisposition grow less and did he go out?

Col. Tripp: Well, you see I was separated from ~~him~~ <sup>him</sup>.

Mr. Johnson: Did his indisposition grow less at any time between that and 12 o'clock, and did he go out into the streets?

Col. Tripp: I didn't see him.

Mr. Johnson: You didn't see him, or didn't see him go out?

Col. Tripp: I didn't see him go out.

Mr. Johnson: But how could you cooperate there in the building without seeing him?

Col. Tripp: By cooperating with him I was cooperating with his assistant, delegated to do the work, Mr. Fekete, and I did my work with Mr. Fekete.

Mr. Johnson: But you saw the Mayor frequently between 8 o'clock and 12 o'clock?

Col. Tripp: Not very frequently. I conversed with him a time or two, but most of our work was going over the maps and waiting the arrival of troops, meeting the troops and getting them out on the scenes, until I finally departed for lunch.

Mr. Johnson: And it was your opinion that his indisposition was mental rather than physical?

Col. Tripp: Well, I can tell you what he said.

Mr. Johnson: But I am asking your judgment about it.

Col. Tripp: Well, I thought his idea of not going out was simply that he was influenced. Now whether he was feeling

~~was~~

mean, I couldn't say about that. He was mentally as strong as I was, or anyone else here, so far as his physical condition looked.

Mr. Baker: Now to get back to the dragging of the negro, at that time he wasn't dead?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Baker: You saw from 8 to 10 men on the rope?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: Now can you tell the committee why you didn't order immediately your men to tell those people to throw up their hands, and every man that didn't throw up his hands shoot him?

Col. Tripp: Our people were on the trucks, and I ordered them to deploy from those trucks as fast as they could get around them.

Mr. Baker: I would like to know why you, in charge as an officer of men there with guns, 8 to 12 men dragging an innocent negro to death, why you didn't order every man to throw up his hands, every man that didn't throw up his hands, shoot him, as he ought to have been shot?

Col. Tripp: That would have been a matter of judgment.

Mr. Baker: That isn't good judgment is it?

Col. Tripp: I will leave that to your judgment.

Mr. Baker: Did you have any doubt in your mind that those men ought to be shot?

Col. Tripp: When those men were dragging the ~~negro~~ <sup>negro</sup>, my men were back on the trucks, some distance, coming forward as fast as they could, and immediately they unloaded at

double quick time and surrounded the crowd and brought them right forward at a run. They ran right onto them in front of the men, and by the time our men were unseated, they immediately dropped the top and ~~dropped~~ <sup>drove</sup> back into the crowd, all except two men that were caught. Now it would have been impossible to get there any quicker.

Mr. Baker: A bullet could have gotten there quicker than you got there.

Col. Tripp: Well, sir, I didn't see fit to use the bullet.

Mr. Baker: That is what I want to get, why you didn't do that.

Col. Tripp: Well, I want to tell you I didn't want to assume the responsibility of firing into that mob.

Mr. Baker: Would it make any difference if there were 500 men and they were all mob participants, whether the man was actually crawling on the top or was <sup>h</sup>iding the other fellow on who was guilty of the murder of the innocent man?

Col. Tripp: Well, sir, I wouldn't do it myself, and I can only testify that I didn't see fit to use a bullet by firing into that mob.

Mr. Baker: But I want to get your mental view.

Col. Tripp: If I had thought it proper, the thing to have done would have been to have fired, and then we would have fired, but I didn't think it proper.

Mr. Baker: Well, it is your mental attitude that the men assisting---

Col. Tripp (Interposing): I didn't want to commit complete wholesale murder there.

Mr. Raker. Well, we will see about the wholesale murder. Any man standing around and giving aid to the men assisting in dragging an innocent man to death is a participant.

Col. Tripp. That is the way you might think in court, but it was <sup>not</sup> backed by the authorities. You simply have to rely upon what the law of the land <sup>is</sup> says.

Mr. Raker. How was it your theory that men participating there, whether pulling on the rope or not, encouraging, aiding or abetting, were guilty of that murder?

Col. Tripp. I did.

Mr. Raker. And any man that your ordered to throw up his hands, and that didn't throw up his hands but said he had a right to go ahead, you had the right to use your gun, didn't you?

Col. Tripp. I gave the orders there to halt them immediately.

Mr. Raker. To halt, and they didn't halt?

Col. Tripp. Well, they did halt.

Mr. Raker. They just dragged that man on to death.

Col. Tripp. They did halt, and I got around them and got two of them on the rope, and the rest back in the crowd dropped the rope.

Mr. Johnson. Did I understand you to say that you gave the order to halt, or General Dickson?

Col. Tripp. General Dickson was not there. I gave the order to halt, and as soon as I got in front of them the troops commenced to deploy and circle around, and the men started to run out and I grabbed them myself and

kept them in there.

Mr. Raker. How about the fellows dragging on the rope?

Col. Tripp. They got two, and the other six or eight they didn't get. They dropped the rope and were right in the crowd. The crowd was all around them and suppose a man just dropped <sup>the</sup> rope out of his hands, here is a crowd right around him; you couldn't tell.

Mr. Johnson. Let me correct that name. I meant Col. Clayton, not General Dickson.

Col. Tripp. Col. Clayton was there, yes, sir. He took the left flank and I took the right flank.

c51

Mr. Johnson. You gave the order to halt?

Col. Tripp. I was in advance of Col. Clayton with Mr. Fekete, right in the automobile, proceeding as fast as I could to get there, and I told the crowd to halt.

Mr. Raker. Was it your view that all those standing by must of necessity, as the matter appeared, have been participants in that mob and in that murder?

Col. Tripp. All those that were leading up, in my judgment, were guilty as the man that had hold of the rope.

Mr. Raker. Then when you told them to halt--- that is, halt dragging the man to death--- these parties that didn't attempt to stop these men would be of necessity practically ringleaders and abettors of the dragging of the negro to death?

Col. Tripp. That is the way I would look at it.

Mr. Raker. And you understand that any man who finds another dragging a person or killing one has a right to take

the life of the man that is doing it, to protect the life of the innocent, doesn't he?

Col. Tripp. I think he does.

Mr. Raker. Then you didn't find anybody in that crowd trying to strangle the negro on the ground with a rope around his neck?

Col. Tripp. There was nobody doing anything, either by word or hand, to release the negro or call upon the mob to disperse, that I heard.

Mr. Raker. Well now is this the bunch you rounded up?

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker. With your men, with their rifles loaded--- were they loaded?

Col. Tripp. I couldn't say, sir.

Mr. Raker. Well, I just wondered now you went at this crowd.

Col. Tripp. Col. Clayton can tell you about the loading of the guns.

Mr. Raker. Your intention was to drive them to jail?

Col. Tripp. I did that.

Mr. Raker. As murderers and rioters?

Col. Tripp. That is what I tried to do.

Mr. Raker. And you got them in a hollow square, and with the power behind you, with the expectation of seeing that they got there, dead or alive, you drove them to the jail?

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker. And as you drove them the police officers and others let them slip out the back door?

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker. Then when you crossed the street the next day, you found the county attorney advising the Justice to turn them loose?

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker. What chance on God's earth has a poor innocent negro in a place like this? Will you tell us?

Col. Tripp. That I don't know.

Mr. Raker. Yes you do. He hasn't any chance on earth, any more than a rattlesnake has.

Col. Tripp. I can tell you what the facts were.

Mr. Raker. Well, you can draw your own conclusions. He has no chance for life, has he, the police officers not on guard, the Mayor sick, no order from the Militia to shoot to kill; the Militia seeing men dragged to death in the streets not shot while they were doing it, when they could have been?

Col. Tripp. I don't ~~you~~ think you are right, that they should have been shot.

Mr. Raker. You could have shot those fellows.

Col. Tripp. Why should I shoot when I am able to capture them and bring them before the proper justice court for trial? Why should I take the authority of killing a man until he has had a fair trial on the proposition?

Mr. Raker. He would need a fair trial wouldn't he?

Col. Tripp. Why should I do it as an officer?

Mr. Raker. Well, they got the prisoners from you anyhow.

Col. Tripp. But I had no jurisdiction over that, sir. I got them to the City Hall.

Mr. Raker. Haven't any of those fellows been hung for

killing this innocent man?

Col. Tripp. I want to say in response to that that I got them up there, surrounded them, and my duty to that extent absolutely, with all the help I had. They were taken in there, and I contend that I did everything that was possible to do at that time.

Mr. Raker. The proposition is then that your position is that you did your utmost?

Col. Tripp. I did.

Mr. Raker. But you found conditions here so thoroughly demoralized that you got no help of any kind or in any form? Is that right?

Col. Tripp. Well I didn't see any police officers helping to get this mob in. I didn't on that. I can tell you I didn't see them.

Mr. Raker. You not only saw that but you saw worse than that, you saw them being turned loose.

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker. You saw them corked up, put the bung in, and it was pulled out at the other end; and the next afternoon you found that they were being turned out of the Justice's court.

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker. That didn't encourage you very much, did it?

Col. Tripp. Why, no, sir.

Mr. Raker. Now ~~was~~ was any news brought to you that afternoon that your boys--- I mean of these various companies --- were getting the spirit of the ~~rioters~~ rioters?

Col. Tripp. No, sir; positively not.

Mr. Raker. And were falling in with them?

Col. Tripp. No, sir; no such information came to me, and every report that I had was to the effect that they were doing their best to suppress the riots, regardless of his color, and which their instructions were.

Mr. Raker. Now that picture that we have seen here today--- and it has been published--- it appears from that that they must have been--- I tried to count it today, but I forget--- that there must have been 8 or 10 men anyhow that appeared to be in uniform, and I assume they are soldiers of their guns, holding them in a very nice fashion, with the man being assaulted right in front of them. How can you account for the fact that those men didn't take either dead or alive those men in the mob?

Col. Tripp. If the committee could tell me-- bring on a witness and tell me where that picture was taken in East St. Louis--- I am not able to identify your streets, and the time of day and it is impossible for me to throw any light on the subject.

Mr. Raker. It can be done.

Col. Tripp. I shall be very glad to do it.

Mr. Cooper. Let Mr. Anderson tell him right there.

Mr. Raker. What time of day was this taken, Mr. Anderson?

Mr. Paul Y. Anderson. It was taken on the corner of Collinsville Avenue and Broadway.

Col. Tripp. Collinsville and Broadway. Now then let me see that. Now where is Broadway (examining photo-

graph?

655

Mr. Anderson. The street where you arrested the big  
council, the ones that you just described (indicating). The  
place where you arrested the big crowd, right here (indicating  
on photograph).

Col. Tripp. What time of day was this?

Mr. Anderson. I don't know that.

Col. Tripp. Now I am glad to do this if I can. I  
was present at that big mob way up on Collinsville Avenue  
near the Masonic Temple. I do know that while I was in that  
crowd, or sometime there, there were men that went through  
the street cars to locate colored men. They didn't find  
any, as I understood, but they went looking for them. Now  
on that I can tell you what troops were there and when they  
got there, and whether after or before the killing of the  
negroes. I can tell you if that is the place. I can  
tell you positively if it is down here. If the picture was  
taken any other place or after the Federal troops had re-  
ported, after the trouble around that neighborhood occurred,  
then of course I couldn't tell you on that, but I can tell  
you who can tell you about it.

Mr. Raker. And you can find out who those fellows are?

Col. Tripp. No, but if you will let me know the time  
of the day this was taken, I can give you the name of the  
officers who can explain the proposition.

