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ORGANIZATION of CHINESE AMERICANS

EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF CHINESE IN THE
2025 Eye Street, N.W. * Suite 928 * Washington, D.C. 20006

Immediate Release,
April 15, 1983

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Organization of Chinese
American Women (OCAW)

CHINESE AMERICANS APPALLED AT COURT RULING

Washington, D.C. -- The Organization of Chinese Americans has expressed shock at a recent court ruling in Wayne Michigan which let two men on probation for the deliberate beating death of a Chinese American.

"Your ruling seems to place so little weight on human life," said Laura Chin, Executive Director, of OCA, in a letter to Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Charles Kaufman.

Judge Kaufman gave two men probation and fined them \$3,000 each in the beating death of Vincent Chin, a 27-year Chinese American engineer. Chin was beaten to death with a baseball bat by two men who had insulted him earlier. According to published accounts, the two men, Ronald Ebans and Michael Nitz, waited for Chin outside a club and chased him for several blocks before catching him. As one of the men held him down, the other clubbed Vincent Chin to death.

"Chinese Americans across the country are extremely disturbed by your decision. Plea bargaining in this case was no bargain for justice," OCA told Judge Kaufman.

"We believe that your decision in the Vincent Chin case is wrong and must be changed."

OCA has urged that the judge modify his sentence and order the two men imprisoned for "an appropriate period," and that they also be compelled to do 200 hours each of community work specifically for the Chinese American community.

In urging the change in sentence, OCA told Judge Kaufman, "We are not seeking vengeance, but basic justice for the taking of a human life."

OCA is a national, nonprofit educational organization of concerned Chinese Americans. OCA is committed to the upholding the Constitution of the United States, securing social justice, and equal treatment of Chinese Americans.

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ORGANIZATION of CHINESE AMERICANS, inc.

EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF CHINESE IN THE UNITED STATES
2025 Eye Street, N.W. ☆ Suite 928 ☆ Washington, D.C. 20006 ☆ (202) 223-5500

April 12, 198

PRESIDENT:
Robert Wu

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Hayden Lee
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TREASURER:
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SECRETARY:
Ruth Sing Wong

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:
Laura Chin

The Honorable Charles Kaufman
Third Judicial Circuit Court
601 City County Building
Detroit, MI 48226

Dear Judge Kaufman:

The Organization of Chinese Americans is shocked at your decision to let two men on probation for the deliberate beating death of Vincent Chin.

Vincent Chin, a 27 year old engineer, and soon to be married, was beaten to death with a baseball bat by two men, [redacted] who had insulted him in a club. According to published accounts, [redacted] were asked to leave the club, and then waited outside for Chin. They chased him for several blocks. Then, while [redacted] held Chin down, [redacted] clubbed Vincent Chin to death.

Your ruling seems to place so little weight on human life.

Chinese Americans across the country are extremely disturbed by your decision. Plea bargaining in this case was no bargain for justice.

We strongly urge you to modify your sentence and order the two men, [redacted] to serve an appropriate period of imprisonment. We would also urge that these two men each do 200 hours of community service to the Chinese American community in Michigan for a period of 1 year after their release from prison.

The Organization of Chinese Americans is a national, nonprofit educational and civic organization, with 26 chapters in 20 States and more than 3,000 members. The Association of Chinese Americans (ACA) is the Michigan chapter of OCA.

We are committed to upholding the Constitution and for the equal and fair treatment of Chinese Americans.

We believe that your decision in the Vincent Chin case is wrong and must be changed. We are not seeking vengeance, but basic justice for the taking of a human life.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

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- Organization of Chinese American Women (OCAW)



Association of Chinese Americans

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[Redacted]

April 6, 1983

[Redacted] Executive Director
Organization of Chinese Americans, Inc.
2025 Eye Street N.W.
Suite 926
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear [Redacted]

The Chinese community here in Detroit are outraged over the recent court decision on two white Americans for the murder of Vincent Chin. Vincent was salvagely beaten to death with a baseball bat. Plea bargain had changed the original charge from 2nd degree murder to manslaughter. The two men pleaded guilty to avoid a trial. They were sentenced to three years probation and a fine of \$3000.00 each without a jail term. Articles on the case including a letter written by ACA [Redacted] to the Detroit News are enclosed for your perusal. We are wondering if the civil right of the decease was violated. What OCA could do on the national level? We would like to have national visibilty of the case. For the restitution of the decease family, a civil suit had been filed against the two men. We are presently pursuing the possibility of reversing the sentence from probation to perhaps a jail term. We realize it would be difficult.

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Get money

We would appreciate if you would notify this matter to the members of the Executive Board. We welcome your suggestion. For further information, please contact our [Redacted] at [Redacted] (office) or [Redacted] (home) or myself at [Redacted] (office) or [Redacted] (home).

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b7C

Thanking you for your immediate attention.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

b6
b7C

*OCA Legal Defense Fund:
149 W. Time
Detroit Free Press
Detroit
\$100*

Detroit Chapter of The Organization of Chinese Americans

3/18/83

2 men charged in '82 slaying get probation

By JOYCE WALKER-TYSON
Free Press Staff Writer

Two men charged with beating a man to death two days before he was to be married have been sentenced to probation by a Wayne County Circuit Court judge, who said the dead man threw the first punch.

Ronald Ebens, 43, and Ebens' step-son, Michael Nitz, 23, both of East Detroit, had pleaded guilty to manslaughter after first being charged with second-degree murder in the beating of Vincent Chin, 27, Chin, of Oak Park, who died four days later at Henry Ford Hospital.

Judge Charles Kaufman sentenced the men to three years' probation and a \$3,000 fine on Wednesday.

WITNESSES TOLD POLICE that Chin, a draftsman at an Oak Park engineering firm, had gone into the Fancy Pants Tavern on Woodward in Highland Park with three friends to celebrate Chin's upcoming marriage to Vickie Wong.

Witnesses said a scuffle broke out after Ebens and Nitz said something offensive. A tavern employe asked them to leave.

According to police reports, the fight continued outside. Police said Ebens got a baseball bat out of his car, then chased Chin to the corner of Woodward and Davison where he beat him with the bat.

Judge Kaufman, who heard no testimony when the men pleaded guilty, said court documents showed Chin started the confrontation in the bar.

"THE ONLY REPORT I saw indicated that Mr. Chin threw the first punch," Kaufman said. "While this certainly wasn't a case of self-defense, it was the continuation of a fight that Mr. Chin apparently started. Now Mr. Ebens and Mr. Nitz went beyond what was necessary for self-defense. If it had been a case of self-defense, they wouldn't be guilty of anything."

Kaufman said his decision to sentence Ebens and Nitz to probation stemmed from their lack of a previous criminal record and their stability in the community.

"We're talking here about a man who's held down a responsible job with the same company for 17 or 18 years and his son who is employed and is a part-time student," Kaufman said. "These men are not going to go out and harm somebody else. I just didn't think that putting them in prison would do any good for them or for society."

"You don't make the punishment fit the crime; you make the punishment fit the criminal."

Chinese Americans

Are Outraged

On behalf of the membership of the Association of Chinese Americans, and members of the Detroit Asian-American community at large, I'd like to express our outrage at the light sentencing of Messrs. Ebens and Nitz for the murder of Vincent Chin. It is a travesty of justice and shows a cavalier disregard for the loss of the life of a member of our community.

We quarrel with Judge Kaufman's notion that the punishment should fit the criminal, rather than the crime, because such a notion fails to deter violent conduct by those who have previously had good records.

By the light fine and probation sentence for the taking of a human life, we may have adopted a "one free bite" rule for first-time offenders, much the same as in dog-bite cases. Worse yet, we have adopted a different standard of justice for family persons or steadily employed persons.

And assuredly, each of us in the Asian-American community have a little less faith in the idea that "justice shall prevail."

R. HWANG,
Executive Board,
Association of Chinese
Americans, Westland

Lansing State Journal

LANSING, MICHIGAN

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MARCH 19, 1983. ★ A GANNETT NEWSPAPER

Saturday Edition

2 get probation in fatal beating

DETROIT (AP) — Two men who beat a young Chinese man to death with a baseball bat were fined and placed on probation because the judge "didn't think putting them in prison would do any good for them or society."

In sentencing the two, who had pleaded guilty to manslaughter, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Charles Kaufman said the victim had thrown the first punch in the fight that led to his death.

Kaufman said the defendants "weren't the kind of people you send to jail."

WITNESSES TOLD police the fight started after the two men made an unspecified offensive remark to the victim, Vincent Chin, 27, of Oak Park. He was to be married in two days.

"You can kill a dog and get 30 days in jail, 90 days for a traffic ticket," said Henry Yee, a restaurant owner in the city's Chinatown area. "This was premeditated. . . . The Chinese community, especially the younger generation, want to see justice done."

Ronald Ebens, 43, an auto plant foreman, and Ebens' step-son, Michael Nitz, 23, had originally been

charged with second-degree murder, which carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. They were allowed in a plea-bargaining agreement to plead guilty to the lesser charge of manslaughter and avoid a trial.

EBENS AND NITZ faced up to 15 years in prison, but Kaufman sentenced each to three years' probation and a \$3,000 fine, saying, "You don't make the punishment fit the crime; you make the punishment fit the criminal."

Chin, a draftsman, went into the Fancy Pants Tavern in Highland

Park on June 19 with three friends to celebrate his upcoming marriage, witnesses told police. The two men said something offensive to Chin, and Nitz was hit on the head in the ensuing scuffle.

A tavern employee asked the men to leave, and the fight continued outside, according to police reports. Later that night, when the two men saw Chin at a fast-food restaurant, Ebens got a baseball bat out of his car, chased Chin to a street corner and beat him with the bat. Chin died four days later.

KAUFMAN HEARD no testi-

mony when the men pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

"We're talking here about a man who's held down a responsible job with the same company for 17 or 18 years and his son, who is employed and a part-time student," Kaufman said. "These men are not going to go out and harm somebody else. I just didn't think that putting them in prison would do any good for them or for society."

"The only report I saw indicated that Mr. Chin threw the first punch," the judge said. "While this certainly wasn't a case of self-defense, it was the continuation of a fight that Mr. Chin apparently started."

The judge said his decision to sentence the two to probation also stemmed from their lack of a previous criminal record.

Vikki Wong, Chin's fiancée, said she didn't agree with the judge's reasoning.

"How can you commit murder and get away with nothing?" Wong said. "I have never committed a crime in my life. Does that mean I could kill and get away with it?"

from our readers

Detroit Free Press 4/6/83

Probation is an injustice for two killers

I AM TOTALLY enraged over the article, "2 men charged in '82 slaying get probation" (Free Press, March 18). I do not understand how a Wayne County Circuit Court judge can let two killers out on three years' probation and a \$3,000 fine for each.

So what if the defendants did not have a previous criminal record? Who cares if they had stability in the community? What difference does it make who started the fight or where the fight took place? Two men beat a weaponless man to death with a baseball bat.

In the preamble of the Constitution, it is written, "We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice . . ." But after seeing what Judge Charles Kaufman calls justice, I do not believe that he knows the preamble. If he does, he is having a hard time showing it.

EUNICE PARHAM
Ann Arbor

JUDGE KAUFMAN'S admission of only reading one report — one that stated Vincent Chin threw the first punch — and not hearing any testimony when the men pleaded guilty is absolutely appalling (Free Press, March 18). He offhandedly stated that Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz "went beyond what was necessary for self-defense."

How many people and in what manner must they be killed before Kaufman would give a sentence that is not a mockery? What gives him the assurance that Ebens and Nitz will not "go out and harm somebody else"? I sincerely hope the Chinese community will band together and appeal this decision.

JOANNA COHEN
Mt. Clemens

BRAVO to Nickle McWhirter for her March 25 column, "A lesson — and a license — that kids should never get."

Judge Kaufman should be permanently dis-



Judge Charles Kaufman

barred. God help us all if judges continue to give slayers and rapists slaps on the wrist and then turn them loose on the public.

R. PINKSTON
Columbiaville

THANK YOU, Nickle McWhirter, for translating our thoughts and feelings concerning the killing of Vincent Chin and Judge Kaufman's sentence of three years' probation and a fine of \$3,000 each for Ebens and Nitz. Like you, we abhor both the crime and the punishment.

Kaufman's punishment makes it seem as though it's a minor offense to kill a human being, as long as the killer is a "responsible worker."

Our further concern is whether Judge Kaufman's value system is indicative of his own bigotry or reflects a discounting attitude toward minorities that persists in our society.

JACQUELINE SAITO
GEORGE SAITO
Novi

Kaufman's punishment makes it seem as though it's a minor offense to kill a human being, as long as the killer is a "responsible worker."

I APPLAUD with deep sadness Nickle McWhirter's March 25 column on Judge Charles Kaufman's sentencing Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz to a small fine and three years' probation for beating a young Chinese engineer to death with a baseball bat.

Probation for killing a human being with a baseball bat? Either Judge Kaufman could not comprehend the great injustice he inflicted or he was simply biased. He is a disgrace to the people of Wayne County and is not fit for the job.

H. WU
President
Detroit Chinese Engineers Association
Warren

DETROIT FREE PRESS
LETTERS CON'T.

4/6/83

IN RESPONSE to your March 18 article about Judge Kaufman's sentencing Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz to probation and fines for the bludgeoning death of Vincent Chin: Your readers should be made aware that they have the right and ability to voice their feelings and call for an investigation by the Judicial Tenure Commission at 910 Lafayette Bldg., 144 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, 48226.

From the reports of the incident and Judge Kaufman's sentencing, there are several possible questions that one might ask. Has Judge Kaufman really granted those of us, — presumably Caucasians — who have clean records and aren't "the kind of people you send to jail" the right to bludgeon to death a Chinese? If this is de facto open season on Chinese, can we honestly expect that our already overworked and understaffed DNR will have the ability to enforce reasonable bag limits?

I hope that Chin's estate has more success in the civil courts than justice has in Kaufman's criminal court.

THOMAS E. BROWN
Traverse City

I AM WRITING to express the outrage and disbelief I felt after reading the March 18 article, "2 men charged in '82 slaying get probation." The incident was a tragic one and I was appalled to read that the two men responsible for the slaying were merely fined and released on probation.

In this instance, justice has most certainly not been served. Vincent Chin was the victim of a malicious act. His assailants deserve to pay the price for committing such an act, regardless of any previous established record of "moral integrity."

DAWN JOHNSTON
Ann Arbor

EVERY SO OFTEN our imperfect legal system comes up with some decision that is so outrageous, so astonishing in its ineptness, that it seems as though the very soul of fair play has been violated.

The recent decision by Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman regarding the beating death of Vincent Chin by Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz is such a decision.

My heart goes out to the family and friends of Mr. Chin and to the Oriental community in this city. Judge Kaufman has done a horrible and unforgivable disservice to the legal profession and to our community of people.

TERRY IBBOTSON
Traverse City

the war

DETROIT FREE PRESS

3/25/83



Nickie
McWhirter

A lesson — and a license — that kids should never get

After exchanging insults and scuffling with two strangers in a Highland Park Bar last June 19, Vincent Chin was pursued by the men outside the bar, caught and brutally beaten with a baseball bat. He died from his injuries four days later, in Henry Ford Hospital. Chin was 27 years old.

Last week his attackers, originally charged with second-degree murder, were permitted to plead guilty to the reduced charge of manslaughter. They were sentenced by Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman. Ronald Ebens, 43, and Ebens' stepson, Michael Nitz, 23, both of East Detroit, were ordered to pay fines of \$3,000 each and serve three years' probation.

Judge Kaufman, who heard no witness testimony and admitted he had seen only one written report of the incident — which may or may not have contained all of the pertinent information, accurately compiled — explained his lenient sentence:

"We're talking here about a man (Ebens) who's held down a responsible job with the same company for 17 or 18 years and his son (Nitz) who is employed and is a part-time student. These men are not going to go out and harm somebody else. I just didn't think that putting them in prison would do any good for them or for society."

A wrong to society

With due respect for your high office, your Honor, you are quite mistaken. By not putting these admitted manslaughterers in prison you have done terrible wrong to society, ~~to~~ respect society has for your office and to the public perception of justice and fair play.

Beyond that, you have grossly insulted the memory of Vincent Chin, an innocent man wrongly slain. By extension you have insulted his family and friends. You have heightened the grief of a young woman named Vickie Wong, who was to become Chin's bride just two days after this attack, and the grief of her family and friends.

You have offended the entire Oriental community by seeming to put so little value on the life of one of its members. You have raised the ugly ghost of racism, suggesting in explanation of your sentence that the lives of the killers are of great and continuing value to society, implying they are of greater value than the life of the slain victim, upon which you put a price of \$6,000, total. How gross and ostentatious of you; how callous and, yes, unjust.

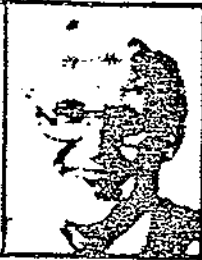
No act of self-defense

You disregard the known facts — that Chin was unarmed and outnumbered by his attackers, that the attackers had verbally and physically provoked Chin inside the bar and they, not Chin, had been told by a bartender to leave as troublemakers, that they waited their chance outside the bar to strike, and that when they struck they used a bludgeon, a weapon, applied with what turned out to be lethal force.

If all the above was not a crime deserving punishment beyond the payment of a few dollars into the coffers of the state, what was it? It was no act of self-defense. It was a willful act of mayhem which resulted in the death of an innocent person. It deserves punishment, and for reasons other than simple retribution.

What are we to tell our children now? In Wayne County it is OK to kill a stranger on sight, without reason beyond having gotten a little liquored up and aggressive. In Wayne County having a job and a good work record, or being a student, is a license to kill, at least once. In Wayne County the value of a life wrongly taken in anger is \$3,000 per person, or less than the cost of a used car. These are the lessons you have taught our children, Judge Kaufman. They stink.

Pete
Waldmeir



3/23/83

2 judges let the punishment fit the criminals

¹ Like many of you, I frequently wonder whether some of our elected officials are stupid, incompetent, isolated from reality or a little bit of all those things. Events of recent days come to mind.

Charles Kaufman has served on the Wayne County Circuit bench for nearly 20 years; Mike Talbot is in his first term as a judge of Recorder's Court.

In separate cases last week, Kaufman was called upon to pass sentence on two men who had beat another man to death with a baseball bat and Talbot was faced with the relatively simple task of punishing a fellow who had kicked a police car while being arrested for disorderly conduct.

THE ENSUING decisions have many court-watchers banging their ears in disbelief.

The homicide case had all sorts of twists.

The two assailants, Ronald Ebens, 43, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 23, both of East Detroit, had been customers in a Highland Park tavern when they got into a beef with a draftsman from Oak Park named Vincent Chin, 27, who was celebrating his upcoming marriage.

The argument simmered and Nitz got pushed around. Later that evening, when the paths of the three crossed again, Nitz got a baseball bat out of his car and beat Chin so viciously that he died four days later in Ford Hospital.

Ebens and Nitz were charged with second-degree

² murder, but it took seven months to get them to court. When they finally got to Judge Kaufman, however, the charge had been reduced to manslaughter, a crime punishable by 15 years in jail.

THEY PLEADED guilty to avoid a trial and Kaufman handed each man a stiff fine and three years' probation.

Probation and a fine? For killing a guy with a baseball bat?

"These aren't the kind of people you send to jail," Kaufman told reporters. He added that the police investigation indicated that Chin started the fracas, that Ebens and Nitz "did not intend to kill" Chin and that the pair "wouldn't have gone after him if they hadn't seen him later."

Added Kaufman, observing that, in his judgment at least, Ebens and Nitz are not going to go out and harm anybody else: "You don't make the punishment fit the crime, you make it fit the criminal."

And all this time I have been wondering whether a jurist would ever come forward to replace former Wayne Circuit Judge Peter Spivak, who once sentenced a convicted dooper to probation because, Spivak said, the specter of going to jail if he went wrong again was much stiffer punishment than actually being locked up.

NOW, CONTRAST Judge Talbot's handling of

³ the case of Victor Ockleberry, 29, who was hauled before him on a charge of vicious destruction of property, to wit: Kicking a police car.

Apparently, Talbot, too, subscribes to the theory that the punishment should fit the criminal and not the crime.

Ockleberry, you see, is a guard at the state's Huron Valley men's prison. But, alas, somebody apparently goofed when he was hired there because he has been on parole since 1978 after a conviction for second-degree murder in the 1972 shooting of a Detroit police officer.

⁴ How he got the prison guard job — and what he's doing out of the can on the murder charge — have nothing to do with his present beef. But Talbot weighed all the factors and decided that old car-kicker Ockleberry is a threat to his fellow citizens and sentenced him to one year in the Detroit House of Correction, wondering aloud "what it would look like" if he gave him probation.

I have a bit of advice for Ockleberry. The next time he feels the urge to whack out a police car, perhaps the law would go easier on him if he did it with a baseball bat.



Angry Detroit Citizens Form New Group for Justice

DETROIT — Outraged citizen's groups met last Thursday in an effort to coordinate their efforts to address the issue raised by the baseball-bat killing of Detroit engineer Vincent Chin. At that meeting, a new group formed. It carries the name "American Citizens for Justice."

The group will coordinate a letter-writing and phone calling campaign directed at Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman, who ruled that the two slayers of the young immigrant were not the types who should go to jail. He cited their steady employment as a basis for his judgment. Instead of jail terms, he fined them and placed them on probation. (E/W 3/29/83).

APPEAL

The campaign organizers have also targeted the county prosecutor's office as a recipient of its letters and calls. The group seeks an appeal of the sentencing and a strengthening of the terms of probation of Chin's two killers.

In related actions, it is also considering a potential recall effort against Kaufman, an elected official. And attorneys for Chin's mother recently filed a six million dollar law suit against the two men for wrongful death.

According to one person present, about 80 persons representing about 20 different groups attended the meeting. Widespread support for the issue has come from such diverse groups as the Chinese Engineering Association and the Automobile Engineering Group; the Greater Detroit Taiwanese Association, the

Detroit Buddhist Church and the Chinese Community Church; the Chinese-American Educational and Cultural Center; the Chinese-American School and the Chinese Language School; the Organization of Chinese American Women and the Association of Chinese Americans.

Support has also come from other minority communities and other Detroit groups, including the Korean Society of Metro Detroit, the Filipino Coordinating Committee, the Japanese American Citizens League, the Metro Detroit Alliance Church and University of Michigan students.

The group has established a Vincent Chin fund. Checks should be made payable to ACA, c/o Kin Yee, 17726 Denby Ave., Detroit, Michigan 48240. Designate on the notation line that the check is for the "Vincent Chin Fund."

Letters to Judge Charles Kaufman and County Prosecutor William Cahalan should be addressed to the City-County Bldg., Jefferson Ave., Detroit, Michigan 48226. □



Court Ruling Angers Michigan Asians

By HELEN ZIA

DETROIT, Michigan — Last week's court decision in Detroit that two men who clubbed a Chinese American man to death each receive sentences of probation and \$3000 fines has area Chinese in an uproar.

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Charles Kaufman accepted the plea bargaining agreement of Ronald Ebens, 42, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 23, both from the predominantly white suburb of East Detroit.

MANSLAUGHTER

The two, charged with second degree murder, pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of manslaughter. The maximum sentence for manslaughter is 15 years in prison.

On June 19, 1982, Vincent Chin, an immigrant from Hong Kong, and

three friends were celebrating Chin's upcoming wedding at a club in Detroit's Highland Park section when insults were exchanged with the two men and a scuffle broke out.

After Ebens and Nitz were expelled from the club, they waited in their car for about 20 minutes. When Chin came out of the club, they chased him for several blocks with baseball bats before catching him.

As Nitz held Chin down, Ebens beat him several times about the head and body. Chin, then 27, died four days later — two days before he was to be married.

PUNCH

In pronouncing the light sentences, Kaufman explained that

told the police that the fight began when Ebens and Nitz said something which offended Chin, an Oak Park engineer.

According to local news reports, Kaufman declared that his decision to sentence Ebens and Nitz to only probation stemmed from their lack of previous criminal record and their stability in the community.

"We're talking here about a man who's held down a responsible job for 17 or 18 years and his son is employed and is a part-time student," Kaufman pointed out. "You don't make the punishment fit the crime; you make the punishment fit the criminal."

Kaufman's leniency in this case has shocked people in Detroit, which is predominantly black and where sensitivity to racial issues is high. Detroit's small Chinese community has mobilized in response to the light sentences given the two slayers.

DENOUNCE

"Chinese from all over Michigan are calling to denounce the sentence and to find out what they can do," reported On Leong Association president Ken Yee. "We are pursuing every legal and political channel available to us."

About 4 million people live in the metro Detroit area, one-fourth are minorities. Of the area's 33,000 Asians, there are 6,400 Chinese.

According to Yee, a restaurant owner, the case has been difficult for the community to follow because of the many postponements and changes in court location to distant sites in Wayne County.

One of the judges said that the charge should have been first degree murder because the attack was clearly premeditated. Unfortunately, lamented Yee, "he was not the judge hearing the case."

TOO GOOD

Exclaimed Yee, "People are sent to jail for traffic violations. This judge thinks the killers are too good to go to jail, but we won't stop our efforts until justice is done for Vincent's family and the civil rights of Chinese are protected."

A committee has formed to organize protest efforts and to raise funds. Joining the friends and family of Vincent Chin, are business associations, Chinese churches, the Association of Chinese Americans, the Chinese Welfare Council, and other concerned people.

Support for the group's aims has come from all over the Detroit area, including from other Asian organizations like the Japanese American Citizen's League, and from local Black leaders.

At the group's first meeting, held Monday, March 21, the angry group of about 30 persons expressed their anger at Judge Kaufman's actions and worked out strategies to obtain the justice which they felt was due, but which had been denied.

SANCTION

After what the group itself described as a "spirited and often emotional evening," the members unanimously agreed: "justice had not been served and that Chin's killers not only remained free, but also that their crime had received the

The members vowed to fight any suggestions arising from Kaufman's ruling that it was now "open season" on Chinese — provided the attackers were white and held steady jobs.

In addition to planning fundraising activities to help the young man's family and to defray legal fees, the group also seeks a meeting with the judge to allow him to clarify his reasoning in pronouncing such a light sentence, and to express in person the dissatisfaction of the Chinese community.

The group was able to schedule a meeting with the judge for late last week. Though the meeting had been confirmed with his office, when community representatives appeared for their appointment, they were told the judge had just gone on vacation. The meeting was postponed. □

All Asian Americans Upset

Detroit, Michigan. When you think of the place, automobiles come first to mind, and then, maybe the Detroit Pistons basketball team. Another side of the city also comes to mind, though. One filled with visions of racially-linked violence such as riots and senseless killings. Especially senseless killings.

A little while ago, a judge in that area found that because two white men were steadily employed family men, they were not suitable for imprisonment. He made his finding despite the fact that these same two men waited 20 minutes in their car one night for a Chinese American engineer with whom they had had an earlier scuffle. They waited with baseball bats.

When the engineer emerged from the building, these same two men (unsuitable for prison) chased him for several blocks. While one man held him down, the other clubbed him to death.

Is the life of the engineer any less valuable? He, too, was steadily employed. And while he did not yet have a family of his own, he had been planning to get married just a few days later. His fiancée at that time says he was her whole life.

The two killers were given a small fine and probation. They could've been charged with murder, but manslaughter was their charge. They could've been imprisoned for a few years, but probation was their punishment.

East/West does not necessarily advocate long sentences, or condone the conditions of jails. What we do advocate for is justice and fairness. Maybe the Michigan court has not learned that people of all colors and ethnicities, including Asian Americans, value life as much as he feels whites do. Maybe it is time he learned.

With news clippings on the killing being sent to us from all over the country by our readers, we know this death has caused much anger and concern. One reader asked, "Why did this happen? What can be done?"

The Asian American community in Michigan, especially those members of Chinese descent, have begun efforts to bring about a more just solution to the senseless killing.

For those of you who are involved in those efforts, we want you to know that you are not alone. As the oldest and largest bilingual English/Chinese newspaper in the US, we pledge to do what we can to support and help you in this time of distress for your community.

We also urge our readers to send letters of concern to the Michigan State Bar Association — about the killing, about the judge, about the sentence, about your anger. It is still not too late to make the judge understand the error of his ways. □



ORGANIZATION of CHINESE AMERICANS, inc.

EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF CHINESE IN THE UNITED STATES
2025 Eye Street, N.W. * Suite 926 * Washington, D.C. 20006 * (202) 223-5500

April 13, 1983

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Angela Yuan
Laura Lum

Midwestern Regional Office
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
230 S. Dearborn St., 32nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60604

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 - Washington, DC
 - Westchester, NY
 - Wisconsin

Organization of Chinese American Women (OCAW)

Dear Mr. Roberts:

I have enclosed some information on a murder of a Chinese American engineer in Detroit, Michigan. Our chapter in Michigan brought the case to our attention last week.

The Organization of Chinese Americans would like to request your assistance and that of the Michigan State Advisory Committee to look into the matter.

What has outraged the Asian American and minority community in Detroit is that the killers of Vincent Chin were put on 3 years' probation and fined \$3,000 each for the deliberate beating death of this young Chinese American.

Very briefly, Vincent Chin, a 27-year old engineer, and soon to be married, was beaten to death with a baseball bat by two men who had insulted him in a club. The two men, [redacted] and his [redacted] were asked to leave the club. According to published accounts, the two men waited outside the club for Chin, and proceeded to chase him for several blocks. Then, while [redacted] held Chin down, [redacted] clubbed Vincent Chin to death.

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Charles Kaufman, who has been quoted as saying that he made the punishment fit the criminal, saw fit only to put them on probation and fined them.

The Chinese American and Asian American community in Michigan and now across the country are extremely disturbed by this decision. The plea bargaining was no bargain for justice, and the judge seems to have placed little weight on human life.

I have enclosed the news articles that I have collected so far. I am expecting shortly from the chapter a copy of an amicus brief filed this week by a coalition of groups, which will list the chronology of events and the facts in the case. As soon as I receive them, I will pass them on to your office.

美華協會

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Page 2. Clark Roberts
U.S. Commission on Civil Rights
April 13, 1983

The Organization of Chinese Americans is a national, nonprofit organization of concerned Chinese Americans. We have 3,000 members and chapters in 20 States, including Michigan and Illinois.

OCA is requesting your assistance and any advice from your office and from the Michigan State Advisory Committee. As you can see from the materials, the estate of Vincent Chin has filed a civil suit against the two men.

Our community across the country are deeply shocked by the judge's ruling, and any assistance from your office would be appreciated.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at our Washington office.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,





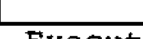


Executive Director

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P.S. It was good speaking with you the other day.

Enclosures

cc:  Pres., Association
of Chinese Americans
 Esq.
 Chair, Amer. Citizens for Justice

 National President, OCA
Executive Council, OCA
John Conyers, First Cong. District, Michigan
George W. Crockett, Jr., Thirteenth Cong. District
Senator Carl Levin
Senator Donald W. Riegle

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Date 11/18/86

Title and Character of Case

VINCENT CHIN -
VICTIM (DECEASED)
CR (A)
(OO: DETROIT)

b6
b7C

Date Property Acquired

11/18/86

Source From Which Property Acquired

HENRY FORD HOSPITAL

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit

Bulky Room

Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same

Evidence

b6
b7C

To Be Returned

Yes No

See Serial

Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit

SSRA

Agent Assigned Case

SA

Yes No Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Description of Property or Exhibit

Medical records of VINCENT CHIN;
X-rays of VINCENT CHIN

DESTROYED
8-4-87
PER AUSA

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only

Evidence Bag Seal # _____

Signature of Two
Special Agents
Verifying and Sealing
Bag Contents

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

Field File # 44A-2408

OO: DETROIT

ORIGINAL (FILE COPY)

44A-2408-1B8

BLOCK STAMP

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED *Jul* FILED *Jul*

NOV 19 1986

FBI - DETROIT

Date 3/12/87

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Title and Character of Case
[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN - VICTIM (DECEASED)
CR(A)
OO-DE

Date Property Acquired 3/9/87 Source From Which Property Acquired HILLERICH + BRADSBY Co.

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit BULKY Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same EVIDENCE

To Be Returned See Serial Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit Agent Assigned Case
 Yes No
 Yes No Grand Jury Material SA [Redacted] SA [Redacted] Rule 6(e), Federal Procedure.

b6
b7C

Description of Property or Exhibit
ONE LOUISVILLE SLUGGER BASEBALL BAT

DESTROYED - 84-87
PER AUSA

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only
Evidence Bag Seal # _____ Signature of Two Special Agents Verifying and Sealing Bag Contents _____

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

Field File # 44A-2408
OO: DETROIT

ORIGINAL (FILE COPY)

44A-2408-1B7
BLOCK STAMP
SEARCHED [initials] INDEXED [initials]
SERIALIZED [initials] FILED [initials]
MAR 1 1987
FBI - DETROIT

Date 7/2/84

Title and Character of Case

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)
OO: DETROIT

b6
b7C

Date Property Acquired 6/29/84 Source From Which Property Acquired U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit BULKY Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same EVIDENCE

To Be Returned See Serial Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit Agent Assigned Case
 Yes No SA [Redacted] SA [Redacted]

b6
b7C

Yes No Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Description of Property or Exhibit

- (9) ENLARGED PHOTOGRAPHS OF CRIME SCENE
- (1) ENLARGED MAP OF HIGHLAND PARK, MICHIGAN
- (1) ENLARGED DRAWING OF INSIDE OF FANCY PANTS LOUNGE
- (1) PHOTOGRAPH OF THE BANK OF THE COMMONWEALTH LOCATED AT WOODWARD AND WAVERLY
- (1) PHOTOGRAPH OF WOODWARD AVENUE LOOKING SOUTH
- (1) COPY OF MEDICAL RECORDS REGARDING VINCENT CHIN
- (1) COPY OF STIPULATION REGARDING CARE AND CUSTODY OF A BASEBALL BAT

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only

Evidence Bag Seal # _____

Signature of Two
Special Agents
Verifying and Sealing
Bag Contents _____

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

Field File # 44A-2408

OO: DETROIT

ORIGINAL (FILE COPY)

BLOCK STAMP
44 A2408-1B6

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 7 1984	
FBI - DETROIT	

[Signature]

Date
7/2/84

Title and Character of Case

[Redacted]

PAGE 2

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VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)
OO: DETROIT

Date Property Acquired | Source From Which Property Acquired

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit | Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same

To Be Returned | See Serial | Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit | Agent Assigned Case

Yes No

Yes No Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Description of Property or Exhibit

(1) COPY OF DEATH CERTIFICATE OF VINCENT CHIN

ORIGINAL WITNESS STATEMENT SIGNED BY [Redacted] DATED 6/19/82

(1) COPY OF EMS REPORT

(1) COLOR PHOTOGRAPH OF VINCENT CHIN

(1) PHOTOGRAPH OF [Redacted]

b6
b7c

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only

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Signature of Two
Special Agents
Verifying and Sealing
Bag Contents

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

BLOCK STAMP

Field File # 44A-2408

OO: DETROIT

ORIGINAL (FILE COPY)

[Empty Block Stamp Area]

Date 5/22/84

[Redacted]

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Vincent Chin (deceased) - Victim
CR (A)

Date Property Acquired

5/18/84

[Redacted]

DET. HIGHLAND PARK PD
of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same

Location of Property or Bulky

BULKY

EVIDENCE

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To Be Returned
 Yes No

See Serial

Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit

Agent Assigned Case

Yes No

Grand Jury Material

SA

SA

Rule 6(e), Fed

Description of Property or Exhibit

copy of STATEMENT OBTAINED FROM
[Redacted] ON 6/19/82

copy of HIGHLAND PARK POLICE DEPT
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FROM ISSUED BY
[Redacted] ON 6/20/82.

b6
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8-3-87
PER AUSA

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Signature of Two
Special Agents
Verifying and Sealing
Bag Contents

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

Field File # 44A-2408

OO: DETROIT

ORIGINAL (FILE COPY)

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<u>44A2408-1345</u>	
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 23 1984	
FBI - DETROIT	

Date 1/24/84

Title
[Redacted]

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VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)

Date Property Acquired 1/23/84 Source From Which Property Acquired SPECIAL PROJECTS UNIT HQ

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit Bulky Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same Evidence

b6
b7C

To Be Returned See Serial Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit Agent Assigned Case
 Yes No
 Yes No Grand Jury Material Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Fed

Description of Property or Exhibit

2-40" x 60" TRIAL CHARTS
15- 30" x 40" COLOR PHOTOS OF
CRIME SCENE.
MAGNETIC GRAPHICS FOR TRIAL AIDS
6 of 15 photos not used
destroyed &
all have
been transferred
to 1B6

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only
Evidence Bag Seal # _____ Signature of Two Special Agents Verifying and Sealing Bag Contents _____

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

Field File # 44A-2408
OO: DETROIT

BLOCK STAMP
44A2408-1B4
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JAN 24 1984
FBI-DETROIT

ORIGINAL (FILE COPY)

Date 9/7/83

Title and Character of Case

[Redacted] ET AL;
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)
OO: DETROIT

b6
b7C

Date Property Acquired 9/6/83 Source From Which Property Acquired [Redacted] HIGHLAND PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit BULKY Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same EVIDENCE

b6
b7C

To Be Returned See Serial Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit Agent Assigned Case
 Yes No SA [Redacted] SA [Redacted]

Yes No Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Description of Property or Exhibit

ONE BASEBALL BAT

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only
Evidence Bag Seal # _____ Signature of Two Special Agents Verifying and Sealing Bag Contents _____

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

Field File # DE 44A-2408

OO: DETROIT

ORIGINAL (FILE COPY)

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44A-2408-1B 3
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
SEP 11 1983
FBI - DETROIT

Date 5/13/83

Title and Character of Case

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)
OO: DETROIT

b6
b7C

Date Property Acquired 5/3/83
Source From Which Property Acquired

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit BULKY
Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same EVIDENCE

b6
b7C

To Be Returned See Serial Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit Agent Assigned Case
 Yes No

No Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Description of Property or Exhibit

1. COPY OF PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF
2. COPY OF PLEA FOR
3. COPY OF SENTENCE FOR
4. COPY OF MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL PROSECUTOR.
5. COPIES OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, COURT DOCUMENTS, AND MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS.
6. ORDER OF PROBATION.

b6
b7C

DESTROYED
PER AUSA
8-3-87

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only
Evidence Bag Seal # _____ Signature of Two Special Agents Verifying and Sealing Bag Contents _____

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

Field File # 44A-2408

OO: DETROIT

ORIGINAL (FILE COPY)

55#16
memo

BLOCK STAMP
44A2408-131

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 13 1983	
FBI - DETROIT	

WBR:DLB:FLC:jec
DI 144-37-NEW

[redacted] East Detroit,
Michigan - Subjects; Vincent Chin, (Dec.) -
Victim; [redacted] - Complainant; CIVIL RIGHTS

APR 21 1983

b6
b7C

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Wm. Bradford Reynolds
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Attached are copies of correspondence from [redacted]
alleging that Vincent Chin was beaten and consequently died as a
result of the beating by [redacted]

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These allegations indicate a possible violation of 18 U.S.C.
245. Accordingly, please conduct the following limited investigation:

1. Obtain copies of any pertinent official reports.
2. Obtain copies of relevant medical reports.
3. Identify and interview any eyewitnesses whose
accounts of the incident are not made available in official reports.

44-2408-2

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1983	
FBI-DET. J.T.	

[redacted] [redacted]

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C-4

TRANSMIT VIA: AIRTEL

CLASSIFICATION: _____

DATE: 4/27/83

FROM: Director, FBI

TO: SAC, Detroit

[Redacted]

EAST DETROIT, MICHIGAN;
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM; 165-12455-2-6(2/65) P4
[Redacted] - COMPLAINANT

CIVIL RIGHTS
OO: DETROIT

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Enclosed are two copies of a self-explanatory Departmental letter dated April 21, 1983, with enclosure.

Complete the requested investigation in accordance with the provisions of Section 44, Manual of Investigative Operations and Guidelines, and surep within 21 workdays of the receipt of this communication.

State in the first paragraph of the details of your report that it contains the results of a
 limited investigation and underscore the word limited
 preliminary preliminary

Advise all persons interviewed

appropriate officials at the outset that this investigation is being conducted at the specific request of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Remarks:

Submit FD-610 within 5 workdays of receipt of this communication.

Enc. (4) B13

44A-2408-3

SEARCHED <i>BB</i>	INDEXED <i>JP</i>
SERIALIZED <i>JP</i>	FILED <i>JP</i>
APR 28 1983	
DETROIT	

[Redacted] *JP*

FBI/DOJ

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b7C

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Date: 4/30/83

Edition: 3A

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Judge to review Chin case sentence

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44A-2408

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

By Cynthia Lee
News Staff Writer

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Charles Kaufman will "take under advisement" a request to resentence the two men he put on probation after they admitted beating Vincent Chin to death.

Kaufman made the announcement to a packed courtroom yesterday at a special hearing sought by an Asian-American group protesting the judge's probation sentence of Ronald Ebens and his stepson, Michael Nitz. He said he would reach a decision "shortly" but did not specify a date.

Ebens and Nitz, both of East Detroit, pleaded guilty to manslaughter last month in the baseball bat-clubbing death of Chin, an Oak Park engineer.

KAUFMAN, WHO could have given the men 15 years in prison, triggered a storm of controversy by giving each man three years' probation and a \$3,700 fine. He said the men were "not the type" to be sent to jail because of their stable working backgrounds and lack of criminal records.

In asking Kaufman to resentence the men, the American Citizens for Justice charged that the judge's decision to grant probation was based on inconsistent and false statements about the fight in a Highland Park bar last June which led to Chin's death.

Kaufman acknowledged the issue was highly emotional and said he was aware of the community's concern.

HIS DECISION to review the case was cheered by many Asian-Americans and representatives from the Detroit Association of Black Organizations, the UAW and the NAACP.

"I am very happy to hear that he is going to at least look at the case again," said Liza Chan, attorney for Citizens for Justice. "I was just going to give it my best shot and hope that he would at least listen

to our arguments."

Ms. Chan, however, criticized the Wayne County prosecutor's office for "not taking an advocacy position (on behalf of the group's request). They are saying they have to remain neutral."

TIM BAUGHMAN, Wayne County assistant prosecutor in charge of appeals, said his office had no grounds to ask for an appeal inasmuch as the judge's sentence is within the law.

Edward Khoury, Nitz's attorney, argued that the American

Citizens for Justice had no legal right to ask for an appeal because "the group has no standing. They are a legal nonentity."

Outside the courtroom, Khoury said he's confident the judge "must come to the inescapable conclusion that he cannot vacate this sentence." But, he added, "I hope this (community reaction) doesn't have any influence on his decision."

KAUFMAN ALSO took under advisement a request by the citizens group to make Ms. Chan a

special prosecutor in the case and to recognize them as the legal representatives of Chin's estate.

Wayne County prosecutors and state Atty. Gen. Frank Kelley earlier rejected appeals to appoint a special prosecutor.

Ms. Chan's group is now taking its campaign nationwide before Chinese-American groups based in Washington, New York and Chicago. Meanwhile, the FBI is investigating the case to determine if there are grounds to prosecute Ebens and Nitz for violating Chin's federal civil rights.

44A-2408-4

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 1 1983	
FBI - DETROIT	

DETROIT FREE PRESS
4/30/83Date:
Edition: 3A

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44A-2408
or
Classification: DETROIT
Submitting Office:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Judge agrees to re-examine his sentence

Probation in killing had drawn protest

By JOHN CASTINE
Free Press Staff Writer

Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman decided Friday to further study arguments on whether to change the probation sentences he gave the convicted killers of Vincent Chin.

Nearly 100 protesters at an emotional hearing applauded when attorneys asked the judge to put the defendants in prison.

"This is a very emotional and volatile issue," Kaufman said at the end of arguments on motions brought by the American Citizens for Justice, a group with nationwide support in its protest of Kaufman's decision to sentence Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz to probation and a fine of \$3,780 each.

MEANWHILE, the U.S. Justice Department said Friday it has asked the FBI to investigate the case to see whether Chin's civil rights may have been violated.

Justice Department spokesman John Wilson said the national office of the Organization of Chinese Americans in Washington, D.C., asked for the investigation. It may take up to six weeks to determine if the Justice Department has jurisdiction, Wilson said.

Ebens, 43, and his stepson Nitz, 23, of East Detroit, were sentenced March 17. Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz no contest to a reduced charge of manslaughter in the beating death of Chin June 23, four days after the pair chased Chin and beat him with a baseball bat on Woodward Avenue in Highland Park. The men were originally charged with second-degree murder, which carries a sentence of a year to life in prison. Sentences for manslaughter can vary from probation to 15 years in prison.

Kaufman would not comment on the case after the hearing, but he said his opinion would be written and completed "at the outside, in three weeks."

44A-2408-5

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 1 1983	
FBI-DETROIT	

[Handwritten signature]

TORVEYS for the protest group, Liza Chan and Dan Hoekenga, were pleased with Kaufman's decision to study their motions.

"I feel very positive," Chan said. "This is a case we feel should be corrected. I'm glad the judge feels it is serious enough to study further."

Hoekenga said: "Obviously, this is the first encouraging support for the community, which is so outraged by this situation."

After the hearing, the protesters went outside the City-County Building to carry signs and chant slogans. Among them was Vincent Chin's mother, Lily, who nearly fainted and was taken away in a wheelchair.

"THE EMOTIONS caught up with her" said Bontap Chan, of Southfield, one of the protesters. "She was taken home for rest."

Ebens and Nitz were not in court, but their attorneys, Bruce Saperstein and Edward Khoury, argued strenuously against the motions, which ask Kaufman to appoint a special prosecutor; to allow Lily Chin and Henry Yee, who represent Vincent Chin's estate, to intervene in the case, and to throw out the probation sentence and send the men to prison.

Hoekenga argued the prosecutor's failure to appear at the sentencing allowed defense attorneys to misrepresent the facts to Kaufman, by claiming that Chin started the fight that led to the four-block chase and beating.

"Our motion is not prompted by a desire for revenge ... but because we believe errors in fact were presented to the court at sentencing," Hoekenga said.

Saperstein and Khoury denied the charge.

"I DID NOT misconstrue facts in this case and

stand on the facts I presented," Saperstein said. Khoury argued that the law does not allow a judge to change a valid sentence — one Saperstein called "fair and reasonable."

Assistant Prosecutor Tim Baughman told Kaufman that the prosecutor's office was "satisfied" with the convictions because manslaughter "offered an adequate range of sentencing discretion."

"Whether we agree with the sentence or not," Baughman said, "there is no legal authority under which we can request this court to amend or alter its sentence to increase its severity."

"Moreover, there is no legal authority under which this court, on its own motion, could amend or alter its sentence to increase its severity."

Hoekenga finished his arguments in a raised voice, waving his arms for emphasis amid applause from spectators.

"Talk about a crime," Hoekenga said. "We have a man beaten to death with a baseball bat . . . and that man (Ebens) walks the streets and Vincent Chin is in the ground."

"We ask that these men be put behind bars."



Free Press Photo by DAVID C. TURNLEY

Relatives comfort Lily Chin, mother of slaying victim Vincent Chin, who nearly fainted after a hearing concerning the probationary sentences given to her son's killers. "The emotions caught up with her," said Bonlap Chan, of Southfield. "She was taken home for rest."

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 5/4/83

FROM: SAC, DETROIT

ATTENTION: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT

- * initial submission _____ supplemental submission _____ revision
- * 2. File No: 44A-2408 (include alpha)
- * 3. Status: P (P - pending, P* - pending inactive, C - closed, RUC - referred upon completion)
- * 4. Title:
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)
OO: DETROIT

b6
b7C

Re: Bureau airtel to Detroit, 4/27/83.

- * 5. If Title changed, show previous Title: EAST DETROIT, MICHIGAN;
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM; COMPLAINANT;
CIVIL RIGHTS; OO: DETROIT

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* 6. TYPE OF CASE: (check one)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| A. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CR | D. <input type="checkbox"/> CRA64-PE | G. <input type="checkbox"/> CRIPA | J. <input type="checkbox"/> FRS |
| B. <input type="checkbox"/> CRA64-E | E. <input type="checkbox"/> CRA64-PF | H. <input type="checkbox"/> DIH | K. <input type="checkbox"/> ISS |
| C. <input type="checkbox"/> CRA64-PA | F. <input type="checkbox"/> CREL | I. <input type="checkbox"/> ECOA | L. <input type="checkbox"/> PRIV. ACT - CRIM. |

7. AGENCY TYPE: (check one)

- | | |
|---|---|
| A. <input type="checkbox"/> City-County Jail | F. <input type="checkbox"/> Sheriff's Office |
| B. <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Agency | G. <input type="checkbox"/> State Police - Hwy Patrol |
| C. <input type="checkbox"/> Police Department | H. <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| D. <input type="checkbox"/> Prison/Penitentiary | I. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not pertinent |
| E. <input type="checkbox"/> Private Security | |

8. AGENCY NAME: _____ (20) STATE: _____ (use 2-char. abbrev.)
(omit if "Not pertinent" checked above):

* 9. ACTION: UACB;

- (check if applicable)
- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| A. <input type="checkbox"/> LHM enclosed | C. <input type="checkbox"/> Report enclosed | E. <input type="checkbox"/> No further action being taken |
| B. <input type="checkbox"/> LHM being submitted | D. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report being submitted | F. <input type="checkbox"/> FD-376 (enclosure to LHM) |

* 10. Further action: A. investigation instituted
B. investigation continuing
C. investigation completed

11. Copy of above submitted to: (check as many as applicable)
A. USA _____
B. Secret Service
C. BATF
D. _____ (15) (other - specify)

44A2408-6

SEARCHED _____

SERIALIZED *P*

INDEXED

FILED

(ATTACHMENT A)
FBI/DOJ

3 - Bureau
2 - Detroit
JLC/dib
Enclosures
(4) *WLB*

Victim VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED)

12. SUBJECTS (number):
- | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------|------|-------|--------|
| A. _____ | Amer. Indian | _____ | Male | _____ | Female |
| B. _____ | Asian | _____ | Male | _____ | Female |
| C. _____ | Black | _____ | Male | _____ | Female |
| D. _____ | Hispanic | _____ | Male | _____ | Female |
| E. <u>2</u> | White | <u>2</u> | Male | _____ | Female |
| F. _____ | Other | _____ | Male | _____ | Female |

If "Other" please specify: _____ (15)

13. VICTIMS (number):
- | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------|------|-------|--------|
| A. _____ | Amer. Indian | _____ | Male | _____ | Female |
| B. <u>1</u> | Asian | <u>1</u> | Male | _____ | Female |
| C. _____ | Black | _____ | Male | _____ | Female |
| D. _____ | Hispanic | _____ | Male | _____ | Female |
| E. _____ | White | _____ | Male | _____ | Female |
| F. _____ | Other | _____ | Male | _____ | Female |

If "Other" please specify: _____ (15)

14. Other descriptive data re victims: X not applicable

If applicable (number):

A. _____	under 18	C. _____	handicapped
B. _____	over 62	D. _____	institutionalized

15. Matter type (use best description, check more than one if applicable):

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|---|
| A. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | brutality | type <u>Beating</u> | (15) (i.e., shooting; beating) |
| B. <input type="checkbox"/> | nonbrutality | | |
| C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | death of victim | | |
| D. <input type="checkbox"/> | suicide | method _____ | (15) (i.e., hanging, slashed wrist) |
| E. <input type="checkbox"/> | known extremist group | type _____ | (15) (i.e., Klan, Nazi, JDL) |
| F. <input type="checkbox"/> | suspected ext. group | type _____ | (15) (i.e., Klan, Nazi, JDL) |
| G. <input type="checkbox"/> | cross burning | | |
| H. <input type="checkbox"/> | migrant victim | | |
| I. <input type="checkbox"/> | violence to property | type _____ | (15) (i.e., arson, shooting) |
| J. <input type="checkbox"/> | ISS matter | type _____ | (i.e., peonage, enticement, servitude, other slavery) |
| K. <input type="checkbox"/> | other | explain _____ | (25) |

- *16. Synopsis of Complaint - Date of initial complaint: 4/29/83

During the evening of 6/19/82, victim, a Chinese male, DOB 5/18/55, with three friends, was having a bachelor's party at the Fancy Pants Go-Go Club located in Highland Park, Michigan. While in the club, victim exchanged words with [redacted] white male, DOB [redacted] and [redacted] white male, DOB [redacted]. It is alleged that the subjects were directing racial slurs toward victim. A fight ensued between victim and subjects inside the bar. The disturbance was quickly quelled. Victim and friends left the bar followed a short time later by subjects. Once outside the bar, [redacted] obtained a baseball bat from his vehicle and he and [redacted] gave chase to victim. Victim was able to elude subjects for approximately ten minutes, but was then located by subjects and was beaten by [redacted] with the baseball bat. Victim suffered serious injuries from the beating and died four days later. Subjects were charged and pled guilty in Wayne County Court to the charge of Manslaughter and were subsequently sentenced to three years probation and fined \$3,000.00 each.

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*17. Indices: (check one) negative positive (if positive explain in body of report/LHM)

Remarks/Administrative

Washington Post
#38/83

Vincent Chin - victim
OO: Detroit

The \$3,000 License to Kill

TWO NIGHTS before he was to be married, Vincent Chin and three friends went out to celebrate in a Detroit bar. During the course of the evening, a fight broke out between Mr. Chin and his friends and two white men. An eyewitness said that Mr. Chin, a Chinese-American, was mistaken for a Japanese, and that hard times in the motor city have increased racial animosity toward Asians in general. But whatever the cause of the dispute, no one denies that Mr. Chin was beaten to death with a baseball bat by the two white men.

Both assailants were charged with second-degree murder, which was reduced in a plea bargain to manslaughter, a crime that carries a maximum sentence of 15 years. But neither man was to spend a single night in jail, for Judge Charles Kaufman freed them on probation after each paid a fine of \$3,000. Listen to the judge's reasons for imposing such a preposterous sentence: "We are talking here about a man who has held down a responsible job with the same company for 17 or 18 years, and his son who is employed and is a part-time student. These men are not going to go out and harm somebody else. I just didn't think that putting them in prison would do any good for them or for society. *You don't make the punishment fit the crime; you make the punishment fit the criminal.*"

One person who wasn't surprised by this kind of thinking was Wayne County prosecutor William

Cabalan. Unfortunately, he said, this sentence is not at all unusual. He cites three recent cases: a woman was convicted of stabbing her lover to death, inflicting 19 knife wounds. A policeman was convicted of beating to death a prisoner in his custody. A merchant admitted killing an 8-year-old after the child had stolen grapes. In all three cases, the killers walked out of court on probation.

These cases are strong evidence that two reforms being considered by courts across the country are badly needed. The first is the establishment of a set of victims' rights. It would have been much more difficult for Judge Kaufman to focus his concern exclusively on the killers in the Chin case if the victim's survivors had had an opportunity to make a statement before sentencing. The second is the adoption of sentencing guidelines that force judges to consider not only the record and the prospects of the offender, but also the nature of the crime. Guidelines used by Maryland courts, for example, would have produced a prison sentence in the Chin case even if the defendants had no prior criminal record. Guidelines minimize the chance for sentence disparity, clarify the likely penalties that will be meted out and mandate the consideration of the broader interests of society in addition to the welfare of the convicted criminal. Such standards narrow discretion but greatly reduce the potential for quixotic decisions. They would be as useful in Michigan as they are in Maryland.

44-2408-7

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - DETROIT	

Routing Slip

0-7 (Rev. 5-28-82)

(Circles to Offices Checked)

TO: SAC, ATTN: SSA [redacted]

TO: LEGAT,

- Albany
- Albuquerque
- Alexandria
- Anchorage
- Atlanta
- Baltimore
- Birmingham
- Boston
- Buffalo
- Butte
- Charlotte
- Chicago
- Cincinnati
- Cleveland
- Columbia
- Dallas
- Denver
- Detroit
- El Paso
- Honolulu
- Houston
- Indianapolis
- Jackson
- Jacksonville
- Kansas City
- Knoxville
- Las Vegas
- Little Rock
- Los Angeles
- Louisville
- Memphis
- Miami
- Milwaukee
- Minneapolis
- Mobile
- Newark
- New Haven
- New Orleans
- New York City
- Norfolk
- Oklahoma City
- Omaha
- Philadelphia
- Phoenix
- Pittsburgh
- Portland
- Richmond
- Sacramento
- St. Louis
- Salt Lake City
- San Antonio
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- San Juan
- Savannah
- Seattle
- Springfield
- Tampa
- Washington Field
- Quantico
- Bern
- Bogota
- Bonn
- Canberra
- Hong Kong
- London
- Mexico City
- Montevideo
- Ottawa
- Panama City
- Paris
- Rome
- Tokyo

- ASAC, New Rochelle (MRA)
- ASAC, Brooklyn-Queens (MRA)

5/3/83

Date

RE: [redacted]

EAST DETROIT, MICHIGAN
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -VICTIM

[redacted] -COMPLAINANT

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- For information Retention optional For appropriate action Surep, by _____
- The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, conceal all sources, paraphrase contents.
- Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____

Remarks:

44-2408-7A

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SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 6 1983	

[redacted]

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DETROIT NEWS

Date 5/18/83

Edition: 3A

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title: BEATING DEATH STIRS RALLY

Character: 44-2408

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

Beating death stirs rally

Asian-American wrath turns to prosecutor

By Cynthia Lee
News Staff Writer

Asian-Americans assailed Wayne County Prosecutor William Cahalan, saying he bore "much of the responsibility" for placing Vincent Chin's killers on probation.

The outcry over the sentencing of two East Detroit men had previously centered on Wayne Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman.

The attack on Cahalan was delivered yesterday at a downtown Detroit rally attended by an estimated 500 protesters, including representatives from city government, ethnic groups and black organizations.

WAVING AMERICAN flags and carrying placards that read "Jail the racist killers," the crowd of mostly Asians cheered speakers who decried the criminal justice system for making probation possible for Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz, who were convicted of beating Chin to death with a baseball bat.

"We believe this case was mishandled by the criminal justice system from the very beginning," said Kin Yee, president of the American Citizens for Justice, sponsor of the rally. "Much of the responsibility for the outrageous leniency of this sentence falls directly on the shoulders of Prosecutor William Cahalan."

He denied the group was waging "a character assassination of Judge Charles Kaufman," who sentenced the two men to three years' probation and fines totaling \$3,800 after they plea-bargained the charges against them from second-degree murder down to manslaughter.

Racism ignited the barroom fight and motivated Ebens' and Nitz's pursuit of Chin through Highland Park with a baseball bat, said Yee. He stressed that two Caucasian friends of Chin were ignored by his attackers.

EBENS, WHO worked as a foreman in a Chrysler plant, was "so consumed with racial hatred of Asian people that he started a fight with Vincent by blaming Asians for the problems of the ailing auto industry," said Yee. "Their racial hatred was so strong that they just wanted to get an Asian, any Asian."

Looking into a sea of Asian faces, Yee said he believed yesterday's rally was the first by Asian-Americans in Detroit's history. Some 13,000 Japanese, Chinese

and Koreans reside in the metropolitan area.

Since the sentencing, lawyers for the American Citizens for Justice have petitioned Kaufman to resentence the men on allegations that the judge's decision was based on misstatements and misunderstanding. He is considering the matter.

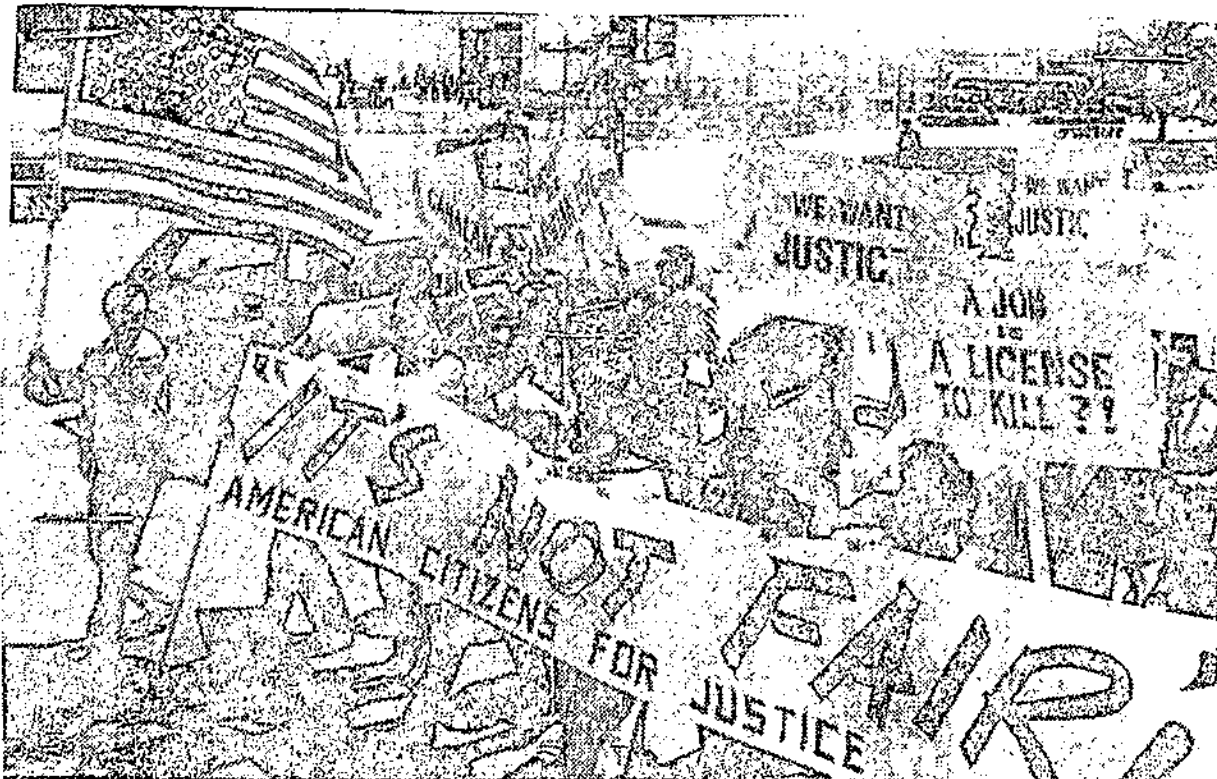
The FBI is investigating to determine if Chin's civil rights were violated in the beating.

44A2408-8

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SERIALIZED FILED
MAY 20 1983
FBI-DETROIT

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PB17-003



NEWS PHOTO / EDWIN C. LOMBARDO

Asian-American demonstrators criticize Wayne County Prosecutor William Calahan.

AND JUDGE Kaufman may face a second review by the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission, which previously said it was satisfied that the judge acted within statutory limits.

A public-interest law firm, the Washington Legal Foundation, yesterday filed a 26-page complaint against the judge, requesting that the commission remove him from the bench for giving out "a judicial sanctioning of murder as long as the killer has no prior record and holds a steady job."

The Washington-based law firm, supported by 85,000 citizens, represents victims in other prominent cases, including the Secret Service agent who is suing John Hinckley and his psychiatrist for his injuries in the shooting of President Reagan.

At the rally, Lily Chin, the victim's mother, pleaded tearfully for "justice for my son." Later, letters of protest were presented to Judge Kaufman, Calahan and U.S. Attorney Leonard Gilman.

CHIN'S DEATH, said Jim Shimoura, a Japanese lawyer born and raised in Detroit, "may be the first killing as a result of this racism; but Asians here have been constantly harassed about this. They say, 'It's your fault that so many people are out of work.' There are bumper stickers on cars here that say, 'Remember Pearl Harbor.'"

Shimoura said the wave of anti-Asian feeling has "waxed and waned" over the years, but intensified recently with the massive unemployment in auto plants and the economic gains of Japanese manufacturers.

UAW Assistant Director of Fair Practices Joe Davis denied there was an anti-Asian backlash by UAW workers.

Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

DETROIT NEWS

Date: 5/11/83

Edition: 1A

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44-2138

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Flak stuns judge in Chin case

Kaufman sentences in slaying assailed

By Cynthia Lee
News Staff Writer

After more than two decades on the bench, Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman knows what it's like to be thrust from the relative calm of the courtroom into the maelstrom of public scorn.

In 1972, he was denounced as a "baby-killer" by pro-life groups for ruling that the state's ban on abortion was unconstitutional.

In 1974, trade unionists scorned him for jailing 11 Garden City teachers who refused to end a three-week strike.

And in 1978, he jailed seven Van Buren Township officials for several days when they refused to issue a permit allowing a mobile home park to tap into the municipal sewage system.

BUT HE'S stunned by the uproar over his decision in March to hand out probation sentences and \$3,700 in fines to two East Detroit men who fatally clubbed a Chinese-American man with a baseball bat last June.

In placing Ronald Ebens and his stepson, Michael Nitz, on three years' probation, Kaufman cited their lack of criminal records and their stable work and school backgrounds as extenuating circumstances. Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz pleaded no contest to a reduced charge of manslaughter.

"In all my years, I have never received such vilification," said Kaufman, 63. "This was just another case. This wasn't anything unusual. This kind of thing happens regularly in Recorder's Court and here (Circuit Court)."

TO MAKE HIS point, he cited one survey that showed 30-40 percent of those convicted of manslaughter did not go to jail.

Though respected by many lawyers as impartial, intelligent and fair, Kaufman was denounced by one leader in Detroit's Chinese-American community who called the sentence "a \$3,000 license to commit murder, provided that you have a steady job or if you are a student." The charge was made by Kin Yee, head of a group of friends

and supporters of the victim, Vincent Chin.

Ebens and Nitz originally were charged with second-degree murder, which carries a possible life sentence. But even with the reduced manslaughter charge, Kaufman could have handed out 15-year prison terms.

AT THE URGING of Chinese-American groups, Kaufman is determining whether there are grounds for him to reconsider his sentence.

Meanwhile, a second complaint has been filed against him with the Judicial Tenure Commission — an earlier charge was dismissed — and the FBI is investigating Ebens and Nitz

on the possibility they violated Chin's federal civil rights.

Friends of Chin cited Kaufman's imprisonment by the Japanese during World War II when the bomber he was piloting was shot down. They said racism against Orientals was behind his sentencing decision.



Judge Kaufman

IN DENYING that accusation, Kaufman said: "It was a bad experience, but it doesn't affect any of my feelings against any group of people."

It was the Japanese who starved him, he said, and it was the Chinese with whom he shared his meager food and cells in his first month in prisoner-of-war camps in Hong Kong, Saigon and Formosa.

Imprisoned for more than a year in a camp outside Tokyo, where 60 percent of the prisoners succumbed to starvation and disease, Kaufman learned Japanese and became the only interpreter between captives and jailers. On the prisoners' behalf, he begged for more food, clothing and tools to fix their shoes. He weighed only 92 pounds when he was freed.

Sent To Bureau

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MAY 11 1983
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"I'M ONE OF the few judges to know what it's like to be in prison for a long time," he said.

What seems to offend Kaufman about the charges of racism is that over the years, he has built a reputation for being "a liberal in the avant garde of liberals."

In 1973, the American Civil Liberties Union praised him as an "exemplar of strength and independence" for ruling the state's ban on abortion unconstitutional.

In the early 1960s, he and other liberal lawyers set up the Fund for Equal Justice, a group he still heads, to provide legal help to civil rights activists in Mississippi, Attica inmates, women's rights groups, the poor and the disadvantaged.

THE FUND also supports a California law school for minority students — among them, he said, Asian-Americans.

Although Kaufman stands by his decision, many people still have questions.

"I don't know whether the judge was wrong," commented one Wayne Circuit Court judge who wanted to remain anonymous. "If I'm unhappy with anybody, it's the people who are trying to push everything off on this judge. If the prosecutor cared enough about this case, he could have shown up at the sentencing."

Chief Wayne Circuit Judge Richard Dunn is unwavering in his support, calling Kaufman "a fair sentencer."

KAUFMAN'S SON, Richard, also a Wayne Circuit judge, said that if his father is guilty of anything, it's being too merciful.

The younger Kaufman said his father is holding up fine. "But it bothers him," he admitted. "He feels there's no way for him to ever explain to people everything that will allow them to make a fair judgment. It wrenches him, especially when he is accused of having no feeling for Vincent Chin."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 5/9/83

[redacted] was contacted at her place of employment, Law Offices - Hiller, Larky, and Hoekenga, 24800 Northwestern Highway, Suite 403, Southfield, Michigan. [redacted] provided copies of the following documents relating to the VINCENT CHIN case:

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1. Copy of preliminary examination of [redacted]
2. Copy of plea for [redacted]
3. Copy of sentence for [redacted]
4. Copy of Motion for Appointment of special prosecutor.
5. Copies of newspaper articles, court documents and miscellaneous papers
6. Order of Probation

These items are being retained in the file.

However, a copy of a Detroit newspaper article dated April 17, 1983 is attached hereto.

Investigation on 5/3/83 at Southfield, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408 -10

by SA [redacted] /dlb Date dictated 5/9/83

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FILED	FILED
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FBI - DETROIT	

[redacted] [initials]

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GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER?

The life and death of Vincent Chin

Reconstruction by News artist Valene Alessi of the fatal scene on Woodward

By Matt Beer
News Staff Writer

IT'S NOT FAIR.

It was a cool June night, and a restless crowd of street people had gathered at the foot of McDonald's golden arches on Woodward in Highland Park. Their chattering almost drowned out the last words of Vincent Chin, a 27-year-old engineer who lay dying on the dirty pavement.

Less than 30 minutes earlier, Chin and his buddies had been celebrating his upcoming wedding at the Fancy Pants Lounge, a topless/bottomless club just down the street, pouring shots from a Smirnoff bottle into glasses of orange juice.

Now, with his battered and bleeding head cradled in a friend's blood-soaked lap, Chin stared up at Ronald Ebens, a 43-year-old East Detroit and Chrysler general foreman.

"IT'S NOT FAIR," Chin whispered again, pointing a shaking finger at Ebens, who still held the Louisville Slugger baseball bat he had used to shatter Chin's skull.

Three days later, despite emergency surgery, Chin was declared brain-dead by neurologists at Henry Ford Hospital. The day after that, Lily, his just-widowed mother, consented to have Chin removed from the machines that kept the rest of his body alive. He died shortly thereafter.

And now, those last three words — "it's not fair" — have come to haunt the case of Vincent Chin.

On March 16, Wayne Circuit Judge Charles

Kaufman placed Ebens and his stepson, Michael Nitz, on three years' probation and fined each \$3,720 after the pair pled guilty to charges of manslaughter.

That sentence, deemed unjustly soft by many, touched off protests from newspaper editorials and columnists. The Chinese-American community has rallied — holding meetings, staging letter-writing campaigns, hiring legal counsel to appeal Kaufman's decision and issuing press releases decrying Ebens' and Nitz's probation.

"How could this happen?" shouted one confused and frustrated Chinese man at a recent rally. "This is America."

This is how it happened.

The victim

He was quiet, industrious and intelligent. He enjoyed fishing at Cass Lake and drinking Lite Beer with his pals. That's how they remember him.

"He wanted to get ahead," says his friend Jimmie Choi, who held the dying Chin on that summer night last year. Choi sipped tea in the almost deserted Golden Star Restaurant at Woodward and Nine Mile while he talked. Chin worked weekends there to supplement his income from Efficient Engineering Co., which provides engineering work for the auto and aircraft industries. "He didn't want to end up as a waiter or working in a laundry like his dad," adds Choi.

"THERE REALLY wasn't anybody he didn't get along with," remembers Gene Blair, Chin's boss at Efficient. "He started here working on the computer terminals, and then we put him on the

drafting boards. He was extremely smart, and very energetic.

"I wish I had a room full of Vincent Chins."

Chin, an Oak Park High School grad, was attending school at Lawrence Institute of Technology at nights in order to become a mechanical engineer and eventually design computer hardware.

"He had the potential," Blair says. "He was on his way."

Chin's father died of kidney problems at the age of 73, six months before Chin was killed. The father had immigrated to America when Vincent was 6 and worked most of his life in a now-razed laundry in Highland Park and as a cook in a Chinese eatery.

"When his father died, Vincent began to worry," says Choi. "The auto industry wasn't doing so hot, and Vince had to support his mom (an Oak Park factory worker)."

But despite those problems, Choi and others had no doubt Chin was going to be one of the local Chinese community's success stories. He had a good job and was about to marry Vickie Wong, who worked at a Farrington Hills insurance company. The pair planned an American ceremony and a Chinese reception — Vicki had already bought an American and a Chinese wedding dress for each occasion. Their honeymoon was set for the Caribbean, and the two were bunting for a home somewhere near Chin's mother's house in Oak Park.

There was one other aspect about Vincent, though, and it set him apart from many in the Chinese community.

"He was more aggressive than most," Choi

Continued on Page 3H

The life and death of Vincent Chin

Continued from Page 3H

his seat and charged Ebens. Ebens later said Chin hit him in the mouth. Chin's friends say it was more of a shoving match. The scuffling pair was soon joined by Eben's stepson, Michael Nitz. A chair was thrown, and Nitz reportedly received a small cut on the head. Chin's friends say Ebens threw the chair; Ebens told police Chin threw it.

After the fighters were pulled apart by friends and the club bouncer, they were asked to leave.

Outside, witnesses say Chin again challenged Ebens to a fistfight. Ebens, they say, ran to his car, opened the trunk and pulled out a baseball bat, and he and his stepson chased Chin across Woodward. According to Choi, they circled back behind the bar and chased him across Woodward, too. Chin and Choi then trotted down to McDonald's to wait for their friends, who had gone searching for them in another car.

EBENS AND Nitz later caught sight of Chin and Choi and chased them into the street. According to eyewitness testimony, Nitz caught up to Chin, and the two tussled. Nitz let go of Chin just as Ebens approached the pair, bat in hand. Ebens swung four times, hitting Chin in the knee and chest and twice in the head. Chin never got a chance to bell up his fists.

The legalities

When first arrested, Ebens and Nitz were charged with second-degree (unpremeditated) murder, much to the annoyance of Highland Park Judge Thomas Bayles, who was the only court official to listen to actual eyewitness testimony.

"I am of the opinion that the defendants, in this case, were undercharged," he says. "The elements of first-degree murder are here." Bayles says the time between the bar fight and Chin's murder "was more than enough for the blood to cool, to have gone home and thought about this. . . . He (Ebens) did not go home. He took his bat and he chased around Highland Park. . . . there was a willful, deliberate, premeditated killing of a human being. There was first-degree murder."

BUT BY the time the case had been processed by the Wayne County prosecutor's office, the charge had been reduced to manslaughter — to which Ebens and Nitz agreed to plead guilty. And when Judge Kaufman got the case, all he had to go on was the defendants' lawyers and a probation report.

"These two, Ebens and Nitz, had never been in trouble before," explains Judge Kaufman, pulling on his tie and shifting uncomfortably on his chair in his chambers. Kaufman, a judge since 1964 and a former Japanese POW during World War II, says he was shocked by the reaction to his decision.

"People have attacked me for being a racist (because Chin was Chinese)," he complains.

"But I was involved in civil rights legislation since the '40s. People have to understand that a judge does not bring charges. I can only rule on what was put before me. The facts of the case are that these guys had no prior conviction."

present.

KAUFMAN also says Ebens' use of a baseball bat does not meet the court's test of intention to kill. "If you're going to kill someone, you can do it a lot quicker with something other than a baseball bat. Chin lived for four days after the attack. If you are going to kill someone with a bat, you can do it in five minutes. These guys appeared to want to do grave injury, not murder."

"Besides," Kaufman adds, "those questions weren't even presented. The prosecutor wanted manslaughter. That's all I had to go on. A judge can't bring charges."

While the case of Vincent Chin is all but closed, a review by The Detroit News of court records and written witness testimony, augmented by interviews with those involved, reveals some interesting details unreported until now.

There is testimony under oath by Jimmy Choi and Michael Gardentire, a Highland Park policeman moonlighting as a security guard at the McDonald's Chin died in front of. The two contend Ebens and Nitz stalked Chin, and that the assailants surprised him from behind some bushes in front of McDonald's.

In the police file, there's a statement by one Jimmie Perry, who said he was picked up by Ebens and Nitz and paid \$20 to help them locate Chin. Perry was recognized by others at the McDonald's that night, including Highland Park patrolman Morris Cotton.

"That may be so," sighs one prosecutor. "But it wasn't there at sentencing. That's tough."

The assailant

The night air is thick with a cold April rain. Standing on the porch of his neat East Detroit ranch home, Ronald Ebens is clad in a jogging suit and track shoes, with gray hair neatly combed, gold rimmed half glasses resting on his nose. A schnauzer presses its wet nose against the front-door glass. A little boy peeks around the corner.

"Look, I can't talk about this case, OK?" he says, pulling off his spectacles. "But that Chin guy — he was no choir boy."

"I'm just trying to put my life together. I've lost my job. My friends are being supportive, but I'm sick of the lies in the paper. But look, I can't talk about it, OK? But listen. If I had to do it over again, I would never have done it."

"I GUESS you do strange things sometimes. But listen. I can't talk about it."

A reporter decides to press his luck and asks about Jimmie Perry.

"You mean the black guy in the car with us? Ya know. I don't know where he came from. But look. I can't say nothing."

The weapon

In the dingy Highland Park police station on Woodward, Detective Don Roberts lifts up the wooden baseball bat — a flame-hardened, Jackie Robinson-auto-

graph model — that ended Chin's life.

"Some heavy sucker, eh?" he says, smiling. Walking over towards his desk, Roberts signs and leans against the counter.

"Everyone asks me about this case, and I tell 'em it's just the way it is. That everyone was just doing their job, and those guys got what the system thought they should get."

"Then they ask me how I'd feel if my son or daughter was killed by someone out there on Woodward."

"I tell 'em I'd want the sons of bitches in jail."

The Chin case

Continued from Page 1H

recalls. "He knew what he wanted and he was determined to get it." The aggressiveness included what Choi says was Chin's tendency to want to get into fistfights.

"He believed that if you had a disagreement with another man, and you couldn't work it out, you settled it with your fists," Choi says. "Then you would shake hands and that would be that. He was not as tolerant as most of us are." Choi is quick to add that the fights were very few and far between. "I don't remember the last one, but I think it was broken up before anything happened. They always ended like that."

The brawl

Earlier, Chin's mother had cautioned him about going to the Fancy Pants, saying later to friends that Chin — just five days from marriage — said it was going to be the last time he would get out. "I told him not to say it was the last time," Lily later told friends. "It was unlucky."

Exactly what caused the fight at the club hasn't been determined. According to Voyce Maxwell, Fancy Pants manager, it started after Ebens "made some cracks about foreign cars putting Americans out of work." Witnesses say Ebens called Chin a "mother—"

"YOU HAVE to understand, the Chinese take that word very seriously," says Choi. "Elders are revered. That word is the ultimate insult."

After some more arguing, Chin leaped from

Continued on Page 6H

Vincent Chin case: Justice or mockery?

"I say to you gentlemen that there was willful, deliberate, pre-meditated killing of a human being in this case, under circumstances which did not constitute excuse or justification. There was first-degree murder. They have been undercharged." — Highland Park District Judge Thomas Bayles, Oct. 5, 1982.

By JOHN CASTINE
Free Press Staff Writer

Judge Bayles' words have a hollow ring now for many who knew Vincent Chin, who died four days after being pummeled with a baseball bat on Woodward Avenue.

That's because Chin's attackers, Ronald Ebens and Ebens' stepson Michael Nitz, both of East Detroit, were allowed to plead to manslaughter in February in an agreement with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, which dropped a more serious second-de-

gree murder charge. Their sentence, from Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman, was three years' probation, \$3,000 in fines and \$780 in court costs each, payable at a rate of \$125 a month.

ON ONE HAND, the Chinese-American community, normally a quiet group, is up in arms over the Chin case, which, they say, is racially biased and has "made a mockery of our judicial system."

"The implications of this case are immense," said Kin Yee, head of American Citizens for Justice, a predominantly Asian-American organization formed to change the outcome of the case. "The court's decision effectively offers a \$3,000 license to commit murder provided that you have a steady job or if you are a student (referring to Ebens and Nitz respectively).

See CHIN, Page 10A



Michael Nitz, one of the two men sentenced to probation and fines.

10A DETROIT FREE PRESS/SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 1983

Chin case provokes a storm over system of justice

CHIN, from Page 1A

"It has aroused the anger of the Asian community by recalling the days of 'frontier justice,' when massacres of Chinese workers were commonplace," Yee said.

ON THE OTHER HAND, some say that only prosecution witnesses' stories have been told by the citizens' group, that the criminal justice system worked in the Chin case and that probation as a sentence for manslaughter is not unusual in Michigan.

The Department of Corrections reported that of 201 statewide manslaughter convictions in 1981, 61 resulted in probation.

Further, many lawyers believe there is no legal basis for a prosecutor to appeal a sentence, which may violate the constitutional prohibition against double jeopardy. It is likely that Kaufman's decision will stand.

