

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

10/17/73

[redacted]
Missouri, was interviewed. He furnished the following signed statement:

St. Louis, Mo.
October 12, 1973

"I, [redacted] make the following voluntary statement to SAs [redacted] and [redacted] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the FBI. Special Agent [redacted] advised me that he wanted to talk about the fire in the records center last July, and warned me of my rights. I have waived them as shown on a executed warning and waiver form.

"I am an employee of the General Services Administration, Public Building Service as a [redacted] I have been employed in this capacity for three years. Prior to beginning work I attended [redacted]

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[redacted]
On July 11, 1973, I was working at the National Personnel Records Center, Military Branch, 9700 Page, on my assigned job cleaning the escalators between the first and the sixth floor at the National Personnel Records Center - Military Branch. I worked alone for most of that night on the 4:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. shift. At about 11:00 p.m., I had nearly finished my work, when I went to the sixth floor for a smoke. I had taken a cigarette from home, and placed it loose in my shirt pocket. I had also brought along a

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St. Louis, Missouri

SI. 52-1856

SA [redacted]

SA [redacted]

dls

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book of matches. The file area on the sixth floor, near the middle of the building was dark, and no one else was there. I felt it was a good place to smoke without being detected. I was at the end of the files near the south end of the building. I can't recall the exact column number, but it was somewhere in the middle of the building, more to the west than to east. I smoked my cigarette pretty far, and I then decided to return to my working station. I snuffed my cigarette out on the side of a row of files. I actually put the hot end of the cigarette in a screw hole on what would be a corner leg or brace of the file shelves. I think I broke the hot end off in the hole, and then threw the cigarette butt to the floor. I looked down at the cigarette butt and didn't see no red, and I thought it was out. I then returned to the third floor and started cleaning on the escalators again. I was alone again, except for [redacted] who was working nearby.

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"At about 12:10 a.m., I went down to the first floor, by the lobby on the east end of the building to wait for time to go home at 12:30 p.m. Some other custodial employees were there too, and we talked for awhile. I then signed out at about 12:30 a.m. on July 12, 1973, and was walking up the escalators which were turned off at that time. I went to the west entrance where my car was parked, and I noticed fire trucks outside. I smelled smoke as I had gone down the corridor, and it occurred to me that maybe I had started a fire, that the cigarette might not have been out. The first thing I said to myself was "That was my cigarette that I thought I had put out". I was frightened and didn't know what to do so I did nothing. It has been on my mind and I have been worried about the fire, because I did not intend for it to happen. I didn't mean for to do it on purpose. I didn't do it deliberately.

"I told some people that I threw matches in the files, but I was only running off at the mouth. I lit just one match for my cigarette and I shook it out and threw it down. I don't know where it landed, but I think it landed on the floor.

"I have read the above statement consisting of this and four other pages and it is true.

"/s/ [redacted]

Witness:

/s/ [redacted] Special Agent, FBI, St.
Louis, Mo., 10/12/73

/s/ [redacted] Special Agent, FBI, SLMO,
10/12/73"

[redacted] is described through observation and interview as follows:

Name:	[redacted]
Race:	Negro
Sex:	Male
Date of birth:	[redacted]
Place of birth:	St. Louis, Missouri
Height:	5'11"
Weight:	224½ pounds
Hair:	Black
Eyes:	Brown
Complexion:	Medium
Scars or marks:	None
Characteristics:	[redacted]
Father:	[redacted]
Sister:	[redacted]

Aunt:

Missouri

Education:

Home telephone:

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