Mr. Raker. This is the same picture that Mr. Cooper  
referred to originally in the testimony.

Col. Tripp. I have testified on the Collinsville Ave.  
case near the Temple.

Mr. Raker. Now you have a list of all the soldiers that came here, of course?

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker. Have you any record of where the various men were placed?

Col. Tripp. No, sir, I haven't, but Col. Clayton has got all of that in his report, just exactly where they were placed and the organization commanders that had charge of them.

Mr. Raker. Then really you can find out where the men were that afternoon?

Col. Tripp. I think he can tell you all along through by his reports where they were stationed, the different companies, along through the streets. I couldn't, because that was a matter of detail with the officers.

Mr. Raker. Where is Col. Clayton now?

Col. Tripp. He is at the border. Mr. Fekete is at the border; Major Lowden is at the border; Captain Spencer is at the border, and a lot of those men there that know all about those things are at the border. They are down at Houston, Texas.

Mr. Raker. Do you know what became of Col. Clayton's report?

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir; I can show you.

Mr. Raker. Where is it now?

Col. Tripp. I can show you what Col. Clayton says on it, if you want it--- his own statements.

Mr. Raker. As to the troops being placed there?

Col. Tripp. The different places, yes, sir, just now

they were placed exactly.

Mr. Baker. I will get back to that later. Do you know what Col. Clayton did with his report? He made a separate report, didn't he?

Col. Tripp. Col. Clayton made a report of the whole thing, which was attached to this report to the Governor.

Mr. Baker. Is Col. Clayton's report part of your report?

Col. Tripp. It is by itself, separate.

c54

Mr. Baker. It is a part of this same document?

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker. Then he didn't make a separate report to the Governor?

Col. Tripp. No more than that.

Mr. Baker. Then that covers that. And the other officers, they made a report, and that is part of that?

Col. Tripp. Captain Smith's and Captain Klausner's reports also are attached.

Mr. Foss. When did you make this report?

Col. Tripp. Either on the 3rd or 4th of July, immediately after this.

Mr. Foss. Right here?

Col. Tripp. Right here in East St. Louis.

Mr. Foss. Where was it made?

Col. Tripp. At a public stenographer's. I don't know the name of the party. I made my report, and the other officers dictated their reports and made up the report and transmitted it to the Governor.

Mr. Foss. Did anybody assist you in making your

report?

Col. Tripp. I dictated all of my report.

Mr. Foss. Then after you made your report what did you do with it.

Col. Tripp. After the report was complete?

Mr. Foss. Yes.

Col. Tripp. I turned it over to the Adjutant General, who transmitted it to the Governor,

Mr. Foss. Was the report printed?

Col. Tripp. No, sir; it is in typewritten form, and we made them in duplicate, and the signers were in duplicate, except certain exhibits that there was only one copy of, like the Mayor's statement, and that was a certified copy made by the stenographer and certified to, and the copy of all the others are signed up as originals; and I am glad to turn it over and let you have those if they will give you any information. Here is the report of Mr. Fekete, and there is my report in there. Then comes Mr. Fekete's own story of it. Then comes the Governor here. Following that-- he tells the place of the troops, how they were placed, and exactly what was done (exhibiting report). Here is Mr. Fekete following my statement. Then comes Col. Clayton.

Mr. Foss. Then what is after that?

Col. Tripp. After that--- this is signed as original by Col. Clayton. Then comes Major Klauser, second in command.

Mr. Foss. Then after that?

Col. Tripp. Then here is an exhibit from the Sheriff's office. I also called on the Sheriff to say I was here and let him know, to see if I could help him, or if he could help

me in this matter; what we had here to do, and asked him if he wanted any assistance at all; if he wanted troops placed outside of the city, to let me know, and give me notice in writing, which he did, and here is his statement. He wanted some at the stockyards, and we got them up there.

Then I have got the Mayor's statement in writing, which he served on me while I was putting the prisoners in. That is a certified copy signed by the notary.

Mr. Raker. What does that say? Read it.

Col. Tripp. This is dated East St. Louis, July 2nd, 1917:

"Col. S. O. Tripp,  
Asst. Adjutant General, State of Illinois,  
City.

co8

Dear Sir:

This is to notify you that after conversing with the Governor, Frank O. Lowden, that the City of East St. Louis is practically under martial law. I hereby call upon you to render all assistance in your power that is available, and took full charge of the situation.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Fred W. Mollman, Mayor".

Mr. Johnson. Who delivered that to you?

Col. Tripp. The Mayor personally.

Mr. Johnson. What were you doing at that time?

Col. Tripp. I was confining prisoners that we had taken on Collinsville Avenue.

Mr. Johnson. Confining them in what building?

Col. Tripp. In the jail, part of the City Hall here

known as the police department.

Mr. Johnson. And you say that as you took them into the front door they passed them on out the back door?

Col. Tripp. They certainly did.

Mr. Johnson. Did you see the back door out of which they passed them?

Col. Tripp. No, sir; I was in front all the time, they were being put in there.

Mr. Johnson. But they certainly passed them out of the back door?

Col. Tripp. And the windows, both ways.

Mr. Johnson. Now suppose there wasn't any back door to that building?

Col. Tripp. Then they went out of the windows.

Mr. Johnson. You have already said they passed them out of the back door, have you not?

Col. Tripp. Well, I didn't examine the door, but that is the report that came to me, that they were passing them out of the back doors and windows. Then I sent word to Major Klausner to get guards at the back part of the City Hall. They overran the building--- packed them in there like sardines.

Mr. Johnson. They had overran the building, and what were they going to do with them?

Col. Tripp. Well, they packed them in there.

Then comes a statement of Captain Cooy. Then here comes an exploit, time of the arrival of troops, verified by the Adjutant.

Mr. Johnson. While we are on the subject of those

prisoners passing out of the back door, I feel that I am reliably informed that there is no back door for them to pass out of, and that the windows were heavily barred.

Col. Tripp. Well, they were passed out all right, because there was no less than 300.

Mr. Johnson. Now then you said they were passed out of the back door, and next that they were passed out of the windows. Now it develops that the windows are barred. How do you say now they were going out?

Col. Tripp. My information is that they were going out of the back doors and windows. Then we called 101 guards to protect the rear part of the building.

Mr. Johnson. You are charging the officers now with permitting that kind of an escape, without knowing whether there is a back door or window?

Col. Tripp. Well, Col. Clayton examined all those and he can tell you about that point.

Mr. Johnson. But you have already told us about it.

Col. Tripp. I have told you in a general way what I could, from information that came to me that they were going out of the back door and windows, and escaping, and I immediately sent someone---

Mr. Johnson (Interposing) Then when you specify particularly that they were going out of the back door, when there is no back door there you call that generalizing, do you?

Col. Tripp. You asked me and I told you they were getting out the back door.

Mr. Foss. Who informed you about that?

Col. Tripp. Some officer or man there. And I sent word by someone.

Mr. Foss. A police officer?

Col. Tripp. No, sir; not a police officer, one of our men.

Mr. Foss. One of the militia?

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss. Do you know who?

Col. Tripp. No, I don't; but it was verified by Col. Clayton, and he will make that statement for you.

Mr. Foss. What comes after that?

Col. Tripp. Then comes the statement of Captain Smith, the time of his arrival. He reported to me while I was getting in the prisoners, and what he did in regard to breaking up the last general mob that gathered.

Mr. Foss. Captain Smith was in command of what?

Col. Tripp. Company F of the 4th Infantry.

Mr. Foss. Of the militia?

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir. He came up and I said to pass them along in double quick time, without even taking off their knapsacks or anything, but go right ahead.

Mr. Foss. Then what comes after that?

Col. Tripp. Then comes the statement from Major H. H. Tutnill, of the Medical Corps, who was in East St. Louis on recruiting service. His observation is signed. He was not on duty in connection with the riot.

Mr. Foss. What else.

Col. Tripp. Then comes a map marked, showing all

855

these tracings where the troops were.

Mr. Foss. Now this report, the ~~report~~ report, is on file, is it, at Springfield, at the Capitol?

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss. In the Adjutant General's office?

Col. Tripp. Well, it is either there or in the Governor's office.

Mr. Foss. It is part of the official records?

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir; and that is a duplicate of it.

Mr. Foss. And that is a duplicate.

Now how many policemen did you see that day?

Col. Tripp. I couldn't say how many.

Mr. Foss. You couldn't tell?

Col. Tripp. No, sir. I take <sup>it</sup> you mean day and evening?

Mr. Foss. Well, how many could you see out on the beat patrolling? Out in the city, do you remember?

Col. Tripp. I saw, when we were going out, probably two or three different policemen at different places. I don't believe I saw more than that. In fact I made no particular note of it.

Mr. Foss. Were there any in the City Hall?

Col. Tripp. I think there was the chief and one assistant.

Mr. Foss. Did the Mayor or anyone tell you how large a police force he had at that time when you were out in the city?

Col. Tripp. They did during the day time. I think that I heard the Mayor state that he had something like 60 men --- something like that.

Mr. Foss. Well, did they all show up that morning?

Col. Tripp. Now I don't know. I couldn't answer on that, because I really don't know.

Mr. Foss. Do you know whether any new police officers were sworn in?

Col. Tripp. On that day?

Mr. Foss. Yes.

Col. Tripp. I don't know.

Mr. Foss. The Federal troops were here at that time, were they?

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir.

Mr. Foss. Who were they under command of?

cb7

Col. Tripp. Major Kavanaugh, although he happened to be out of the city that day, and I got Captain Ernest Stall to come down from the stockyards-- or up-- where he was attached to take this north end, up Collinsville Avenue, and he did respond.

Mr. Foss. Well, how many men did he bring down?

Col. Tripp. He brought down 60 or 70 men.

Mr. Foss. Did he cooperate with you?

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir; and got word to the commanding general, of the department, who told him to continue on, and he did it very effectively, splendidly.

Mr. Foss. Well now, this report comes down to what time?

Col. Tripp. This comes down to 12 o'clock that night.

Mr. Foss. And then who took charge?

Col. Tripp. Then General Dickson came in and took charge, and I worked with him, under his instructions, cooperated with him. But this does not take in the bringing

and arraigning of those prisoners in the court.

Mr. Foss. Well now how many men of the Militia or National Guard were here during that day, all told, after they had all come in?

Col. Tripp. I can tell you exactly that.

Mr. Foss. You have told us up to 1.30, I think. Now I wish you would enumerate from there on how many.

Col. Tripp. I will do that (consulting report).

Mr. Foss. Give us the number of men and the number of officers. Give the time of arrival just as you have it.

Col. Tripp. Company G at 8.40 p. m., July 2nd, with 3 officers and 27 men,

Company H at 10.30 a. m., with 2 officers and 52 men,

Company I at 1.30 p. m., with 3 officers and 44 men,

Company E at 4.45 p. m., with 3 officers and 60 men,

Company F at 8 p. m., with 3 officers and 41 men.

That makes 17 officers and 290 men up to and including 8 p. m., when they arrived. They broke up the last mob. Now there was a lot of other troops came in.

Mr. Foss. That was the next day, was it, or during the night.

Col. Tripp. During the night. I can give you that if you want it.

Mr. Foss. All right.

Col. Tripp. I think I can. Probably General Dickson could give you that in an official way.

Mr. Foss. Well, we will wait for General Dickson then.

858

41

Col. Tripp. That takes them all from my time then.