"If I had it to do over, I'd do the same thing," Kaufman said Thursday, the same day the American Citizens for Justice and the Chinese Welfare Council of Detroit filed a formal request that he resentence Ebens and Nitz to prison. "I believe it was the right decision."

KAUFMAN SAID he was surprised at Judge Bayles' pre-trial comments because "the preliminary exam is one-sided."

He accused the American Citizens for Justice of being one-sided, too. "Just what they are accusing me of," Kaufman said.

Kaufman has received a lot of letters, some praising and some complaining about his decision, he said.

One letter, from the Judicial Tenure Commission, indicated "that I acted by my constitutional and

chair flying from Chin's direction toward Ebens.

"I said to Chin, 'You know better than this,'" Hollis said. "I just tried to walk him out so no one would jump him."

Hollis said Chin and two friends were waiting in the parking lot for another friend, when Ebens and Nitz came outside. "The older guy (Ebens) opened his trunk and got out a bat. I said 'Man, take this stuff off my lot,'" Hollis said.

"Then Chin and one of his buddies began running when Ebens began to chase them" around the corner of Beresford and Woodward, Hollis said. He said he didn't know anything else happened until he read about Chin's death four days later.

"I didn't think it was that serious," Hollis said. "And, whatever happened inside, it seemed rather extreme for someone to get a bat."

A WITNESS, Highland Park police officer Michael Gardenhire, who was off duty, was eating at McDonald's with another officer, Morris Cotton, and saw the beating. They arrested Ebens and Nitz.

"I saw Mr. Chin lying down in the first lane from the curb, and traffic continued to come as (Ebens) hit him," Gardenhire said. "Then Mr. Ebens said he shouldn't have did that. . . 'I'm sorry for what I did,' (Ebens said) and sat on the ground," said Gardenhire.

DETECTIVE Donald Roberts, who was in charge of the Chin case, said the police and prosecutors never thought of charging Ebens and Nitz with first-degree murder.

"We talked second or manslaughter," Roberts said. "It was something that started from a bar and

went outside. It's not like a robbery-murder or rape-murder.

"First degree means a lot more — intent to kill — and I don't believe it was Ebens' intent to kill. Judge Bayles heard the eyewitness testimony of one person — Jimmy Choi. It wasn't as cut and dried as Choi put it.

"Remember, when Ebens and Nitz came out in the parking lot, Chin and his friends were waiting. . . and when Ebens saw them he got enraged and got a bat."

Roberts said he didn't put much credence in Perry's statement that he was offered \$20 to help Ebens and Nitz get Chin and his friends, but he would have subpoenaed him for trial.

ON FEB. 7, a prosecutor asked Detective Roberts whether he thought Ebens could be convicted, Roberts said. Roberts said, "We felt there was a good chance we would lose the son (Nitz) . . .

"And when we felt they would both plea, we thought it would be better to have two convictions than one."

After the plea bargains were made, Roberts said, the probation department called him for his opinion on sentencing.

"They asked me if it was someone in my immediate family (who was killed under similar circumstances), what would I want" the killer to get?

"I said I would want them in jail. But I've been working here so long (18 years) that I don't think he (Ebens) meant to kill. Deep down, I think he only meant to hurt him."

No assistant prosecutor was present for sentencing, even if the prosecution wished to argue for a

stiffer sentence. That is almost standard procedure in the undermanned Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, a spokesman said. In wealthy Oakland County, Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson's policy is that assistant prosecutors must attend every sentencing.

"(Sentencing) is still a part of the criminal process where the people need representation," said Chief Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Richard Thompson. "We feel it is a critical stage in the administration of justice."



Kaufman believes it was the right decision.

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AS OF SATURDAY, the Prosecutor's Office had no comment on the Chin case, Southfield attorney Liza Chan said in a court affidavit that, last Monday, Assistant Prosecutor Edward Reilly Wilson said the Prosecutor's Office concluded "it would not take any further post-sentencing action for a supposed lack of legal basis . . ."

Last week Prosecutor William Cahalan's office announced a policy barring further reductions of second-degree murder charges to the lesser charge of manslaughter because the lesser crime can carry sentences of probation. Under state law, second-degree murder is punishable by prison terms of one year to life.

A spokesman for the Prosecutor's Office said the change was not caused by reaction to the Chin case.

Chan, of the Hiller, Larky & Hoekenga law firm, has donated several hours to researching the case and filing memorandums with Kaufman and the prosecutor. She claims she has found "factual errors and misinformation, which Kaufman apparently relied upon during sentencing." Chan said Henry Yee, the unofficial mayor of Chinatown and owner of the Forbidden City Restaurant in Detroit, asked her to help.

THE MOST DISPUTED fact in the case appears to be who started the June 19 fight at the Fancy Pants Club, a nude go-go club on Woodward near Davison. Chin, 27, an Oak Park engineer who was to be married June 28, went there with three friends to celebrate his wedding. No liquor is served in the club, which charges \$10 admission.

Fancy Pants doorman Eddie Hollis said he knew Chin "by face" as a previous customer. "Chin and his friends had been here about an hour before these two white guys came in. They were strangers here," said Hollis, 44, doorman for eight years.

In the transcript of the sentencing, Khoury said the "deceased (Chin) apparently had some words, not with (Nitz), but with his co-defendant (Ebens) or someone in that area, which resulted in the deceased having struck Michael Nitz and split his head open with a chair."

Saperstein also told Kaufman then that Chin "walked up and punched Mr. Ebens in the mouth, initiating the physical assault," adding that Nitz was cut on the forehead.

"... Normal people act strange when loved ones appear to be seriously injured, and that is what happened here, resulting in this tragedy," Saperstein said.

BUT CHAN said a friend of Chin's, Jimmy Choi, 24, of Windsor, who was with him that night, testified at the preliminary examination that the fight was a result of a verbal exchange between Chin and Ebens.

Choi also testified that Ebens picked up a chair and tried to slam it on Chin, but Chin deflected it with his arm. Nitz could have been cut while accidentally being hit by the chair, "which Nitz's stepfather had intended for Vincent Chin," Chan said in her legal paper.

Doorman Hollis, who said police never interviewed him or any other club employe, said he saw a

NITZ'S ATTORNEY, Edward Khoury, who was accused by the American Citizens for Justice of trying to mislead Kaufman at the March 16 sentencing with facts not on the record from the Oct. 5 preliminary examination, called the allegations "mistaken assertions."

Furthermore, Khoury said Friday that "the kid (Nitz) sacrificed himself for his stepfather.

"The prosecutor would only plea bargain as a package. And we couldn't articulate sufficient facts to substantiate a plea of guilty. So we took a nolo contendere (no contest), which is not an admission of guilt."

Khoury said he told Nitz that if the case went to a jury, he would probably be acquitted.

The American Citizens for Justice also accused Ebens' attorney, Bruce Saperstein, of misstating the facts before Kaufman. Saperstein was not available for comment.

KAUFMAN, 63, has defended the probation sentence, saying that the case was not before him for trial and that he relied on a pre-sentence report indicating "that Mr. Chin threw the first punch."

The same report, prepared by the Wayne County Adult Probation Services, also recommended prison time for Ebens and Nitz, Kaufman said, but he added, "If courts were to accept their (probation department) recommendations without anything further, then we wouldn't need judges anymore."

Also, Ebens and Nitz are men Kaufman considered stable in the community, since Ebens has worked for more than 17 years with Chrysler and Nitz is a college student with a job. Neither had criminal records.

The American Citizens for Justice also criticized the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office for the plea bargain.

STYLE

Yours truly,

Matt Beer

Susan
Whitall



COURT CONFIDENTIAL . . . Here's yet another twist in the case of Vincent Chin, who was clubbed to death with a baseball bat after a skirmish in a Highland Park bar last June. His assailant, Ronald Ebens, was sentenced by Wayne Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman to three years' probation, thus touching off an uproar in the local Chinese-American community. A confidential psychiatric report compiled for Kaufman and obtained by Y.T. calls Ebens "an extremely hostile and explosive individual," one with potential for "uncontrollable hostility and . . . explosive acting out." It further states, "The defendant (Ebens) ac-



KAUFMAN



CHIN

knowledgeed that he has been a frequent and excessive drinker for approximately 10 years." The report was drawn up by a Recorder's Court clinical social worker and a staff psychiatrist; they urged "a period of incarceration . . . coupled with psychiatric and alcohol treatment." The judge failed to recommend any treatment as a condition for Ebens' probation. "I don't have much stock in what the psychologists have to say all the time," declares Kaufman. "You can't always go by them."



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 5/10/83

[redacted] Staff Writer, Detroit Free Press, was contacted at his place of employment and provided copies of articles printed in the Free Press regarding the death of VINCENT CHIN. Copies of these articles are attached hereto.

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b7C

Investigation on 5/5/83 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408

by SA [redacted] dlb

Date dictated 5/10/83

SEARCHED <i>[initials]</i>	INDEXED <i>[initials]</i>
SERIALIZED <i>[initials]</i>	FILED <i>[initials]</i>
MAY 10 1983	
DETROIT	

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DETROIT FREE PRESS

DATE: THURSDAY July 1, 1982

ED: STATE EDITION

PAGE: 1A

SECTION: NWS

LENGTH:

ILLUST:

BYLINE:

DATELINE:

MEMO:

BRIAN FLANIGAN Free Press Staff Writer Vincent Chin was to be married Monday. On Tuesday, he was buried instead.

On Wednesday, *Chin's* best friend talked about how much *Chin* -- beaten to death a week ago with a baseball bat -- looked forward to his wedding day.

"This . . . it ended the dream," Danny Lew, 30, said haltingly.

The "dream," according to friends, began about three years ago when Vincent *Chin*, of Oak Park, met Vickie Wong, of Mt. Clemens, and fell in love. Late in 1980, Vincent was hired at Efficient Engineering Co., an Oak Park firm that provides mechanical engineering work for automotive and aircraft companies.

"HE HIRED IN as a computer terminal operator and a draftsman," recalled Gene Blair, *Vincent's* supervisor. "But he was so intelligent and industrious that we quickly realized his potential on the (drafting) board and put him on the board full-time."

Vincent received a pair of pay raises, according to Blair, and was "a young man on his way up to bigger and better things here." On weekends, *Vincent* worked a second job at a Chinese restaurant in Ferndale.

A year ago, *Vincent* and Vickie decided to make their dream a reality by getting married and starting a family. Friends of the couple shared their anticipation of the upcoming wedding.

"She came to work wearing a very huge diamond," recalled Leah Shafer, who worked with Wong at a Farmington Hills insurance company. "For the better part of a year, they'd been looking for

a house . . . "

THE WEDDING, Shafer noted, was scheduled on a Monday, "because many of their friends worked in Chinese restaurants, which are usually closed on Mondays. That way everybody could be there." Vickie planned to wear two wedding gowns, said Shafer, "an American one at the wedding and a Chinese one at the reception."

After the wedding, according to Paul*Chin,*26, one of *Vincent's* friends, the couple planned to honeymoon "in some little country down in South America . . . Aruba . . . Yeah, that's it! Aruba! . . . He was real excited about that."

The dream ended in a Highland Park bar.

Shortly before 10 p.m. June 19, according to Highland Park homicide investigators,*Vincent,*27, and three friends were sitting in the Fancy Pants Tavern, 13300 Woodward Avenue. Sitting nearby were Ronald Ebens, 42, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 23, both of East Detroit.

"WE'RE NOT SURE exactly what happened," said Detective Donald Roberts, "except that some of Mr.*Chin's* friends say that something was said which offended Mr.*Chin.*" *A brief scuffle started, but it was broken up by the bouncer, who ordered the men from the bar.

Ebens "went to his car and got a baseball bat," Roberts said. Ebens then chased*Chin* to the intersection of Woodward and Davison, according to Roberts, and hit*Chin* four times about the head and body with the bat."

Vincent was taken to Henry Ford Hospital, where he died at 9:50 p.m. on June 23. Two days later, Ebens and his stepson were charged with second-degree murder before Highland Park District Judge Kalim Garian. They were released on \$5,000 bond each, pending a preliminary hearing July 6.

"We went from total shock to anger," said Blair, "and then to regrets and true sorrow for Vince's family . . . but especially for Vickie."

Lew, who is also Wong's brother-in-law, said she has been "in a daze since this happened . . . words can't describe it . . . words are just . . . words."

Tomorrow is Vickie Wong's 24th birthday. She expected to be celebrating it in Aruba with her new husband, friends said. Instead, she'll be mourning his death

DETROIT FREE PRESS

DATE: FRIDAY March 25, 1983

ED: METRO FINAL

PAGE: 1C

SECTION: FTR

LENGTH: MEDIUM

ILLUST:

BYLINE: NICKIE McWHIRTER

DATELINE:

MEMO:

A LESSON -- AND A LICENSE -- THAT KIDS SHOULD NEVER GET

After exchanging insults and scuffling with two strangers in a Highland Park Bar last June 19, Vincent Chin was pursued by the men outside the bar, caught and brutally beaten with a baseball bat. He died from his injuries four days later, in Henry Ford Hospital. Chin was 27 years old.

Last week his attackers, originally charged with second-degree murder, were permitted to plead guilty to the reduced charge of manslaughter. They were sentenced by Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman. Ronald Ebens, 43, and Ebens' stepson, Michael Nitz, 23, both of East Detroit, were ordered to pay fines of \$3,000 each and serve three years' probation.

Judge Kaufman, who heard no witness testimony and admitted he had seen only one written report of the incident -- which may or may not have contained all of the pertinent information, accurately compiled -- explained his lenient sentence:

"We're talking here about a man (Ebens) who's held down a responsible job with the same company for 17 or 18 years and his son (Nitz) who is employed and is a part-time student. These men are not going to go out and harm somebody else. I just didn't think that putting them in prison would do any good for them or for society."

A wrong to society

With due respect for your high office, your Honor, you are quite mistaken. By not putting these admitted manslayers in prison you have done terrible wrongs to society, to the respect society has for your office and to the public perception of justice and fair play.

Beyond that, you have grossly insulted the memory of Vincent Chin, an innocent man wrongly slain. By extension you have insulted his family and friends. You have heightened the grief of a young woman named Vickie Wong, who was to become Chin's bride just two days after this attack, and the grief of her family and friends.

You have offended the entire Oriental community by seeming to put so little value on the life of one of its members. You have raised the ugly ghost of racism, suggesting in explanation of your sentence that the lives of the killers are of great and continuing value to society, implying they are of greater value

than the life of the slain victim, upon which you put a price of \$6,000, total. How gross and ostentatious of you; how callous and, yes, unjust.

No act of self-defense

You disregarded the known facts -- that Chin was unarmed and outnumbered by his attackers, that the attackers had verbally and physically provoked Chin inside the bar and they, not Chin, had been told by a bartender to leave as troublemakers, that they waited their chance outside the bar to strike, and that when they struck they used a bludgeon, a weapon, applied with what turned out to be lethal force.

If all the above was not a crime deserving punishment beyond the payment of a few dollars into the coffers of the state, what was it? It was no act of self-defense. It was a willful act of mayhem which resulted in the death of an innocent person. It deserves punishment, and for reasons other than simple retribution.

What are we to tell our children now? In Wayne County it is OK to kill a stranger on sight, without reason beyond having gotten a little liquored up and aggressive. In Wayne County having a job and a good work record, or being a student, is a license to kill, at least once. In Wayne County the value of a life wrongly taken in anger is \$3,000 per person, or less than the cost of a used car. These are the lessons you have taught our children, Judge Kaufman. They stink.

NETWORKS:

DETROIT FREE PRESS

DATE: FRIDAY March 18, 1983

ED: METRO FINAL

PAGE: 3A

SECTION: NWS

LENGTH: SHORT

ILLUST:

BYLINE: JOYCE WALKER-TYSON Free Press Staff Writer

DATELINE:

MEMO:

2 MEN CHARGED IN '82 SLAYING GET PROBATION

Two men charged with beating a man to death two days before he was to be married have been sentenced to probation by a Wayne County Circuit Court judge, who said the dead man threw the first punch.

Ronald Ebens, 43, and Ebens' step-son, Michael Nitz, 23, both of East Detroit, had pleaded guilty to manslaughter after first

being charged with second-degree murder in the beating last June 19 of Vincent Chin, 27, of Oak Park, died four days later at Henry Ford Hospital.

Judge Charles Kaufman sentenced the men to three years' probation and a \$3,000 fine each Wednesday.

WITNESSES TOLD POLICE that Chin, a draftsman at an Oak Park engineering firm, had gone into the Fancy Pants Tavern on Woodward in Highland Park with three friends to celebrate Chin's upcoming marriage to Vickie Wons.

Witnesses said a scuffle broke out after Ebens and Nitz said something offensive. A tavern employe asked them to leave.

According to police reports, the fight continued outside. Police said Ebens got a baseball bat out of his car, then chased Chin to the corner of Woodward and Davison where he beat him with the bat.

Judge Kaufman, who heard no testimony when the men pleaded guilty, said court documents showed Chin started the confrontation in the bar.

"THE ONLY REPORT I saw indicated that Mr. Chin threw the first punch," Kaufman said. "While this certainly wasn't a case of self-defense, it was the continuation of a fight that Mr. Chin apparently started. Now Mr. Ebens and Mr. Nitz went beyond what was necessary for self-defense. If it had been a case of self-defense, they wouldn't be guilty of anything."

Kaufman said his decision to sentence Ebens and Nitz to probation stemmed from their lack of a previous criminal record and their stability in the community.

"We're talking here about a man who's held down a responsible job with the same company for 17 or 18 years and his son who is employed and is a part-time student," Kaufman said. "These men are not going to go out and harm somebody else. I just didn't think that putting them in prison would do any good for them or for society."

"You don't make the punishment fit the crime; you make the punishment fit the criminal."

DETROIT FREE PRESS

DATE: TUESDAY April 12, 1983

ED: METRO FINAL

PAGE: 3A

SECTION: NWS

LENGTH: MEDIUM

ILLUST:

BYLINE: JOHN CASTINE Free Press Staff Writer

DATELINE:

MEMO:

ODDS SLIM FOR APPEAL IN BEATING DEATH CASE

A growing protest over probation sentences given in the baseball-bat beating death of an Oak Park man last summer has only a slim chance of leading to an appeal, officials and protest leaders agreed Monday.

"If people feel no one should get probation for manslaughter,* then they should go to the Legislature" to change the law, said Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman, who has been bombarded with mail and phone calls since he handed down the sentences March 17.

A leader in Detroit's Chinese-American community said a group formed to protest the sentences has collected more than \$2,000 for legal fees and is circulating petitions to send to the Judge, the U.S. Justice Department and President Reagan.

The group's leader and its lawyer have met with the Judge and with representatives of Wayne County Prosecutor William Cahalan. All agree that finding legal basis to overturn the sentences would be difficult.

Kaufman sentenced Ronald Ebens, 43, and Ebens' stepson, Michael Nitz, 23, to three years' probation and a \$3,000 fine each for killing Vincent*Chin,*27, with a baseball bat after an argument in a Highland Park bar.

THE EAST DETROIT MEN pleaded guilty to*manslaughter* after the original charge -- second-degree*murder *- was reduced in a plea bargain arrangement with Cahalan's office.

*Chin,*a draftsman, got into an argument with the pair June 19 at the Fancy Pants Tavern on Woodward. The argument spilled outside and ended with Ebens setting a baseball bat and chasing *Chin*until he caught and beat him, witnesses said.

*Chin*died of his injuries June 23. He was to have been married two days later to Vickie Wong, of Mt. Clemens.

Kaufman heard no testimony when the men pleaded guilty. They received probation and the fines after pre-sentence reports showed they had no criminal record.

More than 20 organizations representing Detroit's Chinese-American community formed American Citizens for Justice, headed by Kin Yee, to protest the sentences on grounds they were too

light.

The NAACP'S national and Detroit branches also have criticized Kaufman's sentencing in the case.

Yee and the attorney for American Citizens for Justice, Liza Chan of Southfield, met for about an hour with Kaufman last Tuesday.

"It was a very nice meeting," Kaufman said. "I told them if they can find a legal defect in my sentencing . . . I would entertain a proper motion by the proper parties. But they are not parties to the case, the prosecutor is."

Chan and Yee were told by representatives of Cahalan's office that an appeal doesn't look promising.

"THE RIGHTS of the prosecutor to appeal (a sentence) are limited and set by statute," said a prosecutor's spokesman. "There is a sense of finality to a case at sentencing . . . and the possibility of double jeopardy."

Chan said Monday her research of the case so far shows that "everything appears to be perfectly legal and proper," but that she has not given up hope of finding a legal basis for an appeal by the prosecutor.

Kaufman said he has gotten "quite a bit" of mail, from as far as Florida and California, protesting his decision.

"Emotions are running quite high," he said. "But I've gotten a lot of nice letters, too. Many from lawyers who don't understand what all the furor is about."

Meanwhile, Yee agreed the protest may be for naught

"It's almost like in a ball game when an umpire calls a ball and to you it looks like a strike," Yee said. "You can argue all you want, but if he calls it a ball it's a ball."

KEYWORDS:

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# REQUESTED      -03 05/02 140136          7 DOCUMENTS
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# DATABASE NAME  -FPP
# USER NAME     -QL
# USER ACCOUNT  -
# QUERY         -"VINCENT CHIN" & MURDER & MANSLAUGHTER
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DETROIT FREE PRESS
DATE:  SUNDAY April 17, 1983
ED: METRO FINAL
PAGE: 1A          SECTION: NWS          LENGTH: LONG
ILLUST: Photo Color
BYLINE: JOHN CASTINE Free Press Staff Writer
DATELINE:
MEMO:

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VINCENT*CHIN*CASE: JUSTICE OR MOCKERY?

"I say to you gentlemen that there was willful, deliberate, pre-meditated killing of a human being in this case, under circumstances which did not constitute excuse or justification. There was first -degree*murder.*They have been undercharged."
 -- Highland Park District Judge Thomas Bayles, Oct. 5, 1982.

Judge Bayles' words have a hollow ring now for many who knew Vincent*Chin,*who died four days after being pummeled with a baseball bat on Woodward Avenue.

That's because*Chin's*attackers, Ronald Ebens and Ebens' stepson Michael Nitz, both of East Detroit, were allowed to plead to*manslaughter*in February in an agreement with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, which dropped a more serious second-degree*murder*charge. Their sentence, from Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman, was three years' probation, \$3,000 in fines and \$780 in court costs each, payable at a rate of \$125 a month.

ON ONE HAND, the Chinese-American community, normally a quiet group, is up in arms over the*Chin*case, which, they say, is racially biased and has "made a mockery of our judicial system."

"The implications of this case are immense," said Kin Yee, head of American Citizens for Justice, a predominantly Asian-American organization formed to change the outcome of the case. "The court's decision effectively offers a \$3,000 license to commit*murder *provided that you have a steady job or if you are a student (referring to Ebens and Nitz respectively).

"It has aroused the anger of the Asian community by recalling

the days of 'frontier justice,' when massacres of Chinese workers were commonplace," Yee said.

ON THE OTHER HAND, some say that only prosecution witnesses' stories have been told by the citizens' group, that the criminal justice system worked in the*Chin*case and that probation as a sentence for*manslaughter*is not unusual in Michigan.

The Department of Corrections reported that of 201 statewide *manslaughter*convictions in 1981, 61 resulted in probation.

Further, many lawyers believe there is no legal basis for a prosecutor to appeal a sentence, which may violate the constitutional prohibition against double jeopardy. It is likely that Kaufman's decision will stand.

"If I had it to do over, I'd do the same thing," Kaufman said Thursday, the same day the American Citizens for Justice and the Chinese Welfare Council of Detroit filed a formal request that he resentence Ebens and Nitz to prison. "I believe it was the right decision."

KAUFMAN SAID he was surprised at Judge Bayles' pre-trial comments because "the preliminary exam is one-sided."

He accused the American Citizens for Justice of being one-sided, too. "Just what they are accusing me of," Kaufman said.

Kaufman has received a lot of letters, some praising and some complaining about his decision, he said.

One letter, from the Judicial Tenure Commission, indicated "that I acted by my constitutional and statutory authority," Kaufman said.

"It's obvious the prosecution felt they didn't have enough evidence to convict on second-degree*(murder)*if they took a plea to*manslaughter*,"*Kaufman added.

NITZ'S ATTORNEY, Edward Khoury, who was accused by the American Citizens for Justice of trying to mislead Kaufman at the March 16 sentencing with facts not on the record from the Oct. 5 preliminary examination, called the allegations "mistaken assertions."

Furthermore, Khoury said Friday that "the kid (Nitz) sacrificed himself for his stepfather.

"The prosecutor would only plea bargain as a package. And we couldn't articulate sufficient facts to substantiate a plea of guilty. So we took a nolo contendere (no contest), which is not an admission of guilt."

Khoury said he told Nitz that if the case went to a jury, he would probably be acquitted.

The American Citizens for Justice also accused Ebens' attorney, Bruce Saperstein, of misstating the facts before Kaufman. Saperstein was not available for comment.

KAUFMAN, 63, has defended the probation sentence, saying that the case was not before him for trial and that he relied on a pre-sentence report indicating "that Mr. *Chin* threw the first punch."

The same report, prepared by the Wayne County Adult Probation Services, also recommended prison time for Ebens and Nitz, Kaufman said, but he added, "If courts were to accept their (probation department) recommendations without anything further, then we wouldn't need judges anymore."

Also, Ebens and Nitz are men Kaufman considered stable in the community, since Ebens has worked for more than 17 years with Chrysler and Nitz is a college student with a job. Neither had criminal records.

The American Citizens for Justice also criticized the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office for the plea bargain.

AS OF SATURDAY, the Prosecutor's Office had no comment on the *Chin* case, but Southfield attorney Liza Chan said in a court affidavit that, last Monday, Assistant Prosecutor Edward Reilly Wilson said the Prosecutor's Office concluded "it would not take any further post-sentencing action for a supposed lack of legal basis . . ."

Last week Prosecutor William Cahalan's office announced a policy barring further reductions of second-degree *murder* charges to the lesser charge of *manslaughter* because the lesser crime can carry sentences of probation. Under state law, second-degree *murder* is punishable by prison terms of one year to life.

A spokesman for the Prosecutor's Office said the change was not caused by reaction to the *Chin* case.

Chan, of the Miller, Larky & Hoekens law firm, has donated several hours to researching the case and filing memorandums with Kaufman and the prosecutor. She claims she has found "factual errors and misinformation, which Kaufman apparently relied upon during sentencing." Chan said Henry Yee, the unofficial mayor of Chinatown and owner of the Forbidden City Restaurant in Detroit, asked her to help.

THE MOST DISPUTED fact in the case appears to be who started the June 19 fight at the Fancy Pants Club, a nude go-go club on Woodward near Davison. *Chin*, 27, an Oak Park engineer who was to be married June 28, went there with three friends to celebrate his wedding. No liquor is served in the club, which charges \$10 admission.

Fancy Pants doorman Eddie Hollis said he knew *Chin* "by face" as a previous customer. "Chin and his friends had been here

about an hour before these two white guys came in. They were strangers here," said Hollis, 44, doorman for eight years.

In the transcript of the sentencing, Khoury said the "deceased*(Chin) *apparently had some words, not with (Nitz), but with his co-defendant (Ebens) or someone in that area, which resulted in the deceased having struck Michael Nitz and split his head open with a chair."

Saperstein also told Kaufman then that*Chin *walked up and punched Mr. Ebens in the mouth, initiating the physical assault," adding that Nitz was cut on the forehead.

". . . Normal people act strange when loved ones appear to be seriously injured, and that is what happened here, resulting in this tragedy," Saperstein said.

BUT CHAN said a friend of*Chin's,*Jimmy Choi, 24, of Windsor, who was with him that night, testified at the preliminary examination that the fight was a result of a verbal exchange between*Chin*and Ebens.

Choi also testified that Ebens picked up a chair and tried to slam it on*Chin,*but*Chin*deflected it with his arm. Nitz could have been cut while accidentally being hit by the chair, "which Nitz's stepfather had intended for Vincent*Chin,"*Chan said in her legal paper.

Doorman Hollis, who said police never interviewed him or any other club employe, said he saw a chair flying from*Chin's* direction toward Ebens.

"I said to*Chin,*You know better than this," Hollis said. "I just tried to walk him out so no one would jump him."

Hollis said*Chin*and two friends were waiting in the parking lot for another friend, when Ebens and Nitz came outside. "The older guy (Ebens) opened his trunk and got out a bat. I said 'Man, take this stuff off my lot,'" Hollis said.

"Then*Chin*and one of his buddies began running when Ebens began to chase them" around the corner of Beresford and Woodward, Hollis said. He said he didn't know anything else happened until he read about*Chin's*death four days later.

"I didn't think it was that serious," Hollis said. "And, whatever happened inside, it seemed rather extreme for someone to get a bat."

A WITNESS, Highland Park police officer Michael Gardenhire, who was off duty, was eating at McDonalds with another officer, Morris Cotton, and saw the beating. They arrested Ebens and Nitz.

"I saw Mr.*Chin*lying down in the first lane from the curb, and traffic continued to come as (Ebens) hit him," Gardenhire said. "Then Mr. Ebens said he shouldn't have did that . . . 'I'm

sorry for what I did," (Ebens said) and sat on the ground," said Gardenhire.

"I'm quite upset about the whole thing," Gardenhire said Friday. "The charge and the disposition. It's like nobody cares. It should have been first-degree*(murder).*

"I asked (detectives why the charge ended up second -degree) and didn't get a response."

DETECTIVE Donald Roberts, who was in charge of the*Chin* case, said the police and prosecutors never thought of charging Ebens and Nitz with first-degree*murder *

"We talked second or*manslaughter,"*Roberts said. "It was something that started from a bar and went outside. It's not like a*robbery-murder*or*rape-murder.*

"First degree means a lot more -- intent to kill -- and I don't believe it was Ebens' intent to kill. Judge Bayles heard the eyewitness testimony of one person -- Jimmy Choi. It wasn't as cut and dried as Choi put it.

"Remember, when Ebens and Nitz came out in the parking lot, *Chin*and his friends were waiting. . . and when Ebens saw them he got enraged and got a bat."

Roberts said he didn't put much credence in Perry's statement that he was offered \$20 to help Ebens and Nitz set*Chin*and his friends, but he would have subpoenaed him for trial.

ON FEB. 7, a prosecutor asked Detective Roberts whether he thought Ebens could be convicted, Roberts said. Roberts said, "We felt there was a good chance we would lose the son (Nitz) . . .

"And when we felt they would both plea, we thought it would be better to have two convictions than one."

After the plea bargains were made, Roberts said, the probation department called him for his opinion on sentencing.

"They asked me if it was someone in my immediate family (who was killed under similar circumstances), what would I want" the killer to get?

"I said I would want them in jail. But I've been working here so long (18 years) that I don't think he (Ebens) meant to kill. Deep down, I think he only meant to hurt him."

No assistant prosecutor was present for sentencing, even if the prosecution wished to argue for a stiffer sentence. That is almost standard procedure in the undermanned Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, a spokesman said. In wealthy Oakland County, Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson's policy is that assistant prosecutors must attend every sentencing

"It (sentencing) is still a part of the criminal process where the people need representation," said Chief Assistant Oakland County Prosecutor Richard Thompson. "We feel it is a critical stage in the administration of justice."

KEYWORDS: history; major story

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ILLUST: Photo

BYLINE: JOHN CASTINE Free Press Staff Writer

DATELINE:

MEMO:

LAWYER DISPUTES SENTENCING OF KILLERS

Two men given probation in the baseball-bat beatings death of a Chinese man actually started the incident and offered \$20 to another man to help them, an attorney representing the Chinese Welfare Council of Detroit said Friday.

Liza Chan, a Southfield attorney, cited the offer of payment as further evidence of "various and numerous material facts and errors" upon which Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman relied in imposing a sentence of probation and fines on the convicted killers of Vincent*Chin,*of Oak Park.

Ronald Ebens, 43, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 23, both of East Detroit, were convicted of*manslaughter*in*Chin's*death. The pair had been charged with second-degree*murder*in the killings last June 23. But the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office reduced the charge to *manslaughter*in a plea bargaining arrangement.

CHAN and a Detroit organization called the American Citizens for Justice have asked Judge Kaufman to void the original sentence and send Ebens and Nitz to prison.

They filed a formal request with the court Thursday, and a hearing has been set for April 29, Chan said at a press conference in Detroit Friday.

"We have urged the prosecutor to ask the court to reconsider the sentence, to vacate the sentence and for resentencing," Chan said. "We had asked the prosecutor to take the appropriate action by yesterday (Thursday) at noon. We have not heard from

the prosecutor, nor do we know what action (he plans)."

A spokesman for the prosecutor said Friday there would be no comment on the citizens' group's request.

Chan added, "We have asked Judge Kaufman, on his own motion, to review the record and take notice of the substantial material errors and take all appropriate and necessary action to rectify the record."

Kaufman has said, in explaining his sentence, that the only report he saw "indicated that Mr.*Chin*threw the first punch" last June 19 in the Fancy Pants Club in Highland Park.

Chan said the testimony at the two men's preliminary examination in Highland Park last October showed that Ebens and Nitz started the conflict and chased*Chin,*searched for him, caught him and beat him.

"Now we have found a third party, Jimmie Perry (of Detroit), who was offered \$20 by one of the defendants to quote, 'help him.' "

At the press conference, Kin Yee, president of the citizens' group, said, "It is evident that the prosecutor failed to obtain and evaluate significant facts in the case."

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BYLINE: JOE SWICKARD Free Press Staff Writer

DATELINE:

MEMO:

***MANSLAUGHTER*OUT IN PLEA BARGAINING**

Defendants charged with second-degree*murder*will no longer be allowed to plead guilty to the lesser charge of*manslaughter,* the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office says.

Chief Assistant Prosecutor Dominick Carnovale said the decision was made because a defendant can be given probation if convicted of*manslaughter.*Under state law, a person convicted of second-degree*murder*must serve at least one year in prison.

Carnovale said the new policy did not grow out of the controversy surrounding Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman, who gave each of two men three years probation and a \$3,000 fine last month after they pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the beating death of a man outside a Highland Park bar.

THE PENALTY for second-degree murder can range from one year to life in prison. Manslaughter is punishable by probation to a maximum 15-year prison term.

"Prosecutor (William) Cahalan doesn't like to see it anytime a life is taken," Carnovale said. "We believe that in such cases, some time in prison is deserved."

Carnovale said the policy was made because the Legislature has made armed robbery and rape non-probationary offenses. He said that ending the reduced pleas for second-degree murder merely brought office policy into line with the long-standing policy of not offering reduced pleas for rapes or armed robberies.

Carnovale did say Kaufman's decision to give probation in the Highland Park case was "just a ludicrous thing."

RONALD EBANS, 43, and his stepson Michael Nitz, 23, were accused of beating Vincent Chin, 27, to death with a baseball bat June 19 outside the Fancy Pants Tavern on Woodward, where he had gone with friends to celebrate his upcoming wedding.

Ebans and Nitz were charged with second-degree murder, but they pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

Kaufman, who has been under fire since that decision, said the probation sentences were imposed because Chin threw the first punch in the fight, and neither Ebans nor Nitz had previous criminal records.

According to police reports, the fight started inside the bar after Nitz and Ebans made offensive remarks to Chin. The three men were asked to leave the bar, and the fight continued outside. Police said Ebans then beat Chin with a baseball bat. Chin died four days later at Henry Ford Hospital.

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MEMO:

VINCENT*CHIN * The outcome made life seem cheap and justice elusive

WAYNE COUNTY Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman, defending his controversial sentencing of two men charged in the beating death of Vincent*Chin*to probation and a fine, said: "If people feel no one should get probation for*manslaughter,*then they should go to the Legislature to change the law."

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office has acted first, however, by decreeing that persons charged with second-degree *murder,*as Mr.*Chin's*assailants originally were, will no longer be permitted to plead guilty to a reduced charge of *manslaughter.*A*manslaughter*conviction opens the way to a sentence of probation instead of prison. A conviction on second-degree*murder,*in contrast, mandates a prison sentence of at least one year up to life.

Dominick Carnovale, chief assistant prosecutor, said the new policy was not a response to Judge Kaufman's decision, but an attempt to make the legal system more uniform. The prosecutor's office already refuses to accept reduced pleas in rape and armed robbery cases. And the Legislature has made rape and armed robbery non-probational cases.

The changes in policy will not bring Mr.*Chin*back to life, or restore him to his family or to the young woman he was to have married a few days after the beating. Even had the new rule been in effect last summer, it is unlikely that it would have deflected the horrifying progression of events that left Mr.*Chin*battered and bleeding on a sidewalk. But the policy changes might have affected the court's response to his death and spared the community the sense of outrage and injustice that the episode has aroused.

It is important for courts to have reasonable flexibility in sentencing, but the overall handling of the*Chin*case seems disturbingly casual. Evidence presented at the sentencing hearing was limited. Plea bargaining had already reduced the *murder*charges to*manslaughter.*

No assistant prosecutor was present at the hearing to argue for a stiffer sentence; in Oakland County, prosecutors are always present at such hearings, but that is not the practice in understaffed Wayne County. Judge Kaufman disregarded the pre-sentence report's recommendation for prison terms for the assailants and handed down some of the lightest possible sentences.

The result was a process that made Vincent*Chin's*life seem cheap and the criminal justice system either callous or perverse. It is not clear that there are legal grounds for reopening the question of the sentences. It is clear that police, courts and prosecutors have to be wary of the inattention, sloppiness or jaded attitudes that might produce such questionable results again. Trust in the justice system and respect for the law are badly eroded when a case leaves so many people feeling what Vincent*Chin*whispered as he lay dying: It's not fair.

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ILLUST:

BYLINE: JOHN CASTINE Free Press Staff Writer

DATELINE:

MEMO:

KELLEY SAYS HE CAN'T APPEAL IN*CHIN*CASE

Attorney General Frank Kelley said Thursday there is no legal recourse for himself or Wayne County Prosecutor William Cahalan to appeal the probation sentence given to two men convicted of killing Vincent*Chin*with a baseball bat.

Kelley, responding to a mailgram he received Thursday from a group protesting the sentence, called Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman's sentencing "unjust .

ATTORNEY Liza Chan, representing American Citizens for Justice, is to appear before Kaufman on Friday morning to request that he vacate his sentence to Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz, of East Detroit, and resentence them to prison.

Ebens, 43, and Nitz, 23, were originally charged with second-degree*murder*in the death of*Chin*last June 23. The charge was reduced to*manslaughter*in a plea-bargaining arrangement with the prosecutor, and Kaufman sentenced the pair last month to three years' probation and assessed each of them \$3,000 fines and \$780 court costs.

Chan asked the attorney general to appoint a special prosecutor on grounds that a "technical error" was made because the prosecutor did not receive a copy of the pre-sentence report from the Wayne County Probation Department before sentencing. Chan also has claimed that Kaufman based his decision on "factual errors and misinformation."

"Attorney General Kelley said he talked it over with prosecutor Cahalan and both are of the opinion that the penalty should have been more severe," said Michael Shore, spokesman for Kelley. "We don't see any recourse that the law provides (for appealing the sentence) . . . obviously the judiciary has the duty and responsibility to determine punishment.

"Attorney General Kelley feels the sentence is unfair."

CAHALAN could not be reached for comment. However, an assistant prosecutor is expected to appear at Friday's hearing before Kaufman.

Chan, besides contacting the attorney general, also has requested Gov. Blanchard to act on the matter.

Shore said the law allows the governor only to commute sentences, not to make them more severe. He added that Kelley has received numerous letters and more than 3,000 petition signatures asking him to get involved in the case, which has received nationwide publicity.

Kaufman's sentences are being protested by Chinese-Americans throughout the U. S. They have been joined by numerous civil rights groups.

*CHIN,*27, of Oak Park, died four days after being beaten with a bat after an argument with Ebens and Nitz in the Fancy Pants Club, a Highland Park so-so establishment.

*Chin,*an engineer, was to be married June 28, and he was with three friends celebrating the upcoming wedding.

Kaufman said at sentencing that he was of the opinion the fight was started by *Chin,* a fact Chan said is in error.

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BYLINE:

DATELINE:

MEMO:

JUDGE AGREES TO RE-EXAMINE HIS SENTENCE PROBATION IN KILLING HAD DRAWN PROTEST

JOHN CASTINE Free Press Staff Writer Wayne County Circuit
Judge Charles Kaufman decided Friday to further study arguments
on whether to change the probation sentences he gave the
convicted killers of Vincent*Chin.*

Nearly 100 protesters at an emotional hearing applauded when
attorneys asked the judge to put the defendants in prison.

"This is a very emotional and volatile issue," Kaufman said
at the end of arguments on motions brought by the American
Citizens for Justice, a group with nationwide support in its
protest of Kaufman's decision to sentence Ronald Ebens and
Michael Nitz to probation and a fine of \$3,780 each.

MEANWHILE, the U.S. Justice Department said Friday it has
asked the FBI to investigate the case to see whether*Chin's*
civil rights may have been violated.

Justice Department spokesman John Wilson said the national
office of the Organization of Chinese Americans in Washington,
D.C., asked for the investigation. It may take up to six weeks
to determine if the Justice Department has jurisdiction, Wilson
said.

Ebens, 43, and his stepson Nitz, 23, of East Detroit, were
sentenced March 17. Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz no contest to
a reduced charge of*manslaughter*in the beating death of*Chin*
June 23, four days after the pair chased*Chin*and beat him with
a baseball bat on Woodward Avenue in Highland Park. The men were
originally charged with second-degree*murder,*which carries a
sentence of a year to life in prison. Sentences for*manslaughter*
can vary from probation to 15 years in prison.

Kaufman would not comment on the case after the hearing, but he said his opinion would be written and completed "at the outside, in three weeks."

ATTORNEYS for the protest group, Liza Chan and Dan Hoekensa, were pleased with Kaufman's decision to study their motions.

"I feel very positive," Chan said. "This is a case we feel should be corrected. I'm glad the judge feels it is serious enough to study further."

Hoekensa said: "Obviously, this is the first encouraging support for the community, which is so outraged by this situation."

After the hearing, the protesters went outside the City-County Building to carry signs and chant slogans. Among them was Vincent*Chin's*mother, Lily, who nearly fainted and was taken away in a wheelchair.

"THE EMOTIONS caught up with her," said Bonlar Chan, of Southfield, one of the protesters. "She was taken home for rest."

Ebens and Nitz were not in court, but their attorneys, Bruce Saperstein and Edward Khoury, argued strenuously against the motions, which ask Kaufman to appoint a special prosecutor, to allow Lily*Chin*and Henry Yee, who represent Vincent*Chin's* estate, to intervene in the case, and to throw out the probation sentence and send the men to prison.

Hoekensa argued the prosecutor's failure to appear at the sentencing allowed defense attorneys to misrepresent the facts to Kaufman, by claiming that*Chin*started the fight that led to the four-block chase and beating.

"Our motion is not prompted by a desire for revenge . . . but because we believe errors in fact were presented to the court at sentencing," Hoekensa said.

Saperstein and Khoury denied the charge.

"I DID NOT misconstrue facts in this case and stand on the facts I presented," Saperstein said.

Khoury argued that the law does not allow a judge to change a valid sentence -- one Saperstein called "fair and reasonable."

Assistant Prosecutor Tim Baughman told Kaufman that the prosecutor's office was "satisfied" with the convictions because *manslaughter* offered an adequate range of sentencing discretion.

"Whether we agree with the sentence or not," Baughman said,

"there is no legal authority under which we can request this court to amend or alter its sentence to increase its severity

"Moreover, there is no legal authority under which this court, on its own motion, could amend or alter its sentence to increase its severity."

Hoekenga finished his arguments in a raised voice, waving his arms for emphasis amid applause from spectators.

"Talk about a crime," Hoekenga said. "We have a man beaten to death with a baseball bat . . . and that man (Ebens) walks the streets and Vincent*Chin*is in the ground.

"We ask that these men be put behind bars."

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Nearly 100 protesters watched the emotional hearings and applauded when attorneys asked the judge to put the defendants in prison.

"This is a very emotional and volatile issue," Kaufman said at the end of an hour of arguments on motions brought by the American Citizens for Justice, a group with nationwide support in its protest of Kaufman's decision to sentence Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz to probation and a fine of \$3,780 each.

EBENS, 43, and his stepson Nitz, 23, of East Detroit, were sentenced March 17. Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz no contest to a reduced charge of*manslaughter*in the beating death of*Chin*June 23, four days after the pair chased*Chin*and beat him with a baseball bat on Woodward Avenue in Highland Park. The men were originally charged with second-degree*murder,* which carries a sentence of a year to life in prison. Sentences for*manslaughter*can vary from probation to 15 years in prison.

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HOEKENGA ARGUED that a special prosecutor should be appointed because the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office has a conflict of interest since no prosecutor attended the sentencing. The prosecutor's office also allowed defense attorneys to misrepresent the facts to Kaufman, claiming that *Chin*started the fight that led to a four-block chase and beatings, Hoekenga said.

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Judge Kaufman

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 5/17/83b6
b7c

[redacted] Negro male, born [redacted] voluntarily appeared at the Detroit Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents and that they desired to talk to him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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[redacted] advised that on the evening of June 19, 1982, he was working as [redacted] at the Fancy Pants Go-Go Club located at 13300 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, Michigan. He advised that a little after 9:00pm he left the parking lot and entered the club. Upon entering the club he saw a disturbance taking place near the stage. He recognized a Chinese individual who he knew as VINCENT CHIN and an unknown white male, later identified as [redacted]. [redacted] stated that he has known CHIN since CHIN was approximately 19 years of age. He stated that he observed CHIN and [redacted] standing next to the stage and it appeared that CHIN had a chair in his hands and was swinging it toward [redacted]. [redacted] stated that he and another [redacted] by the name of [redacted] (Last Name Unknown) broke up the scuffle and that he, [redacted] grabbed the chair from CHIN and put it on the floor. [redacted] stated that he told CHIN that he knew better than to be fighting in the club and that he should leave. He then escorted CHIN out of the club to CHIN's car which was parked in the parking lot approximately four or five car lengths from the door of the club. [redacted] told CHIN to remain by the car and then he, [redacted] went back into the club to tell CHIN's friends where he was and that they should also leave.

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Once back in the club, [redacted] told CHIN's three friends that he was waiting for them in the parking lot and that they should leave. [redacted] then went to [redacted] and took them to their car which was also located in the parking lot.

As he was walking [redacted] to their car, someone from CHIN's area stated something to the effect, "come on now let's finish this". [redacted] stated that he told them to stay at their car and told them to get off the parking lot. [redacted] could not recall if [redacted] said anything as there was a lot of yelling going on back and forth. [redacted] stated that he told everyone to get off the parking lot and after reaching [redacted] vehicle, [redacted] reached

Investigation on 5/12/83 at Detroit, MichiganFile # Detroit 44A-2408SA [redacted] and
by SA [redacted]

JLC/dlb

Date dictated

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5/17/83	
MAY 1 1983	
[redacted]	
[redacted]	

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DE 44A-2408

in his car and brought out a baseball bat. He stated that [redacted] began chasing CHIN on foot toward Woodward Avenue. [redacted] got into [redacted] vehicle and drove off the parking lot toward Woodward Avenue. He stated that CHIN's friends also got into their vehicle and left the parking lot. [redacted] stated that he remained in the parking lot area for approximately twenty minutes and did not observe anyone from CHIN's group, [redacted] return to the parking lot area.

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[redacted] stated approximately two or three days later he read an article in the newspaper indicating that [redacted] had killed CHIN.

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[redacted] stated that he never heard any racial remarks made by [redacted] and further could not recall them stating much at all. [redacted] could not provide any further information regarding the incident and therefore the interview was terminated.

Through interview the following descriptive data was obtained:

Name	[redacted]
Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Height	[redacted]
Weight	[redacted]
Hair	[redacted]
Eyes	[redacted]
Home Address	[redacted]
Employment	Fancy Pants Club Highland Park, Michigan

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 5/16/83

[redacted] white female, date of birth [redacted] was contacted at her place of employment, Fancy Pants Club, 13300 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, Michigan, where she is employed as a [redacted]. Prior to interview [redacted] was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and that they desired to talk with her regarding the civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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[redacted] advised that on the evening of June 19, 1982, she was working as a [redacted] at the Fancy Pants Club. She stated that VINCENT CHIN and three of his friends were seated next to the stage and were celebrating CHIN's pending marriage. Two white males later identified as [redacted] were also seated next to the stage across from CHIN and his group.

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[redacted] advised that [redacted] [redacted] to CHIN. She advised she [redacted] when she heard [redacted] state, "because of you you little son of a bitch we're out of work". [redacted] stated that she did not overhear any mention of race. She stated that she then heard CHIN yell across "I am not a little mother fucker". She then heard [redacted] say something to the effect, "I'm not sure if you are a big one or a little one". CHIN then got up and came around and challenged [redacted] to a fight outside and then pushed him. [redacted] jumped up along with [redacted] proceeded to grab a chair. CHIN also grabbed a chair and both of them swung the chairs at each other. [redacted] did not have a chair in his hand, but was hit by CHIN's chair. At this point, [redacted] broke up the scuffle. [redacted] then escorted CHIN out of the club and on the way out of the club CHIN yelled something to the effect, "come on outside I'll be waiting". [redacted] did not hear any reply from [redacted].

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[redacted] then proceeded to the bathroom where apparently [redacted] (Last Name Unknown), [redacted] cleaned up [redacted] and then escorted them to the door. [redacted] stated that she remained in the club and could not provide any additional information regarding what took place in the parking lot.

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Investigation on 5/10/83 at Highland Park, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408

-13

SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] Date dictated [redacted] JLC/dlb

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MAY 16 1983
TROT

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DE 44A-2408

Through interview, the following descriptive data was obtained regarding [redacted]

b6
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Name

[redacted]

Race

White

Sex

Female

Date of Birth

[redacted]

Home Address

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 5/10/83

[redacted] Wayne County Medical Examiners Office, Wayne County, Michigan, was contacted and provided the attached copies of report of autopsy for VINCENT CHIN. Also, attached are copies of photographs of the deceased.

A review of the records disclosed the following background information regarding CHIN:

Name	VINCENT CHIN
Sex	Male
Race	Chinese
Height	5'10"
Weight	149 pounds
Date of Birth	May 18, 1955
Place of Birth	China
Social Security Account Number	362-62-9938
Father	CHIN WING HING (Deceased)
Mother	LICY YEE FONG
Address	22031 Gardner Oak Park, Michigan
Case Number	4607-82
Autopsy Number	A82-1225

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Investigation on 5/5/83 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408
 by SA [redacted] dlb Date dictated 5/10/83

14
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REPORT OF AUTOPSY

An autopsy on the body of VINCENT CHIN was performed on the 24th day of June, 1982 at the Office of the Medical Examiner of Wayne County, Detroit, Michigan.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The body is that of an oriental, unclothed male weighing 149 pounds, measuring 5'10" in length and appearing to be the stated age. The rigor mortis is present to a moderate extent in all extremities. The lividity is posterior, purple and not fixed. The scalp hair is shaven due to surgical procedures. The eyes are brown. The mouth has natural teeth. A hospital identification bracelet is noted on the right wrist with the name Chin, Vincent and the number 220-63-553. Bilateral, temporoparietal craniotomy is seen. Multiple areas of ecchymosis due to needle punctures are noted bilaterally. A catheter is noted in the bladder. Also seen are multiple needle catheters inserted into veins. Two non-descript abrasions are noted bilaterally on the back.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY

CRANIOCEREBRAL INJURIES:

One inch from the top of the head and 6" to the left of midline, in the left parietal region of the scalp, there is noted a 2" sutured laceration having abraded margins. In addition, in the left occipital region, 3" from the top of the head and 3" to the left of midline, posteriorly, shows another 1½", sutured laceration also having abraded margins. Subsequent examination demonstrated a 3" linear skull fracture on the left side beneath the previously described laceration of the left parietal region. Multiple, recent contusions are noted along the fracture line on the left side of the head. This injury is the result of a direct blow on the left side of the head. Multiple, linear skull fractures are noted in the left posterior cranial fossa. This fracture is in relation to the previously described laceration to the left occipital region. This is associated with "contrecoup" contusions in the inferior surface of both frontal lobes involving the olfactory bulbs. This injury is consistent with the fall on the back of the head.

Noted is evidence of craniotomy with a 4½" x 2½" surgical skull flap on the right side. Minimal to moderate operative hemorrhages are noted. The brain is swollen and soft.

In addition, the scalp, in the region of the left temporoparietal and occipital areas, shows a diffuse area of healing contusions which extend to the left side of the upper neck.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

HEAD:

As described previously.

NECK:

A layerwise dissection of the neck structures, both anteriorly and posteriorly, does not reveal any evidence of injury to soft or bony structures.

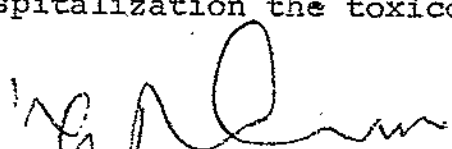
BODY CAVITIES:

A Y-shaped, thoraco-abdominal incision is made and the chest plate removed. There is no evidence of excessive fluid or adhesion in the body cavities. All the organs appear in the normal anatomical position in situ.

Examination of the body systems and organs, including cardiovascular, hepatobiliary, gastrointestinal, genitourinary and endocrines reveal no significant pathological change. The tracheobronchial tree contains some frothy edematous fluid. Both the lungs are edematous. No evidence of consolidation is, however, noted.

OPINION:

This 27-year old white, oriental male, VINCENT CHIN, died due to head injuries. The decedent was struck with a heavy blunt object on the head. Due to prolonged hospitalization the toxicological analysis is not relevant.


HARESH G. MIRCHANDANI, M.D.
ASSISTANT MEDICAL EXAMINER

HGM:mjc
6-30-82

CARL LEVIN
MICHIGAN

140 RUSSELL BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6221

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
SMALL BUSINESS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

C O P Y

May 13, 1983

Mr. William Bradford Reynolds
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice
10th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

I am writing you relative to the death of Vincent Chin who was beaten to death in Highland Park, Michigan, on June 19, 1982.

A plea of guilty to manslaughter by two citizens resulted in a sentence of probation despite the brutality of the crime. An understandable reaction of outrage has resulted within the entire community.

Justice has not been done in the Chin case. The sentencing judge will soon determine whether to resentence the perpetrators. If they are not resented so that justice can be accomplished at the state level, it is even more critical that the Justice Department complete its investigation expeditiously to determine whether federal statutes were violated in this matter. Please keep me informed as your investigation proceeds.

Many thanks,

Sincerely,

Carl Levin

CL/kr

446-2488-15

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - DETROIT	

STATE OFFICES

ALPENA
KANE BUILDING
537 CHISHOLM STREET
ALPENA, MI. 49707
(517) 356-6122

DETROIT
1860 McNAMARA BUILDING
DETROIT, MI. 48226
(313) 226-6020

ESCANABA
2409 FIRST AVENUE, N.
ESCANABA, MI. 49829
(906) 789-0052

GRAND RAPIDS
180 NORTH DIVISION
SUITE 101
GRAND RAPIDS, MI. 49503
(616) 456-2531

SAGINAW
500 FEDERAL STREET
P. O. Box 817
SAGINAW, MI. 48606
(517) 754-2494

WARREN
30500 VAN DYKE
ROOM 205
WARREN, MI. 48093
(313) 751-0477

Memorandum



To : SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (SQD. C-4) Date 5/23/83

From : SUPERVISOR [REDACTED]

b6
b7c

Subject : [REDACTED]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)
OO: DETROIT

Exhibits received from [REDACTED] on 5/3/83 not submitted within five days due to the volume of information that had to be reviewed for lead purposes.

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JLC/dlb

(1)

dlb

See 1B1

44A-2408-16

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 25 1983	
FBI - DETROIT	

[Signature]



Human Rights Department
4th Floor
150 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48226
(313) 224-4950

Coleman A. Young, Mayor
City of Detroit

TO: Honorable Coleman A. Young
Mayor, City of Detroit
Executive Office

DATE: May 18, 1983

SUBJECT: VINCENT CHIN CASE

44-2408 (4/83)

105-11455-2-6

3/65

At the May 9, 1983 meeting of the Human Rights Commission, the following Statement was adopted:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS: The Human Rights Commission is the charter mandated civil rights agency of the City of Detroit, reflecting the concern of the City Administration for all its citizens, and;

WHEREAS: VINCENT CHIN, a Chinese-American citizen was the victim of a savage and brutal assault, resulting in his death, and;

WHEREAS: The perpetrators of the assault were apprehended and brought before the bar on a plea bargained charge, and;

WHEREAS: JUDGE CHARLES KAUFMAN in carrying out his judicial responsibilities, was faced with the absence of the Prosecuting Attorney, thereby denying to him pertinent and critical information which the Prosecutor, as the peoples' council should have presented, and;

WHEREAS: JUDGE KAUFMAN, lacking such information, thereupon sentenced the two slayers to serve probation with no incarceration and, in effect, granting the two slayers freedom, and;

WHEREAS: The Human Rights Commission considers such action a travesty on the justice system and may imply a license for others to kill, with an equally disparaging regard for the main law enforcement officer of Detroit, the Prosecuting Attorney William Cahalan, now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED: That the Detroit Human Rights Commission expresses its deep concern for the manner in which the Vincent Chin slaying was handled, exposing the regrettable error in judgement by Judge Kaufman, as well as the indifferent, if not negligent, treatment of this matter by Prosecutor Cahalan, and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Human Rights Commission expresses its desire that Judge Kaufman, in concert with Prosecutor Cahalan, extend their considerable legal background to take steps to vacate the sentences which were imposed and to re-sentence the guilty defendants with a more just punishment, thereby restoring due process to Vincent Chin and serving the cause of the citizens' belief in the justice system, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: That the Human Rights Commission expresses its regrets and condolences to LILY CHIN, the mother of VINCENT.

John B. Forsyth
John B. Forsyth
Chairperson

Lillian Hatcher
Lillian Hatcher
Vice-Chairperson

Norma Barth
Norma Barth
Commissioner

Donald Kimbrough
Donald Kimbrough
Commissioner

Patricia Hill Burnett
Patricia Hill Burnett
Commissioner

Clarence Robinson
Clarence Robinson
Commissioner

Dr. Arthur L. Johnson
Dr. Arthur L. Johnson
Commissioner

Father Norman Thomas
Father Norman Thomas
Commissioner

:cjp

- cc: THE MICHIGAN CHRONICLE
- THE DETROIT NEWS
- THE DETROIT FREE PRESS
- THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ✓
- Civil Rights Division
- THE HONORABLE RICHARD DUNN
- Presiding Judge, Circuit Court
- WILLIAM L. CAHALAN
- Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 5/16/83

Detective [redacted] was contacted at his place of employment, Highland Park, Michigan Police Department, and prior to interview was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that he desired to talk with him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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Detective [redacted] provided pertinent police reports relating to the death of VINCENT CHIN on June 19, 1982.

Investigation on 5/10/83 at Highland Park, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408

by SA [redacted] /dlb

Date dictated 5/12/83

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MAY 26 1983	
FBI - DETROIT	

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[redacted]

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK, MICHIGAN

820964

OFFENSE, ARREST
& INVESTIGATIVE REPORT
QUADRUPPLICATE

PRINT FIRMLY!

MODE OF RECEIPT: 1 TELEPHONE 2 PATROL 3 WALK IN 4 MAIL/TELEGRAM 5 JUDICIAL PROCESS	RELATED INVESTIGATION: 6 REFERRED FROM 7 OTHER DEPARTMENT 8 OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>
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OAI No. _____

DISPATCHED	ARRIVED	CLEARED
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Offense: F.A. Date of Occurrence: 6-19-82 Day or (between) Days of Week: SAT

Place of Occurrence (exact) If Bus. Place Name: F/O 12857 Woodward (McDonalds) Time (or between hours of): 10^{AM} PM Weather and Temp.: DRY 50°

Complainant: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____ Race: _____ Rep. Person (If not comp.): _____ Title: _____ Age: _____ Sex: _____ Race: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ County: _____ Home Address: _____ City: _____ County: _____

Bus. Phone: _____ Res. Phone: _____ B/D: _____ Res. Phone: _____ Availability: _____ AM _____ PM _____ 8/D: _____

Availability: _____ AM _____ PM Bus. Hours: _____ Place of Employment and Address: _____

Vehicle or Property: _____ Make: _____ Year: _____ Model: _____ Color: _____ Veh. Number (or serial): _____ Lic. Number: _____

Value of Property: \$ _____ Evidence Tag(s): 14094 Time: 10¹⁵ PM Date: 6-19-82

No. _____ K-9 (Name): _____ Handler: _____ Weapon(s) Auto Arrestee Evidence

Officer Finding Evidence: _____ Mark: _____ Tr. _____ (be "same")

If more space needed, use 2nd OAI report. Details of arrest, report, etc. Be specific. If only 1 or 2 arrests, then start on line 14 or 15.

Charge: F/A Place arrested (exact): F/O 12857 Woodward Time: 10^{PM} Date: 6-19-82

Number of Arrests: No. 1 _____ No. 2 _____ No. 3 _____

24 WHILE OFF DUTY IN PARKING LOT OF MCDONALDS (12857 Woodward) OBS VEH XKN-131 S2/M2 Pull UP IN INVOICE PARKING LOT

with CHECKERS OPEN with ABOVE SUBS driving and a m/13 IN FRONT PASSENGER SEAT

KNOWN TO PO WRITTING. ALONG WITH _____

_____ DEL. WHO WAS SITTING IN THE BACK SEAT. ALL THREE SUBS EXITED THEIR VEHICLE AND ONLY ONE

had A BASE BALL WITH HIM WHEN HE EXITED THE VEHICLE

Where Placed In: _____ T.O.T. Detective (name): _____

Copy Bins Safe Pound Garage Typed By: _____

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK, MICHIGAN

82 4303

820964

REPORT

MODE OF RECEIPT: 1 TELEPHONE 2 PATROL 3 WALK IN 4 MAIL/TELEGRAM 5 JUDICIAL PROCESS	6 RELATED INVESTIGATION 7 REFERRED FROM OTHER DEPARTMENT 8 OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>
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OAI No. _____

DISPATCHED	ARRIVED	CLEARED
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FIRMLY!

Occurrence (exact) if Bus. Place Name				Date of Occurrence				Day or (Between) Days of Week							
Complainant				Time (or between hours of)				Weather and Temp.							
Home Address		Age	Sex	Race	Rep. Person (if not comp.)				Title	Age	Sex	Race			
City				County				Home Address							
City				County				City				County			
Res. Phone		B/D		Res. Phone		Availability		AM		PM		B/D			
AM		PM		Bus. Hours		Place of Employment and Address									
Year		Model		Color		Veh. Number (or serial)		Lic. Number							
Evidence Tag(s)		Received by Officer		Time		Date									
K-9 (Name)		Handler		Lein checks made and attach same		Weapon(s) <input type="checkbox"/>		Auto <input type="checkbox"/>		Arrestee <input type="checkbox"/>		Evidence <input type="checkbox"/>			
Marked by				Transported by (all "should be" same)											

If more space needed, use 2nd OAI report.
Details of arrest, report, etc. Be specific. If only 1 or 2 arrests, then start on line 14 or 15.

Charge	Place arrested (exact)	Time	Date				
Number of Arrests	Name	Age	Sex	Race	Address (City & County)	B/D	Dr. Lic.

0.2 ALL 3 SUBJECTS WALKED EAST FROM PARKING LOT TO WOODWARD
 0.3 AVE. F/O PHONE BOOTHS BETWEEN JUANHOE AND McDONALDS
 0.4 P.O. WRITTING THEN OBS. SUBJ AND PASSENGER [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] RUNNING CHASING TWO CHINESE MALES N/O ON WOODWARD
 FROM PHONE booth. P.O. [REDACTED] AND P.O. [REDACTED] (WHO
 EXITED McDONALDS) OBS. ARRESTED hitting (COMPLAINANT
 SEVERAL TIMES ABOUT THE UPPER BODY ABOUT THE
 HEAD WHILE COMPLAINANT WAS LAYING ON THE GROUND
 OFFICERS PRODUCED GUNS AND BADGE AND ORDERED Subj#1
 to drop the bat Subj cont to WALK. OFFICERS AGAIN

Party Bins <input type="checkbox"/>	Safe <input type="checkbox"/>	Pound <input type="checkbox"/>	Garage <input type="checkbox"/>	T.O.T. Detective (name)	
C. Checking Report				Typed By	Disposition 82 4303

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK, MICHIGAN

820964

REPORT

OAI No. _____

MODE OF RECEIPT:
1 TELEPHONE
2 PATROL
3 WALK IN
4 MAIL/TELEGRAM
5 JUDICIAL PROCESS

RELATED INVESTIGATION
7 REFERRED FROM
OTHER DEPARTMENT
8 OTHER

DISPATCHED

ARRIVED

CLEARED

FAMILY!

Date of Occurrence		Day or (between) Days of Week	
Occurrence (exact) If Bus. Place Name		Time (or between hours of)	
		Weather and Temp.	

Complainant	Age	Sex	Race	Rep. Person (If not comp.)	Title	Age	Sex	Race
Home Address	City	County	Home Address	City	County	Res. Phone	Availability AM	PM
Bus. Phone	Res. Phone	B/D	Res. Phone	Availability AM	PM	B/D		

Vehicle or Property	Make	Year	Model	Color	Veh. Number (or serial)	Lic. Number
Value of Property	Evidence Tag(s)	Received by Officer		Time	Date	

No.	K-9 (Name)	Handler	Lein checks made and attach same Weapon(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Auto <input type="checkbox"/> Arrestee <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence <input type="checkbox"/>	
Officer Finding Evidence		Marked by	Transported by (all "should be" same)	

If more space needed, use 2nd OAI report. Details of arrest, report, etc. Be specific. If only 1 or 2 arrests, then start on line 14 or 15.

Charge	Place arrested (exact)	Time	Date
Number of Arrests	Name	Age	Sex
<input type="checkbox"/> No. 1		Race	Address (City & County)
			B/D
			Dr. Lic.

No. 2 ORDERED SUBJECT TO DROP THE BAT. SUBJ DROPPED
 No. 3 THEN BAT - EMS ORDERED COMPL. TAKEN TO H.F.H.
 No. 4 BY N.P. FIRE (CONDITION EXTREMELY CRITICAL) ABOVE SUBJ
 ARRESTED FOR F.A.V. SUBJ READ ~~WAS~~ RIGHTS
 BY P.O. [REDACTED] SEVERAL WITNESS STATEMENTS
 ATTACHED. BAT PLACED ON EVIDENCE TAG #14094

Signature of Officer	[REDACTED]
Other Officers	[REDACTED]

Evidence Placed In	T.O.T. Detective (name)
Property Bin <input type="checkbox"/> Safe <input type="checkbox"/> Pound <input type="checkbox"/> Garage <input type="checkbox"/>	82 4303
O.I.C. Checking Report	Disposition
Typed By	

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK, MICHIGAN

b6
b7c

FD 163

OFFENSE, ARREST
& INVESTIGATIVE REPORT
QUADRUPPLICATE

OAI No. _____

PRINT FIRMLY!

MODE OF RECEIPT: 1 TELEPHONE 2 PATROL 3 WALK IN 4 MAIL/TELEGRAM 5 JUDICIAL PROCESS	5 RELATED INVESTIGATION 7 REFERRED FROM OTHER DEPARTMENT 8 OTHER	8
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DISPATCHED 10 ¹⁰ PM	ARRIVED 10 ¹⁵ PM	CLEARED
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Offense MURDER	Date of Occurrence JUNE 19, 1982	Day or (between) Days of Week SAT.
Place of Occurrence (exact) If Bus. Place Name FRT. 12857 WOODWARD	Time (or between hours of) 10⁰⁵ PM	Weather and Temp. CLDY-50

Complainant VINCENT JEN CHIN	Age 27	Sex M	Race O	Title FRONT	Sex FR	Race O
Address 22031 GARDNER OAK PARK OAK	City OAK PARK	County OAK	County	Res. Phone 545-0377	B/D 5/18/55	Availability AM PM

Vehicle or Property EMP. FISCHER BOOM	Make BOOM	Year	Model	Color	Availability AM PM	Bus. Hours
Value of Property \$	Evidence Tag(s) 14095	Time 10⁵⁰ PM	Date 6-19-82	No.	K-9 (Name)	Handler
Officer Finding Evidence	Marked by	Transported by (all "should be" same)				

If more space needed, use 2nd OAI report.

Charge	Place arrested (exact)	Time	Date
--------	------------------------	------	------

Number of Arrests	Name	Age	Sex	Race	Address (City & County)	B/D	Dr. Lic.
<input type="checkbox"/> No. 1							

No. 2

No. 3

No. 4

Details (see line No. 11)

COMP, R/P & TWO FRIENDS WERE SITTING INSIDE FANCY PAW CLUB DRINKING. TWO OTHER JNK. M/W PERSONS, ALSO IN BAR BECAME OBUSIVE TO COMP & FRIENDS. COMP BEGAN FIGHT W/ 2 JNK PERSONS, FIGHT BROKEN UP BY R/P-FRIENDS. COMP/R/P & 2 FRIENDS LEFT CLUB, WERE FOLLOWED BY SUSPECTS. SUSPECTS WENT TO HATCHBACK VEH., OPENED TAILGATE, REMOVED BASEBALL BAT. COMP RAN F/PKG. LOT ACROSS WOODWARD W/R-P FOLLOWING. BOTH COMP

Arresting Officers	Officer
--------------------	---------

Evidence Placed in	Sound <input type="checkbox"/>	Garage <input type="checkbox"/>	T.O.T. Detective (name)	Typed By	Dispu. Work
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POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK, MICHIGAN

b6
b7c

OFFENSE, ARREST
& INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

QUADRUPPLICATE

PRINT FIRMLY!

MODE OF RECEIPT: 1 TELEPHONE 2 PATROL 3 WALK IN 4 MAIL/TELEGRAM 5 JUDICIAL PROCESS	RELATED INVESTIGATION 6 REFERRED FROM OTHER DEPARTMENT 7 OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/>
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OAI No. _____

DISPATCHED	ARRIVED	CLEARED
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Offense				Date of Occurrence				Day or (between) Days of Week				
Place of Occurrence (exact) If Bus. Place Name				Time (or between hours of)				Weather and Temp.				
Complainant			Age	Sex	Race	Rep. Person (if not comp.)			Title	Age	Sex	Race
Home Address				City				County				
Bus. Phone		Res. Phone		B/D		Res. Phone		Availability AM FM		B/D		
Availability AM PM		Bus. Hours		Place of Employment and Address								
Vehicle or Property		Make	Year	Model	Color	Vch. Number (or serial)			Lic. Number			
Type of Property		Evidence Tag(s)	Received by Officer			Time		Date				
K-9 No.		K-9 (Name)	Handler		Lein checks made and attach same Weapon(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Auto <input type="checkbox"/> Arrested <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence <input type="checkbox"/>							
Officer Finding Evidence				Marked by				Transported by (all "should be" same)				

If more space needed, use 2nd OAI report.

Details of arrest, report, etc. Be specific. If only 1 or 2 arrests, then start on line 14 or 15--

Charge	Place arrested (exact)	Time	Date				
Number of Arrests <input type="checkbox"/> No. 1	Name	Age	Sex	Race	Address (City & County)	B/D	Dr. Lic.

No. 2 *1/2* R/P RAN TO 12857 WOODWARD, WAITED THERE FOR

No. 3 THEIR FRIENDS WHEN THEY ^{WERE} OBS. BY SUSPECTS, BOTH

No. 4 SUSPECTS LEFT VEH., CHASED *1/2* CAUGHT COMP. YOUNGER

Details (see line No. 11)

SUSP HELD COMP WHILE OLDER SUSPECT STRUCK COMP IN ARM / SHOULDER / CHEST / *1/2* FINALLY HEAD - TOTAL TIMES STRUCK (FOUR). R/P LEFT SCENE WHEN OFF-DUTY P.O.'S ARRIVED TO CALL AMBULANCE, UPON ARRIVAL OF AMBULANCE, R/P RETURNED, WENT TO HOSPITAL W/ COMP. HENRY FORD HOSPITAL STAFF: REG. NURSE

CONDITION OF COMP - POOR. EVIDENCE TAG #140A			
Arresting Officers			

Evidence Placed In				T.O.T. Detective (name)			
Property Bin <input type="checkbox"/>	Safe <input type="checkbox"/>	Pound <input type="checkbox"/>	Garage <input type="checkbox"/>				
J.I.C. Checking Report				Typed By		Disposition 82 4303	

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK, MICHIGAN

b6
b7c

OFFENSE, ARREST
& INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

QUADRUPPLICATE

OAI No. _____

PRINT FIRMLY!

- 1 TELEPHONE
- 2 PATROL
- 3 WALK IN
- 4 MAIL/TELEGRAM
- 5 JUDICIAL PROCESS

- 6 RELATED INVESTIGATION
- 7 REFERRED FROM OTHER DEPARTMENT
- 8 OTHER

DISPATCHED	ARRIVED	CLEARED
------------	---------	---------

Offense				Date of Occurrence		Day or (between) Days of Week	
Place of Occurrence (exact) If Bus. Place Name				Time (or between hours of)		Weather and Temp.	
Complainant			Age	Sex	Race	Rep. Person (if not comp.)	
Home Address			City		County		Home Address
Phone			Res. Phone		B/D	Res. Phone	
Availability			Bus. Hours		Place of Employment and Address		
Make		Year	Model	Color	Veh. Number (or serial)		Lic. Number
Value of Property		Evidence Tag(s)		Received by Officer		Time	Date
No.	K-9 (Name)	Handler		Lein checks made and attach same			
Location Finding Evidence		Marked by		Weapon(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Auto <input type="checkbox"/> Arrestee <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence <input type="checkbox"/>			
				Transported by (all "should be" same)			

If more space needed, use 2nd OAI report.
Details of arrest, report, etc. Be specific. If only 1 or 2 arrests, then start on line 14 or 15.

Charge	Place arrested (exact)			Time	Date
Number of Arrests	Name	Age	Sex	Race	Address (City & County)
<input type="checkbox"/> No. 1					B/D
					Dr. Lic.

b. 2

b. 3

b. 4

Details (see line No. 11)

USED FOR CLOTHING & BELONGINGS OF LUMP WHICH WAS
T.O.T. WRITING OFFICER BY R.N. [REDACTED] SUBPOENA;
ALL STAFF & REPORTS - H.F. HOSPITAL
AMBULANCE CREW. SEE ARREST REPORT BY P.O. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] FOR ADDITIONAL WITNESSES.

Officer Making	[REDACTED]			Reporting Officers
Supervisor Officers DIRECT	[REDACTED]			
Where Placed In	[REDACTED]			T.O.T. Detective (name)
Property Bins <input type="checkbox"/>	Safe <input type="checkbox"/>	Pound <input type="checkbox"/>	Garage <input type="checkbox"/>	
C. Checking Report	Typed By			Disposition
				82 4303

HIGHLAND PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS - CERTIFICATE OF NOTIFICATION

b6
b7c

I UNDERSTAND THAT:

1. I have the right to remain silent, and that I do not have to answer any questions put to me or make any statements.
2. Any statement I make, or anything I say, can be used against me in a Court of Law.
3. I have the right to have an attorney (lawyer) present before, and during the time I answer any questions or make any statement.
4. If I cannot afford an attorney (lawyer), one will be appointed for me without cost by the Court prior to any questioning.
5. I can decide at any time to exercise my rights and not answer any questions or make any statement.

Now that you are aware of your rights, do you want a lawyer?

Yes _____ No _____

I understand that these are my rights under the law. I have not been threatened or promised anything and I now desire and agree to answer any questions put to me

Witness

Witness

X

S

Date

Time

1-6-82

1.40 P.M

I understand that these are my rights under the Law. I have not been threatened or promised anything, and, I do not wish to answer any questions put to me, or make a statement.

Witness

Signature

Witness

Date

Time

This Certificate of Notification was read to the suspect, and he/she had an opportunity to read it. Further, the suspect was given an opportunity to ask any questions that he/she might have concerning this certificate and his/her rights.

Suspect is illiterate. He/she has had the rights under the Law, as defined above, explained to him/her, and has agreed to answer questions or make a statement.

Suspect can read and write. The rights, as defined above, have been explained to him/her, and he/she has agreed to make a voluntary statement.

Suspect has refused to sign this Certificate of Notification.

REMARKS:

Officer _____

Place HPPD 25 Cerald Ave.

Officer _____

Date _____

One night I was walking down Woodward
And I saw two white person across the street
One guy head was basted and I went over
to see if I can help. One guy offer me
to help him, So I went with them
to see if I could help, they saw the
guy that jump on the son and drive
up into a parking lot next to McDonald
where I saw the Police. I told
them to tell the Police, but they went
on and jump on the two due that jump
his son. the father had a baseball bat
and hit one of the guy in the head
with it. And the son jump on the
other guy and then the Police
came over and stop them from
jumping on the two guys.

Sign



Q Were you in The FANCY PANTS BAR

A. NO

Q Did they tell you what had happened in BAR.

A. NO, ONLY THING THEY SAID WAS HIS SON HAD GOTTEN HIS HEAD SMACKED BY TWO CHINESE GUYS.

Q. WHO WAS DRIVING THE CAR.

A. THE SON

Q. WHO HAD THE BASEBALL BAT.

A. THE FATHER

Q. DID YOU SEE THE ATTACK ON THE DECEASED.

A. YES - THE FATHER RAN UP + HIT THE CHINESE GUY IN THE RIBS WITH A BASEBALL BAT + HIT HIM SOME MORE TIMES. WHEN THIS WAS HAPPENING THE SON WAS CHASING THE OTHER CHINESE GUY.

Q DID YOU TELL THE TWO SUBJECTS THAT THE POLICE WAS THERE.

A. YES - BUT THEY ACTED LIKE THEY DID NOT BELIEVE THEY WERE POLICE

SIGN

HIGHLAND PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

Precinct or Bureau

Ident. No. _____

Conducted by _____

INTERROGATION RECORD

Date 7-6-82

Time 1:30 PM

At _____

Name _____ Nickname NONE Phone No. _____
 Address _____ Yrs. at 6710 Previous Address _____
 Years in City _____ Age _____ DOB _____ Birthplace _____ Race W Sex M
 Height _____ Weight _____ Eye Color _____ Glasses NO Type _____

CIRCLE APPROPRIATE DATA BELOW

BUILD
 Thin
 Very thin
Medium
 Muscular
 Heavy
 Very heavy

MOUSTACHE, BEARD, ETC.
 Beard
 Eyebrows: heavy, bushy
 Goatee
 Mustache: heavy, medium thin, Chinese
 Sideburns
 Unshaven

COMPLEXION
 Dark
 Light
Medium
 Ruddy
 Sallow
 Olive

AMPUTATIONS
 Arm: left, right
 Ears: left, right
 Fingers: left, right
 Foot: left, right
 Hand: left, right
 Leg: left, right

HAIR COLOR
Black
 Blonde
 Brown
 Light brown
 Dyed
 Gray
 Partial gray
 Red
 White

NOSE
 Broken
 Broad
 Crooked
 Flat
 Hooked
 Large small
 Long
 Thin
 Upturned

TEETH
 False
 Gaps
 Gold
 Good
 Irregular
 Missing: lower, upper
 Protruding
 Stained decayed
Chipped

FACIAL ODDITIES
 Birthmark(s)
 Chin: protrude, recede
 Freckles
 Lips: thick, thin
 Moles
 Pimples
 Pockmarks
 Hollow cheeks

HAIR TYPE
 Bald, part. bald
 Bushy
 Crew very short
 Curly, wavy
 Fad quo vadis
Kinky
 Processed
 Straight
 Thin receding
 Long

SPEECH (During Crime)
 Foreign broken
 Mexican Spanish
 Impediment
 Rapid
 Refined
 Soft or low
 Southern
 Stutters
 Vulgar profane

FACIAL SCARS
 Cheek: left, right
 Chin
 Ear: left, right
 Eyebrow: left, right
 Eye area: left, right
 Forehead
 Harelip
 Lip: left, right
 Nose
 Pierced earlobes

EYE DEFECTS
 Bulging
 Cast: left, right
 Cataracts
 Crossed
 Different colors
 Eye missing
 Squints blinks
 Slanted

BODY SCARS
 Arm: left, right
 Chest
 Hand: left, right
 Neck
 Wrist: left, right

TYPE OF TATTOO
 Initials
 Names
 Words Phrases
 Pictures
 Designs

TATTOOS
 Arm: left, right
 Chest neck
 Fingers: left, right
 Hand: left, right
 Pacheco

DEFORMITIES
 Bow-legged
 Cauliflower ears
 Crippled arm: left, right
 Crippled fingers: left, right
 Crippled hand: left, right
 Crippled leg: left, right

FOR USE IN NARCOTIC CASES

Drug used NONE Peddled _____ Possessed _____ When Started _____
 Quantity per day _____ Cost per day _____ Previous Cures _____
 Reason _____ Needlemarks _____
 Sources _____ Board of Health Notified _____

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE NO.