Mr. Foss. In addition to that you had the Federal troops <sup>which</sup> you spoke of?

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir. Would you like to have those?

Mr. Foss. You have already given that, I think, 60.

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir; about 60. I can give it exactly if you want it.

Mr. Foss. All right.

Col. Tripp. I think I can. Sixty is about the number.

Mr. Foss. How many officers?

Col. Tripp. Two officers.

c58

Mr. Raker. Now getting back to where we quit awhile ago, did any citizens appeal to you that day for aid or assistance?

Col. Tripp. For any special thing?

Mr. Raker. Yes.

Col. Tripp. No, sir; I don't recall any.

Mr. Raker. Did anyone come to you and say to you that--- that is up until, say, 8 o'clock--- that your men--- I mean by that men of the militia--- were marauding shooting promiscuously, in sympathy with the rioters, and were actually shooting and had shot negroes?

Col. Tripp. No, sir. I heard such a report the morning of the 3rd. Someone, I don't recall whom, came to me, but a report did come to the City Hall on the morning of the 3rd, which was after I was off duty, to that effect.

Mr. Cooper. You arrived <sup>here</sup> about 8 o'clock in the morning

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. And went straight to the City Hall?

Col. Tripp. Yes.

Mr. Cooper. And stayed there until after 12?

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Until you went to luncheon?

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. You don't know just how long after 12 it was?

Col. Tripp. No, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Where did you get your luncheon?

Col. Tripp. At the restaurant nearby.

Mr. Cooper. And what time did you finish the luncheon?

Col. Tripp. I finished in time to go down there.

Mr. Cooper. About half past one you said?

Col. Tripp. I finished in time to get into an automobile and race some eight o'clocks, where I was at 1.00. I recall the time was 1.00, so I must have finished lunch soon after 1 o'clock.

Mr. Cooper. While you were in the City Hall, between 8 o'clock and the time you left to go to luncheon, and along about 10 o'clock, did you hear about a negro being killed within a block or a block and a half?

Col. Tripp. No, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Of the City Hall?

Col. Tripp. No, sir. I heard they were shooting. That was nearer 11 o'clock, as I remember.

Mr. Cooper. You heard shooting?

Col. Tripp. I heard there had been a shot fired, and there was at once a detail with an officer sent over there.

I testified to that, and they found that a man with a revolver had been arrested by some police officer, and the fellow,--- the man--- had gotten away, and the National Guard officer and men rearrested the man and took him to the City Hall.

Mr. Cooper. That is all you heard was it?

Col. Tripp. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper. Didn't you hear--- weren't you told at that time and all of you told in the City Hall that a man had just been killed on the street at 10 o'clock?

Col. Tripp. No, sir; had been shot, not killed.

Mr. Cooper. Did you ask whether he was dead?

Col. Tripp. Well, I will look and see if there is any mention of that in here.

Mr. Cooper. Never mind. Do you remember it now?

Col. Tripp. I remember it just as I am testifying.

Mr. Cooper. You didn't go out to see?

Col. Tripp. Why no, sir; there were men dispatched out there. We had men and officers that went out on that.

Mr. Cooper. But a man in command of military forces in a city to suppress a riot, who goes straight to the City Hall and stays indoors for four or five hours, shooting going on and murder going on, as we know--- well did nothing it seems to us now---

Col. Tripp (Interposing) I wasn't in the City Hall a moment when anything was going on. I was out in one or the other of those big gatherings, all the way through, personally.

Mr. Cooper. You were?

Col. Tripp. I was in all those big gatherings, as

861

44

I have testified to, all through that time.

Mr. Cooper. But you told us here three or four times that you stayed in the City Hall from 8 o'clock.

Col. Tripp. I did, and many have criticized me why I didn't stay there all the time and direct the work from the City Hall.

Mr. Cooper. Now just answer the question and don't try to divert this testimony. ~~Man was at the City Hall~~

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You have testified repeatedly that you went straight in from that station from the city hall and got there soon after eight o'clock in the morning.

Col. Tripp: And remained there until after twelve o'clock.

Mr. Cooper: Remained there until after twelve o'clock, and then you went straight to a restaurant and stayed nearly an hour there in the restaurant, and while you were at the City Hall, according to your own admission, a man was shot and you didn't go out to see about it.

Col. Tripp: A shot was fired, and an officer and some men were immediately dispatched there.

Mr. Cooper: But you didn't go out to see it.

Col. Tripp: No, sir; I was trying to think out a schedule of patrol work. I worked every minute of my time at it.

Mr. Cooper: You had here, up to the time - all the time you were staying in the City Hall - about 60 men - 53, or somewhere along there - 59; and you stayed there and mapped out a plan of campaign for four hours?

Col. Tripp: Yes, I was telephoning the Adjutant General's Office in the meantime, and I was calling up the organizations that hadn't come in, getting information of them, hurrying them through, getting some of the others with ammunition in; going over the work with the City Attorney.

Mr. Cooper: You could plan half the battle of Verdun in that time.

Col. Tripp: Very good, sir.

Mr. Cooper: You stayed in that building for more

863

2

than four hours while this man was being killed and other men were being mobbed right there, and you stayed in and mapped out a plan of campaign and you were really in control of the situation, according to your own statement. Now then, whom did you hear had been shot?

Col. Tripp: I didn't hear.

Mr. Cooper: You didn't hear?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Cooper: You made no inquiry?

Col. Tripp: I heard that a gun had been fired - a shot had been fired out there, and you can take another witness on that and find out just exactly who and what. I can give you the names. My report will show it.

Mr. Cooper: Now you say that you heard that a shot had been fired out in that neighborhood up there.

Col. Tripp: And I immediately investigated.

Mr. Cooper: Did you hear that a man had been shot. You said so a little while ago, did you not?

Col. Tripp: Well, you can take it that way, yes, sir, I heard so.

Mr. Cooper: Well, that is what you said, and that he didn't die.

Col. Tripp: There is no contradiction about it.

Mr. Cooper: Then why don't you say it, and not say "you can take it that way?" That is what you said. You didn't go out to see anything about it?

Col. Tripp: Positively I did not. Positively

864

3

I remained at the City Hall.

Mr. Cooper: Why didn't you?

Col. Tripp: Because my duties were more necessary right there at that time than to go out investigating that when we had a detachment for that purpose.

Mr. Cooper: Well, what were your duties to stay four or five hours in a room with only 50 or 60 men?

Col. Tripp: How do you mean, 50 or 60 men?

Mr. Cooper: That is all you had here.

Col. Tripp: They were out all over the streets; the officers were out directing their movements. That is what the line offices are for, sir. That is a part of their duty.

Mr. Cooper: You were planning the campaign?

Col. Tripp: I was going over the map with the City Attorney, between those hours I speak of. I had twice called up the Adjutant General's Office. I had tried to locate the troops; I had been in communication with the depot to find out when our troops might be expected, and I had been doing all sorts of that preliminary work during those few hours I was at the City Hall.

Mr. Cooper: And then you went and took an hour for lunch?

Col. Tripp: I don't think I was an hour.

Mr. Cooper: You said from shortly <sup>after</sup> twelve until shortly after one.

Col. Tripp: The best I can remember - I didn't look at my watch, but I know it was 1.30 when I got up there, and I know I took a hasty <sup>lunch.</sup> ~~break.~~

865

4

Mr. Foss: How far from the City Hall was it  
to where you took ~~a~~ <sup>lunch</sup> ~~look~~?

Col. Tripp: Six or eight blocks.

Mr. Cooper: Did you go in an automobile?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: How long did it take you?

Col. Tripp: Just as fast as we could go.

Mr. Cooper: You went eight blocks as fast as  
you could go. Well, eight blocks is a little less than  
a mile. How long would it take you to go a mile with  
an automobile if you hurried as fast as you could go?

Col. Tripp: Well, now, I made no schedule of the  
time it took us on any of this work, only as I can tell  
you from the best of my memory on that proposition. I  
have given you the best information I could on that as  
to the time. It might have been half past twelve before  
I got away. I don't know. We got away when work let up  
so we could go. No time was wasted; we got right out  
there.

Mr. Cooper: No, no time was wasted; you were  
busy all the time from eight until after twelve, were  
you?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; no time was wasted.

Mr. Cooper: You had been telephoned to at three  
o'clock in the morning that a riot that foreboded danger  
in this city was about to break out, and they wanted the  
assistance of soldiers. You grabbed the first thing  
after you got out of bed, a grip, evidently thinking that  
you were coming to East St. Louis, and you came to East St.

866

5

Louis, and you were told, were you not, in the City Hall that two policemen had been killed the night before.

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And that there was the danger of bloodshed?

Col. Tripp: They simply stated there had been two policemen killed by the negroes, who had attacked them.

Mr. Cooper: Didn't they say there was danger after you got here, of an outbreak?

Col. Tripp: I don't recall that their wording was that way.

Mr. Cooper: Well, why should you come from Springfield if there wasn't any danger?

Col. Tripp: On an order from the Adjutant General's Office.

Mr. Cooper: But you ~~didn't~~<sup>didn't</sup> get the order from the Adjutant General's Office until after you had picked up your grip and had gone over there?

Col. Tripp: No.

Mr. Cooper: Well, why did you pick up your grip unless you thought there was danger?

Col. Tripp: I naturally thought I would just take my grip with me, without giving it any particular thought.

Mr. Cooper: You knew there was going to be a riot, didn't you?

Col. Tripp: I didn't know there was going to be a riot. When I got out of my bed and went down there, I did not know anything about it. I didn't know a thing

6 about it, I didn't know anything about it until I got down to the Adjutant General's Office.

Mr. Cooper: Didn't the Adjutant General tell you when he telephoned you and got you out of bed?

Col. Tripp: He said to come down to the office; that there had been trouble reported down at East St. Louis, and he wanted me to talk over the matter of troops going to East St. Louis, so I said, "I will be right over."

Mr. Cooper: Yes, he told you.

Col. Tripp: That may not be the words, but that is it in substance.

Mr. Cooper: He told you that he wanted you to come to the office; and there was a riot or something in East St. Louis, and they wanted troops to go there. And got you out of bed, and you took your grip, thinking you were coming to East St. Louis. What the Committee would like to know I am sure, is this -

Col. Tripp: (Interposing) I would be glad to enlighten the Committee on any point and go over it as carefully as I can and tell you.

Mr. Cooper: Well, that being true I hope you will explain if you can to the Committee, why you, a military officer, coming under those circumstances to a city where they apprehended the immediate outbreak of a riot of such proportions that it would necessitate the presence of military to suppress it, why you coming here in that hurried way, reaching the city at eight o'clock in the

868

7

morning, went to the City Hall and stayed four hours in the City Hall, and while you were in the City Hall heard shots and got the information that a man had been shot, and never emerged from that City Hall at all?

Col. Tripp: Because - are you through, sir?

Mr. Cooper: Yes, sir.

Col. Tripp: Because in my belief I was doing my very best duty for the State of Illinois and the citizens by remaining back at the City Hall and carrying out detail work which I was engaged in, and leave the investigating, <sup>leave</sup> the policing, the patrolling to those who are ordered here for that specific purpose. That answers you, sir, exactly.

Mr. Cooper: Those who were ordered here for that specific purpose. Was that the militia?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: Well, but they couldn't command themselves. They need<sup>ed</sup> a commanding officer.

Col. Tripp: No organization left the City Hall or detachment of men that wasn't properly commanded by some officer or another.

Mr. Cooper: But the commander-in-chief never went out to look at the scene of battle?

Col. Tripp: The President never goes out of his office.

Mr. Cooper: That isn't a parallel case at all.

Col. Tripp: I suggest that I ~~stayed~~ stayed at the City Hall because I was doing the duty and thing I was sent here to do, the detail part of the arrangements.

869

8

Mr. Cooper: The detail part was that you directed Col. Clayton where to go?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; at that emergency point I did, sir.

Mr. Cooper: You told him where to go and what to do, didn't you?

Col. Tripp: Why, certainly, I have testified to that, sir.

Mr. Johnson: You were operating along the line that you and the President don't go out in actual control? (Laughter).

Col. Tripp: No, sir; I do not. It is an unusual thing. I have participated in work that it is very unusual for an officer in my department to go and do, and I went out and surrounded mobs and took part. I say it is is very unusual.

Mr. Johnson: The usual procedure would be for you and the President to remain in?

Col. Tripp: The usual procedure would be for the troops that are ordered there to do those things; and the troops were not adequate and it was necessary to put every effort in it, and when I went out and engaged in those big mobs in citizens clothes I didn't act in the best judgment for myself in doing it. Military officers will criticise me for doing it to this day, but I went out believing I could lend some help to those in the mob and I did my best to break things up.

Mr. Johnson: But in this particular instance you remained indoors to cooperate with the Mayor, who in

cyl 62

9

your opinion was laying down?

Col. Tripp: I was working only with his Assistant. His assistant and I were doing a lot of detail work there that had to be done by the detail officer.

Mr. Johnson. And following at the same time the precedent that you and the President don't go out?

Col. Tripp: I was in the battles all the way through from start to finish.

Mr. Baker: Dropping back again now from where I quit, there had been two distinct riots and two men killed right on Collinsville Avenue here, one about ten and the other about ten fifteen on that day, but it hadn't been reported to you?

Col. Tripp: As I stated to you about the Collinsville Avenue matter, at one thirty I was there.

Mr. Baker: No, I am not assuming that you knew, *I am saying* but it has been testified here that there was at ten o'clock a negro killed at Collinsville Avenue, and a little while after another one was killed. That was about ten o'clock.

Col. Tripp: I didn't testify to that.

Mr. Baker: No, I am not saying that you testified to that, but it has been testified by *other* ~~one of the~~ witnesses before this Committee that these facts occurred. I am calling your attention now that those things were in existence from ten o'clock on until twelve.

Col. Tripp: Well, now, here, on this proposition of this ten o'clock case - or half past ten, - when the report came to the City Hall - I am not saying it came direct to

10

to me or not, because I don't know, but a report came in there, and officers and such men as we had were immediately dispatched out there, and an arrest was made.

Mr. Raker: Oh well, then you did receive the information at the City Hall.

Col. Tripp: I said came to the City Hall.

Mr. Raker: By ten o'clock that the mob was then operating?

Col. Tripp: Well, I said it just as I told you, there was a report came in there and there was an officer and men sent right out with a detail to the scene.

Mr. Raker: But you didn't answer my question.

Col. Tripp: I stated that I didn't go out there.

Mr. Raker: Now, I didn't say that. The report came in that the mob was operating?

Col. Tripp: Gathering, if I remember rightly.

Mr. Raker: Gathering. Well they had gathered to the extent that they had already killed one negro, and that was reported to Police Headquarters by ten o'clock. Isn't that right?

Col. Tripp: It was reported, I think - whatever was reported to Police Headquarters.

Mr. Raker: You know of that fact?

Col. Tripp: Then word came into the City Hall that a shot had been fired.

Mr. Raker: Now, please let us get on to this and stay there.

872

11

Col. Tripp: I can't tell you anything more about that than I told you. I didn't go out. I know we dispatched men out there. I saw no colored men killed.

Mr. Raker: You said you didn't go out, but did you hear of it in the Mayor's Office?

Col. Tripp: I wouldn't say in the Mayor's office.

Mr. Raker: Well, in the corridor next to the Mayor's office?

Col. Tripp: Well, I might have heard it in the coroner's office.

Mr. Raker: In the City Hall?

Col. Tripp: In the City Hall. Word came in there that there had been a shot fired over in somewhere I don't recall the place, and we had a very small detachment there, <sup>of</sup> two or three men.

Mr. Raker: Just shut out that for just a moment.

Col. Tripp: What do you want me to tell you? I can't find you out. Just make it plain and I will tell you.

Mr. Raker: Now you had heard at the City Hall at ten o'clock, and after you had been in the City Hall for two hours, that the mob had started its worse. Is that right?

Col. Tripp: I answered that as I have testified.

Mr. Raker: Well what is your answer to that question now?

Col. Tripp: I say word came in that a shot had

12

been fired and a gathering made up in this neighborhood and it was immediately suppressed by those sent out.

Mr. Raker: I didn't ask you a thing on earth about the suppression, and I didn't want to know anything about that now.

Col. Tripp: I will say I got word for our sergeant -

Mr. Raker (interposing): What I want to know is that you heard that riots had started and that rioting was commencing. How you had heard that?

Col. Tripp: I heard word that a shot had been fired somewhere along that hour - at the City Hall.

Mr. Raker: I know, but let's not be too particular on words. You knew that that shot meant the riot had begun. That is what I want to impress on you.

Col. Tripp: Certainly the riot had begun.

Mr. Raker: Then you had heard the riot had begun by ten o'clock?

Col. Tripp: Take it that way, yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Well, isn't that true?

Col. Tripp: I will testify that way if you want it, for plainness. I will say that was probably a starter of it.

Mr. Raker: Of the rioting?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: And in a few moments later, ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ at the City Hall, while you were there, it was again reported that the rioting had so progressed that one man had been killed?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; I didn't get that word.

874

13

That is what I am trying to tell you, that I didn't get that word, that there had been a man killed out there. We got word that a shot had been fired out there, but no one killed. I didn't get that.

Mr. Raker: Well, that a man had been wounded? Did you get word that a man had been wounded?

Col. Tripp: We got word that a shot had been fired out there.

Mr. Raker: Well, the shot might have been fired in the air.

Col. Tripp: I had no evidence that a man was killed there. I have no evidence that a man was hit there. I have a report from the officers that a shot was fired, a pistol discharged and a man arrested by the police, that he got away and was rearrested by our men and brought into the City Hall, and that is all I got on the subject. I am glad to tell you all I know about it, but no more than I know.

Mr. Cooper: Didn't you say when you first described that incident that the man didn't die?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; because I didn't know anything about it.

Mr. Cooper: The report was that the man didn't die?

Col. Tripp: I didn't get a report on that at all, whether he died or not, or anything about that. I know we sent out there, broke up the mob and arrested the man and brought him in.

Mr. Johnson: You didn't say he was wounded?

875

14 X15

Col. Tripp: Col. Clayton can tell you on that.

Mr. Johnson: Can Col. Clayton tell me just what you said on it? I asked you if you didn't just testify that this man was wounded?

Col. Tripp: I did not, because I didn't know a thing about it.

Mr. Johnson: Well, the stenographer's notes will show that any how.

Col. Tripp: Just let him read it.

Mr. Johnson: It is not worth while reading it now.

Mr. Raker: What I am trying to get at, and what I am trying to have you tell - and I may have assumed an awkward way in doing it - what I want you to tell the Committee is had you been apprised of the fact that rioting had commenced as early as ten o'clock on that day?

Col. Tripp: Well, sir, I will answer that just exactly as I have testified in the beginning and that is a report came into the City Hall from some source, I don't know where. It did not, however, if I remember, come direct to me, but a report came in there and Col. Clayton went immediately - or Major Klauser to the scene and I know what happened there. The mob was dispersed. Whether the man was killed there or not I don't know. Whether he got a flesh wound or not I don't know, but the mob was dispersed and the prisoner was brought to the City Hall or jail.

Mr. Raker: Then you did know about it?

16

Col. Tripp: Why, positively, I knew there was a gathering up there and a shot fired. I will <sup>d</sup> admit that, if that will help you any.

Mr. Raker: Nothing will help me except the truth.

Col. Tripp: Well, I can give you all the facts.

Mr. Raker: What I want is the facts, but what I have been trying to get for half an hour, and it seemed very tedious, is to have you say whether <sup>it not</sup> you knew by ten o'clock that day that the mob was actually in operation in the City of East St. Louis.

Col. Tripp: Well, I will answer that just as I did before. I got this word and I knew that trouble was on, and I knew we had our troops out there.

Mr. Raker: And you knew the rioting had started?

Col. Tripp: There was trouble there. I didn't know whether it was a riot or what the real cause of it was.

Mr. Raker: No one came to you during that day, none of the civilians, to offer aid or assistance?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; nor the next day.

Mr. Raker: Nobody told you that day, until you got out there, that there was a riot on, or a riot likely to happen, did they?

Col. Tripp: The Mayor told me about it, about the killing of the policemen when I got there. The Chief of Police told me that.

Mr. Raker: Well, that seems to be the main discussion, as to the killing <sup>of</sup> the two policemen, didn't it,

17 about the rioting?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: That was a very sore spot in everyone's mind?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: And one that had impressed them very strongly and they were afraid of the negroes coming up and getting more of the policemen. Did that seem to be a feeling that was prevailing that day?

cyl 65

Col. Tripp: Now there was a feeling all through the time I was there during the daytime, from the reports coming into the City Hall by telephone from different places, that the negroes were forming. That continued on that day and that night, way long into the next morning - they are gathering out there in large numbers and they are gathering out in that direction in large numbers and for each one we had to get a truck and some men and run them down to see. The word came that they were forming and coming up and even the next night, I could testify everybody was out of their homes for many blocks, men, women and children, with the information that the colored people were forming way out of town and marching on to them. There was a terrible feeling all the way through.

Mr. Raker: There was a very strong feeling and it was quite fully appreciated by the people here in East St. Louis, that the negroes were forming in various parts of the city?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: And getting ready to march right on

878

18

into the city of East St. Louis, and might cause a great deal of damage to property and the loss of many lives?

Col. Tripp: I recall my testimony where I went way out into the black belt, where we got information that they were forming out there in large numbers in the afternoon, late in the afternoon.

Mr. Raker: And when you got out there you found the information was absolutely unfounded, and there wasn't a word of truth in it, didn't you?

Col. Tripp: I did, yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: And when you run down the rest of the information furnished the Police Headquarters, it all turned out to be absolutely false?

Col. Tripp: That all came from Police Headquarters thus.

Mr. Johnson: And every time you went out you were fortunate enough to strike a place where there was ~~no~~ *any* trouble, and you never struck a place where there was any trouble?

Col. Tripp: Yes, I did. You recall my going ahead of the troops in this big mob of 250 or 500, sir, in citizens clothes, taking part in it. What do you call that?

Mr. Johnson: That was after all the negroes had been killed, wasn't it?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Were there any killed after that?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: Where abouts?

879

19

Col. Tripp: Well, there were negroes <sup>killed</sup> the next day, negroes killed later on after twelve o'clock that night, a number of them I am told, but I have no evidence of that. You can probably get that from General Dickson.

Mr. Baker: Now your information - or the information presented at Police Headquarters about the negroes forming, gathering, turned out to be erroneous?

Col. Tripp: Yes, we heard that they were forming at the Black Bridge; that they were forming in another direction, forming in another place, and in each instance when we gathered together such as we could possibly spare of these patrol men -

Mr. Baker (Interposing): And went to these places?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Baker: And the police, you don't know where they were?