[Redacted Name]

SAME

UNKNOWN

5
4

Mother _____
 Father _____
 Brother/Sister _____
 Brother/Sister _____
 Son/Daughter _____
 Girlfriend/Spouse _____
 Associates _____
 Associates _____
 Hangouts _____
 Arrested by _____ Location _____ Time/Date _____
 Complainant _____ Address _____ Phone No. _____
 Charge _____ No of Previous Arrests 0 Convictions 0
 Modus Operandi _____
 Marital Status 5 Dress _____
 Military Serial No. NO Soc. Sec. No. [Redacted] Draft Board No. _____
 Years of Schooling 12th Last School Attended [Redacted] Location _____
 Employed at unemployed Address _____ Badge No. _____ How Long _____
 Previous Employment _____ Address _____ Badge No. _____ How Long _____
 Charge Accts. and Loans _____
 Car NO Year _____ Color _____ Lic. No. _____ Oper. Lic. No. _____
 Car Registered to _____ Address _____ Phone No. _____
 Religion _____ Church Attended _____
 Parole/Probation Officer NO Period _____ Notified _____
 Cooperative _____ Disposition _____ Time/Date _____

REMARKS

WITNESS STATEMENT

FILE/CASE NO.
820964
b6
b7C

PCT/SECTION/UNIT			COMPLAINANT		
Date	Time	Place:	Statement Taken By: (Badge No. Unit)		
6-19-82					
Statement From:					
Soc. Sec. No.		Residence		(PHONE)	
Employed At/Welfare/ADC		Department		Badge No.	Shift
Residing With:		Children/School:		Relatives/Friends:	
Physical Condition		(Inj./Hysterical, etc.)		Alcohol Odor? <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> HVY. <input type="checkbox"/> LIGHT	

FOUR OF US WERE SITTING IN THE BAR, A FEW WORDS EXCHANGED BETWEEN VINCE & SOME GUY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STAGE. THE MAN SAID SOMETHING TO VINCE & VINCE GOT UP & APPROACHED HIM. A LITTLE SCUFFLE BROKE OUT BUT THE BOUNCERS AT THE BAR SEEMED TO HANDLE THE SITUATION. AT THIS TIME I THOUGHT THE DISAGREEMENT WAS OVER & WENT INTO THE MEN'S ROOM. WHEN I CAME OUT THE FRIENDS I WAS WITH WERE GONE. I THEN WENT OUTSIDE & FOUND [REDACTED] HE SAID THE GUY'S WERE CHASE'N VINCE & WITH A BASEBALL BAT. AT THIS POINT ME & HOPPED IN [REDACTED] CAR TO LOOK FOR VINCE [REDACTED] WE HAD NO SUCCESS IN FINDING THEM WE DROVE AROUND FOR ABOUT AN HOUR UNTIL WE DECIDED TO GO TO WHERE VINCE WORKED ON THE WEEKENDS. WHEN WE ARRIVED AT THE RESTURANT ~~WHERE~~ WHERE VINCE WORKED HIS BOSS TOLD US THAT HE WAS AT HENRY FORD HOSPITAL IN EMERGENCY. AFTER THE CONVERSATION ME & [REDACTED] RUSTED TO THE HOSPITAL TO SEE VINCE. ONLY TO FIND OUT HE WAS IN PRETTY BAD CONDITION.

WITNESS STATEMENT

FILE/CASE NO. b6
b7C

820964

PCT/SECTION/UNIT			COMPLAINANT			
Date 5/19/02	Time	Place:	Statement Taken By: (Badge No. Unit)			
Race/Sex/Age		DOB	HGT.	WGT.		
Soc. Sec. No.	Res.			(PHONE Bus, Res?)		
Employed At/Welfare/ADC	Department		Badge No.	Shift		
Residing With:	Children/School:		Relatives/Friends:			
Physical Condition	(Inj./Hysterical, etc.)			Alcohol Odor?	<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> HVY. <input type="checkbox"/> LIGHT

THE FOUR OF US VINCE [REDACTED] AND MYSELF, WERE AT THE FANCY PANTS BAR. ONE OF THE OTHER CUSTOMERS SAID SOMETHING THAT OFFENDED VINCENT. A FIGHT ENSUED AND [REDACTED] WENT TO THE MENS ROOM. THE REST OF US LEFT THE BAR AND OUTSIDE TWO GUYS WENT INTO THE TRUNK OF THEIR CAR AND GOT A BASEBALL BAT AND WENT AFTER VINCENT. WHEN THEY COULDN'T CATCH HIM, THEY WENT LEFT IN THE CAR, LICENSE NO. XKN 131 DODGE OMNI OR PLYMOUTH HORIZON. VINCENT WAS ON THE WEST SIDE OF WOODWARD. [REDACTED] AND I WENT TO MY CAR TO PICK UP VINCENT AND GO HOME. THE OTHER GUYS WENT TO WERE AT MY CAR WHEN I WAS READY TO GO, LOOKING FOR VINCE. THEY LEFT AND WE LEFT, LOOKING FOR VINCE [REDACTED] AND I DROVE AROUND A FEW BLOCKS. [REDACTED] WAS WITH VINCE, HE DIDNT GET IN THE CAR. WE SAW THE OTHER GUYS, BUT THEY MAY HAVE BEEN THREE GUYS IN THE CAR. THE GUY THAT SAID SOMETHING TO OFFEND VINCE GOT OUT AND CHASED US WITH THE BAT, BUT WE GOT AWAY, WE HAD PARKED THE CAR. AFTER WE GOT BACK IN THE CAR, WE LOOKED FOR [REDACTED] AND VINCE, WE THEN WENT TO THE GOLDEN STAR RESTAURANT TO SEE IF VINCE WAS THERE. WE THEN FOUND HE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL

WITNESS STATEMENT

FILE/CASE NO.

8209614

b6
b7c

PCT / SECTION / UNIT			COMPLAINANT		
Date 19-06-82	Time	Place:	Statement Taken By: (Badge No. Unit)		
State		Age (Sex / Age)	DOB	HGT.	WGT.
Soc. Sec. No.	Residence		(PHON Bus. Res.)		
Employed At/Welfare/ADC	Department		Badge No.	Shift	
Residing With:	Children/School:		Relatives/Friends:		
Physical Condition	(Inj./Hysterical, etc.)			Alcohol Odor?	<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> HVY. <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> LIGHT

I was with [redacted] and Vincent at Jancy Pans having fun when the two male Caucasian started to have a few words with Vincent. So Vincent and the two guys took swing at each other, apparently the younger one had a cut, and then we decided to leave the place. Later on when the two guys came out, they went to a car, opened the hatch back and took out a baseball bat, and they chased Vincent. Vincent ran across the street to the northbound of Woodward and [redacted] and I decided to get into [redacted] car and pick up Vincent up and hand, the two guys came charging at us with baseball bat, and so I ran to meet Vincent, Vincent and I ran all the way to McDonald's, waited for about ten minutes, then the two guys came out from behind, the younger one chased Vincent, grabbed him and the older guy took swings at him, I saw a blow to the ribs, a blow to the side, Vincent staggered and the older guy took a hot blow out his head, I ran to them, then two men came charging out with a gun, identifying themselves as policemen, I ran into McDonald's and called the ambulance.

HIGHLAND PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

820964

Precinct or Bureau _____
Conducted by _____
At _____

INTERROGATION RECORD

Ident. No. _____
Date 6-20-82 Time _____

Name _____ Nickname _____ Phone No. _____
 Address _____ yrs. at _____ Previous Address _____
 Birthplace _____ Race W Sex M
 Years in City _____ Age _____ DOB _____
 Height _____ Weight _____ Eye Color _____ Glasses NONE Type _____

b6
b7c

CIRCLE APPROPRIATE DATA BELOW

BUILD

- Thin
- Very thin
- Medium
- Muscular
- Heavy
- Very heavy

MOUSTACHE, BEARD, ETC.

- Beard
- Eyebrows: heavy, bushy
- Goatee
- Mustache: heavy, medium thin, Chinese
- Sideburns
- Unshaven

COMPLEXION

- Dark
- Light
- Medium
- Redd
- Sallow
- Olive

AMPUTATIONS

- Arm: left, right
- Ears: left, right
- Fingers: left, right
- Foot: left, right
- Hand: left, right
- Leg: left, right

HAIR COLOR

- Black
- Blonde
- Brown
- Light brown
- Dyed
- Gray
- Partial gray
- Red
- White

NOSE

- Broken
- Broad
- Crooked
- Flat
- Hooked
- Large small
- Long
- Thin
- Upturned

TEETH

- False
- Gaps
- Gold
- Good
- Irregular
- Missing: lower, upper
- Protruding
- Stained decayed
- Chipped

FACIAL ODDITIES

- Birthmark(s)
- Chin: protrude, recede
- Freckles
- Lips: thick, thin
- Moles
- Pimples
- Pockmarks
- Hollow cheeks

HAIR TYPE

- Bald, part. bald
- Bushy
- Crew very short
- Curly, wavy
- Fad quo vadis
- Kinky
- Processed
- Straight
- Thin/receding
- Long

SPEECH (During Crime)

- Foreign broken
- Mexican Spanish
- Impediment
- Rapid
- Refined
- Soft or low
- Southern
- Stutters
- Vulgar profane

FACIAL SCARS

- Cheek: left, right
- Chin
- Ear: left, right
- Eyebrow: left, right
- Eye area: left, right
- Forehead
- Hare-lip
- Lip: left, right
- Nose
- Pierced earlobes

EYE DEFECTS

- Bulging
- Cast: left, right
- Cataracts
- Crossed
- Different colors
- Eye missing
- Squints/blinks
- Slanted

BODY SCARS

- Arm: left, right
- Chest
- Hand: left, right
- Neck
- Wrist: left, right

TYPE OF TATTOO

- Initials
- Names
- Words/Phrases
- Pictures
- Designs

TATTOOS

- Arm: left, right
- Chest neck
- Fingers: left, right
- Hand: left, right
- Pochuco

DEFORMITIES

- Bow-legged
- Cauliflower ears
- Crippled arm: left, right
- Crippled fingers: left, right
- Crippled hand: left, right
- Crippled leg: left, right

FOR USE IN NARCOTIC CASES

Drug used _____ Peddled _____ Possessed _____ When Started _____
 Quantity per day _____ Cost per day _____ Previous Cures _____
 Reason _____ Needlemarks _____
 Sources _____ Board of Health Notified _____

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE NO.

Mother

Father DECEASED

Brother/Sister _____

Brother/Sister _____

2 Son/Daughter

Girlfriend/Spou SAME

Associates _____

Associates _____

Hangouts _____

Arrested by _____ Location _____ Time/Date _____

Complainant _____ Address _____ Phone No. _____

Charge _____ No of Previous Arrests 0 Convictions 0

Modus Operandi _____

Marital Status M Dress _____

Military Serial No. _____ Soc. Sec. N Draft Board No. _____

Years of Schooling 12 Ch. Last School Attended _____ Location _____

Employed at Address Badge No. _____ How Long 17 YRS

Previous Employment _____ Address _____ Badge No. _____ How Long _____

Charge Accts. and Loans _____

Car Dodge Year 79 Color CASPER Lic. No. _____ Oper. Lic. No. _____

Car Registered to SELF Address _____ Phone No. _____

Religion _____ Church Attended _____

Parole/Probation Officer NO. Period _____ Notified _____

Cooperative _____ Disposition _____ Time/Date _____

REMARKS

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 5/18/83

[redacted] white male, born [redacted] voluntarily appeared at the Detroit Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents and that they desired to talk to him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the FBI.

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b7c

[redacted] advised that he has known VINCENT CHIN for approximately [redacted] and that on June 19, 1982, at approximately 5:00pm, he received a telephone call from CHIN asking him to accompany CHIN to a bar in order to celebrate CHIN's pending marriage. Between approximately 8:30pm and 9:00pm, he arrived at the Fancy Pants Go-Go Club in Highland Park. Present were VINCENT CHIN, [redacted] and [redacted] stated that they were seated right next to the stage and were watching the dancers perform. He stated that a Negro female was dancing on stage when he heard CHIN talking. He looked over and saw him talking to two individuals later identified as [redacted]. It appeared that the three of them were talking about the dancers. Within a short time after observing this, [redacted] heard the individual identified as [redacted] say something to CHIN about "foreign car". Then a couple of sentences later, he heard CHIN say, "Don't call me a mother fucker". He stated that [redacted] then replied, "Little fucker, Big fucker we are all fuckers". CHIN repeated, "Don't call me a mother fucker". At this time CHIN stood up and walked around the stage to where [redacted] were seated. [redacted] stood up and a fight broke out between [redacted] and CHIN. [redacted] at this time was not involved in the fight. However, a short time later, [redacted] entered the fight. [redacted] then grabbed a chair and brought it over his head attempting to hit CHIN with it. CHIN grabbed the chair throwing it down on the ground. At this time the bouncers, one white male and one Negro male, came up and separated [redacted] and CHIN.

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[redacted] stated that he grabbed CHIN and said, "Let's go". [redacted] stated that he, [redacted] and CHIN immediately left the club and went out into the parking lot and went by [redacted] car. [redacted] went into the restroom. [redacted] stated that he does not recall CHIN yelling anything toward [redacted] as they departed the club.

b6
b7cInvestigation on 5/12/83 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408 -19by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] JLC/dlb Date dictated 5/18/83

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 25 1983	
FBI-DETROIT	

b6
b7c

DE 44A-2408

After standing in the parking lot for a short period of time [redacted] re-entered the club, went into the restroom and told [redacted] "Let's go", and then went back out to the parking lot joining [redacted] and CHIN. A short time later [redacted] and [redacted] exited the club into the parking lot area. They were accompanied by a Negro male who [redacted] believes is the bouncer. As [redacted] were being escorted to their car, CHIN yelled at them something to the effect, "let's fight some more, nobody calls me a mother fucker". [redacted] stated that there was no reply from [redacted] but that they went straight to their car which was parked in the lot and [redacted] obtained a baseball bat from the trunk area. Once [redacted] had the bat in his hands, he approached CHIN and stated something to the effect, "Now you want to fight you little fucker. [redacted] stated that CHIN then replied, "I'm not going to fight you with a baseball bat". [redacted] then started chasing CHIN who ran toward Woodward Avenue. [redacted] stated that he and [redacted] followed on foot and saw VINCENT on the west side of Woodward, but did not see [redacted] CHIN did point to the area that [redacted] was in, but [redacted] could not observe him.

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b7c

[redacted] then returned to the lot and about this time [redacted] exited the club. They informed [redacted] as to what was going on and about this time [redacted] returned to the parking lot. [redacted] stated that [redacted] then asked [redacted] "where's your friend" and [redacted] replied "I don't know". [redacted] stated that about this time, [redacted] observed him and they stated something to the effect, "Let's get this little mother fucker". He stated that they made no moves on [redacted] but [redacted] started, with bat in hand, chasing him and that he ran to Woodward to the area of where he thought CHIN was located. He located CHIN on Woodward and stayed with him and after approximately ten to fifteen minutes they ended up in the parking lot area of MacDonald's Restaurant just south of the Fancy Pants Club.

At the MacDonald's Restaurant, they observed [redacted] and [redacted] in the parking area. [redacted] and [redacted] were in close proximity to them before they knew that they were in the area. At this time both he and CHIN started running, but after six or seven steps he, [redacted] turned around and observed that [redacted] had caught CHIN and was holding him. He stated that he then observed [redacted] with bat in hand, come up to CHIN and strike him in the knee area. CHIN bent over in obvious pain and then was struck in the chest area by [redacted] using the bat. After being hit in the chest area, [redacted] using the bat, struck CHIN in the head approximately three or four times.

DE 44A-2408

Observing this beating, [] immediately returned to the aid of CHIN, but was too late as CHIN was lying on the ground. [] was holding him when two Negro males identifying themselves as police officers, came up to determine what was going on. [] then went into MacDonald's and called Emergency Medical Service (EMS). EMS responded with additional police officers. [] then accompanied CHIN to the hospital.

At this time [] could not provide any additional information, therefore the interview was terminated.

Through observation and interview, the following background information was obtained:

Name
Race
Sex
Date of Birth
Citizenship
Residence

[]

White

Male

Occupation
Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes

[]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 5/23/83

[redacted] white male, born [redacted] voluntarily appeared at the Detroit Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents and that they desired to talk to him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the FBI.

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[redacted] stated that he has known VINCENT CHIN for approximately 20 years, as they grew up in the same neighborhood. [redacted] stated that on June 19, 1983 at approximately 5:30pm, he received a telephone call from CHIN, who asked him to go out to a couple of bars to celebrate his, CHIN's, pending marriage. He stated that he met CHIN and [redacted] at Mocombo's Go-Go located on Eight Mile and Ward. The three of them stayed at the bar for approximately one-half hour to forty-five minutes and then returned to CHIN's residence in Oak Park and dropped off CHIN's and [redacted] car. They then all left in [redacted] car en route to the Fancy Pants Go-Go Club located in Highland Park. En route they stopped at a drugstore near Woodward and Nine Mile and bought a pint of vodka and then went to Fancy Pants. Once inside the Fancy Pants Club, the three of them sat at a table some distance from the stage. Approximately twenty minutes to one-half hour later they were able to move to seats right next to the stage. At this time [redacted] left the club and went and picked up [redacted] and brought him back to the club where they rejoined CHIN and [redacted]. As they were facing the stage [redacted] was on [redacted] left, CHIN was on his right, and [redacted] was on his far right. A Negro female was dancing on stage when approximately two numbers into her routine, he heard CHIN say, "don't call me a fucker, I am not a fucker". [redacted] stated that he tapped CHIN on the arm and said, "forget it". He stated that he then looked up and saw an individual, later identified as [redacted] and heard [redacted] say, "I'm not sure if you are a big fucker or a little fucker" or words to that effect. CHIN stood up, walked around the stage, and approached [redacted]. [redacted] stood up and CHIN pushed him. [redacted] started swinging and CHIN began returning [redacted] punches. At about this time [redacted] joined in and tried to punch CHIN. [redacted] was attempting to hold CHIN, but CHIN was able to break any hold. [redacted] stated he believes that [redacted] then picked up a chair and attempted to swing it over his head toward CHIN. CHIN grabbed the chair and

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b7CInvestigation on 5/18/83 at Detroit, Michiganby SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] JLC/dlbDate dictated 5/20/83

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ROFF:

DE 44A-2408

brought it toward the floor. [] then went around * and got in between [] and CHIN attempting to break up the fight. About this time, a Negro male who was believed to be the bouncer, restrained [] had a hold on CHIN. [] stated that he thinks that CHIN said, "Let's go", and he, [] got the jackets and walked out with CHIN and []. He stated that he does not recall any conversation between [] and CHIN as they were leaving the club.

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While they were waiting in the parking lot for [] a Negro male escorted [] out of the club toward [] car. [] stated that he could not recall any conversation between anyone at this point in time, but that [] opened his hatchback and got a baseball bat from it. After obtaining the baseball bat, [] started walking toward CHIN and CHIN said something to the effect, "if you want to fight, put the bat down". [] then started chasing CHIN toward Woodward Avenue. [] stated that he [] followed behind them toward Woodward and upon reaching Woodward observed CHIN on the other side of Woodward, but they lost site of []. They then stopped and walked back toward their car in order to get [] and to eventually pick up CHIN.

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Once back in the parking lot area, [] came out of the club and it was explained to him what was taking place. As they were getting ready to get into their car, [] and [] came up. [] still had the bat in his hand. They asked [] "where's your friend?" and he replied, "I don't know". They made no threatening moves toward [] at this time. [] then started walking toward [] who ran on foot toward Woodward and to the area where CHIN had ran. At this time [] got into [] car and he [] drove out of the parking lot and proceeded to drive about one block south of the club. The two of them discussed the situation and felt that they needed some type of protection of their own against [] so [] got out of the car and got a tire iron from the trunk. They then proceeded on foot toward Woodward to the area of where [] chased CHIN. [] was in front of [] and he, [] observed [] approach [] were in their vehicle at this time. [] opened the door and got out, still having the baseball bat in his hands. [] saw [] and started running away from him. [] did not chase him very far. [] then observed [] and gave chase to him, but he ran toward an alley and [] gave up the chase. He then observed [] get into his car and as [] was pulling away, someone from inside the car said, "we are going to get your friend, you are going to need more than a tire iron when we get your friend". [] then returned to their vehicle and for the next one and one-half to two hours attempted to locate CHIN and [] while driving up and down Woodward.

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DE 44A-2408

They were unsuccessful in attempting to locate them and after about two hours returned to a Chinese restaurant where CHIN worked part time. They were then informed by the manager that CHIN had been beaten and was in the hospital.

[redacted] could provide no further information at this time and therefore the interview was terminated.

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Through observation and interview, the following background information was obtained:

Name
Race
Sex
Date of Birth
Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes
Home Address

[redacted]

White
Male

[redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 5/23/83

[redacted] white male, born [redacted] voluntarily appeared at the Detroit Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that the Agent desired to talk to him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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[redacted] advised that he is employed as a [redacted] at the Fancy Pants Go-Go Club located at 13300 Woodward, Highland Park, Michigan. [redacted] advised that he was working on the evening of June 19, 1982 and at approximately 9:30pm his attention was drawn to a fight that was in progress near the stage. He proceeded to the fight to break it up and determined that one of the individuals involved was a VINCENT CHIN, who he has seen in the club on previous occasions and two other individuals subsequently identified as [redacted] and [redacted]. He stated that he broke the fight up initially but that within seconds it started again and that he believes [redacted] picked up a chair and attempted to strike CHIN with the chair. [redacted] stated that he attempted to grab the chair, but that [redacted] were hit with the chair both receiving cuts. About this time [redacted] was joined by [redacted] who is the bouncer at the club, and [redacted] assisted him in breaking up the fight. [redacted] stated that he was not sure if there was any conversation between CHIN [redacted] at this point in time. He stated that prior to observing the fight, he did not hear any statements by CHIN or [redacted] and [redacted].

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After the fight had been stopped [redacted] took [redacted] and [redacted] into the bathroom for approximately ten minutes helping [redacted] clean his cut and also attending to his own cuts. There was little conversation in the bathroom but [redacted] stated that he told [redacted] to kool it and that [redacted] indicated that CHIN had started the fight, but no specifics were related to [redacted] by either [redacted].

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[redacted] stated that he escorted [redacted] to the door of the club and that they entered the parking area. [redacted] stated that he believes he remained in the club and therefore could not provide any information relative to what occurred in the parking lot.

Investigation on 5/19/83 at Detroit, Michigan

File Detroit 44A-2408-21

by SA [redacted] /dlb

Date dictated

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[redacted]

[redacted]

DE 44A-2408

Approximately fifteen minutes after [redacted] had left the club, [redacted] went out into the parking lot and sat in his car as he was not feeling well. He stated that he observed one Negro male and two white males walking on the street in front of the parking lot of the club. They were walking westbound toward Woodward and the Negro male was carrying a baseball bat. However, [redacted] could not identify the two white males as being [redacted]

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[redacted] stated that he did not learn until a couple of days later when a nurse called the club, that CHIN had been beaten that evening. He learned of CHIN's death through the newspapers.

[redacted] could not provide any further information, therefore the interview was terminated.

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Through observation and interview, the following background information was obtained:

Name	[redacted]
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Height	
Weight	
Hair	
Eyes	
Employment	

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 5/20/83

[redacted] white male, born [redacted] voluntarily appeared at the Detroit Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that they desired to talk to him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the FBI.

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[redacted] advised that at 4:15 PM on the evening of June 19, 1982, he was called at his home by VINCENT CHIN to go with CHIN to Mocombo's Go-Go Club, located on Eight Mile Road in Detroit, Michigan, to celebrate CHIN's upcoming marriage. He advised that about 6:20 PM, he met CHIN at the bar, as well as [redacted] where he and CHIN had two drinks each. [redacted] stated that around 7:30 PM, CHIN said Mocombo's Go-Go Club was too crowded and they left for the Fancy Pants Go-Go Club, located at 13300 Woodward Avenue, Highland Park, Michigan. He advised that enroute he and CHIN left their automobiles at CHIN's residence, located at 22031 Gardner, Oak Park, Michigan, and rode in [redacted] car, picking up a pint of vodka at a drugstore.

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[redacted] advised that around 8:15 PM, they arrived at Fancy Pants Go-Go Club, carried the vodka past the bouncer, who told them to keep it low, and sat by the stage. [redacted] stated that he, CHIN, and [redacted] were joined by another friend of CHIN's named [redacted] advised that between 9:30 PM and 10:00 PM, they were watching and tipping an unidentified black female dancer when he heard the word "Chink" emit from a conversation between CHIN and a white male, later identified as [redacted] who was sitting across the small stage from CHIN and his friends. [redacted] stated that CHIN said to [redacted] "Don't call me a fucker" to which [redacted] replied, "There's big fuckers and little fuckers, I just don't know if you're a little one." [redacted] stated that at this point CHIN went to [redacted] and shoved him, whereupon [redacted] punched CHIN and swung a chair at CHIN. A white male, later identified as [redacted] accomplice, was also fighting CHIN. [redacted] stated that CHIN stopped the chair in mid-flight, and then bouncers grabbed [redacted] grabbed CHIN, telling him to, "cool off." [redacted] advised that there were more heated words exchanged between [redacted] and CHIN but were inaudible to him because of the music in the bar. [redacted] saw [redacted] in the men's room and said, "Why don't you keep it cool? He's getting married."

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Investigation on 5/17/83 at Detroit, Michigan

File # Detroit 44A-2408-52

by SAs [redacted] and [redacted]
RTH/ mar

Date dictated

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[Signature]

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[redacted] left the men's room and talked with a white female employee of the bar and went out to the parking lot when he saw [redacted] and [redacted] drive away. Moments later, [redacted] came back, [redacted] with a baseball bat in his hand, and asked [redacted] "Where's your Chinese friend?" [redacted] stated that [redacted] chased [redacted] [redacted] grabbed a tire iron from [redacted] car and [redacted] came back and said, "Come on. I'll fight you with that tire iron." At this point [redacted] got in the latter's car and drove around the vicinity of Fancy Pants Go-Go Club looking for CHIN. [redacted] stated that they were notified by [redacted] a friend of VINCENT CHINS, that he was at Henry Ford Hospital.

[redacted] advised that he knew CHIN by working together at Efficient Engineering Company, located at 21680 Coolidge Highway, Oak Park, Michigan, and that CHIN was very friendly with everyone, not vulnerable to provocation. [redacted] advised that on the evening of June 19, 1982, CHIN was not intoxicated.

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Through interview the following descriptive data was obtained:

Name
 Race
 Sex
 Date of birth
 Height
 Weight
 Hair
 Eyes
 Home address

 Employment

 Home telephone number
 Business telephone number

[redacted]
White
Male
[redacted]

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Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

FREE PRESS

Date: 6/3/83

Edition: 1A

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44A-2408

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

Judge refuses any changes in Chin death case sentences

By JOHN CASTINE

Free Press Staff Writer

The fines and sentences of probation in the baseball-bat beating death of Vincent Chin will not be changed, Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman ruled Thursday.

In a written opinion filed with the Wayne

County clerk, Kaufman said there is no legal basis to invalidate the sentences of Ronald Ebens and his stepson, Michael Nitz, and then resentence them to prison.

The sentences were challenged by American Citizens for Justice, a group of predominantly Chinese-Americans. The group ex-

pressed outrage at the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office for accepting a plea-bargain agreement and at Kaufman's sentence of three years' probation and fines of \$3,780 each for Ebens, 43, and Nitz, 23. Under the agreement, charges were reduced from second-degree murder to manslaughter.

About 100 protesters packed Kaufman's courtroom April 29 while Southfield attorney Liza Chan argued that he should reconsider the sentence on grounds that no prosecutor was at the sentencing and that defense attorneys had misled the judge about facts in the case, particularly a statement that Chin, 27, of Oak Park, "throw the first punch."

... it is the obligation of the court to decide the matters submitted in accordance with the mandates of law."

— Judge Kaufman

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SENT TO BUREAU

Although Kaufman wrote that he believed American Citizens for Justice was not legally entitled to intervene, he considered their arguments because he was "satisfied that the interest expressed ... is real and sincere ..."

Kaufman wrote that he recognized the "petitioners consist of representatives of the family of (Chin) and community groups who seek to express, by their collective voice, discontent with the sentence of the court and the alleged inaction of the prosecutor ..."

"The concern and interest expressed ... are understandable," Kaufman continued. "While sympathizing with the family and community of the victim, it is the obligation of the court to decide the matters submitted in accordance with the mandates of law."

"The court being convinced that no error appears (to invalidate) the orders of probation previously rendered, those orders will not be disturbed," Kaufman concluded in the seven-page opinion.

KAUFMAN'S SENTENCE gained national publicity and criticism from civil-rights groups. Protesters were enraged at his explanation of the sentences: "You don't make the punishment fit the crime; you make the punishment fit the criminal."

Ebens and Nitz, of East Detroit, were sentenced March 16, after Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz no contest to the reduced charge.

Chin died June 23, 1982, four days after the pair

chased Chin and Ebens beat him with a baseball bat on Woodward Avenue in Highland Park after a quarrel in the Fancy Pants Club, which features all-nude female dancers.

Chin, who was to be married five days later, was celebrating his upcoming wedding with three friends at the club.

A **MANSLAUGHTER** conviction allows a judge to sentence a defendant to probation or up to 15 years in prison. Saying Ebens and Nitz had jobs and no criminal records, Kaufman said the defendants seemed to be good citizens and not likely "to go out and harm somebody else."

Kaufman had no comment on Thursday's opinion. According to a court secretary, Kaufman said the opinion "spoke for itself."

Kaufman wrote that the lack of a prosecutor at the sentencing did not invalidate the sentence and added that "in Wayne County, the prosecutor appears at sentencing less than one percent of the time."

Last week, a report issued by the American Civil Liberties Union in Detroit blamed the prosecutor's office for the seemingly light sentence because, the ACLU said, Kaufman was not made fully aware of the facts of the case.

PROSECUTOR William Cahalan has had no comment on the criticism, but at the April hearing Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Tim Baughman said the prosecutor's office was "satisfied" because manslaughter "offered an adequate range of sentencing discretion."

A spokesman for American Citizens for Justice said the group will have no comment until the opinion is thoroughly read. Chan said the decision would be discussed at a press conference Friday.

Nitz and Ebens were unavailable for comment, but Nitz's attorney, Ed Khoury, was pleased with the decision and called Kaufman a "principle guy."

"He's not going to subvert the law in response to public pressure," Khoury said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Justice Department's preliminary investigation of the case to see whether there was any violation of Chin's civil rights has not ended.

The FBI has been investigating for about a month. A spokesman in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Detroit said Thursday, "I think we have a way to go on it."

The Justice Department began the investigation on the request of the national office of the Organization of Chinese Americans in Washington, D.C.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE DETROIT	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DETROIT	DATE 5/27/83	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 5/3-19/83
TITLE OF CASE <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></div>	TYPED BY srb
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

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REFERENCES: Bureau airtel to Detroit dated 4/27/83.
Detroit airtel to Bureau dated 5/4/83.

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LEADS

DETROIT

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN:

Will locate and interview

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUITTALS	PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
CON VIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	TALS	

APPROVED _____ SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
COPIES MADE: 2 - Bureau 1 - USA, Detroit (Attention: AUSA ROSS G. PARKER) 2 - Detroit (44A-2408)	<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">25</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">44A-2408-307</div> SEARCHED _____ SERIALIZED _____ INDEXED _____ FILED _____

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Notations

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Detroit
(Attention: AUSA ROSS G. PARKER)

Report of: SA [redacted] Office: Detroit, Michigan
Date: May 27, 1983

Field Office File #: 44A-2408 Bureau File #:

Title: [redacted]
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -
VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

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Synopsis:

On 5/3/83, [redacted] was contacted and provided copies of court records and newspaper articles relating to the death of VINCENT CHIN. On 5/5/83, [redacted] Staff Writer, Detroit Free Press, provided newspaper articles re CHIN. On 5/5/83, [redacted] Wayne County Medical Examiner, provided copy of autopsy report re CHIN. On 5/10/83, Detective [redacted] Highland Park, Michigan Police Department, provided police reports re CHIN. On 5/10/83, [redacted] advised that just prior to a fight inside the Fancy Pants Club, she heard [redacted] say to CHIN, "Because of you, you little son of a bitch we're out of work." On 5/10/83, [redacted] advised that he broke up the fight between [redacted] and CHIN but did not hear any racial remarks. On 5/12/83, [redacted] advised that he was present during the fight and heard [redacted] mention something about "foreign car" but did not hear any racial remarks. On 5/17/83, [redacted] was interviewed and stated he heard the word "Chink" coming from [redacted]. On 5/18/83, [redacted] interviewed and stated he was present during fight but did not hear any racial remarks. On 5/19/83, [redacted] advised he assisted [redacted] in breaking up fight but did not hear any racial remarks.

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DE 44A-2408

DETAILS:

This is a preliminary investigation.

This investigation was instituted upon receipt of a letter from the United States Department of Justice dated April 27, 1983.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 6/6/83

[redacted] Negro male born [redacted] was contacted at his residence, [redacted] and prior to interview was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that he desired to talk with him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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[redacted] advised that between 10:00 and 11:00pm, on the evening of June 19, 1982, he was walking home from his girlfriend's house when he encountered an older white male and a younger white male, who were later identified as [redacted]

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[redacted] He advised that they were also on foot and that the older man was carrying a baseball bat. [redacted] stated that he walked up to the two individuals and observed that the younger male was bleeding from a head wound. [redacted] asked if they needed any help and they replied, "I'll give you \$20.00 if you help us catch the Chinaman". [redacted] told them that he had just observed a group of individuals running and that they would probably never be able to catch them. [redacted] stated that he did not say that he would help locate the "Chinaman", but was merely trying to help [redacted] who was bleeding. [redacted] stated that he then asked them if they wanted to go to a hospital and they replied, "yes". So, the three of them got into a vehicle. The younger man was driving and the older man was a passenger. There was little conversation between [redacted] while in the vehicle, but they kept referring to the Chinaman and the older white male stated that he was going to "bust their heads".

Within a few minutes after getting into the vehicle, they apparently spotted who they were looking for in the parking lot of a MacDonald's Restaurant located on Woodward Avenue. As the older male said to his son, "there they are", [redacted] stated that he looked over in the direction of MacDonald's and observed an individual who he knew as [redacted] who he knows as a Highland Park police officer. He indicated this to [redacted] whereupon [redacted] stated something to the effect, "Fuck the police".

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[redacted] drove into the parking lot and the three of them exited the vehicle. [redacted] caught a Chinese individual later identified as VINCENT CHIN and began beating him with the baseball bat. [redacted] stated that as [redacted] responded to the

Investigation on 5/31/83 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408 27by SA [redacted] /dlbDate dictated 6/3/83

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DE 44A-2408

scene, he approached [redacted] and stood with [redacted] stated that the Emergency Medical Service was called for CHIN and he was removed from the scene. [redacted] denied ever receiving any money from [redacted] in connection with attempting to locate VINCENT CHIN, nor did he expect to receive any. He was under the impression that he was assisting the two individuals in obtaining medical help and not pursuing CHIN.

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Through observation and interview, the following descriptive data was obtained from [redacted]

b6
b7C

Name
Race
Sex
Date of Birth
Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes
Home Address

[redacted]

Negro
Male

[redacted]

Employment

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 6/6/83

[redacted] Negro female, born [redacted] was interviewed at her residence, [redacted] and prior to interview was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that he desired to talk with her regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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[redacted] advised that on the evening of June 19, 1982, she was employed as a [redacted] at the Fancy Pants Club in Highland Park, Michigan. Some time during the evening while behind the bar, which is somewhat removed from the stage area, she recognized an individual who she knew as VINCENT CHIN, involved in a fight with an individual, later identified as [redacted]. She stated that the music was loud and consequently did not hear any conversation between CHIN and [redacted] prior to the fight. She stated that the fight was broken up by the [redacted] and that CHIN was escorted to the door and left the club immediately after the fight was broken up. She stated that she never overheard any conversation that evening between [redacted] and CHIN. [redacted] could provide no further information regarding the incident and did not learn of CHIN's beating until the next day.

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Through observation and interview, the following background and descriptive data was obtained:

Name
Sex
Race
Date of Birth
Height
Weight
Address

[redacted]
Female
Negro
[redacted]

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Employment

Investigation on 6/1/83 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408-28

by SA [redacted] /dlb

Date dictated

6/ SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUN 6 1982
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 6/16/83

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[redacted] Negro female, born [redacted]
[redacted] was contacted at the 41st District Court and prior to interview was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that the Agent desired to talk to her regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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[redacted] advised that on June 19, 1982, she was employed as a [redacted] at the Fancy Pants Club and was working that evening. She advised that she did not know VINCENT CHIN, [redacted] from previous visits to the club. She stated she began [redacted] when she observed an older white male over [redacted] of age, approximately [redacted] tall, [redacted] sitting with a younger white male, approximately [redacted] tall, [redacted] sitting next to the stage. She observed a young oriental-looking male sitting across the stage. During her [redacted] she observed the oriental male and the older white male engaged in conversation. She stated that they appeared to be bickering about something and they seemed to be somewhat hostile toward each other. She stated that she can not recall what was actually said as the music was too loud. After completing her [redacted]

[redacted] the oriental male [redacted] The older white male then told the oriental male [redacted] After receiving her [redacted] to the oriental male [redacted]

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[redacted] then walked over to adjust the lights when she heard the older white male make an obscene remark to the oriental male. After adjusting the lights, [redacted] she continued to hear sexual remarks being made by the older white male to the oriental male and some remarks about the oriental male's wife and mother.

She stated that there was very little verbal response from the oriental male, but finally [redacted] the oriental male got up out of his seat, came around the stage, and confronted the older white male. The older white male stood up, grabbed a chair, and attempted to hit the oriental male with the chair, but missed. Within moments, the doorman, assisted by [redacted]

Investigation on 6/15/83 at Sterling Heights, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408

by SA [redacted] dlb

Date dictated

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[redacted] IT

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DE 44A-2408

a customer whose name she can not recall, broke up the fight and the oriental male was escorted out of the club. The only thing she heard at this time was that the oriental male was yelling at the manager indicating that it was not his fault.

After the fight, [redacted] and did not know of any further violence between the two until she read about it in the newspaper some days later.

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[redacted] stated that at no time during the altercation between the older white male and the oriental male, did she hear any racial remarks, but the arguments did contain sexual slurs.

[redacted] could provide no further positive information.

Through observation and interview, the following background information was obtained:

Name	[redacted]
Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Home Address	[redacted]
Current Employment	[redacted]

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b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE DETROIT	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DETROIT	DATE 6/16/83	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 5/31/83 - 6/15/83
TITLE OF CASE <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px; margin: 5px 0;"></div> VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div>	TYPED BY dlb
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

REFERENCE: Detroit report of SA 5/27/83.

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44A2408-210

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SERIALIZED JP

INDEXED _____

FILED JP

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	

CASE HAS BEEN:
 PENDING OVER ONE YEAR YES NO
 PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS YES NO

APPROVED JP SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

- 2 - Bureau
- 1 - USA, Detroit
(Attn: AUSA JOHN N. THOMPSON)
- ① - Detroit (44A-2408)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				
Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Detroit
(Attn: AUSA JOHN N. THOMPSON)

Report of: [REDACTED] Office: Detroit, Michigan
Date: 6/16/83

Field Office File #: 44A-2408 Bureau File #:

Title: [REDACTED]
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM

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b7c

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS (A)

Synopsis: On 5/31/83, [REDACTED] was contacted and advised that he met [REDACTED] during the evening of 6/19/82. They offered him \$20.00 to find the "Chinaman", but [REDACTED] was only attempting to help [REDACTED] obtain medical assistance for his injured head. On 6/1/83, [REDACTED] Fancy Pants Club, was contacted and advised she witnessed the fight inside the club between [REDACTED] and CHIN, but could not provide any information as to how the fight started. On 6/15/83, [REDACTED] was contacted and advised that she was [REDACTED] when the fight broke out, but did not hear any racial statements by [REDACTED]

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- C -

Details:

DE 44A-2408

The following investigation was conducted by
Special Agent [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan on
June 15, 1983:

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Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern
District of Michigan, John N. Thompson, was contacted and was
provided the facts surrounding the death of VINCENT CHIN.

Upon hearing the facts, Mr. Thompson advised that
sufficient investigation had been conducted.

Memorandum



To : SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (C-4) (P)

Date 7/6/83

From : SUPERVISOR [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

Subject :

[REDACTED]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)
OO: DETROIT

Re telephone call from Departmental Attorney RONALD KENNELLY, Washington, D.C. on 6/29/83.

In referenced telephone conversation between KENNELLY and Supervisor [REDACTED] KENNELLY advised that the Department would be requesting further investigation in captioned matter. In anticipation of this request, Detroit will re-open this case.

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JLC/dlb
(2)

llb

*REO
JA*

44A2408-31

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[REDACTED]

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Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Date: 6-30-83

Edition: 6A

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44-2408

or

Classification: DETROIT

Submitting Office:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Chin's family asks for probe by Justice Dept.

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — The mother of Vincent Chin, beaten fatally with a baseball bat in Highland Park, asked the Justice Department Wednesday to investigate whether there were civil rights violations in the case.

Lily Chin and representatives of Chinese-American groups met for an hour with Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds, the administration's chief civil rights enforcer.

Two Detroit area men, Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz, pleaded guilty in March to manslaughter in the 1982 death of Chin, 27, of Oak Park, and were given three years' probation. They could have faced up to 15 years in prison.

A Justice Department spokesman said the group told Reynolds it was clear there had been violations under federal civil rights laws.

He said Reynolds replied the case was a "terribly brutal incident that was treated with apparently way too light a sentence."

Reynolds also told the group this appeared to be a case for "dual prosecution consideration" — in which the government could bring federal civil rights charges even though the men already have been sentenced in a state court.

Reynolds has approved only two such cases since he came to office early in 1980.



UPI Photo

Lily Chin meets Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds in Washington Wednesday.

The FBI is investigating whether Chin's civil rights were violated and whether federal charges are warranted.

The case sparked demonstrations by Chinese-American and civil rights groups in the Detroit area and elsewhere.

Sent To Bureau

44-2408-32

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FREE PRESS

Date: 6/30/83

Edition: PAGE 6A

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44-2408

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

U.S. likely to probe Chin death

By PAUL MAGNUSSON

Free Press Washington Staff

WASHINGTON — The government's chief civil rights enforcement official hinted strongly Wednesday that federal authorities would intercede in the case of the two men given sentences of probation for the 1982 baseball bat slaying of Vincent Chin in Highland Park.

Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds, head of the Justice Department's civil rights division, told Chin's 62-year-old mother, Lily, Wednesday he considered the case "a brutal incident that was treated with apparently way too light a sentence," according to a Justice Department spokesman.

Under Justice Department guidelines, Reynolds may choose to bring before a federal grand jury a case involving violations of U.S. civil rights laws, even if the defendant's case has been tried in a state court.

REYNOLDS HAS done so only twice — more recently in the case of a black musician in Kansas City who also was killed with a baseball bat. The killer was found innocent by state courts, but was later sentenced to life in prison by a federal court, said a Justice Department spokesman.



Lily Chin with Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds in Washington on Wednesday.

The spokesman quoted Reynolds as saying "This is an equal candidate for that kind of approach."

The FBI is doing a "comprehensive investigation" of the Chin slaying, the Justice Department said. The FBI probe began after the sentencing was protested in several cities. Some protesters

charged the defendants got a light sentence because the victim was of Chinese ancestry.

Michael Nitz, 23, and his stepfather, Ronald Ebens, 43, pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the slaying of Chin, 27, of Oak Park. They could have received up to 15 years for manslaughter, but were instead sentenced to three years' probation and fined \$3,000 each by Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman.

Reynolds said, "I don't know of a case that has generated as much interest or as much correspondence.

"If the facts bear this out and the legal technicalities permit, this would be something the federal government ought not to leave as it has been left."

Reynolds also called the FBI investigation "a high priority case" and said he hoped to decide whether to bring the matter to a grand jury before the end of the summer.

Sent To Bureau

44-2408-33

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TRANSMIT VIA: AIRTEL

CLASSIFICATION: _____

DATE: 7/7/83

FROM: Director, FBI

TO: SAC, Detroit (44A-2408)

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS
OO: DETROIT

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b7C

Re Detroit report of SA [Redacted] dated 6/16/83.

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Enclosed are two copies of a self-explanatory Departmental letter dated July 5, 1983.

Complete the requested investigation in accordance with the provisions of Section 44,
Manual of Investigative Operations and Guidelines, and surep within 21 workdays of the receipt of this
communication.

Advise all persons interviewed
 appropriate officials at the outset that this investigation is being conducted at the specific
request of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Remarks:

44A2408-34
[Handwritten initials and stamps]
[Redacted]
[Handwritten signature]

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Enc. (2)

[redacted] - Subjects
Vincent Chin (Deceased) - Victim
CIVIL RIGHTS

JUL 5 1983

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Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Wm. Bradford Reynolds
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Reference is made to your memorandum dated June 21, 1983 which enclosed a copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated June 16, 1983 at Detroit.

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Please conduct the following additional investigation:

1. Contact former co-workers and/or acquaintances of subject [redacted] to determine whether he has ever made derogatory comments regarding Chinese or other Asians.

2. In a "Confidential Report" prepared by [redacted] reference was made to [redacted] who were present at the Fancy Pants Club on June 19, 1982 in addition to [redacted]. Please locate and interview these women.

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3. The "Confidential Report" described above also identifies two eyewitnesses to the beating of Vincent Chin -- a [redacted] [redacted]. Please interview these two men.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/8/83

[redacted] Negro male, born [redacted] was contacted at his place of employment, Chrysler Warren Truck Plant where he is employed as a [redacted] and prior to interview was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that the Agent desired to talk with him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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[redacted] advised that he was [redacted] when [redacted] was transferred from the Lynch Road Plant to the Warren Truck Plant. He stated that both he and [redacted] until [redacted] transfer to [redacted]. Upon [redacted] transfer to the position of [redacted] he assumed the responsibility for [redacted] in his department. [redacted] stated that [redacted] was an easy going guy and assisted him as much as possible in his responsibilities [redacted]. He stated that [redacted] seemed always ready to help someone in the plant, no matter what race they were. [redacted] stated that he did socialize on the outside with [redacted] and attended various plant functions with him. He stated that during those functions [redacted] would drink, but he did not seem to have any problem with drinking. He stated that during Chrysler's dark period, he and [redacted] would talk about Japanese cars and how it effects Chrysler, but he could not detect any seathing hate or obsession on [redacted] part toward orientals specifically or any racial group. He stated that the general factory population is represented by a large number of minorities and to his knowledge, [redacted] never had any problem in working with any group.

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He stated that [redacted] never mentioned the incident and once he read about the incident in the newspaper, he never saw [redacted] again nor has he contacted [redacted] since his dismissal.

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[redacted] currently resides at [redacted]
[redacted] home telephone number [redacted]

Investigation on 7/5/83 at Warren, Michigan

File # Detroit 44A-2408-35

by SA [redacted] dlb

Date dictated

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 7/18/83

[redacted] white male, born [redacted] was contacted at his place of employment, Chrysler Warren Truck Plant where he is employed [redacted] and prior to interview was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that the Agent desired to talk with him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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[redacted] advised that he has known [redacted] when [redacted] was transferred from the Chrysler Plant in Belleville, Illinois to the Lynch Road Plant. Both he and [redacted] were

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[redacted] He stated that he also associated with [redacted] up until [redacted] dismissal subsequent to the incident on June 19, 1982.

[redacted] stated that [redacted] always got along with his fellow employees and subordinates and there was never any racial problems. [redacted] pointed out that in the general plant population, a wide range of ethnic groups are represented and [redacted] never had a problem in that regard. He stated that when [redacted] [redacted] did not demonstrate any behavior which would indicate any hate for any ethnic group. [redacted] stated that he had learned of [redacted] situation from [redacted] wife who contacted him right after the incident. He stated that he has talked to [redacted] since [redacted] dismissal, although indicating that he was sorry that the incident occurred, did not discuss the incident further.

[redacted] could provide no further information and therefore the interview was terminated.

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[redacted] currently resides at [redacted] home telephone [redacted]

Investigation on 7/14/83 at Warren, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408-36
by SA [redacted] /dlb Date dictated 7/15/83
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[redacted] [signature]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 7/8/83

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[redacted]
was contacted at his place of employment, Chrysler Warren Truck Plant and prior to interview was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that the Agent desired to talk with him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

[redacted] advised that he worked [redacted] at the truck plant. He began working [redacted] approximately [redacted] before the incident on June 19, 1982. [redacted] stated that he only discussed business with [redacted] and never associated with him socially. All contacts were business related. [redacted] could not provide any information regarding [redacted] background. He stated that he has not seen [redacted] since the incident occurred nor has he spoken to [redacted]. He stated that during his [redacted] relationship with [redacted] he did not detect any racial animosities on the part of [redacted].

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[redacted] could not provide any additional information therefore the interview was terminated.

[redacted] advised that his home address is [redacted] home telephone [redacted]

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[redacted] is a white male born [redacted]

Investigation on 7/5/83 at Warren, Michigan

File # Detroit 44A-2408-37

by SA [redacted] /dlb

Date dictated 7/8/83

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[redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 7/18/83

[redacted] white male, born [redacted] was contacted at his place of employment, Chrysler Warren Truck Plant where he is employed as [redacted]. Prior to interview, [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that the Agent desired to talk with him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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[redacted] stated that he met [redacted] at the Warren Truck Plant approximately [redacted] years ago. He stated that approximately 1 1/2 years ago, [redacted]. He stated that he associated with [redacted] socially and never knew him to have any drinking problem. He stated that on the job [redacted]

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[redacted] He would go out of his way to help people. He stated that most ethnic groups are represented in the plant population and that he never heard of any racial problems.

He stated that he had contact with [redacted] after the incident, but had no idea that it had occurred until he read about it in the newspaper. Since that time he has had no contact with [redacted]

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[redacted] could provide no further information and therefore the interview was terminated.

[redacted] currently resides at [redacted] home telephone [redacted]

Investigation on 7/14/83 at Warren, Michigan

by SA [redacted] /dlb

Date dictated

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Detroit 44A-2408

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 7/18/83

[redacted] white male, born [redacted] was contacted at his place of employment, Chrysler Warren Truck Plant where he is employed as [redacted] Prior to interview, [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that the Agent desired to talk with him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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[redacted] advised that as [redacted] He stated that he met [redacted] in September, 1980 when [redacted] was transferred over to the Warren Truck Plant. He stated that at that time he was also the [redacted] He stated that he had the least amount of problems in [redacted] area than any other area that he represented. He described [redacted] as being people-oriented and that he really went out of his way to help people, especially minorities. He stated that if anything, he favored minorities over the caucasians.

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He stated that during his association with [redacted] has never demonstrated any racial hatred toward any group nor were there any official grievances filed against [redacted] for any type of racial harassment.

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He stated that on occasion, he associated with [redacted] outside the plant and on those occasions never observed any problem in [redacted] behavior.

[redacted] could provide no further information, therefore the interview was terminated.

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[redacted] currently resides at [redacted] home telephone [redacted]

Investigation on 7/14/83 at Warren, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408-39

by SA [redacted] /dlb

Date dictated

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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

[redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 7/18/83

[redacted] white male, born [redacted] was contacted at his place of employment, Chrysler Warren Truck Plant where he is employed as [redacted] Prior to interview, [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that the Agent desired to talk with him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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[redacted] advised that he has known [redacted] since November, 1981, when [redacted] became [redacted] He stated that he only associated with [redacted] on a business level and never associated socially with him. He stated that during his interaction with [redacted] he never knew of any racial problems between [redacted] and his workers. He stated that he would have disagreements with [redacted] regarding plant problems, but they were resolved on the job.

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[redacted] stated that he could provide no further information and therefore the interview was terminated.

[redacted] currently resides at [redacted] home telephone [redacted]

Investigation on 7/14/83 at Warren, Michigan

File # Detroit 44A-2408-40

by SA [redacted] dlb

Date dictated 7/15/83

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 7/18/83

[redacted] white male, born [redacted] was contacted at his place of employment, Chrysler Warren Truck Plant where he is employed as [redacted] Prior to interview, [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that the Agent desired to talk with him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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[redacted] advised that he has known [redacted] for approximately six to seven years. Both he and [redacted] worked together [redacted] and approximately two months prior to the incident in June, 1982, [redacted]

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[redacted] stated that his association with [redacted] was purely business and he never associated with him socially. He stated that during the years he has known [redacted] and for the brief period he worked [redacted] he has never known of any racial problems involving [redacted] He stated that [redacted] was the type of supervisor who tried to help his men and who could get the most out of them.

[redacted] stated that he could provide no further information and therefore the interview was terminated.

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[redacted] currently resides at [redacted] home telephone [redacted]

Investigation on 7/14/83 at Warren, Michigan

by SA [redacted] /dlb

Detroit 44A-2408-41

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b7C

[redacted] agency [redacted]

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

DETROIT NEWS

Date: 7-14-83

Edition: 3A

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title: VINCENT CHIN

44-2408

Character:

or

Classification: DETROIT

Submitting Office:

Detroit FBI expands inquiry in Chin case

The Detroit office of the FBI has expanded its investigation into the beating death of Vincent Chin as part of a federal inquiry to determine if there were any civil rights violations.

Special FBI Agent John Anthony said federal investigators completed a preliminary inquiry into the case and that the Justice Department "has set down additional areas they would like us to look into."

Chin, a 27-year-old Chinese-American, was beaten to death with a baseball bat a year ago by Ronald Ebens and his stepson, Michael Nitz, both of East Detroit. Both were placed on probation — a decision that sparked public protests by members of Detroit's Chinese-American community and led to the request for the federal investigation.

Sent To Bureau

#2
44A-2408-~~33~~

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>ped</i>	FILED <i>2</i>
JUL 15 1983	
FBI-DETROIT	
<i>WFO</i>	

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Date: 7-14-83

Edition: 7A

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI renews probe of rights violations in the Chin case

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44-2408

or

Classification: DETROIT

Submitting Office:

By BRIAN FLANIGAN
Free Press Staff Writer

The U. S. Department of Justice has ordered the Detroit FBI office to renew its investigation of possible civil rights violations in the baseball-bat beating death of Vincent Chin.

In a letter received earlier this week from the Justice Department's civil rights division, the FBI was ordered to broaden a preliminary inquiry, completed a month ago, into Chin's death.

One man pleaded guilty to the fatal attack on Chin and another pleaded no contest. Each received three years' probation and a \$3,000 fine earlier this year from Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman. Under state law, the two men could have received up to 15 years in prison.

FBI Special Agent John Anthony confirmed the

Justice Department order, but declined comment when asked what the department had requested. Other sources, however, said the FBI has been told to question a number of witnesses in the case to determine if the attack was racially motivated.

Chin was of Chinese heritage, and his attackers are white.

"WE'RE EXTREMELY pleased that some steps are being taken toward justice," said Charles Moy, a spokesman for American Citizens for Justice, a civil rights group that has made the Chin case a national issue.

Moy said the entire incident — Chin's death, probation for his killers and Kaufman's refusal to reconsider his sentence — has "aroused the Asian community as well as concerned people throughout the country."

Chin, a 27-year-old draftsman at an Oak Park engineering firm, died June 23, 1982, four days after being beaten by Ronald Ebens, 43, and his stepson Michael Nitz, 23, both of East Detroit. Chin, who was to be married five days later, was in a Highland Park bar celebrating the upcoming marriage with friends when a fight began with Ebens and Nitz. The two men later chased Chin down Woodward before beating him.

Originally charged with second-degree murder, Ebens pleaded guilty to manslaughter and Nitz pleaded no contest.

KAUFMAN'S SENTENCE gained national publicity and criticism from civil rights groups. Three weeks ago, Asian-Americans throughout the country held a five-day period of remembrance for Chin. Besides ceremonies at a downtown Detroit church and a Windsor rally, rallies protesting Chin's death and Kaufman's sentencing have been held in Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York.

During a meeting in Washington June 29, Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds told Chin's 62-year-old mother, Lily, that he considered the case "a brutal incident that was treated with apparently way too light a sentence."

Reynolds, head of the civil rights division, could bring before a federal grand jury any violations of U.S. civil rights laws, even if the defendants already have been tried in a state court.

In April, Chin's mother filed a \$6 million suit against Ebens and Nitz in Wayne County Circuit Court. American Citizens for Justice has retained former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Thomas E. Brennan to assist in appealing Kaufman's sentence. Brennan is the founder and president of Cooley Law School in Lansing.

"We've all worked hard on this to see that justice is done," Moy said, "not just for Vincent Chin, but for all Americans."

Moy said he will present an analysis of the Chin case Thursday to the Democratic National Committee's inaugural session of its Asian Pacific American Caucus.

44A-2408-43

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FBI-DETROIT	

sent To Bureau

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

-1-

Date of transcription 8/2/83

[redacted] white male, date of birth [redacted] was contacted at his place of employment, [redacted] and was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that the Agent desired to talk with him regarding the civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the FBI.

b6
b7C

[redacted] advised that on the evening of June 19, 1982, he was a passenger in a vehicle driven by his friend, [redacted]. The two of them were returning home after a Detroit Tiger baseball game on the evening of June 19, 1983. [redacted] was driving northbound on Woodward Avenue and while proceeding northbound, [redacted] heard a thump and looked over in the area of a McDonald's restaurant located on Woodward Avenue near the Davison Expressway and observed an individual beating another individual with a baseball bat. He observed the individual with the bat strike the victim approximately three times before he was stopped by a police officer. [redacted] stated that they drove passed the site of the beating and stopped a short distance and observed the crowd. Neither he nor [redacted] got out of the car nor did he or [redacted] provide any statements to the police.

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[redacted] stated he had no idea what started the fight, nor did he hear or observe anything prior to him actually seeing the beating in progress. [redacted] could provide no further information regarding the incident and, therefore, the interview was terminated.

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[redacted] currently resides at [redacted] telephone number [redacted]

Investigation on 7/25/83 at Detroit, Michigan

by SA [redacted] srb

Date dictated [redacted]

44A2408 44

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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File # Detroit 44A-2408	
FBI-DETROIT	

[redacted]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 8/2/83

[redacted] white male, date of birth [redacted] was contacted at his place of employment, [redacted] and prior to the interview, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that the Agent desired to talk with him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the FBI.

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[redacted] advised on the evening of June 19, 1982, he and his friend, [redacted] attended a Detroit Tiger baseball game and while driving home from the game, proceeding north on Woodward Avenue, he observed two individuals in the middle of the street engaged in a fight. [redacted] stated that they were near the McDonald's restaurant on Woodward, south of the Davison Expressway. He observed one large man beating a smaller man with what appeared to be a baseball bat. He observed the large man strike the smaller man with what appeared to be a bat about five or six times on the head and shoulders. He stated he did not observe any other individuals involved in the fight and that the fight was broken up by a uniformed police officer with a revolver drawn. [redacted] stated that he drove passed the scene but he and [redacted] remained in their car. Neither he nor [redacted] got out of the car nor did they give any statements to the police.

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[redacted] stated that he did not observe nor hear anything which would indicate to him the reason for the fight.

[redacted] could provide no additional information, therefore, the interview was terminated.

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b7C

[redacted] currently resides at [redacted]
[redacted]

Investigation on 7/26/83 at Detroit, Michigan

File # Detroit 44A-2408-45

by SA [redacted] /srb

Date dictated 7/29/83

SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED
FBI - DETROIT

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[redacted] B.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE DETROIT	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DETROIT	DATE 8/8/83	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 7/5-26/83
TITLE OF CASE <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA <div style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></div>	TYPED BY dlb
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR (A)	

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b7c

REFERENCE: Bureau airtel to Detroit, 7/7/83.

- P -

LEAD

DETROIT

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

and Continue efforts to locate and interview

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:	
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
						PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	
APPROVED					SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: 2 - Bureau 1 - USA, Detroit (Attn: AUSA VIRGINIA MORGAN) (2) - Detroit (44A-2408) <i>dlb</i>					SEARCHED		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">44A-2408-76</div> </div>	
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Agency								
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.								
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By								

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b7c

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Detroit
(Attn: AUSA VIRGINIA MORGAN)

Report of: SA [REDACTED] Office: Detroit
Date: 8/8/83

Field Office File #: 44A-2408 Bureau File #:
Title: [REDACTED]
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM

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b7C

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS (A)

Synopsis: On 7/5/83 and 7/14/83, fellow employees of [REDACTED] interviewed and no derogatory information developed. On 7/25/83, [REDACTED] while male, born [REDACTED] was interviewed, but could not provide any positive information. On 7/26/83, [REDACTED] white male, born [REDACTED] was interviewed, but could not provide any positive information.

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Details:

DE 44A-2408

During the course of the investigative period,
July 5 - 26, 1983, numerous attempts were made to contact
[redacted] (Last Name Unknown) through the Fancy Pants Club.
To date [redacted] has failed to make herself available for
interview.

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DETROIT FREE PRESS
8-7-83Date:
Edition: 1A

Title: CHIN

Character: 44-2408
orClassification: DETROIT
Submitting Office:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

U.S. grand jury will investigate Chin's slaying

BY PAUL MAGNUSSON
Free Press Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — A special federal grand jury in Detroit will investigate last year's beating death of Vincent Chin, whose killers were fined and placed on probation, to determine whether Chin's civil rights were violated, the Justice Department said Thursday.

Assistant Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds, chief of the Justice Department's civil rights division, said the grand jury will convene Sept. 7. The announcement follows an FBI investigation into the Chin case.

Chin, a 27-year-old draftsman of Chinese descent, was beaten with a baseball bat by two white men outside a Highland Park nightclub on June 19, 1982. He died four days later.

CHIN'S ATTACKERS — Ronald Ebens, 43, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 23, both of East Detroit — were convicted of manslaughter. Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz pleaded no contest. Each was sentenced to three years' probation and fined \$3,000 by Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman.

The sentences gained widespread publicity. Rallies protesting Chin's death and Kaufman's sentences were held in Detroit, Windsor, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York.

THE VICTIM'S mother, Lily Chin, and others concerned about the case met with Reynolds in Washington on June 29. At that time Reynolds told Mrs. Chin he considered the case "a brutal incident that was treated with apparently way too light a sentence." He ordered the Detroit FBI office to renew its investigation into whether the attack was racially motivated.

Witnesses said the confrontation began in the nightclub when the white men directed racial slurs at Chin.

Under Justice Department guidelines, Reynolds may bring before a federal grand jury a case involving violations of U.S. civil rights laws, even if the defendants have been tried in a state court.

Reynolds has done so only twice before, most recently in the case of a musician in Kansas City who was also killed with a baseball bat. The killer was acquitted by state courts but was later sentenced to life in prison by a federal court, according to the Justice Department.

Free Press Staff Writer Martin F. Kohn contributed to this report.

44-2408-47

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Sent To Bureau

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Grand jury quiz set in Chin death

By Anemona Hartocollis
News Staff Writer

A federal grand jury in Detroit will investigate whether the civil rights of Vincent Chin were violated when he was fatally beaten last year.

Chin, a Chinese-American, was struck with a baseball bat by two white East Detroit men after an argument in a Highland Park bar.

The case triggered a nationwide protest from Asian groups when Chin's assailants, Ronald Ebens and his stepson, Michael Nitz, were fined and placed on three years' probation last March by Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Charles Kaufman.

LATE YESTERDAY, at a Southfield press conference, the victim's mother, Lily Chin, commented on earlier announcement of the federal investigation:

"I feel a little better now. The courts must put the two killers in jail."

In addition to crusading in the media for "justice" for her son, Mrs.

Chin has filed a \$6-million "wrongful death" damage suit against Ebens and Nitz in Wayne Circuit Court.

Specifically, the grand jury will be asked to determine whether Chin's killing was racially motivated, U.S. attorney Leonard R. Gilman said.

Gilman said the grand jury will hear allegations that Ebens and Nitz "interfered with Chin's activities because of his race, and deprived him of the use of a public place because of his race."

A WITNESS said Ebens and Nitz uttered racial slurs, apparently think-

ing Chin was Japanese and blamed him for the high number of unemployed auto workers.

Gilman said the grand jury will be convened on Sept. 7. to "investigate allegations of possible violations of federal civil rights statutes surrounding the death of Vincent Chin."

If indicted and convicted, Ebens and Nitz could face federal prison terms.

The decision to enter the case was made by Assistant U.S. Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds, chief of the Justice Department's civil rights division. The announcement of grand jury action was made in Washington by Reynolds. He met with Mrs.

Chin in Washington on June 29.

REYNOLDS' DECISION, after a four-month FBI probe, was immediately hailed by Asian-American groups.

"We are extremely pleased with the news from Washington today," said Kim Yee, president of American Citizens for Justice, a Detroit-based civil rights group formed as a result of Chin's death. "This is only the beginning, but we think the Department of Justice's action has restored some faith in the judicial system."

Nitz's attorney, Edward Khoury, said he was "surprised" by the Justice Department's decision. "I have repeatedly said there is no issue of race," Khoury said. "My reaction right now is one of surprise."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

DET NEWS

Date: 8/5/83

Edition: 1 A

Title: CHIN

Character: 44-2408
or

Classification:
Submitting Office: DETROIT

Indexing:

Sent To Bureau

44-2408-49

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MAD



LILY CHIN: 'I feel a little better now.'

EBENS, 43, a Chrysler Corp. general foreman, pleaded guilty, and Nitz, 23, pleaded no contest in the baseball bat-clubbing death of Chin June 19, 1982 after an argument and fight in the Fancy Pants Tavern. Witnesses said that shortly after the bar altercation, the two men attacked Chin on a nearby street.

Chin, 27, a mechanical engineer who lived in Oak Park, was in a coma for four days before dying in Ford Hospital. He died four days before his wedding.

Originally, Ebens and Nitz were charged with second-degree murder which carries a maximum life sentence.

However, they were allowed to plea-bargain to the lesser manslaughter charges in an arrangement with the Wayne County prosecutor's office.

EVEN WITH the reduced charges, Kaufman could have sentenced the men to up to 15 years in prison.

In explaining his decision, Kaufman said that Ebens and Nitz were "not the kind of people you send to jail" because neither had been in trouble with the law before.

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SUSAN F. CIULLO
LIZA CHEUK MAY CHAN
STEVEN J. AMBERG
GREGORY J. BATOR

MOE R. MILLER
CONSULTING PARTNER
HAROLD KOENIGSBERG
OF COUNSEL
CABLE ADDRESS
"COUNSEL"

August 10, 1983

Ross Connealy, Esq.
Civil Rights Division
Criminal Section
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: The Vincent Chin case

Dear Mr. Connealy:

Enclosed for your viewing is a VHF video cassette tape of a conference on the Vincent Chin case held at Laney College, Oakland, California, on July 15, 1983. The conference was one of many organized by local support groups during the ten-day California tour by [redacted] with the President, Vice President and Secretary of the American Citizens for Justice (ACJ) a month ago. Representatives from the various local groups also spoke at the conference in support of ACJ's efforts in the Chin case. b6 b7c

[redacted] informed me on August 4, 1983 that you would like to obtain the cassette tapes of my interviews with the numerous witnesses. Even though [redacted] had telephoned again on August 8 to state that you do not need those tapes at this time, we remain ready and willing to furnish you with them.

Maintaining the strict confidentiality which I had promised those interviewees with respect to those tapes was my only concern. Once that is adequately assured, we will be happy to turn over the tapes to you as they may be of considerable value in preparing your witness statements. It is ACJ's intention to cooperate with and assist your office to our fullest ability.

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jc

HILLER, LARKY AND HOEKENGA

Ross Connealy, Esq.
page 2
August 10, 1983

We look forward to meeting you again when the grand jury investigation commences. If we can be of any further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely yours,

HILLER, LARKY AND HOEKENGA, P.C.



b6
b7C

LCMC/jc
enc.

cc William Bradford Reynolds, Esq.
cc [redacted] Esq.
cc [redacted] Esq.
cc Leonard R. Gilman, Esq.
cc John N. Thompson, Esq.
cc [redacted]

LAW OFFICES
HILLER, LARKY AND HOEKENGA

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MOE R. MILLER
CONSULTING PARTNER
HAROLD KOENIGSBERG
OF COUNSEL
CABLE ADDRESS
"COUNSEL"

August 10, 1983

William Bradford Reynolds, Esq.
Chief, Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: The Vincent Chin case

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

As the attorneys for the American Citizens for Justice (ACJ), we welcome and applaud your August 4, 1983 decision to initiate a Federal grand jury investigation in the above matter.

When we met on June 29, 1983 to discuss this case, you had promised prioritized FBI investigation and a prompt decision. We are duly impressed by the diligence with which your office and the FBI conducted their preliminary investigations and case evaluation in this instance.

We understand that the grand jury investigation is only the first step--a crucial and necessary step nonetheless--toward the goal of restoring justice in this case. However, your enlightened decision is encouraging to the many, especially Asian Americans, who had been outraged by the ineffectual prosecution and the apparently misguided sentence in the State criminal proceedings.

We are also pleased that we have been able to be of assistance to your office. We will continue to fully cooperate with Ross Connealy of your office, and with our U.S. Attorneys Leonard R. Gillman and John N. Thompson, and to assist you in any manner you deem necessary or desirable to ensure a thorough grand jury investigation and a successful prosecution.

WAD

44A-2408 -51A

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FBI - DETROIT	

[Signature]

HILLER, LARKY AND HOEKENGA

William Bradford Reynolds, Esq.
page 2
August 10, 1983

Thank you for your continued personal attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

HILLER, LARKY AND HOEKENGA, P.C.

IS/

[Redacted signature box]

b6
b7c

LCMC/jc

cc [Redacted]
cc [Redacted]
cc [Redacted]

cc Ross Connealy, Esq.
cc Leonard R. Gilman, Esq.
cc John N. Thompson, Esq.

cc [Redacted]
cc [Redacted]
cc [Redacted]
cc [Redacted]
cc [Redacted]
cc [Redacted]
cc [Redacted]
cc [Redacted]
cc [Redacted]

cc Mrs. Lily Chin

WBR:DLB:RLC:rs
DJ 144-37-1096

AUG 2 1983

b6
b7C

[redacted]
[redacted] Subjects;
Vincent Chin (Dec.) - Victim
CIVIL RIGHTS

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Wm. Bradford Reynolds
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Reference is made to your memorandum dated June 27, 1983
enclosing a copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted]
dated June 16, 1983 at Detroit.

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b7C

This matter has been approved for presentation to a grand jury although, as of this date, no date has been set for the presentation. In preparation for that grand jury presentation, please conduct the following investigation:

1. Obtain copies of the taped interviews of witnesses made by the "American Citizens for Justice."
2. Prepare exhibit-size diagrams of the following:
 - (a) The Fancy Pants Lounge as it existed on June 19, 1982;
 - (b) The Fancy Pants Lounge and parking lot; and
 - (c) The neighborhood showing the Fancy Pants Lounge and surrounding streets including Woodward Avenue; show the McDonalds Restaurant and parking lot on this diagram.

44A-2408-52

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TRANSMIT VIA: Airtel

CLASSIFICATION: _____

DATE: 8/5/83

FROM: Director, FBI

TO: SAC, Detroit 44-2408 (4-83)

[Redacted]

SUBJECTS; 44-2408 (4-83)

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS 44-2408 (4-83)
OO: DETROIT

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b7c

Re Bureau FD-448 to Detroit dated 8/5/83.

Enclosed are two copies of a self-explanatory Departmental letter dated 8/2/83.

Complete the requested investigation in accordance with the provisions of Section 44, Manual of Investigative Operations and Guidelines, and surep within 21 workdays of the receipt of this communication.

Advise all persons interviewed
 appropriate officials at the outset that this investigation is being conducted at the specific request of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Remarks:

Due to scheduling of a Federal grand jury for 9/7/83, Detroit is instructed to furnish the information requested in item number 1 of the attached request by 8/19/83. The information needed for FBIHQ to prepare trial exhibits described in item number 2 must reach FBIHQ by cob on 8/12/83.

In addition to obtaining measurements and preparing diagrams of other places described in item number 2, Detroit should obtain photographs of those places.

Enc. (2) *[Handwritten initials]*

Copy telephonically advised at 4:30, 8-12-83, re above and advised requested information and how long completed and submitted to FBIHQ. [Signature]

44-2408-53

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[Handwritten initials and signature]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/15/83b6
b7C

[redacted] Police Officer, Highland Park, Michigan Police Department, was contacted at his place of employment and prior to interview was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that the Agent desired to talk with him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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b7C

[redacted] advised that he was at the McDonald's Restaurant located on Woodward Avenue in Highland Park on the evening of June 19, 1982 and with him was a fellow patrolman by the name of [redacted] advised he was inside McDonald's and his attention was directed to the Ivanhoe parking lot located just south of the McDonald's parking lot. He stated that he observed a parked car with two white males and a Negro male standing outside the vehicle. He noticed the younger white male come toward McDonald's and pick up a piece of plywood approximately 2½ to 3-feet long and ¾-inch wide. After picking up the wood, he walked back to the other two individuals. He stated that he finished his meal, walked outside and once again observed the same group of individuals, but this time he noticed that an individual, later identified as VINCENT CHIN, was being held forcibly by the younger white male. He stated that the older white male, later identified as [redacted] attempted to hit CHIN with a baseball bat, but as he was swinging the bat at CHIN, CHIN swung around and [redacted] struck the younger white male, later identified as [redacted] CHIN then broke away from [redacted] grasp and started running northbound in the southbound lane of Woodward Avenue. He stated that CHIN fell for some reason and when [redacted] reached him he struck him at least four times on the head with the bat. [redacted] stated that observing this fight, he responded to the scene, identified himself as a police officer and told [redacted] to put the bat down. [redacted] came toward him and [redacted] once again told him, as he had his gun pointed at him, to put the bat down. [redacted] finally complied with the demand and put the bat down. [redacted] was mumbling something, but [redacted] could not determine what [redacted] was talking about. He stated that he was mumbling something to the effect, "He shouldn't have done it". He stated that [redacted] never said a word at the scene, nor was [redacted] interviewed at the scene by him. [redacted] once again stated that he could not recall [redacted] doing or saying anything that he could remember, but that [redacted] only mumbled to himself.

Investigation on 8/11/83 at Highland Park, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408 54by SA [redacted] /alb Date dictated 8/12/83b6
b7C

DE 44A-2408

[redacted] advised that the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and additional police officers from Highland Park arrived. [redacted] advised that EMS transported CHIN and the officers transported [redacted] back to the Highland Park Police Department. [redacted] could not provide any additional information, therefore the interview was terminated.

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Through interview, the following background information was obtained:

Name	[redacted]
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Home Address	[redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 9/9/83

[redacted] Highland Park Police Department, was contacted at his place of employment and provided one baseball bat which was taken from [redacted] by officers of the Highland Park Police Department on June 19, 1982.

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b7C

[redacted] advised that the bat has been maintained since that evening by the Highland Park Police Department. The bat is described as a Louisville Slugger, Jackie Robinson model.

Investigation on 9/6/83 at Highland Park, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408

by SA [redacted] /dlb Date dictated 9/7/83

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b7C

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 9/30/83

[redacted] white male, born [redacted] was contacted at his residence, [redacted] and prior to interview was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that the Agent desired to talk to him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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[redacted] advised that he has been employed as a fire fighter and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) attendant for the City of Highland Park for four years. He stated that on the evening of June 19, 1982, he was performing his duties as an EMS attendant in the company of his partner, [redacted]. He stated that at approximately 10:00pm, they received a call to proceed to Woodward and Glendale to the scene of an assault. Upon arriving at the scene, they parked the ambulance in the southbound lane of Woodward next to where an oriental male, later identified as VINCENT CHIN, was lying. [redacted] stated that CHIN appeared to be conscious but was not talking. He and his partner attempted to assist CHIN and determined immediately that CHIN was in very serious condition. [redacted] stated that he asked [redacted] an off-duty Highland Park police officer who was at the scene prior to their arrival, what had happened. [redacted] pointed to two white males sitting on the steps near a flowerbox in front of MacDonald's Restaurant. One male was older, in his 40s, and the other male was younger. After [redacted] pointed to the older white male indicating that he was responsible for the assault, the older white male got up and walked toward [redacted] and said something to the effect, "that's right I did it. If I had it my way" and pointed to another oriental male later identified as [redacted] "you would be there too".

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[redacted] stated they then glanced over and looked at the other oriental male. [redacted] stated that to his recollection the older white male was then grabbed by [redacted] another off-duty Highland Park police officer, who took him back and sat him down.

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[redacted] stated that he went back to assisting his partner and that they loaded CHIN into the ambulance and transported him to Henry Ford Hospital.

Investigation on 9/28/83 at Berkley, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408
by SA [redacted] /dlb Date dictated 9/30/83

b6
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DE 44A-2408

[redacted] remained in the rear of the ambulance, accompanied by [redacted] however, CHIN did not make any statements while en route to the hospital.

b6
b7c

[redacted] could provide no further information, therefore the interview was terminated.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 9/30/83

[redacted] white male, born [redacted] was contacted at his place of employment, the Highland Park Fire Department, and prior to interview was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that the Agent desired to talk to him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

b6
b7C

[redacted] advised that he has been employed as a fire fighter for approximately ten years with the Highland Park Fire Department. On the evening of June 19, 1982, he was on duty with his partner, [redacted] and was assigned to an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) unit on that evening. At approximately 10:00pm they received a call from their dispatcher advising them of an assault at Woodward and Glendale and directing them to proceed to the scene. Upon arriving at the scene, they observed an oriental male lying in the southbound lane of Woodward Avenue. [redacted] stated that after viewing victim's injuries, it was clear to him that the individual, later identified as VINCENT CHIN, was in serious shape. [redacted] indicated that he asked [redacted] an off-duty Highland Park police officer, what the hell happened. [redacted] pointed out a white male approximately 40-45 years old standing on the curb in front of the MacDonald's Restaurant with a baseball bat. [redacted] could not recall exactly what [redacted] said, but indicated that the older white male was responsible for the beating.

b6
b7C

[redacted] stated that a number of people were talking at the scene, but he could not recall specifically what was said by individuals at the scene. He stated that he heard the alleged assailant arguing with another oriental male, but did not pay attention to the conversation as he was much more concerned with assisting the victim. [redacted] stated that after loading CHIN into the ambulance, he transported him to Henry Ford Hospital. He stated that he was driving the ambulance and could not hear anything that was going on in the rear of the ambulance.

b6
b7C

[redacted] could provide no further information, therefore the interview was terminated. [redacted] currently resides at [redacted]

Investigation on 9/28/83 at Highland Park, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408
by SA [redacted] dlb Date dictated 9/30/83

b6
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/15/83

[redacted] Police Officer, Highland Park, Michigan Police Department, was contacted at his place of employment and prior to interview, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that the Agent desired to talk with him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

[redacted] advised that on the evening of June 19, 1983, he was at the McDonald's Restaurant located on Woodward Avenue in Highland Park, Michigan with a fellow police officer by the name of [redacted]. While at McDonald's, [redacted] was inside eating and [redacted] was in the McDonald's parking lot just south of McDonald's attempting to jump-start a car for a friend. While in the lot, a car drove up, almost striking [redacted]. Two white males and a Negro male, who [redacted] knew from high school by the name of [redacted] exited the car. He stated that [redacted] was a passenger in the back seat, a younger white male later identified as [redacted] was a passenger in the front seat, and an older white male later identified as [redacted] was driving the car. As [redacted] exited the vehicle, [redacted] observed he had a baseball bat.

He stated the next thing that came to his attention was a commotion next to the telephone booth which is located on Woodward Avenue near the McDonald's parking lot. He looked over toward the telephone booth and observed [redacted] holding an oriental male, later identified as VINCENT CHIN, and observed [redacted] attempting to hit CHIN with the baseball bat. In an attempt to avoid the blow, CHIN swung around and broke loose from [redacted]. CHIN then took a couple of steps northbound on Woodward and then apparently stumbled. [redacted] reached him and began striking him on the back of the head. Observing this, [redacted] with his partner [redacted] responded to the scene, identified themselves as police officers and told [redacted] to drop the bat. He stated that [redacted] continued to come toward them with the bat and then finally after telling him again, he put the bat down.

[redacted] then sent someone into McDonald's to obtain some ice for CHIN's injuries. [redacted] then went into McDonald's and called the Highland Park Police Department. A short time later the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and other police officers from

Investigation on 8/11/83 at Highland Park, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408
by S. [redacted] dlb Date dictated 8/12/83 55

DE 44A-2408

the Highland Park Police Department arrived. [redacted] stated that he and Patrolman [redacted] conveyed [redacted] to the Highland Park Police Department and turned them over to Detective [redacted]

[redacted] stated that [redacted] said anything at the scene nor to his knowledge did they say anything regarding the crime at the Highland Park Police Department.

[redacted] could not provide any additional information, therefore the interview was terminated.

Through interview, the following background information was obtained:

Name	[redacted]
Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Address	[redacted]

TRANSMIT VIA: Airtel

CLASSIFICATION: _____

DATE: 8/23/83

✓ FROM: Director, FBI (44-94566)

TO: SAC, Detroit (44A-2408)

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED)
CR (A)

b6
b7C

Re urairtel dated 8/8/83.

There/are being forwarded to your office (attn: [Redacted])

by Profit by Air #92528866
the following two (2) 30"x40" investigative aids

prepared by Special Projects Section, Laboratory Division, re captioned matter.

The following action should be taken by your office:

TRIAL EXHIBITS OR OTHER VISUAL AIDS

- Check the above items against submitted work papers or roughs.
- Advise FBIHQ, attention Special Projects Section, Laboratory Division, (within ninety-days), re the use and effectiveness of these items, including all pertinent comments.

ARTIST'S CONCEPTIONS OR RETOUCHEd PHOTOGRAPHS

- Have witness(es) view item(s) for evaluation.
- If modification is necessary, submit additional information and any pertinent comments of witness(es) to FBIHQ, Special Projects Section, Laboratory Division.
- Advise (within ninety-days) re the use and effectiveness of the above items. Upon apprehension of subject(s), submit arrest photographs.

1 - Package

44-2408-56

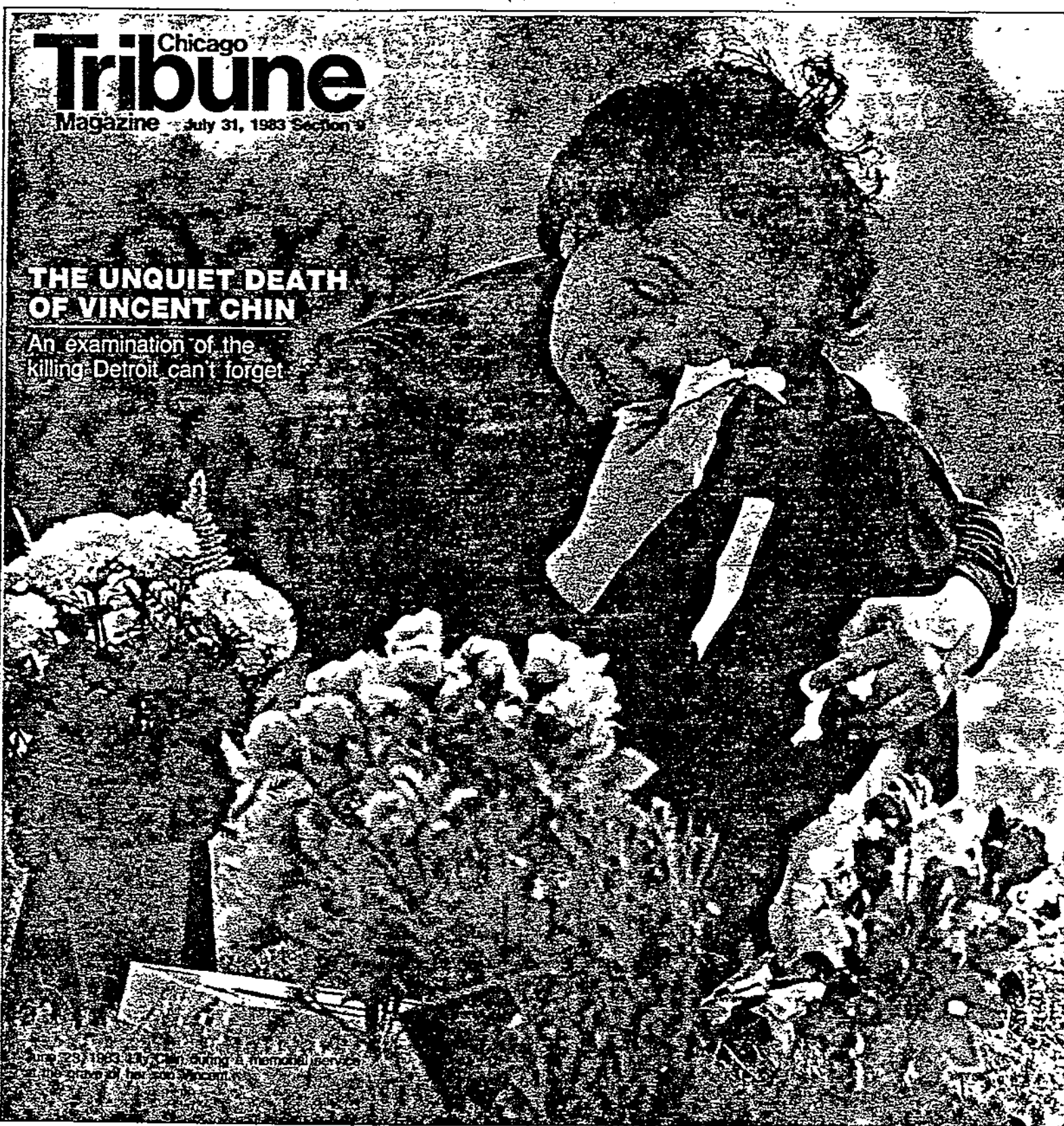
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SERIALIZED <i>JP</i>	FILED <i>JP</i>
AUG 30 1983	
FBI - DETROIT	

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Enc.

THE UNQUIET DEATH OF VINCENT CHIN

An examination of the
killing Detroit can't forget



July 25, 1983, Vincent Chin during a memorial service at the grave of his father in Detroit.

44A-2908-15

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FBI - DETROIT	

[Handwritten signature]

Deadly Encounter

Did Vincent Chin's assailants get away with murder?

Story by Paul Weingarten

Cover photo by Charles Osgood

It was one of those things that should not have happened. One of those nights about which people later say, if only this or that hadn't happened as it did, he might still be alive. But in the end, it happened as it often does: by an improbable string of mishap and miscalculation—a chance encounter, a few too many drinks, a freakish chain of events unleashed, and once unleashed, unstoppable.

By that string dangled the life of Vincent Chin.

The details of exactly what happened on the night of Saturday, June 19, 1962, remain in doubt. What is clear, however, is that at about 9 p.m., Vincent Chin and three friends entered the Fancy Pants Club, a nude go-go spot in the Detroit suburb of Highland Park.

Vincent Chin: 27 years old, bright and gregarious, the kind of guy who made friends easily. He worked two jobs—as an engineering draftsman during the week, as a waiter in a Chinese restaurant on weekends. He had two years to go at the Lawrence Institute of Technology for an architecture degree. In nine days he was to be married. He and his fiancé were hunting for a new house big enough for themselves, Vincent's recently widowed mother, and, eventually, children.

So this was to be his bachelor party, one last glorious fling before the June 28 wedding. Vincent was happy that night, and as always when he was happy, he chatted with everyone. He tipped the dancers lavishly. And in a matter of a few minutes, he attracted the attention of two men sitting scarcely six feet away. Ronald Ebens, a 42-year-old general foreman at Chrysler's Warren truck plant, and Michael Nitz, his 23-year-old stepson, a college student with a part-time job. No one paid much attention to whatever Ebens said to Chin. One line, however, was overheard by one of the dancers: "It's because of motherf--- like you that we're out of work." It was an apparent reference to the toll that the sale of imported Japanese cars had taken on Detroit autoworkers.

Vincent Chin was Chinese and proud of it. He didn't go looking for trouble, but he wouldn't back down either. "Don't call me a motherf---," he said. A scuffle ensued. The bouncer broke it up.

That would not be the end of it, however. Vincent, still riled, challenged Ebens outside the club. Ebens pulled a baseball bat from his car. Vincent ran. Ebens pursued him, but could not keep up. He returned to his car, and, for the next half-hour, Ebens and Nitz cruised the area. They found Vincent in front of a McDonald's restaurant, four blocks away.

By 10:10 p.m., Vincent Chin lay face down on the pavement, his skull crushed beyond repair.

The case seemed as open-and-shut as they come. Two off-duty Highland Park policemen witnessed the assault. They arrested Ebens and Nitz. Chin never regained consciousness; he died four days later.

All his fiancé, Vikki Wong, could say was: "I can't

believe that someone could hate Vince so much that he would kill him in such a cruel way, like an animal."

The police called it murder two—homicide in the second degree. A barroom brawl that got out of hand. A killing in the heat of anger. No premeditation. In filing charges, the Wayne County prosecutor agreed.

On Oct. 5, a preliminary hearing was held in 30th District Court in Highland Park. After the testimony, the judge, Thomas Bayles, said: "Gentlemen, I am of the opinion that the defendants in this case were undercharged. The elements of first-degree murder [are] here. First-degree murder. [There] was more than enough time for the blood to cool, to have gone home and thought about this. He did not go home. He took his bat and he chased around Highland Park and he found [Vincent Chin]. I say to you gentlemen that there was willful, deliberate, premeditated killing of a human being."

But the second-degree murder charge was not changed. On Feb. 8, in fact, the prosecution and defense agreed on a plea bargain that reduced the charge even further—to manslaughter for both defendants.

On March 16, Judge Charles Kaufman sentenced Ebens and Nitz to three years' probation. In addition, each was required to pay \$3,780 in fines and court costs, at \$125 a month. "These weren't the kind of men you send to jail," Kaufman declared.

Within hours of Kaufman's decision, Detroit's normally quiet Chinese community erupted. "You can kill a dog and get 30 days," said Henry Yee, a restaurateur and the unofficial mayor of the city's Chingtown.

A group of Vincent's friends and community leaders met on March 21 at the Golden Star restaurant, where Vincent had worked on weekends. The sentence, said one, was like "declaring open season on Chinese." The group vowed a fight. It elected a president, Kin Yee, a well-known figure in the Chinese community, and chose a name for itself: the American Citizens for Justice [ACJ]. "I've been in this community over 40 years," said Yee, 59, "and I've never seen anything like this happen."

Lawyers for the ACJ asked Kaufman to reconsider his decision.

Tens of thousands of signatures were gathered on petitions. One of Vincent's friends, Claude Durand, wrote to James Blanchard, governor of Michigan, Frank Kelley, the state's attorney general, and Ted Koppel, TV newsman. "It's not my habit to have friends drop dead and not do something about it," he said.

On June 2, 1963, Kaufman refused to reverse his decision.

Lily Chin, Vincent's mother, does not understand. She speaks broken English. Her eyes say much more. When she is calm, they are dimmed, flat. But when she speaks of her only son, her face contorts, her voice rises to a wail and sinks to a hoarse whisper, and her eyes blaze. "I don't know what kind of law [this is]," she says. "I live in America for 33 years. My husband live here for 55 year. He is in the

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The detective Donald Roberts with weapon in the assault on Vincent Chin



Vincent Chin and his fiancée Vikki Wong six months before his death.



With weapon used



Assailant Michael Nitz

FOREVER
LOVE
OUR HEARTS
JUNE 23, 1982
VINCENT CHIN

Photo by Charles Cooper



Detroit Free Press photo

Racine Colwell, a dancer at the Fancy Pants Club (inset), overheard the beginning of the argument between Ebens and Chin.

Encounter

continued from page 18

Army. I pay the taxes. I am a good citizen. What kind of law? Killed a person, don't go to jail. You know how he kill my son? He kill my son just like you kill the animal. One person hold him up, one person kill him." She chokes on the words; the tears roll down her cheeks. "You kill the animal like that."

Vincent's father, Hing (Ben) Chin, had emigrated from Canton, China, to this country in 1922, when he was 17. After World War II, he returned for a visit to his homeland and met Lily Yee. They married in 1947 and settled in Highland Park, Michigan. They both worked in a laundry. They tried to have a family, but after Lily Chin lost her first baby, the doctor told her she could have no more. In 1961, after more than a decade of bureaucratic entanglements, the Chins adopted a six-year-old boy who had been born in Canton.

When Vincent was 16, the Chins moved from Highland Park to a better neighborhood, Oak Park. They bought a tiny three-bedroom ranch-style home. Ben worked in a restaurant as a waiter; Lily in a brush factory. In November of 1981, Ben Chin died after a long illness.

Now Lily Chin cannot sleep at night. Everything, she says, reminds her of Vincent. She has stopped working her vegetable garden because she remembers how Vincent loved those vegetables. "I don't like to go outside, sometimes I see the young man that looks like my Vincent, and I am dizzy. I look at the table, look at supper, I cry. I just open the door, see the house, I cry. I don't like to live in here anymore."

She brings out the family album. Vincent, nine years old, in a bow tie, beaming next to the Christmas tree. Vincent as a gangly teenager leaning on the family Buick. Vincent in the high school graduation portrait.

Among the pictures she finds a Mother's Day card that came this year. It is from Vikki Wong. "She come to see me, but I don't want to see her. She come and make me cry. She call me Mama."

So she avoids Vikki. "I tell her, you lost the Vincent, you lost the flame. I lost the Vincent, I lost my whole life."

News stories about Vincent Chin have appeared throughout the United States and around the world. Two television crews from Japan recently

flew to Detroit, and reporters from Singapore and Hong Kong are due soon. Even the news agency of the People's Republic of China dispatched a Los Angeles-based correspondent to examine the curious case of Vincent Chin.

In Detroit, the case has generated intense publicity. Last spring, for instance, a barrage of editorials and columns greeted Judge Kaufman's decision. The Detroit News said: "The last time we checked, there were four men in the Detroit House of Correction serving time for nonsupport. But, unlike [them], Ebens and Nitz were 'sentenced' by Judge Kaufman to three years probation and ordered to pay a fine. There is something very wrong here, don't you think?"

The News also published a cartoon. It shows a judge wearing a baseball cap and a goofy grin. The title is "Great Moments in Michigan Justice." In it, the judge tells two men: "You killed a man with a baseball bat, eh? Gee, I used to play a lot of ball myself when I was younger."

In the Detroit Free Press, columnist Nickie McWhirter wrote: "What are we to tell our children now? In Wayne County it is okay to kill a stranger on sight, without reason beyond having gotten a little liquored up and aggressive. In Wayne County having a job and a good work record, or being a student, is a license to kill, at least once. In Wayne County the value of a life wrongly taken in anger is \$3,000 per person, or less than the cost of a used car. These are the lessons you have taught our children, Judge Kaufman. They stink."

But the case is far from over. Vincent Chin's assailants cannot be tried again in a Michigan state criminal court because it would be double jeopardy. But they can be tried in federal court for violating Vincent Chin's civil rights. Attorneys in the Justice Department in Washington are investigating whether to bring such a suit, and a decision is expected by summer's end. Meanwhile, a \$6 million civil lawsuit, brought by a Detroit attorney on behalf of Lily Chin, is underway.

To many in America's Asian community, the case marks one more example in what seems to be a series of "backlash" attacks on Asian-Americans. On May 4, 1983, a 17-year-old Vietnamese student in California was knifed to death after weeks of racial taunting by white students. A few days later, a 10-year-old Cambodian student was shot in the shoulder as she walked to school in Houston. In San Diego, a 17-year-old

Japanese exchange student was abducted, raped, shot, and left for dead. She survived, paralyzed.

Antagonism toward Asian-Americans may well run highest in Detroit, where one in three auto workers has lost his job in the last five years, and where Japanese imports—almost a quarter of the market—take most of the blame. Dozens of incidents of vandalism against Japanese cars—and threats against their owners—have been reported in the past year. In the parking lot of the United Auto Workers headquarters in Detroit is a red-and-white sign: "300,000 laid-off UAW members don't like your import. Please park it in Tokyo."

[Anti-Japanese] feeling in Detroit is running higher than I've seen it," says Elaine Prout, 38, president of the Detroit chapter of the Japanese-American Citizens League. She is a Detroit native and teaches special education in high school. Recently, she says, another teacher approached her and snapped: "Why don't you go back to Japan with the cars?"

The Asian community in Detroit is not large—12,000 Chinese, 1,000 Japanese—but it is united in its outrage over the death of Vincent Chin. The case is no longer merely a cause, it's a crusade. Rallies have drawn thousands in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. Red-and-white buttons are sprouting on coat lapels. They say: "Justice for Vincent Chin." So far, the American Citizens for Justice [ACJ] has raised \$50,000, and the letters and checks keep coming.

"We will not forget," says Henry Yee. "If it takes a year, two, three, we can wait. There's an old Chinese saying: There's a mountain in front of an old man's house. So his friend says, 'You're too old, you can't be chopping this mountain down.' And the man says, 'If I can't do it, my sons will. If my sons can't do it, my grandchildren will. Eventually that mountain's gonna go.' So we'll keep pecking away. We won't let it die."

On the last night of his life Vincent Chin seemed very happy. It was not unusual. Everyone who knew Vincent remembers his smile; he was always smiling. When he drank—his favorite was Heineken's beer—he would get even happier, giggly and garrulous. Among his friends, no one could remember the last time they'd seen him angry. They always knew when he was uncomfortable or unsure of himself, however, because he would stutter slightly.

If you needed money, Vincent would lend it. If you needed a hand with something, Vincent would offer it. "He was the type of person who said 'Good morning' continued on page 14

Encounter

continued from page 12

to everyone in the office," coworker Bob Sirokey remembers. When he won an office pool, he invited everyone out for a few rounds on him.

Vincent had a promising future at Efficient Engineering Co., Inc., where he was a draftsman and a computer-terminal operator. He started there in December of 1960, and in two years earned four promotions. "Vincent wouldn't walk if he could run," recalls Gene Blair, his supervisor.

His friends remember him two ways. First, fishing. If he had a free Sunday afternoon, he'd drive up to Cass Lake with a 12-pack and anyone who wanted to come along. Second: reading. "He always had his nose in a book," says Jimmy Choi, who worked weekends with Vincent at the Golden Star restaurant. "He loved sagas, anything by Michener or Clavell."

Above all, of course, there was Vikki. "Vincent was devoted to her," says Marshall Chin, who was to be the best man at the wedding. "He was very excited about being married."

Vincent and Vikki had met at a dance four years earlier, when she was 20. What first attracted her, she said later, was his cheerful disposition. "Vince was a happy person—positive, always on the go. He had a lot of goals in life."

It was to be a big Chinese wedding—at least 400 guests. Vikki had two wedding dresses—traditional white for the ceremony, and a colorful Chinese gown for the reception. Gifts had begun arriving at his mother's home in Oak Park. Vincent already had paid for the honeymoon trip to Aruba, an island in the Caribbean.

May Chin, Marshall's wife, was to have been the bridesmaid. "I just remember the little things," she says. "Vincent was very good with kids. Very patient and gentle. He was very close to my two sons. They gravitated toward him. Most guys don't want to be around kids, but he always wanted to carry Brian. He's seven now and once in a while he asks, 'Is Vincent in heaven?'"

"I remember he always wished he'd had a brother," May Chin says. "It made us sick to hear that Vincent was alone and got into that mess. . . He didn't deserve to die, not the way he did. And the way the judge treated those guys, Ebens and Nitz, saying, 'These aren't the kind of people you put in jail.' I mean, Vincent's not the kind of guy you'd want to kill."

June 19, 1962, was a Saturday, cool and clear. Vincent was supposed to work at the Golden Star, but things were slow, and he asked Paul Ng, the owner, for the night off. Ng considered Vincent a second son; when he vacationed in China, he entrusted the restaurant to Vincent for a month at a time. Ng smiled and said okay.

Vincent went to his Oak Park home to change. That night, Lily Chin asked her son where he was going. He told her about the bar and that Gary Koivu, a childhood friend, would be driving. She was glad; she always worried when he drove. "This is the last time I'm going to the bar because I'm getting married," he said as he left.

She frowned. "Never say 'last,'" she admonished. "It is unlucky."

The Fancy Pants Club is brown and boxy. It sits behind a Burger King off Woodward Avenue in the heart of Highland Park. It has no windows. Just a small canopy and a doorman/bouncer to "watch your car" for \$1. Inside, it is dark, cool, and red. The spotlights are red. The carpet is red. The tables are cheap. Large square slats of unframed mirrors line the walls and snake behind the stage to provide a rear-view of the dancer. She wears high heels. The music is quasi-disco and loud. No alcohol is served, only Coke, Sprite, orange juice, and the like, for \$1.50 a glass. But Vincent and his friends already had stopped at one bar, and, just for good measure, one of them carried a concealed flask of vodka.

When the bachelor party—Vincent Chin, Gary Koivu,

Bob Sirokey, and Jimmy Choi—arrived at the Fancy Pants that night, Vincent changed \$50 into \$1 bills for tipping. A few minutes later, Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz entered. Ronald Ebens, then 42, was born in Dixon, Illinois, one of six children. He lived in the suburb of East Detroit with his third wife and two children, one of them his stepson, Michael Nitz. He liked bowling, basketball, hockey, and football. According to a psychiatric report prepared for the court, he "[had] been a frequent and excessive drinker for approximately 10 years. . . and may be chronically dependent on same."

The report also concluded that he had "above-average intelligence. . . extremely poor overall judgment, uncontrollable hostility, and a potential for explosive acting out."

On the night of June 19, the width of the stage at the Fancy Pants—about six feet—separated Ebens and Vincent. It evidently took only a few minutes for Ebens to say something to Vincent. Racine Colwell, a dancer at the club, heard only one remark: "It's



Officers Gardenhire (left) and Cotton at the crime scene.

because of motherf— like you that we're out of work." Vincent may have said something about being Chinese, not Japanese, but that, of course, was not the point. The epithet Ebens used, perhaps more than any other, is particularly loathsome and provocative to the Chinese, who tend to take it literally. "That [kind of remark] is one of the things that Chinese are really leery about," says Jimmy Choi, "because we respect our mothers."

"I'm not a motherf—," Vincent retorted. "Don't call me a motherf—."

"I just don't know if you're a big f— or a little f—," Ebens replied. According to witnesses, Vincent then got up and walked around the stage. Ebens rose and came to meet him. Vincent pushed Ebens. Ebens pushed back. Michael Nitz then charged over and helped Ebens pin Vincent against the wall. Ebens boisted a chair to strike Vincent, but he deflected the blow. Within moments, Eddie Hollis, the club's bouncer, pulled them apart. "Let's get out of this place," Vincent said.

Nitz' head was bleeding, perhaps from being grazed

by the chair. Ebens and Nitz—and Bob Sirokey—went to the men's room. Hollis escorted Vincent and the others to the parking lot. For a few minutes, Chin, Koivu, and Choi leaned on Koivu's car. Vincent refused to leave without Sirokey.

Ebens and Nitz emerged from the club. Vincent, still angry, challenged Ebens to fight. Ebens took a few steps to his car, lifted the hatchback and produced a baseball bat. A Louisville Slugger. Jackie Robinson autograph. Flame-tempered. Thirty-four ounces, 34 inches.

"I'm not going to fight you with a bat," Vincent protested as Ebens approached. "Drop the bat and we'll fight." Ebens kept coming. Vincent broke wide and ran, with Ebens in pursuit. Vincent reached Woodward Avenue, half a block away, and disappeared around a corner. Eyewitness accounts diverge here, but it is certain that Ebens and Nitz returned to their car in the Fancy Pants parking lot and drove off. Meanwhile, Sirokey reappeared and joined Choi and Koivu. Moments later, while Vincent's three friends huddled by Koivu's car, Ebens and Nitz returned.

"Where's your friend?" Ebens demanded.

"I don't know," Koivu said.

Ebens turned on Choi and said, "Let's get the little f—." Choi sprinted toward Woodward, following Vincent's path. When he reached Woodward, he found Vincent.

"Those guys are crazy," Vincent said.

"Yeah, let's run," Choi replied.

Vincent and Choi headed down Woodward to what they thought would be the safest place—McDonald's. Bright lights, lots of people around. They figured Sirokey and Koivu would cruise by and pick them up, or they could hail a cab. They sprinted the three blocks and sat down at the curb, in front of a small outcropping of trees and bushes.

Meanwhile, Sirokey and Koivu circled the block in the car, then pulled over near the Fancy Pants again. Ebens reappeared and chased Sirokey, then Koivu. He caught neither. As Ebens returned to his car, Koivu heard one of them—Ebens or Nitz—yell, "We're going to get your friend."

Ten minutes passed. Outside the McDonald's, Vincent Chin and Jimmy Choi were still catching their breath, figuring their next move. Inside, Michael Gardenhire II, an off-duty Highland Park police officer who moonlighted as a McDonald's security guard, surveyed Woodward Avenue while dining on a cheeseburger. His partner, Morris Cotton, also an off-duty officer, was in the parking lot, helping jump-start a car. Both were in plain clothes.

A car pulled into the adjacent parking lot, 20 feet from Choi and Chin. Morris Cotton thought nothing of it, until he saw two white men emerge, an unusual sight in a black neighborhood. Then Cotton saw a third rider exit from the same car: Jimmie Perry, an unemployed 20-year-old he knew from the neighborhood. One eyewitness would later say that Perry carried an object in his hand that looked like a brick.

Everything happened so fast that even Gardenhire and Cotton don't agree on all the details. Jimmy Choi remembers a blur of movement by the bushes. Before he could whip his head around, Vincent yelled "Run!" Chin and Choi bolted for the street. Ebens was no match for Vincent's speed, but Michael Nitz was. Nitz intercepted Vincent and grabbed him from behind in a bear hug. They struggled for a second. Ebens caught up with the two and raised the bat. Vincent swung Nitz around just as Ebens took his first swipe. Ebens missed Chin, but may have nicked Nitz.

Chin broke free and started to run. Ebens swung again and caught him in the knee. Chin stumbled into the middle of the right lane of traffic on Woodward Avenue. Cars swerved around him. Ebens swung again. The blow stung Vincent in the back. He cried out and started to fall.

Ebens pulled back and swung again. Both hands on the bat. A full swing. This time there was a terrible sound. The bat smashed into Vincent's head. Blood spurted everywhere. Vincent curled up on the street and raised his hands to his head to fend off the blows. Gardenhire remembers it vividly: "Mr. Ebens continued on page 18

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Encounter

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was standing over him with the baseball bat and he was just pounding him in the head like he was hitting a golf ball. He hit him four times. Four times. There was blood coming from everywhere. Out of his ears and everywhere.

Gardenhire and Cotton flashed their badges and told Ebens to drop the bat. "Mr. Ebens had a glare in his eye," Gardenhire remembers, "and he started walking towards me. I told him again to drop the bat and stop, and he kept advancing." Gardenhire and Cotton both shouted the warning again. They drew their guns; a few more steps by Ebens and both say they would have opened fire. But Ebens snapped out of his rage and dropped the bat. Gardenhire remembers: "The only thing he said was, 'I'm sorry that this happened. But he shouldn't have done what he done.' He just kept saying that over and over again."

Jimmy Choi had come running back, but it was too late. On the ground, Vincent Chin stirred. He tried to lift himself, but couldn't. Choi cradled his friend's head in his lap. Vincent looked up. He pointed weakly at Ebens. "It isn't fair," he whispered.

Those were his last words.

Later, Ronald Ebens would give Judge Kaufman this account of what happened: "... my stepson and I had ... just been seated [at the Fancy Pants] and sat there for maybe five minutes when the victim came over, for what reason I still don't know, and struck me a blow in the mouth. And it upset me out of my chair. And my stepson stepped in and held him off while I was getting up and it just progressed, it went outside, it got further infuriated outside and the victim left the area ...

"During the melee inside, my stepson received a head injury plus I was bleeding from the mouth. And we left there with two intentions in mind: It really was to keep an eye out for them, plus going to get Mike medical attention because he needed stitches. And as we were going down Woodward, we noticed the two sitting out in front of McDonald's, laughing and joking with each other. We stopped. I hopped out the back seat. I had the bat in my hand when I came out of the car. I came around the corner, and I yelled at Vincent and I struck him in the arm. He took off running. Jimmy Choi took off running down the street the other way. I don't know exactly where Mike [Nitz] came from, to be honest with you, but from that point on I don't remember what happened."

The knock came at Lily Chin's door around 11 p.m. It was Paul Ng, the owner of the Golden Star. From his face, she knew it was bad. At the hospital, emergency surgery had begun. For eight hours, a team of neurosurgeons tried to salvage Vincent's battered brain. The left side of the skull had been crushed. Lily, Vikki Wong, and several of Vincent's friends waited at the hospital for word on his

condition. Lily Chin remembers when the doctor came out. "I ask him how he is. The doctor says very, very bad. The brain all bad. I ask to go in to see him, he say okay. I tell him, 'Vincent, open the eye and see Mama.'"

Four days later, doctors told Lily Chin that her son's brain was dead. She agreed to remove him from the life-support machines. Vincent Chin died on June 23 and was buried on June 29. A memorial service was held June 29, the day he and Vikki Wong were to have begun their honeymoon in Aruba.

Vincent Chin's was one of 15 homicides in Highland Park in 1982. That was well below the average for recent years. Highland Park is a city of only 28,000, yet it has one of the highest per-capita crime rates in the country.

The police department is 52 strong, including six detectives, who handle cases ranging from shoplifting to homicide. One of those detectives is Don Roberts, a 19-year veteran. He got the call at home the night Vincent Chin was assaulted.

Ronald Ebens spent the night of June 19 in jail. Michael Nitz was questioned and released. The next morning, Ebens was released to his attorney, without bond.

On June 25, two days after Vincent's death, Ebens and Nitz appeared before Judge Kalem Garian, 67, of the 30th District Court, for arraignment—that is, to face formal charges. Garian says he was surprised that the men had been released without bond. "No, it is not normal," he said recently, "unless in their [the police's] mind the facts warrant it is a weak case, or [they feel they] might not have a case."

Detective Roberts defends the release. "We checked the guy. He had no record. He worked at Chrysler, he owned his home. The attorney said he had known him for 30 years, a very respectable attorney. You don't figure anybody's gonna take off on you on a deal like that. Which they didn't."

At the arraignment, meanwhile, the police recommended the two suspects be released on "personal bond." Which means they're required to put up no cash, only their signatures.

Judge Garian was shocked. "I said, 'On second-degree murder?' And the wheels go around in my mind, [I'm thinking,] 'How bad is this case, how weak is this?'"

Garian refused to allow Ebens and Nitz to remain free without a cash bond. "I said, 'I cannot put anyone you charge with second degree on a personal [bond]. So for that reason I put it at \$5,000. It is very, very low, but based upon not only the officer's [request], but what I [asked] the two gentlemen, 'What do you do for a living? Are you still employed? Have you ever been in trouble before?'"

The answers satisfied Garian that Ebens and Nitz would not jump bond. A few days later they were charged with second-degree murder. In Michigan, that means the killing was not premeditated.

"An incident broke out in a bar," Roberts says. "Everybody was drinking, everybody was hot, the guy's

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Encounter

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son was bleeding. There's a lot of things to take into consideration. Did he mean to kill him? Can you honestly say he believed in killing him? Was he just gonna hurt him, or did he actually want him dead, right on the spot? When you're in a fit of rage, it's hard to prove premeditation. There's no way in the world that I can see this as first-degree murder, because I don't know if he [Ebens] was driving around looking for Vincent or going to the hospital."

There seemed to be one way to find out where they were headed: Ask Jimmie Perry, the third man in Ebens' car that night. Perry's statement to the police says in part: "One night I was walking down Woodward. And I saw two white person. . . One guy head was bosted [sic] and I went over to see if I can help. One guy offer me \$20 to help him. . ."

"Help him what?" asks Liza Chan, an attorney for the ACJ. "Do you need someone to help you to the hospital, especially when Michael Nitz was driving? Nitz, the injured person? Help him what? Drive?"

And what of the witness who saw Perry carrying an object that looked like a brick?

These questions were never explored by police. "In [Roberts'] report to the prosecuting attorney," Chan points out, "he didn't even mention the police were looking for Jimmie Perry. He could be the missing link that makes this." Instead, she says, Roberts "[took] the defendants' word for it that they were going to the hospital and bumped into [Vincent Chin] and beat him up savagely and killed him. I mean, really."

For his part, Roberts is not impressed with the role played by Jimmie Perry: "Jimmie Perry never made

a statement until later when I had him arrested. [And] I don't believe everything he says, either, because he's one of these shady characters. He gave me three stories before the one that made the statement."

The prosecutor eventually received Jimmie Perry's statement, but did not pursue it.

There are other questions about the quality of police work. Judge Bayles points out that Roberts never interviewed anyone at the Fancy Pants Club. Racine Colwell, the dancer who overheard the racist remark by Ebens that triggered the night's violence, was never asked about the exchange.

Replies Roberts: "The next day I called the club and talked to the manager. I told him about the incident, and said if you can get a hold of the bouncer or anybody in there that knows anything about it, have them come in and talk to me, call me. He said okay. That's the last time I heard from him."

But was it reasonable, Liza Chan asks, to assume that they would return the call without prodding? "Look, I had three witnesses that were in the bar [Vincent's friends]," says Roberts. "What did I need anymore? I had them. The incident didn't happen in the bar."

Next came the preliminary hearing, at which the judge decides whether enough evidence exists to hold the defendants for trial. At that hearing on October 5, Judge Bayles became convinced the prosecutor had undercharged the suspects. Because of the half-hour gap between the first scuffle and the killing, he says, "I felt that we had first-degree murder here. . . with all the things that occurred in my court, the prosecutor had every reason to charge first-degree murder at the preliminary hearing."

But James Collins, the assistant prosecutor, did not ask that the charge be increased.

"I think there's [enough] fault to go around," Bayles said recently. "Even in my court. Perhaps I should have said, 'I'm going to delay this thing and give you an opportunity to recharge the man.' I take the blame. Perhaps I should have done that. Perhaps I should have stopped the proceedings. I didn't do that. So I can say the blame goes right down the line. I'm perhaps as much to blame as the [sentencing] judge [Kaufman] is in this whole thing. The whole process fails, we fail everybody because we're maybe more interested in getting through a number of cases than we are in doing all of them right."

Sometime after the preliminary hearing, the attorneys met to discuss a plea bargain. Louis Gutter, an assistant prosecutor, wanted a "package deal," says Edward Khoury, Nitz' attorney. Gutter reportedly believed the case against Ebens was much stronger than the one against Nitz. But Gutter wanted two convictions, not one, so he agreed to a lesser charge for Ebens in exchange for Nitz' guilty plea.

The defense attorneys agreed to the bargain.

On February 8, Ebens pleaded guilty to manslaughter. Under Michigan law that means "you were provoked to kill," says Charles Marr, a spokesman for Wayne County Prosecutor William Cahalan. Nitz pleaded *nolo contendere* to manslaughter, which means he is pleading guilty in this case only—his plea cannot be used as evidence of guilt or liability in any other case. "The kid [Nitz] sacrificed himself for his stepfather," Khoury says.

Since Ebens and Nitz agreed to the plea bargain, there was no trial, only sentencing, set for March 16 in the Wayne County Circuit Court. That left the matter to Judge Charles Kaufman, 63, a veteran of 18 years on the bench. Kaufman had been a Japanese POW in World War II and had been involved with civil rights legislation in the 1940s.

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Before him, Kaufman had a confidential psychiatric report, prepared by the Wayne County Adult Probation Services Department, on Ronald Ebens. It detailed his excessive drinking, his marital problems, and summed up: "Behind the easygoing demeanor that this defendant attempts to portray lies an extremely hostile and explosive individual, especially when confronted with stressful situations."

The report recommended incarceration and alcohol rehabilitation treatment for Ebens.

In Judge Kaufman's courtroom that day, there was no prosecutor to argue the state's case against Ronald Ebens. Wayne County prosecutors rarely appear at sentencing.

The defense attorneys, however, did appear. Kaufman said he had "perused" the transcript of the preliminary hearing, and then proceeded to ask the only attorneys there—the defense attorneys—to refresh his memory on some of the facts in the case. And the defense attorneys did so, in words that often contradicted testimony given by the witnesses at the preliminary hearing.

As Judge Bayles said, "[Kaufman] simply was looking at the file, and he said these guys have pretty good records, and you've got two lawyers who are standing before him, and if they don't out and out prefabricate [sic], they put things in the best possible light for their clients."

And so it was that Vincent Chin became the villain, the man who caused his own demise. In the words of Nitz's attorney, Edward Khoury: "[The killing] was not so much an act that was willful or with any specific intent to commit any crime, but a tragedy of major proportion. . . in fact, may it please the court, the defendant Michael Nitz was going in the general direction . . . of the hospital in Highland Park, when they passed this McDonald's and saw the deceased . . . it was one tragic sequence of events following the next . . ."

There is, of course, some question about where Ebens and Nitz were headed: to the hospital or to find Vincent Chin?

Among other things, Khoury also told Kaufman that Vincent "split his [Nitz's] head open with a chair," even though eyewitnesses testified earlier that it was Ebens, not Vincent, who picked up the chair.

Then Bruce Saperstein, the attorney for Ronald Ebens, added: "Your Honor, Mr. Ebens and Mr. Nitz were seated, and the victim walked up and punched Mr. Ebens in the mouth, initiating the physical assault." That, of course, was Ebens' version, contradicted by witnesses at the scene, who told police Ebens and Vincent met halfway around the Fancy Pants stage, both standing up, and then the shoving began. No one saw who threw the first punch; it was not clearly established that there were any punches thrown.

Then Saperstein turned Kaufman's attention to Ebens' record—"he is not a hardened criminal"—and finally: "I'm confident that this would never happen again. But normal people act strange when loved ones appear to be seriously injured, and that is what happened here, resulting in this tragedy. . . With respect to punishment, Your Honor, Mr. Ebens is being punished every day of his life over this incident. He can't change that. He has to live with this."

The judge asked Ebens if he had anything to say: "Only that I'm deeply sorry about what happened. If there is any way I could change it, I sure would." Nitz echoed that sentiment.

Kaufman took a five-minute recess. A manslaughter conviction in Michigan carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison. There is no minimum sentence.

Kaufman then returned with the sentence: three years' probation and \$3,780 in fines and court costs.

"These weren't the kind of men you send to

jail," Kaufman told reporters. "We're talking here about a man who's held down a responsible job with the same company for 17 or 18 years. And his son who is employed and is a part-time student. These men are not going to go out and harm somebody else. I just didn't think that putting them in prison would do any good for them or for society. You don't make the punishment fit the crime, you make the punishment fit the criminal."

The same year, 58 of 209 defendants convicted of manslaughter in Michigan received probation.

"The only report I saw indicated that Mr. Chin threw the first punch," Kaufman said later, defending his decision. "While this certainly wasn't a case of self-defense, it was the continuation of a fight that Mr. Chin apparently started." But if Chin made the first physical contact, didn't Ebens provoke the shoving with his remarks?

Beyond that, Kaufman said, was the question of intent: Did Ebens intend to kill Vincent? The fact that he wielded a baseball bat, rather than a gun or knife, swayed Kaufman. "If you're going to kill someone, you can do it a lot quicker with something other than a baseball bat," he reasoned. "Chin lived for four days after the attack. If you are going to kill someone with a bat, you can do it in five minutes. These guys appeared to want to do grave injury, not murder."

On April 14, Judge Kaufman said: "If I had it to do over, I'd do the same thing. I believe it was the right decision." That same day, the prosecutor's office announced a new policy: it would no longer reduce the charge of second degree murder to manslaughter. A spokesman said it had nothing to do with the Chin case.

A week later, Claude Durand, Vincent's friend, wrote to the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission, asking for an investigation of Judge Kaufman. On May 9, the commission replied that there appeared to be no judicial misconduct.

"It's hard to believe that it could happen like this," says May Chin. "Everybody took it for granted that justice will get those guys. Nobody ever thought this would happen. It makes me think, what am I going to teach my children? How are they going to grow up with this kind of law? It makes everybody lose faith."

On June 2, Judge Kaufman refused to reverse his decision because, in essence, he said it would be illegal. "If people feel no one should get probation for manslaughter, then they should go to the legislature to change the law," he said.

One thing did change: After his conviction, Ronald Ebens lost his job at Chrysler.

After the sentencing, Vikki Wong broke her silence: "They ruined my life, my future," she said. "How can you commit murder and get away with nothing? It's not fair. All I can do now is scream to myself—for him and for me."

It's not fair. Vincent's final words.

Vikki Wong will not talk about Vincent in public. Friends say she has not resumed dating. She has returned to work. She is trying to forget.

But memories linger. Among them, the poem. Vincent wrote it to her for Valentine's Day, 1978. He put it in the classified section of a Detroit newspaper.

It said:

*There is no life without you
There is no joy of laughter
There is no brightness, no warmth
All the mornings after.*

*So stay with me
And we'll face the tomorrows
To find if our love
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 8/18/83b6
b7c

On August 11, 1983, [redacted]
[redacted] was interviewed at her place of employment,
the Fancy Pants Club, Davidson freeway and Woodward Avenue,
Highland Park, Michigan, by SAs [redacted]
[redacted] Detroit Office of the FBI. At this time, [redacted]
was interviewed in reference to events which occurred prior to
the death of VINCENT CHIN on June 18, 1982. [redacted]
provided the following information:

[redacted] advised she is employed as [redacted]
at the Fancy Pants Club and [redacted]
[redacted] On the night of June 18, 1982, she was employed in the
above capacity.

On the above night, she worked the night shift which
starts at 7:00 P.M. where she was scheduled [redacted]
[redacted] she noticed four
or five Oriental males seated at the foot of the stage. On one
or two occasions, a couple of the Oriental males [redacted]
[redacted] however, she

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[redacted] She indicated the above activity
is routine at the Fancy Pants Club and she was still trying to
adjust. She further indicated that she had only been working
at this bar for approximately two weeks, [redacted]
[redacted]

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Apparently, the Oriental males [redacted]
[redacted] She stated she
continued, [redacted]
[redacted]

At approximately 7:30 P.M., two white males entered
the bar and sat three or four seats to the left of the Oriental
males. She continued [redacted] and the Oriental males continued
[redacted] After a few minutes, the white males started
[redacted] They started to tell [redacted]
[redacted] about the Oriental males as they did not know a
[redacted]

Investigation on 8/11/83 at Highland Park, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408
by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] Date dictated 8/16/83
PER: pap

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[redacted] advised the above events continued until [redacted]. She advised she felt as though the Oriental males were tense during the above verbal confrontation with the white males, but the white males were more or less kidding with them and trying to keep her spirits up.

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She advised upon [redacted] and another [redacted] identified as [redacted] came on to perform for the audience. A short while later she heard some commotion coming from the front of the club. She went to see what was going on at which time she saw chairs being thrown and other male employees trying to stop the Oriental males and the white males from fighting. She saw one of the Oriental males standing in the middle of the floor in what appeared to be a martial arts stance. At this time, the Oriental males and the white males were escorted from the bar by the male employees.

Approximately 30 minutes later, another [redacted] named [redacted] and informed her that the above individuals were still in the parking lot arguing. She indicated she did not pay it any attention as she thought it was stupid the way the individuals had acted. Two weeks after the above night, [redacted] showed her a news article indicating one of the Oriental males had been killed as an apparent result of what had happened on the night of June 18, 1982.

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[redacted] advised during the above verbal confrontation she did not hear racial remarks made by either the white males or Oriental males. She felt as though the white males were not prejudiced as she is black and if anyone would have been shown prejudice it would have been her. In her opinion, the Orientals [redacted] and the white males were [redacted] and not agreeing with them.

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Upon conclusion of the above interview, [redacted] was served with a subpoena issued in the Eastern District of Michigan, Detroit, Michigan, indicating she is to appear for testimony before a Federal Grand Jury on September 8, 1983. [redacted] acknowledged receipt of the above subpoena through signing two copies, one of which was left in her possession.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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U.S. begins its jury probe of Chin case

By BRIAN FLANIGAN
Free Press Staff Writer

A federal grand jury Wednesday began an inquiry into the slaying of Vincent Chin, beaten to death with a baseball bat.

On orders from the U.S. Department of Justice, the Detroit FBI office conducted an investigation earlier this year to determine if Chin's civil rights had been violated and if his killing had been racially motivated.

Sources said the grand jury will focus on the civil rights question during at least a month of testimony.

WEDNESDAY'S session included presentations by a lawyer with the U.S. attorney's office in Detroit and an attorney representing the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, according to sources familiar with the proceedings.

The lawyers outlined federal law relating to civil rights violations and presented an overview of the circumstances leading to Chin's death, the sources said. Grand jurors also heard testimony from an FBI agent involved in the investigation, the sources said.

The grand jury witness list "is about half a block long," said one federal law enforcement official.

A MAJOR WITNESS is expected to be a go-go dancer who heard words between Chin and Ronald Ebens in the Fancy Pants Club shortly before a fight broke out between Chin, Ebens and Ebens' stepson, Michael Nitz.

Chin, a 27-year-old Oak Park engineering draftsman of Chinese descent, was beaten with a baseball bat by Ebens and Nitz outside the Highland Park nightclub June 19, 1982. Chin, who had gone to the club with two friends to celebrate his upcoming marriage, died four days later.

Ebens, 43, and Nitz, 23, both of East Detroit were convicted of manslaughter. Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz pleaded no contest. Each was sentenced to three years' probation and fined \$3,780 by Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman. Under state law, the men could have received up to 15 years in prison.

THE SENTENCES gained widespread publicity. Rallies protesting Chin's death and Kaufman's sentence were held in Detroit, Windsor, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York City.

After a July meeting with Chin's 62-year-old mother, Lily, Assistant U.S. Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds said he considered the Chin case "a brutal incident that was treated with apparently way too light a sentence." Reynolds, head of the Civil Rights Division, cited a similar case in Kansas City.

In that case, according to a Justice Department spokesman, a black musician was beaten to death with a baseball bat by a white man. The killer was found not guilty by state courts, but later was convicted in a federal court and sentenced to life in prison.

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WOD

AIRTEL

10/4/83

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (SQD. C-4)

[REDACTED]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)
OO: DETROIT

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b7C

Enclosed for Milwaukee is a grand jury subpoena for

[REDACTED]

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For the information of Milwaukee, during the evening of 6/19/82, victim, with three friends, was having a bachelors party at the Fancy Pants Go Go Club located in Highland Park, Michigan. While in the club, victim exchanged words with captioned subjects. It is alleged that subjects were directing racial slurs toward victim. A fight ensued between victim and subjects inside the club. The disturbance was quickly quelled; however, upon leaving the club, victim encountered the subjects in the club parking lot. Once outside the club [REDACTED] obtained a baseball bat from his vehicle. He and [REDACTED] gave chase to victim. Victim was able to elude subjects for approximately ten minutes, but was then located by subjects and was beaten by [REDACTED] with the baseball bat. Victim suffered serious injuries from the beating and was transported to Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Michigan. At the hospital victim was treated by [REDACTED] Victim died four days later.

b6
b7C

On 9/26/83, an attempt was made to serve a subpoena on [REDACTED] for appearance before a Federal Grand Jury at Detroit, Michigan on 11/2/83. Contact with the legal department of [REDACTED] determined that [REDACTED] currently resides at [REDACTED]

b3
b6
b7C

2 - Bureau
2 - Milwaukee (Enc. 1)
② - Detroit
JLC/alb
(6)

alb

44A2408-60
SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED *OK*
INDEXED _____
FILED *OK*

DE 44A-2408

LEAD

MILWAUKEE

AT MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Serve enclosed grand jury subpoena on

b3
b6
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE DETROIT	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DETROIT	DATE 10/5/83	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/11/83 - 9/28/83
TITLE OF CASE [Redacted Box] VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA [Redacted Box]	TYPED BY dlb
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR (A)	

b6
b7C

REFERENCE: Detroit report of SA [Redacted Box] 8/8/83.

b6
b7C

- P -

LEAD

DETROIT

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Will follow grand jury proceedings scheduled for 11/1 & 2/83.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Delay in reporting due to Grand Jury and subsequent request for investigation by the Department of Justice.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

2 - Bureau

1 - USA, Detroit
(Attn: AUSA VIRGINIA MORGAN)

② - Detroit (44A-2408)
dlb

44A-2408-66

SEARCHED _____

SERIALIZED

INDEXED _____

FILED

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				Notations
Agency	Request Recd.	Date Fwd.	How Fwd.	

COVER PAGE

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

Copy to: 1 - USA, Detroit
(Attn: AUSA VIRGINIA MORGAN)

Report of: SA [REDACTED] **Office:** Detroit, Michigan

Date: 10/5/83

b6
b7c

Field Office File #: 44A-2408 **Bureau File #:**

Title: [REDACTED]
Vincent Chin (Deceased) - Victim

Character: Civil Rights

Synopsis: On 8/11/83, [REDACTED] was contacted and advised that [REDACTED] when the fight broke out between subjects and victim, but prior to fight heard them arguing, but no racial remarks. [REDACTED] police officers, Highland Park, Michigan Police Department, were contacted and advised that they witnessed beating of victim by [REDACTED] On 9/28/83 [REDACTED] EMS Attendant, Highland Park, Michigan, interviewed and advised that he responded to scene of beating. While at scene he heard [REDACTED] state something to the effect, "That's right I did it. If I had it my way" and pointed to another oriental male later identified as [REDACTED] "you would be there too". [REDACTED] EMS Attendant, Highland Park, Michigan interviewed and advised he was with [REDACTED] but did not hear [REDACTED] remarks.

b6
b7c

- P -

Details:

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 10/14/83

TO: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (C-4)
 FROM: SAC, MILWAUKEE (44A-1216) (RUC)

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -
 VICTIM;
 CR (A)
 OO: DETROIT

Enclosed for Detroit is Grand Jury subpoena served on
 [Redacted]

Re Detroit airtel to Director, 10/4/83.

[Redacted] served as reflected by subpoena return.
 He advised that he will be unable to furnish [Redacted]
 pertaining to victim Chin as directed by the subpoena. These

[Redacted]
 He requests these [Redacted]
 prior to and during his testimony.

LEADS

DETROIT DIVISION

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Will obtain [Redacted] of victim Chin from [Redacted]
 [Redacted] prior to 11/2/83 the date of [Redacted] testimony.

② - Detroit (44A-2408) *encl*
 1 - Milwaukee (44A-1216)
 RAS/cb
 (3)

See 1A

44A-2408-67

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
 (Number) (Time)

b6
b7C

b3
b6
b7C

b3
b6
b7C

Date 10/28/83

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT
 SUBJECT:

Bureau File Number
 44A-2408
 Field Office File Number
 C-4
 Squad or RA Number

Investigative Assistance or Techniques Used

Were any of the investigative assistance or techniques listed below used in connection with accomplishment being claimed? No Yes - If Yes, rate each used as follows:
 1 = Used, but did not help
 2 = Helped, but only minimally
 3 = Helped, substantially
 4 = Absolutely essential

1. Acctg Tech Assistance	Rating	6. ELSUR - Title III	Rating	11. Lab Div Field Support	Rating	16. Show Money Usage	Rating
2. Aircraft Assistance		7. Hypnosis Assistance		12. Pen Registers		17. Surveill. Sqd Asst	
3. Computer Assistance		8. Ident Div Assistance		13. Photographic Coverage		18. SWAT Team Action	
4. Consensual Monitoring		9. Informant Information		14. Polygraph Assistance		19. Telephone Toll Records	
5. ELSUR - FISC		10. Lab Div Exams		15. Search Warrants Executed		20. Undercover Operation	
						21. Visual Invest - Analysis (VIA)	

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED)
 VICTIM
 CR (A)
 OO: DETROIT

- X if a joint FBI/DEA (or other Federal Agency **) operation.
- X if case involves corruption of a public official (Federal, State or Local).

A. Preliminary Judicial Process (Number of subjects)	Complaints	Informations	Indictments	D. Recoveries, Restitutions, Court Ordered Forfeitures or Potential Economic Loss Prevented (PELP)				
				Property or PELP Type Code *	Recoveries	Restitutions	Court Ordered Forfeitures	Potential Economic Loss Prevented
B. Arrests, Locates, Summonses & Subpoenas (No. of subjects)	Subject Priority (See Reverse)							
	A	B	C					
FBI Arrests -				\$	\$	\$	\$	
FBI Locates -				\$	\$	\$	\$	
Number of Subjects of FBI Arrests Who Physically Resisted _____				\$	\$	\$	\$	
Number of Subjects of FBI Arrests Who Were Armed _____				\$	\$	\$	\$	
Criminal Summonses _____	Subpoenas Served <u>13</u>			\$	\$	\$	\$	
C. Release of Hostages: (Number of Hostages Released)				E. Civil Matters		Government Defendant		Government Plaintiff
Hostages Held By Terrorists _____; All Other Hostage Situations _____				Amount of Suit		\$	\$	\$
				Settlement or Award		\$	\$	\$
								Enter AFA Payment Here

F. Final Judicial Process: Judicial District _____ (Use two letter state abbreviations per U.S. Post Office Guide. For Example - The Northern District of Texas as ND TX; The District of Maine as ME in the state field only.)

Subject 1 - Name _____ District _____ State _____ Subject's Description Code * - _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Pretrial Diversion <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal <input type="checkbox"/> Acquittal	- Convictions - Enter conviction and sentence data in space at right. If more than four sections are involved, limit to the four most relevant.	<input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Plea <input type="checkbox"/> Trial	Conviction			In-Jail Term		Suspended		Probation		Fine
			Title	Section	Counts	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	
												\$
												\$
												\$
												\$

Subject 2 - Name _____ Subject's Description Code * - _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Pretrial Diversion <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal <input type="checkbox"/> Acquittal	- Convictions - Enter conviction and sentence data in space at right. If more than four sections are involved, limit to the four most relevant.	<input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Plea <input type="checkbox"/> Trial	Conviction			In-Jail Term		Suspended		Probation		Fine
			Title	Section	Counts	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	
												\$
												\$
												\$
												\$

Subject 3 - Name _____ Subject's Description Code * - _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Pretrial Diversion <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal <input type="checkbox"/> Acquittal	- Convictions - Enter conviction and sentence data in space at right. If more than four sections are involved, limit to the four most relevant.	<input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Plea <input type="checkbox"/> Trial	Conviction			In-Jail Term		Suspended		Probation		Fine
			Title	Section	Counts	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	
												\$
												\$
												\$
												\$

Attach additional forms if reporting final judicial process on more than three subjects.

Remarks: Subpoenas served in conjunction with Grand Jury testimony in captioned case scheduled for 11/1-2/83 at Detroit, Michigan.

44A2408-68

SEARCHED _____
 SERIALIZED _____
 INDEXED _____
 FILED _____
 FBI/DOJ

2 - Bureau
 2 - Field Office Detroit (1 - 66-5093)

See codes on reverse side. Subject description codes in Section F are required only when reporting a conviction.

** Identify the other Federal Agency(ies) in the Remarks Section.

JLC/dib
 (4)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

-vs-

CRIMINAL NO.

VIO: 18 U.S.C. §241
18 U.S.C. §245(b)(2)(F)

[redacted] and

Defendants.

b6
b7C

I N D I C T M E N T

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES:

COUNT ONE

(18 U.S.C. §241 - Conspiracy
To Violate Civil Rights)

On or about June 19, 1982, in Highland Park, Michigan, in the Eastern District of Michigan, defendants [redacted] and [redacted] did wilfully conspire and agree with one another to injure, oppress, threaten and intimidate Vincent Chin, a Chinese-American and a citizen of the United States, in the free exercise and enjoyment of the right secured to him by the Constitution and laws of the United States to the full and equal use of a place of public accommodation without discrimination on the basis of race and national origin, with the result that Vincent Chin died.

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b7C

It was a part of the plan and purpose of the conspiracy that the defendants, [redacted] would threaten, intimidate and assault Vincent Chin because

444-2408-6

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 10 1983	
FBI - DETROIT	

[redacted]

b6
b7C

race and national origin and because he had been enjoying the accommodations of the Fancy Pants Lounge, a place of entertainment open to the public.

OVERT ACTS

The grand jury charges that in furtherance of the aforesaid conspiracy and to accomplish the objects thereof, the defendants at the time and place hereinafter set forth did commit the following overt acts, among others, in the Eastern District of Michigan:

1. On June 19, 1982, shortly after 9:00 p.m., defendants [redacted] began an argument with Vincent Chin inside the Fancy Pants Lounge, calling Vincent Chin a "Chink", a "Nip" and numerous obscenities.

2. On June 19, 1982, after being ejected from the Fancy Pants Lounge, defendant [redacted] obtained a baseball bat from his automobile and, together with defendant [redacted] chased Vincent Chin out of the Fancy Pants parking lot.

3. On June 19, 1982, after chasing Vincent Chin out of the Fancy Pants parking lot, defendants [redacted] and [redacted] offered [redacted] twenty dollars (\$20.00) to help them "catch a Chinaman."

4. On June 19, 1982, after enlisting the support of [redacted] defendants [redacted] searched for and located Vincent Chin in the parking lot of a McDonalds Restaurant on Woodward Avenue in Highland Park, Michigan.

5. On June 19, 1982, at approximately 10:00 p.m., defendant [] aided and abetted by defendant [] [] struck Vincent Chin with a baseball bat numerous times in the knee, the chest and the head, with the result that Vincent Chin died on June 23, 1982; in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 241.

COUNT TWO

(18 U.S.C. §245 & §2
Interference With Civil Rights)

On or about June 19, 1982, in Highland Park, Michigan, in the Eastern District of Michigan, defendants [] and [] aiding and abetting each other, by force and threat of force, did wilfully injure, intimidate and interfere with Vincent Chin, a Chinese-American, because of his race, color and national origin, and because he had been enjoying the privileges and accommodations of the Fancy Pants Lounge, a place of entertainment open to the public, by threatening, beating and assaulting Vincent Chin with the result that Vincent Chin died; in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2 and 245(b)(2)(F).

THIS IS A TRUE BILL

FOREPERSON

LEONARD R. GILMAN
United States Attorney

VIRGINIA M. MORGAN (P25679)
Assistant United States Attorney

ROSS CONNEALY
Trial Attorney
Department of Justice

Dated:

FBI

8434

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- _____

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date

11-3-83

C-4

9:25

FM DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (C-4)

TO DIRECTOR (ROUTINE)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM;

CR (A); OO: DETROIT

ON NOVEMBER 2, 1983, A FEDERAL GRAND JURY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN RETURNED INDICTMENTS AGAINST CAPTIONED SUBJECTS. EACH SUBJECT WAS INDICTED ON ONE COUNT OF TITLE 18, SECTION 241 - (CONSPIRACY) AND ONE COUNT OF TITLE 18, SECTION 245 AND 2 - (INTERFERENCE WITH CIVIL RIGHTS).

BT

JLC/mar

(1) mar

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 FILED JA

b6
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Approved: _____

WCS/gc

Transmitted

002
(Number)

HQ
(Time)

Per

MB

ED050 2571546

09 10

07 07

R 031046Z NOV 73

DETROIT (44A-0488) (P) (C-4)

TO DIRECTOR (ROUTINE)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM;

b6
b7c

OF (A); OO: DETROIT

ON NOVEMBER 2, 1983, A FEDERAL GRAND JURY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN RETURNED INDICTMENTS AGAINST CAPTIONED SUBJECTS. EACH SUBJECT WAS INDICTED ON ONE COUNT OF TITLE 18, SECTION 241 - (CONSPIRACY) AND ONE COUNT OF TITLE 18, SECTION 245 AND 2 - (INTERFERENCE WITH CIVIL RIGHTS).

BT

44A2408-70

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SERIALIZED gf
INDEXED _____
FILED gf

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

U.S. indicts 2 given

probation in Chin

death

Civil rights charges in '82 beating

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Date: 11-3-83

Edition: 1A

Title: CHIN

Character: 44-2408

or
Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

Indexing:

By JOE SWICKARD and JOHN CASTINE

Free Press Staff Writers

Two East Detroit men, whose probation in the baseball-bat slaying of Chinese-American Vincent Chin provoked international outrage, were indicted by a federal grand jury Wednesday on civil rights charges.

Ronald Ebens, 44, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 25, were charged with conspiracy to deprive Chin of his civil rights and with beating him to death with a baseball bat because of his race.

Both charges carry maximum penalties of life in prison upon conviction.

U.S. Attorney Leonard Gilman said the men will be arraigned next week.

IN AUGUST, after the international uproar,

Assistant U.S. Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds met in Washington with Chin's mother, Lily, who urged federal intervention.

A Justice Department spokesman said politics had nothing to do with the federal investigation. But both the family of Ebens and Nitz and Asian-American protesters said Wednesday that without public pressure, the case would have ended months ago.

The protests started in March after Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman placed the men on three years of probation and assessed them \$3,780 each in fines and cost.

Originally charged with second-degree mur-

44A2-408-71

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 3 1983	
FBI-DETROIT	

Sent To Bureau |

der, which carries a maximum penalty of life in prison; Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz pleaded no contest to reduced charges of manslaughter in a plea bargain with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

MRS. CHIN, receiving guests and well-wishers in her Oak Park home Wednesday evening, said in Cantonese through an interpreter that the indictments gave her partial satisfaction.

"I'm grateful and hopeful, but happy I am not," she said. "My son is gone forever. It (indictments) makes me feel that there's still hope for justice in this land."

Helen Zia, president-elect of American Citizens for Justice, which was formed to protest the handling of the case by the Wayne County authorities, said at the Chin home:

"We feel this is sort of the first step in possibly seeing justice. It's sort of a culmination of eight months of hard work trying to convince the Department of Justice and the American people that not only was a murder committed, but it was serious violation of Vincent Chin's civil rights."

The group has raised more than \$100,000 in small donations from not only this country and Canada, but also from China and Japan. Most of the money has been spent on legal fees to appeal Kaufman's sentence. Zia said the appeal will be filed next week with the Michigan Court of

Appeals

Kaufman could not be reached for comment.

FEDERAL AUTHORITIES were able to enter the case because the attack allegedly was racially motivated. The indictment charges Chin was deprived of his right to use a public accommodation because of his "race, color and national origin."

The federal grand jury began considering the case in early September, about a month after Mrs. Chin's meeting with Reynolds and a preliminary investigation by the FBI.

Chin's killing was the subject of international news coverage and demonstrations in Detroit, Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York and other cities.

Chin was sometimes portrayed as a victim of anti-Japanese sentiment in Detroit, aroused by staggering domestic auto industry layoffs while the Japanese share of the market increased. It was reported that Chin was mistaken for Japanese.

IN WASHINGTON Wednesday, John Wilson, assistant director of public affairs for the Justice Department, denied there were any political implications in the Chin case.

"I've been in this department for 15 years and I hear charges of politics in everything we do through every administration," Wilson said. "That is simply incorrect. We filed these charges because a grand jury found evidence of deprivation of rights."

But at the Ebenses' house in East Detroit Wednesday night, a woman who said she was Mrs. Ebens, but refused to give her first name, told a reporter: "It's all politics and you know it."

Holding onto a grey and black schnauzer,

the woman said neither her husband nor her son was home.

"We have nothing to say to the press," she added. "We will not try this case in the newspaper. That's what they've done."

MEANWHILE, Zia said, "Clearly, politics has something to do with this (indictments).

"If we hadn't gone on a nationwide campaign — writing letters even to President Reagan — this case wouldn't have gone anywhere."

The first count of the indictment said Ebens and Nitz conspired "to injure, oppress, threaten and harass" Chin while he celebrated his bachelor party in the Fancy Pants Lounge, a Highland Park go-go club, the night of June 19, 1982.

The men, according to the indictment, started arguing with Chin, calling him "a 'chink,' a 'nip' and numerous obscenities." Outside the club, Nitz and Ebens chased Chin with a baseball bat and recruited Jimmy Perry, a local youth, in their pursuit, according to the indictment.

The indictment said they offered Perry

\$20 to help them "catch a Chinaman."

Nitz and Ebens, according to the indictment, "aided and abetted" each other in the beating. Chin, 27, died four days later of massive head injuries.

EDWARD KHOURY, attorney for Nitz in the Circuit Court case, said the federal indictment was a "surprise and a bit of shock because it doesn't comport with our finding of facts. There were no racial overtones here."

Although he has not been retained to represent Nitz in the federal case, Khoury said he had heard rumors of the charges and was officially contacted by the U.S. Attorney's Office about the indictment. He said he then called Nitz.

"I prepared him for it when I heard the rumors," Khoury said. "His reaction was one of disappointment. When it was confirmed, there wasn't much reaction."

Bruce Saperstein, who represented Ebens, could not be reached for comment.

Free Press staff writers David Everett, Glen Macnow and Lynell Mickelissen contributed to this report.

Chronology of the Chin case

June 19, 1982: Vincent Chin is beaten with a baseball bat.

June 23, 1982: He dies at Ford Hospital.

Feb. 8, 1983: Ronald Ebens pleads guilty and Michael Nitz pleads no contest to reduced charges of manslaughter.

March 16: Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman sentences Ebens and Nitz to three years of probation and \$3,780 in fines each.

May 9: About 1,000 marchers rally in downtown Detroit to protest the Chin sentences.

Aug. 4: The Justice Department announces that a special federal grand jury in Detroit will investigate Chin's slaying.

Sept. 7: The grand jury begins its inquiry.

Wednesday: Ebens and Nitz are indicted by the grand jury on charges of conspiracy to deprive Chin of his civil rights.



Vincent Chin

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

DETROIT NEWS

Date: 11-3-83
Edition: 1A

Title: CHIN

Character: 44-2408
orClassification:
Submitting Office:

DETROIT

Indexing:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

U.S. jury indicts 2 in Chin case

By Cynthia Lee
News Staff Writer

A federal grand jury yesterday returned criminal, civil rights indictments against two East Detroit men who were given probation by a Wayne County judge in the baseball bat slaying of Vincent Chin.

If convicted in the case, which attracted international attention, Ronald Ebens, 44, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 25, could face life in prison.

The grand jury, convened in Detroit Sept. 7 after an FBI investigation,



Vincent Chin

said Chin's slaying in June 1982 near a Highland Park strip joint violated his federal civil rights because it was racially motivated.

The case triggered a firestorm of protest from Asian-American groups last March when Wayne Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman placed Ebens and Nitz on three years probation and fined them a total of \$7,600.

Speaking at a news conference at her Oak Park home, Lily Chin, the victim's mother, said she "felt little bit better" because of the indictments, but still feels bitterness toward Ebens and Nitz.

"I DON'T WANT to see those men again — I want to kill them," sobbed Mrs. Chin. "I don't have any happiness anymore."

News of the new charges shocked Nitz, said his attorney, Edward Khoury, who broke the news to him.

"But he is accepting it," Khoury said. "He will present himself to the U.S. attorney for arraignment. There is no question in his mind that, based on the facts, there was no racial motivation. From the beginning to the end, there has never been any developments in this case to justify the findings of this grand jury.

"It seems to me that this case is an ambitious undertaking by the U.S. attorney's office to get a conviction. Some new facts must have been developed."

Arraignment is scheduled in 10 days and the case is expected to go to trial within 70 days if no motions are filed. A judge has not been chosen.

ORIGINALLY CHARGED with second-degree murder — which carries a possible life prison term — the men were allowed to plea bargain to reduced charges of manslaughter in a deal with the Wayne County Prosecutor's office. Ebens pleaded guilty to manslaughter while Nitz pleaded no contest.

Even with the reduced plea, Kaufman could have given the men 15-year prison terms. However, he said the men were "not the kind of people you send to prison" because they were first-time offenders and came from good backgrounds.

But the federal grand jury said there was evidence that the attack was racially motivated and premeditated. Witnesses said the incident began when Ebens and Nitz mistook Chin for a Japanese who was "stealing our jobs," a reference to the auto industry.

Sent To Bureau

THE TWO-COUNT indictment charges that Ebens and Nitz conspired to violate Chin's civil rights by interfering with his enjoyment of a public place and by beating him to death because he was Chinese. Each count carries a possible maximum sentence of life in prison.

The announcement of the indictments by Eastern District U.S. Attorney Leonard Griffin and Reynolds was welcomed by thousands of supporters of the "justice for Chin" cause.

One of the groups, the Americans Citizens for Justice, said it still will press for a state prison term for Ebens and Nitz. But a spokeswoman said the group is rejoicing at the federal action.

"At this stage of the prosecution, the Asian community, the people who worked so hard to bring this about are pleased at the result of the grand jury's finding," said James Shimora, an attorney for the group. "At least now the case can be tried and all the issues properly heard."

ACCORDING to the indictments, Ebens and Nitz began the argument in the Fancy Pants Tavern because of Chin's race. They allegedly taunted Chin, a 27-year-old Oak Park engineer, who was celebrating his upcoming marriage, by calling him "Chink," "Nip," and numerous obscenities.

Witnesses to the confrontation reported that Ebens, a Chrysler Corp. general foreman, told Chin, "It's because of you... that we're out of work."

After they scuffled with Chin and were ejected from the bar, the two men obtained a baseball bat from their car and chased Chin and his friends.

To help search for Chin, they offered a passerby, Jimmy Perry, \$20 to help them "catch a Chinaman," the indictment states.

Spotting Chin and a friend at a fast food restaurant, Ebens, aided by Nitz, struck Chin in the knee, chest and head, according to the FBI.

CHIN LINGERED in a coma for four days before dying on June 23, 1982.

Vikki Wong, who was to have married Chin, welcomed the news of the indictments.

"It's great," said Miss Wong, a Novi waitress. "I feel good about it, but I don't want to talk about it."

Kaufman maintained that the killing grew out of a bar brawl that by a chance meeting turned into murder.

"I have no beef with anybody," Kaufman said. "If the federal government thinks it should indict them, then that's what it should do."

Staff writer Jean Gadomski contributed to this report.



MRS. LILY CHIN AP PHOTO

I don't want to see those men again. I want to kill them, I don't have any happiness anymore.'

— Mrs. Lily Chin

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

DETROIT NEWS

Date: 11-4-83

Edition: 1A

Title: CHIN

Character: 44-2408

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

Detroit Asians laud Chin case indictments

By Cynthia Lee
News Staff Writer

It was one brutal killing out of thousands that occur each year in the United States. One out of hundreds last year in Detroit.

He was one victim, apparently with nothing to distinguish him from an ordinary homicide on the police blotter.

So, why did Vincent Chin of Oak Park become in death a cause celebre, an international symbol for racism against Asian-Americans?

IN A LARGE part, it was because of Detroit's Asian community, which launched an intense eight-month campaign that led Wednesday to federal grand jury civil rights indictments against two East Detroit men in the baseball bat beating death of Chin.

"Nothing like this involving an Asian-American in my time has ever galvanized as much national or international attention as this case," said Laura Chin (no relation to Vincent), director of the Organization of Chinese Americans in Washington, one of the largest Asian civil rights organizations in the country.

Until the Chin controversy, De-

Analysis

troit's Asian community was virtually an invisible political entity.

All that changed last March 16 when Wayne Circuit Court Judge Charles Kaufman sentenced Ronald Ebens, 44, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 25, to three years probation and a total of \$7,600 in fines in Chin's death in June 1982. The men had scuffled in a Highland Park strip joint and Chin was beaten with a bat on the street near the club. He died four days later — four days before he was to be married.

THE TWO assailants originally were charged with second-degree murder, but they were allowed to plea bargain to a reduced charge of manslaughter in a deal with the Wayne County prosecutor's office. Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz pleaded no contest.

Kaufman, noting that Ebens and Nitz were first-time offenders, deemed probation an appropriate sentence. He could have given the men up to 15 years in prison.

The sentencing stunned Detroit's

Sent To Bureau

44-2408-73

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 7 1983	
FBI-DETROIT	

[Signature]

Asians. They decided that racism was responsible for Chin's death. Ebens and Nitz are white and Chin was a Chinese-American. Witnesses said that before the attack, Ebens, a Chrysler Corp. general foreman, and Nitz had made comments about Asians stealing American auto jobs.

The crusade was launched. The American Citizens for Justice was born with a core group of three dozen housewives, engineers, students and others.

"It wasn't just Vincent," recalled Helen Zia, who became a spokeswoman for the group. "It was for us the destruction of a myth that Asians could work hard, rise above adversity and get a piece of the American pie. Vincent's death cast all this in doubt. We all thought we had come further than this."

THE PEOPLE who first met to express their rage had no political connections or cultural ties to each other.

"There was a feeling that maybe we should have done something before," said Ms. Zia, whose is Chinese but doesn't speak Chinese and never belonged to any Chinese group in Detroit. "We had overlooked the insults and racism in our personal lives, but this was the ultimate insult. If we had acted before, formed an Asian NAACP, maybe this would have never happened."

At first, their campaign looked hopeless.

"We tried calling the ACLU, the National Lawyers Guild," Ms. Zia said. "William Cahalan (then Wayne County prosecutor) even refused our phone calls. Everybody said we didn't stand a chance. We had their (various organizations) support, their sympathy, but none had the resource to get involved. It fell on no organization's turf."

THE GROUP chose Southfield attorney Liza Chan as its legal point person. She began to delve meticulously into court documents and unearthed the fact that no assistant prosecutor was at the sentencing, that information given the judge at sentencing by defense attorneys appeared to conflict with eyewitness accounts.

From Detroit, word of the case spread through a network of Chinese and Japanese groups. They responded with petition drives, rallies and fundraisers which eventually produced \$100,000 for the legal fight.

Ms. Zia said the case seemed to strike a nerve among all Asians, overshadowing the historic animosities they held against each other.

"There was a feeling we were all targets," she said.

The Japanese American Citizens League, one of the oldest and the most cohesive national Asian groups, decided to exert its considerable political influence in the cause.

THE GROUPS organized rallies in cities with large concentrations of Asians — Los Angeles, San Francisco, Toronto. At the University of Califor-

nia in Berkeley, 30 students in Asian Studies listened as an ACJ member addressed the group.

The case made headlines throughout the United States, Europe and Asia.

The group found forums anywhere,

including traditional Asian family association meetings in New York and a convention of Chinese businessmen in Chicago.

The money began to trickle in to pay legal costs. Untold thousands of letters found their way to William Bradford Reynolds, civil rights direc-

tor at the Justice Department, who told the group he had never received so many letters on one case before.

"For all of us, it was like having a second or third job," Ms. Zia said.

On June 29, the group arranged for Lily Chin, Vincent's mother, to meet in Washington with Reynolds of the

Justice Department. She urged a federal grand jury investigation. On Aug. 4, the Justice Department announced a grand jury would be convened.

On Sept. 7, the grand jury began its work in Detroit. On Wednesday, came word of the indictments.

Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

DETROIT FREE PRESS
Date: 11-4-83
Edition: 3A

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title: CHIN

Character: 44-2408

or
Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

Chin judge says politics stirred case

By JOHN CASTINE
Free Press Staff Writer

Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman said Thursday he believes that political pressure from Asian-Americans, not his sentences of probation, spurred the federal civil rights investigation into the baseball-bat slaying of Vincent Chin.

Kaufman insisted that his sentencing of two East Detroit men was legally proper and fair and said Wednesday's federal grand jury indictments of Chin's killers addressed a civil rights issue that "was never before me."

Ronald Ebens, 44, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 25, were charged Wednesday with conspiracy to deprive Chin of his civil rights and with beating the 27-year-old Chinese-American to death with a baseball bat because of his race.

Ebens and Nitz, who are white, face maximum penalties of life in prison if convicted.

Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz no contest to manslaughter last February in exchange for dropping second-degree murder charges in a plea bargain with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. Kaufman sentenced the men, but was not involved in the plea bargaining.

A Justice Department spokesman said politics had nothing to do with the federal investigation, but Asian-American critics of Kaufman's sentences, as well as relatives of Ebens and Nitz, said Wednesday that without public pressure the case would have ended months ago.



Judge Kaufman in a tongue-in-cheek comment in his office Thursday: "The Asian community owes me some gratitude for bringing their community together under one cause."

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Sent To Bureau

KAUFMAN SAID Thursday he agrees with the Asian-American coalition that formed after his sentencing in the case that "there was political pressure brought to bear" on the Justice Department to open a civil rights investigation.

But whatever the grand jury did was not political, Kaufman added. "I'm sure what they did was based on evidence presented them."

Kaufman also added, tongue-in-cheek, that he thinks "the Asian community owes me some gratitude" for bringing their community together under one cause.

Kaufman's March sentencing of the pair to three years' probation and fines of \$3,780 each set off an international protest by Asian-Americans, who formed a coalition called the American Citizens for Justice.

HELEN ZIA, president-elect of American Citizens for Justice, said an appeal of Kaufman's sentence will be filed with the Michigan Court of Appeals next week. Of the federal indictments, Zia said: "Clearly, politics has something to do with this (indictments). If we hadn't gone on a nationwide campaign, this case wouldn't have gone anywhere."

"I wouldn't second-guess the federal government," Kaufman said Thursday. "It didn't matter that I gave (Ebens and Nitz) probation . . . If I had given the maximum (10 to 15 years in prison), the federal government still could have indicted them for civil rights violations. The civil rights issue was never before me."

In August, Assistant U.S. Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds met in Washington with Chin's mother, Lily, who urged federal intervention.

Ebens and Nitz are charged with conspiring "to injure, oppress, threaten and harass" the soon-to-be-married Chin while he celebrated his bachelor party in the Fancy Pants, a Highland Park go-go club, the night of June 19, 1982.

According to the indictment, the men argued with Chin, calling him "a 'chink,' a 'nip' and numerous obscenities." Outside the club, Nitz and Ebens chased Chin with a baseball bat and recruited Jimmy Perry, 20, of Detroit, in their pursuit, offering Perry \$20 to help them "catch a Chinaman."

Highland Park police arrested Perry about a month after Chin died and released him, a detective told the Free Press last April. At that time the police said they considered Perry an unreliable witness.

Date 11/3/83

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT

SUBJECT: [Redacted]

Bureau File Number

44A-2408
 Field Office File Number

C-4
 Squad or RA Number

- X if a joint FBI/DEA (or other Federal Agency) operation.
- X if case involves corruption of a public official (Federal, State or Local).

Investigative Assistance or Techniques Used

Were any of the investigative assistance or techniques listed below used in connection with accomplishment being claimed? No Yes - If Yes, rate each used as follows:
 1 = Used, but did not help
 2 = Helped, but only minimally
 3 = Helped, substantially
 4 = Absolutely essential

1. Acctg Tech Assistance	Rating	6. ELSUR - Title III	Rating	11. Lab Div Field Support	Rating	16. Show Money Usage	Rating
2. Aircraft Assistance		7. Hypnosis Assistance		12. Pen Registers		17. SWAT Team Action	
3. Computer Assistance		8. Ident Div Assistance		13. Photographic Coverage		18. Telephone Toll Records	
4. Consensual Monitoring		9. Informant Information		14. Polygraph Assistance		19. Undercover Operation	
5. ELSUR - FISC		10. Lab Div Exams		15. Search Warrants Executed		20. Visual Invest - Analysis (VIA)	

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -
 VICTIM
 CR (A)
 OO: DETROIT

A. Preliminary Judicial Process (Number of subjects)	Complaints	Informations	Indictments	D. Recoveries, Restitutions, Court Ordered Forfeitures or Potential Economic Loss Prevented (PELP)				
			2	Property or PELP Type Code *	Recoveries	Restitutions	Court Ordered Forfeitures	Potential Economic Loss Prevented
B. Arrests, Locates, Summonses & Subpoenas (No. of subjects)	Subject Priority (See Reverse)							
	A	B	C					
	FBI Arrests -			\$	\$	\$	\$	
	FBI Locates -			\$	\$	\$	\$	
	Number of Subjects of FBI Arrests Who Physically Restated _____			\$	\$	\$	\$	
			\$	\$	\$	\$		
			\$	\$	\$	\$		
			\$	\$	\$	\$		
			\$	\$	\$	\$		
C. Release of Hostages: (Number of Hostages Released)	Hostages Held By Terrorists _____; All Other Hostage Situations _____			E. Civil Matters		Government Defendant		Government Plaintiff
				Amount of Suit		\$		\$
				Settlement or Award		\$		\$
				Enter AFA Payment Here				

F. Final Judicial Process: Judicial District _____ (Use two letter state abbreviations per U.S. Post Office Guide. For Example - The Northern District of Texas as ND TX; The District of Maine as ME in the state field only.)