Col. Tripp: I don't know, sir.

Mr. Baker: Now could it have been possible that the policemen through their henchmen, were out at these various points sending this word into have you send your men away so that the rest here in town could complete the mob?

Col. Tripp: Now I couldn't answer that, sir. I just know these reports came in and we responded to them; but I couldn't answer your question on that.

Mr. Baker: Well, did you understand that part of the policemen were in bed that day and didn't show up at all?

cyl 66

880

20

Col. Tripp: Why, no, sir.

Mr. Raker: Did you understand that there were seven negro detectives, and that they had been informed not to report for duty on the 2nd of July?

Col. Tripp: No, sir: I didn't know they had a negro detective in the city. No one told me that.

Mr. Raker: None of them showed up?

Col. Tripp: I never saw one, representing himself to be a negro detective or officer of any kind.

Mr. Raker: I would imagine that in a case of this kind, with men being sent down to the city headquarters, the police department would be simply swarming with police officers. Instead of that, <sup>on this occasion</sup> they were conspicuous by their absence.

Col. Tripp: I didn't see many.

Mr. Raker: About what time was it when you appeared up before this committee of fifty, or more in the Chamber of Commerce?

Col. Tripp: Well, I should judge three thirty - somewhere along there, I can't remember exactly.

Mr. Raker: That was after your first experience in the riots?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: At which time you didn't get but one or two men?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Raker: How did these men at this meeting convey to you the idea that they were ready - that there were means, physical - with ammunition and with guns,

21

and with their aid, to quell this riot, and maintain order?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; they positively did not.

Mr. Raker: Now, just a moment. Don't you remember that it was suggested ~~that it was suggested~~ - I forget the man's name - the man that was acting as chairman or assistant chairman - said, "Now, if you want it, we will offer ourselves, with our guns and with ammunition?"

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Raker: "By which we can go out here and in fifteen minutes shoot down enough of these rioters that the rest will go home," - or words to that effect?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; I don't recall that.

Mr. Raker: What was the conversation?

Col. Tripp: I didn't hear such a conversation.

Mr. Raker: You were right in the midst of a riot here that nobody was able to quell. Fifty men had been called over there in a building to confer with the officer in command for the purpose of quelling his riot. What did you do?

Col. Tripp: Well, my stay there was a very short one. I told you what I did, my conversation with the gentlemen, and I got right out and went out to this black belt where these colored men -

Mr. Raker (interposing): Where you had got information that the black men were rising?

Col. Tripp: That is where I left and got out as quick as I <sup>possibly</sup> could after telling them my version of the

882

22 martial law proposition. I came right back to the City  
Hall, wasting no time, and went out into the district  
where I was requested <sup>to</sup> go by the Mayor, where they were  
cyl 67 reporting this mob coming on to the city with arms.

Mr. Raker: Was this one of the Mahor's sugges-  
tions to you again, that the mob was forming and that  
you had better get out there?

Col. Tripp: The Mayor told me personally before  
I started out, that this had better be investigated  
and run right down; that he believed they were forming  
and that arms were being stored in the building that I  
told you about and I went right out there just as quick  
as I could get there on the trucks and took the Chief  
of Police with me.

Mr. Raker: The Chief of Police left the mob  
the surging, murderous crowds here on the streets <sup>to go out</sup> here  
to hunt a supposed black crowd coming in to take the  
rest of the town? That is the real truth of the matter.  
That is hard language, but that is the truth of the matter.

Col. Tripp: Well, he went with me.

Mr. Raker: Isn't it true that the Chief of Police  
left a surging mob that were killing people on the streets  
and went off in another direction hunting a rumour that  
someone said that the negroes were gathering to come to  
take the town? Isn't that true?

Col. Tripp: Oh, there was an immense number,  
thousands of people down here.

Mr. Raker: Well, the Police Chief left the town  
didn't he?

23

Col. Tripp: He went with me.

Mr. Raker: He left the town and the main streets right here where the riot was going on?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: After it had been reported that men had been killed right here on your main streets, right under the shadow of the bank and the hotel, the Illinois Bank and the other banks down here, right where business people are doing business all day - he left them and went off in another direction. Isn't that right?

Col. Tripp: He went with me, sir, out in this territory I am telling you about.

Mr. Raker: You are awfully afraid to say he left.

Col. Tripp: He did leave with me positively, and went right with me, as I have testified.

Mr. Raker: And he left marauders to take charge of the town and kill and burn if they wanted to, didn't he? That is the effect of it, isn't it?

Col. Tripp: Now the effect is just simply this: I don't know whether the Chief was acting in good faith in going out there or not.

Mr. Raker: I didn't say anything about his good faith. Let his acts determine about his faith.

Col. Tripp: I can testify to you he accompanied our party out there on an urgent call, and the Mayor insisted that this be attended to at once; that it was a dangerous proposition out there, and Mr. Fekete requested the Chief of Police and I to take what number we could get

24

and get right there immediately.

Mr. Raker: Well, that is getting more complicated yet. Here is the Mayor, here is the acting mayor, Fekete, here is the Chief of Police, urging you as the officer here in charge of the day, to maintain order and save the lives of these people, to go off to some other place where it was learned that people were gathering -

Col. Tripp (Interposing): Hundreds of them.

Mr. Cooper: And nothing was done.

Mr. Raker: Isn't that right?

cyl 68

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: And the very same time, and doing the same time that you had to pass right through the streets, where the mobs were gathering and at work, didn't you?

Col. Tripp: We didn't pass through any mobs going out there at all.

Mr. Raker: You passed over and on the various streets?

Col. Tripp: I passed over where there had been disorder, but there was no disorder over the streets where we traveled going out there.

Mr. Raker: You crossed Collinsville Avenue, didn't you?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: You came up Broadway part of the way?

Col. Tripp: The mob had been entirely dispersed ~~before~~ before we started out there.

Mr. Raker: You came up Broadway, didn't you?

Col. Tripp: Going out there?

25

Mr. Raker: After you left the City Hall?

Col. Tripp: I wouldn't attempt to tell you.

Mr. Raker: You came up Collinsville Avenue, past Missouri Avenue, past the corner at Collinsville Avenue and Missouri, and on out St. Louis Avenue, where these marauding bands had been working during that day and before you left, didn't you?

Col. Tripp: After the streets I traveled over, I wouldn't attempt to testify, because I don't know.

Mr. Raker: But you left the main business part of town?

Col. Tripp: I left the City Hall with the Chief of Police, under the direction of the Mayor and Mr. Fekete, and two or three enlisted men on trucks in an automobile to the scene.

Mr. Raker: About what time of day was that?

Col. Tripp: Three thirty.

Mr. Raker: And that is when the mob was just seething, before the big fires commenced later in the evening.

Col. Tripp: No, the big mob had been broken up on Collinsville Avenue, prior to my departure. We just got back from that with a wagonload - I got back from Collinsville Avenue before I went out there in the afternoon, and brought down those colored men, if you recall, from the building. Then I came here and immediately went over to this meeting at their request and when I started to this meeting they told me of this trouble out there, where they were forming in hundreds,

26

gathering as an organization, coming on to the city and to get right to it at once; and as soon as I could get out of that meeting to come on back to the City Hall and I gathered up the forces, the Mayor, Mr. Pekete, the Chief of Police - as he came with me voluntarily I believe, as I recall it - I don't know whether I requested him or not. I couldn't say.

Mr. Raker: Did you folks try to find out the man who sent in this word?

Col. Tripp: We made inquiry.

Mr. Raker: But you couldn't find him?

Col. Tripp: No. That came to the Police Dept. I rather think, originally. I didn't attempt to run down who made it. I didn't waste time doing those things.

Mr. Raker: Now, not accusing anybody of anything, but it had the effect of taking away the chief officer of the city, the chief protection of the city in the way of the Chief of Police, the City Attorney, who was then acting Mayor, and the legal adviser of the mayor, and the man who had been sent in here to represent the Governor.

Col. Tripp: It took us all away.

Mr. Raker: It took you men away from the populous part of the city.

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; it was a waste of time out there.

Mr. Raker: Where mobbing had been going on and people had been killed within two blocks of the City Hall, and it left the city practically unprotected, while mob violence might proceed, didn't it?

27

Except your boys running around. Isn't that right?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Raker: Well, don't it occur to you now that the man that the man that started that call sort of must have done it for the purpose of aiding the mob spirit that was then prevalent that day?

Col. Tripp: Now I am not acquainted enough with the situation, to give you my opinion because I don't know.

Mr. Raker: Well, he either did that or he was a wilfull deceiver and liar, wasn't he?

Col. Tripp: It might have been a sincere report, and it might not.

Mr. Raker: Well, you went out there and didn't find anything. The fact that you found a Henry rifle in a man's chest, and a revolver - it is natural for people to have it in their homes.

Col. Tripp: The rifle and the pistol I found in the saloon. There was nothing unusual about that.

Mr. Raker: Well, one of the two things were true, that the man that sent in this information was either in with the rioters to get you people away so that they could proceed more easily, or he was a wilfull, malicious falsifier.

Col. Tripp: I agree with you. That is very true. That is the way I look at it, certainly. It was an erroneous report. I said there couldn't be any foundation from what we found there, because I questioned every man and questioned different ones on the streets, "have you

888

28

seen any mob?"

Mr. Raker: Well now, let me ask you this, why didn't you say to the Chief of Police when you were coming back, "why don't you bring in your men and let's stop this business?"

Col. Tripp: Well, I told the Chief of Police "It is a hell of a note to send men way out here on a chase of this sort."

Mr. Raker: Now that begins to sound like business to me. It has been all of this ladylike stuff before, and now it seems that there was something doing.

Col. Tripp: I am testifying before a very honorable board in a very courteous way, but there was some plain talk on this proposition during the day, and I did say, "it is a hell of a note to send us way out on this sort of a mission, when there is nothing doing."

Mr. Raker: What did he say?

Col. Tripp: I don't believe he made any remark, - that these reports come in, or something of that sort.

Mr. Raker: Didn't you think it was an unusual attitude for the Chief of Police to take, when you had said that to him, that he didn't take any steps to find out where the report came from?

cyl 70

Col. Tripp: I thought it was an unusual attitude to send us out there unless they knew where the information came from in the first place, by the men who were acquainted with the situation.

Mr. Raker: And you weren't afraid to tell him that either?

29

Col. Tripp: I wasn't afraid to tell anybody anything.

Mr. Raker: Did he resent it?

Col. Tripp: No.

Mr. Raker: Did the mayor resent it?

Col. Tripp: I didn't tell the Mayor. I told the Chief of Police out there that it was a hell of a note to send us out there on such a wild goose chase at this time.

Mr. Cooper: Colonel, I want to ask you one question. You said a while ago that you went to luncheon shortly after twelve.

Col. Tripp: That is my recollection.

Mr. Cooper: And you finished the luncheon shortly after one?

Col. Tripp: I would say so, yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: That is one hour at luncheon. Who went with you?

Col. Tripp: At the luncheon?

Mr. Cooper: Yes.

Col. Tripp: Mr. Fekete, and possibly Capt. Ault, but I wouldn't say certainly. But anyhow Mr. Fekete, the City Attorney.

Mr. Cooper: You and Mr. Fekete. You don't remember anybody else?

Col. Tripp: I don't recall right now whether there was anybody else with me or not.

Mr. Cooper: Did you remember the restaurant, on what street it was?