Subject 1 - Name _____ Subject's Description Code * - _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Pretrial Diversion <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal <input type="checkbox"/> Acquittal	- Convictions - Enter conviction and sentence data in space at right. If more than four sections are involved, limit to the four most relevant.	<input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Plea <input type="checkbox"/> Trial	Conviction			In-Jail Term		Suspended		Probation		Fine	
			Title	Section	Counts	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos		

Subject 2 - Name _____ Subject's Description Code * - _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Pretrial Diversion <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal <input type="checkbox"/> Acquittal	- Convictions - Enter conviction and sentence data in space at right. If more than four sections are involved, limit to the four most relevant.	<input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Plea <input type="checkbox"/> Trial	Conviction			In-Jail Term		Suspended		Probation		Fine	
			Title	Section	Counts	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos		

Subject 3 - Name _____ Subject's Description Code * - _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Pretrial Diversion <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal <input type="checkbox"/> Acquittal	- Convictions - Enter conviction and sentence data in space at right. If more than four sections are involved, limit to the four most relevant.	<input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Plea <input type="checkbox"/> Trial	Conviction			In-Jail Term		Suspended		Probation		Fine	
			Title	Section	Counts	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos		

44A-2408-75

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SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

Attach additional forms if reporting final judicial process on more than three subjects.

Remarks: On 11/2/83, subjects [Redacted] were indicted on two counts each by a Federal Grand Jury, EDM, Detroit, Michigan, for violation of Title 18, Section 241 and 245, USC.

Bureau (2) - Field Office Detroit (1 - 66-5093)
 See codes on reverse side. Subject description codes in Section F are required only when reporting a conviction.

Other Federal Agency(ies) in the Remarks Section.

(4) [Signature]

b6
b7c

b6
b7c

[Signature]

Memorandum



To : SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (C-4)

Date 11/7/83

From : SUPERVISOR [redacted]

b6
b7C

Subject : [redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)
OO: DETROIT

On 11/3/83, [redacted] white male, DOB [redacted], contacted FBI Office, Detroit, and advised that in June, 1982, he was employed as a [redacted] at the Fancy Pants Club. However, he was not working on the day victim was murdered; therefore, could not provide any information regarding the incident.

b6
b7C

[redacted] currently resides at [redacted] and is employed by [redacted] in [redacted]

For information, [redacted] white male, DOB [redacted] currently resides at [redacted] and is currently employed at [redacted]

[redacted] currently resides at [redacted]

JLC/dlb
(1)

dlb

44A-2408-76

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - DETROIT	

JLC

AIRTEL

11/9/83

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
(ATTN: FBI LABORATORY,
GRAPHIC PRESENTATION UNIT)

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (SOD. C-4)

[REDACTED]
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)
OO: DETROIT

Re Detroit telephone call of Supervisor [REDACTED]
to Unit Chief [REDACTED] FBIHQ.

Enclosed for the Graphic Presentation Unit is one copy
of floor plan of Fancy Pants Night Club and a section of a
street map depicting Highland Park, Michigan.

On 11/2/83, subjects [REDACTED] were indicted by a
Federal Grand Jury at Detroit, Michigan, for violation of
Title 18, Section 241 and 245. No trial date has been set;
however, it is anticipated that trial will begin in early
January, 1984.

Exhibits needed for trial will be drawn to scale diagram
of the enclosed floor plan and a blow-up color poster of the
enclosed street map.

Liaison should be established with Departmental Attorney
ROSS CONNELLY at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., and
before any diagrams are made, he should be contacted to determine
his exact needs.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 2) (RM)
② - Detroit
JLC/dlb
(4)
dlb

44A-2408-77
SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED *JK*
INDEXED _____
FILED *JK*

Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

"It Isn't Fair"

A federal grand jury steps in

It seemed an unremarkable Saturday-night scene: a topless bar in working-class Detroit, shouted epithets, an ugly brawl. But this particular fight was one-sided and fatal, and turned out to be a bleak commentary on the emotions running high in Motor City in June 1982.

The victim, Draftsman Vincent Chin, 27, a Chinese American, was at his bachelor party; he was to be married in nine days. His attackers, a father who was a Chrysler foreman and his stepson, were angry and addled: Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz blamed Japanese carmakers for Detroit's problems, and Chin—Chinese or Japanese, it made no difference to them—was a convenient target. "It's because of you we're out of work," screamed Ebens, who was in fact employed full time. The pair got a baseball bat and beat Chin to death. Said he as he lost consciousness: "It isn't fair."

When Ebens, 44, and Nitz, 23, were sentenced last March after confessing to the murder, Chin's dying complaint seemed all the more apt: Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman gave the killers three years of probation and fines of \$3,780 each. He said that the men, who had no prior criminal records, were "not the kind of people you send to prison."



Vincent Chin

The light sentences enraged newspaper editorialists across the country and prompted Asians to mount a protest campaign. "I love America," said Chin's mother Lily, 63, a naturalized citizen. "I don't understand how this could happen in America."

The protests reached Washington where the Justice Department last summer launched an investigation into Chin's murder. Last week a U.S. grand jury in Detroit indicted Ebens and Nitz on new, federal charges: conspiring to deprive Chin of his civil rights and causing his death because of his race. Both crimes carry maximum sentences of life imprisonment.

Because the new indictments were brought under federal civil rights law, and not a state murder statute as before, they should not constitute double jeopardy for Ebens and Nitz. In Detroit, Judge Kaufman refused to take issue with the new criminal prosecution. "If the Federal Government thinks it should indict them," he said, "then that's what it should do." Lily Chin said the grand jury's action "makes me feel that there's still hope for justice in this land. I'm grateful and hopeful. But happy I'm not. My son is gone forever."

Date: 11/14/83

Edition:

TIME

Title:



BT AL

Character:

or

Classification:

44A-2408

Submitting Office:

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b7c

44A-2408-78

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - DETROIT	

DET NEWS

Date: 11-11-83

Edition: 7B

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44-2408

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Chin killers' poverty plea delays case

By Cynthia Lee
News Staff Writer

Two East Detroit men, charged with civil rights violations in the baseball bat beating death of Vincent Chin, pleaded poverty at their federal arraignment yesterday and asked for court-appointed attorneys.

Ronald Ebens, 44, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 25, made the request to U.S. Magistrate Lynn Hooe at the Federal Building in Detroit.

Hooe consented to a court-appointed attorney for Nitz and adjourned the arraignment until next Friday to give the federal defender's office time to find a private attorney to defend Ebens.

The men are expected to enter pleas when the arraignment resumes.

Both men were released under a \$100,000 personal bond, an arrangement allowing them to remain free under the threat of being ordered to pay the bond if they fail to appear in court. They also are required to make daily contact with court authorities.

IF CONVICTED on the federal charges, the men could be imprisoned for life. The case was assigned to U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor. The trial is scheduled to start about 70 days after the conclusion of the arraignment.

Ebens and Nitz were indicted last week by a federal grand jury on charges that their June 1982 beating of Chin, a Chinese-American, was racially motivated. Chin and his assailants had scuffled inside a Highland Park strip joint and the bat attack occurred that same evening in front of a nearby fast food restaurant. Chin, 27, an Oak Park engineer, died four days later.

Ebens and Nitz were originally charged by the Wayne County prosecutor's office with second-degree murder but were allowed to plea bargain to reduced charges of manslaughter. Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz pleaded no contest.

HOWEVER, A NATIONWIDE protest erupted from Asian-American groups and others when Wayne Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman sentenced the men to three years probation and fined them a total of \$7,600. Though he could have given them up to 15 years in prison, Kaufman said jail terms were uncalled for because the men were first-time offenders.

Michael Nitz leads Ronald Ebens out of court yesterday.

On Wednesday, the American Citizens for Justice, a group of predominantly Asian-Americans who have been campaigning for harsher penalties for Ebens and Nitz, submitted a request to have the Michigan Court of Appeals or the state Supreme Court overturn the probation sentences and replace them with prison terms.

Ebens said yesterday in court that he's been unemployed since July 1982, a month after he and his stepson were arrested, and subsists only on his wife's income.

BURDENED WITH debts totaling nearly \$80,000, he has been trying to sell his East Detroit home to hire a private attorney, said Rosalind Reed of the federal defender's office.

Nitz said he is employed full-time, earning \$900 a month, but has only \$75 in savings which is not enough to pay for his defense.

The silver-haired Ebens appeared calm and composed in a three-piece suit as he waited for his arraignment to end. Ebens was accompanied by his wife, who remained near his side.

At one point, as Ebens and Nitz were reading the charges in the indictments, Nitz turned to his stepfather and said: "Now they'll find out what really happened."

Through their attorneys in the Wayne Circuit case, Ebens and Nitz have denied that the attack on Chin was racially motivated.

However, according to the federal indictment the men accused Chin of "taking our jobs," an apparent reference to Japanese penetration of the American auto market. At the time of the assault, Ebens was a general foreman for Chrysler Corp.

Sent To Bureau

44-2408-79

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NOV 14 1983	
FBI-DETROIT	

I [Signature]



NEWS PHOTO / SUSAN TUSA

TRANSMIT VIA: AIRTEL

CLASSIFICATION: _____

DATE: November 15, 1983

FROM: Director, FBI

TO: SAC, Detroit (44A-2408)

[Redacted] - SUBJECTS

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM

CIVIL RIGHTS

OO: DETROIT

b6
b7c

Reference Detroit telephone call to FBIHQ on 11-15-83.

Enclosed are two copies of a self-explanatory Departmental letter dated November 7, 1983.

Complete the requested investigation in accordance with the provisions of Section 44, Manual of Investigative Operations and Guidelines, and surep within 21 workdays of the receipt of this communication.

Advise all persons interviewed
 appropriate officials at the outset that this investigation is being conducted at the specific request of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Remarks:

44A-2408 180

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - DETROIT	

[Signature]

Enc. (2)

WBR:DLB:RLC:rs
DJ 144-37-1096

[redacted] - Subjects
Vincent Chin (Deceased) - Victim
CIVIL RIGHTS

NOV 7 1983

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b7C

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Wm. Bradford Reynolds
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

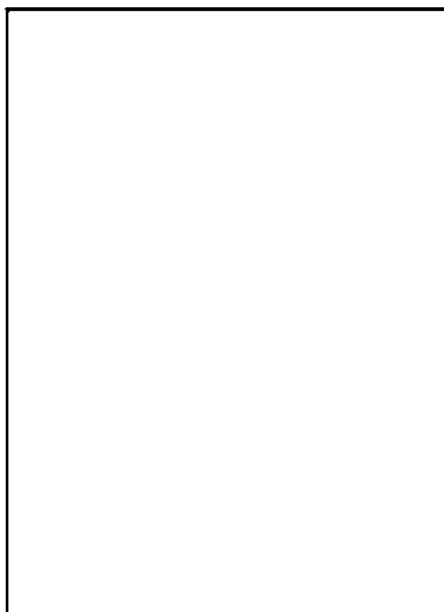
Reference is made to your memorandum dated October 17, 1983 which enclosed a copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] [redacted] dated October 5, 1983 at Detroit.

b6
b7C

On November 2, 1983, a Federal Grand Jury returned a two-count indictment charging the subjects with violations of 18 U.S.C. §§241 and 245. In preparation for trial, please conduct the following investigation:

1. Prepare exhibit-size photographs of the crime scene. (Note - Photos have already been taken; attorney Ross Connealy will designate those photographs which should be blown up and mounted.
2. Prepare exhibit-size diagrams of the Fancy Pants Lounge and the neighborhood around the Lounge and the McDonalds Restaurant where the victim was fatally beaten.
3. Determine the criminal records of the following witnesses:

b6
b7C



INSTRUCTIONS

1. This form may be submitted in legible hand printing.
2. Use separate form for each individual on whom record is requested.
3. Make effort to furnish FBI identification number, law enforcement identification number, or military service number.
4. Furnish descriptive data and fingerprint classification only when FBI number not available.
5. Indicate whether search of criminal or civil files requested. Do not request civil file search unless information from this file needed.
6. Indicate office for reply in lower right corner. Also list all offices which should receive copy of record. Include copy of FD-9 for each such office and forward with original to Bureau.
7. Do not fill in block in lower left corner.

To: *WJH* ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, IDENTIFICATION DIVISION Date 11/4/83

Re: Field File No. 44A-2408

VICTIM CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM

Furnish The Known Identification Record of the Following:

Name VINCENT CHIN *11/6/81* FBI No. _____
Other No. _____

Aliases _____

Sex <u>M</u>	Race <u>CHINESE</u>	Birth Date <u>5/18/55</u>	Birthplace	Residence
-----------------	------------------------	------------------------------	------------	-----------

Height	Weight	Build	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	Age
--------	--------	-------	------	------	------------	-----

Fingerprint Classification _____ Scars, marks and tattoos _____

Please Search: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Criminal Files <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Files	Also Furnish: <input type="checkbox"/> Photo <input type="checkbox"/> Fingerprints <input type="checkbox"/> Handwriting Specimens
--	--

Identification Division's Reply <input type="checkbox"/> On basis of information furnished, unable to identify: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Criminal Files <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Files <input type="checkbox"/> Record Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Photo Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Photo Not Available <input type="checkbox"/> Fingerprints Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Handwriting Specimen Attached	Return Reply to: SAC, <u>DETROIT</u> ATTN SA
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331 NOV 9 1983

Send Copies To: 44A-2408-92

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NOV 16 1983	
FBI-DETROIT	

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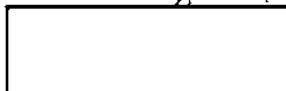
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b7c

X AIRTEL

11/21/83

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (C-4)

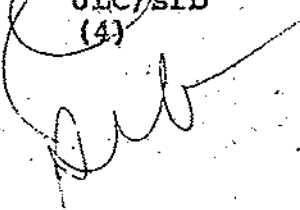


VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -
VICTIM
CR (A)
(OO: DETROIT)

b6
b7c

For information of the Bureau, pre-trial in captioned matter scheduled for 12/6/83, and a trial date of 1/17/84, has been set.

2 - Bureau
2 - Detroit
JLC/srb
(4)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JLC', written over the distribution list.

44A 2408-94
SEARCHED _____
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INDEXED _____
FILED Sp

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'Dual prosecution' of Chin's killers a rarity

By JOHN CASTINE
Free Press Staff Writer

U.S. Department of Justice officials will not say what sentence for Vincent Chin's killers would have vindicated his death.

But if Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz had been given some prison time for their state manslaughter convictions, they might not now face the life sentences that could result from their trial in federal court, scheduled to begin Jan. 17, the officials said.

The indictments of Ebens and Nitz are rare because they arose from the Justice Department's "dual prosecution" policy — where the department prosecutes crimes already disposed of in state courts because it feels federal interests have been left "demonstrably unvindicated."

"Dual prosecution is and has continued to be rare in the criminal civil rights area," said Justice Department Attorney Daniel Rinzal in Washington. "It would be a very small minority (of all indictments)."

THE MEN were indicted this month under a federal civil rights law — accused of violating Chin's civil rights because of his race. Chin, 27, was Chinese-American. Ebens and Nitz are white.

Under the same law, an avowed white racist was found not guilty in the 1980 shooting of then-National Urban League President Vernon Jordan. It also was used to convict four Detroit

"We allow the states to act, and if they act in the interests of justice, (duplicate) prosecution isn't necessary," U.S. Attorney Leonard Gilman said.

Ku Klux Klansmen for shooting at blacks in 1980.

From Oct. 1, 1982, to Sept. 30, 1983, the Justice Department's civil rights division received 10,500 complaints. The FBI investigated a few more than 3,200, said John Wilson, assistant director of public affairs for the Justice Department.

Eighty-five indictments came out of those investigations: 44 against law enforcement officials and 41 against civilians.

RINZEL, CHIEF OF the criminal section of the civil rights division, and U.S. Attorney Leonard Gilman in Detroit would not comment on the Chin case when asked why federal officials investigated and what sentence would have vindicated Chin's fatal baseball-bat beating in June 1982.

DETROIT FREE PRESS
Date: 11-29-83
Edition: 3A

Title: CHIN

Character: 44-2408

or
Classification:
Submitting Office: DETROIT

The maximum sentence for manslaughter in Michigan is 10 to 15 years in prison.

We allow the states to act, and if they act in the interests of justice, (duplicate) prosecution isn't necessary," was Gilman's only comment.

Federal trial of Ebens, 44, and his stepson, Nitz, 25, is not unconstitutional double jeopardy, — standing trial twice for the same offense. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the same facts can constitute different state and federal crimes.

THE EAST DETROIT MEN received sentences of three years' probation and \$3,780 in court fines and costs from Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman on March 16 after Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz no contest to manslaughter.

They entered their pleas in exchange for the dropping of second-degree murder counts by the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office.

Besides conspiracy to violate Chin's civil rights because of his race, Ebens and Nitz are charged with violating a second federal criminal civil rights law used sparingly, but very successfully in the last five years. Of the 16 indictments under the statute since 1978, 14 led to convictions, Rinzal said.

The 1968 statute outlaws actions of force or threat of force against a person because of race, religion or ethnicity. If there is no injury to the victim, the crime is a one-year misdemeanor. When injury or death occurs, the crime is a felony carrying a maximum life sentence.

TWO PEOPLE were found not guilty under the law in the last five years. One was Joseph Franklin, 32, accused of shooting Jordan at a Ft. Wayne, Ind., motel May 29, 1980. The government failed to prove to a jury that Franklin actually shot Jordan.

The most recent conviction under that law came in April against Raymond Bledsoe, 21, of Kansas City, Mo., in the beating death of a black musician. Bledsoe, who is white, had been acquitted in state court of murdering Stephen Harvey, 26, two years before the

44-2408-9899

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 29 1983	
FBI - DETROIT	

WOOD

Sent To Bureau

'Dual prosecution' is rare

Justice Department indicted him.

Harvey was slain in Kansas City's Penn Valley Park on Nov. 5, 1980. Like Chin, he was beaten to death with a baseball bat.

Bledsoe, like Ebens and Nitz, was charged with depriving his victim of the use of a public facility — the park. Ebens and Nitz deprived Chin of the use of the Fancy Pants Club, a nude go-go establishment in Highland Park, because he was Chinese-American, the government has charged.

The Chin and Harvey cases were opened under the "dual prosecution policy" as laid out in the U.S. Attorneys' Manual, which shows that such cases generally are prosecuted when the government believes it has a good case and can gain greater penalties.

"A DUAL PROSECUTION is not warranted unless a conviction is anticipated and — if the state proceeding resulted in a conviction — normally will not be authorized unless an enhanced sentence in the federal prosecution is anticipated," the manual states.

Prosecution could be warranted where the "state determination regarding guilt or severity of sentence was affected by" several factors, including "infection of the state proceeding by incompetence," the manual states.

Another rationale for dual prosecutions is new evidence. In Bledsoe's case, the FBI investigated for 15 months and found new information after Bledsoe's acquittal in a Missouri state court.

Gilman and Rinzel would not say whether new evidence, incompetence or another policy factor precipitated federal investigation into the Chin case.

The last criminal civil rights prosecution in the U.S. Attorney's Eastern Michigan District was in 1980 against four Detroit Ku Klux Klansmen who shot at a black Detroit man for drinking in a northwest side bar patronized by whites.

In that case, state charges followed federal convictions. The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office filed charges after the U.S. attorney had struck plea bargains with the defendants, providing sentences no longer than four years in prison.

The Klansmen, who got life in prison after state convictions for conspiracy to commit murder, recently filed motions for new trials.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1619296-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 118

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 11/18/83

[redacted] (NMN) [redacted]
[redacted] telephone [redacted]
was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the interview. [redacted] furnished the following information:

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He resided at [redacted] Highland Park, Michigan, until July 1982. On a Saturday night, June 21, 1982, at approximately 10:30 PM, he was walking southbound on Woodward Avenue in the vicinity of the intersection of Avalon and Woodward in Highland Park, Michigan. He observed an Oriental man running eastbound from the McDonald's parking lot on Woodward Avenue. This individual was closely followed by two Caucasian males. As the Oriental male approached the vicinity of the McDonald's Restaurant on Woodward Avenue, he stopped in the street and turned in the direction of the two male Caucasians that were chasing him. The Oriental man assumed a "karate" type defense position, as the two Caucasian males encountered him.

One Caucasian male was carrying a baseball bat and this individual began striking the Oriental man on his legs, while the other Caucasian individual began striking the Oriental man with his fist and kicking him with his feet. Two Black individuals, whom [redacted] later learned were off duty Highland Park Police Officers, came running out of the McDonald's Restaurant and approached the two Caucasians and Oriental individual.

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One of the officers drew his service revolver and pointed it at the fighting individuals and told them to stop. The individuals continued to fight and one of the officers yelled to the Caucasian with the baseball bat to drop it, two times.

The Oriental man started to fall to the ground and the individual with the baseball bat struck the Oriental man two more times before the Oriental man hit the ground. One of the blows struck with the baseball bat hit the Oriental man on the back of his head. When the Oriental man hit the ground,

Investigation on 11/16/83 at Compton, California Los Angeles 44A-4532
by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] /JJR/sh Date dictated 11/17/83

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LA 44A-4532

he struck the back of his head. The individuals then stopped fighting and the man with the baseball bat dropped it to the ground.

[redacted] was standing in the close proximity of the fight and he started to approach the Oriental man that was lying on the ground. One of the officers pointed his service revolver at [redacted] and told him to stop. [redacted] indicated that he was trying to help the Oriental man. The officer told him to wait for an ambulance, or a law suit may result.

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[redacted] indicated that he did not care and he continued to walk to the side of the Oriental man. The two police officers placed the two Caucasian individuals under arrest and handcuffed them. [redacted] proceeded to assist the Oriental man, who was in a semi-conscious state and mumbling. [redacted] applied a cloth to the back of the Oriental man's head which was bleeding profusely. Ice was later placed on the back of the Oriental man's head. A police car arrived approximately five or ten minutes later. Several minutes after the police car arrived, an ambulance arrived and removed the Oriental man.

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[redacted] was informed by the police officers to stay out of the way and walked across the street to a newsstand where he encountered a female associate of his. [redacted] did not recall the name of the female individual, however, he recalled that the individual was a Black female who is employed as a teacher.

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[redacted] opined that the two off duty police officers were providing security at the McDonald's Restaurant, which was approximately 50 feet from the location of the assault. It was the opinion of [redacted] that the officers were in a position to also observe the assault.

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[redacted] recalled that the vicinity where the assault occurred was a very high crime area. He referred to the Highland Park area as the "murder capital of the world". [redacted] was

LA 44A-4532

standing several feet from the location of the assault and he recalled that the area was well illuminated with artificial lighting.

[redacted] area in September 1982. He was unaware of the development in the above assault until he observed a late night news program, possibly the CNN Channel, in June or July 1983, in which he learned that the Oriental victim was Vincent Chin. [redacted] also learned at this time that Chin died as a result of his injuries. Shortly after the news broadcast, [redacted] sent a letter to the Highland Park Police Department and informed them that he was a witness to the assault and he had never been interviewed by law enforcement officers. [redacted] recalled that he saw two additional television reports about Chin's assault. The last television report was presented by the "First Camera" on Sunday night. This broadcast occurred sometime in October 1983. Following this broadcast, [redacted] contacted the FBI and informed them that he was a witness to the Chin assault and he had never been contacted or interviewed. It was during the "First Camera" broadcast that [redacted] learned that the individual that struck Chin with the bat had been acquitted, however, he was being indicted by a Federal Grand Jury for a civil rights violation against Chin. [redacted] indicated that he was willing to be a witness for the prosecution in the above stated civil rights case.

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During one of the above news broadcast, [redacted] learned that the death of Chin was the result of an assault by two jobless auto workers that believed Chin to be a Japanese. The auto workers blamed the Japanese and Chin for the loss of their job. The fight initiated in a local bar.

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[redacted] described the two unidentified male Caucasians as follows:

Unidentified male with the bat:

Sex	Male
Race	Caucasian
Height	6'0"
Weight	210
Age	30

LA 44A-4532

- 4 -

Other individual:

Sex	Male
Race	Caucasian
Hair	Burnette
Height	5'8"
Weight	170 - 180 pounds
Age	22 - 25

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 11/18/83

TO: SAC, DETROIT

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44A-4532) (RUC) (C-2/LBRA)

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; ✓ 44-2408
 VICENT CHIN (PHONETIC) (DECEASED) - VICTIM
 CIVIL RIGHTS
 OO: Detroit

Re telephonic contact from Los Angeles Duty Agent to Detroit Duty Agent on 10/30/83.

Enclosed for Detroit Division is one copy and original of Long Beach Resident Agency (LBRA) FD-302 dated 11/16/83, and interviewing Agent's original notes.

For information of Detroit Division, [redacted] telephonically contacted the Los Angeles Division after viewing the NBC television program "First Camera" on 10/30/83. Peoples was interviewed and advised that he was a witness to the assault of Vicent Chin by two unidentified male individuals. [redacted] indicated that he would be willing to cooperate in the prosecution of the two unidentified individuals for civil rights violations.

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There being no further investigative activity in this Division, this case is RUC'd.

- 1* -

- 2 - Detroit (Enc. 3)
- 1 - Los Angeles

JJR/sh
(3)

*See
AC*

44A-2408-101
[Handwritten initials]

Approved: RTB/

Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time)

Per [Signature]

AIRTEL

12/14/83

TO: SAC, CHICAGO

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (SQD. C-4)

[REDACTED]
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)
OO: DETROIT

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b7c

For the information of Chicago, during the evening of 6/19/82, victim, with three friends, was having a bachelors party at the Fancy Pants Go Go Club located in Highland Park, Michigan. While in the club, victim exchanged words with captioned subjects. It is alleged that subjects were directing racial slurs toward victim. A fight ensued between victim and subjects inside the club. The disturbance was quickly quelled; however, upon leaving the club, victim encountered the subjects in the club parking lot. Once outside the club [REDACTED] obtained a baseball bat from his vehicle. He and [REDACTED] gave chase to victim. Victim was able to elude subjects for approximately ten minutes, but was then located by subjects and was beaten by [REDACTED] with the baseball bat, and subsequently died four days later.

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On 11/2/83, a Federal Grand Jury for the Eastern District of Michigan returned indictments against captioned subjects. Each subject was indicted on one count of Title 18, Section 241 (Conspiracy) and one count of Title 18, Section 245 and 2 (Interference With Civil Rights). Trial scheduled to begin 1/17/84.

In an effort to prove one of the elements of the violation, it is necessary to establish that the juke box in the club at the time of the murder, travelled in interstate commerce. The juke box that was in the club was a Rockola Serial # 645 720.

2 - Chicago
② - Detroit
JLC/dlb
(4)

dlb

*Wells Sales & Repair
294-1449*

44A-2408-102
SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED *[Signature]*
INDEXED _____
FILED *[Signature]*

DE 44A-2408

LEAD

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Contact officials at Rockola Manufacturing Company, 800 North Kedzie, telephone number 638-7600, and attempt to trace Rockola Juke Box, Serial Number 645 720. If this is not possible, establish that no Rockola Juke Boxes are manufactured in Michigan.

(Mount Clipping in)

22 facing indecent charges in raid on club

By JACK KRESNAK

Free Press Staff Writer

Twenty-two people were charged with felony gross indecency Wednesday after state police raided a Highland Park social club they said was a front for prostitution and illegal liquor sales.

The club, Maxalene's Social Club, has a business relationship with the nearby Fancy Pants Club, according to State Police Lt. Paul Gahide. The Fancy Pants, a non-liquor club featuring topless/bottomless dancing, was the place where, earlier this year, an argument between three men led to the beating death of Chinese-American Vincent Chin.

Gahide said the \$25 admission fee to Maxalene's was taken by Fancy Pants employees. A valet would then walk the customer across the Fancy Pants parking lot to Maxalene's, 13300 Woodward, upstairs from the former Celebrity Club, Gahide said.

"AS FAR as I was concerned, (Maxalene's) was just a front for a house of prostitution," Gahide said. He said 12 women were involved in sexual activity with patrons in one large room at Maxalene's.

"Orgy would be a pretty good characterization, but not in the true sense because people had to pay for it," Gahide said.

Besides those charged with indecency, 39 men were ticketed for frequenting a place engaged in illegal business and released to appear later, Gahide said. One handgun, several knives and miscellaneous drugs were confiscated, he said.

Gahide said further investigation of people running Maxalene's could result in conspiracy charges. The investigation stemmed from citizens' complaints and a request from Highland Park police for help, Gahide said, adding that other businesses also have been closed recently.

"We just closed down the Highland Theatre, and we've taken three liquor licenses in Highland Park," Gahide said. "We've arrested numerous prostitutes working the street and have been very active in the city."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Date: 12/15/83

Edition: DETROIT FREE PRESS

Title: [Redacted] ET AL

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

or
Classification:
Submitting Office:

Indexing:

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b7c

44A-2408-104
JP
JP

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 12/28/83

[redacted] Rockola Manu-
facturing Company, 800 North Kedzie, Chicago, Illinois, advised
that all Rockola Juke Boxes ever manufactured were manufactured
in their Chicago, Illinois, plant and that Rockola Juke Box
Serial Number 645 720 had to have traveled in interstate commerce
if it was currently located in the State of Michigan.

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44A-2408-106

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 30 1983	
FBI-DETROIT	

Investigation on 12/28/83 at Chicago, Illinois File # CG 44A-3264
 by SA [redacted] WDB/wh Date dictated 12/28/83

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b7C

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 12/28/83

TO: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408)
 FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (44A-3264) (RUC) (SQUAD 12)

[Redacted]
 VINCENT CHIN (Deceased) - VICTIM
 CR(A)
 OO:DETROIT

Re Detroit airtel dated 12/14/83.

Enclosed for Detroit are 4 copies of an FD-302 setting out an interview with [Redacted] Rockola Manufacturing Company, Chicago, Illinois.

Since no further investigation is outstanding in Chicago, this matter is considered RUC.

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② - Detroit (Enc. 4) *WDB*
 1 - Chicago
 WDB/wh
 (3)

Approved: *SQA/15* Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time)

Per 44A-2408-107
 SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
 SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____
 DEC 30 1983

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b7C



United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan

313/226-3695

Federal Building and United States Courthouse
231 W. Lafayette, Eighth Floor
Detroit, Michigan 48226

December 23, 1983

Federal Bureau of Investigation
P. O. Box 2118
Detroit, Michigan 48231

Attn: Special Agent

b6
b7C

RE: Arrests at Maxalene's

Dear

Please get copies of all the police reports related to this arrest including names of all defendants.

will be out probably in early January and can review them then. Motions are set to be argued January 9, 1984.

Sincerely,

LEONARD R. GILMAN
United States Attorney

man for - Virginia M. Morgan
VIRGINIA M. MORGAN
Assistant United States Attorney

VMM/mrm

44A-2408-108

SEARCHED <i>g</i>	INDEXED <i>g</i>
SERIALIZED <i>g</i>	FILED <i>g</i>
JAN 4 1984	
FBI - DETROIT	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 1/20/84

[redacted] was contacted at her place of employment, [redacted] located at [redacted] was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that he desired to talk to her regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the FBI.

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[redacted] stated that she met [redacted] in August of 1979 when [redacted]

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[redacted] in 1979 and last saw him in October, 1979. Since 1979, she has had no contact nor any conversations with him.

[redacted] he did speak about possibly losing his job because of foreign cars, foreign makers and people buying foreign cars. He never singled out any race as being the problem but merely mentioned that it was foreign cars and foreign makers. [redacted] could not provide any additional information regarding her association with [redacted] but did provide the following background information regarding herself:

Name
Race
Sex
Date of Birth
Home Address

Husband
Current Employment

[redacted]
White
Female

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Investigation on 1/19/84 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408

by SA [redacted] srb Date dictated 1/20/84

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b7C

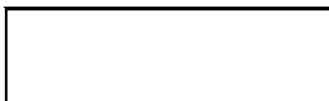
TRANSMIT VIA: AIRTEL

CLASSIFICATION: _____

DATE: 1/19/84


✓ FROM: Director, FBI

TO: SAC, Detroit (44A-2408)(SQD. C-4)



VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)

Re urairtel dated 11/9/83

There ~~is~~ (are) being forwarded to your office; Attention: SA 

b6
b7C

by CF Air Freight BL #147 501 631
the following two 40" x 60" and fifteen 30" x 40" trial aids and support
magnetic graphics for trial aids

prepared by Special Projects Section, Laboratory Division, re captioned matter.

The following action should be taken by your office:

TRIAL EXHIBITS OR OTHER VISUAL AIDS

- Check the above items against submitted work papers or roughs.
- Advise FBIHQ, attention Special Projects Section, Laboratory Division, (within ninety-days), re the use and effectiveness of these items, including all pertinent comments.

ARTIST'S CONCEPTIONS OR RETOUCHEd PHOTOGRAPHS

- Have witness(es) view item(s) for evaluation.
- If modification is necessary, submit additional information and any pertinent comments of witness(es) to FBIHQ, Special Projects Section, Laboratory Division.
- Advise (within ninety-days) re the use and effectiveness of the above items. Upon apprehension of subject(s), submit arrest photographs.

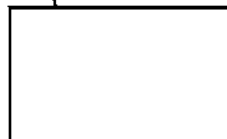
One 8 1/2" x 11" photo print of each trial aid is enclosed in the package

1 - Package

44A2408-112

*Rec
1/23/84*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 23 1984	
DETROIT	



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Enc.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

-1-

Date of transcription 1/20/84

[redacted] Michigan State Police, was contacted at his place of employment and provided the following information:

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[redacted] advised that on December 13, 1983, he and other state troopers conducted a raid on Maxalene's Social Club, Highland Park, Michigan. Approximately 59 people were arrested and charged with various crimes, including gross indecency and prostitution.

Two of the individuals arrested were [redacted] white male, date of birth [redacted] and [redacted] white female, date of birth [redacted]

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[redacted] was charged with Frequenting a Place of Illegal Occupation and [redacted] with Indecent and Obscene Conduct, both misdemeanors. A copy of the police report is attached.

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b7C

Investigation on 1/9/84 at Livonia, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408

44A-2408-113

by SA [redacted] /srb Date dictated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 23 1984	
FBI - DETROIT	

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Date: 1-24-84

Edition: 5D

Title:

b6
b7c

Character: 44-2408

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

Indexing:

Charges remain in Chin case

DETROIT — A judge has refused to dismiss federal charges against Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz, who were sentenced in Wayne County Circuit Court last March to probation in the 1982 slaying of Vincent Chin.



Anna Diggs Taylor

Their lawyers argued that the two were being charged twice for the same crime. But U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor ruled in favor of federal lawyers who argued that several Supreme Court decisions allowed defendants to be charged in both federal and state courts.

The defense attorneys also asked for a postponement of the trial because of extensive publicity. Diggs Taylor delayed a decision. Trial is scheduled for March.

Sent To Bureau

44-2408-114

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 24 1984	
FBI-DETROIT	

LARRY

Date 1/24/84

Birth Credit Criminal Death INS Marriage* Motor Vehicle Other Driver's License

To	[Redacted]	Buded
Return	[Redacted]	File number <u>44A-2408</u>

b6
b7C

Name and aliases of subject, applicant, or employee, and spouse

Vincent Chin 500

Addresses

Residence 22031 Gudman, Oak Park

Business

Former

* Date and place of marriage (if applicable)

MDL C500 847 398 376

Race <u>Chinese</u>	Sex <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Age	Height	Weight	Hair	Eyes
Birth date <u>5/18/55</u>	Birthplace					
Arrest Number	Fingerprint classification			Criminal specialty		
Specific information desired						Social Security Number

Results of check

1/31/84 NO RECORD
DETROIT TRAFFIC COURT



b6
b7C

NO RECORD
IDENTIFICATION SECTION

FEB 7 1984

2/9/84

IDENTIFICATION BUREAU
NO RECORD
Sheriff's Office Detroit, Mich.



POLICE DETROIT MICH
BY [Redacted]

44A-2408-128

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI-DETROIT	

C 500-847-398-376

NAME: VINCEN EHN

ADDRESS: 22031 GARDNER, OAK PK 48237

DOB: 5/18/55

RESULTS:

No Print

Memorandum



To : SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (SQD. C-4) Date 2/16/84

From : SUPERVISOR [REDACTED]

b6
b7c

Subject :

[REDACTED]
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)
OO: DETROIT

On 2/14/84, [REDACTED] was contacted and advised that he has two video games in the Fancy Pants Lounge. One is a Universal Model 82 and one is a Midway Model 82. He obtained the games from A&B Vending, 963-1515.

b6
b7c

On 2/16/84, [REDACTED] A&B Vending, 497-5798, was contacted and advised that he obtained the games from [REDACTED] Empire, Inc., 584-6460.

On 2/16/84, [REDACTED] was contacted and advised that the games are made in Chicago, Illinois by Midway Manufacturing, and are then sent to Livonia, Michigan.

JLC/dlb
(2)
dlb

44A-2408-132

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - DETROIT	

[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 2/21/84

b6
b7c

[redacted] was contacted at his place of employment, Empire, 13939 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 584-6460. He advised that the video games currently in the Fancy Pants Lounge are made in Chicago, Illinois by Midway Manufacturing Company. Midway is owned by Bally Corporation. The machines were then sent through interstate commerce to a distributor in Livonia, Michigan.

Investigation on 2/16/84 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408-133

by SA [redacted] /dlb

Date dictated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
2/17/84	2/19/84
FBI - DETROIT	

b6
b7c

[redacted]

HS

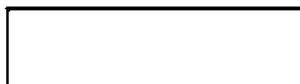


U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Detroit, Michigan
March 23, 1984



Vincent Chin (Deceased) - Victim
Civil Rights

b6
b7c

Final motions in captioned case have been heard by United States District Judge Anna Diggs-Taylor, Eastern District of Michigan, and trial has been scheduled to begin on June 5, 1984.

United States Department of Justice Attorney Ross Connolly was present at aforementioned hearing and is aware of trial date.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

44A2408-136

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED JP
INDEXED _____
FILED JP



AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 3/23/84

FROM: SAC, DETROIT

ATTENTION: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT

- 1. initial submission supplemental submission revision
- 2. File No: 44A-2408 (include alpha)
- 3. Status: P (P - pending, P* - pending inactive, C - closed, RUC - referred upon completion)
- 4. Title:

b6
b7C

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)
OO: DETROIT

Re:

5. If Title changed, show previous Title:

• 6. TYPE OF CASE: (check one)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| A. <input type="checkbox"/> CR | D. <input type="checkbox"/> CRA64-PE | G. <input type="checkbox"/> CRIPA | J. <input type="checkbox"/> FRS |
| B. <input type="checkbox"/> CRA64-E | E. <input type="checkbox"/> CRA64-PF | H. <input type="checkbox"/> DIH | K. <input type="checkbox"/> ISS |
| C. <input type="checkbox"/> CRA64-PA | F. <input type="checkbox"/> CREL | I. <input type="checkbox"/> ECOA | L. <input type="checkbox"/> PRIV. ACT - CRIM. |

7. AGENCY TYPE: (check one)

- | | |
|---|---|
| A. <input type="checkbox"/> City-County Jail | F. <input type="checkbox"/> Sheriff's Office |
| B. <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Agency | G. <input type="checkbox"/> State Police - Hwy Patrol |
| C. <input type="checkbox"/> Police Department | H. <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| D. <input type="checkbox"/> Prison/Penitentiary | I. <input type="checkbox"/> Not pertinent |
| E. <input type="checkbox"/> Private Security | |

8. AGENCY NAME: _____ (20) STATE: _____ (use 2-char. abbrev.)
(omit if "Not pertinent" checked above):

• 9. ACTION: UACB;

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|---|
| (check if applicable) | A. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LHM enclosed | C. <input type="checkbox"/> Report enclosed | E. <input type="checkbox"/> No further action being taken |
| | B. <input type="checkbox"/> LHM being submitted | D. <input type="checkbox"/> Report being submitted | F. <input type="checkbox"/> FD-376 (enclosure to LHM) |

*10. Further action: A. investigation instituted
B. investigation continuing
C. investigation completed

11. Copy of above submitted to: (check as many as applicable)

- A. USA _____
- B. Secret Service
- C. BATF
- D. _____ (15) (other - specify)

2-Bureau (Enc. 3)

②-Detroit

JLC/dlb

(4) *dlb*

44A2408-137

SEARCHED _____
 SERIALIZED _____
 INDEXED _____
 FILED _____

ENCLOSURE

(ATTACHMENT A)

12. SUBJECTS (number):
- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------|
| A. _____ Amer. Indian | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| B. _____ Asian | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| C. _____ Black | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| D. _____ Hispanic | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| E. _____ White | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| F. _____ Other | _____ Male | _____ Female |

If "Other" please specify: _____ (15)

13. VICTIMS (number):
- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------|
| A. _____ Amer. Indian | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| B. _____ Asian | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| C. _____ Black | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| D. _____ Hispanic | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| E. _____ White | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| F. _____ Other | _____ Male | _____ Female |

If "Other" please specify: _____ (15)

14. Other descriptive data re victims: _____ not applicable

If applicable (number):

A. _____ under 18	C. _____ handicapped
B. _____ over 62	D. _____ institutionalized

15. Matter type (use best description, check more than one if applicable):

- | | |
|---|--|
| A. <input type="checkbox"/> brutality | type _____ (15) (i.e., shooting; beating) |
| B. <input type="checkbox"/> nonbrutality | |
| C. <input type="checkbox"/> death of victim | |
| D. <input type="checkbox"/> suicide | method _____ (15) (i.e., hanging, slashed wrist) |
| E. <input type="checkbox"/> known extremist group | type _____ (15) (i.e., Klan, Nazi, JDL) |
| F. <input type="checkbox"/> suspected ext. group | type _____ (15) (i.e., Klan, Nazi, JDL) |
| G. <input type="checkbox"/> cross burning | |
| H. <input type="checkbox"/> migrant victim | |
| I. <input type="checkbox"/> violence to property | type _____ (15) (i.e., arson, shooting) |
| J. <input type="checkbox"/> ISS matter | type _____ (i.e., peonage, enticement, servitude, other slavery) |
| K. <input type="checkbox"/> other | explain _____ (25) |

- *16. Synopsis of Complaint - Date of initial complaint _____

Final motions in captioned case have been heard by USDJ, EDM, Detroit, Michigan, and trial has been scheduled to begin on 6/5/84.

- *17. Indices: (check one) negative positive (if positive explain in body of report/LHM)

Remarks/Administrative

FBI

8954
3:40
C-4

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- _____

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 5/8/84



b6
b7C

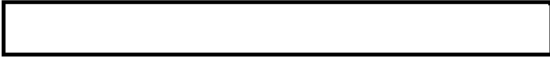
FM DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (C-4)

TO DIRECTOR (ROUTINE)

ST. LOUIS (ROUTINE)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O



VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED)-VICTIM;

CR (A); OO: DETROIT

b6
b7C

FOR INFORMATION OF THE ST. LOUIS, ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 19, 1982, SUBJECT BEAT VICTIM TO DEATH WITH A BASEBALL BAT AFTER AN ARGUMENT IN A LOCAL GO-GO BAR. SUBJECT HAD BEEN DRINKING AT THE TIME. SUBJECT HAS ADMITTED TO OTHER BARROOM FIGHTS WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY, SOMETIME BETWEEN 1957 AND 1960. DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY HAS REQUESTED A COPY OF UNITED STATES ARMY RECORDS. SUBJECT DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, DOB SSAN

JLC:pab
(1) pab

44A2408-138

SEARCHED _____
 SERIALIZED JK
 INDEXED _____
 FILED JK

Approved: _____

WCOI JK

Transmitted _____

009
(Number)

HQ - 21547
SL 20122
(Time)

Per _____

JB

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- _____

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date _____

PAGE TWO DE 44A-2408 UNCLAS E F T O

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT TRIAL IN CAPTIONED MATTER IS TO BEGIN JUNE 5, 1984, THEREFORE, ST. LOUIS IS REQUESTED TO EXPEDITE THIS REQUEST.

ST. LOUIS AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI: OBTAIN UNITED STATES ARMY RECORDS FOR

BT

b6
b7C

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

DE0009 1292012

RR HQ SL

DE DE

R 082012Z MAY 84

FM DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (C-4)

TO DIRECTOR (ROUTINE)

ST. LOUIS (ROUTINE)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

[REDACTED] VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED)-VICTIM;

b6
b7c

CR (A); OO: DETROIT

FOR INFORMATION OF THE ST. LOUIS, ON THE EVENING OF
JUNE 19, 1982, SUBJECT [REDACTED] BEAT VICTIM TO DEATH
WITH A BASEBALL BAT AFTER AN ARGUMENT IN A LOCAL GO-GO BAR.
SUBJECT HAD BEEN DRINKING AT THE TIME. SUBJECT HAS ADMITTED
TO OTHER BARROOM FIGHTS WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY,
SOMETIME BETWEEN 1957 AND 1960. DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY
HAS REQUESTED A COPY OF [REDACTED] UNITED STATES ARMY RECORDS.
SUBJECT DESCRIBED AS [REDACTED] WHITE MALE,
DOB [REDACTED] SSAN [REDACTED]

44A2408-138

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED JP
INDEXED _____
FILED JP

PAGE TWO DE 44A-2408 UNCLAS E F T O

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT TRIAL IN CAPTIONED MATTER
IS TO BEGIN JUNE 5, 1984, THEREFORE, ST. LOUIS IS REQUESTED
TO EXPEDITE THIS REQUEST.

ST. LOUIS AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI: OBTAIN UNITED STATES
ARMY RECORDS FOR

BT

b6
b7c

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

DETROIT NEWS

Date: 5/9/84
Edition: 3A

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44A-2408
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: DETROIT

Indexing:

U.S. asked to drop Chin case

By Don Ball
News Staff Writer

Defense lawyers want civil rights charges dropped against two men accused of killing Vincent Chin because the U.S. attorney in Detroit admitted "there appears to be" no basis for prosecution.

But U.S. Attorney Leonard R. Gilman said his statements were taken out of context and he now "is convinced there is a case."

RONALD EBENS, 44, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 25, of East Detroit, are scheduled to go on trial June 5 on charges of violating Chin's civil rights in the fight in which he was beaten to death in June 1982.

In their request to U.S. Atty. Gen. William French Smith, defense attorneys Miriam Siefer and Frank D. Eaman cited a 1983 letter from Gilman to William B. Reynolds, assistant U.S. attorney general.

The letter said an FBI investigation had turned up no evidence of racial motivation in the Chin killing.

The defense lawyers also said:

- That a group calling itself the American Citizens for Justice coached Chin's friends to give contrived testimony.
- That it concealed Chin's reputation as a barroom brawler.
- That racial epithets were not exchanged among Chin, Ebens and Nitz in the Fancy Pants Bar in Highland Park where the fight began.

A SPOKESMAN at the Justice Department refused comment until the letter is received there.

Gilman denied saying there "never was any evidence" of federal civil rights violations. "I said at the time," he commented, "that there appeared to be no evidence." Gilman noted that he wrote the letter before a grand jury began investigating the Chin incident and returned an indictment.

"Twenty-three citizens found probable cause that Vincent Chin's civil rights were violated," he said. "I'm convinced there is a case. I'm so convinced that I'm going to try the case myself."

Dr. Marisa Chuang, vice-president of American Citizens for Justice, called the defense request a "desperate ploy." She said the defense attorneys' letter contains "mis-statements and exaggerations."

44A2408-139

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 10 1984	
FBI-DETROIT	
WGD	

Sent To Bureau

FBI/DOJ

EBENS AND NITZ pleaded guilty to manslaughter charges in 1983 in Wayne



Vincent Chin

County Circuit Court. Judge Charles Kaufman placed them on probation and fined them \$3,700 each.

The light sentences prompted a protest which grew to international proportions. Representatives of the Chinese-American community and American Citizens for Justice went to Washington

to press for a federal intervention.

On July 6, 1983, wrote to Reynolds:

"Both under the facts of the case and as a matter of general policy, I have serious reservations about the appropriateness of a federal civil rights prosecution."

NINETEEN DAYS later, the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department authorized a grand jury investigation of the Chin case. Indictments were returned last November, charging Ebens and Nitz with violating Chin's right to enjoy a public place because of his race and with beating him with a baseball bat for racial reasons.

In their letter to Smith, the defense attorneys accused the American Citizens for Justice of launching "a campaign to manipulate the Department of Justice, the media, and the general public into believing a version of the events which is far different than what the witnesses told them."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Date 5/10/84
Edition 8A

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44A-2408

or
Classification:
Submitting Office: DETROIT

Indexing:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Federal judge rejects defense attempt to sequester jury in Chin case

By TIM KISKA
Free Press Staff Writer

Lawyers for two men indicted by a federal grand jury in the slaying of Vincent Chin lost their bid Wednesday



Gilman

to have the jury sequestered in the trial, which will begin June 5 before U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor.

Attorney David Lawson told Diggs Taylor that the court should house jurors in a hotel during the three-to-four-week trial, and take away television sets and newspapers to shield them from press coverage of the trial.

"Jurors are automatically going to be subjected to publicity," Lawson said Wednesday. "The prospect of publicity is not speculation, it's a fact. . . . A sequestered jury is a stronger jury."

Lawyers for Ronald Ebens, 44, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 25, have argued that publicity has hurt the chances of their clients getting a fair

trial.

But government attorneys argued that sequestration was an unnecessary burden on the government and prospective jurors.

"It's a procedure of last resort," a government attorney said. "The hardship would have a deleterious effect."

IN RULING against the motion, Diggs Taylor said she would sequester the jury during its deliberation at the trial's conclusion but not during the trial itself.

"This could result in jurors becoming hostile toward the defendants and the whole process," she said Wednesday. "It's a cruelty we couldn't impose."

She also said that the court would, in effect, be forced into acting as "cruise directors" while the case was being tried.

Defense lawyers have asked U.S. Attorney General William French Smith to drop the case against their clients because U.S. Attorney Leonard Gilman said in a July 1983 letter to the Justice Department's civil rights division that there appeared to be "no evidence" that Nitz and Ebens con-

spired to deny Chin's civil rights. The defense attorney's four-page letter to Smith, dated May 8, said Smith should respect Gilman's opinion; and drop the case.

Gilman said Wednesday his comment was taken out of context and that it was "appropriate to conduct a grand

jury investigation of the matter." "The 23 citizens on that grand jury found probable cause to believe a crime had been committed and probable cause to believe Ebens and Nitz had committed that crime," Gilman said. "I think there is a case, and I think it should be tried."

Sent To Bureau

FBI/DOJ

44A-2408-140

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 10 1984	
FBI-DETROIT	

WOD

TRANSMIT VIA: Airtel

CLASSIFICATION: _____

DATE: May 7, 1984

FROM: Director, FBI

TO: SAC, Detroit (44A-2408)

[Redacted]

b6
b7c

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS
OO: DETROIT

Re Detroit airtel/LHM dated 3/23/84.

Advise status of captioned case.

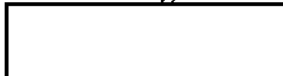
44A-2408-141

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 9 1984	
FBI - DETROIT	

XX AIRTEL

5/11/84

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (C-4)



VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -
VICTIM
CR(A)
(OO: DETROIT)

b6
b7c

Re Detroit airtel and LHM dated 3/23/84, and Bureau airtel to Detroit, 5/7/84.

As stated in re Detroit airtel and LHM, trial date in captioned matter scheduled for 6/5/84. Since re airtel and LHM, no investigation conducted by Detroit as there were no outstanding leads. Any further investigation will be coordinated with DOJ Attorneys TED MERRITT and AMY HAY.

LEAD:

DETROIT

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Will report results upon completion of trial in captioned matter.

Bureau
2 - Detroit
JLC/srb
(4)

44A-2408-142
SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED JP
INDEXED _____
FILED JP

AIRTEL

5/21/84

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (SQD. C-4)

[REDACTED]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)
OO: DETROIT

b6
b7C

Enclosed for Milwaukee is a subpoena for [REDACTED]
to appear for trial in captioned matter on 6/5/84 at Detroit,
Michigan.

[REDACTED] upon receipt of subpoena, should contact
Supervisor [REDACTED] Detroit Office of the FBI at telephone
number (313) 965-2323, so that he can be given an exact time
to appear, thus avoiding a delay in his absence from his work.

LEAD

MILWAUKEE

AT MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Serve enclosed subpoena on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

2 - Bureau
2 - Milwaukee (Enc. 1) (44A-1216)
2 - Detroit
JLC/dlb
(5)

44A2408-143
SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED *J*
INDEXED _____
FILED *J*

Memorandum

HANDLE AS

AIRTEL



To : SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408)

Date 5/17/84

CLY/WDY

From : SAC, ST. LOUIS (44A-M) (RUC)

Subject

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR(A)
OO: Detroit

b6
b7C

Reference: DE teletype to Bureau, dated 5/8/84.

FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER / FRC RECORDS CHECK
re [Redacted] Army sn [Redacted] DOB [Redacted]
XX File was located at the [Redacted] (Military) Branch, FRC, St. Louis, Mo., and reviewed on 5/17/84 by
IA [Redacted]

b6
b7C

Enclosed are _____ copies of (Form FD-302) (investigative insert) (letterhead memorandum) reflecting pertinent information.

XX Enclosed for information and reference, subject to restriction stamped thereon, are copies of self-explanatory documents from FRC files.

Personnel, FRC (Civilian) (Military) Branch, Veterans Administration Record Processing Center, SLMO, advised on _____

no record on subject or _____
could be located on basis of information furnished. In event additional identifying or descriptive data becomes available, another lead for review of the FRC (civilian or military) records should be submitted. Data needed includes: date and place of birth, name utilized in employment or military service, branch and military service number, dates of service or employment, department employing individual, specific organization to which assigned with date of assignment, and Social Security number.

File has not yet been located at FRC. A special search is under way, and file will be reviewed promptly when located.

File was not located at (Civilian) (Military) Branch, FRC, SLMO, and should be located at _____

Lead: _____ Office _____

_____ record located your division. Handle review.
For reference and assistance in handling lead, copies of pertinent serials are enclosed.

Remarks: Attached are working copies of subject's Army service record. See page two for instructions regarding obtaining copies of military records for court use.

② Detroit (Enclosures) (11) SOL
1- St. Louis
CAW:caw
(3)

44A2408-155

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 23 1984	
FBI-DETROIT	

In the event the originals of enclosed documents from subject's military record are subsequently required for presentation in evidence in this matter, refer to MIOG, Part II, Volume III, Section 19, paragraph 19-5, page 1408, regarding the obtaining of military records for court use by U.S. Attorneys.

If certified and exemplified copies are desired, the U.S. Attorney (or local prosecutor) may obtain same by direct contact with the Records Center. A subpoena, or adequate order of a court of competent jurisdiction, either of which must be signed by the presiding judge (i.e., not by the clerk of the court), is required and should order, specifically, that the records be produced pursuant to subsection 522a(b)(11), Title 5, U.S. Code. For guidance regarding the requirement that the subpoena bear the signature of the Judge, refer to *Stiles vs. Atlanta Gas Light Co.*, 453 F. Supp. 798 (N.D. Ga. 1978).

The subpoena should state the specific documents desired.

The request should be directed to: Federal Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, Mo., 63132), ATTN: Army Reference Branch, telephone number 314-263-7157 (FTS 273-7157).

FBI

9199

C-4

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- _____

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 5/23/84



b6
b7C

2:34

FM DETROIT (44A-2408)(P)(C-4)
 TO DIRECTOR FBI (ROUTINE) *HQ-20422*
 CHICAGO (ROUTINE) *CG-20582*
 EL PASO (ROUTINE) *EP-20392*
 LOUISVILLE (ROUTINE) *LS-2082*

Corrected lam

BT

UNCLAS E F T O



VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -

VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS; OO: DETROIT.

TITLE MARKED CHANGED TO REFLECT MIDDLE NAME OF



FOR INFORMATION OF RECEIVING OFFICES,

WHITE MALE, DATE OF BIRTH MURDERED VICTIM

BY BEATING HIM TO DEATH WITH A BASEBALL BAT ON THE EVENING

OF JUNE 19, 1982, AFTER AN ARGUMENT AT A LOCAL GO-GO BAR.

TRIAL IN CAPTIONED MATTER IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JUNE 5, 1984.

A REVIEW OF MILITARY RECORD DISCLOSED THAT RESIDED

JLC:lam

(1)

lam



44A-2408-156

TITLE

SEARCHED _____
 SERIALIZED _____
 INDEXED _____
 FILED _____

Approved: *W60/jc*

Transmitted *011* *above*
(Number) (Time)

Per *MP*

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- _____

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date _____

PAGE TWO DE 44A-2408 UNCLAS E F T O

AT [REDACTED], AND ENTERED THE U. S. ARMY IN 1962.

IN APRIL, 1962, [REDACTED] DIVORCED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED] PRIOR TO THE

DIVORCE, THEY RESIDED AT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

WHILE [REDACTED] WAS IN THE U. S. ARMY, HE WAS STATIONED AT FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY, AND FORT BLISS, TEXAS. IN VIEW OF THE SHORT TIME FRAME BEFORE TRIAL BEGINS IN CAPTIONED MATTER, IT IS REQUESTED THAT RECEIVING OFFICES SUTEL ALL RESULTS OF LEADS SET FORTH.

CHICAGO AT OREGON, ILLINOIS: CONDUCT LOGICAL CRIMINAL CHECK REGARDING [REDACTED]

CHICAGO AT ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS: CONDUCT LOGICAL CRIMINAL CHECK REGARDING [REDACTED] ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW

[REDACTED] *AND DETAILING CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DIVORCE.*

EL PASO AT FORT BLISS, TEXAS: CONDUCT LOGICAL CRIMINAL CHECK REGARDING [REDACTED]

LOUISVILLE AT FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY: CONDUCT LOGICAL CRIMINAL CHECK REGARDING [REDACTED]

BT

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

DE 011 01442042

RR 40

DE DE

R 0232040Z MAY 84

FM DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (C-4)

TO DIRECTOR FBI (ROUTINE)

CHICAGO (ROUTINE)

EL PASO (ROUTINE)

LOUISVILLE (ROUTINE)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

(CHANGED) [REDACTED] VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -

b6
b7c

VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS; OO: DETROIT.

TITLE MARKED CHANGED TO REFLECT MIDDLE NAME OF [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

FOR INFORMATION OF RECEIVING OFFICES, [REDACTED]

WHITE MALE, DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED] MURDERED VICTIM

BY BEATING HIM TO DEATH WITH A BASEBALL BAT ON THE EVENING

OF JUNE 19, 1982, AFTER AN ARGUMENT AT A LOCAL GO-GO BAR.

TRIAL IN CAPTIONED MATTER IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JUNE 5, 1984.

A REVIEW OF [REDACTED] MILITARY RECORD DISCLOSED THAT [REDACTED] RESIDED

44A 2408-156

SEARCHED	_____
SERIALIZED	_____ <i>JF</i>
INDEXED	_____
FILED	_____ <i>JF</i>

PAGE TWO DE 44A-2463 UNCLAS E F T O

AT [REDACTED] AND ENTERED THE U. S. ARMY IN 1962.

IN APRIL, 1963, [REDACTED] DIVORCED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED] PRIOR TO THE
DIVORCE, THEY RESIDED AT [REDACTED]

WHILE [REDACTED] WAS IN THE U. S. ARMY, HE WAS STATIONED
AT FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY, AND FORT BLISS, TEXAS. IN VIEW
OF THE SHORT TIME FRAME BEFORE TRIAL BEGINS IN CAPTIONED
MATTER, IT IS REQUESTED THAT RECEIVING OFFICES SUTEL ALL
RESULTS OF LEADS SET FORTH.

CHICAGO AT OREGON, ILLINOIS: CONDUCT LOGICAL CRIMINAL
CHECK REGARDING [REDACTED]

CHICAGO AT ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS: CONDUCT LOGICAL CRIMINAL CHECK
REGARDING [REDACTED] ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] AND DETERMINE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING
DIVORCE.

EL PASO AT FORT BLISS, TEXAS: CONDUCT LOGICAL CRIMINAL
CHECK REGARDING [REDACTED]

LOUISVILLE AT FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY: CONDUCT LOGICAL
CRIMINAL CHECK REGARDING [REDACTED]

BT

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 5/22/84

Detective [redacted] Highland Park, Michigan Police Department, was contacted and provided a copy of a statement made by [redacted] to Patrolman [redacted] of the Highland Park Police Department on June 19, 1982.

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Also obtained was a copy of Highland Park Police Department Constitutional Rights - Certificate of Notification signed by Detective [redacted] dated June 20, 1982.

Both items are being retained as evidence.

Investigation on 5/18/84 at Highland Park, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408-158

by SA [redacted] /dlb

Date dictated 5/18/84

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 19 1984	
FBI - DETROIT	

b6
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[redacted] [signature]

Date 5/24/84

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT
 SUBJECT: [Redacted]

Bureau File Number

44A-2408
 Field Office File Number

C-4
 Squad or RA Number

- X if a joint FBI/DEA (or other Federal Agency **) operation.
- X if case involves corruption of a public official (Federal, State or Local).

Investigative Assistance or Techniques Used			
Were any of the investigative assistance or techniques listed below used in connection with accomplishment being claimed? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - If Yes, rate each used as follows: 1 = Used, but did not help 2 = Helped, but only minimally 3 = Helped, substantially 4 = Absolutely essential			
1. Acctg Tech Assistance	Rating	6. ELSUR - Title III	Rating
2. Aircraft Assistance		7. Hypnosis Assistance	
3. Computer Assistance		8. Ident Div Assistance	
4. Consensus Monitoring		9. Informant Information	
5. ELSUR - FISC		10. Lab Div Exams	
		11. Lab Div Field Support	Rating
		12. Pen Registers	
		13. Photographic Coverage	
		14. Polygraph Assistance	
		15. Search Warrants Executed	
		16. Show Money Rating Usage	
		17. Surveil Sqd Asst	
		18. SWAT Team Action	
		19. Telephone Toll Records	
		20. Undercover Operation	
		21. Visual Invest - Analysis (VIA)	

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VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -
 VICTIM
 CR (A)
 OO: DETROIT

A. Preliminary Judicial Process (Number of subjects)	Complaints	Informations	Indictments	D. Recoveries, Restitutions, Court Ordered Forfeitures or Potential Economic Loss Prevented (PELP)				
B. Arrests, Locates, Summonses & Subpoenas (No. of subjects)	Subject Priority (See Reverse)			Property or PELP Type Code *	Recoveries	Restitutions	Court Ordered Forfeitures	Potential Economic Loss Prevented
	A	B	C					
	FBI Arrests -							
	FBI Locates -							
Number of Subjects of FBI Arrests Who Physically Resisted _____				\$	\$	\$	\$	
Number of Subjects of FBI Arrests Who Were Armed _____				\$	\$	\$	\$	
Criminal Summonses _____ Subpoenas Served <u>8</u>				\$	\$	\$	\$	
C. Release of Hostages: (Number of Hostages Released)				E. Civil Matters				
Hostages Held By Terrorists _____; All Other Hostage Situations _____				Government Defendant		Government Plaintiff		
				\$		\$		
				\$		\$		
				\$		Enter AFA Payment Here		

F. Final Judicial Process: Judicial District _____ State _____ (Use two letter state abbreviations per U.S. Post Office Guide. For Example - The Northern District of Texas as ND TX; The District of Maine as ME in the state field only.)
 Subject 1 - Name - _____ Subject's Description Code * - _____

Pretrial Diversion Dismissal Acquittal	- Convictions - Enter conviction and sentence data in space at right. If more than four sections are involved, limit to the four most relevant.	Felony Misdemeanor Plea Trial	Conviction			In-Jail Term		Suspended		Probation		Fine
			Title	Section	Counts	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>										\$
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>										\$
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>										\$
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>										\$

Pretrial Diversion Dismissal Acquittal	- Convictions - Enter conviction and sentence data in space at right. If more than four sections are involved, limit to the four most relevant.	Felony Misdemeanor Plea Trial	Conviction			In-Jail Term		Suspended		Probation		Fine
			Title	Section	Counts	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>										\$
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<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>										\$

Pretrial Diversion Dismissal Acquittal	- Convictions - Enter conviction and sentence data in space at right. If more than four sections are involved, limit to the four most relevant.	Felony Misdemeanor Plea Trial	Conviction			In-Jail Term		Suspended		Probation		Fine
			Title	Section	Counts	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	
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<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>										\$
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>										\$
<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>										\$

Attach additional forms if reporting final judicial process on more than three subjects.

Remarks: Subpoenaes served by FBI Detroit in preparation of trial in captioned matter on 6/5/84.

44A 2408-159

SEARCHED _____
 SERIALIZED [Signature]
 INDEXED _____
 FILED [Signature]

1 - Bureau
 2 - Field Office Detroit (1 - 66-5093)
 See codes on reverse side. Subject description codes in Section F are required only when reporting a conviction.
 ** Identify the other Federal Agency(ies) in the Remarks Section.
 JLC/dlb (4) [Signature]

FBI/DOJ

DE 44A-2408
JLC/alb - 1

On May 21, 1984, the following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at East Detroit, Michigan:

The records of the East Detroit, Michigan Police Department were searched regarding [redacted] with the following results:

[redacted] received [redacted] since 1975. No record could be located regarding [redacted]

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44A-2408-160

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 21 1984	
FBI - DETROIT	

[redacted]

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LS0811 1451759Z

RR DE

DE LS

R 051759Z MAY 84

FM LOUISVILLE (44A-9834) (RUC)
TO DETROIT (44A-2488) (C-4) ROUTINE
BT

UNCLAS

RONALD MADIS TEENS; MICHAEL NITZ; VINCENT CHIM (DECEASED) -
VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS; OO: DETROIT.

RE DETROIT TELETYPE TO BUREAU, DATED MAY 23, 1984.

ARREST CHECKS NEGATIVE RE FORT
KNOX, KENTUCKY, RADCLIFF, KENTUCKY POLICE DEPARTMENT AND
KENTUCKY STATE POLICE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY.

BT

911

44A2408-161

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 25 1984	
FBI - DETROIT	

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 5/29/84

[redacted] was contacted at his residence, [redacted]. Prior to interview, he was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that he desired to talk to him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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[redacted] stated that on the evening of June 19, 1982, he and two friends, [redacted] were at the McDonald's Restaurant located at Glendale on Woodward Avenue in Highland Park.

He stated that he was inside the McDonald's Restaurant when he saw an older white male with a baseball bat strike a Chinese male somewhere in the back. He stated that it looked like the Chinese male stumbled, but tried to get up to run northbound on Woodward Avenue. He stated that the white male with the baseball bat again struck the Chinese male with the bat while he was lying on the ground. [redacted] stated that at this time he looked away because he could not stand to watch what was going on.

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He stated that after the beating had stopped, he followed two off-duty police officers who he knew as [redacted] and [redacted] out to the area of the incident. He stated that he did not hear any conversation between the older white male and the police officers as he was too far away, but it did appear that the older white male was not sorry for what he had done nor did he hear him apologize or say anything. [redacted] remained at the scene until the Chinese male was removed to the hospital and the two white males were taken to the police department. [redacted] once again stated that he only observed two or three blows struck by the older white male on the Chinese male, as he could not stand to look at the beating.

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Investigation on 5/25/84 at Highland Park, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408-162
by SA [redacted] dlb Date dictated 5/29/84

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 29 1984	
FBI - DETROIT	

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[redacted]

[signature]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

5/29/84

Date of transcription

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[redacted] Negro male, born [redacted] was contacted at his residence [redacted] Prior to interview, he was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and that he desired to talk to him regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

[redacted] advised that on the evening of 6/19/82, he, along with his friends, [redacted] were at the McDonald's Restaurant located at Glendale on Woodward Avenue in Highland Park. He stated that he and his friends were just hanging around McDonald's and that while at McDonald's he saw two off-duty police officers from the Highland Park, Michigan Police Department who he knew as [redacted] and [redacted]. He stated that while standing inside McDonald's, he noticed a two-door vehicle, possibly a Chevette dark in color, pull up into the Ivanhoe parking lot adjacent to McDonald's. As the vehicle was pulling up, they had their lights out. He watched the vehicle park, observed two white males exit the vehicle while a Negro male, who was riding in the back seat, also exited the vehicle. [redacted] described one of the white males as being in his 40s, approximately 6' tall, gray/black hair, medium build, and carrying a baseball bat. The second white male was younger and shorter.

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At approximately the same time as the white males exited the vehicle, [redacted] noticed two Chinese males running south on Woodward Avenue past McDonald's. He observed that just past the restaurant the two Chinese males stopped and one of them sat down. He stated that prior to them stopping, his attention was directed to them because they were running, stopping, and looking over their shoulder as if they were being chased. [redacted] stated that he then observed the two white males come up behind the two Chinese males and that the older white male with the baseball bat hit one of the Chinese males in the back of the head. He then observed the older white male once again using the baseball bat strike the Chinese male in the side. The Chinese male who was being struck attempted to run away, was struck again with the baseball bat, and fell to the ground. While on the ground the Chinese male was struck by the older white male using the baseball bat at least

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Investigation on 5/25/84 at Highland Park, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408-163

by SA [redacted] dlb

Date dictated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
5/29/84	
FBI—DETROIT	

b6
b7C

DE 44A-2408

four times to the head and three or four other times to the body.

During this incident the other Chinese male was a short distance away yelling at the white male with the baseball bat to leave him alone. The younger white male was standing next to the older white male with the baseball bat and it appeared that he was trying to block the Chinese male who was laying on the ground from running away.

[redacted] stated that [redacted] also observed the incident and that they responded and identified themselves as police officers. After [redacted] had yelled to stop, the white male with the baseball bat continued to strike the Chinese male one more time. [redacted] then pulled his revolver. The white male put down the baseball bat and [redacted] took the bat. The older white male said something to the effect that they had hurt his son. [redacted] stated that the older white male continued to talk to [redacted] and that the older white male appeared to still be very angry. However, [redacted] could not overhear what was being said.

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[redacted] stated that he remained at the scene until the ambulance removed the Chinese male and the two white males were taken to the police department.

CY

CG0922 1510636

PP DE

DE CG

P 290930Z MAY 84

FM CHICAGO (44A-3264) (RUC) (SQUAD 12/16)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

DETROIT (44A-2408) PRIORITY

LAS VEGAS (44A-NEW) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

[REDACTED]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -

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VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS; OO: DETROIT.

RE DETROIT TELETYPE TO BUREAU, MAY 23, 1984.

FOR INFORMATION OF LAS VEGAS [REDACTED]

WHITE MALE, DOB [REDACTED]

MURDERED VICTIM BY

BEATING HIM TO DEATH WITH A BASEBALL BAT ON THE EVENING

OF JUNE 19, 1982 AFTER AN ARGUMENT AT A LOCAL GO-GO BAR.

TRIAL IN CAPTIONED MATTER IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JUNE 5,

1984. A REVIEW OF [REDACTED] MILITARY RECORD DISCLOSED THAT

[REDACTED]

RESIDED AT

[REDACTED]

AND ENTERED THE U.S.

ARMY IN 1962.

IN APRIL, 1962,

[REDACTED]

DIVORCED [REDACTED]

44A-2408-164
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
MAY 29 1984
FBI-DETROIT

[REDACTED] DOB [REDACTED]

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THE DETROIT DIVISION REQUESTED THAT CHICAGO AT OREGON AND ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS CONDUCT LOGICAL CRIMINAL CHECKS REGARDING [REDACTED] INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY THE CHICAGO DIVISION ON MAY 29, 1934 DETERMINED THAT [REDACTED] HAD NEVER BEEN ARRESTED BY THE ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS POLICE DEPARTMENT, WINNEBAGO COUNTY, ILLINOIS SHERIFF'S POLICE, OREGON, ILLINOIS POLICE DEPARTMENT, OR THE OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS SHERIFF'S POLICE.

DETROIT DIVISION FURTHER REQUESTED THAT THE CHICAGO DIVISION LOCATE AND INTERVIEW [REDACTED] [REDACTED] AND DETERMINE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING HER DIVORCE. ON MAY 29, 1934, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] TELEPHONE NUMBER [REDACTED] AND BUSINESS TELEPHONE NUMBER [REDACTED] ADVISED SHE IS THE [REDACTED] [REDACTED] SHE STATED [REDACTED] IS CURRENTLY RESIDING IN [REDACTED] AND IS EMPLOYED THERE WITH [REDACTED] SHE ADVISED SHE WAS CURRENTLY UNABLE TO FURNISH [REDACTED] ADDRESS

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PAGE THREE

CG 44A-3264

UNCLAS E F T O

ALTHOUGH FURNISHED PHONE NUMBERS, BUSINESS [REDACTED]

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AND HOME [REDACTED]

SHE ADVISED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND IS USING THE

NAME [REDACTED]

SHE ADVISED THAT HER

[REDACTED] WHO IS ALSO THE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AND RESIDES AT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
LAS VEGAS AT LAS VEGAS, NEVADA. WILL LOCATE AND

INTERVIEW [REDACTED] AND DETERMINE CIRCUMSTANCES

SURROUNDING [REDACTED] (IN VIEW OF

THE SHORT TIME FRAME BEFORE TRIAL BEGINS IN CAPTIONED

MATTER, DETROIT DIVISION IS REQUESTING THAT RECEIVING

OFFICES SUTEL ALL RESULTS).

BT

LVOF16 1520536Z

PP DE

DE LV

P 310100Z MAY 84

FM LAS VEGAS (44A-1053) (P)

TO DETROIT (44A-2400) (PRIORITY)

BT

UNCLAS

C-4

[REDACTED] ; VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -

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VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS, OO: DETROIT.

RE CHICAGO TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU MAY 29, 1984.

[REDACTED] ADVISED SHE WAS [REDACTED] YEARS OLD AND [REDACTED] WAS [REDACTED] YEARS OLD WHEN THEY GOT MARRIED. SHE WAS [REDACTED] AT THE TIME AND WAS NOT IN LOVE WITH [REDACTED] WHEN THEY GOT MARRIED. WHILE THEY WERE MARRIED, [REDACTED] CONTINUED GOING OUT WITH OTHER WOMEN SO SHE INITIATED THE DIVORCE.

THE DIVORCE RECORDS SHOW THAT GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE WAS PHYSICAL CRUELTY. [REDACTED] STATED THAT THIS IS TOTALLY FALSE, BUT BACK IN 1962, THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS MENTAL CRUELTY AS THERE IS TODAY. PHYSICAL CRUELTY WAS USED TO MAKE IT EASIER TO GET A DIVORCE. DURING THEIR MARRIAGE, [REDACTED] WAS NOT A

44A2408-105
SEARCHED [initials] INDEXED [initials]
SERIALIZED [initials] FILED [initials]
MAY 30 1984
FBI - DETROIT
[signature]

PAGE TWO (LV 44A-1653) UNCLAS

VIOLENT PERSON. [REDACTED] HIT [REDACTED] ONCE AFTER SHE FILED FOR DIVORCE BUT BEFORE IT WAS FINAL.

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[REDACTED] HAS NOT SEEN [REDACTED] IN OVER TWENTY YEARS SO SHE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HE IS LIKE NOW. [REDACTED] TALKS TO HIM ONCE IN A WHILE. [REDACTED] NAME IS [REDACTED] AND HER HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER IS [REDACTED] STRONGLY BELIEVES

[REDACTED] IS NOT SURE IF SHE WILL TALK TO THE GOVERNMENT.

FB-302 FOLLOWS.

BT

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 5/25/84

TO: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408)

FROM: SAC, MILWAUKEE (44A-1216) (RUC)

SUBJECT:
 VINCENT CHEN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
 CR (A)
 OO: DETROIT

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Re Detroit airtel to FBIHQ, 5/21/84.

Enclosed for Detroit is U.S. District Court Subpoena served on

served as reflected by subpoena return, and provided with the name and phone number of SA Detroit Division.

advised that he, as yet, has not been reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses due him in connection with He was annoyed by this and may be obstructive with regard to his appearance on this subpoena.

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Subpoena given to CH.

ORIGINAL DOCUMENT(S) ENCLOSED
DO NOT BLOCK STAMP

② - Detroit (44A-2408) (Enc. 1) *for*

1 - Milwaukee (44A-1216)

RAS:byh

(3)

44A-2408-166

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUN 1 1984	
FBI - DETROIT	
Per <i>[Signature]</i>	

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) (Time)

Cy

TP0003 1532015Z

RR DT

DR EP

R 12015Z JUN 84

FM EL PASO (44A-1425) (RUC)

TO DETROIT (44A-2436) (ROUTINE)

BT

UNCLAS

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIM (DECEASED)-VICTIM;

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CIVIL RIGHTS; OO: DETROIT.

REFERENCE DETROIT TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, MAY 23, 1984.

A TELEPHONE CALL TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CRIME RECORDS CENTER, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, YIELDED NEGATIVE RESULTS ON A CRIMINAL RECORDS CHECK FOR SUBJECT [Redacted] CRIME RECORDS CENTER MAINTAINS THEIR RECORDS FOR FORTY YEARS.

BT

44A2408 167

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 1 1984	
FBI—DETROIT	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 6/4/84

[redacted] Negro Female, born [redacted] was contacted at her residence, [redacted] Prior to interview she was advised by the interviewing Agent that he wished to talk to her regarding a civil rights investigation currently being conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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[redacted] advised that on the evening of June 19, 1982, she was driving her father's car west on Bersford toward Woodward Avenue. [redacted] and other friends were also in the car. [redacted] stated that during the evening hours she drove past the Fancy Pants parking lot and observed a car parked in the lot close to the side entrance. The front of the car was facing the Fancy Pants Club. She stated that she observed two white males, not further described, taking what appeared to be a baseball bat out of the trunk of the car. She stated that they proceeded toward Woodward and at Woodward observed an oriental male, later identified as VINCENT CHIN, standing on the west side of Woodward in front of the Bank of the Commonwealth building. She stated that from CHIN's actions, constantly looking around, she felt that he was being chased by the two white males in the Fancy Pants parking lot. She then stated that she yelled at CHIN and told him that they were coming after him. She then turned south on Woodward, proceeded to [redacted] and stayed there for a short period of time. After a short period of time she got back into her vehicle along with [redacted] and other friends and proceeded to the McDonald's Restaurant located on Woodward and Glendale in Highland Park, Michigan.

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Once at the restaurant she talked to [redacted] who she knows as a Highland Park police officer. She stated that he told her about the fight involving CHIN and two white males, but that by the time that she arrived at McDonald's the ambulance had left with CHIN.

Investigation on 5/29/84 at Highland Park, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408
by SA [redacted] dlb Date dictated 6/4/84 FBI - DETROIT

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SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 11 1984	
FBI - DETROIT	

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FBI

#4959
C-4

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- _____

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

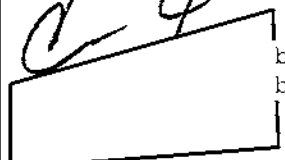
CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date

6/5/84

8:45



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FM DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (SQD. C-4)

TO DIRECTOR (PRIORITY)

CHICAGO (44A-3264) (PRIORITY)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O



VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -

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VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS (A); OO: DETROIT.

RE CHICAGO AIRTEL TO DETROIT, DATED DECEMBER 28, 1983,
AND DETROIT TELCALL TO CHICAGO, DATED JUNE 4, 1984.

AS ADVISED IN REFERENCED TELEPHONE CALL, TRIAL IN
CAPTIONED MATTER SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JUNE 5, 1984. IT IS
NECESSARY THAT



ROCKOLA MANUFACTURING COMPANY, 800 NORTH KEDZIE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS,
APPEAR FOR TRIAL. ON JUNE 4, 1984, A SUBPOENA WAS FACSIMILED
TO CHICAGO AND SHOULD BE SERVED ON AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE. SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO IMMEDIATELY
CONTACT SUPERVISOR DETROIT OFFICE FBI,

MTG: pap

(1)

44A2408-169

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 SERIALIZED j
 INDEXED _____

HQ 19328 EILED

Approved:

Transmitted

001
(Number)

CG 1344Z
(Time)

Per DK

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- _____

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date _____

PAGE TWO DE 44A-2408 UNCLAS E F T O

(313) 965-2323 FOR INSTRUCTIONS AS TO WHEN HE SHOULD REPORT.

CHICAGO AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS: SERVE SUBPOENA ON

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BT

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

DE0601 1571344

PP HQ CG

DE DF

P 051344Z JUN 84

FM DETROIT (44A-2403) (P) (SQD. C-4)

TO DIRECTOR (PRIORITY)

CHICAGO (44A-3264) (PRIORITY)

BT

UNCLAS F F I O

[REDACTED] VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -

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VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS (A); OOJC DETROIT.

RE CHICAGO AIRTEL TO DETROIT, DATED DECEMBER 28, 1983,
AND DETROIT TELCALL TO CHICAGO, DATED JUNE 4, 1984.

AS ADVISED IN REFERENCED TELEPHONE CALL, TRIAL IN
CAPTIONED MATTER SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JUNE 5, 1984. IT IS
NECESSARY THAT [REDACTED]

ROCKOLA MANUFACTURING COMPANY, 336 NORTH MEDZIT, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS,
APPEAR FOR TRIAL. ON JUNE 4, 1984, A SUBPOENA WAS FACSIMILED
TO CHICAGO AND SHOULD BE SERVED ON [REDACTED] AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE. [REDACTED] SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO IMMEDIATELY
CONTACT SUPERVISOR [REDACTED] DETROIT OFFICE FBI,

44A2408-169

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SERIALIZED	_____ <i>J</i>
INDEXED	_____
FILED	_____ <i>J</i>

PAGE TWO DE 44A-2482 UNCLAS E F T O

(313) 965-2303 FOR INSTRUCTIONS AS TO WHEN HE SHOULD
REPORT.