30

Col. Tripp: No, I don't remember the street, but Mr. Fekete said, "well, come with me for lunch, and we will get a quick bite." And we went in there.

Mr. Cooper: When you take a long bite, how much longer than an hour is it?

Col. Tripp: It depends on the service you get, whether you are able to get a bite quickly.

Mr. Cooper: What did you and Mr. Fekete do in there?

Col. Tripp: Why, we ate our lunch and got out of there as quick as we could. I might say for your information there was no drinking by anybody - to save you the embarrassment of asking it.

Mr. Cooper: That hadn't entered my mind at all. Did you do anything besides eat?

Col. Tripp: I possibly went to the toilet. I wouldn't be a bit surprised if I did. I think I did.

Mr. Cooper; What was I was getting at is, how you accounted for the haste with which you got through with that, so you could continue a plan of campaign. You were one hour at luncheon, and that was two hours after these murders had been committed within a block and a half or two blocks of where you were and you stayed an hour at luncheon with one man, taking a bite. What were you doing in there, laying out a plan of campaign?

Col. Tripp: Now, Mr. Cooper, I want to answer that - I was trying to suggest that I am not positive as to the time we went in there. I am telling you the best I can. I was trying to make every minute go as *fast*

31 as I could while here, to accomplish the most.

Mr. Cooper: But you never doubted the time that you went in for?

Col. Tripp: I said after twelve o'clock and some time probably after one o'clock. Now I don't know how much; it might have been half past.

Mr. Cooper: Half past what?

cyl 71 Col. Tripp: It might have been as late as half past twelve before we finally got our order in there. I don't recall that. I had a great many things that I was doing, and I didn't consult the time very closely. I am giving you the best of my recollection.

Mr. Cooper: Did you put down in your notes the time you went to luncheon or how long you were there?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; I know I didn't consume any more time than I had to consume.

Mr. Cooper: I am not asking how much you consumed, I am asking what you did while you were in that place taking lunch?

Col. Tripp: I tell you I am quite sure I went to the toilet, and I ate my lunch just as quick as it could be served to me, and we hurried right out of the place and got into an automobile and started right over the streets.

Mr. Cooper: Well, this is the first time you said you hurried at lunch. You didn't do it at all until it was brought to your attention what an extraordinary thing it was that two men go in there and stay an hour on that awful day. Now you got it in a hurry. Now you said

32

repeatedly -

Col. Tripp: (Interposing) I said I didn't consume any unnecessary time in eating my lunch which is true - none at all. I hurried through as quick as I could. We both did, and to get out. I hated to go to lunch, but a man can't work unless he eats something. He has got to have a bite of something to eat in that sort of work. I was tired at the time I went in there, and somewhat hungry.

Mr. Cooper: So, you arrived at eight o'clock, and you didn't arrive on the scene until half past one - out of doors?

Col. Tripp: That is true.

Mr. Cooper: That is all.

Mr. Foster: Colonel, you have been how long in the Adjutant General's Office?

Col. Tripp: I was appointed January 1st, 1910, but I didn't assume my duties until May 28th of this year.

Mr. Foster: You have been all that time acting in the Quartermaster's Office?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: Had you ever been to any riots before this one?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: Whereabouts?

Col. Tripp: Well, the most recent one I was to was the Hallsboro riot in February, the latter part of February.

Mr. Foster: When before that?

33

Col. Tripp: Hillsboro was a coal strike where there were 1600 or 1800 miners out on strike. The glass workers were out, and it was a bad state of affairs. The president of the miner's association had been driven out of town, and I was sent down there just like this on a moment's notice, to go down there.

Mr. Foster: Well, now that is enough of that.

Col. Tripp: I went in citizen's clothes at that time.

Mr. Foster: Colonel, were you in command there?

Col. Tripp: There were no troops there at all. I was sent down there, and finally with my work effected a settlement.

Mr. Foster: What other riots were you in?

cyl 72

Col. Tripp: The next one this year was down at Birden. That was the latter part of May. That was a coal strike. I went without troops and without uniform. It was a bad situation, all classes of people out. The mine<sup>ing</sup> president had been driven out. I effected a settleme there.

Mr. Foster: What other riots were you ever in?

Col. Tripp: I went back down to Hillsboro. The glass workers got dissatisfied.

Mr. Foster: Were you there with troops?

Col. Tripp: No, there were no troops there, sir.

Mr. Foster: Now, what other riots were you in?

Col. Tripp: I was at the riot over at Ottawa, La Salle, Illinois, last Fall, for two weeks. There were no troops there at that time.

34

Mr. Foster: Were you ever in any riots before this one, the one at East St. Louis on the 2nd day of July where you had any command of troops?

Col. Tripp: No direct command, no, sir, not of troops, no, sir. I have been in riots, many of them.

Mr. Foster: That is all I wanted to know, whether you ever were in command of troops. Now, after acting in the Adjutant General's Office, being somewhat acquainted with riots, after you had been serving and acting in that capacity as a peace officer, wasn't it your opinion when you were called to go to East St. Louis that there were chances that there would be trouble here?

Col. Tripp: When I first left the Adjutant General's Office?

Mr. Foster: Yes, sir. You can answer that yes or no.

Col. Tripp: Why, Doctor, - I naturally thought there was trouble down there, and it may be adjusted without much trouble and it may not.

Mr. Foster: But you always, don't you - a man who goes out where there has been a riot feels that there is likely - that he is likely to encounter some serious trouble?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: Now coming down here and having knowledge, as I think that you did, of the riot of May 28, that is of the trouble -

Col. Tripp (Interposing): I had a slight knowledge, not very much.

895

35

Mr. Foster: Well, you new there had been trouble?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: And knowing as you did, the situation, in East St. Louis, I take it, wouldn't it give you the idea in coming here that you were liable to have a riot?

Col. Tripp: Well you might think any place you go you would have trouble.

Mr. Foster: I am not talking about "any place". The question is whether you would expect that in East St. Louis under those circumstances.

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: It was not improbable?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Foster: So that you had come here with that idea?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; I came here with that idea, knowing there was trouble on and I expected to help the authorities.

Mr. Foster: You knew something of the situation in East St. Louis, after going over it for a little while with the Mayor, Mr. Fekete, and others who were there, that you knew - it didn't take you long to get the lay of the town, did it? For instance, where negroes were likely to be, where they would live?

Col. Tripp: That is an inquiry that I mapped out, where they would be most likely to be.

Mr. Foster: Now, just a minute. As a military man I take it that you would make up your mind where trouble would in all probability, more than likely, occur,

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36 wouldn't you?

Col. Tripp: Well, in a city of rioting it would be different.

Mr. Foster: I know, but you could most likely think where the trouble would most likely come.

Col. Tripp: After talking with the officials you could.

Mr. Foster: It wouldn't take long to do that.

Col. Tripp: It would not take long to figure out that there is an important point, and there is an important point, and so on.

Mr. Foster: That wouldn't take very long, would it?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; not a great length of time.

Mr. Foster: Yet it took you half a day to do that.

Col. Tripp: Not altogether on that. I know your point is that I did a great many little things. I communicated with the Adjutant General's Office probably twice, may be more. I know I called up some of the organizations about when they would get out of their homes; how many we could expect when they would get here. I kept getting in touch with the railroad companies as to their trains and doing those things.

Mr. Foster: Still, would that take you a good while?

Col. Tripp: I was in the Mayor's Office all that time until after twelve.

Mr. Foster: You didn't go out to look over the

37

ground?

Col. Tripp: I did not, sir. I believe I did go over to the Police Department once.

Mr. Foster: Now you went to this meeting in the afternoon at the Chamber of Commerce?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: Was the Mayor there?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: You talked to the Governor during that meeting?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Foster: You didn't talk to him at all?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Foster: Did anyone come to you during that day of the 2nd of July and ask you for protection of his property, that it was liable to be burned down, or that he needed protection of that kind?

Col. Tripp: There were some appeals made to the City Hall, quite a good many, that they wanted troops here and there; but any specific incident I don't recall.

Mr. Foster: Did any man come to you that day and ask you - that is to insist upon you giving protection to his property, because the mob was liable to burn it?

Col. Tripp: There was a doctor or someone came after the prisoners had been confined, about a fire which was liable to start outside, a distance out. My prisoners weren't in, and I asked - consulted Mr. Fekete right away. Now I don't know who spoke to me but I know it was someone,

38

and I asked Mr. Fekete and he said yes, and I said, "will you take some troops and go right out?" And he did, and left in a short time and did that.

Mr. Foster: Now, let refresh your memory. Was there a man by the name of Mr. Robert R. Thomas, in the lime and cement business, who had a building down here near where these negro quarters were that were burned, who pleaded with you that day to send some protection to his property?

Col. Tripp: Well, I wouldn't be a bit surprised if he did.

Mr. Foster: And that his property was burned?

Col. Tripp: I wouldn't be surprised if there was an appeal made from him. I don't know whether there was possibly or not, but there were a number of requests for a detail of men - a number of men. Not only that, but other ones, and we kept sending them out as fast as we could get them.

Mr. Foster: You don't remember that his property was burned, though, that he asked for this protection?

Col. Tripp: No, and I don't remember the name of any property burned.

Mr. Foster: But these men, these troops were scattered along the streets?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: Every so many feet?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: You didn't have any command of forty or fifty that day in one place?

39

Col. Tripp: Not acting as a unit.

Mr. Foster: That could act as a unit and disperse mobs?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; four men was the highest we had kept back for a unit attack.

Mr. Foster: You could attack them that way, couldn't you?

Col. Tripp: Not and keep them on the streets.

Mr. Foster: I mean where these mobs were gathering, a large number of men where there was liable to be an outbreak or violence, you could have had forty or fifty men, couldn't you, that could have gone there?

Col. Tripp: By taking them off of the streets.

Mr. Foster: With fixed bayonets?

Col. Tripp: By taking them off of these different streets, yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: I know, but I am asking you if you couldn't have taken them?

Col. Tripp: Not under the arrangement that was made by the Mayor as to the territory he wanted to cover. That didn't leave any number back to operate that way.

Mr. Foster: The Mayor is not a military man, is he?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Foster: Didn't you say, Colonel, that your opinion of how to manage the riots, having visited a number of towns where trouble had occurred before - that you were a better judge of military strategy on that memorable day than the Mayor would be?

40

Col. Tripp: Right on that point, Doctor, Col. Clayton was down here on a previous strike, a previous riot in May and his opinion with the Mayor was to the effect that they should repeat what they did in May; to scatter the troops out all over the street; let the rioters know the troops are here and try to keep them moving, and that that would have a better effect than it would to act as a unit.

Mr. Foster: So that was not your plan of campaign?

Col. Tripp: Nos, sir; they insisted that that way was the proper plan of campaign.

Mr. Foster: That was not yours?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; and I didn't break the Mayor's proposition on it. He wanted it.

Mr. Foster: You were in command of the troops, though?

Col. Tripp: Well, I was, answering that same question again, I was the representative of the Adjutant General's Office and if I had laid right down and said "here that won't do; we must operate by troops," the chances are that the officers would have acquiesced in that statement.

Mr. Foster: They would have?

Col. Tripp: They would have agreed that that might be the better plan. It was one hard to figure out.

Mr. Foster: Well now, your own experience in dispersing mobs that day, in which you took the gun of the private and went into the mob of 1500 and dispersed them; and then your surrounding another mob of some 350 or 400 - or 500, whatever it may be - and the way <sup>you</sup> did - didn't that

41 give you the idea that forty or fifty men together here could have stopped that riot that time?

Col. Tripp: I am of the opinion that in all these mobs, from studying this particular situation here, that handling ~~with~~ it with units is better than to scatter them about the streets where you can't assemble them without considerable loss of time.

Mr. Foster: So if you had had complete command and had been acting upon your own initiative, you would have had these troops in a unit of - I don't know anything about military matters - but say, 40 or 50 men in organization?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: Now you had 59 men here. You could have had about 30 men in a squad, two squads of less than thirty men? You could have had them all if necessary, but you could have had 30 each. Is it your opinion that 30 men under the command of the proper officer, who understood his business, with bayonets fixed, with rifles loaded, marching on to a mob, that they could have been easily stopped?

Col. Tripp: I am of the opinion that had all the troops reached here that were ordered here -

Mr. Foster: (interposing) I am talking about these that were here now.

Col. Tripp: No, sir, they couldn't have dealt with that crowd with no thirty men.

Mr. Foster: Well, you dealt with 1500 with one gun

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and a private.

Col. Tripp: Well, I went into the mob, but I wasn't successful in getting them. I wasn't successful in making any arrests.

Mr. Foster: No, but you did disperse that mob.

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir,; they were dispersed.

Mr. Foster: Well, now, you did pretty well, Colonel.

Col. Tripp: Well, take that way if you wish.

Mr. Foster: Yes, I think so.

Co. Tripp: I am saying, after this is over, studying the situation, I am quite of the opinion and would agree with you on the proposition that in handling mobs it is better to handle them with units than to scatter your men widely over territory, where you have only got one man in each place.

Mr. Foster: Yes, but I should think that one man, one private stationed by himself, every so often, could do much less than you could have done that day with a squad of men, 30 or 40, whatever you call it, and they could have stopped that riot.

Col. Tripp: Well now, here, on that proposition -

Mr. Foster: I am asking for your opinion.

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Col. Tripp: My opinion is just simply this: I believe that the best way to deal with a mob is to deal with them with an organization, but you have got to have the organization to deal with them.

Mr. Foster: Well, you had about 60 men?

Col. Tripp: But, 60 men wouldn't reach on Collinsville Avenue way out here in this direction and then down here in that direction <sup>and</sup> all over at the same time, Doctor.

43

Mr. Foster: Well, if one man, one officer, in *civilian clothes* with a private, could disperse 1500 men, how many could 60 men disperse?

Col. Tripp: That depends altogether on how they are situated.

Mr. Foster: With uniforms and loaded guns? I believe you could work that out, Colonel, without much trouble. Now I am asking these questions because I think it is important to know what has done here.

Col. Tripp: The proposition with troops and mobs is quite different than it is in other lines of battle. The formation and study is quite different.

Mr. Foster: Yes, I expect so.

Col. Tripp: It surely is. I guess anyone that has had anything to do with it will tell you so.

Mr. Foster: But it looks like this mob was pretty easily dispersed <sup>here</sup> doesn't it?

Col. Tripp: No, it was a pretty bad mob. This mob was a pretty bad one.

Mr. Foster: It was bad while it was going on unchecked.

Col. Tripp: I say, with the limited number of troops we had, I am truly of the opinion that the working of the troops with these large mobs, where I was personally out with them, did everything they could. I am satisfied that each sentry on his beat, one or two in a block, did everything he could to move the crowd down and get them to go.

Mr. Foster: I am not speaking or criticising the individual soldiers who were placed along every so often;

44 nor am I criticising anyone. I am trying to get the facts and your opinion as a military man, and one who has had large experience, who has been in the Adjutant General's Office since 1910 - that is ~~n~~early eight years - and who has been a sheriff, and acting in the capacity of a peace officer for a good many years, as to how to control a mob; and you claim that you gave the orders and that Col. Clayton executed them; and you came here in command, and whether or not such a situation as that can win anything, I am simply trying to get your opinion.

Col. Tripp: Well my opinion is that everything was done that possibly could be done on the part of the troops here on that day and night.

Mr. Johnson: You mean towards protecting the negro?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; everything that possibly could be done.

Mr. Johnson: If any negroes from the South want to come up here, you can assure them the same protection in this northern state of Illinois?

Col. Tripp: I repeat, during that day, that with the troops we had, everything was done that possibly could be done.

Now about assuring them protection coming up here that is quite a different question.

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Mr. Johnson: You can give them the assurance that you can give them as much protection as they got here on July 2nd, when you were in command, can you not? (laughter).

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Mr. Foster: We 1, if you had followed your own ideas of controlling that mob that day, and had not listened to Col. Clayton or to the Mayor or to anybody else, would you have done what was done?

Col. Tripp: Seeing before this thing happened and after it happened is two different propositions.

Mr. Foster: Well, now, that doesn't answer exactly the question.

Col. Tripp: I know, but frequently -

Mr. Foster: (Interposing) You don't want to criticize anybody and I don't blame you for that.

Col. Tripp: As I have seen the effect of forming and circling around a large mob, I think that is more effective, as I see it. From the information I received from the Mayor and his assistant, and an officer that had been here, the patrol system seemed to be the proper one.

Mr. Foster: Well, if you had another riot at East St. Louis and were down here with 60 men or with 100 men, and you were in command of these 60 or 100 men, do you think you would follow the same plan?

Col. Tripp: No, sir; I do not. My opinion is truthfully that I believe the unit proposition is the best.

Mr. Foster: Don't you think this, Colonel, that it is better in a military way to have one commander than to have two or three?

Col. Tripp: Well, I can't quite agree with you on a proposition of this kind. You have got to divide up your forces a great deal.

46

Mr. Foster: I understand that, but there must be one general commander. You couldn't have two or three?

Col. Tripp: No, sir.

Mr. Foster: And down here you had sort of a mongrel command, and you submitted to it. Was that it? To the advice of others?

Col. Tripp: Well, we had the officer who is detailed to command the troops. They had me down here as the representative of the Adjutant General's Office, and we naturally would work together to bring about the very best results, as we ought, and I am satisfied, and I know that the other officers are, that we did that very thing. There was no friction anywhere along the line. We worked together; studied it out and did the things we thought were the best things to do.

Mr. Foster: I am not saying that you didn't do the best you thought ought to be done.

Col. Tripp: Now, to go over it again, how you would do it, is a pretty hard matter for me to tell you.

Mr. Foster: I get your idea that because you have been in these different riots, Hillsboro, Birden -

Col. Tripp (interposing): The East St. Louis riot was different from any riot I ever saw.

Mr. Foster: I think it was too. I think you are right about that, and it looks to me like - don't you think it was differently managed to any riot you ever saw before?

Col. Tripp: Well, different riots have different ways of being handled.

Mr. Foster: And don't you think it was managed

47

with less good results than <sup>any riot</sup> you ever saw before?

Col. Tripp: On the part of the State Troops, I say no. I believe the State Troops did their duty.

Mr. Foster: I thought you just told me that if you had been here and had complete command, with what you know now, that you wouldn't have done the same?

cyl 78 Col. Tripp: No, I say that the thing could be handled as a unit in a more effective way, but that couldn't be foreseen before the riot came up in the morning.

Mr. Foster: No, I guess not. The only thing I was getting at was, there has been - I have heard citizens, and I expect you have heard it, Colonel.

Col. Tripp: Certainly, I have.

Mr. Foster: And you are now willing <sup>to acknowledge</sup> that if this was to occur again, notwithstanding your long experience, that you wouldn't do what was done here before?

Col. Tripp: If I had this riot to go over again, and it was left entirely in my charge, just how to handle it, without taking the suggestions of the chief executive of the city, to whom we must report under our laws - he is the man that is responsible - and take it all through going over it again, knowing the things that occurred, how they occurred, I would say the unit proposition would be the most effective. But one unit wouldn't be sufficient by a long ways.

Mr. Foster: I understand that.

Col. Tripp: Because to do that, it would be necessary to have enough organizations to move out into different parts where these mobs are forming.

48

Mr. Foster: Let me ask you this, from your own experience ~~in~~ East St. Louis, if you were called to another riot anywhere within the State of Illinois, you would try and manage it differently to what you did here, wouldn't you?

Col. Tripp: Well, the management of another riot, if I were called on, would depend on circumstances.

Mr. Foster: Well, I mean you wouldn't place your men as they did here?

Col. Tripp: Well, take a city of 60,000 inhabitants, scattered over a great many square blocks, I believe it would be better to use the troops as units. I am of that opinion, and I have so stated to a number of persons.

Mr. Foster: So the management of the troops in East St. Louis, in this riot, was a mistake?

Col. Tripp: No, I don't say that.

Mr. Foster: I thought you just had said that?

Col. Tripp: I said if I was going to handle -

Mr. Foster (Interposing): You wouldn't do the same thing again?

Col. Tripp: I would handle it as a unit and not by the patrol system.

Mr. Foster: You would try and not repeat what was done here?

Col. Tripp: I would not patrol. I suggest that the unit is a better plan to handle it, because I found that out for this reason: You see with 70 men we were able to surround between 350 and 500, and successfully get

49 them to the City Hall.

Mr. Foster: Well, you wouldn't now, really, Colonel, if you were called back to East St. Louis - if you were unfortunate enough to ever be called back - which I hope you never will, -

Col. Tripp (Interposing): I hope not.

Mr. Foster: Because I hope there will never be any more riots in East St. Louis, but if such a thing ever should happen, you wouldn't manage the next one like you did this one, would you?

Col. Tripp: Well, sir, I will say to you -

Mr. Foster: (Interposing) Answer yes or no.

Col. Tripp: Let me ask you -

Mr. Foster: (Interposing) I am not on the witness stand, Don't ask me.

cyl 79 Col. Tripp: I want to say to you, my answer will be this: That I believe the handling of a mob like this is more effective by using the troop as a unit.

Mr. Foster: Now you can make that explanation but answer me yes or no, and then put in the explanation.

Col. Tripp: Now, Doctor, I can say to you that I believe the troops did everything in their power to do.

Mr. Foster: Answer me yes or no.

Col. Tripp: Well, I think you are asking a question that I ought not to be put on here to answer.

Mr. Foster: Well, if you don't think that is a proper question from a military standpoint - I am just a common doctor and I don't know about military matters, but I am trying to get the facts.

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Col. Tripp: I think that the unit proposition would be the better proposition for me to answer, handling them as a body.

Mr. Foster: Well, you will go that far, to say that they ought to be handled as a body, as an organization, as a unit?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; in a strike of this kind.

Mr. Foster: And that they weren't handled that way in East St. Louis?

Col. Tripp: They were in part.

Mr. Foster: Well, you don't know, Colonel -

Col. Tripp (Interposing): You recall that we had 70 men acting as a unit that arrested the 350 to 500 men. They acted in that way. It was an effective movement, was it not, sir?

Mr. Foster: What time was that?

Col. Tripp: That was in the evening, after seven o'clock.

Mr. Foster: You had gone all day the other way, hadn't you? You had gone all day with one patrol:

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; absolutely.

Mr. Foster: And then you took these 70 men and surrounded this mob of 350 to 500 men with this unit organization?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: Why did you do that?

Col. Tripp: Because I had come to the conclusion that was the way to break that mob up.

Mr. Foster: Yes. Then you had concluded that up

51 to that time -

Col. Tripp (Interposing): My study of the situation was to the effect that the sentries could not break them up; that we must operate by units.