CHICAGO AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS: SERVE SUBPOENA ON

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 6/4/84

[redacted] black male, date of birth [redacted] who resides at [redacted] no home telephone, was contacted at the MC DONALD'S RESTAURANT, 8500 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan. [redacted] was advised of the official identities of the interviewing Agents and was further advised that the interview concerned a Civil Rights investigation regarding an incident which occurred on June 19, 1982. [redacted] was advised that any information he provided could be used in a court of law. He thereafter provided the following information:

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On June 19, 1982, approximately between the hours of 9:00 and 10:00 PM, he was at the MC DONALD'S RESTAURANT located on Woodward Avenue and Glendale, Detroit, Michigan. He was there visiting an associate of his by the name of [redacted] who is a Highland Park Police Officer, who was off duty at the time. [redacted] was situated in the southwest corner of the restaurant which provided him a view of Woodward Avenue.

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At that time, he looked through the window facing east toward Woodward Avenue and observed two oriental males walking south directly in front of the restaurant. These two individuals walked across the parking lot toward a telephone booth located on the sidewalk in front of the southeast corner of the MC DONALD'S RESTAURANT. The two individuals disappeared from [redacted] sight and he assumes that they were standing in the vicinity of the telephone booth, which was blocked from his view by a parked truck and some bushes. [redacted] is quite sure that if they had kept walking south down Woodward Avenue, they would have reappeared in his view.

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Approximately twenty to thirty minutes later, [redacted] observed a small black automobile, possibly a Plymouth Horizon, traveling southbound on Woodward Avenue and go past the MC DONALD'S RESTAURANT. This vehicle pulled into the parking lot of IVANHOE'S MARKET, which is located immediately south of the MC DONALD'S RESTAURANT. The vehicle came to a stop after it had turned into the IVANHOE'S parking lot. [redacted] observed three individuals

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Investigation on 5/31/84 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408
by SAS [redacted] and [redacted] slw Date dictated 5/31/84

DE 44A-2408

Continuation of interview of _____, on 5/31/84, Page - 2 -

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exit this vehicle. Two white males exited from the front seat and one black male exited from the rear seat of the vehicle. The black male appeared to bend over and pick something up off the ground and place it in his hands after he had exited the vehicle. _____ then observed the two oriental males referred to above begin running. One of the oriental males ran northbound from the direction of the telephone booth and the other oriental male ran out into the middle of Woodward Avenue. _____ lost sight of the oriental male who ran northbound. He did observe the oriental male who ran out into Woodward Avenue being pursued by the two white males who had exited the small black car. _____ described one of the white males as appearing to be in his late forties, taller than the second individual and with a clean cut hair style. A second white male was younger, possibly in his late twenties or early thirties, with longer hair. The older white male who had been driving the vehicle had a baseball bat in his hand. The younger white male did not appear to have a weapon in his hands.

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The younger white male caught up with the oriental male first in the middle of Woodward Avenue and tackled the oriental male around the waist. He eventually brought the oriental male down to the ground and began wrestling with him to hold him down. The older white male then came up and struck the oriental male on the head with the baseball bat. He struck the individual three or four times immediately about the head and chest. At this point, _____ notified _____ of what was going on and the two of them exited the MC DONALD'S RESTAURANT to respond to the assault. When _____ got out of the restaurant and began to approach the immediate scene, he observed the older white male hit the oriental male with the baseball bat three or four more times. _____ advised he may have missed some of the activity going on as he had exited the restaurant.

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After exiting the restaurant, _____ observed Officer _____ and another off duty Highland Park Police Officer by the name of _____ ordered the two white males to stop and eventually placed them under arrest.

_____ advised that Officer _____ had been out in the parking lot of the MC DONALD'S RESTAURANT assisting some other individuals with car problems during the entire incident.

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_____ advised that he heard no statements made by either of the two white individuals during or after the incident. _____ remained in the vicinity until after the emergency medical people had come and then he went to the HIGHLAND PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT and provided them with a brief statement of what he had seen. _____ advised that

DE 44A-2408

Continuation of interview of [redacted], on 5/31/84, Page - 3 -

[redacted]

[redacted] He advised that he can be reached through [redacted] or by contacting his sister at telephone number [redacted]

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Why was Chin slain? Old case, new trial

By TIM KISKA
Free Press Staff Writer

For months, it's been an orgy of headlines: "Vincent Chin Case: Justice or Mockery" ... "Vincent Chin: The Outcome Made Life Seem Cheap and Justice Elusive" ... "The Ordeal of Lily Chin" ... "Chin Killers Free On Bond On U.S. Charges" ... "Getting Away with Murder? The Life and Death of Vincent Chin" ... "Mourners Pray For Justice In Chin Case" ... "Chin Court Verdict Mocks Public Sense of Justice."

On Tuesday, the case that caused national and international uproar will begin anew.

Attorneys for the U.S. Justice Department will attempt to prove that Michael Nitz and Ronald Ebens tried to "threaten, intimidate and assault Vincent Chin because of his race and national origin and because he had been enjoying the accommodations of the Fancy Pants Lounge, a place of entertainment open to the public."

If convicted, Nitz and Ebens face a maximum life sentence.

THE OUTCOME of the trial of two men accused of violating Chin's civil rights by beating him to death with a baseball bat will be determined by a federal court jury. U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor will preside over the case, which is expected to take about a month.

S. Theodore Merritt and Amy Hay, prosecutors from Washington, D.C., will present the government's case.

Across the room, four Detroit lawyers — Frank Eamon, David Lawson, Miriam Siefert and Kenneth Sasse — assigned to defend the women will make their case: Chin's murder was the result of a bar fight and was not racially motivated; Chin may have been the provocateur in the incident.

Attorneys for both sides, reluctant to discuss the case with reporters because of past publicity, have been ordered by Diggs Taylor not to discuss the case with the news media, beginning Tuesday.

But much is already known.

THE STORY BEGAN two years ago when Vincent Chin, a 27-year-old engineering draftsman, celebrated the anticipated end of his bachelorhood with a small group of friends at the Fancy Pants Lounge, a striptease bar in Highland Park.

A fracas began between the Chin party and Ebens and Nitz. Both groups were asked by the club's management to leave.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Date: 6/3/84
Edition: 3A

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44-2408
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: DETROIT

Indexing:

44A 2408-171

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 05 1984	
FBI - DETROIT	

WSD

The government's indictment, filed in November 1983, claims that Ebens and Nitz called Chin a "chink," a "nip" and obscenities and other ethnic slurs.

Later, according to the indictment, Nitz offered somebody \$20 to help them "catch a Chinaman."

Ultimately, Chin was clubbed in the parking lot of a McDonald's restaurant in

Sent to Bureau

Highland Park. He died four days later on June 23, 1982, in Henry Ford Hospital.

Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz pleaded no contest to a reduced charge of manslaughter on Feb. 2, 1983. The next month, Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman sentenced each to three years of probation and \$3,780 in fines.

And that's what touched off the furor.

About 1,000 people marched on the U.S. Courthouse in downtown Detroit in May 1983, protesting what they believed was an unjust sentence.

Meanwhile, rallies were held in Windsor, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York City.

Newspapers from as far away as China carried stories about the Chin case.

CHIN'S MOTHER, Lily, became something of a national figure by decrying the sentences to civil rights groups nationwide. She met with Justice Department lawyers in June 1983 to ask for an investigation.

The Justice Department and the FBI investigated the case, and a federal grand jury returned an indictment against the two men on Nov. 2, 1983.

A statement outlining the defense for Ebens and Nitz can be found in the court file on the case, which is about eight inches high.

"If members of the news media consider the evidence they will see a much different picture than they have previously painted," wrote the lawyers in the case. "Any suggestion that these defendants not be incarcerated was described as a mockery of justice. . . . Mr. Chin played a significant role in both starting and sustaining the fights which occurred in Highland Park."

"Vincent Chin's role on the night of the incident will be a key at this trial," said defense attorney Eamon. "There is a serious question as to whether this was racially motivated or a bar fight."

Co-counsel Lawson said: "The story shifts from a fight to some sort of racial incident after it became apparent that something (the sentences) was wrong in the state court. It's too convenient."

NOBODY CLOSE to the case expects the trial to be an easy one.

First, there is the difficult task of picking a jury.

Defense attorneys have argued to Diggs Taylor that the publicity surrounding the case makes it virtually impossible to find prospective jurors from metropolitan Detroit who have not formed an opinion.

Some jurors, they fear, particularly those who do not want to disrupt their lives by reporting to jury duty every day for what may be about month, will say they have already made up their minds — even if they haven't.

Some jurors, perhaps those who would like to be part of the excitement surrounding the case, may say they are impartial — even if they aren't.

Although Diggs Taylor has ruled that the case should be tried here, she said she hasn't closed the door on moving it — if she is convinced during jury selection that Ebens and Nitz can't be tried fairly here.

And this time, the case is not a simple murder case: The basic did-they-or-didn't they question has been determined.

This time the government will have to prove Vincent Chin was killed because of his race.



UPI Photo

Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson comforts Lily Chin, mother of the slain Vincent Chin, during a rally sponsored by the Asian community in San Francisco this weekend.



Vincent Chin: On Tuesday, the case that caused national and international uproar will begin anew.

Date 6/5/84

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT
 SUBJECT: [Redacted]

Bureau File Number

44A-2408
 Field Office File Number

C-4
 Squad or RA Number

- X if a joint FBI/DEA (or other Federal Agency **) operation.
- X if case involves corruption of a public official (Federal, State or Local).

Investigative Assistance or Techniques Used			
Were any of the investigative assistance or techniques listed below used in connection with accomplishment being claimed? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - If Yes, rate each used as follows: 1 = Used, but did not help 2 = Helped, but only minimally 3 = Helped, substantially 4 = Absolutely essential			
1. Acctg Tech Assistance	Rating	6. ELSUR - Title III	Rating
2. Aircraft Assistance		7. Hypnosis Assistance	
3. Computer Assistance		8. Ident Div Assistance	
4. Consensual Monitoring		9. Informant Information	
5. ELSUR - FISC		10. Lab Div Exams	
11. Lab Div Field Support	Rating	17. Surveill. Sqd Asst	Rating
12. Pen Registers		18. SWAT Team Action	
13. Photographic Coverage		19. Telephone Toll Records	
14. Polygraph Assistance		20. Undercover Operation	
15. Search Warrants Executed		21. Visual Invest - Analysis (VIA)	

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED)
 VICTIM
 CR (A)
 OO: DETROIT

A. Preliminary Judicial Process (Number of subjects)	Complaints	Informations	Indictments	D. Recoveries, Restitutions, Court Ordered Forfeitures or Potential Economic Loss Prevented (PELP)			
	Subject Priority (See Reverse)			Property or PELP Type Code *	Recoveries	Restitutions	Court Ordered Forfeitures
B. Arrests, Locates, Summonses & Subpoenas (No. of subjects)	A	B	C				
	FBI Arrests -						
FBI Locates -							
Number of Subjects of FBI Arrests Who Physically Resisted _____							
Number of Subjects of FBI Arrests Who Were Armed _____							
Criminal Summonses _____			Subpoenas Served <u>10</u>				
C. Release of Hostages: (Number of Hostages Released)				E. Civil Matters			
Hostages Held By Terrorists _____; All Other Hostage Situations _____				Amount of Suit	Government Defendant	Government Plaintiff	
				Settlement or Award			Enter AFA Payment Here

F. Final Judicial Process: Judicial District _____ (Use two letter state abbreviations per U.S. Post Office Guide. For Example - The Northern District of Texas as ND TX; The District of Maine as ME in the state field only.)
 Subject 1 - Name - _____ District _____ State _____ Subject's Description Code * - _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Pretrial Diversion <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal <input type="checkbox"/> Acquittal	- Convictions - Enter conviction and sentence data in space at right. If more than four sections are involved, limit to the four most relevant.	<input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Plea <input type="checkbox"/> Trial	Conviction			In-Jail Term		Suspended		Probation		Fine
			Title	Section	Counts	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	

<input type="checkbox"/> Pretrial Diversion <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal <input type="checkbox"/> Acquittal	- Convictions - Enter conviction and sentence data in space at right. If more than four sections are involved, limit to the four most relevant.	<input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Plea <input type="checkbox"/> Trial	Conviction			In-Jail Term		Suspended		Probation		Fine
			Title	Section	Counts	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	

<input type="checkbox"/> Pretrial Diversion <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal <input type="checkbox"/> Acquittal	- Convictions - Enter conviction and sentence data in space at right. If more than four sections are involved, limit to the four most relevant.	<input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Plea <input type="checkbox"/> Trial	Conviction			In-Jail Term		Suspended		Probation		Fine
			Title	Section	Counts	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	

Attach additional forms if reporting final judicial process on more than three subjects.

Remarks: Ten subpoenas served by FBI Detroit in preparation for trial in captioned matter scheduled for 6/5/84.

44A-2408-172
 SEARCHED _____
 SERIALIZED je
 INDEXED _____
 FILED je
 FBI/DOJ

2 - Bureau
 ② Field Office Detroit (1 - 66-5093)
 See codes on reverse side. Subject description codes in Section F are required only when reporting a conviction.

** Identify the other Federal Agency(ies) in the Remarks Section.
 JLC/dib
 (1)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 6/11/84b6
b7C

[redacted] Negro male, [redacted]
[redacted] was contacted at [redacted]
[redacted] was advised
of the official identities of the interviewing Agents and that
the interview concerned a civil rights investigation regarding
[redacted] provided the following information:

He was displayed a photograph of [redacted] and
identified the individual depicted in the photograph as the
individual known to him as [redacted] (Last Name Unknown), [redacted]

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[redacted] believes that [redacted] the bar in approximately
1976 and [redacted] has known [redacted] since that time. [redacted] frequented
[redacted] as a customer. Although he did not have any
particular problems there, he advised that the atmosphere in
[redacted] was not the most comfortable for a black individual.
[redacted] stated that this atmosphere was created mostly by the white
clientele. This atmosphere was the same prior to when [redacted]
[redacted] primarily frequented the bar at lunch
time along with co-workers from the nearby Chrysler plant.

[redacted] knows that [redacted] was a [redacted] at Chrysler
but [redacted] did not work for [redacted] nor did he know him personally
at Chrysler's.

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[redacted] did not know [redacted] to be a violent individual.
[redacted] did handle fights and other problems that occurred inside
the bar, but he was not overly aggressive in the handling of these
problems. Most of the business at [redacted] came from Chrysler
workers. [redacted] believes that [redacted] did not care for a lot of the
neighborhood people who would come into the bar and sit around
without purchasing many drinks. [redacted] advised that this attitude
toward the neighborhood clientele refers to both white and black
individuals.

Investigation on 6/8/84 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408
by SAs [redacted] and MTG/dlb Date dictated 6/11/84

-17B

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 6/11/84b6
b7C

[redacted] Negro male, [redacted]
[redacted] was contacted at [redacted]
[redacted], of which [redacted] is the owner. [redacted] was advised
of the official identities of the interviewing Agents and that
the interview concerned a civil rights investigation regarding
[redacted] provided the following information:

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He has [redacted] for approximately
[redacted] years. He knows the individual who [redacted]
[redacted] (Last Name Unknown).
[redacted] identified a photograph of [redacted] as the individual
known to him as [redacted] (Last Name Unknown). [redacted] has known
[redacted] for six years. [redacted] had a lot of contact with [redacted] while
[redacted] from approximately 1975 to 1978. [redacted]
also knew [redacted] inasmuch as [redacted] was a [redacted] at the Chrysler
Corporation. [redacted] also worked for the Chrysler Corporation,
although he did not work for or with [redacted]

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[redacted] did not know [redacted] to be a violent person
or a person who would get into fights. [redacted] would not
say that [redacted] was racially prejudice. The [redacted] generally
had a racially mixed crowd. [redacted] does not know of any black
individuals being beaten up or having any problems at [redacted]
[redacted] recalls that there may have been fights in that bar, but
that they were not initiated by [redacted]

[redacted] stated that he would have personal conversations
with [redacted] and always got along with him. He did advise that his
contact with [redacted] was around the bar and he can not comment regarding
[redacted] activities elsewhere.

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b7CInvestigation on 6/8/84 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] MTG/dlb Date dictated 6/11/84

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 6/11/84

[redacted] (no middle name) [redacted] Negro, male, date of birth [redacted] was contacted and advised of the official identities of the interviewing Agents and was advised that the interview concerned an alleged civil rights violation involving [redacted] was advised that any information he might provide could be used in a court of law. Thereafter, he provided the following information:

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He knows [redacted] inasmuch as [redacted] previously [redacted] which is located at [redacted] [redacted] which is across the alley from the rear of [redacted] was displayed a photograph of [redacted] and he identified it as the individual who previously [redacted] from [redacted] approximately 1976 or 1977 until he left there in 1980. Prior

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[redacted] first encountered [redacted] in approximately 1973. [redacted] was sitting alone in a bar named JO JO'S BAR, which was located at the corner of Van Dyke and Georgia, Detroit, Michigan. [redacted] frequently visited this bar because he was in the construction business at the time and he quite often met business contacts there. On one occasion in 1973, [redacted] had been sitting at the bar when [redacted] and two other white male individuals arrived. These three individuals went to the other end of the bar. Almost immediately, [redacted] heard [redacted] stated, "What's this black son-of-a-bitch doing in the bar". He also heard [redacted] state to him, "You're in the wrong place. I know what you niggers are doing. You're looking for white women". [redacted] advised that [redacted] made these comments and other such comments as he sat there for approximately two or three minutes. [redacted] did not appear to be drunk at the time and had ordered one beer after arriving there.

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[redacted] totally ignored [redacted] during the whole time [redacted] made the above comments. [redacted] then walked right up to [redacted] [redacted] shoved [redacted] and told him that he was messing with the wrong guy. The owner of the bar, known to [redacted] then told [redacted]

Investigation on 6/8/84 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-1408
by SAs [redacted] and [redacted] MTG:mjv Date dictated 6/11/84

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that he had better leave. [REDACTED] then turned and left so as not to cause a problem in the bar. [REDACTED] followed [REDACTED] as far as the door of the bar. [REDACTED] exited the bar and went to his pickup truck parked right in front. He turned around and saw [REDACTED] and the other two white males standing in the doorway of the bar. [REDACTED] got a pitchfork out of his truck and told [REDACTED] and his two friend to come on out of the bar. [REDACTED] at this point, went back into the bar and [REDACTED] left the area in his pickup truck.

[REDACTED] advised that he had not provoked [REDACTED] in any way prior to [REDACTED] having made these comments. [REDACTED] seemed to [REDACTED] to be looking for trouble when he came into the bar.

[REDACTED] advised that he next saw [REDACTED] in approximately 1976 or 1977 when [REDACTED] the bar which became [REDACTED] [REDACTED] immediately recognized [REDACTED] when he saw him in the vicinity of the bar, but [REDACTED] apparently did not recognize [REDACTED] advised that he is certain of his identification of [REDACTED] because, in [REDACTED] opinion, [REDACTED] had the type of face that he would never forget.

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[REDACTED] did not have any trouble with [REDACTED] during the period of time that [REDACTED] the bar located near [REDACTED]. The only conversation that [REDACTED] had with [REDACTED] was on one occasion when [REDACTED] went to [REDACTED] and asked him to remove some trash which had been piled by [REDACTED] in the alley behind his bar. [REDACTED] said that he would remove the trash and eventually did so. [REDACTED] advised that he did not go into [REDACTED] bar because he understood from talking to individuals in the neighborhood that Negroes were not welcome in this bar. [REDACTED] actually heard from individuals in the neighborhood that Negroes who had gone into the bar as customers had been beaten up by white customers inside the bar. [REDACTED] stated that this information is strictly hearsay and he does not know the names of the individuals from whom he heard it. He has not talked directly to any individual who has been beaten up inside of [REDACTED] bar.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 6/11/84

[redacted] (No Middle Name) [redacted] Negro male,
 born [redacted]
 [redacted] was contacted at [redacted]
 [redacted] was advised of the official identities
 of the interviewing Agents and that the interview concerned a
 civil rights investigation regarding [redacted]
 provided the following information:

He knows the individual who [redacted]
 which is located next door to [redacted] He knows this
 individual merely as [redacted] (Last Name Unknown). He has known [redacted]
 as long as [redacted] the bar, the exact date of which is not
 recalled to [redacted] frequented [redacted] on occasion.
 [redacted] always felt comfortable there. [redacted] did not have
 any problems in the bar himself, nor did he notice any particular
 problems towards blacks and as long as they were not trouble-
 makers. [redacted] advised that he got along well with [redacted] The
 clientele within the bar was generally racially mixed and was
 primarily co-workers of [redacted] from the Chrysler Corporation.

[redacted] stated specifically that [redacted] often bought
 him drinks.

[redacted] advised that he never knew [redacted] to be a violent
 individual or at all prejudiced toward minorities.

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Investigation on 6/8/84 at Detroit, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408
 by SAs [redacted] and MTG/dib Date dictated 6/11/84

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Date: 6/6/84
Edition: 3A

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44-2408
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: DETROIT

Indexing:

Potential Chin jurors questioned

By TIM KISKA
Free Press Staff Writer

Potential jurors for the highly publicized trial of two men accused of violating the civil rights of the slain Vincent Chin were quizzed by a judge and attorneys Tuesday on their views from Japanese auto imports to nude dancing.

Twenty-eight potential jurors, summoned individually before U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor, were asked a series of questions intended to uncover whatever biases they might have that would prevent them from rendering a fair verdict.

Eleven potential jurors, most of whom said they had made up their minds about the case, did not make the cut.

The U.S. government contends that Michael Nitz and Ronald Ebens violated the civil rights of Chin, an American of Chinese descent, by beating him to death in the parking lot of a Highland Park fast food restaurant in June 1982. The federal grand jury indictment, which was handed down in November 1983, contends the slaying was racially motivated.

Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz pleaded no contest to a reduced charge of manslaughter Feb. 2, 1983. The next month Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman sentenced

each to three years of probation and \$3,780 in fines.

The probationary sentences touched off a furor locally and nationally, particularly among Asian Americans.

About 1,000 people marched on the U.S. Courthouse in downtown Detroit in May 1983 to protest what they believed was an unjust sentence.

MEANWHILE, protest rallies were held in Windsor, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York.

Newspapers from as far away as China carried stories about the sentences Chin's killers received.

Defense attorneys have argued to the judge that the publicity surrounding the case makes it virtually impossible to find prospective jurors from metropolitan Detroit who have not formed an opinion.

Although the judge has ruled the case should be tried here, she has said she would move it if she is convinced during jury selection that Ebens and Nitz cannot be tried fairly here.

Potential jurors were asked:
• If they have any strong feelings about

Japanese car imports. Only one person said she did but also said she could put it behind her. Attorneys in the case say Chin may have been mistaken for a Japanese-American citizen.

• If they knew about the case. Many people said they had heard about the case, but some also said they understood that the case involved different charges and that they would maintain an open mind about the evidence. However, some were bumped from the selection list when they said they would refuse to forget what they had heard.

"I have formulated some pretty strong opinions," one man told the judge. He was dismissed. Another admitted to signing a petition circulated by the American Citizens for Justice, a civil rights group that has been active in the Chin case. He, too, was disqualified.

• They would be so offended by testimony involving heavy drinking, a nude bar and profanity that they would be unable to render a fair verdict. One woman said she might discount the testimony of a nude dancer.

Jury selection, which may take one to two weeks, will continue today.
The trial is expected to last about a month.

Sent To Bureau

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SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 7 1984	
FBI-DETROIT	
WGB	
44A2408-178	



Free Press Artwork by MOSES HARRIS

From left: Michael Nitz, Judge Anna Diggs Taylor, three defense attorneys, Ronald Ebens and a potential juror.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

DETROIT NEWS

Date: 6/9/84
Edition: 3C

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44-2408
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: DETROIT

Indexing:

Attorneys select 80 to face test as Chin case jurors

By Don Ball
News staff writer

The first step in selecting a jury to hear the Vincent Chin civil rights case in Federal Judge Anna Diggs Taylor's court is complete.

A federal court record of 158 potential jurors were interviewed over the past four days before Judge Taylor, and opposing attorneys were able to agree on a panel of 80 impartial persons. They will be subject next week to the peremptory challenge process, which permits attorneys to dismiss jurors without divulging their reason.

Ronald Ebens, 45, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 26, both of East Detroit, are accused in the case of violating Chin's civil rights by beating him fatally for racial reasons.

Ebens and Nitz pleaded guilty before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Charles Kaufman to manslaughter charges in Chin's death. He placed them on probation and fined each \$3,700 on March 15 of last year.

The sentence touched off international protests.

A federal grand jury indicted Ebens and Nitz last November on charges of depriving Chin of his civil rights. Conviction on each charge carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Judge Taylor granted 20 peremptory challenges to each defendant and gave the government 15. While the number of peremptory challenges is unusually high, the ratio of challenges between the government and defense is normal.

44-2408-179
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUN 12 1984
FBI-DETROIT
WGT

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FOI/PA
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Total Deleted Page(s) = 40
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Chin jury could be eated by Wednesday

By Don Ball
News Staff Writer

Jury selection is moving briskly in the Vincent Chin federal civil rights case despite strong opinions on both sides of the issue.

Testimony could begin before Judge Anna Diggs Taylor Wednesday, at least a week ahead of pretrial expectations.

During four days of screening last week, more than 90 percent of the 153 prospective jurors said they knew about the case, and nearly half were dismissed for prejudice against either the defendants or the government. A handful of others were excused for conventional reasons, such as poor health and economic hardship.

BUT SO SAID they could judge the case on the evidence, and render a fair and impartial verdict. They will return this week for the final step in the jury-selection process, which could be concluded Tuesday afternoon.

Tuesday's session will deal with peremptory challenges, those which opposing attorneys can use to dismiss jurors without giving any reason. The defense has been allotted 40 and the government 15.

The pretrial prejudice that surfaced last week resulted from widespread publicity given the case. Only eight of the potential jurors denied any knowledge of it.

DEFENDANTS IN the federal trial are Ronald Ebens, 45, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 26, both of East Detroit, charged with violating Chin's civil rights by beating him to death with a baseball bat for racial reasons.

There is no dispute over the basics of the case:



Judge Anna Diggs Taylor (in the foreground) questions a potential juror (back to artist). In background, left to right, are Kenneth R. Sasse, a member of the Federal Defender's office who is associate counsel for Nitz; Nitz; Miriam L. Siefer, Nitz's lead attorney from the defense office; Frank D. Eaman, lead attorney for defendant Ronald Ebens; David M. Lawson, associate counsel for Ebens; and Ebens. Eaman and Lawson were appointed by Judge Taylor to represent Ebens.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

DETROIT NEWS

Date: 6/10/84
Edition: 3A

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44-2408
or

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44-2408-180
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JUL 13 1984
FBI-DETROIT

Sent To Bureau

Ebens and Nitz brawled with Chin, a 37-year-old engineer from Oak Park, on the evening of June 19, 1982, in the Fancy Pants Tavern in Highland Park.

Chin fled and Ebens and Nitz pursued him after Ebens got a baseball bat from his car. They caught the slender, medium-sized Chin a few blocks away and Nitz held him while his brawny stepfather struck him over the head with the bat. Chin died four days later.

EBENS AND NITZ were charged in Wayne County Circuit Court with second-degree murder, and later pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

The incident attracted little publicity until March 1983 when Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman placed Ebens and Nitz on probation and fined each \$3,700. They could have received up to 15 years in prison.

The probationary sentences touched off a wave of outrage and protests across the nation and overseas. The U.S. Justice Department reopened the case in the face of strong demands by the Asian-American community and a grand jury indicted Ebens and Nitz in November on two civil rights charges:

④ Conspiring to deprive Chin of his constitutional right to enjoy a public accommodation, the Fancy Pants Tavern, because of his race.

④ Depriving Chin of his civil rights by fatally beating him because of his race.

Each count carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

THE ONLY question for the federal jury to decide is whether the fatal beating was racially motivated.

Jury selection was expedited under special procedures set up by Judge Taylor, Federal Court Executive John P. Mayer and other officials.

All potential jurors had to answer 30 written questions, including several dealing with their knowledge of the Chin case.

THEN THEY were interviewed individually in a relaxed courtroom setting by Judge Taylor from a list of questions ranging from prejudice about "Japanese car imports" to the credibility of go-go dancers, who are scheduled to appear as witnesses.

The questions were compiled by Judge Taylor, with help from government and defense attorneys, to fit the special circumstances of the Chin trial.

But it was routine questions — those traditionally asked of potential jurors in all criminal cases — that caused most of the last week's dismissals.

Most were excused because of unsatisfactory answers — all because of pretrial publicity — to questions dealing with these basic U.S. legal concepts:

④ A defendant must be presumed innocent until proven guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt."

④ An indictment is only a charge and cannot be considered evidence.

④ A juror must set aside preconceived beliefs and decide a case only on evidence admitted during the trial.

④ Refusal of a defendant to exercise his right not to testify should not be held as evidence of guilt.

News staff writer Earl Eldridge contributed to this article.

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Date: 6/13/84
Edition: 12B

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44-2408
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: DETROIT

Indexing:

16 Chin case jurors sworn in

DETROIT — Attorneys will make opening statements today in the trial of two men indicted on civil rights charges in the baseball-bat slaying of Vincent Chin.

U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor swore in a panel of 16 jurors Tuesday. She refused to allow federal attorneys to introduce an autopsy photograph of Chin's head but said they could show the baseball bat used by Ronald Ebens and his stepson Michael Nitz.



Vincent Chin

Defense attorneys argued that showing the bat might prejudice their case.

The judge also said the government can use testimony of a policeman who said that Ebens said, "Well, Mike, we got that. . . ."

44-2408-181

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

6/13/84

Date of transcription

JADWIGA BALINSKI SENAK, also known as Hattie Senak, white female, born August 26, 1908, was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent and that the interview concerned a civil rights investigation involving VINCENT CHIN. SENAK provided the following information:

She is basically aware of the VINCENT CHIN case from having read about it in the newspapers.

She previously owned Jo-Joe's Bar which was located at 8900 Van Dyke, Detroit, Michigan, along with her husband, THOMAS. She owned the bar for approximately 16 years. She sold it and moved out of that area in 1976. Her husband, THOMAS, died in 1977.

Jo-Joe's Bar had a primarily caucasian clientele although some blacks did frequent the bar, especially during the last few years that she and her husband owned it. She does not recall any racial problems between whites and blacks occurring in the past. Specifically, she does not recall an incident that occurred in 1974 involving three white males and one Negro male in which the Negro male received verbal abuse with racial overtones from at least one of the white males. She does not recall asking a Negro male individual to leave the bar in order to avoid trouble from white males.

SENAK advised that she is 75 years of age and might possibly have forgotten this incident. She acknowledged that the incident could have taken place in her bar approximately ten years ago.

SENAK was displayed a photograph of [redacted] and she advised that she does not recognize the individual as having been a regular customer at her bar. She further advised that she does not recognize the name of [redacted] as a former customer. She stated that she does not recall the name [redacted] as a former customer of the bar.

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Investigation on 6/13/84 at Harsens Island, Michigan File # Detroit 44A-2408

by SA [redacted] *alb* Date dictated 6/13/84

b6
b7c

Date 6/15/84

TO: *[Signature]* DIRECTOR, FBI

Bureau File Number

44A-2408

Field Office File Number

C-4
 Squad or RA Number

- X if a joint FBI/DEA (or other Federal Agency) operation.

- X if case involves corruption of a public official (Federal, State or Local).

FROM: SAC, DETROIT

SUBJECT:

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -
 VICTIM
 CR (A)
 OO: DETROIT

Investigative Assistance or Techniques Used			
Were any of the investigative assistance or techniques listed below used in connection with accomplishment being claimed? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - If Yes, rate each used as follows: 1 = Used, but did not help 2 = Helped, but only minimally 3 = Helped, substantially 4 = Absolutely essential			
1. Acctg Tech Assistance	Rating	6. ELSUR - Title III	Rating
2. Aircraft Assistance		7. Hypnosis Assistance	
3. Computer Assistance		8. Ident Div Assistance	
4. Consensual Monitoring		9. Informant Information	
5. ELSUR - FISC		10. Lab Div Exams	
11. Lab Div Field Support	Rating	12. Pen Registers	Rating
13. Photographic Coverage		14. Polygraph Assistance	
15. Search Warrants Executed		16. Show Money Usage	Rating
17. Surveill. Sqd Asst		18. SWAT Team Action	
19. Telephone Toll Records		20. Undercover Operation	
21. Visual Invest - Analysis (VIA)			

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b7c

A. Preliminary Judicial Process (Number of subjects)	Complaints	Informations	Indictments	D. Recoveries, Restitutions, Court Ordered Forfeitures or Potential Economic Loss Prevented (PELP)				
				Property or PELP Type Code *	Recoveries	Restitutions	Court Ordered Forfeitures	Potential Economic Loss Prevented
B. Arrests, Locates, Summonses & Subpoenas (No. of subjects)	Subject Priority (See Reverse)							
	A	B	C					
FBI Arrests -					\$	\$	\$	\$
FBI Locates -					\$	\$	\$	\$
Number of Subjects of FBI Arrests Who Physically Resisted					\$	\$	\$	\$
Number of Subjects of FBI Arrests Who Were Armed					\$	\$	\$	\$
Criminal Summons					\$	\$	\$	\$
	Subpoenas Served <u>1</u>							
C. Release of Hostages: (Number of Hostages Released)	Hostages Held By Terrorists _____; All Other Hostage Situations _____			E. Civil Matters	Government Defendant		Government Plaintiff	
				Amount of Suit	\$		\$	
				Settlement or Award	\$		\$	
				Enter AFA Payment Here				

F. Final Judicial Process: Judicial District _____ (Use two letter state abbreviations per U.S. Post Office Guide. For Example - The Northern District of Texas as ND TX; The District of Maine as ME in the state field only.)

Subject 1 - Name -	District	State	Subject's Description Code *											
<input type="checkbox"/> Pretrial <input type="checkbox"/> Diversion <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal <input type="checkbox"/> Acquittal	- Convictions - Enter conviction and sentence data in space at right. If more than four sections are involved, limit to the four most relevant.	<input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Plea <input type="checkbox"/> Trial	Conviction			In-Jail Term		Suspended		Probation		Fine		
			Title	Section	Counts	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos			
														\$
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														\$

Subject 2 - Name -	District	State	Subject's Description Code *											
<input type="checkbox"/> Pretrial <input type="checkbox"/> Diversion <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal <input type="checkbox"/> Acquittal	- Convictions - Enter conviction and sentence data in space at right. If more than four sections are involved, limit to the four most relevant.	<input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Plea <input type="checkbox"/> Trial	Conviction			In-Jail Term		Suspended		Probation		Fine		
			Title	Section	Counts	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos			
														\$
														\$
														\$

Subject 3 - Name -	District	State	Subject's Description Code *											
<input type="checkbox"/> Pretrial <input type="checkbox"/> Diversion <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal <input type="checkbox"/> Acquittal	- Convictions - Enter conviction and sentence data in space at right. If more than four sections are involved, limit to the four most relevant.	<input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Plea <input type="checkbox"/> Trial	Conviction			In-Jail Term		Suspended		Probation		Fine		
			Title	Section	Counts	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos			
														\$
														\$
														\$

Attach additional forms if reporting final judicial process on more than three subjects.

Remarks: On 6/11/84, a US District Court subpoena was served on

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b7c

44A-2408-183
 SEARCHED _____
 SERIALIZED *[Signature]*
 INDEXED _____
 FILED *[Signature]*

2 - Bureau
 2 - Field Office Detroit (1 - 66-5093)

See codes on reverse side. Subject description codes in Section F are required only when reporting a conviction.
 ** Identify the other Federal Agency(ies) in the Remarks Section.
 MTG/dib

[Signature]
 FBI/DOJ

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 6/12/84

1

[redacted] ROCKOLA
MANUFACTURING COMPANY, 800 North Kedzie, Chicago, Illinois,
was served with a United States District Court (USDC),
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN, subpoena to appear for the
trial of United States vs [redacted]

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b7C

44A2408-184

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUN 15 1984	
[redacted]	
ROIT	
[signature]	

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Investigation on 6/5/84 at Chicago, Illinois File # 44A-3264

by SA [redacted] SLK/dc Date dictated 6/6/84

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
memorandum

DATE: JUNE 12, 1984

REPLY TO ATTENTION: SAC, CHICAGO (44A-3264) (RUC) (SQUAD 12)

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

TO: VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM;
CIVIL RIGHTS (A);
OO: DETROIT

SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (C-4)

Re Detroit TT to Director, June 5, 1984.

Enclosed for Detroit is an original FD-302 of [REDACTED] dated December 28, 1983 and an original and copy of an FD-302 reflecting service of a subpoena on [REDACTED] on June 5, 1984.

As no further investigation remains at Chicago, this matter is RUC.

② - Detroit (Enc. 3)
1 - Chicago
SLK/dc
(3)

44A-2408-186

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 15 1984	
DETROIT	
FORM NO. 10	
(41 CFR) 101-11.6	

[REDACTED]

-1*-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

DETROIT FREE PRESS

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Date: 6/15/84

Edition: 3A

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44A-2408

or
Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

Indexing:

Vincent provoked the fight friend says at Chin trial

By TIM KISKA
Free Press Staff Writer

Vincent Chin started the fight that ultimately claimed his life, a witness testified in the federal trial of two men accused of violating Chin's civil rights.

"Vincent provoked the fight," said Jimmy Choi, a friend of Chin who was with him the night of his death.

Choi testified Thursday during the second day of testimony that after bouncers in Highland Park's Fancy Pants Lounge broke up a scuffle between Chin and Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz, Chin told the men as they were about to leave: "C'mon, chickens---s, let's fight some more."

There was little agreement in the testimony of Choi and three other witnesses in the trial of Ebens, 44, and his stepson, Nitz, 25, about what happened the night of June 19, 1982, when Chin was beaten with a baseball bat. He died four days later.

EBENS PLEADED GUILTY and Nitz pleaded no contest before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Charles Kaufman to a manslaughter charge in Chin's death. Each got three years' probation and was fined \$3,780.

The sentences sparked an international protest that they were too lenient. A federal grand jury indicted Ebens and Nitz in November on charges of violating Chin's civil rights.

Witnesses testifying Thursday gave differing accounts of the incident that preceded Chin's fatal beating:

- Racine Colwell, a dancer at the lounge, said she heard Ebens yell at Chin: "It's because of you little motherf---s that we're out of work." According to Colwell, Chin responded by saying, "I'm not little motherf---," and shoved Ebens. There was no testimony from Colwell about any racial epithets on the night of June 19.

- Robert Sirokey, a co-worker with Chin in Oak Park and his companion the night of his death, said he heard the word "Chink."

"I was laughing, having a good time. All of a sudden I hear the word 'Chink,'" Sirokey said. Sirokey could not identify either Nitz or Ebens Thursday.

- Choi, a friend of Chin, said he did not hear the word "Chink" but did hear the word "Nip."

Choi said he told the men, "We are not Japanese." None of the witnesses testified that Nitz uttered any racial slurs, though some witnesses said Nitz aided Ebens in the scuffles.

Choi, a witness to Chin's beating by Ebens, also testified in detail about how Chin was bludgeoned in the middle of Woodward Avenue.

After running from the men in the parking lot of

44A2408-187

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NBD

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The Fancy Pants, Chin and Choi stopped at a McDonald's restaurant in Highland Park "because there were a lot of people there," Choi said.

EBENS TOOK a swing with a baseball bat at Chin's knees, according to Choi, and then a second swing at Chin's chest.

At that point, according to Choi, Chin collapsed in the middle of Woodward, where Ebens hit Chin in the head several times with the bat.

"It was sort of like slow motion. I saw another blow. . . . The man was in a frenzy."

After a security guard drew a gun on Ebens and forced him to drop the bat, Choi cradled Chin's bloodied head in his arms.

According to Choi, these were Chin's last words, which were spoken in Chinese.

"Fight. Fight. It's not fair. It's not fair. . . ."



Free Press Artwork by MOSES HARRIS

Jimmy Choi testifies about how Ronald Ebens held a bat when looking for Vincent Chin. "It was sort of like slow motion," Choi said of Ebens' swings to Chin's head. "I saw another blow. . . . The man was in a frenzy."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



Race subpoena shelved

A resolution granting subpoena power for a legislative investigation of Michigan's horse racing industry was returned quietly to committee in the state Senate.

The measure, which had been on the Senate calendar for some time, was unnecessary, according to Senate Republican leader John Engler, R-Mt. Pleasant.

After a recent series of Detroit News articles on the industry, the Senate Agriculture Committee began investigating allegations of race-fixing, illegal bookmaking and druggings at Michigan racetracks. The FBI also was asked to look into the tracks.

Sen. Nick Smith, R-Addison, had requested authority to subpoena individuals and records in connection with the Senate probe.

Engler said that failure to grant the request should not damage Smith's investigation. The resolution was returned to committee "simply because it was (Smith's) judgment that it was not going to be necessary," Engler said. "I didn't feel even if he got it he would use it."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

DETROIT NEWS

Date: 6/15/84

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Character: 44A-2408

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

DETROIT NEWS

Date: JUNE 14, 1984

Edition: PAGE 3A

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44A-2408

or
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Submitting Office: DETROIT

Indexing:

Witnesses tell of beating death

Chin trial jury hears conflicting stories

By Don Ball
News Staff Writer

Witnesses in the Vincent Chin civil rights trial differed over whether Ronald Ebens made racist remarks to Chin before beating him to death with a baseball bat after a brawl in a Highland Park nightspot.

Chin died June 23, 1982, four days after the beating. Ebens, 45, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 26, both of East Detroit, are accused in the federal court trial of violating the civil rights of Chin by killing him for racial reasons. Chin, 27, of Oak Park, was a Chinese-American. Testimony began yesterday in the case, which drew international attention when Ebens and Nitz received probationary sentences in Wayne Circuit

Court after Ebens pleaded guilty to manslaughter charges and Nitz pleaded no contest.

The brawl in the Fancy Pants Tavern, which featured a topless-bottomless dancing, ended four blocks away outside a McDonald's restaurant on Woodward, with Chin lying on the pavement near death from a fractured skull. Ebens had struck him four times with the bat and was ready to hit him again, witnesses said, before he was stopped by off-duty Highland Police Officer Michael B. Gardenhire, moonlighting as a security guard at McDonald's.

OTHER WITNESSES offered conflicting accounts of what happened between the

Continued on Page 8A



NEWSART/WILLIAM AMENDA

Jury listens to testimony in the Vincent Chin federal civil rights trial.

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FBI-DETROIT
WOD

Sent To Bureau

time Chin and his assailants left the tavern and reached McDonald's.

Gary Koivu, a friend who accompanied Chin to the Fancy Pants, testified that the brawl started after Ebens called Chin an obscene name and Chin retaliated by pushing him.

Racine Caldwell, a go-go dancer at the tavern, testified that the fight began when Ebens told Chin: "It's because of you little (obscenity) that we're out of work."

Ms. Caldwell said Chin then walked over and "pushed Ebens on the shoulder hard."

SHE SAID BOTH men started punching and Nitz joined his stepson.

Next, Ms. Caldwell said, Ebens and Chin swung chairs at each other, but only Nitz was hit, suffering a cut on the head.

She said that while Chin was being

escorted out by a tavern employe he turned and yelled at Ebens: "Well, I'll be outside waiting."

Witnesses said the fight began again in the tavern parking lot, but Chin fled when Ebens armed himself with a baseball bat from Nitz' car.

KOIVU TESTIFIED that Chin outran Ebens, who then returned to the parking lot and left in Nitz' car.

"I sent Jimmy Choi (a friend) over to join Vincent, whom I could see standing on Woodward and I waited for another of Vincent's friends to come out of the Fancy Pants," Koivu told the jury.

He said that later Ebens, waving the bat threateningly, chased him and the other friend, who had armed himself with a tire iron, when they went over to Woodward Avenue.

Gardenhire testified that he ordered Ebens at gunpoint to hand over the bat.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Federal jury in Chin case hears 2 sides of beating

By TIM KISKA
Free Press Staff Writer

Was Vincent Chin's fatal beating in the middle of Woodward Avenue a case of "ugly racism turned violent," as federal prosecutor S. Theodore Merritt told a federal jury Wednesday?

Or did Chin, as defense attorneys said in opening arguments, provoke the baseball-bat beating by quarreling drunkenly in a Highland Park nightclub that featured nude dancers?

A federal jury Wednesday got the two versions of the Vincent Chin tragedy in opening arguments of the case that will try to sort out answers about his death.

Ronald Ebens, 44, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 25, are accused of violating Chin's civil rights in a racially motivated attack. Merritt told the jury that Ebens called Chin, an American of Chinese descent, a "Chink" and said: "Because of you, mother-----, we're out of work."

CHIN WAS BEATEN on June 19, 1982. Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz no contest to a reduced charge of manslaughter Feb. 2, 1983. A month later, civil rights protests were launched locally and nationally when Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman sentenced each man to three years' probation and \$3,780 in fines.

A federal grand jury indicted Ebens and Nitz last November on the civil rights charge.

The trial, which began with jury selection more than a week ago before U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor, does not question whether Ebens beat Chin with Nitz's bat. The issue is whether racism or alcohol led Ebens, Nitz and Chin to the fatal confrontation.

Merritt said in opening remarks that Chin, 27, had been to a bar with friends celebrating his pending marriage. They left, bought a bottle of vodka and smuggled it

See CHIN, Page 16A

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Date: 6/14/84

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Classification:

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44A2408-190

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FBI-DETROIT	

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Sent To Bureau

into the Fancy Pants lounge, a club with no liquor license.

David Lawson, Ebens' attorney, said the melee that followed was not a civil rights case, but a bar fight among a group of angry and intoxicated men.

Lawson, who admitted his client had been barhopping, said Chin became upset when a dancer named Starlene danced in front of Ebens' and Nitz's table rather than his own. Chin began insulting the dancer, Lawson said, and "Ronald Ebens came to her defense and told her she was doing a good job . . . He did not use a racial term."

Ebens and Chin exchanged profanities, Lawson said, but "these were not meant to be fighting words. Mr. Chin initiated the first contact by punching Ronald Ebens."

CHIN, his friends, Ebens and Nitz were ejected by the Fancy Pants management after a fight in which chairs were flying, according to both the prosecution and defense.

Nitz's attorney, Kenneth Sasse, said that when the group was outside the club Chin said: "Come on chickens---, let's fight some more."

Lawson said Nitz and Ebens were driving to a hospital to get a cut treated when they saw Chin outside a McDonald's restaurant on Woodward and "something snapped in Mr. Ebens." Lawson said Ebens will testify that he had too much to drink that night and cannot remember some details of what happened. "What happened that night," Lawson said, "was not on account of Mr. Chin's race."

OFFICER Michael Gardenhire, a 9½-year veteran of the Highland Park Police Department who also works as a security guard at the McDonald's, used the baseball bat to demonstrate the beating Chin took as he lay on Woodward. Gardenhire swung the bat much as a golfer would swing a club and said Chin was hit in the head four times.

Dr. Jeffrey Crecelius, a neurosurgeon, testified that when Chin was brought to Henry Ford Hospital at 10:21 p.m., "most of the brain had already ceased functioning." Chin died four days later.

The victim's blood alcohol level, Sellies testified, was 0.14. Michigan law considers intoxication 0.10 or higher.

Highland Park police officer Larry Robinson testified that, as he took Ebens and Nitz to jail, Ebens said: "Well, Mike, we got that . . ." Robinson did not finish the sentence.

Merritt said there will be testimony to show that Ebens had been involved in a racial incident earlier, taunting a black man and chasing him out of a bar.



Sketch by CAROLE KABRIN (Courtesy of WXYZ-TV)

Michael Gardenhire, a Highland Park police officer, uses a bat in court Wednesday to show how he says Vincent Chin was beaten.

DETROIT NEWS

Date: 6/22/84

Edition: 8A

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title: b6
b7c

Character: 88-16573*

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

Killer denied insurance payoff

HILLSDALE — (AP) — A probate judge ruled that a Hillsdale County man killed his wife with a lethal injection and is not entitled to more than \$200,000 in life insurance payments to her estate.

Shannon Mohr Davis, who was 25, died July 23, 1980, from a dose of a powerful muscle relaxant while horseback riding with her husband, David R. Davis, 39, on the couple's Hillsdale County farm, 100 miles west of Detroit. The couple had been married less than a year.

Hillsdale County Probate Judge Albert Neukom's ruling yesterday during a two-day civil trial stems from a civil suit filed by Mrs. Davis' parents, Robert and Lucille Mohr, of Toledo, to prevent Davis from collecting the insurance proceeds.

Davis, who remains a fugitive, was indicted in October 1981 for his wife's death and officials say he was last seen in December of that year in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.

Michigan inheritance law says Davis should be the heir if a will was not written. But Neukom upheld a Michigan statute which disqualifies a person as heir if the death was the result of a "felonious killing." Neukom turned over about \$200,000 in remaining proceeds to the parents.

Dr. Robert B. Forney Jr., a Medical College of Ohio toxicologist, testified for the first time publicly yesterday that he discovered the deadly drug succinylcholine chloride in Mrs. Davis' body.

The drug paralyzes the chest muscles that control breathing. Dr. Forney testified that he found two injection sites following a second autopsy on her body.

A federal judge in Detroit had ruled in February 1982 that Davis was no longer a beneficiary to the insurance policies, which were placed in an estate pending further suits.

Before his disappearance, Davis collected on three policies totaling \$40,000 and sued in U.S. District Court in Detroit to collect on three larger policies, including a \$220,000 payment upon accidental death.

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Witness demonstrating attack breaks bat used to kill Chin

by TIM KISKA
Free Press Staff Writer

So much for government exhibit 14 — the baseball bat used to kill Vincent Chin, and a key piece of evidence in the federal government's case.

Harold Fitzgerald, of Roseville, who witnessed Chin's beating, was asked Friday by a prosecutor to demonstrate before a federal jury how Chin was hit by Ronald Ebens, one of two defendants.

Fitzgerald got out of the

witness chair, smashed the bat against the floor and accidentally broke the Jackie Robinson-model Louisville Slugger into two pieces.

Many jurors and courtroom spectators were stunned as proceedings temporarily halted.

Half the courtroom chuckled in embarrassed amazement at the evidence being demolished. The other half appeared to be in shock.

U.S. DISTRICT Judge Anna

Diggs Taylor rolled her eyes back. Fitzgerald looked up as if to ask, "Have I done something wrong?"

None of the parties involved commented in court on the incident.

Ebens, 44, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 25, are being tried on civil rights charges in the June 19, 1982, slaying of Chin, 27.

In Wayne County Circuit

Court, Ebens had pleaded guilty and Nitz no contest to manslaughter charges, and each was sentenced to three years' probation and fined \$3,780.

A federal grand jury indicted the men on civil rights charges in November. The trial on those charges began June 5.

ALSO FRIDAY, Lily Chin, mother of the slain man, testified for six minutes.

She said her son had not had a drink at home on June 19, the day he was beaten.

Defense attorneys contend Chin was intoxicated during the scuffle that eventually resulted in his death.

Chin met friends at a bar on Eight Mile on the night of his beating and then stopped at his mother's home before going on to the Fancy Pants Lounge in Highland Park.

"I say, 'Don't go to the bar anymore,'" Mrs. Chin testified. "He say: 'Mom, just one last time.'"

Morris Cotton, a Highland Park police officer who also witnessed the slaying, described Ebens as being "in a rage" at the time of the beating.

The trial is scheduled to continue Tuesday.

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'Vincent provoked the fight,' friend says at Chin trial

By TIM KISKA
Free Press Staff Writer

Vincent Chin started the fight that ultimately claimed his life, a witness testified in the federal trial of two men accused of violating Chin's civil rights.

"Vincent provoked the fight," said Jimmy Choi, a friend of Chin who was with him the night of his death.

Choi testified Thursday during the second day of testimony that after bouncers in Highland Park's Fancy Pants Lounge broke up a scuffle between Chin and Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz, Chin told the men as they were about to leave: "C'mon, chickens---s, let's fight some more."

There was little agreement in the testimony of Choi and three other witnesses in the trial of Ebens, 44, and his stepson, Nitz, 25, about what happened the night of June 19, 1982, when Chin was beaten with a baseball bat. He died four days later.

EBENS PLEADED GUILTY and Nitz pleaded no contest before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Charles Kaufman to a manslaughter charge in Chin's death. Each got three years' probation and was fined \$3,780.

The sentences sparked an international protest that they were too lenient. A federal grand jury indicted Ebens and Nitz in November on charges of violating Chin's civil rights.

Witnesses testifying Thursday gave differing accounts of the incident that preceded Chin's fatal beating:

- Racine Colwell, a dancer at the lounge, said she heard Ebens yell at Chin: "It's because of you little motherf---s that we're out of work." According to Colwell, Chin responded by saying, "I'm not little motherf---s," and shoved Ebens. There was no testimony from Colwell about any racial epithets on the night of June 19.

- Robert Sirotsky, a co-worker with Chin in Oak Park and his companion the night of his death, said he heard the word "Chink."

"I was laughing, having a good time. All of a sudden I hear the word 'Chink,'" Sirotsky said. Sirotsky could not identify either Nitz or Ebens Thursday.

- Choi, a friend of Chin, said he did not hear the word "Chink" but did hear the word "Nip."

Choi said he told the men, "We are not Japanese." None of the witnesses testified that Nitz uttered any racial slurs, though some witnesses said Nitz aided Ebens in the scuffles.

Choi, a witness to Chin's beating by Ebens, also testified in detail about how Chin was bludgeoned in the middle of Woodward Avenue.

After running from the men in the parking lot of the Fancy Pants, Chin and Choi stopped at a McDonald's restaurant in Highland Park "because there were a lot of people there," Choi said.

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EBENS TOOK a swing with a baseball bat at Chin's knees, according to Choi, and then a second swing at Chin's chest.

At that point, according to Choi, Chin collapsed in the middle of Woodward, where Ebens hit Chin in the head several times with the bat.

"It was sort of like slow motion. I saw another blow. . . . The man was in a frenzy."

After a security guard drew a gun on Ebens and forced him to drop the bat, Choi cradled Chin's bloodied head in his arms.

According to Choi, these were Chin's last words, which were spoken in Chinese.

"Fight. Fight. It's not fair. It's not fair. . . ."



Free Press Artwork by MOSES HARRIS

Jimmy Choi testifies about how Ronald Ebens held a bat when looking for Vincent Chin. "It was sort of like slow motion," Choi said of Ebens' swings to Chin's head. "I saw another blow. . . . The man was in a frenzy."

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Nightclub brawl or racial incident?

Chin trial witnesses differ

By Don Ball
News Staff Writer

No one doubts that Ronald Ebens killed Vincent Chin, beating him to death in a brutal attack with a baseball bat.

The question to be decided by a jury of seven women and five men is whether the slaying was racially motivated or the tragic finale of a barroom brawl.

Analysis

There is testimony to support both conclusions in the trial before Federal Judge Anna Diggs Taylor in Detroit. The trial continues tomorrow.

The trial continues tomorrow.

EBENS, 45, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 26, both of East Detroit, are accused of violating Chin's civil rights by interfering with his use of a public accommodation, and later beating him to death, all because he was Chinese.

Chin, a 27-year-old engineer from

Oak Park, was attacked by Ebens on Woodward Avenue in front of a McDonald's restaurant in Highland Park on June 19, 1982. The beating climaxed a barroom brawl about an hour earlier at the nearby Fancy Pants Tavern.

Dozens of witnesses watched. Several have testified that Nitz held Chin while Ebens swung the bat in a berserk rage. One witness broke the bat in demonstrating in court the force with which Chin was hit. Chin died four days after the attack from massive head injuries.

Theodore Merritt and Amy Hay, U.S. Justice Department attorneys from Washington, have called 16 witnesses to testify about events beginning around 9 p.m. in the tavern.

ONLY THREE of the witnesses testified to alleged racial remarks made to Chin in the Fancy Pants and their versions varied. Their recollections of the alleged remarks were first made a matter of record months after the event.

However, even Chin's friends agreed that Chin started the brawl by walking around the stage in the Fancy Pants to either push or punch Ebens. They said he objected to remarks being made by either Ebens or Nitz.

Jimmy Choi said he heard the word, "Nip," coming from the direction of Ebens and Nitz, who were seated directly across the stage used by the Fancy Pants' nude women dancers.

However, Choi did not remember hearing the remark until last Oct. 5 when he testified before the grand jury. He did not mention the remark in several earlier recorded statements to the grand jury.

HE ALSO testified last Thursday that he replied, "We're not Japanese." He admitted under cross-examination that he had not remembered making the remark until he took the witness stand in Judge Taylor's court.

Robert E. Sirokey, another of Chin's companions, testified that he

"heard (the word) 'Chink' from across the stage."

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short distance and then returned.

Koivu said he could see Chin standing a block away on Woodward and sent Choi to tell him that they would drive around and pick him up.

HOWEVER, CHOI said he fled after Ebens said, "Come on, let's get this f---r."

Later, Koivu said, he and Siroskey armed themselves with a tire iron and went in search of Chin and Choi only to be chased by Ebens who said, "We're going to get your friend and you'll need more than a tire iron."

Defense attorneys have charged that some of the testimony about racist remarks was the result of coaching by Chin supporters seeking federal prosecution of Ebens and Nitz on civil rights charges after the two men were given only probation after admitting in a state court that they killed Chin.

Koivu, Choi and Siroskey admitted under cross-examination that they met with Liza Chan, an attorney who helped lead the campaign for federal intervention, in May 1983 to "get their stories together." Siroskey said the session was mainly to help him fill in gaps in his memory. A tape recording of the meeting has been given to defense attorneys.

Several months before the meeting, Ebens and Nitz pleaded guilty before Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman to a charge of manslaughter in Chin's death and on March 15, 1983, were placed on probation and fined \$3,700 each.

KAUFMAN'S sentence outraged Michigan citizens, sparked protest rallies by Asian groups across the nation and became an international incident.

The protests led to an order from Justice Department officials in Washington for a grand jury investigation of the Chin case, although U.S. Attorney Leonard R. Gilman had recommended against prosecution for lack of evidence on the basis of reports from the

FBI and Highland Park police.

Last Nov. 2 the grand jury indicted Ebens and Nitz on the two civil rights charges.

Only one witness to events after the brawl moved to the street testified to any racial mention.

JIMMY PERRY, then 19, said he offered to help Ebens and Nitz when he met them on a street near the tavern "because Nitz was bleeding from the head." He testified that they asked him to help "find (some) Chinese guys."

He testified that the two asked him to take them to a hospital for treatment of Nitz's head injury. The two men entered his car but then spotted Chin and Choi as they approached McDonald's on Woodward. They stopped the car and the attack followed.

The government plans to call two more witnesses before resting its case. Defense attorneys have told the jury that their witnesses will include Ebens and Nitz testifying in their own behalf.

Siroskey, who could not identify Ebens or Nitz in the courtroom, admitted under cross-examination that he had a lot to drink that night, that his "memory (of the events) sort of fades in and out" and that he did not remember hearing the word "Chink" until nearly a year later.

Gary Koivu, the fourth member of Chin's party, remembered only that he heard Chin say, "Don't call me a f---r. I'm not a f---r."

KOIVU SAID that he put his hand on Chin's arm and told him to forget it but then Ebens said, "I don't know if you're a little f---r or a big f---r, but we're all f---rs" and Chin went around the stage.

"Vince shoved Ebens and Ebens shoved him back and they started throwing blows," Koivu testified.

Racine Caldwell, a dancer at the tavern, said she was mingling with customers when she heard loud voices and saw Chin arguing with Ebens.

Ms. Caldwell said she heard someone say, "because of you little f---rs, we're out of work. I don't know if you're a big one or a little one" and Chin went around the table and "pushed Ebens on the shoulder hard."

THE FIGHT was broken up by bouncers and Chin and his party escorted out.

Koivu said Ebens and Nitz were taken to the lavatory to clean up because Nitz was bleeding from a head injury and said Chin called to them, "I'll be waiting outside."

Choi said that he, Chin and Koivu were waiting outside for Siroskey when Ebens and Nitz were escorted out and that Chin called out, "Let's fight again, chicken---s."

He said Ebens and Nitz went to a car, got out a baseball bat and Chin ran. He said the two men chased him a

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Witness tells of helping Chin on night of beating

By Don Ball
News Staff Writer

A witness testified that two men asked him to help them "find some Chinese guys" near a Highland Park nightspot on the night that Vincent Chin was fatally beaten.

Jimmy Lee Perry, 21, told a federal court jury yesterday that he entered their car and a few minutes later saw one of the men, Ronald Ebens, beat Chin with a baseball bat outside a nearby McDonald's restaurant. Chin, a 27-year-old Chinese-American engineer from Oak Park, died four days later.

In the car, Perry said, "they were talking about catching these Chinese guys and busting their heads."

THE BEATING followed a fight, which started about 10 p.m. on June 19, 1982, at the Fancy Pants Tavern, witnesses said, after racist remarks were made to Chin.

Ebens, 45, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 26, of East Detroit, are being tried on charges that they violated Chin's civil rights by killing him for racial reasons. They could receive life imprisonment, if convicted.

The prosecution is to rest its case Tuesday, and defense attorneys said they would call Ebens and Nitz to the stand.

Under prosecution questioning, Perry said he was walking down Woodward Avenue when he saw Chin vomiting near a bank building about a block from the Fancy Pants.

NEARBY, HE said, he saw Ebens and Nitz. Nitz's head was bleeding, he said, and Ebens was holding a bat. "I asked if they needed any help," Perry said, "and the younger guy offered me \$20 to help find the Chinese guys. We went to their car, and I picked up a brick. When we started out, I asked if they wanted to go to the hospital and they said 'yes,' but I didn't think they wanted to go there." Detroit Osteopathic Hospital is south of the McDonald's.

Perry said they saw Chin and Jimmy Choi, a friend of Chin's, sitting in front of McDonald's, and Nitz parked the car in a nearby parking lot.

"I saw Morris Cotton (a Highland Park police officer) in the McDonald's lot and told the men there was a cop

there, but Ebens said 'screw 'em,'" Perry said. "When I got out, I dropped my brick and went over to stand by Cotton. The two men snuck over to where the Chinese were sitting and the younger man went after one of the Chinese men, and the older man began hitting the other one with the bat."

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I SAW HIM HIT the Chinese man five or six times and when he fell down, the man kept hitting him in the head with the bat."

Other witnesses have said that Ebens struck Chin with the bat while Nitz held him.

Under cross-examination, Perry admitted giving different versions of the episode in the past.

ALTHOUGH HE testified yesterday that he didn't think Ebens and Nitz were drunk; he told an investigator last year that the two men "were drunk like they was blown out of their minds."

In an investigator's written statement, which Perry initialed, Perry also said there was no conversation in the car during the brief ride.

In response to a prosecution question on redirect

examination, Perry said he picked up the brick because he "thought there was going to be trouble."

Lily Chin, the adoptive mother of the dead man, was the last witness yesterday.

SHE SAID her son was 6 when he came to the United States in 1961 and received his citizenship papers four years later.

Mrs. Chin said she saw him at 7 p.m. on June 19 and believed him to be sober at that time.

Blood tests taken when Chin arrived at the emergency room of Ford Hospital at 10:21 showed a blood alcohol level of 0.14. A blood alcohol level of .10 constitutes legal intoxication in Michigan.

Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz pleaded no contest to manslaughter charges before Wayne Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman last year. Judge Kaufman provoked an international protest when he sentenced them to probation instead of prison. Under pressure from the Chinese-American community, the federal government began a grand jury investigation which led to the civil rights charges.

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Defendant fuzzy on how Chin was slain

By Don Ball
News Staff Writer

A tearful Ronald M. Ebens said he could not remember details of his fatal baseball bat beating of Vincent Chin, but denied that any race-baiting preceded the attack.

"Something snapped, it was almost audible," before he struck Chin with the bat, Ebens told a federal court jury yesterday.

Ebens broke down in tears for nearly 10 minutes as he testified about the attack on Chin. It occurred two years ago yesterday on Woodward in Highland Park in front of dozens of witnesses outside a McDonald's restaurant.

FOR THE most part, he answered in a clear, firm voice to questions by David Lawson, one of his court-appointed attorneys, and government prosecutor, S. Theodore Merritt.

Ebens, 45, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 26, both of East Detroit, are being tried on charges that they violated Chin's civil rights by beating him to death because he was Chinese. Maximum sentence is life imprisonment.

Ebens has admitted killing Chin, but denied any racial motivation. He and Nitz have contended that the attack was the climax of a drunken brawl touched off in the Fancy Pants Tavern, a Highland Park night-spot that featured nude dancing.

A husky, gray-haired man, Ebens said he could recall only some of the events of that night.

UNDER LAWSON'S questioning, Ebens said he and Nitz arrived at the Fancy Pants around 9 p.m. after drinking at several other bars, and that he was drunk.

"We sat at the stage just before the runway," Ebens said. "The only dancer I remember was a black woman." (Angela Rudolph, who has evaded defense efforts to bring her to court as a witness)

He said he saw some men sitting across the runway but did not notice that two were Chinese. Earlier testimony identified the men as Chin, Jimmy Choi, Gary Koivu and Robert Siroskey, and that Chin and Siroskey had been drinking heavily.

"I heard some comments coming across the runway about the black dancer, that she was a crummy dancer," Ebens said. "She moved away from that end of the runway and I told her 'don't worry about those guys, show them what a good dancer is.'"

LAWSON ASKED him if he could have made a remark about "f---rs" to the group across the stage, and Ebens said, "I don't know, I could have" but that was normal language for him, and he did not intend to insult them or provoke a fight.

He denied that he used the words "Nip" or "Chink" in his remarks.

Ebens continued:

"I remember an Oriental sitting second from the stage saying something to the person on his left and getting up, something about 'let's see,' but I didn't pay any attention because I was watching the dancer.



Ronald Ebens

"THE NEXT thing I know he's standing on my right, and he hit me. I don't know if he knocked me out of my chair or not. I know I was disoriented.

"I remember Mike (Nitz) coming over my shoulder and holding him off."

Ebens said he could not recall throwing punches but that he could have, and did not remember picking up and swinging a chair, but again, he said, he could have.

A bouncer broke up the fight, Ebens said, and he and Nitz went to the washroom to clean up cuts in his mouth and a 2-inch gash on Nitz's head.

HE SAID Siroskey came in and apologized three times for Chin, saying he was drunk.

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"When we came out of the wash-room we were asked to sit down and watch the rest of the show, but Mike wanted to get his head treated. We left and probably would have gone home then, except for what happened outside."

Ebens said Chin was waiting outside, and said "come on, let's fight some more' or words to that effect," and he was joined by Choi.

"Mike went to the car, got the bat and headed for them, and they took off running (toward Woodward) with Mike chasing them," Ebens said. "I hustled out on the street and watched Mike until Chin and Choi crossed Woodward."

"WHEN MIKE came back, I took the bat away from him, and we probably would have left, but Choi came back. I chased him to Woodward and then south about 50 yards and lost him."

"A young black fellow asked me if I wanted help and I said 'no,'" Ebens said. "I looked some more for Choi and then went back to the Fancy Pants."

Ebens said the young black man, identified as Jimmy Perry, was at the car when he got back and offered to show them the way to a nearby a hospital so Nitz could be treated for his head injury.

As they drove south on Woodward, Ebens said, "I saw the two Orientals sitting there, laughing and joking, and I told Mike to stop the car."

EBENS SAID he knows he left the car before it stopped moving, because the rear wheel ran over his foot.

"I ran toward them (Chin and Choi) and yelled 'you sonsabitches,' and they ran. I took a swing and hit Chin on the arm. Choi took off up the sidewalk, and Chin went out into the street."

"I don't know how Mike got there so fast, but he chased Chin into the street and started scuffling with him in the traffic. I headed toward him and something snapped, it was almost audible."

Lawson asked if he hit Chin, and Ebens said "not that I remember."

THEN LAWSON asked if he was trying to kill Chin and Ebens broke down into tears, sobbing almost inaudibly and struggling to regain his composure. Finally, he looked up and said "no."

"The next thing I remember," Ebens said, "I looked up and saw a man with a gun saying 'drop the bat.'"

"I did and went over to where he told me to sit."

In cross-examination, Merritt asked Ebens if he ever used the word "nigger" or "Jap" and Ebens said "yes" but denied ever saying "nip" or "chink," which earlier witnesses said were used in the Fancy Pants.

ASKED IF he had ever been in serious barroom brawls before or had chased someone with a bat to kill him, Ebens said, "no."

Merritt then said, "The only time you chased a man and beat him to death was because he was Vincent Chin, because he looked like Vincent Chin."

Before leaving the stand, Ebens said that his trouble that night was "too much to drink and too dumb to think."

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Rage, drinking led to Chin death, slayer says

By TIM KISKA
Free Press Staff Writer

Ronald Ebens, exactly two years after he fatally beat Vincent Chin with a baseball bat, told a federal jury Tuesday that he attacked the Chinese-American in a stupid, drunken rage.

"I never meant to kill him. I was just angry . . . too much to drink, too dumb to think," Ebens said. "Something just snapped. It was almost audible."

Ebens admitted Tuesday that he drank heavily during the day and night of June 19, 1982, the day he beat Chin with a baseball bat in the middle of Woodward Avenue in Highland Park. Chin died four days later at Henry Ford Hospital.

EBENS, 44, later pleaded guilty to manslaughter before Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Charles Kaufman. He was sentenced to three years' probation and was ordered to pay a \$3,780 fine. Ebens and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 25, were indicted by a federal grand jury in November on charges of violating Chin's civil rights.

Testifying in his defense, Ebens told the jury that he drank six "large" mugs of beer with dinner that day and may have had another drink or two while playing pool before going to the Fancy Pants Lounge in Highland Park.

Ebens described himself as being in an "excellent mood" when he arrived at the lounge, which features nude entertainers.

WHEN HE ARRIVED, Chin and his party were harassing a dancer on the stage, Ebens said. "I don't like seeing people pushed around, for a start."

Ebens said he told the dancer, "Don't worry about these guys. Show 'em what a good dancer is."

Ebens said he did not remember calling anybody "chink" or "nlp" or saying "Because of you motherf---s, we're out of work," as several witnesses have testified in the trial.

The next thing Ebens said he remembered was that a man, later identified as Chin, punched him in the mouth.

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Ebens said he vaguely remembers details of the scuffle that ensued in the bar, but he said he does not remember hurling any racial epithets at Chin or his party.

After the fight, Ebens said, his mood turned sour.

Upon leaving the Fancy Pants, Ebens said, he was challenged to fight by Chin, and he then grabbed a bat.

Asked to describe his mood, Ebens said: "Pumped up. Between the alcohol and the adrenaline, I was pumped."

He said he was going to break the rear window of the car Chin had been riding in, but he changed his mind. Instead, he said, he and Nitz began heading to the hospital so that doctors could treat Nitz's head wound.

HOWEVER, EBENS admitted Tuesday that en route to the hospital he still

had revenge on his mind: "I was angry. . . . I was going to inflict pain."

On the way to the hospital, Ebens spotted Chin and a friend, Jimmy Choi, sitting in front of a McDonald's on Woodward Avenue.

"They were sitting there, laughing and goofing. It was real funny to 'em. . . . They had sucker-punched me. In my mind, they were responsible for splitting Mike's head open," Ebens said.

Ebens said he remembers chasing Chin into the street but does not remember beating him.

He broke down Tuesday when asked to talk about the slaying.

After sobbing for about 1 1/2 minutes, he was asked by attorney David Lawson, "Were you trying to kill him?"

"No," answered Ebens.

Testimony is scheduled to resume today.



Sketch by CAROLE KABRIN, courtesy of WXYZ-TV

Ronald Ebens on the stand: "I never meant to kill him. I was just angry. . . too much to drink, too dumb to think."

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NO RACIAL EPITHETS, HE SAYS**Chin defendant testifies**By TIM KISKA
Free Press Staff Writer

Michael Nitz, taking the witness stand in his defense, told a federal jury Wednesday that he was angry with Vincent Chin on the evening of June 19, 1982 — the day Chin was beaten to death with a baseball bat in the middle of Woodward — but that he didn't recall any racial epithets being spoken and that he didn't mean to become involved in the beating.

His testimony came shortly before defense attorneys rested their case in the trial of two men accused of violating the civil rights of Chin.

Nitz, 25, pleaded no contest and his

stepfather Ronald Ebens, 44, pleaded guilty to a charge of manslaughter in the slaying of Chin. Both were sentenced to three years' probation by Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman.

The two men then were indicted last fall by a federal grand jury, which charged that the killing was racially motivated.

Nitz said he "wasn't really aware" of Chin or members of his party until Chin walked up to Ebens in the Fancy Pants Lounge and punched him in the mouth.

NITZ SAID that after the scuffle, he noticed his head had been cut in the fight when he looked down and saw blood dripping on his tennis shoes.

While in the bathroom tending the wound, Nitz said, Robert Siroskey, a friend of Chin's, approached Nitz and apologized for the incident.

Later, according to Nitz, Chin challenged him to a fight in the parking lot of the Fancy Pants by saying, "Why don't you learn how to fight?"

"I WAS REALLY angry," Nitz said when asked to describe his feelings immediately before Chin was beaten

with a baseball bat. "I was hit over the head with a chair, and there were more of them (in Chin's party) than there were of us."

"Did you want to see Mr. Chin killed?" asked Miriam Siefer, his attorney.

"No," said Nitz.

During cross examination, government prosecutor S. Theodore Merritt chided Nitz for not stopping his stepfather from beating Chin to death.

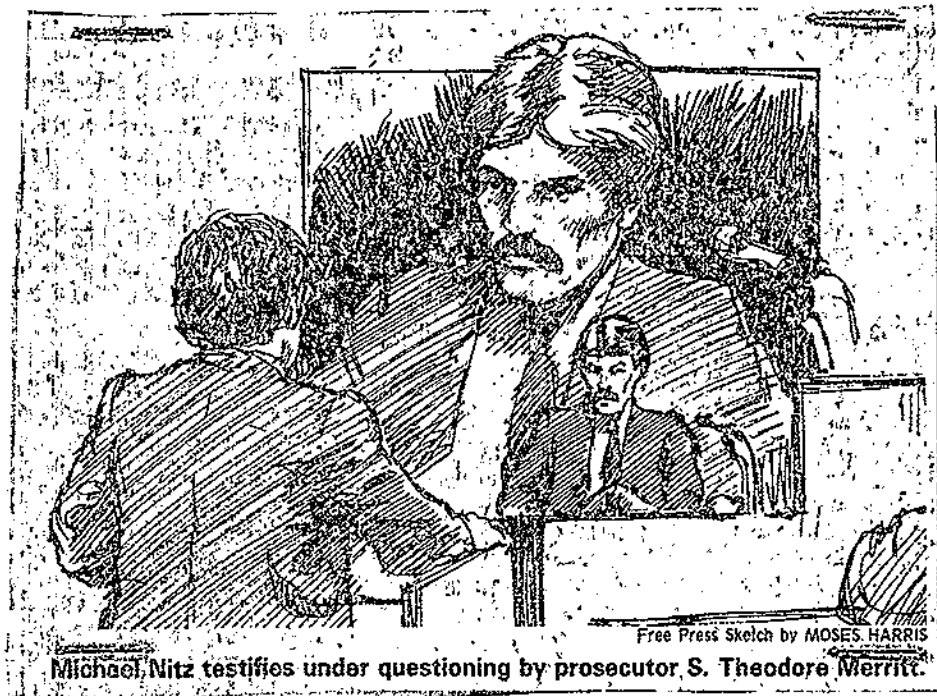
"While he (Ebens) was hitting him (Chin) in the head with a baseball bat, you stood by and watched?" asked Merritt.

"It happened so fast," said Nitz.

44A-2408-196

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SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 21 1984	
FBI-DETROIT	
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Sent To Bureau



Michael Nitz testifies under questioning by prosecutor S. Theodore Merritt.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

6/16/84

Date of transcription

[redacted] residence address and telephone [redacted] business address and telephone [redacted] after being advised of the official identity of the interviewing agent provided the following information:

b6
b7C

[redacted] were married when she was [redacted] years old and he was [redacted] years old. [redacted] was not in love with [redacted] when they got married and she knew the marriage would probably end. While they were married [redacted] continued going out with other women and by himself. [redacted] advised she was not going to live like that so she initiated the divorce.

The divorce records show that grounds for divorce was physical cruelty. This is totally false. In 1962, there was no such thing as mental cruelty as there is today. In 1962, physical cruelty was used to make it easier to get a divorce.

During their marriage [redacted] was not a violent person. He was hot-tempered, but nothing out of the ordinary. When he drank alcoholic beverages he got a little belligerent, but nothing uncontrollable. [redacted] hit her once. This was after she filed for divorce but before it was final. [redacted] came home from work and found [redacted] in her apartment. She told him to get out and tried to kick him. She missed and [redacted] punched [redacted] in the mouth.

b6
b7C

[redacted] has not seen [redacted] in over twenty years so she does not know what he is like now. [redacted] talks to [redacted] once in awhile. [redacted] name and home telephone numbers are [redacted] strongly believes [redacted] is not sure if she will talk to the Government.

The following description of [redacted] was obtained through the interview:

Name [redacted]
Race White
Sex Female

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b7C

5/30/84

Las Vegas, Nevada

LV 44A-1058

Investigation on

at

File #

DOE 44 A2408-1971

SA [redacted] imb

5/30/84

by

Date dictated

LV 44A-1058

Continuation of FD-302 of _____, On 5/30/84, Page 2

Date of birth
Place of birth
Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes

b6
b7C

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 6/20/84

TO: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408)

FROM: SAC, LAS VEGAS (44A-1058) (RUC)

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -
VICTIM;
CIVIL RIGHTS
OO: Detroit

Re Las Vegas teletype to Detroit, dated 5/30/84.

Enclosed for Detroit are the original and one (1)
copy of an FD-302 regarding the interview with [Redacted]
[Redacted] on 5/30/84.

② - Detroit (Enc. 2) *Am*
1 - Las Vegas
KA:kpm
(3)

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Approved: *[Signature]*

Transmitted _____

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(Time)

Per _____

44A-2408-198

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JUN 26 1984	
FBI - DETROIT	

★ U.S. Government Printing Office: 1984-0-30673/6249

DETROIT NEWS

Date: 6/27/84

Edition: 3A

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Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44-2408

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

It's up to jury

Prosecutor: Chin slaying a 'lynching'

By Don Ball
News Staff Writer

A U.S. prosecutor said the death of Chinese-American Vincent Chin was "a modern-day lynching" by Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz using "a (baseball) bat instead of a rope."

But defense attorneys said the 27-year-old Chin, an engineer from Oak Park, was fatally beaten with a bat by Ebens in a berserk rage after a drunken brawl in Highland Park's Fancy Pants Lounge and neither Ebens nor his stepson, Nitz, acted out of racial animosity.

The conflicting positions were taken during more than three hours of closing arguments yesterday in the Chin civil rights case in U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor's court.

NOW THE jury of seven women and five men must decide whether Ebens, 45, and Nitz, 26, both of East Detroit, violated Chin's civil rights by killing him because he was Chinese. If convicted, they could be sentenced to up to life in prison.

Ebens is an unemployed auto-worker and the father of a daughter. Nitz, unmarried, is employed as a furniture deliverer.

The jury began deliberations at 3:15 p.m. yesterday. About an hour later it sent out a note asking if just one of the defendants could be convicted of conspiracy. Judge Taylor said no, reminding the jury that a person can't conspire with himself.

Soon after, the jury left for a hotel where it was sequestered for the night. Deliberations were to resume at 9 a.m. today.

THE CLOSING arguments by S. Theodore Merritt, an attorney from the U.S.

Justice Department in Washington, and defense attorneys Frank D. Eaman and Miriam L. Siefer summarized their contentions of what was proved by six days of testimony about the events of June 19, 1982.

Shortly after 10 p.m. that day, Ebens caught up to the fleeing Chin in the midst of traffic on Woodward Avenue in front of McDonald's Restaurant in Highland Park and repeatedly bludgeoned the slightly built Chinese with a Louisville Slugger baseball bat before dozens of witnesses. Nitz allegedly held Chin when the first blows were struck.

The bat attack climaxed a brawl among the three men that had started a half-hour earlier with an exchange of allegedly racial epithets in the Fancy Pants Lounge, about four blocks from McDonald's.

Merritt said Ebens and Nitz sat on one side of the stage watching an "Oriental acting flamboyantly and spending a lot of money" on tips to the dancers, and resented it.