Mr. Foster: Then you learned by experience what you didn't know by your judgment in the morning?

Col. Tripp: I learned by doing as we did. We were carrying out the instructions of the civil authorities.

Mr. Foster: Now don't you, or do you - I won't ask you "don't you", do you believe or do you not believe that if you had taken those men as they came in that day, company after company, and had formed them into a squad, that you might have stopped that riot long before eight o'clock?

C. L. Tripp: I don't believe so. I believe the riot would have been on.

Mr. Foster: Why?

Col. Tripp: Because the troops we had coming in here would not be large enough to make up a number of unit organizations.

Mr. Foster: You had 30 to 40 in each one.

Col. Tripp: 30 or 40 would not be enough to distribute them around where the mob did gather, and to make the arrests. There weren't enough. If we had had 600 or 800 men come in at that time, and could use them as companies and kept them right here with transportation where they could have gone out quickly on calls; formed  
cyl 80 them in columns on the street and flanked them, we could

52

have done that, but the troops weren't sufficient in number to do that, and they didn't get there.

Mr. Foster: You didn't stop anything until you did do that, did you?

Col. Tripp: Until we got the last company in; until we got troops enough to do it.

Mr. Foster: You had 70 men and you weren't able to do anything <sup>with the mob</sup> until you got your 70 men here, did you?

Col. Tripp: I disagree with you there. I think the breaking up of the mob on Collinsville Avenue -

Mr. Foster: (Interposing) I forgot about your breaking up that 1500.

Col. Tripp: They were broken up. That mob was dispersed.

Mr. Foster: That made you feel like you were pretty successful up to that time?

Col. Tripp: That made me believe that by wading right into them as I did, we could break them up.

Mr. Foster: This mob wasn't as ferocious as you thought they were in the morning?

Col. Tripp: I thought if we could <sup>break</sup> break this up that way, that we would soon have it done. I thought that we could go right into them, as I did up there, and that would break them up.

Mr. Foster: I don't ask you to say that any mistake was made down here in the management of the troops, but I want to ask you this, if you care to answer it, whether or not your experience after the day was over and the battle had gone back and forth, that you realized that you might

53

have done differently if you had had that idea in the morning?

Col. Tripp: I can answer you very gladly to say this: Knowing this, after it is all over, if we had had troops enough to operate as a unit, that would be the proper method.

Mr. Foster: Now don't put that in, Colonel.

Answer the question, whether or not you would have - after your experience you felt that that had been managed the best way it could be.

Col. Tripp: Going over the work during the day, when I went down with only two or three men, with Mr. Fekete, and found this large gathering -

Mr. Foster: (Interposing) Don't go over that again. Just answer yes or no.

Col. Tripp: I said the only successful way to break that mob up is to arrest them, and we would get a provisional company to do it. I said that, and we did it.

Mr. Foster: Colonel, answer the question, yes or no, if you can, and then tell us something else. If you don't care to answer it, and feel that it is not the proper thing as a military officer, I will withdraw it; I will not insist on it.

Col. Tripp: I will be very glad to answer anything I can.

Mr. Foster: What I am getting at is that this has been criticised, the management of the militia here, a great deal. I guess you know that. You have heard this afternoon questions asked you about the militia even killing

54 people.

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: The militia brought here to protect people.

cyl 81 Col. Tripp: If that is true, that is absolutely wrong, ~~This is absolutely wrong~~, and the parties doing it should be apprehended and punished.

Mr. Foster: I think you will agree with that.

Col. Tripp: Absolutely so.

Mr. Foster: You wouldn't want a man in uniform to kill a helpless man.

Col. Tripp: Not at all.

Mr. Foster: And he ought not to be permitted to do it. It is the most heinous of crimes that could be committed..

Col. Tripp: Positively it is.

Mr. Foster: Now what I was trying to get at is, you have heard all that, and <sup>while</sup> I don't ask you to criticize your militia or anything of the kind, I was just trying to get at whether or not, in your judgment, as a military man, there was the proper management of the militia here in East St. Louis on that day? I am not saying that that was intentional.

Col. Tripp: Usually on riot duty I can answer it by saying that the police patrol system is the one that is supposed to be followed. Patrolling the streets is the one usually followed. You do that with the city officials, with the city police, and that is the one to follow. That is what you are supposed to do. That is the first thing to do,

55 to patrol your streets and restore order.

Mr. Foster: Yes, of course, but there wasn't so much disorder except in these mobs, that were killing people.

Col. Tripp: And I tell you, they spring up here you wouldn't know anything about it, in a minute's time.

Mr. Foster: They were around here within a radius - I don't know whether they were around here within a radius of ten or twelve blocks?

Col. Tripp: I expect this whole business section was filled with men.

Mr. Foster: Most of it was here?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: So that you didn't have such a great territory to go over?

Col. Tripp: I say the whole business section was filled full.

Mr. Foster: The whole business section?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; as I saw it and information reached me that everybody seemed to have come out of their factories and places of business, and gathered on the streets. Now to differentiate between the man who is there for the purpose of committing a crime and doing unlawful things, and the innocent bystander is quite a hard proposition to the sentry or the officer.

Mr. Foster: I think that is true.

Col. Tripp: That is the fact.

Mr. Foster: But what I was getting at was whether

56

you defended the action of placing these troops in the way it was done that day?

Col. Tripp: Well, in the placing of the troops I acted entirely upon the directions and request of the Mayor. So did Col. Clayton.

Mr. Foster: Well, it seems to me - I am not a military man - but it would occur to me that if I was going into a town to help suppress a riot, or one that was impending, to keep it down, and if I had had long experience as a military man and in riots, that I would have exercised my own judgment.

Col. Tripp: Well, I don't think that I could do that under the laws of our State.

Mr. Foster: You don't.

Col. Tripp: I do not. The Mayor is the commanding officer of the city, and we are merely aiding him in what he directs.

Mr. Foster: You are then under the command of the Mayor? The Mayor is the commander-in-chief?

Col. Tripp: Absolutely, and we followed his instructions and tried to get out of him what he wanted.

Mr. Foster: Then you were next in command; then Col. Clayton was next in command, and the Mayor had told you that he wasn't feeling well and didn't want to go out?

Col. Tripp: That is right.

Mr. Foster: And he turned this over to Mr. Fekete?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

57

Mr. Foster: That is a peculiar command, isn't it, for a military man?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir, but I obeyed Mr. Fekete to the letter of the law.

Mr. Foster: I should think it was very peculiar if you are going into battle, or where you might have a battle, because I think that when a military man goes into a place of that kind he may expect a battle any time, wouldn't he?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir. Now I tell you this riot work and the laws of the State of Illinois are such that you have got to follow instructions on them. The peace officer is the man we report to, and we follow out his commands.

Mr. Foster: So that in every village that you go to in the State of Illinois, of from 100 to a city of 2,000,000, the Mayor is the commander-in-chief of the troops, while they are there?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir; until martial law is declared.

Mr. Foster: And the Mayor takes command and tells <sup>you</sup> them what to do?

Col. Tripp: The Mayor, you report to the Mayor for duty and for instructions of duties and to carry out the work as he sees it.

Mr. Foster: And you don't suggest to the Mayor, as a military man, what ought to be done?

Col. Tripp: On that point?

Mr. Foster: Yes.

58

Col. Tripp: Positively when the Mayor said he wanted the streets patrolled, it looked the logical thing to do because the clearing of the streets is done by the militia as it would be done by the police officers, and that is always done by patrol duty.

Mr. Foster: So you just put yourself in the command of the Mayor when you got here?

Col. Tripp: I carried out his orders absolutely.

Mr. Foster: You carried out his orders when you were satisfied in your own mind that he was laying down on the situation?

Col. Tripp: He had delegated a man that I followed in his absence. The City Attorney was delegated by him, and I respected that as I would the Mayor himself.

Mr. Foster: So that you were just an under officer?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Foster: And you don't suggest to the Mayor?

Is that it?

Col. Tripp: Why, I did follow out the Mayor's requests all the way through, as I tell you. I said, "get the map, Mr. Mayor, and tell us where you would like to have the troops placed; what duty you want them to do, what territory to be covered," and he suggested - or his assistant did.

Mr. Raker: What does he do when he finds the Mayor needs fixing himself?

Col. Tripp: Now, when I found - I consulted Mr. Fekete, and I said, "now, Mr. Fekete, this patrol business

59

is not going to break up this mob down here, and we have got to get a provisional company. We must get the troops together and surround them and arrest them and bring them into the City Hall. That is the only thing that will break that thing up." He says, "I agree with you." Then I says, "we will return to the City Hall and we will get the company that is reported coming in from the depot, and we will pick up such as we can pick up, and we will go down to this alley and surround them with the troops and arrest them and bring them in." And he agreed with me about it.

Mr. Foster: That is about the only time of the day in which you exercised your good judgment, wasn't it?

Col. Tripp: Well, I exercised my good judgment all through the day. I was doing the things that ought to be done.

Mr. Foster: Yes, Colonel, but that was the only real effective thing that you did. I believe that is all.

Mr. Cooper: Do you know Tacsier's Restaurant, French restaurant?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: That is where you went that day?

Col. Tripp: Y-s, sir.

Mr. Cooper: That is 222 Collinsville Avenue, above this first street on the right as we leave this building?

Col. Tripp: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cooper: And you were in there at one o'clock and for a little time afterwards at luncheon. Now while

60

you were in the City Hall, you would have heard about the shooting, or you had heard the shot. Did you know that at one o'clock, while you were at luncheon, up at about 418 on that same avenue, two blocks away, a negro was killed and his boy was killed, and a white man was killed, and a woman almost killed?

Col. Tripp: That is the very mob that I broke up up there, on Collinsville Avenue, near the Temple. I went right from the restaurant up there.

Mr. Cooper: You said they had shot a man, but you didn't tell anything about the white man being killed, and this boy being killed and the woman being mobbed.

Col. Tripp: I said they broke into a pawnshop, if you will recall, and shot a white man.

Mr. Cooper: Now don't digress or diverge. Keep to the facts. When you told about this mob that you broke up, you said that there had been a man shot, and you stepped into this crowd with the gun holding it up that way (indicating), and they tossed you around. You never mentioned the mobbing of the woman; you never mentioned the killing of the boy, you never mentioned the killing of the white man. Did you know any of those things when you testified before?

Col. Tripp: I don't know any of those things to-day, except that a white man was shot in the pawnshop and died afterwards, and a colored man had been killed right there as my automobile drove up into the mob.

Mr. Cooper: You never mentioned either one or them being killed. You said a man had been shot. Now then did you know that the boy had been shot?

61

Col. Tripp: No, sir; I had no evidence of a boy being shot. I never heard of it. Pardon me about the gun being fired, it was over on the other street.

Mr. Cooper: This all took place while you were at luncheon. Don't you think that after you had been four hours in the City Hall it would have been well for you to have stepped out without any luncheon and looked out at that mob?

Col. Tripp: I am telling you that no mob had formed while I was at luncheon and anyone killed. That was done while my automobile with Mr. Fekete and myself were almost opposite the crowd. I was in that crowd.

Mr. Cooper: That is all.

Mr. Johnson: Colonel, will you please come back in the morning at ten o'clock?

Col. Tripp: I will, yes, sir.

Mr. Johnson: The Committee will adjourn until ten o'clock, tomorrow.

(Whereupon, at 5.40 o'clock p.m., the Committee adjourned until ten o'clock, 7 a.m. to-morrow.)

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218