Eaman claimed that the epithets tossed back and forth over the stage were street obscenities and that Chin objected to them.

"Chin was defending not his race but his manhood," Eaman contended.

Ebens and Nitz have been convicted of manslaughter in the matter in a state court. However, the probation and fines they received as sentences outraged many persons and sparked protest meetings by Asian-American groups across the nation. The protests led indirectly to a Justice Department order for a grand jury investigation into whether Ebens and Nitz attacked Chin for racist reasons. A grand jury indicted the two men last November.

44-2408-206

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DETROIT FREE PRESS

Date: 6/27/84

Edition: 7C

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Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44-2408

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Submitting Office: DETROIT

DAYS OF TESTIMONY

Chin jury begins deliberations

TIM KISKA

Press Staff Writer

The jury in the trial of two men accused of slaying the civil rights of Vincent Chin began deliberations Tuesday after a government prosecutor led his killing "a modern-day lynching with a bat, head of a rope."

But one defense attorney called the prosecution oferald Ebens and his stepson Michael Nitz a "perverse" of the Civil Rights Act, which she termed one of most important pieces of legislation passed in this ntry. Another defense attorney called the fracas led to Chin's death "a fight between angry and xicated men of different races."

T WILL BE UP to the jury, which sat through five s of testimony from 35 witnesses, to sift through evidence and determine if Ebens, 44, and Nitz, 25, ipped to kill Chin, 27, because he was of Chinese ent. The two also are charged with denying Chin ivil rights.

One hour after they began deliberating, the jury a note to U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor ng if only one person in the case could be icted of conspiracy. Taylor returned a notesaying a conspiracy requires at least two people.

URORS broke off deliberations 1¼ hours later returned to their hotel, where they are being estered until they reach a verdict.

Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz no contest to a slslaughter charge before Wayne County Circuit ge Charles Kaufman, and both got sentences of e years' probation.

After demonstrations in several major U.S. cities an investigation by the Justice Department, a ral grand jury indicted the two men in November federal civil-rights charges.

J. THEODORE MERRITT, a government prosecu- told the jury in closing arguments that the fight began in the Fancy Pants Lounge in Highland k was more than a barroom fight. "In the mind of ald Ebens and Michael Nitz, Vincent Chin was a ik who dared to stand up to them," he said. "This e years of racial hatred unleashed."

iriam Siefer, Nitz's attorney, told the jury that e of the government's witnesses testified that Nitz said anything racial that night.

runk Eaman, an attorney for Nitz, disputed ritt's claim that the fight was racially motivated. said the fight was "not about race. Not about

foreign cars, but about a dancer."

He also said the government did not introduce any evidence that either Ebens or Nitz had any strong feelings about foreign car imports.

44A2408-201

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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Sent To Bureau

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Date: 6/26/84

Edition: 3A

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44-2408

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

A brawl, a death - and racism?

It's up to jury

By TIM KISKA
Free Press Staff Writer

The wrong place at the wrong time. Alcohol. A few nasty words among parties who didn't know each other.

After five days of testimony, it is clear that those three elements were involved in the fatal beating of Vincent Chin on the night of June 19, 1982.

But a federal jury will consider a fourth element today when it begins pondering the fate of Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz — accused of violating the civil rights of Vincent Chin, a Chinese-American: Was the killing racially motivated?

Federal prosecutors say it was, and they have produced two witnesses who say they heard racial slurs directed at Chin the night he was killed. Racine Colwell, a bottomless dancer at the Fancy Pants Lounge in Highland Park, told the jury she heard Ebens say, "Because of you motherf---s, we're out of work."

Defense attorneys say that the fight was a barroom brawl, that Chin provoked and continued the scuffle, that neither Nitz nor Ebens said anything racial and that witnesses began speaking of racial epithets only when a Wayne County circuit judge sentenced Nitz and Ebens last year to three years of probation for the killing.

APART FROM the question of racial motivation, plenty of "what ifs" arise in the case after testimony from 35 witnesses:

- What if Nitz had not had a fight with his girlfriend that night? If he hadn't, he might have stayed in his East Detroit home.
- What if the Milwaukee Brewers had not scored 10 runs against

Prosecutors say the killing was racially motivated; defense attorneys say it was a barroom brawl in which neither Nitz nor Ebens said anything racial.

the Tigers in four innings? Nitz and Ebens, who were headed to the Tiger Stadium until they heard the early-inning rout on the radio, would never have arrived at the Fancy Pants Lounge in Highland Park where the scuffle began.

- What if, after their fight with Nitz and Ebens, Chin and his friend Jimmy Choi had gone inside the McDonald's restaurant in Highland Park instead of standing outside? Ebens and Nitz probably would have gone straight to Detroit Osteopathic Hospital for treatment of a cut Nitz suffered early in the fight.

- What if nobody had been drinking?

THIS MUCH is known. The men met, they argued and they fought. The night ended with Chin lying in the middle of Woodward in his own blood and brain matter.

But what made it different from any other barroom brawl, according to federal prosecutors and the grand jury that indicted the two men, is that the fight was racial.

Jimmy Choi, a friend of Chin, recalls someone from across the runway at the Fancy Pants yelling "Nip" at their party, which included two Orientals.

Gary Koivu, who was with Chin in the bar, remembers somebody yelling the word "Chink!"

In addition, Jimmy Lee Perry, a Highland Park resident, testified that Ebens and Nitz offered him \$20 to "catch a Chinese guy."

Ebens, who admits his memory of that night is faulty because of the alcohol, says he remembers saying nothing racial.

Nitz, who drank less, also remembers nothing of that sort.

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FOR WHATEVER reason, everybody agrees that Chin got out of his seat and punched or shoved Ebens hard.

A fight broke out, and chairs were swung. Chin apparently got the best of Ebens and Nitz. The inside of Ebens' mouth was cut; Nitz had a head gash that would require 11 stitches.

Nitz and Ebens retreated to the rest room to tend their wounds. While there, they contend, Robert Siroskey, a member of the Chin party, apologized to them for the incident, saying Chin had too much to drink. Siroskey says he remembers no apology.

Nitz and Ebens walked to the parking lot, and, according to testimony from Choi, were taunted by Chin. Nitz went straight to his car and pulled out a baseball bat.

"C'mon, chickens---s, let's fight some more," Choi remembered Chin saying.

At that point, Ebens snapped.

A foot chase began, but Ebens and Nitz weren't fast enough to catch Chin.

They returned to the parking lot and saw Choi standing nearby. Nitz threw a bottle at him, and Choi ran off.

LATER, Nitz and Ebens got in their car and decided, they say, to drive to Detroit Osteopathic Hospital to get stitches for Nitz.

On the way to the hospital, Ebens spotted Choi and Chin standing in front of a McDonald's on Woodward — both laughing. Again, Ebens snapped. He pulled around the McDonald's, got out of the car, caught Chin unaware and hit

him with the bat.

Both Nitz and Ebens testified that they were angry: In their own minds, Chin had started the fight, and now he was continuing it.

Chin stumbled into the middle of Woodward Avenue, where Ebens — in a drunken fury — beat him. Chin died four days later in Henry Ford Hospital.

FBI

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(SAC)

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- _____

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
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Date 7/2/84

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TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

BT

CHANGED (INTEROFFICE),

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN

(DECEASED) - VICTIM, CR (A), (OO: DETROIT).

TITLE CHANGED TO DELETE [Redacted] FROM THE TITLE.

ON JUNE 28, 1984, A FEDERAL JURY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN RETURNED A GUILTY VERDICT AGAINST

[Redacted]

FOR VIOLATION OF TITLE 18, SECTION 245 AND 2.

[Redacted]

WAS ACQUITTED OF ALL CHARGES.

DETROIT AT DETROIT: WILL FOLLOW AND REPORT

SENTENCING OF

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TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

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CHANGED (INTEROFFICE), [REDACTED] VINCENT CHIN

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(DECEASED) - VICTIM, CR (A), (OO: DETROIT).

TITLE CHANGED TO DELETE [REDACTED] FROM THE TITLE.

ON JUNE 28, 1984, A FEDERAL JURY FOR THE EASTERN
DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN RETURNED A GUILTY VERDICT AGAINST
[REDACTED] FOR VIOLATION OF TITLE 18, SECTION 245 AND 2.

[REDACTED] WAS ACQUITTED OF ALL CHARGES.

DETROIT AT DETROIT: WILL FOLLOW AND REPORT
SENTENCING OF [REDACTED]

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Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.
FREE PRESS

Date: 6/29/84
Edition: PAGE 1A

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44A-2408
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: DETROIT

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One of Two Guilty in Chin Rights Case

Ronald Ebens, the former Chrysler assembly worker who wielded the baseball bat in the fatal beating of Chinese-American Vincent Chin, was found guilty Thursday of violating Chin's civil rights.

Ebens was acquitted on a second charge that he conspired to deprive Chin of his civil rights. His stepson, Michael Nitz, who faced identical charges, was acquitted on both counts.

A federal jury of seven women and five men deliberated for more than 12 hours before announcing the verdict. The jury concluded that Ebens beat Chin because of his ancestry.

Ebens appeared emotionless, and Nitz buried his face in his hands when the judge's clerk announced the verdicts. After the jury left the courtroom, the two men hugged each other.

Neither would comment on the verdicts.

"WE THINK WE got a fair trial, and I think we got a fair hearing on the facts," said Helen Zia, of American Citizens for Justice, a group that pressured the U.S. Justice Department to investigate Chin's killing. "Yes, I think justice was done."

S. Theodore Merritt, the government prosecutor in the case, also said he was satisfied with the verdict.

But Chin's 64-year-old mother, Lily, sobbed when she learned Nitz was acquitted.

"How come the son is not guilty? Both killed him," she said at a press conference Thursday afternoon. "How come he's not guilty? I don't understand that. One is not guilty. If both were guilty, I would feel better. One is not fair. . . . Two killed my son. It's not fair that only one is guilty."

Ebens' attorney, Frank Eamon, said he would appeal.

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EBENS PLEADED guilty and Nitz no contest to a manslaughter charge after Chin, 27, was fatally beaten with a baseball bat on the night of June 19, 1982.

In March 1983, both were sentenced by Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman to three years' probation and fined \$3,780.

The sentences outraged many Asian-Americans. Nearly 1,000 people marched on the U.S. courthouse in downtown Detroit in May 1983 and protested what they believed was an unjust verdict.

Rallies were held in Windsor, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York City.

Lily Chin met with investigators from the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division in June 1983.

After an investigation, a federal grand jury indicted the two men Nov. 2, 1983, on two counts of federal civil rights charges.

GOVERNMENT prosecutors contended that the baseball-bat killing of Chin had its roots in racism.

Jimmy Choi, a friend of Chin, told the jury that he heard the word "nip" from the general direction of Ebens and Nitz at the Fancy Pants Lounge in Highland Park on the night of the killing.

A bottomless dancer at the Fancy Pants testified that Ebens told the Chin party, "Because of you motherf---s, we're out of work."

Another of Chin's friends said he heard the word "chink."

The two groups — Ebens and Nitz on one side, Chin and three friends on the other — left the lounge after a fight broke out among Chin, Ebens and Nitz.

Jimmy Lee Perry, a Highland Park resident, told the jury that Ebens and Nitz offered him \$20 outside the bar to "catch two Chinese guys."

But none of the witnesses in the trial said they heard Nitz utter any racial epithets the night of the killing.

CHOI TESTIFIED that Nitz held Chin briefly in a bear hug before he was beaten, but five other witnesses made no mention of Nitz's role in the beating.

Defense attorneys contended the fight was a barroom brawl that had no racial overtones.

During the trial, Choi testified that Chin threw the first punch in the fight that eventually ended in his death.

Ebens admitted killing Chin with a baseball bat but said it was because of a drunken rage, not because of racism.

Other testimony elicited by defense attorneys attempted to show that Chin had too much to drink the evening of the beating and that he both provoked and prolonged the fight.

ACCORDING TO Choi, Chin yelled "C'mon you chickens---s, let's fight some more," after the groups left the Fancy Pants.

U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor presided over the trial, which began June 5.

"I think it's a partial victory of justice. We really don't know what kind of victory it will be until the judge hands down the sentence," said Laura Chin, executive director of the Organization of Chinese-Americans, in Washington, D.C. She is not related to Vincent Chin.

The maximum penalty on the civil rights charge for which Ebens was convicted is life in prison. No date has been set for sentencing.



Michael Nitz began to sob after the verdict was delivered.

Free Press Sketch by MOSES HARRIS



Free Press Sketch by MOSES HARRIS

AFTER THE VERDICT, Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz embrace. Ebens was found guilty of violating Vincent Chin's civil rights. Nitz was found not guilty. Both were acquitted of conspiracy.



Free Press Photos by IRA ROSENBERG

BEFORE THE VERDICT, Nitz (left photo) and Ebens enter the federal courthouse in Detroit. A jury concluded that Ebens beat Chinese-American Vincent Chin because of Chin's ancestry.



Free Press Photo by PAULINE LUBENS

Lily Chin is led away by Helen Zia, right, president of American Citizens for Justice, after a news conference in Ferndale about the verdict in the federal trial of Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz.

Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.
DETROIT NEWS

Date: 7/1/84
Edition: PAGE 2B

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44A-2408

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

Legal system was no star in handling of Chin case

When the right thing is done for the wrong reason, you are left with a sense of justice stumbling into virtue.

That is not the sense that our system of laws is supposed to convey. But the entire history of the Vincent Chin case has not displayed the American legal system at its finest.

His killers were properly convicted in the criminal courts and then let off with an absurdly light sentence. His family, outraged, demanded justice and his case quickly became a national cause. On the West Coast, with its large concentration of Asian-Americans, it turned into a major campaign.

CHIN'S ADVOCATES first attacked the judge, ascribing all sorts of malicious racial intent to him. They acted as if this were the first time such an outrageous sentence ever had come down in a capital case.

In fact, there have been many who bitterly complained about such sentencing patterns in the past. But in those instances they were usually called bloody-minded racists by many of the same civil libertarians most ardent in their demands for justice for Chin.

Then the case was converted into a civil rights action and taken into Federal Court where, as I said, the right thing was finally done for the wrong reason.

Anyone looking over the testimony has to conclude that proof of racism as a basis for this killing was tenuous at best. Yet the jury obviously felt that something horrible had been done and someone should pay for it.

EVEN THE defense attorneys admitted that they couldn't blame the jury for its verdict. The testimony concerning the sheer brutality of the beating was so overwhelming, it was impossible to hear it and not be moved.

It reminded me of a trial I covered several years ago, arising from the Algiers Motel incident during the 1967 riots. This also, after frustrations in the state courts, was turned into a civil rights conspiracy case and tried in Federal Court in Flint in 1970.

It became evident as the trial progressed that a terrible thing had been done by three Detroit policeman and a private guard. The testimony regarding the killing of the black youths in that motel was horrifying and anyone listening to it would have demanded severe punishment for the uniformed killers.

But conspiracy was never proved. All that came out was that four men, acting in rage, had stepped beyond the bounds of law and killed, but did not conspire. The four men were acquitted by a jury that must have felt sick to its stomach in returning the verdict. Under the law, though, it was the only one possible.

SO MANY of the Chin supporters profess to believe that a shouted racial epithet in a bar is *prima facie*

evidence of racist motivation. It makes me wonder how many of them have ever been in the kind of bar where these things can happen.

Much of the testimony indicated that the start of the confrontation preceded any mention of race. When drunken men begin to fight in bars, the first thing that comes to their lips is any distinguishing feature they can find in the target of their rage. This is basic psychology. The object of hate must always be perceived as different somehow from one's self.

If he were overweight he would have been called "Fat Boy." If he wore glasses it would have been "Four Eyes." If he were black or Jewish, it's fairly well-known what the epithets would have been.

Chin happened to be of Asian ancestry so his attackers fixed on that.

THE JURY's confusion is evident from its split decision; one of the attackers guilty, the other not guilty. If this killing was a civil rights case then so must every one be in which a member of one race or ethnic group kills a member of another.

Nonetheless, justice has triumphed in spite of itself. It makes you shudder at the countless other instances in which it has miscarried in the end because no one made the victim a national cause.

44A2408-205

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SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI-DETROIT	

Sent To Bureau (

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
DETROIT NEWS

Date: 6/28/84

Edition: PAGE 3A

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Motion for mistrial in Chin case denied

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44A-2408
or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

Federal Judge Anna Diggs Taylor denied a motion for a mistrial in the Vincent Chin civil rights case based on a defense contention that

closing arguments by prosecutor S. Theodore Merritt were inflammatory.

The jury has deliberated the case for 8½ hours since Monday and was to continue this morning.

Ronald Ebens, 45, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 26, both of East Detroit, are charged with violating Chin's civil rights two years ago by beating him to death with a baseball bat because he was Chinese. Chin was a 27-year-old engineer from Oak Park.

The two men pleaded guilty before Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman last year to a charge of manslaughter in Chin's death. They were placed on probation and fined \$3,700 each. The sentence sparked an international wave of protest which led to the federal civil rights charges.

Defense attorney Frank D. Eamans said Merritt, in effect, called on the jury to remedy the lower court's action. Merritt denied it and Judge Taylor said defense attorneys made no objections during Merritt's closing argument.

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DETROIT NEWS

Date: 6/29/84
Edition: PAGE 1A

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44A-2408
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Classification:
Submitting Office: DETROIT

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One guilty, one freed in Chin case

A Federal Court jury convicted Ronald Ebens and acquitted his stepson, Michael Nitz, of civil rights charges in the baseball bat death of Chinese-American Vincent Chin.

The government contended that the June 19, 1982, attack on Chin was motivated by racial hatred.

Yesterday's verdicts followed 12½ hours of deliberations by the seven woman-five man jury in Judge Anna Diggs Taylor's courtroom.

Ebens, 45, of East Detroit, faces a possible life term.

He was released on personal bond pending sentencing in mid-August. His attorneys said they would appeal.

The government sought to prove that the beating, before dozens of witnesses outside a McDonald's restaurant in Highland Park, came after Ebens hurled racial obscenities at Chin in the Fancy Pants Lounge, a nearby strip joint. Defense attorneys called it a drunken brawl without racial motivation.

SOME WITNESSES said Nitz, 25, also of East Detroit, held Chin while Ebens struck him repeatedly with the bat. Chin, 27, an engineer from Oak Park, died of massive head injuries four days after the incident.

Ebens was convicted of violating Chin's civil rights, but acquitted of a second count of conspiring with Nitz to violate his civil rights. Nitz was cleared on both charges.

Ebens took the verdict stoically, but Nitz tearfully embraced his stepfather and mother after the courtroom had cleared. Ebens consoled him.

Jurors were unavailable for comment on their decision. Their identifications were suppressed by Judge Taylor and they were escorted from the courtroom by U.S. marshals.

44A-2408-207

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FBI-DETROIT	

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CHIN'S MOTHER, Lily Chin, held a press conference and denounced the verdict as unjust.

Nitz's attorneys, Miriam L. Siefer and Kenneth R. Sasse of the Federal Defender's Office, called the trial "a political prosecution in an election year to enhance President Reagan's civil rights image."

"It was a Washington decision to try a popular case with an almost ensured conviction even though the local U.S. attorney (Leonard R. Gilman) had recommended against prosecution."

Ebens' court-appointed attorney, Frank D. Eaman said the government produced "no credible evidence" of racism, but added:

"I CAN'T BLAME the jury for the verdict. They were under so much pressure because of the prosecutor's appeals to their sympathy and the repeated enactment of a brutal beating by prosecution witnesses that it was too much for them to judge the evidence impartially."

Lead government prosecutor S. Theodore Merritt of the U.S. Justice Department in Washington, said, "We're satisfied."

Eaman said he would base his appeal on Judge Taylor's refusal to move the trial out of Detroit and on her suppression of evidence which he said could have impeached prosecution witnesses.

However, the attorneys commended Judge Taylor on her jury selection procedure and conduct of the trial.

EBENS AND NITZ pleaded guilty last year to manslaughter charges before Wayne Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman who placed them on probation and fined each \$3,700.

The sentence touched off protests throughout the United States and abroad, especially by Asian-American groups which demanded prison time for the two men.

U.S. Attorney Gilman ordered an FBI investigation, but later recommended to Washington that there be no civil rights prosecution because of a lack of evidence.

The Justice Department overruled him last August and ordered a grand jury investigation into Chin's death. Ebens and Nitz were indicted Nov. 2 on charges of conspiring to violate Chin's civil rights by interfering with his enjoyment of a place of public accommodation (the Fancy Pants Lounge) because he was Chinese and for assaulting him for "having enjoyed the public accommodation."

OF 20 GOVERNMENT witnesses at the trial, only three testified that racist statements had been made before the brawl broke out in the Fancy Pants.

There was no evidence of racial statements in a confrontation later in the tavern's parking lot or during the beating less than a half-hour later outside McDonald's.

According to testimony, the sequence began on the afternoon of

Chronology of Chin civil rights case

June 19, 1982 — Oak Park industrial engineer Vincent Chin, a 27-year-old Chinese-American, and three friends celebrate his upcoming wedding by going to a Highland Park strip joint. An argument erupts with two other customers and a fight breaks out. Chin and a companion are chased to a nearby McDonald's restaurant where Chin is beaten in the street with a bat.

June 23, 1982 — Chin dies after four days in a coma. East Detroit residents Ronald Ebens, 44, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 25, are charged with second-degree murder and face possible terms of life in prison if convicted.

March 16, 1983 — Ebens pleads guilty and Nitz "no contest" to reduced charges of manslaughter before Wayne Circuit Judge Charles Kauf-

man, who places them on probation and fines each \$3,700.

April, 1983 — Public outrage over the sentences leads to creation of an interracial coalition called American Citizens for Justice (ACJ), which applies pressure in Washington and results in a grand jury investigation.

Nov. 2, 1983 — A federal grand jury indicts Ebens and Nitz on charges of criminally violating Chin's civil rights, alleging that his death was racially motivated. Maximum penalty is life imprisonment.

June 13, 1984 — The trial begins in Detroit before U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs-Taylor.

June 28, 1984 — Ebens is convicted of violating Chin's civil rights, but acquitted on a conspiracy charge. Nitz is acquitted on both charges.

the stage and pushed Ebens on the shoulder, hard," she testified. "Then the younger fellow jumped in and started helping the older man."

Siroskey testified that he heard the word "Chink" from across the stage, but had difficulty remembering most details of the evening.

BY THE TIME Ebens and Nitz reached the Fancy Pants, the Chin party had grown boisterous, with Chin and Siroskey drinking heavily, witnesses said.

Ebens and Nitz took seats on the opposite side of the stage from the Chin party when they arrived shortly after 9 p.m.

Witness accounts from that time on were confused.

Ebens said he made remarks to Chin and his party because they "were putting down" one of the dancers, Angela Rudolph. He testified he could not remember what he said to Chin but admitted that he could well have called him a "f---."

KOIVU SAID he recalled hearing that kind of language from where he was sitting alongside Chin. But three other witnesses said Ebens' remarks were racist.

Racine Caldwell, a dancer friend of Chin's, said she saw two men arguing with Chin and heard the older one (Ebens) say "it's because of you little m--- that we're out of work."

"Vince got mad and walked around

CHOI TESTIFIED that he heard the word "Nip" before the brawl, and said he answered by saying, "we're not Japanese."

Choi also testified that Chin provoked the fight by going around the stage and hitting Ebens.

That altercation was quickly broken up by bouncers who escorted Chin and two of his companions outside. A club employe took Ebens and Nitz to the bathroom, because Nitz was bleeding from a gashed scalp and Ebens had a bloody mouth.

Several minutes later, witnesses said, Ebens and Nitz left and were confronted by Chin who said, "come on, (obscenity), let's fight some more."

WITNESSES SAID Nitz got a bat from his car and chased Chin, but failed to catch him.

Shortly afterwards, Ebens and Nitz confronted Chin on the sidewalk in front of the McDonald's where the fatal beating occurred.

Ebens, fired from his Chrysler Corp. foreman's job shortly after the incident, has been working at odd jobs to support his wife and 13-year-old daughter. Nitz, who lives at the Ebens home, is a furniture store delivery manager. He is single.

Date: 6/29/84
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Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44-2408
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Chin was slain because of race, U.S. jury finds

By TIM KISKA
Free Press Staff Writer

Ronald Ebens, the former Chrysler assembly worker who wielded the baseball bat in the fatal beating of Chinese-American Vincent Chin, was found guilty Thursday of violating Chin's civil rights.

Ebens was acquitted on a second charge that he conspired to deprive Chin of his civil rights. His stepson, Michael Nitz, who faced identical charges, was acquitted on both counts.

A federal jury of seven women and five men deliberated for more than 12 hours before announcing the verdict. The jury concluded that Ebens beat Chin because of his ancestry.

Ebens appeared emotionless, and Nitz buried his face in his hands when the judge's clerk announced the verdicts. After the jury left the courtroom, the two men hugged each other.

Neither would comment on the verdicts.

"WE THINK WE got a fair trial, and I think we got a fair hearing on the facts," said Helen Zia, of American Citizens for Justice, a group that pressured the U.S. Justice Department to investigate Chin's killing. "Yes, I think justice was done."



BEFORE THE VERDICT, Ebens enters the federal courthouse in Detroit.



Free Press Photos by IRA ROSENBERG

shortly after Nitz, his stepson, arrived. The jury decided racism was a factor in the killing.

44A 2408-208

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Theodore Merritt, the government prosecutor in the case, also said he was satisfied with the verdict.

But Chin's 64-year-old mother, Lily, sobbed when she learned Nitz was acquitted.

"How come the son is not guilty? Both killed him," she said at a press conference Thursday afternoon. "How come he's not guilty? I don't understand that. One is not guilty. If both were guilty, I would feel better. One is not fair. . . . Two killed my son. It's not fair that only one is guilty."

Ebens' attorney, Frank Eamon, said he would appeal.

EBENS PLEADED guilty and Nitz no contest to a manslaughter charge after Chin, 27, was fatally beaten with a baseball bat on the night of June 19, 1982.

In March 1983, both were sentenced by Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman to three years' probation and fined \$3,780.

The sentences outraged many Asian-Americans. Nearly 1,000 people marched on the U.S. courthouse in downtown Detroit in May 1983 and protested what they believed was an unjust verdict.

Rallies were held in Windsor, Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York City.

Lily Chin met with investigators from the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division in June 1983.

After an investigation, a federal grand jury indicted the two men Nov. 2, 1983, on two counts of federal civil rights charges.

GOVERNMENT prosecutors contended

that the baseball-bat killing of Chin had its roots in racism.

Jimmy Choi, a friend of Chin, told the jury that he heard the word "nip" from the general direction of Ebens and Nitz at the Fancy Pants Lounge in Highland Park on the night of the killing.

A bottomless dancer at the Fancy Pants testified that Ebens told the Chin party, "Because of you motherf---s, we're out of work."

Another of Chin's friends said he heard the word "chink."

The two groups — Ebens and Nitz on one side, Chin and three friends on the other — left the lounge after a fight broke out among Chin, Ebens and Nitz.

Jimmy Lee Perry, a Highland Park resident, told the jury that Ebens and Nitz offered him \$20 outside the bar to "catch two Chinese guys."

But none of the witnesses in the trial said they heard Nitz utter any racial epithets the night of the killing.

CHOI TESTIFIED that Nitz held Chin briefly in a bear hug before he was beaten, but five other witnesses made no mention of Nitz's role in the beating.

Defense attorneys contended the fight was a barroom brawl that had no racial overtones.

During the trial, Choi testified that Chin threw the first punch in the fight that eventually ended in his death.

Ebens admitted killing Chin with a baseball bat but said it was because of a drunken rage, not because of racism.

"Too much to drink, too dumb to think," was Ebens' explanation during his testimony.



Free Press sketch by MOSES HARRIS

Michael Nitz began to sob after the verdict was delivered.

Other testimony elicited by defense attorneys attempted to show that Chin had too much to drink the evening of the beating and that he both provoked and prolonged the fight.

ACCORDING TO Choi, Chin yelled "C'mon you chickens---s, let's fight some more," after the groups left the Fancy Pants.

U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor presided over the trial, which began June 5.

"I think it's a partial victory of justice. We really don't know what kind of victory it will be until the judge hands down the sentence," said Laura Chin, executive director of the Organization of Chinese-Americans, in Washington, D.C. She is not related to Vincent Chin.

The maximum penalty on the civil rights charge for which Ebens was convicted is life in prison. No date has been set for sentencing.

Free Press Staff Writer Maryanne George contributed to this report.



Free Press Sketch by MOSES HARRIS

BEFORE THE VERDICT, Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz embrace. Ebens was found guilty of violating Vincent Chin's civil rights. Nitz was found not guilty. Both were acquitted of conspiracy.

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DETROIT NEWS

Date: 6/29/84

Edition: 1A

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44A-2408

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

Acquittal 'not fair': Lily Chin

By Rob Zeiger
News Staff Writer

A tearful Lily Chin denounced the acquittal of one of her son's killers on federal civil rights charges as "not justice."

Mrs. Chin appeared at a press conference called yesterday by American Citizens for Justice, an Asian-American organization formed after Ronald Ebens and his stepson, Michael Nitz, were sentenced to probation in the death of Vincent Chin. A Federal Court jury yesterday found Ebens guilty on one civil rights charge and not guilty of conspiracy in the baseball-bat slaying of Chin two years ago. Nitz was acquitted of both charges.

Asked if she thought justice was done by the conviction of Ebens, Mrs. Chin pounded both fists on the table and seemed to be fighting for control.

"Not justice," she said. "How come his son not guilty? I wanted justice for my son. They both kill my son. ... This is not fair for him."

But despite Mrs. Chin's reaction, the ACJ praised the prosecuting attorneys and the FBI for doing an "exceptional" job.

In a prepared statement, read by ACJ President Helen Zia, the organization said it "accepts the outcome of the trial of Chin's two white killers."

"This case is the first federal civil rights case involving an Asian-American that has ever been prosecuted," the statement said. "It is remarkable that the federal government recognized the problem of racial animosity toward Asian-Americans at a time when civil rights laws are under fire."

The press conference was held in the Golden Star Restaurant in Ferndale, where Vincent Chin moonlighted after his daytime engineering job.

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DETROIT NEWS

Date: 7/3/84

Edition: 8A

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Chin attacker says new facts will clear him

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44A-2408

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

by Sally Deneen
News Staff Writer

Unemployed auto worker Ronald Ebens said he has new evidence to prove his innocence of civil rights violations in the baseball bat death of Chinese-American Vincent Chin.

Ebens, 45, was convicted of the civil rights charge last week by a federal court jury which found that his June 1982 attack on Chin was racially motivated. His stepson, Michael Nitz, 25, was acquitted.

THE TWO MEN, both from East Detroit, admitted the slaying in a Wayne Circuit Court plea agreement. They received probationary sentences when they pleaded guilty of manslaughter, touching off an international protest, especially among Chinese-Americans who demanded that they receive prison time. The civil rights charges were filed last year in the wake of a federal grand jury investigation.

The beating occurred after a brawl in a Highland Park strip joint.

Ebens faces up to life in prison when he is sentenced next month by Federal Judge Anna Diggs Taylor on the civil rights conviction.

"I was guilty of being the direct cause of taking a life ... I'm deeply sorry for it," Ebens said at a press conference yesterday.

"I FELT at the time that I went for (Circuit Court) sentencing, probably like 95 percent of the people I've known all my life, that when somebody is responsible for taking a man's

life, they go to jail."

Yet, Ebens said, the death was not intentional and "I have to feel about the conviction basically the way people felt about my probation; it was unfair."

Ebens' attorneys, Frank D. Eaman and David M. Lawson, said they had new evidence in the form of five taped excerpts from a May 17, 1983, meeting at the law office of Lisa Chan, an attorney for American Citizens for Justice.

They contended that Ms. Chan coached witnesses Robert Siroskey, Gary Koivu and Jimmie Choi, companions of Chin on the night of the beating. American Citizens for Justice campaigned for the federal grand jury probe of the incident.

HERE ARE two examples, taken from cassette tapes and transcriptions that the defense provided reporters:

"We will agree this is the story, this is it. ... Let's all have it sort of down ... pat, is it five minutes or is it 10 minutes? Is it more like eight minutes, let's all agree. Otherwise, you'll look funny on the stand."

Also: "OK. We all remember our different lines, OK ... Just remember your different lines."

Eaman contends that he notified the U.S. Justice Department about these "taintings," as he called them, during the trial, but was ignored.

U.S. ATTORNEY Leonard R. Gilman said he does not believe the tapes will help the defense.

"There's no new evidence," he said. "They had all of this evidence before the trial and they had the opportunity to use it or not use it as they saw fit."

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Date: 7/3/84

Edition: 1A

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44A-2408

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Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

Chin's slaver says conviction now 'is unfair'

By TIM KISKA
Free Press Staff Writer

Ronald Ebens, convicted Thursday of violating the civil rights of Vincent Chin during a fatal beating two years ago, said Monday he was as surprised as anybody when he was sentenced last year to probation after pleading guilty to manslaughter.

But, Ebens said at a news confer-

"I have to feel about the conviction basically the way people felt about my probation."

ence, he thought his civil-rights conviction last week in U.S. District Court in Detroit was as unfair as some people thought the three years' probation im-

posed by Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman.

"I felt at the time I went to sentencing probably like 95 percent of the

people I've known all my life: If somebody is responsible for taking a man's life, they should go to jail," Ebens said. "Since that time I've realized that many don't — I'm not alone in that category. I don't feel that jail time would have served any purpose in this case. The death was not intentional. And, thankfully, Judge Kaufman had enough insight to see into this case."



Ronald Ebens

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"I guess I would have to say that I have to feel about the conviction basically the way people felt about my probation," he said. "They felt that was unfair. I have to feel that this is unfair because I know I am totally innocent of the charges."

Ebens, a 44-year-old former Chrysler assembly worker, could receive a sentence ranging from probation to life in prison on the civil-rights conviction. He is to be sentenced in about six weeks.

IN A PRIVATE interview, Ebens said he was confused because he received probation for something he had done and now he faces possible life in prison for something he said he did not do, that is, kill Vincent Chin because of his Chinese ancestry.

Ebens said he offered to give Chin's mother 20 percent of his income for the rest of his life to settle a wrongful death suit she had filed in Wayne County Circuit Court.

DEFENSE attorney Frank Eaman said he thought that friends of the Chin family were "more interested in seeing that he (Ebens) get indicted and sent to jail."

Both of Ebens' lawyers, Eaman and David Lawson, criticized the U.S. government's conduct in the case.

Lawson said government prosecutor S. Theodore Merritt had engaged in a "junkyard-dog style" of prosecution.

"We believe that the U.S. Department of Justice has indicted, prosecuted, and convicted Ronald Ebens, an autoworker from Detroit, despite the fact that its own investigation revealed no evidence of a federal offense," said Eaman. "Their (the Reagan administration's) record is so bad in the area of civil rights that this was an easy case to bring to Detroit and get a conviction."

EAMAN and Lawson had two pieces of evidence that they wanted to put before the jury, but they were forbidden from doing so by Judge Anna Diggs Taylor, who presided over the trial.

One was a letter written by U.S. Attorney Leonard Gilman on July 6, 1983, to William Bradford Reynolds, chief of the U.S. Justice Department's

Civil Rights Division, questioning the wisdom of prosecuting Ebens and Nitz.

Gilman wrote that he had "serious reservations as to whether a federal criminal civil-rights prosecution would be appropriate." He also said, "There appears to be serious questions about the success of any criminal prosecution under the federal civil-rights statutes," adding that there seemed to be no evidence that racial statements were made.

According to Eaman, the government unearthed no new facts after the Gilman letter but chose to prosecute anyway. Eaman said the government was simply reacting to pressure.

Asked about the letter Monday, Gilman said he had no reservations about having written the letter and said, "Lots of things have happened since then, including a grand jury investigation and a trial. I think this was a perfectly appropriate case for the federal criminal system."

EBENS' LAWYERS also cited a transcript of a tape in which Southfield attorney Liza Chan, who represents Chin's mother, talked to three witnesses about their testimony on May 17, 1983.

"We will agree this is the story, this is it," Chan said, according to the transcript. "When it's a federal prosecution, we're all going to have to be agreeing on this is what happened."

"Otherwise," she says later, "You'll all look funny on the stand. . . . Chink, foreign car part, big f---r, little f---r, all f-----s, don't call me a f---r, we all remember our lines, okay?"

Eaman said Monday that this was evidence that Chan had coached witnesses, who had not mentioned racial epithets on previous occasions.

Chan had no comment.

AFTER THE news conference, Ebens was questioned about what his life has been like since the incident.

"There hasn't been any life for two years. You can't go anywhere without getting permission. You couldn't go if you wanted to because you can't afford to go. You spend time worrying about where your next dollar is gonna come from to pay the bills," he said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

DETROIT NEWS

Date: 7/24/84
Edition: 3A

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

New trial sought for Chin's killer

Motions were filed yesterday seeking a new trial for the man convicted of violating

Vincent Chin's civil rights by fatally beating him with a baseball bat.

Ronald Ebens, 45, of East Detroit was found guilty by a federal jury on June 28 of aiding and abetting in the violation of Chin's civil rights, and faces a possible life sentence. Ebens' 25-year-old stepson, Michael Nitz, was found innocent of the federal charges.

The government alleged that they attacked Chin, a Chinese-American, two years ago in the belief that he was Japanese. The accused men were auto workers who blamed Japanese imports for layoffs in the United States.

Ebens' attorneys asked Detroit Federal Judge Anna Diggs Taylor to grant a new trial, claiming misconduct on the part of federal prosecutor S. Theodore Merritt and saying that evidence vital to Ebens' defense was excluded.

Judge Taylor took no immediate action on the motion.

Title: VINCENT CHIN

Character: 44-2408
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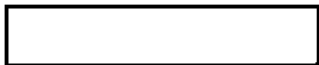
Submitting Office: DETROIT

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S E N T E N C E

JUDGE TAYLOR

Tuesday, September 18, 1984

9:00 A.M.

44-2408(4/83)?

83-CR-60629_DT-01 Ronald Ebens	(F.Eaman) (D.Lawson) (S.T.Merritt) (A.Hay) AUSA	Interference with Civil Rights and A & A 18:245(b)(2)(F) and 18:2	<u>Bond</u>
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Rescheduled from August 31, 1984

Clerk of the Court, Court Reporter, U.S.Attorney, U.S.Marshals, PSA, FBI,
notified this date September 5, 1984.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ebens gets 25 years in Chin case

By Robert Ankeny
and Mark Zaretsky
News Staff Writers

Former auto worker Ronald Ebens received a 25-year prison term in the baseball bat slaying of Vincent Chin, but the sentence didn't placate angry Asian-American activists.

Ebens, 45, of East Detroit, was sentenced yesterday after his conviction on a federal civil rights charge in Chin's death. He said he would appeal and was ordered to report to prison Oct. 18 unless he posts a \$20,000 cash bond.

Spokesmen for American Citizens for Justice (ACJ), an interracial organization which pressed the case, said yesterday that unresolved issues remain and they are pursuing them in related court cases.

CHIN'S KILLING wound up as a civil rights case in federal court after Ebens and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 26, of East Detroit, were sentenced to probation and fines by a Wayne Circuit Court judge on manslaughter charges.

Those sentences, by Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman, touched off an international outcry that resulted in a federal investigation of the slaying. Ironically, Ebens could have received a maximum 15 years in prison under the state manslaughter law, but faced a possible life term on the civil rights count.

Ebens remained impassive when Federal Judge Anna Diggs Taylor sentenced him and ordered him to undergo alcohol abuse treatment. He later said he was "absolutely not" surprised by the length of the term.

"I expected it," Ebens said. "Everything that could be thrown at us in this trial was thrown at us. That's way the whole trial went. Now it depends on the Court of Appeals. If there's people on the appeals court with good common sense, they'll see it my way."

CHIN, A 27-year-old Chinese American engineer from Oak Park, was fatally beaten June 19, 1982, after a pre-wedding stag party at a Highland Park strip joint turned ugly. He died four days later.

Ebens and Nitz first were charged in circuit court with second-degree murder, but Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz "no contest" to a manslaughter charge before Circuit Judge Kaufman. He placed them both on three-years probation and fined each \$3,700.

An outcry from the Asian-American community triggered a federal grand jury investigation which resulted in the civil rights charges.

Ebens and Nitz were charged in federal court with conspiracy and with violating Chin's civil rights by attacking him because he was Oriental. The jury convicted Ebens on the civil rights charge and acquitted him on the conspiracy count. Nitz was acquitted on both charges.

FEDERAL PROSECUTORS contended that Ebens and Nitz used racial slurs against Chin, apparently thinking he was Japanese and blaming him for job losses in the U.S. auto industry.

Defense lawyer Frank D. Eaman denied that the beating was racially motivated. He said Ebens, under the influence of alcohol, "went berserk ... with random violence ... pent-up anger and frustration."

ACJ President Helen Zia said yesterday that the case remains open despite Ebens' sentence. Her group had urged the federal grand jury investigation which led to the indictment last year.

"There will be further legal battles ... and racial hostility to Asian-Americans (still) is a threat to all Americans," she declared.

SHE CITED a civil case for \$6 million in damages brought by Chin's mother in Wayne Circuit

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Court as well as an appeal of the original Wayne Circuit case, which now is before the Michigan Court of Appeals.

"I wish we could say justice has been done, and I think there was a full hearing ... but Mrs. Chin (Vincent's mother) is very upset that one (Nitz) is still free. It bothers her that she could run into him on the streets or anywhere."

Marisa Chuang of ACJ said she accepts the sentence but doesn't want the issue left there. "We were not seeking an eye for an eye, not seeking another life," she said. "All we wanted was a fair trial and today's sentencing has partially restored our faith in the system."

"But the case is not over yet. We still have an appeal (of the Wayne Circuit Court case) seeking resentencing and (a court ruling) requiring that the prosecutor's staff appear at all criminal prosecutions. We hope to win so the system is not allowed to mishandle cases as it happened when that shocking sentence was given by Judge Charles Kaufman."

ACJ AND OTHERS complained that no one from the prosecutor's office was present when Kaufman sentenced Ebens and Nitz to probation.

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Chronology of Chin homicide

A chronology of the Vincent Chin homicide case:

June 19, 1982 — Vincent Chin, a 27-year-old Oak Park industrial engineer, joins three friends for a pre-wedding stag outing at a Highland Park lounge featuring nude dancers. An argument with two other patrons turns ugly and a fight breaks out. Ronald Ebens beats Chin, a Chinese-American, with a baseball bat outside a nearby McDonald's restaurant.

June 23, 1982 — After four days in a coma, Chin dies of his injuries. Ebens, 45, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 25, both of East Detroit, are charged with second-degree murder, facing possible life prison terms if convicted.

March 16, 1983 — Ebens pleads guilty and Nitz pleads "no contest" to reduced charge of manslaughter. Wayne Circuit Judge

Charles Kaufman touches off international wave of outrage when he places both on probation, fines each \$3,700, instead of sentencing them to prison. Maximum term on manslaughter conviction is 15 years.

April 1983 — An interracial coalition called American Citizens for Justice (ACJ) is formed. ACJ pressure in Washington triggers a federal grand jury investigation in Detroit.

Nov. 2, 1983 — Ebens and Nitz are indicted on federal charges of criminally violating Chin's civil rights and conspiracy. The indictment alleges his beating was racially motivated. Maximum penalty is life imprisonment.

June 13, 1984 — The trial begins before U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor.

June 28, 1984 — After 12½ hours of deliberations, the federal



NEWS FILE PHOTO

**RONALD EBENS: Gets
25 year prison sentence**

court jury finds Ebens guilty on civil rights violation, but acquits him on the conspiracy charge. Nitz is acquitted on both counts.

Sept. 18, 1983 — Ebens is sentenced to 25 years in prison, allowed to remain free pending appeal.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ebens gets 25 years in Chin slaying case

By JOE SWICKARD
Free Press Staff Writer

Ronald Ebens, a laid-off suburban autoworker convicted in federal court in Detroit of violating Chinese-American Vincent Chin's civil rights by beating him to death with a baseball bat, was sentenced Tuesday to 25 years in prison.

Chin was killed in June 1982 after an altercation in a Highland Park go-go club. The case caused an international uproar in March 1983 when Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman sentenced Ebens and his stepson, Michael Nitz, to three years' probation and fined them \$3,780 on charges of manslaughter. Ebens had pleaded guilty and Nitz no contest to the charges, which had been reduced from second-degree murder.

Because of allegations that the killing was racially motivated, the U.S. Justice Department launched a federal grand jury investigation, which resulted in Ebens' conviction on the civil rights charge in federal court. He was acquitted of a charge of conspiring with his stepson to kill Chin because of Chin's race.

THE FIGHT, according to testimony, involved racial slurs at Chin, who was apparently taken to be Japanese and was taunted about auto industry layoffs.

U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor, who could have imposed a sentence of life in prison, allowed Ebens, 44, to remain free on personal bond for 30 days. Meanwhile, he can try to meet a \$20,000 cash or surety bond to appeal his conviction.

The judge, who delivered the sentence matter-of-factly, also ordered Ebens to undergo treatment for alcohol abuse.

Ebens testified during his federal court trial that he had been drinking beer the night of the killing.

"Too much to drink, too dumb to think," Ebens told the jury.

If unable to meet the bond requirement, Ebens must surrender to authorities Oct. 18 to begin serving his sentence.

Ebens told Judge Taylor he wanted to "reiterate one more time" his regret and remorse. "I'm sorry for what happened."



Free Press/PAULINE LUBENS
Ronald Ebens on Monday. He told the judge: "I'm sorry for what happened."

Date: SEPTEMBER 19, 1984
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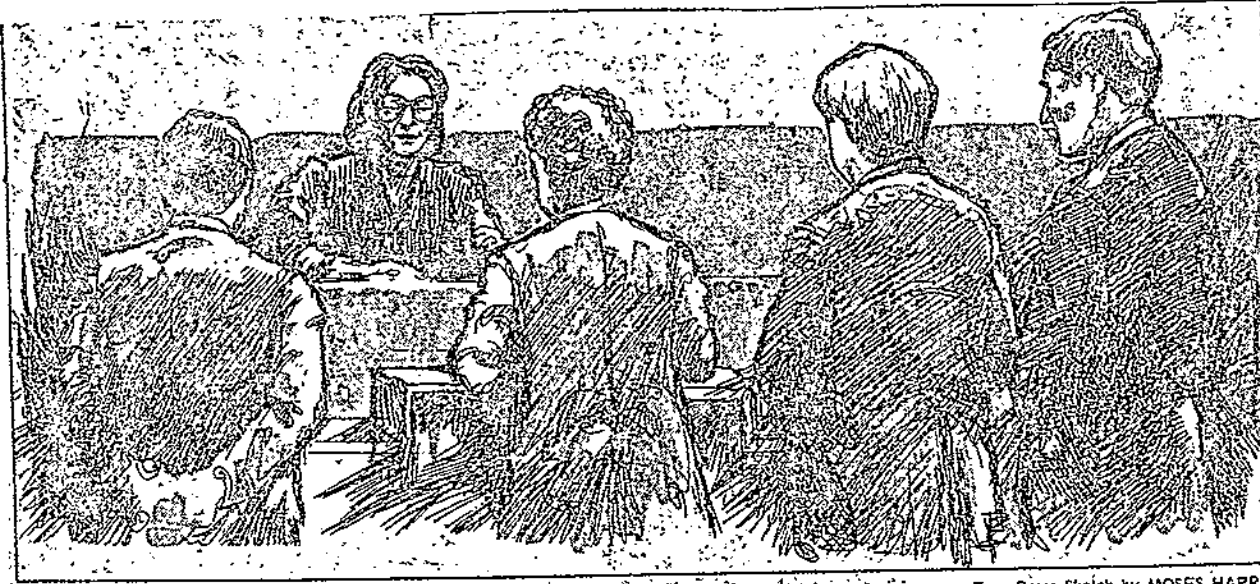
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Submitting Office: DETROIT

Sent To Bureau

44A 2408-216

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 21 1984	
FBI - DETROIT	
[Signature]	



Free Press Sketch by MOSES HARRIS

From left, Assistant U.S. Attorney S. Theodore Merritt, defense attorney Frank Eaman, Ronald Ebens and David Lawson, also Ebens' attorney, appear before Judge Anna Taylor.

Ebens gets 25 years in Chin case

AFTERWARD, a grim-faced Ebens told reporters he expected a harsh sentence.

Outside court, defense attorney Frank Eaman said the 25-year sentence was "the price of probation."

"I'm shocked," Eaman said. "Any time two judges can look at the same set of facts and one come up with probation and the other come up with 25 years, our courts are in trouble."

Laura Chin, executive director of the Organization of Chinese Americans, said, "On its face, it seems to me we feel as though he will be punished for the death of Vincent Chin."

The organization, with 4,000 members and 30 chapters, is the largest civil rights organization for Chinese Americans in the nation. Laura Chin is no relation to Vincent Chin.

"Given the fact that he was sentenced to 25 years seems like a fair sentence for the brutal murder of a man," Chin said. "It seems to be an appropriate sentence of punishment. We are pleased, I think."

A 25-year prison sentence for second-degree murder is commonly given in Michigan courts. The maximum sentence for second-degree murder is life in prison. The maximum sentence for manslaughter — the charge involved in the Wayne County Circuit Court case — is a 10-to-15-year prison term.

Nitz, who was acquitted of federal civil rights charges in July, said his stepfather's sentence was "kind of a shock. He's innocent to start with, but we didn't expect this."

ASSISTANT U.S. Attorney S. Theodore Merritt, specially assigned to the case from the U.S. Justice Department's civil rights division in Washington, D.C., asked for a 30-year sentence, saying "the crime has to be the most serious on any legal or moral scale."

Merritt said Ebens has refused to accept responsibility for Chin's death, "and that same denial of responsibility is still rampant. . . . Mr. Ebens still wants to blame Mr. Chin for his death."

Eaman, in asking leniency from Taylor, said Ebens was a "good neighbor and generous friend" who "for 30 minutes went berserk and acted out of character."

Ebens, Eaman told the judge, is not a racist but is rather a man whose own life "has been shattered. . . . The sentencing is almost a relief because there is nothing more society can do to him."

U.S. Attorney Leonard Gilman said: "This is an eminently fair sentence for the circumstances of a brutal killing. . . . I wish I could be optimistic and say that this would have some deterrent effect on such future behavior. It's a sad commentary, but I don't think it will."

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 9/28/84

FROM: SAC, DETROIT

ATTENTION: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT

- * 1. Initial submission supplemental submission revision
- * 2. File No: 44A-2408 (include alpha)
- * 3. Status: C (P - pending, P* - pending inactive, C - closed, RUC - referred upon completion)
- * 4. Title:
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)
OO: DETROIT

b6
b7c

Re:

5. If Title changed, show previous Title:

* 6. TYPE OF CASE: (check one)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| A. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CR | D. <input type="checkbox"/> CRA64-PE | G. <input type="checkbox"/> CRIPA | J. <input type="checkbox"/> FRS |
| B. <input type="checkbox"/> CRA64-E | E. <input type="checkbox"/> CRA64-PF | H. <input type="checkbox"/> DIH | K. <input type="checkbox"/> ISS |
| C. <input type="checkbox"/> CRA64-PA | F. <input type="checkbox"/> CREL | I. <input type="checkbox"/> ECOA | L. <input type="checkbox"/> PRIV. ACT - CRIM. |

ⓧ

7. AGENCY TYPE: (check one)

- | | |
|---|---|
| A. <input type="checkbox"/> City-County Jail | F. <input type="checkbox"/> Sheriff's Office |
| B. <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Agency | G. <input type="checkbox"/> State Police - Hwy Patrol |
| C. <input type="checkbox"/> Police Department | H. <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| D. <input type="checkbox"/> Prison/Penitentiary | I. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not pertinent |
| E. <input type="checkbox"/> Private Security | |

8. AGENCY NAME: _____ (20) STATE: _____ (use 2-char. abbrev.)
(omit if "Not pertinent" checked above):

* 9. ACTION: UACB;

- (check if applicable)
- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| A. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LHM enclosed | C. <input type="checkbox"/> Report enclosed | E. <input type="checkbox"/> No further action being taken |
| B. <input type="checkbox"/> LHM being submitted | D. <input type="checkbox"/> Report being submitted | F. <input type="checkbox"/> FD-376 (enclosure to LHM) |

* 10. Further action: A. investigation instituted
B. investigation continuing
C. investigation completed

11. Copy of above submitted to: (check as many as applicable)

- A. USA Detroit
- B. Secret Service
- C. BATF
- D. _____ (15) (other - specify)

[Handwritten signature in a circle]

44A-2408-218

SEARCHED _____
 SERIALIZED *[Signature]*
 INDEXED _____
 FILED *[Signature]*

(ATTACHMENT A)

2 - Bureau

Enclosures 3

1 - Detroit
MTG/dlb

[Handwritten initials]

Victim VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED)

12. SUBJECTS (number):
- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| A. _____ Amer. Indian | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| B. _____ Asian | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| C. _____ Black | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| D. _____ Hispanic | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| E. <u>2</u> White | <u>2</u> Male | _____ Female |
| F. _____ Other | _____ Male | _____ Female |

If "Other" please specify: _____ (15)

13. VICTIMS (number):
- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| A. _____ Amer. Indian | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| B. <u>1</u> Asian | <u>1</u> Male | _____ Female |
| C. _____ Black | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| D. _____ Hispanic | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| E. _____ White | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| F. _____ Other | _____ Male | _____ Female |

If "Other" please specify: _____ (15)

14. Other descriptive data re victims: not applicable

If applicable (number):

A. _____ under 18	C. _____ handicapped
B. _____ over 62	D. _____ institutionalized

15. Matter type (use best description, check more than one if applicable):

- A. brutality type _____ (15) (i.e., shooting; beating)
- B. nonbrutality
- C. death of victim
- D. suicide method _____ (15) (i.e., hanging, slashed wrist)
- E. known extremist group type _____ (15) (i.e., Klan, Nazi, JDL)
- F. suspected ext. group type _____ (15) (i.e., Klan, Nazi, JDL)
- G. cross burning
- H. migrant victim
- I. violence to property type _____ (15) (i.e., arson, shooting)
- J. ISS matter type _____ (i.e., peonage, enticement, servitude, other slavery)
- K. other explain _____ (25)

*16. Synopsis of Complaint - Date of initial complaint _____

On 9/18/84, was sentenced to 25 years custody of the Attorney General.

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- *17. Indices: (check one) negative positive (if positive explain in body of report/LHM)

Remarks/Administrative



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Detroit, Michigan
September 28, 1984

[REDACTED]

Vincent Chin (Deceased) - Victim
Civil Rights

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On September 18, 1984, [REDACTED] appeared before United States District Judge Anna Diggs-Taylor, Eastern District of Michigan, Detroit, Michigan. [REDACTED] was sentenced to 25 years custody of the Attorney General for violation of Title 18, Section 245, United States Code - Civil Rights.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

- FINAL DISPOSITION REPORT

Leave Blank

Note: This vital report must be prepared on each individual whose arrest fingerprints have been forwarded to the FBI Identification Division without final disposition noted thereon. If no final disposition is available to arresting agency, also obtain subject's right four finger impressions on this form, complete left side and forward the form when case referred to prosecutor and/or courts. Agency on notice as to final disposition should complete this form and submit to: **Director, FBI, Washington, D.C. 20537, Attention: Identification Division.**
(See instructions on reverse side)

FBI No.		Final Disposition & Date (If convicted or subject pleaded guilty to lesser charge, include this modification with disposition.)	
Name on Fingerprint Card Submitted to FBI Last First Middle		Convicted; sentenced to 25 years custody of the Attorney General on 9/18/84	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>			
Date of Birth	Sex	Male	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px;"></div>			
Henry Fingerprint Classification From FBI 1-B Response		This Form Submitted By: (Name, Title, Agency, ORI No., City & State) Wayne G. Davis, Special Agent in Charge, FBI, Detroit, Michigan	
State Bureau No. (SID)	Social Security No. (SOC)		
Contributor of Fingerprints (Include complete name and location of agency, together with ORI number.)		<div style="text-align: right;">9/25/84</div> <hr/> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Signature Date </div> <hr/> <div style="text-align: center;">Title</div>	
U.S. Marshal Detroit, Michigan 05626-039D			
Arrest No. (OCA)	Date Arrested or Received	<input type="checkbox"/> COURT ORDERED EXPUNGEMENT: Return Arrest Fingerprint Card to Contributing Agency; Certified or Authenticated Copy of Court Order Attached.	
None	11/10/83		
Offenses Charged at Arrest		Right Four Fingers Taken Simultaneously	
Civil Rights Title 18, Section 245, USC		<div style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.2em;">44A-2408-219</div> SEARCHED <u> </u> SERIALIZED <u> </u> INDEXED <u> </u> FILED <u> </u>	
1 - Bureau ① - Detroit (44A-2408) JLC/dlb (2) <i>WLB</i>			

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INSTRUCTIONS

1. The purpose of this report is to record the initial data of an individual's arrest and thereafter secure the **final disposition** of the arrest at the earliest possible time from either the arresting agency, the prosecutor or the court having jurisdiction. (INTERIM DISPOSITION INFORMATION, e.g., RELEASED ON BOND, SHOULD NOT BE SUBMITTED.) The SUBJECT'S NAME, CONTRIBUTOR AND ARREST NUMBER should be exactly the same as they appear on the fingerprint card IN THE FILES OF THE FBI. The FBI number should be indicated, if known. Agency ultimately making final disposition will complete and mail form to: **FBI Identification Division, Washington, D.C. 20537.**
2. The **arresting agency** should fill in all arrest data on left side of form and obtain the finger impressions of the right four fingers simultaneously. This should be done at the same time as the full set of fingerprints are taken on the arrest fingerprint card. If the arrest is disposed of by the arresting agency, as where the arrestee is released without charge, then the arresting agency should fill in this final disposition and mail form to FBI Identification Division. Of course, if final disposition is known when arrest fingerprint card is submitted it should be noted thereon and this form is then unnecessary. In the event the case goes to the prosecutor, this form should be forwarded to the prosecutor with arrestee's case file.
3. The **prosecutor** should complete the form to show final disposition at the prosecution level if the matter is not being referred for court action and thereafter submit form directly to FBI Identification Division. If court action required, the prosecutor should forward form with case file to court having jurisdiction.
4. The **court** should complete this form as to final court disposition such as when arrested person is acquitted, case is dismissed, on conviction and when sentence imposed or sentence suspended and person placed on probation.
5. When arrested person convicted or enters guilty plea to lesser or different offense than that charged when originally arrested, this information should be clearly indicated.
6. If subsequent action taken to seal or expunge record, attach certified or authenticated copy of court order to this form so that FBI can return arrestee's fingerprints to original contributor.
7. It is **vitaly important** for completion of subject's record in the FBI Identification Division files that **Final Disposition Report** be submitted in every instance where fingerprints previously forwarded without final disposition noted thereon.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537

FINGERPRINT CONTRIBUTOR:

Enclosed disposition report(s) is/are being returned to you because of reason(s) indicated below:

- Disposition or correct data not given.
- FBI number quoted does not pertain to this individual.
- Unable to locate criminal fingerprints relating to this disposition, correction or offense. Disposition or correction data can only be posted if fingerprints for this arrest have been previously submitted, and retained in file.
- Illegible carbon.
- Unable to interpret reported disposition or correction data so as to correctly complete our files.
- Disposition in this case does not appear to be final. (FBI does not post interim dispositions.)
- Our name indices contain many entries with this name; therefore, an effective search cannot be made. Endeavor to obtain fingerprints, FBI number or fingerprint classification.
- Name not shown on disposition report.
- Charge and date of arrest not given.
- There is no indication the enclosed disposition report(s) has/have been processed through your state identification bureau or central agency prior to their receipt by this Bureau.
- FBI number omitted, furnish if available.
- No identifying numbers on disposition report.
- Enclosed disposition report(s) may have been submitted by your office. Please list contributor and return to FBI. If not submitted by your office, please advise.
- Disposition may pertain to print RETURNED to your agency on _____.
- Contributing agency of fingerprints not indicated on the enclosed form(s).
- Your disposition report indicates a citation as the original arrest and a literal translation is needed.
- Other _____

After making appropriate changes or additions, please resubmit:

NAME INDEX

Section

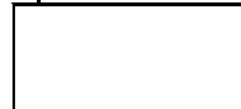
Enc.

Identification Division, FBI

44A-2408-220

NOTE: Due to the Identification Division's heavy workload, information from a disposition report is not added to a manually processed FBI identification record until such time as the record is to be disseminated. Consequently, any delay in the return of a defective disposition report may be due to that fact.

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FBI - DETROIT	



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FINAL DISPOSITION REPORT

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(See instructions on reverse side)

FBI No. 44-2408*(5/84)?		Final Disposition & Date (If convicted or subject pleaded guilty to lesser charge, include this modification with disposition.) Convicted; sentenced to 25 years custody of the Attorney General on 9/18/84
Name on Fingerprint Card Submitted to FBI Last 0 First Middle 10-18 10/10 10/10		b6 b7C
Date of Birth _____ Sex Male		
Henry Fingerprint Classification From FBI 1-B Response		This Form Submitted By: (Name, Title, Agency, ORI No., City & State) Wayne G. Davis, Special Agent in Charge, FBI, Detroit, Michigan
State Bureau No. (SID)	Social Security No. (SOC)	
Contributor of Fingerprints (include complete name and location of agency, together with ORI number.) U.S. Marshal Detroit, Michigan 05626-039D		Wayne G. Davis 9/25/84 Signature Date Special Agent in Charge Title
Arrest No. (OCA) 0 None	Date Arrested or Received 11/10/83	<input type="checkbox"/> COURT ORDERED EXPUNGEMENT: Return Arrest Fingerprint Card to Contributing Agency; Certified or Authenticated Copy of Court Order Attached.
Offenses Charged at Arrest Civil Rights Title 18, Section 245, USC		Right Four Fingers Taken Simultaneously 44-2408-221 SEARCHED _____ SERIALIZED _____ INDEXED _____ FILED _____

INSTRUCTIONS

1. The purpose of this report is to record the initial data of an individual's arrest and thereafter secure the final disposition of the arrest at the earliest possible time from either the arresting agency, the prosecutor or the court having jurisdiction. (INTERIM DISPOSITION INFORMATION, e.g., RELEASED ON BOND, SHOULD NOT BE SUBMITTED.) The SUBJECT'S NAME, CONTRIBUTOR AND ARREST NUMBER should be exactly the same as they appear on the fingerprint card IN THE FILES OF THE FBI. The FBI number should be indicated, if known. Agency ultimately making final disposition will complete and mail form to: **FBI Identification Division, Washington, D.C. 20537.**
2. The arresting agency should fill in all arrest data on left side of form and obtain the finger impressions of the right four fingers simultaneously. This should be done at the same time as the full set of fingerprints are taken on the arrest fingerprint card. If the arrest is disposed of by the arresting agency, as where the arrestee is released without charge, then the arresting agency should fill in this final disposition and mail form to FBI Identification Division. Of course, if final disposition is known when arrest fingerprint card is submitted it should be noted thereon and this form is then unnecessary. In the event the case goes to the prosecutor, this form should be forwarded to the prosecutor with arrestee's case file.
3. The prosecutor should complete the form to show final disposition at the prosecution level if the matter is not being referred for court action and thereafter submit form directly to FBI Identification Division. If court action required, the prosecutor should forward form with case file to court having jurisdiction.
4. The court should complete this form as to final court disposition such as when arrested person is acquitted, case is dismissed, on conviction and when sentence imposed or sentence suspended and person placed on probation.
5. When arrested person convicted or enters guilty plea to lesser or different offense than that charged when originally arrested, this information should be clearly indicated.
6. If subsequent action taken to seal or expunge record, attach certified or authenticated copy of court order to this form so that FBI can return arrestee's fingerprints to original contributor.
7. It is vitally important for completion of subject's record in the FBI Identification Division files that **Final Disposition Report** be submitted in every instance where fingerprints previously forwarded without final disposition noted thereon.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE DETROIT NEWS
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Date: 7/27/85

Edition: pg 7(B)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Conviction defended

Vincent Chin's killer treated fairly,

U.S. insists

Title: CONVICTION DEFENDED

Character: 44-2408

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: DETROIT

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department urged a federal appeals court to uphold the conviction of Ronald Ebens in the baseball bat slaying of Vincent Chin in Highland Park.

The Justice Department was responding to an appeal by Ebens, of East Detroit, of his conviction in the 1982 slaying of Chin, a 27-year-old Chinese-American engineer from Oak Park, during a brawl that started in a strip joint. Ebens is appealing his conviction to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati on a variety of grounds, including excessive pretrial publicity in the case, prosecutor misconduct and insufficient evidence.

He was sentenced to 25 years in prison by U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor on Sept. 18, 1984.

A FEDERAL case was brought against Ebens for violating Chin's

civil rights. The government contended that the beating was racially motivated.

Earlier, a Wayne County Circuit Court judge sentenced Ebens and his stepson, Michael Nitz, also involved in the incident, to probation and fines on manslaughter charges. Ebens had pleaded guilty and Nitz "no contest" to the charges.

In its brief to the federal appeals court, the Justice Department argued that Ebens and Nitz were tried by an "unbiased jury" which had been screened carefully, and that the pub-

licity surrounding the case "was not excessive, vicious or officially motivated."

Also, the department said, the jury "reasonably" concluded that "the fatal assault occurred because of Chin's race and because he had been enjoying the accommodations of the Fancy Pants Lounge. They also argued that evidence of a previous similar incident involving Ebens and a person of another race had not tainted the trial.

THE ORIGINAL sentences of probation and \$3,700 fines by Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman set off an outcry for a federal investigation. The interracial American Citizens for Justice argued that the attack on Chin was racial because Ebens called Chin a "Chink" and a "Nip" and made a remark about foreign car imports.

The fatal beating took place on June 19, 1982, near a Highland Park strip joint where Chin and several friends were holding his prewedding stag party. Chin died four days after the incident.

44-2408-222

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI—DETROIT	

WBR:SPC:FC:rs
DJ 144-37-1096

OCT 10 1986

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[redacted] - Subjects;
Vincent Chin (Dec.) - Victim
Summary Punishment
CIVIL RIGHTS

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Wm. Bradford Reynolds
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Reference is made to your field office file number 44A-2408.

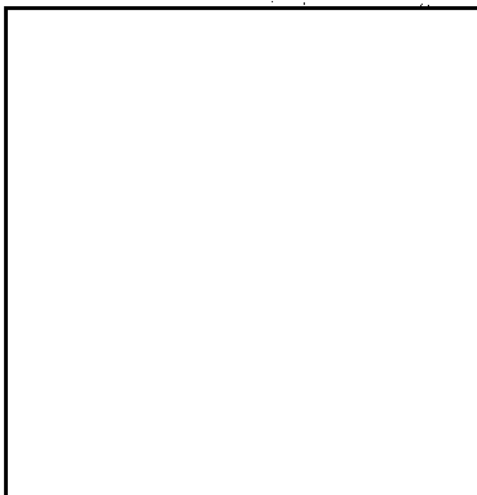
Please conduct the following additional investigation:

1. The United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit has reversed and remanded for a new trial the conviction of [redacted] for violating 18 U.S.C. §245. Please re-open the case. The United States District Judge has set a status conference for October 23, 1986, at 4:00 p.m. Trial will be scheduled at that time and could begin as soon as thirty days from October 23, 1986. The following witnesses must be located immediately as they must be interviewed by DOJ attorneys. The witnesses are as follows:

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JB

- 1.
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- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.



2. Please make the case agent available to DOJ attorneys during week of October 20, 1986, for viewing the scene and discussion of the case. 44A-2408-223

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 23 1986	
[redacted]	<i>MS</i>

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FBI

9816
C-4
10:20A

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
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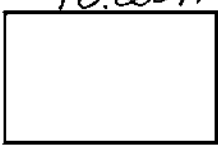
PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 10/24/86



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FM DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (C-4)
TO DIRECTOR

OMAHA IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O



VINCENT CHIN-VICTIM (DECEASED);

CR(A); OO: DETROIT.

RE DETROIT TELCALL TO SA [REDACTED] ON OCTOBER 24, 1986.

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FOR INFORMATION OF OMAHA, SUBJECT [REDACTED] WAS FOUND GUILTY OF VIOLATING THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF VINCENT CHIN BY BEATING HIM TO DEATH. ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1984, SUBJECT WAS SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS CUSTODY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

DB

THE CASE WAS RECENTLY OVERTURNED BY THE U.S. SIXTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS AND REWARDED BACK TO THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN FOR A RE-TRIAL.

DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY FLOYD CLARDY HAS REQUESTED ADDITIONAL MEDICAL RECORDS OF VINCENT CHIN FROM HENRY FORD HOSPITAL, DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

JLC:bad
(1) *bad*

AQ, om 1549z

Approved: *Kw/jk*

Transmitted

5005

Per *DB*

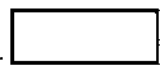
SEARCHED

(Time)

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

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44A-2408-225

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
 Facsimile

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
 Priority
 Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
 SECRET
 CONFIDENTIAL
 UNCLAS E F T O
 UNCLAS

Date _____

PAGE TWO DE 44A-2408 UNCLAS E F T O

OMAHÀ AT DAVENPORT, IOWA: CONTACT THE MOTHER OF VINCENT CHIN, MRS. CHIN, AT 329 MARQUETTE, TELEPHONE NUMBER 323-2227, AND OBTAIN MEDICAL RELEASE FOR ADDITIONAL MEDICAL RECORDS.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY GENERAL CLARDY WILL BE IN DETROIT FROM OCTOBER 27-30, 1986, AND WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW THESE MEDICAL RECORDS, THEREFORE, PLEASE FACSIMILE THE MEDICAL RELEASE TO ATTENTION: SUPERVISOR

DETROIT.

BT

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Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
 (Number) (Time)

URGENT TELTYPE HAS 1 DOCUMENT

OUTLOOK.1 (#1342)

TELETYPE:

DEG0005 2971549

OO HQ OH

DL DE

0241549ECCT 06

FM DETROIT (44A-2403) (P) (C-4)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

OMAHA IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

[REDACTED] VINCENT CHIN-VICTIM (DECEASED); CR(A);

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b7c

OO: DETROIT.

RE DETROIT TELCALL TO SA [REDACTED] ON OCTOBER 24, 1986.

FOR INFORMATION OF OMAHA, SUBJECT [REDACTED] WAS FOUND GUILTY OF

VIOLATING THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF VINCENT CHIN BY BEATING HIM TO DEATH.

ON SEPTEMBER 18, 1964, SUBJECT WAS SENTENCED TO 25 YEARS CUSTODY

OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

THE CASE WAS RECENTLY OVERTURNED BY THE U.S. SIXTH CIRCUIT

COURT OF APPEALS AND REWARDED BACK TO THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF

MICHIGAN FOR A RE-TRIAL.

DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY FLOYD ALARDY HAS REQUESTED ADDITIONAL

MEDICAL RECORDS OF VINCENT CHIN FROM HENRY FORD HOSPITAL, DETROIT.

44A-2408-205

SEARCHED	<u> </u>
SERIALIZED	<u> </u>
INDEXED	<u> </u>
FILED	<u> </u>

PAGE TWO DE 44A-2408UNCLAS E F T O

ORAMA AT DAVENPORT, IOWA: CONTACT THE MOTHER OF VINCENT
ORIN, MRS. CHIN, AT 329 MARQUETTE, TELEPHONE NUMBER 323-2227,
AND OBTAIN MEDICAL RELEASE FOR ADDITIONAL MEDICAL RECORDS.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY GENERAL
CLARBY WILL BE IN DETROIT FROM OCTOBER 27-30, 1986, AND
WOULD LIKE TO REVIEW THESE MEDICAL RECORDS, THEREFORE, PLEASE
FACSIMILE THE MEDICAL RELEASE TO ATTENTION: SUPERVISOR
 DETROIT.

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BT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 10/31/86

LILY CHIN, mother of VINCENT CHIN (deceased), was located at 329 Marquette Street, Davenport, Iowa (telephone 319/323-2227). She was informed of the official identity of the interviewing agent and the purpose of the interview. It was explained in an effort to retry the matter involving the death of her son, it was necessary that additional medical records be obtained from HENRY FORD HOSPITAL in Detroit, Michigan. Mrs. CHIN was thereafter presented an FD-465 and an FD-406 which she signed authorizing release of information concerning treatment of her son.

Mrs. CHIN further indicated she contemplated returning to the Detroit, Michigan, area on or about November 8, 1986, at which time she will be residing at 22031 Gardner, Oak Park, Michigan.

Investigation on 10/24/86 at Davenport, Iowa File # Omaha 44A-1083
Detroit 44A-2408 *-date*
 by SA :dls Date dictated 10/29/86

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FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
 - SECRET
 - CONFIDENTIAL
 - UNCLAS E F T O
 - UNCLAS
- Date 10/31/86

TO: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408)
 FROM: SAC, OMAHA (44A-1083) (RUC)

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN - VICTIM (DECEASED);
 CR (A);
 OO: DETROIT

Re Detroit teletype to Bureau, 10/24/86; and
 Omaha (Davenport, Iowa, Resident Agency) facsimile to
 Detroit, 10/24/86.

Enclosed for Detroit are the original and one copy
 of an FD-302 concerning obtaining signature of LILY CHIN
 on FD-465 and FD-406. Also enclosed is a 1-A envelope
 containing original signed FD-465 and an FD-406.

All requested and logical investigation in the
 Omaha Division concerning this matter has been completed.
 This matter is considered RUC.

② - Detroit (Enc. 3) *PR*
 2 - Omaha
 JW:dls
 (4)

1*

Approved: *[Signature]* Transmitted _____

(Number) (Time)

Per *[Signature]*
[Signature]

See 1A (closed)

[Redacted]

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 b7c

[Handwritten mark]

b6
 b7c

Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

3-A
DETROIT FREE PRESS
DETROIT, MI

Date: 11-6-86

Edition:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Title: FBI CHECKS FOR LEAK
of CHIN CASE DECISION

Character:

or

Classification:

44A-2408

Submitting Office:

DETROIT

FBI checks for leak of Chin case decision

By JOHN DUNPHY

Free Press Staff Writer

The FBI is investigating an alleged "premature leak" of a federal appeals court decision overturning the civil rights conviction of Ronald Ebens in the beating death of Vincent Chin.

Agents are trying to determine whether the appellate court decision was leaked to a newspaper reporter before it was publicly announced by the court.

The reported leak would not change the decision, but it has raised questions about the security of the appellate court's decision-making process.

The Cincinnati-based U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals on Sept. 11 ordered a new trial for Ebens, 47, of East Detroit, saying his first trial had been improperly conducted by U.S. District Court Judge Anna Diggs Taylor in Detroit.

Ebens was convicted on federal civil rights charges of beating Chin to death with a baseball bat during a fight in Highland Park in 1982. The conviction carried a 25-year sentence.

FBI AGENTS are trying to determine whether a federal employe leaked the appellate decision to Don Ball, a Detroit News reporter, before it was publicly announced, according to a federal employe knowledgeable about the investigation. The employe spoke on condition of anonymity.

Ball's questioning of an appeals court judge prior to the announcement of the decision prompted the FBI inquiry, the employe said.

See PROBE, Page 6A

44A-2408-228

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 6 1986	
FBI - DETROIT	

FBI checks for leak of Chin decision

PROBE, from Page 3A

Ball said Wednesday he recalled asking Appeals Court Judge Cornelia Kennedy about whether a decision in the case was imminent.

"I regretted saying anything to her and I felt badly afterwards because I put her on the spot," said Ball. Judicial ethics prevent judges from discussing decisions that are pending.

Kennedy was a member of the three-judge appeals panel that heard the Chin case and she concurred in the decision. She could not be reached for comment.

News stories of the decision were not broadcast or published until the court publicly announced the decision.

Ball said he did not see the decision before it was announced.

THE FBI INQUIRY was made public by U.S. Appeals Court Judge Nathaniel Jones, who mentioned the purported leak during a seminar at Yale University Law School Oct. 25.

Jones, of Cincinnati, later confirmed there was an FBI investigation of a leak in a sensitive case. He would not provide additional details.

But at the seminar, he said the FBI was investigating a leak of a decision involving a reporter in Detroit, according to Tim Robinson, editor of the National Law Journal, who attended the conference.

FBI spokesman John Anthony said the agency was conducting an investigation at the request of the appellate court but declined to provide details.

U.S. Attorney Roy Hayes said a federal employe could be convicted of criminal contempt of court for leaking a court decision. The crime carries a maximum penalty of a year in jail.

Pierce Lively, chief judge of the

appeals court, confirmed the FBI investigation. He called the investigation a rare occurrence and said he could not remember a similar investigation during his 14 years on the court.

In explaining the court's procedures, Lively said a case is heard by a three-judge panel. A draft opinion is written, shared with the two other judges who heard the case, then circu-

lated among the 12 other active judges on the court.

The judicial source said it is not unusual for the judges' law clerks and others in a judge's office to see draft opinions.

The U.S. Justice Department announced in September it would retry the Ebens case. No trial date has been set.

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
NOV 6 1986	
FBI - DETROIT	

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 11/6/86

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P)

CHANGED:

VINCENT CHIN -
 VICTIM (DECEASED)
 CR-A
 (OO: DETROIT)

b6
b7c

Title changed to delete subject

Re Bureau airtel to Detroit, dated 10/16/86.

During the week of October 27-30, 1986, witnesses listed in referenced airtel were made available to Department of Justice Attorney FLOYD CLARDY.

Status conference for October 23, 1986, was cancelled and, to date, no trial date has been set. Once a trial date is set, the Bureau will be advised.

2 - Bureau
 ② - Detroit
 JLC/kac
 (4) *kac*

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____
 (Number) (Time)

Per 44A-2408-229

SEARCHED _____
 SERIALIZED *[Signature]*
 INDEXED _____
 FILED *[Signature]*

WBR:SPC:FC:rs
DJ 144-37-1096

15 OCT 1986

b6
b7C

[redacted] - Subjects
Vincent Chin (Dec.) - Victim
Summary Punishment
CIVIL RIGHTS

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Wm. Bradford Reynolds
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Reference is made to your field office file number 44A-2408.

Please conduct the following additional investigation:

1. In addition to the witnesses listed in a FBI request dated 10/10/86 the following witnesses should be located in preparation for interview by DOJ attorneys:

1. [redacted]
2. [redacted]

b6
b7C

[Handwritten initials]

44A-2408-230
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
OCT 24 1986
[redacted]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

- 1 -

Date of transcription 11/19/86

b6
b7C

[redacted] HENRY FORD
HOSPITAL, was contacted and provided certified copies of
medical records and X-rays of VINCENT CHIN. These items
will be retained for possible future use in the retrial of
[redacted]

Investigation on 11/18/86 at Detroit, Michigan

by SA [redacted] / kac Date dictated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
11/18/86 1986	
FBI - DETROIT	

232

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FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 11/21/86

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P)

VINCENT CHIN
 (DECEASED - VICTIM)
 CR (A)
 (OO: DETROIT)

Re Bureau airtel to Detroit, dated 10/22/86.

During Departmental Attorney FLOYD CLARDY's trip to Detroit in October, 1986, investigation requested in referenced communication was handled.

[Handwritten signature]

2 - Bureau
 ② - Detroit
 JLC/kac
 (4) *[Handwritten initials]*

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b7c

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per 44A-2408-233

(Number) (Time)

SEARCHED _____
 SERIALIZED _____
 INDEXED _____
 FILED _____

Memorandum



To : SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P)

Date 1/12/87

From : SSRA [redacted]

b6
b7c

Subject : [redacted]
VINCENT CHIN -
VICTIM (DECEASED)
CR (A)
(OO: DETROIT)

On 1/7/87, [redacted] appeared at the office of INS
[redacted] Present at the meeting was [redacted]
[redacted] FLOYD CLARADY, Department of Justice
Attorney; [redacted] and writer.

b6
b7c

Discussed at the meeting was [redacted] immigration status.
[redacted] was granted a 90 day parole by INS in order to be available
for trial in captioned matter. [redacted] was directed to maintain
contact with [redacted] and at the end of 90 days, his status will
be reviewed.

On 1/8/87, CLARADY advised the trial in captioned
matter was scheduled for 2/11/87. However, it appears there
will be numerous delays.

On 1/12/87, [redacted] contacted writer and advised
he is currently residing at [redacted]
[redacted] telephone number [redacted]

b6
b7c

JLC/kac

(1) *Xac*

44A-2408-234

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 12 1987	
FBI - DETROIT	

[Signature]

(X)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 2/27/87

TO : SAC, LOUISVILLE
(ATTN: SA [redacted])

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P)

[redacted]
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -
VICTIM;
CR (A)
(OO: DETROIT)

Re telephone call of Supervisor [redacted]
to SA [redacted]

For information, murder weapon used in captioned case was a Louisville Slugger Baseball Bat. The weapon was used as evidence in [redacted] 1984 civil rights trial; however, during the course of the trial, a witness broke the bat demonstrating how victim was being assaulted.

Retrial in captioned matter is schedule to begin on April 21, 1987, and departmental attorneys request a similar bat as original murder weapon.

The bat is described as follows:

Louisville Slugger 125
HILLERICH AND BRADSBY COMPANY
Louisville, Kentucky
Genuine R17
JACKIE ROBINSON
JR4

2 - Louisville
② - Detroit
JLC/kac
(4) kac

44A-2408-235
SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED JS
INDEXED _____
FILED JS

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

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b7C

b6
b7C

Ⓢ

DE 44A-2408

LEAD

LOUISVILLE

AT LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY:

Contact officials at HILLERICH AND BRADSBY COMPANY and attempt to obtain a similar bat as described above.

x Airtel

2/27/87

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P)

[Redacted]

VINCENY CHIN (DECEASED) -
VICTIM
CR(A)
(OO: DETROIT)

b6
b7c

On 2/19/87, a change of venue was granted by U.S. District Court Judge ANNA DIGGS TAYLOR in captioned matter. Retrial is now scheduled for April 21, 1987, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

2 - Bureau
② - Detroit
JLC/kac
(4) kac

JP

44A-2408-236
SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED JP
INDEXED _____
FILED JP

TRANSMIT VIA: AIRTEL

CLASSIFICATION: _____

DATE: 3/5/87

FROM: Director, FBI

TO: SAC, Detroit (44A-2408)

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN
(DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)
(OO: DETROIT)

b6
b7C

RE: Detroit airtel dated 11/21/86.

Advise status of Federal trial. Submit report or LHM
in time to reach FBIHQ by 3/25/87.

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten signature]

44A-2408-237

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 05 1987	
FBI - DETROIT	

[Redacted]

b6
b7C

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 3/9/87

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TO: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408)
 ATTENTION: SSA [redacted]
 FROM: JAC SAC, LOUISVILLE (44A-2384) (RUC)
 SUBJECT: [redacted]
 VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -
 VICTIM;
 CR (A)
 (OO: DETROIT)

b6
b7C

Re Detroit airtel to Louisville dated 2/27/87 and Detroit telcall to Louisville dated 2/26/87.

Bat described in referenced airtel was sent to SSA [redacted] via U.P.S. on March 5, 1987. Bill to be sent March 6, 1987.

b6
b7C

Detroit should inspect bat upon receipt to confirm specifications as Louisville office had it sent directly from factory.

Louisville is placing this matter in a RUC status.

② - Detroit
 1 - Louisville
 PHD:cam
 (3)

1*

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____

(Number)

(Time)

44A-2408-238

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
MAR 16 1987	
FBI-DETROIT	

b6
b7C

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 3/13/87

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (C-4)

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -
 VICTIM
 CR(A)
 (OO: DETROIT)

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and three copies of an LHM.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)
 ② - Detroit
 JLC/kac
 (4) *kac*

44A-2408-239

SEARCHED _____
 SERIALIZED _____
 INDEXED _____
 FILED _____

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____ (Number)

(Time)

Per _____

[Redacted]

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b7C

b6
b7C



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Detroit, Michigan
March 13, 1987

Re: [redacted]
Vincent Chin (deceased) -
Victim
Civil Rights

b6
b7c

The trial of [redacted] on charges of violating
the civil rights of Vincent Chin is scheduled for April 21,
1987, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

This document contains neither
recommendations nor conclusions of
the FBI. It is the property of the
FBI and is loaned to your agency;
it and its contents are not to be
distributed outside your agency.

4 - Bureau
② - Detroit (44A-2408)
JLC/kac
(6) kac

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 3/26/87

TO : SAC, CINCINNATI
(ATTN: SA [redacted])

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P)

[redacted]
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -
VICTIM
CR(A)
(OO: DETROIT)

Re telephone call of SSRA [redacted] to SA
[redacted] 3/24/87.

For information of Cincinnati, [redacted] was convicted in U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, Detroit, Michigan, for violating the civil rights of VINCENT CHIN. [redacted] after arguing with CHIN, beat him to death with a baseball bat. The murder was determined to be racially motivated.

Conviction in the case was overturned and retrial has been set for 4/21/87, in Cincinnati, Ohio. During the course of the trial, cassette tapes will be introduced as evidence, thus requiring technical assistance from Sound Agents in the Cincinnati Division. Exact courtroom that will be utilized is unknown, but the judge assigned to the case is U.S. District Court Judge ANNA DIGGS TAYLOR from Detroit, Michigan.

LEAD

CINCINNATI

AT CINCINNATI, OHIO:

Will provide technical assistance for trial of captioned matter.

- 2 - Cincinnati
- ② - Detroit
- JLC/kac
- (4) *[signature]*

44A-2408-240

SEARCHED _____
 SERIALIZED *[signature]*
 INDEXED _____
 FILED *[signature]*

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time)

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b6
b7c

b6
b7c

AIRTEL

5/5/87

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (C)

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -
VICTIM
CR. (A)
OO: DETROIT

b6
b7C

Enclosed for the Bureau is the original and two copies
of self explanatory LHM.

2 - Bureau (Encs.-3)
1 - Detroit
JTC:psn

(3)
[Handwritten initials]

44A-2408-270

[Large handwritten signature/initials]
#5

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED *[Handwritten]*
INDEXED _____
FILED *[Handwritten]*

b6
b7C

[Redacted]



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Detroit, Michigan
May 5, 1987

Re: [redacted]
Vincent Chin (Deceased) -
Victim
Civil Rights

Retrial of [redacted] who was charged with violating
the civil rights of Vincent Chin, began on April 20, 1987 at
Cincinnati, Ohio. On May 1, 1987 a federal jury found [redacted] not
guilty of all civil rights charges.

b6
b7c

This document contains neither recommendations
nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property
of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it
and its contents are not to be distributed
outside your agency.

3 - Bureau
1 - Detroit
JLC:psn

(4)

Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

3-A
 DETROIT FREE PRESS
 DETROIT, MI
 Date: 5-3-87
 Edition:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Tapes were difference in Chin case

Retrial judge allowed recordings

Title:
 VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM CR
 Character:
 or
 Classification: 44A-2408
 Submitting Office: DETROIT

b6
 b7c

By JACQUELYNN BOYLE

Free Press Staff Writer

In 1984, a federal court jury in Detroit decided the beating death of Vincent Chin was racially motivated and convicted Chin's admitted killer, Ronald Ebens, of violating the young Chinese American's civil rights.

He was sentenced to 25 years in prison. Nearly three years later, in another city and with one major difference in the evidence before them, a federal court jury decided Ebens was not guilty of the same charge.

He walked away a free man.

Ebens' lawyers believe the verdict returned Friday at Ebens' retrial in Cincinnati resulted from the same element that caused the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn his Detroit conviction: tapes of witnesses being interviewed by a lawyer who may have improperly coached their recollection of events leading to Chin's death.

"I'm not accusing people of perjury," said Ebens' attorney, Frank Eaman. "I'm just saying their memories were helped."

The tapes were made by Liza Chan, a Southfield lawyer hired by American Citizens for Justice, a coalition of Asian-Americans and others formed in 1983 to protest the probation sentences given to Ebens and his stepson, Michael Nitz, by a Wayne County Circuit judge who accepted their pleas to manslaughter charges.

IN HER EFFORT to help build a civil rights case against Ebens, Chan talked to people who saw the fight that erupted between Ebens and Chin in the Fancy Pants Tavern in Highland Park on June 19, 1982, and who witnessed Chin's beating moments later on the street outside.

Ebens, 47, a former autoworker from East Detroit, clubbed the 27-year-old Oak Park draftsman with a baseball bat on Woodward Avenue near Davison. Chin died four days later.

On tape, Chan can be heard urging three of Chin's friends who were with him that night to "agree this is the story, this is it. When it's a federal prosecution, we're going to have to be agreeing on this. Is what happened. . . . We all remember our different lines. OK?"

U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor had barred Eaman and fellow defense lawyer David Lawson from introducing the tapes as evidence during the 1984 trial in Detroit, though the lawyers were permitted to question witnesses about their meetings with Chan.

But Eaman contended — and the appeals court agreed — that the tapes were crucial pieces of evidence in his effort to convince jurors that witnesses didn't recall any racial remarks made by Ebens until they'd talked to

See EBENS, Page 10A

44a-2408-291

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1987	
DETROIT	

OAKLAND PRESS

5/2/87

page 1

44A-2408

Chin case tapes may have been difference in retrial

EBENS, from Page 3A
Chin

Lawson said the case was orchestrated by Chan.

"It was wrong to make this a civil rights case," Lawson said. "Ronald Ebens did not do it because of Chin's race."

PORTIONS OF THE tapes were played to the nine-man, three-woman jury during the two-week retrial, throwing into question the testimony of three prosecution witnesses who said they'd heard Ebens utter the racial epithets.

Taylor moved the second trial to Cincinnati because of extensive publicity in Detroit.

Although jury foreman Jerry Heffron didn't cite the tapes in commenting on Friday's acquittal, he did say the decision was based on the government's failure to prove Chin's beating was racially motivated.

"We came up with the only decision we could come up with," said Heffron, acting as spokesman for the panel.

On Saturday, a spokesman for Vincent Chin's mother, Lily Chin, said she would pursue the only compensation left to her for her son's death — a civil suit filed against Ebens in Wayne County Circuit Court. A separate suit

against Nitz was settled for \$65,000. No trial date has been set for Ebens.

But the criminal case against him has ended because an acquittal cannot be appealed.

"Mrs. Chin is very distraught. Right now, she's in seclusion and not seeing anyone, including friends," James Shimoura, a board member of American Citizens for Justice, said at a news conference in Southfield.

Shimoura said the group hopes to raise enough money to open an Asian Center for Justice in the Detroit area later this year.

The problem of discrimination against Asians "is not going to go away simply because of what happened Friday. There will be more incidents of violence, more incidents of racism," he said.

Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.

1-A
DETROIT NEWS
DETROIT, MI

Date: 5-2-87

Edition:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

b6
b7c

Title

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM CR

Character:

or

Classification: 44A-2408

Submitting Office: DETROIT

Jury acquits Ebens in Chin case

Verdict angers Asian-Americans

By Denise L. Stinson
News Staff Writer

CINCINNATI — Ronald Ebens was acquitted Friday of federal charges he violated the civil rights of Chinese-American Vincent Chin when he beat him to death with a baseball bat in 1982 after a fight that started in a Highland Park topless bar.

The government had maintained the slaying was racially motivated. Prosecutors said Ebens was antagonistic toward Japanese, blaming them for U.S. auto layoffs, and lumped all Orientals together. Ebens is a former autoworker.

After the verdict, the smiling Ebens told reporters he was sorry for killing Chin, a 27-year-old Oak Park engineer.

"I'm still very sorry about what happened," Ebens, 47, said as his wife, Juanita, held his arm. "But you've got to realize how relieved I am."

THE VERDICT angered and "greatly disappointed" James Shimoura, spokesman for the American Citizens for Justice, a multi-racial group that claimed the beating was racially motivated.

"My heart sank about 30 feet when I heard it," said Shimoura, of Detroit. "I will never accept it. As far as I'm concerned, it was a racial killing. Every American of Asian descent has shed a tear as a result of this case."

In 1983, Ebens pleaded guilty to a manslaughter charge in the baseball-bat beating of Chin June 18, 1982. His stepson, Michael Nitz, pleaded no contest. Both men were sentenced to probation and fined \$3,700 each.

The Wayne Circuit Court sentence, described by critics as too lenient, sparked a national outcry and federal officials reopened the case as a civil rights matter. In 1984, Ebens was convicted in federal court in Detroit of violating Chin's civil rights and Nitz was acquitted.

BUT THAT decision was overturned by the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati in September because of trial error and coaching of witnesses.

The Appeals Court ordered a retrial of the charges against Ebens and it was moved to Cincinnati because of excessive publicity in Detroit.

Friday's verdict by a nine-man, three-woman jury came after about 10 hours of deliberation. During the eight-day trial, federal prosecutors and the U.S. Justice Department attempted to prove that Ebens beat Chin to death because of his race. Defense attorneys called the incident a drunken brawl with no racial overtones.

THE GOVERNMENT had sought to prove that the beating, witnessed by dozens of people in front of a Highland Park McDonald's, came after Ebens hurled racial remarks at Chin in the Fancy Pants Lounge in Highland Park.

As the verdict was read at 3:10 p.m. Friday, Juanita Ebens burst into tears and clutched the hand of friend Sylvia Woolbrecht, who testified as a character witness for Ebens. Juanita Ebens ran to the defense table and hugged her husband, who also was crying.

Both repeatedly hugged and thanked defense attorneys David Lawson and Frank Eaman.

"When I first got this case, I wanted to jump out of the window," Eaman said. "Now I want to jump because I'm so happy."

"THE PRESS has always presented this
Please see **Ebens/10A**

44A-2408-272

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 1987	
FBI - DETROIT	

Ebens

Chin case jury votes acquittal

From page 1A

case one-sidedly and it felt good that 12 people agreed with us."

Jury Foreman Jerry Heffron said it was not an easy verdict to reach.

"It was a terribly, terribly nerve-racking decision," he said. "I won't tell you how we arrived at it, but it will live with me and the rest of the jury for a long time."

Heffron said jury members had agreed not to talk to the media about their decision.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY Lawson said he believed the jury was impressed with strong testimony of Wayne County Medical Examiner Werner Spitz.

Spitz testified that Chin died from two blows to the head. One, he said, could have been made by a baseball bat, but the other was the result of Chin's falling and striking his head on the pavement.

Several witnesses testified they saw Ebens hit Chin in the head repeatedly with the bat as the victim rolled in the street and attempted to cover his head.

"The prosecutors tried to say the beating was racial because it was so terrible," Lawson said. "But Spitz made it clear it (the beating) was not that bad."

"**WE ACCEPT** the jury's verdict," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Floyd Clardy, but he acknowledged being disappointed.

Dean Goto, spokesman for the Cincinnati-based Roundtable of Americans of Asian Descent, said the jury's decision proved Americans are still ignorant to racism against Asian-Americans.

"If Vincent Chin had been black and beaten, it would have been obvious to everyone it was because of his race," Goto said. "We need to begin educating people that there is a strong anti-Asian sentiment in this country."

Bily Chin, the mother of the victim, attended the trial, but she was in Detroit when the verdict was announced and could not be reached for comment.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY Eaman said he thought the biggest factor in the acquittal was the ability of the defense to introduce tapes made by Southfield attorney Liza Chan.

The cassettes contained conversations among Chan, Jimmy Choi, Gary Koivu and Bob Sirotsky. The three men were helping Chin celebrate his upcoming marriage the night he was killed.

During the 1984 civil rights trial, U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor of Detroit, did not allow them to be heard by the jury. However, in ordering a new trial, the Appellate Court said the tapes could be used.

Ebens' attorneys and the Appellate Court maintained that the tapes showed Chan coached the witnesses on their testimony.



BOB BURNS/Associated Press

Ronald Ebens (left) shares a laugh with his attorney, Frank Eaman, after a jury found Ebens innocent of violating Vincent Chin's civil rights by killing him with a baseball bat.

Events in Chin case

Chronology of Vincent Chin case:

June 19, 1982: Vincent Chin of Oak Park, a 27-year-old engineering student, and three companions brawl with two other patrons at a Highland Park, Copless bar. Ronald Ebens follows Chin and beats the Chinese-American with a baseball bat.

June 23, 1982: Chin dies. Ebens, 43, and his stepson, Michael Nitz, 23, both of East Detroit, are charged with second-degree murder.

March 16, 1983: Ebens pleads guilty and Nitz pleads no contest to reduced charge of manslaughter. Wayne Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman fines each man \$3,700 and places them both on probation.

April 1983: Interracial coalition called American Citizens for Justice pressures U.S. Justice Department into a grand jury investigation.

Nov. 2, 1983: Ebens and Nitz indicted on charges of violating Chin's civil rights. Indictment charges beating was racially motivated.

June 28, 1984: Jury convicts Ebens and finds Nitz not guilty of federal charges.

Sept. 18, 1984: Ebens is sentenced to 25 years in prison but released on bond when his attorneys file notice of an appeal.

Dec. 12, 1985: The case is argued orally before the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Sept. 11, 1986: A three-judge panel of the appeals court reverses the conviction because of judicial error, misconduct by the government prosecutor and tampering with witnesses by Liza Chan, a Chinese-American attorney associated with American Citizens for Justice.

Feb. 23, 1987: Federal Judge Anna Diggs Taylor orders the retrial of Ebens, moved to Cincinnati because of extensive publicity in the Detroit area and northern Ohio.

April 21, 1987: Jury selection begins for the retrial of Ebens.

May 1, 1987: Ebens is acquitted of violating Chin's civil rights.

Indicate page, name of paper, city and state.)

1-A
DETROIT FREE PRESS
DETROIT, MI

Date: 5-2-87

Edition:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

b6
b7c

Title: VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -
VIETNAM
CR

Character:

or

Classification: 44A-2408

Submitting Office: DETROIT

Jury clears

Ebens in Chin case

Defendant 'still very sorry';

Asian Americans outraged at verdict

By JACQUELYNN BOYLE

Free Press Staff Writer

CINCINNATI — For the first time since he encountered Vincent Chin almost five years ago in a Highland Park bar, Ronald Ebens is free of all federal charges and state penalties for clubbing the young Chinese American to death.

"I'm still very sorry about what happened," the 47-year-old former auto worker from East Detroit said Friday after a federal district court jury acquitted him of violating Chin's civil rights by attacking him because of his race.

"You've got to realize how relieved I am," Ebens added as he left court to return to Detroit.

James Shimoura, a Detroit area lawyer and a member of the Asian-American lobby group American Citizens for Justice, said he was appalled at the verdict.

"I think every American of Asian descent has probably shed a tear today," he said. "This was a racial murder. There's still an ongoing problem with racism against Asians, even though the jury refused to accept that."

It was Ebens' second federal trial stemming from Chin's death. In 1984, he was convicted of the civil rights charge in Detroit, but the verdict and a 25-year prison sentence were overturned last year by the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. The appeals court ruled Judge Anna Diggs Taylor was incorrect in refusing to admit as evidence tapes of witnesses being interviewed. Ebens' lawyers said the tapes showed the witnesses were coached to say Ebens made racial statements.

The second trial was moved to Cincinnati because of intense publicity about the case in Detroit.

Ebens' wife, Juanita, who had a front-row seat throughout the two-week trial, covered her face with her right hand and wept as the court clerk read the "not guilty" verdict and polled jurors to make sure it was unanimous.

Ronald Ebens sat silently until the jury.

See ACQUITTAL, Page 11A.



Ebens

44-2408-273

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>ymg</i>	FILED <i>as</i>
MAY 1987	
FBI - DETROIT	

Ebens cleared in Chin case; Asian Americans outraged

ACQUITTAL, from Page 1A

was dismissed, then jumped up and hugged his wife and two lawyers, Frank Eaman and David Lawson.

"The key was a fair trial and a fair venue, because the press poisoned the case in Detroit," said Eaman.

The 12-member jury deliberated for about 7½ hours over two days before reaching a decision just before 3 p.m.

Foreman Jerry Heffron, a suburban Cincinnati machinist, said jurors felt they had no choice but to acquit based on the government's evidence.

"We had a very, very tough decision to make. It was no pleasure," he said, "but we came up with the only decision we could come up with. What was it the judge said, 'beyond a reasonable doubt' — there you have it."

"I agonized over this for two weeks," Heffron added. "I'm still agonizing over it now."

The foreman said other jurors had agreed only he would speak for the 12 after the verdict was announced.

Floyd Clardy, the U.S. Justice Department lawyer who helped prosecute the case, said: "We are, of course, disappointed with the verdict of the jury, but we of course accept it." He declined further comment.

JIM TSO, national president of the 5,000-member Organization of Chinese Americans, said from Washington, D.C., that he was "damn mad at our Justice Department and utterly dismayed at its lack of performance."

"We are going to for sure be following up with the Justice Department to find out what went on (at the trial) and what avenues we have at this point to appeal," he said.

"We are not going to let this case die by any stretch of the imagination, because it will continue to be a symbol of the injustices that are perpetrated on Asian Americans in this country," he said. "No matter what happens, we are going to continue to pursue this case and make sure in the future there are no other Vincent Chins. . . ."

Lily Chin, Vincent Chin's widowed mother, had attended the trial but Shimoura said she returned to the Detroit area Thursday night to wait for the verdict at her sister's home. Lily Chin has a civil suit pending against Ebens in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Chin, a 27-year-old draftsman from Oak Park, was beaten in the head with a baseball bat outside a Highland Park nude dancing club on June 19, 1982. He died three days later.

Testimony showed Chin and Ebens scuffled in the bar before Chin was ejected, and that outside the bar Chin invited Ebens to continue the fight.

The case gained national notoriety in 1983 when Ebens, who admitted wielding the bat, and Michael Nitz, his stepson who was with him during the beating, received three years' probation and \$3,780 fines for their roles in the death. Ebens pleaded guilty and Nitz pleaded no contest to manslaughter charges.

The sentences by Wayne County Circuit Judge Charles Kaufman touched off waves of protest from Asian Americans, who formed American Citizens for Justice to publicize the case and seek further action.

The federal charges followed. Nitz was acquitted of them in 1984.

Staff writer Wylie Gerdex contributed to this report.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

11
DETROIT FREE PRESS
DETROIT, MI

Date: 5-5-87

Edition:

b6
b7c

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ebens verdict is appalling injustice

Title: VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED);
VICTIM
CR

Character:

or

Classification: 44A-2408

Submitting Office: DETROIT

I can't believe the verdict in the Vincent Chin case. I am a 73-year-old white woman, and in my 73 years I have never heard of such an injustice. It doesn't matter if Chin's civil rights were violated, he was killed. If you steal and get caught you go to jail; how can this happen?

PEARL GEROW
Detroit

What good are civil rights?

WE, THE AMERICAN people, deserve all the crime, drugs, violence in the schools and in the streets to which we are being subjected. We have made a mockery of justice and the law. How can kids learn to respect the law and expect justice when they see such a prostitution of justice as the Chin case? Ronald Ebens was on trial for depriving Vincent Chin of his civil rights. Doesn't depriving him of his life count? What good are civil rights when you are dead?

HELEN HARRIS
Detroit

Retribution

ONE FACT has emerged in these last five years: Lily Chin will not be satisfied with the judicial system until it hands her her own baseball bat.

CAROL LEMELIN
St. Clair Shores

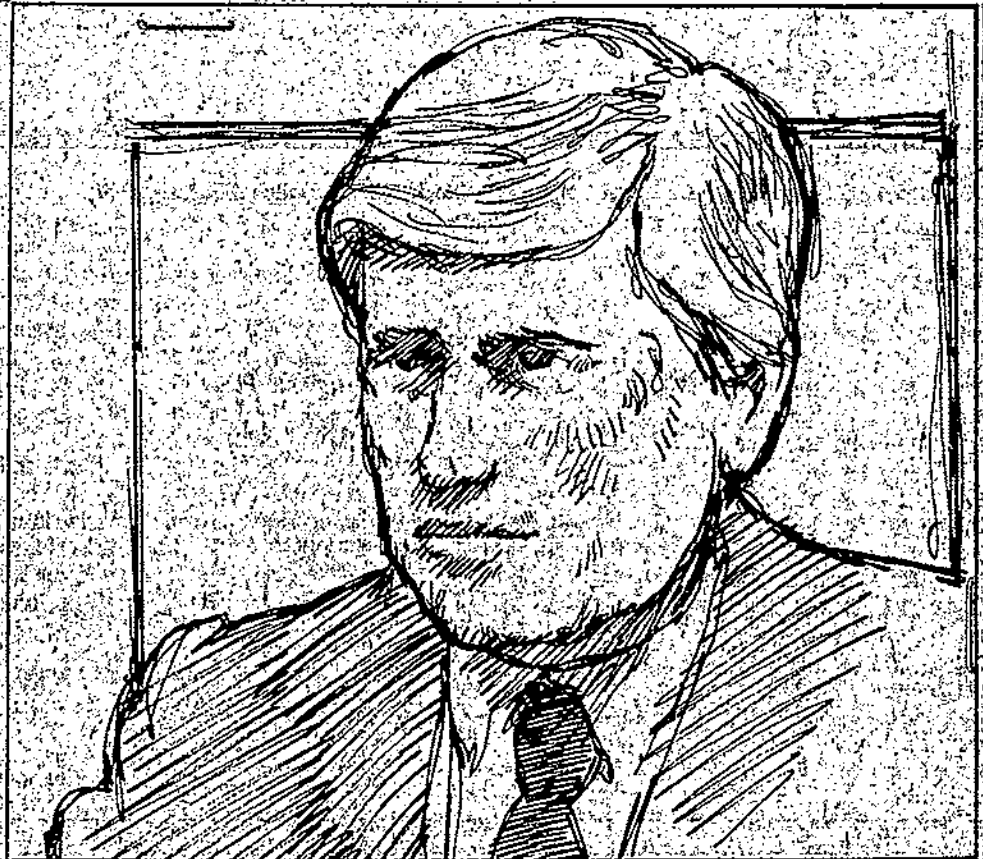
Unpunished

I DON'T see how anyone, for any reason, can just walk up to an unarmed man, and beat him to death with a baseball bat, and then get off. Does this mean that I can take a bat and beat Ronald Ebens to death and not go to jail? I promise to be sorry afterward.

JEANNE JAMES
Clifford

Get past the legalese

VINCENT CHIN is dead and Ronald Ebens killed him. I don't care what Ebens' motivations were; he pure and simple beat Chin to



MOSES HARRIS/ Detroit Free Press

Ronald Ebens: Did the justice system fail in the Chin killing?

death. This is not merely a civil rights violation. If only the courts and their ubiquitous lawyers could get past the fact that they are not more important than the case they are trying. Legalese be damned.

DONNA J. VAN EVERY
Birmingham

Cruel injustice

I MUST speak out against the cruel injustice against Vincent Chin and his loved ones. Chin's basic civil rights — the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness — were savagely taken away at the hands of a drunken killer.

The first injustice was done to Chin when he was killed. The second injustice was done to him when his killer was only charged with manslaughter. The third injustice was done when Ronald Ebens' federal conviction was overturned. The fourth injustice was finding Ebens not guilty of violating Chin's civil rights and therefore making a mockery out of the American judicial system.

My heart goes out to the family of Chin, whose sorrows will never be lessened, even a little, by the knowledge that the killer is being punished for the crime he perpetrated against them, Chin, and the American society.

JANET RODRIGUEZ
Lincoln Park

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

pg 1
OAKLAND PRESS
PONTIAC, MI

Date: 5-2-87

Edition:

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b6
b7c

Title:

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -
VICTIM
CR

Character:

or

Classification:

44A-2408

Submitting Office:

DETROIT

Ebens innocent in Chin rights violation retrial

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — A Detroit autoworker was found innocent Friday of federal civil rights charges stemming from the 1982 beating death of a Chinese-American man after a confrontation in a Detroit-area tavern.

In a case that was closely scrutinized by Asian-American groups, a federal jury acquitted Ronald Ebens of civil rights charges in the baseball bat beating death of Vincent Chin.

Ebens, 47, and his wife, Juanita, broke into tears at the news of the verdict.

"I'm still very sorry about the death that occurred, but I'm very relieved it is over after four years," he said.

Ebens had already been convicted in Detroit on manslaughter charges in the slaying of Chin, 27. He later was convicted of violating Chin's civil rights, but a federal appeals court threw out the conviction and ordered a new trial, citing errors in the first trial. The second trial was moved to Cincinnati

Civil rights advocates decried Ronald Ebens' acquittal



because of extensive publicity in Detroit.

The verdict was criticized immediately by a civil rights advocate.

"My heart sank 30 feet," said James Shimoura, a spokesman for the Detroit-based American Citizens for Justice.

Asked about the jury's decision that it was not a racial case, Shimoura said, "I will never accept that fact. As far as I'm concerned, this is a racial killing. I fully expected a guilty verdict. I think every Asian-American shed a tear today because of this verdict."

44a-2408-275

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>Yms</i>	FILED <i>AS</i>
MAY 1987	
FBI - DETROIT	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Asians plan Metro center to fight bias

Ebens' release sparks effort

By Linda Jones
News Staff Writer

Members of the Asian-American community said Saturday that because Ronald Ebens was acquitted in the death of Vincent Chin they'll step up efforts to counter discrimination against Asians in Metro Detroit.

To do that, they plan an Asian Center for Justice, a agency to help Asians who believe they are victims of discrimination.

The center also would monitor reports of anti-Asian violence, according to James Shimoura, a spokesman for the Americans Citizens for Justice, a civil rights group that is sponsoring the center.

THE PROBLEM is funding. Shimoura said his group is seeking money from private sources and hopes to have it under way within a year. The cost has not yet been determined, he said.

Kim Bridges, president of the American Citizens for Justice, said Friday's acquittal should not be considered a signal that racism, discrimination and bigotry have ended against Asian Americans.

"To the contrary it gives our community a clear indication that we have only begun the fight for justice," she said.

After nearly 10 hours of deliberation, a 12-member jury acquitted Ebens of federal charges that he violated Chin's



Kim Bridges: "We have only begun the fight for justice."

civil rights when he killed the Oak Park engineer with a baseball bat in 1982 outside a Highland Park nightclub.

EBENS WAS convicted and sentenced to 25 years in prison in 1984. But an appeals court reversed his conviction in September 1986, citing judicial error, misconduct by government prosecutor and witness tampering.

During the eight-day retrial, held in Cincinnati because of publicity over the case in Michigan, prosecutors said the incident was racially motivated. Ebens, they argued, was antagonistic toward Japanese and blamed them and Asians in general for U.S. auto layoffs. Chin was a Chinese-American. Defense attorneys argued that Chin's death was the result of a drunken brawl.

Bridges said the outcome of the trial was a major setback for the ACJ, a group that was originally created to support the Chin family in its court efforts.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

3-A
DETROIT NEWS
DETROIT, MI

Date: 5-3-87

Edition:

Title: [Redacted]
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED);
VICTIM
CR

Character:

or

Classification: 44A-2408

Submitting Office: DETROIT

b6
b7c

44A-2408-276

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 1987	
FBI - DETROIT	

Memorandum



To : SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (C-4)

Date 3-25-87

From : SA [redacted]

b6
b7C

Subject :

[redacted]
VINCENT CHIN-VICTIM (Deceased)
CIVIL RIGHTS (A);
OO: DETROIT

On 3-25-87, SA [redacted] provided one LOUISVILLE SLUGGER BASEBALL BAT (44A-2408-1B7) to Assistant United States Attorney WILLIAM F. SOISSON, Federal Building and United States Courthouse, Eastern District of Michigan, Detroit, Michigan, telephone number 237-4751. The aforementioned baseball bat will be used for the trial in captioned matter.

b6
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44A-2408-277

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 25 1987	
FBI-DETROIT	

[redacted] [signature]

b6
b7C

(2)
SR

Memorandum



Subject Notice of File Closing CIVIL RIGHTS MATTER	Date JUL 10 1987.
--	----------------------

To
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

From
WR/STB
Bradford Reynolds
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Reference is made to your field office file captioned as on the attached closing form and numbered 44A-2408. This matter has been closed as of the date on the attached form.

44A-2408-278

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SEARCHED IN	FILED
SERIALIZED	
SEP 03 1987	
DETROIT	
CARBON COPY	

JUL 10 1987

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b7c

144-37-1096

[Redacted]
[Redacted] Subjects;
Vincent Chin (Dec.) - Victim
CR

7/10/87

Jury verdict of not guilty - 1 count of 18 USC §245.

Floyd Clardy

CRD

Routing Slip

0-7 (Rev. 5-28-82)

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TO: SAC, Detroit + 44A-2408

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| <input type="checkbox"/> ASAC, Brooklyn-Queens (MRA) | | |

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8/21/87

Date

RE: Detroit

44A-2408

- Retention For appropriate
- For information optional action Surep, by _____
- The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, conceal all sources, paraphrase contents.
- Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____

Remarks:

The enclosed U.S. Department of Justice Notice of File Closing should be placed in the appropriate field office file.

Enc.
Bufile
Urfile 44A-2408

44A-2468-279

SEARCHED C	INDEXED
SEARCHED M	
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 02 1987	
DETROIT	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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FOI/PA# 1619296-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 8

- Page 9 ~ b6; b7C;
- Page 32 ~ b6; b7C;
- Page 116 ~ b6; b7C;
- Page 128 ~ b6; b7C;
- Page 129 ~ b6; b7C;
- Page 131 ~ b6; b7C;
- Page 132 ~ b6; b7C;
- Page 182 ~ b6; b7C;

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X Deleted Page(s) X
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X For this Page X
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(Title) _____

(File No.)

44A2408-1A

Item	Date Filed	To be returned		
		Yes	No	
1	5/1/83			Interview notes / [redacted]
2	5/9/83			Business Interview notes from [redacted]
3	5/20/83	✓		Interview notes [redacted]
4	"			" "
5	"			" "
6	"			" "
7	"			" "
8	6/7/83			Interview notes [redacted]
9	"			" "
10	6/22/83			Interview notes [redacted]
11	8/17/83	✓		Interview notes re [redacted]
12	"			Interview notes [redacted]
13	"			" "
14	"			" "
15	"	✓		" "

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b7c

44A2408-1A
 SEARCHED INDEXED
 SERIALIZED FILED
 APR 29 1983
 FBI-DETROIT

Field File No. 44A-2488-1A1

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 1/5/43

From _____

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By _____
(NAME OF AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes No

Receipt Given Yes No

Description:
Interview notes

b6
b7C

5/5/63

Mother's record Copy of

Vincent Jen Chin

22031 Gardner Oak Park

w/c

5'10"

149

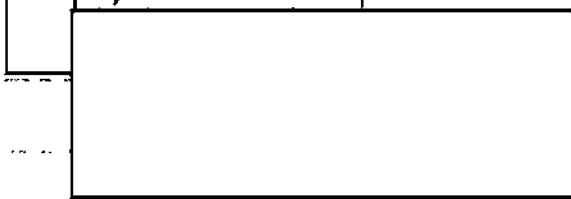
5/18/56 P&B China

362-62-9938

Father Chin Wing Hing (Dee)

Mother Lily Yee Kong

obtained from



b6
b7c

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
DE 44A2408-1A.1

1 A2
1 A2

Field File No. _____

OO and File No. DE 44A-2408

Date Received 5-18-83

From _____

b6
b7C

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

Original interview notes
from _____

b6
b7C

4:05 p.m.

Sat around 4:15 pm call from Vince meet at topless bar on 8 mile. ~~Met~~

Met at 6:20 pm. 'V' called one of his friends, [redacted] & ~~met~~ ~~friend~~ & all went to Fancy pants. Time: 8:15 [redacted]
McCombo's 8000 7:30 pm.
(8 mi. E of Coolidge)
V called another friend
Altercation at bet 9:30 & 10 pm

At Fancy Pants - [redacted] V, [redacted]

- got orange juices
- outta the corner, [redacted] heard "Chink"
- "Don't know if you're a little fucker or big fucker"

[redacted] - "V" got up & shoved [redacted] punched V & [redacted] picked up a chair, swung at V & V grabbed chair in mid-air.

b6
b7C

- bouncers broke it up [redacted] grabbed 'V' "cool off"

[redacted] went to bathroom, saw [redacted] & asked what was going on, "that they were there just for a good time"

- Then [redacted] talked to blonde dancer who also asked what was going on.

b6
b7C

[redacted] went to park lot saw [redacted] a Gent.
"Wh's your ^{friend} friend?"

- Got tire iron outta trunk. Walked to W' wd, saw [redacted] w/ baseball bat who said "C'mon we can fight you with that tire iron."

*

"Wh's [redacted] split. Got in car, looked for V [redacted] of rest."

June
5.



2:00 PM

b6
b7C

44A2408

- V was in control, not intox'd.
- Not prone to provocation, friendly person
- Knew Vince thru work

b6
b7C

- [redacted] met [redacted] & V at 8 mi place. Was crowded. V said let's go
- [redacted] dropped off cars at V's & rode in [redacted] car to Fancy pants.
- Stopped at drug store, bought vodka (pint)
- Vince knew bouncer who saw George & said keep it low. probably not policy

FP's
13300
Woodward Ave.

- [redacted] sat at stage table. Tipping girls.
- Lot of noise & heard word "chink"

- V said "Don't you call me a fucker"
- There's big fuckers and little fuckers, I just don't know if you're a little one.

b6
b7C

- [redacted] grabbed Vince & bouncer grabbed [redacted]. Then broken up
- There was more exchange of words but noise drowned out for [redacted]
- Saw [redacted] in bathroom; said "why don't you keep it cool, he's getting married." Blonde was sitting by bathroom, [redacted] talked to her

b6
b7C

When [redacted] come out [redacted] were pulling out of sock lot. Then they came back [redacted] w/ bat in hand, & [redacted] asked "where's your friend."

[redacted] took off, [redacted] drove after him.

After getting tire iron [redacted] back to wd'wd. Fix you w/ that tire iron, we're going to find you

WMM

Field File No. 44A-2408-1A3

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 5/21/82

From _____

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

Information notes

b6
b7c

5/14/83

- 1 -

[Redacted]

B/L
DOB
HT
WT

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

hair

[Redacted]

no hair placed
works night a family parts

born 1/19/43 I work

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

from a distant

my to stop company
this is to my chin beard
I had long hair

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

black
hair

stop

get this done

[Redacted]

no -

[Redacted]

when this to hair

d. escape out to out of bar

d. grow

[Redacted]

A lot - 9 or 5 days

for don the till hair

find out left to get to

a no look to tell friend

cut of hair

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

Nam was a [redacted] and
 got the [redacted] + their [redacted]
 Son on from this [redacted]
 "Come on now - [redacted]
 + they at your [redacted]
 some [redacted] can't recall [redacted] of state
 [redacted] every I got [redacted] for [redacted]
 [redacted] reaching [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
 state they [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Woodhouse
 [redacted] got [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
 Ching [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
 At [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
 they [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
 then was [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
 2-3 days [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
 Nam [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
 never [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]



Field File No. 44A-2408-1A4

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 5/29/82

From _____
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(CITY AND STATE)

By _____
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

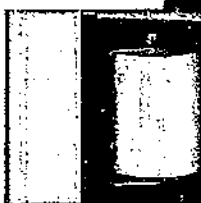
To Be Returned Yes
 No
 Yes
 No

Receipt Given Yes
 No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

Interview notes



They took the 1st of Sept -
had a man there. This
was a party of 4 people; both

In between they saw [redacted]

last who I can find said
[redacted] state not

found several a long
day later they a course
who called for a while
the other but have been

[redacted] recall by someone
between the 2 after flight

After approx 15 minutes
was a car which can
see that it was [redacted] do
walk to [redacted]

(Get ahead of street)
[redacted] had 45 left
I did not see them or his
friends.

[Redacted]

1/14
DOB
HT
WT

[Redacted]

b6
b7C

[Redacted]

Rock concert. ~~Sept~~

Write
too much of your
address

Field File No. 44A-2408-115

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 5/28/85

From _____

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

INTERVIEW NOTES

b6
b7c

was back of the hood of
the car and for the
purpose of 1 1/2 - 2 hr. and the
hole the nest was told
to you the best
I in I wish the good for

Does at the really for the
length for the states

Field File No. 44A-2408-1A6

OO and File No. _____

Date 6/2/78

From

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes No

Receipt Given Yes No

Description: INTERVIEW NOTES

b6
b7C

Red [redacted] bet go left
[redacted] [redacted] shot
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

U paid bet [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
no body [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

No reg [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

Jack [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
you little [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
at [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

Old [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

have [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
out [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

told [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

asked [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

I don't know how many
got the little Mt. St.

Be under no cover in [redacted]
start from [redacted] still [redacted]
got [redacted] path
to [redacted] via [redacted]
then [redacted] me down.

10-15 men delay [redacted]
9. Mc Dowd.

As Mc Dowd via [redacted] on the
state my [redacted] 6-7 days
found [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
Capt via [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] can my [redacted] first
across to [redacted] via [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] that [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] not
say [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

When V was full of powder
He is just off [redacted]
I call [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

Field File No. 44A-2408-177

OO and File No. -

Date Received 5/10/77

From

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By (AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes No

Receipt Given Yes No

Description:

INTERVIEW NOTES

b6
b7C

5/10/83

b6
b7C

W/K

DOB

b6
b7C

DOB'S NOT TIKED
KAW

Ab imp

6/19/83

b6
b7C

Chin A-D all sheet
a book
pat for deposit

Field File No. 44-2488-1A⁸

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 6/1/82

From _____

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

Interview notes

b6
b7c

was out of the lot and got
blinded in the
right eye. He took
the out about midday
Did not see anything
or anyone out with
[redacted] [redacted]

b6
b7C

[redacted]

Lost the [redacted]
- next day -

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
#E 44A2402-1A8

6/17/83

b6
b7c

[Redacted]

DRB

[Redacted]

HFI

wt

[Redacted]

employed

was only on the

day 6/19/82

of flying part

[Redacted]

The guy would

remind of Ray

this year could not

be any the

When this for the

celebration hour = 0

- 8' for place =

Did not see any the

tell you about first

that is program

Field File No. 447-2408-1A9

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 5/31/83

From _____

b6
b7c

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Yes

No

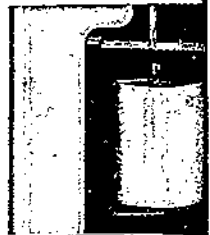
Receipt Given Yes

No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

INTERVIEW NOTES



5/31/83

[Redacted]

B/W

[Redacted]

b6
b7C

HT
wt

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Ha
[Redacted]

On 2/19/82 10-11⁰⁰ AM

b6
b7C

On

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Start in [Redacted] for
Swiss Swiss Clinic
old guy had bubble of
in heart for in a [Redacted]
guy walked up to the
[Redacted] on [Redacted]
guy holy heart
pleas.

I asked the if they
needed any help and
they said I'll

give you \$20 if
you help us later

then when we
told the they were gone
by now told the
they were gone

so I just saw a
panel, the way
just give it to
my



b6
b7C

asked the if they
wanted to a hospital

got in the car and
to hospital.
Keeps calling the China
per

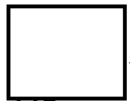
One of the best son -
is here in a hotel.

Had, but miss the
the first of the bar
their part.

Doing a workout
when you're in jail
for the first time

of for son was fine
of reg. [redacted]

is with a police officer
I said that in a
police officer old



said for the police
in his

let the get out

Can break around the

let enter the old
in state with his

wild fast

going to try to enter
other you

about [redacted]



Costa by plea.

Now just one of
any of the I just thought
that I was talking to
I the people.

10-15 M. with paper

the first the age.

Very little conversation

in case.

walk home that

night

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
DE 74A2408-1A9



Field File No. 44A-2408, 1A10

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 6/15/83

From _____

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

b6
b7C

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

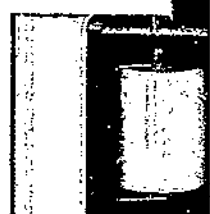
To Be Returned Yes
 No
 Yes
 No

Receipt Given Yes
 No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

INTERVIEW NOTES



[Redacted]

6/15/83

b6
b7c

023

[Redacted]

B/K

[Redacted]

- 3 weeks -

Single

Explosive or

[Redacted]

at Ferry Port

[Redacted]

5 total

one

etc -

Do not recall

of

[Redacted]

in the

[Redacted]

that

my

idea

w/ 35 - over

44 - 6'2

stock piles -

w/

young 6'3

thin build

with rest of

store

Chin - of the great
book, the religious
young

b6
b7C

[Redacted] from

Chin of the man

[Redacted] seen of the

book books from the

front opposite Chin's

small work is being

paid [Redacted]

[Redacted]

get together for [Redacted]

when Chin gets to

work the [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[redacted]

not want to tell Chi
he did not know good
[redacted] did not say for [redacted]
had some papers
went about Chi with
a wife not near verbal
[redacted] the [redacted] [redacted]
Finally Chi got up
one more to stop
and told [redacted] to get
up for [redacted] [redacted]
both about [redacted] [redacted]
just up to Chi [redacted] and
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
got [redacted]

Field File No. _____

OO and File No. 44A-24081 ^{ALL}

Date Received 8/12/83

From _____

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

Interview notes

re: _____

b6
b7c



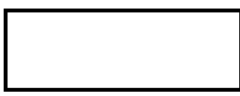
fancy pants

7 ³⁰/_P just



5 guys chinese



 w/f

30 mins. said still there

nothing racial

Date 8/11/83
Place Highland Park, MI.
Agents/ Per + MTB
~~ED~~

b6
b7c

ON 8/11/83

[Redacted]

[Redacted] Detroit, MI. was interviewed
[Redacted] at her place of employment,
The Fancy Pants Club, Davidson Frey and
WOODWARD AVE. HIGHLAND PARK, MI. BY SAs

[Redacted]

Detroit office of the FBI. At this time
[Redacted] was interviewed in reference
to events which occurred prior to
The death of Vincent Chin on 6/18/82.

[Redacted] provided the following
information:

[Redacted] she is employed
as [Redacted] at the Fancy Pants Club,
and [Redacted]

[Redacted] on the night of
6/18/82, she was employed in the
capacity: [Redacted]

ON the above night she worked
the night shift which starts at
7:00. She stated she was scheduled

[Redacted]

[Redacted] She noticed 4 or 5
oriental males seated at the
foot of the stage. ON one
or two occasions a couple of
The ~~oriental~~ oriental males

[Redacted]

[Redacted] however she [Redacted]

[Redacted]

50 dictated

2

The above activity is routine at the fancy pants and she was still trying to adjust. She ~~was~~ further indicated she had only been working at this bar for approximately 2 wks.

[Redacted]

apparently the oriental males

[Redacted]

she stated she continued

[Redacted]

at approximately 7:30 P, two w/m's entered the bar and sat ~~to~~ 3 or four seats to the left of the oriental males.

[Redacted]

~~she~~ she ~~stated~~ the oriental males continued

and after a few minutes the w/m's

They started to tell her

about the ~~the~~ oriental males as they did not know a

[Redacted]

[Redacted] advised the above events continued until she

[Redacted] she advised she felt as though the oriental males were ~~to~~ tense during their ~~the~~ verbal confrontation with the w/m's, but the w/m's were more or less kidding with them

③ AND Trying to keep their spirits up.

b6
b7c

She advised ~~the~~ upon [redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
short while later she heard some commotion coming from the front of the club. She went to see what was going on, at which time she saw chairs been thrown, and other male employees trying to stop the oriental males and the whites from fighting. She saw one of the oriental males standing in the middle of the floor in what appeared to be a martial arts stance. At this the oriental males and the whites were escorted from the bar by ~~the~~ male employees.

Approximately 30 mins. later another [redacted] named [redacted]

[redacted] and informed her that the above individuals were still in the parking lot arguing. She didn't pay it any attention as she thought it was stupid the way the inds had acted. ~~She~~ [redacted] after the above night [redacted] showed her a news article indicating one of the oriental males had been killed as an apparent result of what had happen on the night of 6/18/82.

4

b6
b7c

[redacted]

ADV.

During the above verbal confrontation she did not hear any racial remarks made by either the w/m's or oriental males. She felt as though the w/m's were not prejudiced, as she is a ~~blk~~ and ~~and~~ if anyone ~~one~~ would have been shown prejudice it would have been her. In her opinion the orientals were

[redacted]

[redacted] and the w/m's were [redacted] and not agreeing with the oriental males.

~~AT~~ upon conclusion of the above interview [redacted] was served ^{with} a subpoena issued ~~by the~~ in the Eastern D. of Detroit, MI., indicating she is to appear ~~at~~ for testimony before a fct. on 9/8/83. [redacted]

b3
b6
b7c

ack. receipt of the above sub. through signing 2 copies, one of which was left in her possession.

Field File No. 447-2408-18 ^{A18}

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 7/26/82

From _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR) (AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes
 No
 Yes
 No

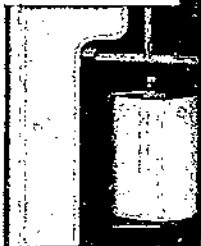
Receipt Given Yes
 No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

Interview notes

b6
b7C



7/26/83

b6
b7C

[Redacted]

DOB - [Redacted]

yes please

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

drain

with

[Redacted]

the way

I'll never

I was

dig out

a wooden

see ~~part~~

beam

North from

the corner

rest with

half

down north

a

took about half

year

in it my i would

I was beat

lay on

see with

path

for a

what upper

7 for a

basement lot

swing in this line
about 1/2 inch
should be 5-6

M. other side the
cut down
the (Bk
stop upon

police will receive
stay fixed
Pit up from together
But never had with
verbalize

3

Field File No. 44-2408-1A13

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 7/21/83

From _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

Interview notes

b6
b7c

b6
b7c

b6
b7c

7/25

b6
b7c

[Redacted]

u/s

[Redacted]

Small

[Redacted]

die

Long with - work are
also Ball you
wonder how feel
things. Look over
town in a week

was not on a
your best with just
dice & baseball
from the boat on
approx 3 hits after

by the stoppage of
your line of your
Did not get out
station Did not

see

[Redacted]

do length

*Do not know what
means up last*

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
DE 44A2408-1A1B

Field File No. Q4A240P.1A14

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 7/14/83

From _____

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____

(NAME)

AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

INTERVIEW NOTES

b6
b7C

7/14/83

WPA

least amount of people
 in area the by other
 are a report
 people person. really
 help the people out
 better deal with
 more the case
 met in office
 1980

[redacted] tell for obvious
 why very fair
 [redacted] describe any record
 like from a group
 [redacted] any remark about
 for get his name
 will take of total
 take [redacted] and can
 assist only a couple
 [redacted] outside of [redacted]

m. g. s.

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
DE. 14A2408-1A14

Field File No. 44A-24081A

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 7/14/83

From _____

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____
SPECIAL AGENT

To Be Returned Yes

No

Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

Interview notes

b6
b7C

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
DE 44A2418-1A15

7/14/83

b6
b7C

[Redacted]

Chapman

[Redacted]

W/L

DUB

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

*part for 1972
who for transfer of
of A. Bell*

[Redacted]

*graph or occasion
the report that
with page of other
name by record job*

Row Carter got a new pool
my 5090 swim
so from pool with
the got along well
at given any
No dispute in deed -
No display of long
with hate of any
racial group.
Lemon swim for wife
and off.

with on beat my
in beat my ill
you after lunch
table + the pair re
was every but hair
not explain why so low
table at the on
by since descent did
at dinner incident

b6
b7c

Does not have a valid patent
of or right.

(Title) _____
 (File No.) 44A2408-1A

b6
b7C

Item	Date Filed	To be returned		Disposition
		Yes	No	
16	8/17/83		✓	Interview notes [redacted]
17	"			" " [redacted]
18	"			" " [redacted]
19	"		✓	" " [redacted]
20	"			" " [redacted]
21	8/14/83			Interview notes [redacted]
22	"			" " [redacted]
23	"			" " [redacted]
24	"			Suprema [redacted]
25	"			2 rolls - 35 mm film of Bar & Mrs. Donalds [redacted]
26	1/25/84		✓	Interview Notes [redacted]
27	"		✓	Interview Notes from [redacted]
28	"		✓	Interview notes from [redacted]
29	1/30/84		✓	Interview Notes [redacted]

b3
b6
b7C

b6
b7C

44A2408-1A
 SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
 SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____
 AUG 17 1983
 U.S. DETROIT
 FBI-DETROIT

Field File No. 44A-2408-1A16

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 7/1/82

From
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

INTERVIEW NOTES

b6
b7c

7/5/82
b6
b7c

[Redacted]

DOB

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

was
tried

When he about 6 weeks
prior to being shot
files to be done because
person not in out
on visit. Man talks
to his family at
Lester. Bureau report
Does not know how he
could provide
Background. Did not
see him after
No record available

He came in of legal
road did not know
himself - did
not know any relation with
my name of any substance

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
DE 44A-2408-1A16

Field File No. 44A-2808-1A17

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 7/24/83

From _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

**Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure**

Description:

Interview notes

b6
b7C

7/14/83

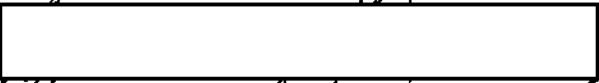
b6
b7c

W/

PoB

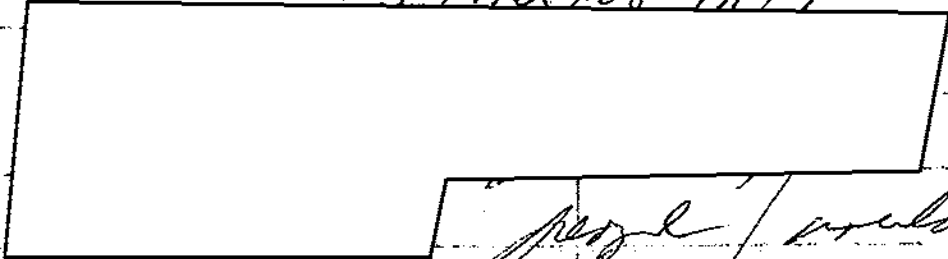


Met her at the place
approx 3 years
ago



She work of the approx
1 1/2 years ago work for
the same tell dinner.
Dinner with the father
football baseball game
after work -
no part will do
no a visit for
long so had

b6
b7c



people would
 go out to help people. The police
 didn't say anything
 public will know.
 I never heard of any
 racial group against the
 High Court. Will find
 after the best he
 did not know either
 I saw it in paper.
 Mr. Contact since decision
 I never heard any derogatory
 people remarks but
 by now, people
 get along well with
 Mr. [unclear] the [unclear]

Field File No. 44A-2408-1A

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 7/14/82

From _____

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____

(SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

*Interview notes
from* _____

b6
b7c

[Redacted]

7/14/83

helped alot x - [unclear] [unclear]
who

b6
b7C

DOB

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

met

[Redacted]

Mr. [unclear] worked as
a [Redacted]

It is not exactly what
the -

Mr. [unclear] [unclear]
that - [unclear] [unclear]

people [unclear] [unclear]

Mo [unclear] [unclear]
social

[Redacted]

Field File No. 44-2808-1A19

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 7/14/83

From (CONTRIBUTOR)
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By (NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes No No

Receipt Given Yes No

No

**Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure**

Description:

INTERVIEW NOTES

b6
b7C

7/24/83

b6
b7c

[Redacted]

w/
- DOB -

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

- /
approx 6-7

 worked a
[Redacted] the

noticed he's about
2 months prior to
some action was
pretext of
on
Place could get me to
do extra of well
liked

Field File No. 44A-2408-AJ

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 7/19/82

From _____

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

STATE)

By _____
SPECIAL AGENT

To Be Returned Yes

No

Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

INTERVIEW NOTES

b6
b7c

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
DE 44A 2408-1A2

7/5/63

b6
b7C

B/L P/B

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

who

[Redacted]

arriving at this

to see days & on

plan a

[Redacted]

He started to

[Redacted]

i Don't remember

[Redacted]

been

[Redacted]

visit re

my work for

visit on to see

as possible

May

different type of interaction

to be used along several

pieces of the

pieces of the

see over

Did not wish either photo
or vision just as
problem then we
against public works
Bill

Reading our Convention
should talk about Jap
law our first effect
throughout - but by interest
was at pleasure.

Did not say, to and need
make a point of
"They agree now
all over the paper."

He looked at the paper.
"It is a shame."

we cannot fight with
just division.

Can just provide a name
person in police people
they are close to people
No they come about
get some more
to a line

Field File No. 44A-2908-1A-21

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 8/11/83

From _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____
(SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes
 No
 Yes
 No

Receipt Given Yes
 No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

INTERVIEW NOTES

b6
b7C

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
DE 44A-2408-1A-21

8/11/13

Boyer b6
b7C

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

- Single car pro.

~~with~~ Blm

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

McDonald eat

[Redacted]

out

best photo

I've had good luck
attaching photos to the

when they were put

in the stack

around a tree 2

etc. Blm

Notes regarding what

has been done for me

and put in my piece

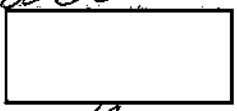
of physical 25 ft -

3 ft long 3-4 in

with stick

pleas it off an
up the food of the
tree - dog and
Conor as me

Five week stand
outen Next to
the best in



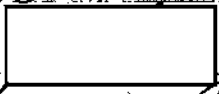
had Chi

5 Bear Hy by tel
can see I was not
let



had this in hand
attent + his li

the Chi approx per
the one many more

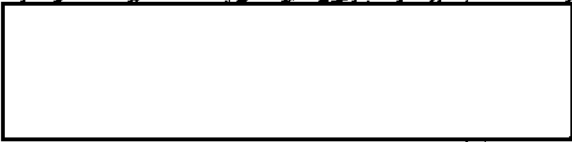


Chi break way Chi
start on with bond
Southern lane

with by be full

that reg in
has s me

might want to be as long
for last week
the time of it.



b6
b7C

with Red Curly the

Field File No. 44A-2408-1A-22

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 8/11/67

From _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By _____
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes
 No
 Yes
 No

Receipt Given Yes
 No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

INTERVIEW NOTES

b6
b7C

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
DE 44A-2408-1A-22

b6
b7c

8/11/83

B/L

Bader

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

at MC will [Redacted]

MC party to [Redacted]

MC give a base
of a [Redacted]

this [Redacted]

[Redacted] [Redacted]

pulls in [Redacted]
the stage abruptly

door closed [Redacted]
the [Redacted]

we [Redacted]
school [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

get

out with [Redacted]

but

[Redacted]

out

had a "drive" from
book. [redacted] then

connect to getting out
of the area and what is
being said. Looking for
the area the [redacted]
both; this is a side
walk of all [redacted] [redacted]

beginning. [redacted] [redacted]
beginning. This and [redacted]
try to find [redacted]
then during [redacted] [redacted]
prob. [redacted]

Toil a long & stop
Northbound [redacted]

Class not with [redacted]
a long of [redacted] [redacted]
book. This stop

[redacted] this is a book
I read in [redacted]



from me at
 home - set the on
 street at Woodman and
 into the Bessie
 car 820 I kept back
 again. Did not
 know who the carter
 of the Bessie. I
 told the the carter
 a copy of the
 my diff.
 know for a part of
 race plan for
 or [redacted] for car
 really [redacted]
 paid [redacted]

The list is a copy of
your file. By the
time we are finished
~~with~~ - Don

F.D. self P.D. get
put down lower as

my put down put
set for down

a full name I call
John & [redacted] car

b6
b7C

power line & get
in an of letter

P.D. direct & to

buy get bar out
publish the

will [redacted]

P.D. put the
file of Det.

DE 44A2408-1A-23

File No. LA 44A-9532

Date Received 11/16/83

From [Redacted] (NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

FBI, LBPA, 555 E. Ocean Blvd, (NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

Long Beach, CA

[Redacted] (NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes No Receipt Given Yes No

Description:

Original interview notes from

[Redacted]

28#101

b6
b7c

11/16/83

b6
b7C

[Redacted] NMN [Redacted]

unemp.

JTPA / ROP LA county training in Dallas.

Paramant H.S. M-F.

Speculation. Career Rehab/Exp Program.

Saw TV. Program

June or Jul 83, had wife proper

1st seen CNN. later 1st camera. 3rd time he called FBI

Witness Not interviewed -

not know he died until 4/84

Ching page protesting against Vincent Chin + ex-conv working

getting probation + fine for killing (manslaughter) of Chin.

wrote letter to Hyland Park PD +

ask them he was

Don't know chin died back in Detroit. Hyland Park, MI south

by Selection Army.

Detroit 10:30 pm Mac Donald's Woodward Ave next to Macdonald crossing Avalon at Woodward on foot

Time set Nike, June 2

as starting to cross Woodward saw a east from Mac Donald's lot. on Woodward. man run. 2 others Ching + w/

Ching man stopped Ching + w/ other white kids + kids

2 white 1 w/ bat started striking on legs. Hyland Park off

Drop of STOP

2 blacks working at Mac Donald's police officers. Ching fell + police came at working at Mac's.

2 rev guns + told to stop. Man hit chin 2 times. he walked up to

chin, 1 officer pulled gun at him. He went up to chin, pulled out handkerchief + put

under head. Chin mumbled. Ice under head.

5/10 min police came.

came from side of car to help chin. Gun at. pointed

it at him. I want to help him, stop until ambulance can be sent.

Drop of 2 Black off duty officers searching for MRS.

Res: Monterey Motel
Woodward Ave, 4 blocks from site
left. July 82. Sep '82 relocated to hit.

Well
7.11.82 area

Cops arrested 2 whites hand cuffed.
Told to get out of way. He went
up to news stand & saw ~~black~~ ^{female/black} ~~black~~ ^{female/black} ~~black~~
he saw it. unrecalled name. Teacher. came after
2 off-duty police officers also saw
assault. They were in Mac. & they came out during
fight. About 50' away from fight.
Happened in street.
I w/ bat other was hitting & kicking.

<u>Bat</u>	<u>other</u>
sex: M	M
ra. caucasian	caucasian
6'0	brunette hair
2'10	5'8
30	180-170

7/22-25

Heard about room bar, Tap, loss of job
JV fight.

No info from news in Mich.

Motiv: story copman on debate for like someone
FBI no response from Nylavel Park &
Civil rights handled by FBI
Indicted by fed grand jury for civil rights
wants to be witness for prosecution.

Field File No. MI 44A 1216
OO and File No. De 44A 2408-1A24
Date Received 10/6/83
From FBI Detroit
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By  (AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes
 No
 Yes
 No

Receipt Given Yes
 No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

GRAND JURY
SUBPOENA ON



b6
b7C

b6
b7C
b3

SUBPOENA TO TESTIFY BEFORE GRAND JURY

United States District Court

FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN & SOUTHERN DIVISION

GRAND JURY NO. 83-5-3 #9

to

b3
b6
b7C

You are hereby commanded to appear in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan at 231 W. Lafayette in the city of Detroit on the 2nd. day of Nov., 19 83 at 12:30 o'clock P.M. to

testify before the Grand Jury and bring with you'

This subpoena shall remain in effect until you are granted leave to depart by the court or by an officer acting on behalf of the court.

This subpoena is issued on application of the United States of America,

ROBERT A. MOSSING

Date September 21, 19 83

Clerk.

VIRGINIA M. MORGAN
817 Federal Building
Detroit, MI 48226
313/226-3695

By *Tracy Adley*
Deputy Clerk.

¹Strike the words "and bring with you" unless the subpoena is to require the production of documents or tangible things, in which case the documents and things should be designated in the blank space provided for that purpose.

RETURN

Received this subpoena at Milwaukee, WI on 10/6/1983 and on 10/13/1983 at Milwaukee, WI within named by delivering a copy to MM and tendering² to allowed by law.

I served it on the

Date 10/13, 19 83

By SPECIAL AGENT, FBI

b3
b6
b7C

Service Fees
Travel _____ \$
Services _____
Total _____ \$

²Fees and mileage need not be tendered to the witness upon service of a subpoena issued in behalf of the United States or an officer or agency thereof. 28 USC 1825, or on behalf of a defendant who is financially unable to pay such costs (Rule 17(b), Federal Rules Criminal Procedure).

Field File No. 44A-2408-1A-25

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 8/25/83

From FBIHQ
(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)

By _____
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned Yes
 No
 Yes
 No

Receipt Given Yes
 No

Grand Jury Material - Dissemination
Only Pursuant to Rules 6(e)
Federal Rules of Criminal
Procedure

Description:

2 rolls 35 mm film
of Bar & McDonalds

b6
b7c

DOC LAB NOTE

**DOCUMENT (S)
CANNOT
BE SCANNED**

DESCRIPTION:

2 Rolls of Film

Field File No. 44A-2408-1A26

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 1/9/84

From _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By _____ (AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Description:

INTERVIEW NOTES

b6
b7c



12/13/83

b6
b7c



~~MINN. Disrupt passive
interest & observe conduct
in a public place~~

plead it interest &
observe conduct. 2nd.

requires a plan of
illegal activity

- How many -

59 people
invested

Club started March 18
MAX ALLEN'S Social Club
maxwell 1984 Los Pine

Field File No. 44A-2408-1A27

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 9/28/83

From _____

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____



(SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

INTERVIEW NOTES KNOX



b6
b7C

9/28/83

b6
b7c

w/

Franklin Park 10 yrs

On lot blazer
will part

we call [redacted] present
of woods of Glendale

Arrive at Scag Possum

found [redacted] [redacted]

that Conson [redacted]

not tell [redacted] observe

[redacted] use of [redacted]

Play cards [redacted]

asked [redacted] who [redacted] [redacted]

you [redacted]

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
DE 44A-2408-1A27



can't be sure
my best friend will
be there for
stand on the
of the ground.



When 40-42

- Moral Bill

Porter says he has
a free shell

I turned around the
way back to see
also I don't know
how at the last what
he did to me on
he was pointing at a
batter by

Put out pen of first
convent

Hand in my will othe
China but did not
say that you ever
helped China.

I was in fact
I did not at
any of conversation
regarding And
they.

Field File No. 44A-2408-1A28

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 9/24/13

From _____

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By _____ (DATE)

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description:

INTERVIEW NOTES

[Empty rectangular box for description details]

b6
b7c

9/28/82

b6
b7C

DOB

employed Krippl &
was in the unit of
Highland Park

Hired

On 11/19/83

1/19/83

SA [redacted] [redacted] you
date in [redacted] - drive.

SA [redacted] [redacted]

got call about 10:00

proceed to Woodman

of Glendale ASSAULT

Taken place

Arrived [redacted] [redacted] on

Woodman [redacted] [redacted] next to

drive door [redacted] [redacted]

appear to be conscious

at talk

tried to meet hi
with hi notes [redacted]
and the bell boys
of the pair [redacted] 2
guy sitting on steps or
place but in fact
[redacted]

and they did it
w/ the blood the young w/ a
'40's

After [redacted] the point out hi
old wife get
I walked to and
and jacket, the effect
That night I did it

[redacted] I had it my my
and point to other

[redacted] you would be
then tho I
glances and look
at the other Chi
guy

d. [redacted]
people in the
the [redacted] and [redacted]
the [redacted].

4. [redacted] look + [redacted]
the [redacted] [redacted]
+ [redacted] [redacted] +
[redacted] + [redacted] but
[redacted] could [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted].

No [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted].

1. [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted].

Field File No. 44A-2408-1A29

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 11/19/80

From

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By (NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes Receipt Given Yes

No No

Description:

INTERVIEW NOTES

b6
b7C

11/19/84

b6
b7c

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

DOB

[Redacted]

married July 1982
By C [Redacted] Sgt
1983 - [Redacted]
- No CO [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Met [Redacted]
[Redacted] Aug 5, 1979, who
to turn across the street
for me - lived at
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

been with [Redacted]
Pats [Redacted] - [Redacted]
[Redacted] in 1979 [Redacted]
[Redacted] [Redacted] 1979

No contact since
Conversation with no
content of other
then report about
Friday when [redacted] [redacted]
no people being [redacted]
Ans. Her [redacted]
my own been
he was being his job
He might get a
part fly
Did not say it
perhaps was just
Friday =

b6
b7C

Memoirs Nov 3 1979
Divine Dec. - 1982/1981

SEE ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
E 44A-2408-1A29

(Title) _____
 (File No.) 44A 2408-1A

Item	Date Filed	To be returned		Disposition
		Yes	No	
30	7.10.84	✓		1 PHOTO OF [REDACTED]
31	"	✓		" " " [REDACTED]
32	"	✓		INTERVIEW NOTES
33	"	✓		" "
34	"	✓		" "
35	"	✓		" "
36	"	✓		" "
37	"	✓		" " [REDACTED]
38	"	✓		COPY OF SUBPOENA FOR [REDACTED]
39	8/3/81	✓		Cert. of Naturalization
40	10.15.85	✓		Subpoena for Vincent Chin Autopsy Photos
41	12.16.86	✓		FD-465 & FD 406 SIGNED LILY CHIN
42	4.24.87	✓		INTERVIEW NOTES
43	8/20/87			FD-192's Re: 44A-2408-1B-1/1B-5, 1B-7, 1B-8
44	8/24/87			2 PHOTOS OF [REDACTED]

b6
b7c

44A 2408-1A
 SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
 SERIALIZED RC FILED RC
 JUL 10 1984
 FBI - DETROIT
 MMR

Field File No. 44A-2488 1A-30

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 6/1/89

From Howard Sauer Sr
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By _____ (NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)
_____ (STATE)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Description:

1 photo - OK

b6
b7c

Field File No. 44-72408-1A-31

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 6/1/74

From Hickman Park PD
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By _____ (NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)
_____ (STATE)

To Be Returned Yes No

Receipt Given Yes No

Description:

1 photo of



b6
b7c

Field File No. 44A-2408 1A-32

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 6-13-84

From
(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)

By
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate
Only Pursuant to Rules 6(e),
Federal Rules of Criminal
Procedure

Description:

Interview Notes.

b6
b7c

6-13-84

JADWIGA BALINSKI SENAR aka
HATTIE. w/f

8/26/1908

4010 Middle Channel Rd
Hansen's Island Michigan
748-3748.

Owed Jo-Joe's B/m w/ husband
~~from~~ 16 yrs ^{to} sold it & moved out
of area ~~1976~~ in 1976. Subd died 1977
We had primarily white clients
but some blacks. Don & I recall
any problems between whites & blacks.
Specifically don & I recall incident in 1973
or 74 involving B/w's. I. B/m.
who was given verbal harassment &
don & I recall asking B/m to leave to
avoid trouble.

b6
b7c

Don & I recall photo a name

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Don & I recall

[Redacted]

by name.

Had a number of B/w's. Last few years.
The incident could have happened but I
don't recall. I'm 75 yrs old.

I am familiar of lawsuit this case
just read review the paper.

Field File No. 44A-240 & 1A-33

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 6/25/74

From _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By _____
(NAME)

To Be Returned Yes No

Receipt Given Yes No

Description:

INTERVIEW NOTES

b6
b7C

[Redacted]

42889

b6
b7c

[Redacted]

Why did you tell
me with all effort
been to be my son.

Well my [Redacted] with [Redacted]
[Redacted] & [Redacted] of me don't
at it to [Redacted] starts
did not [Redacted] with
that [Redacted] the
'Don' an old [Redacted] with
a lot [Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted]
[Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted] [Redacted]

to the upper falls
down a wooden
looked very dry at
last A saw
followed

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

65 + three heard
A 155 p.m.
went to 80 up
he was taken care
Died not appear
he was in what
of her down
M & apply on any

on 2 & 3rd below

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
DE 44A 2-4-68 1A 33

Field File No. 44A-24081A-34

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 5/25/74

From
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Description:

INTERVIEW NOTES

b6
b7C

[Redacted]

5/28/84

b6
-b7C

- DOB [Redacted]

[Redacted]

8- 6/9/82 got [Redacted]
McDonald left Jan

8 pm - [Redacted]

[Redacted]

June
Sat

Home around

[Redacted]

There from the as
public office
5 took up about the
9 minutes return it
2 dr. Alvarado Paul Ehr
posit. Blue pulled
my: fi. all leader
Park 1st. Park
2 wk got out of
past rest.

olden wpa 3 ft grey
blue hair 1 to 2
48's he was only a business
man

young - photo -

Bld got out back seat

Noticed 2 Chinese guy
walk past door on
settle down by the
phone booth the
corner the 2 white
guy speak up -
the phone then
the press

In the old guy hit
one of the Chinese guy
the back of the
head
H.V. in again in the
side

Couldn't run because he
hit his right leg
fell to the ground
while a cop
he found this
as least 4 blocks
from head 3 - 4
of his body
the other thing
was off a short
distance being very close
to close.

[Redacted]

ran out the
light & stop at
light he saw
that he was on

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

was
called to
took to
patrol - old

[Redacted]

got
some
son.

b6
b7C

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
DE 44A 2408-1A-34

old white guy still
looking angry to the
way [redacted] of [redacted] he
to get some what he
done.

b6
b7c

I'm outta part of
Crown. Steve talk
job. I about left.

Chin guy kept
moving and looking back.

pd for short close
to fact is
left on a
first pt with down.

the white guy kept for
I keep his for running
stand in way get.

Field File No. 44A-240A 1A-35

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 5/29/79

From

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By (D STATE)
SPECIAL AGENT

To Be Returned Yes No Receipt Given Yes No

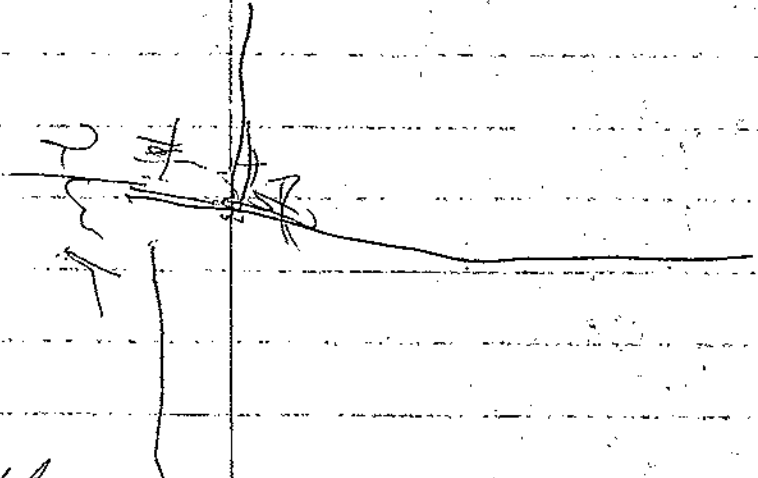
Description:
Interview notes

b6
b7C

5/29/84



b6
b7C



father + car - in back
however in back

2 w/ in front
car going away
can't recall name else
car descri just white
did not see user. that

the hotel stay to
was by way
yellow paper for
had little room
looked like the
you was very nice
the the left
on window of
Tried to find
look + report
talked [redacted]
body already left.

b6
b7C

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
DE 44A-2408 1A-35

Field File No. 44A-2408 1A-36

OO and File No. _____

Date Recd. 5-12-1966
From _____

(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

By _____ (City and State)

(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned Yes

No

Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate
Only Pursuant to Rules 6(e),
Federal Rules of Criminal
Procedure

Description:

Interview notes.

b6
b7c

5-31-84

b6
b7c

[Redacted]

DOB

8500 Woodward

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

No phone.

Contact thru [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Work out-time for [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

On June 19, 1982, at approximately 9-10 pm I was at McDonald's at Woodward & Glendale Detroit. I was talking w/ [Redacted]

I looked thru window out onto Woodward going SE & saw I saw 2 ~~concrete~~ individuals walk S. on Woodward on west side of street right in front of McDonald's. They walked X parking lot & toward the phone booth on SE corner of McDonald's. Blocked from view by parked truck & bushes. 20-30 min later I then saw a black car ^{along with} ~~anyone~~ or something like that go S. on past McDonald's.

They pulled into lot of dumpsters and parked directly S of McDonald's. 3 jump out - 2 w/m's & 1 B/w. I saw ~~one~~ C/M get caught w middle of Woodward Ave. I couldn't see where other C/M went. 2 w/m caught the C/M.

One w/m had Baseball bat.
He was tall clean cut w/m - looked
like late 40's.

Other w/m ~~younger~~ ^{long hair} - early 30's late
20's, blue jeans - no weapons.

They tackled him - ~~one~~ ^{younger one} started wrestling w/ him. The other
came up & slush the c/m on the
head w/ baseball bat. Blows on
chest & head area. 3-4 good hits
Then I told [redacted] ^{was - dropping bat.} to step out
to step it. 3-4 more hits.

The younger one.

I went outside of [redacted] - I saw most of
what happened -
could have seen
something when
walked
out.

I heard in remarks between either
of w/m's

I saw the B/m - he had gotten
out of car he probed w/ an object
in his hands.

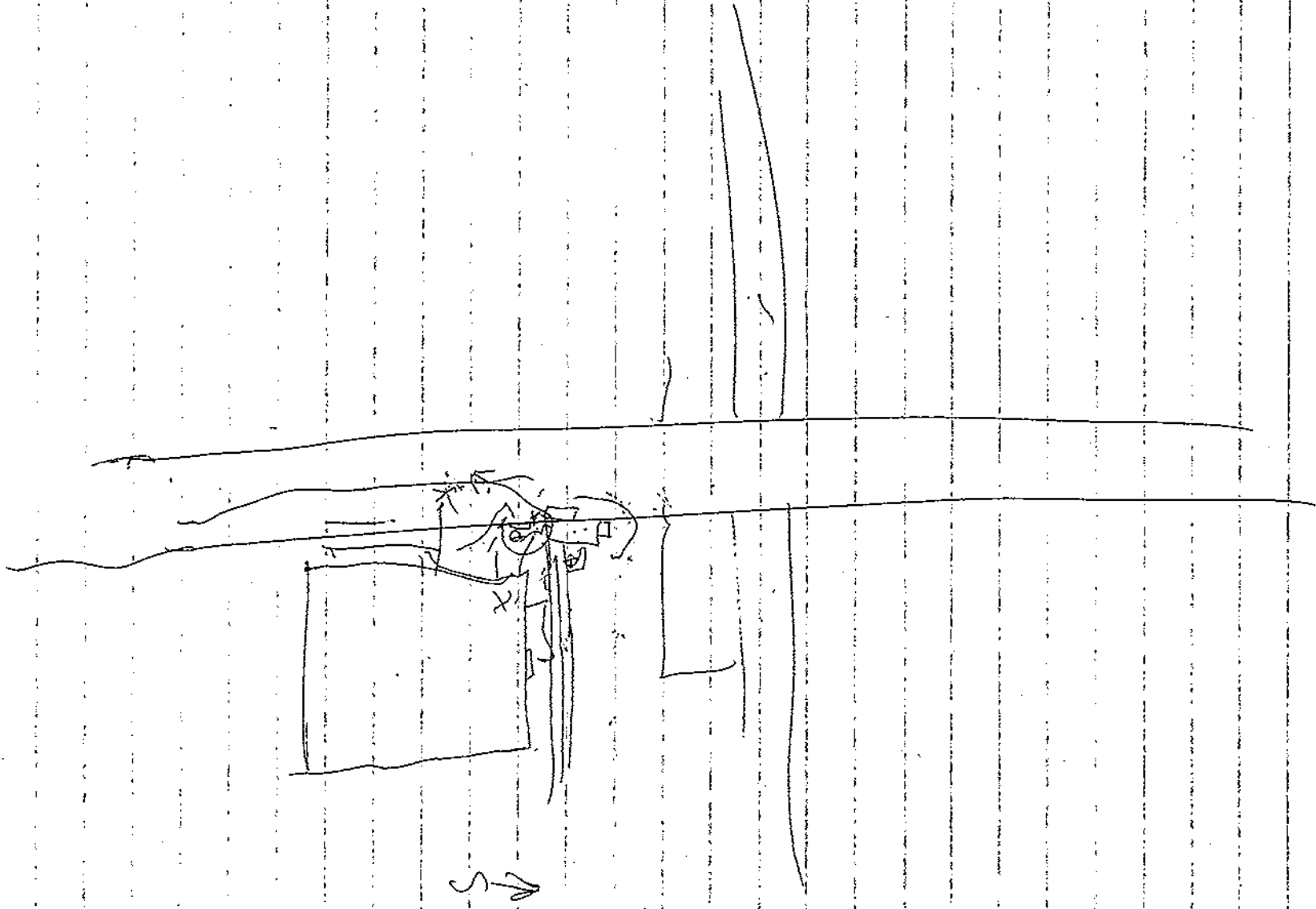
I then saw the other c/m who
find apparently run for help.
I stayed until EMS. came.

I went to HPPD & gave a
statement. [redacted] told me to
write a brief statement of what
I saw.

There were other in party but
and I don't know who they were.

[redacted] - off duty HPPD.

Oriental Males.



Field File No. 44A-2408 1A-37

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 6/8/84

From _____
(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)

By _____
(Name of Special Agent)

b6
b7c

To Be Returned Yes

No

Yes

No

Receipt Given Yes

No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate
Only Pursuant to Rules 6(e),
Federal Rules of Criminal
Procedure

Description:

Interview notes



6-8-84

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

B/M

b6
b7c

been here 10 yrs.

[Redacted]

LNO. who

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

from his 6 yrs.

I know him as

[Redacted]

@

Chrysler. I worked at Chrysler also -
next few hrs.

I had alot of contact w/ him while he
had Bo's pluck from 1975 - 1978 or
so.

I did not know him to be a person to be
involved in get into fights.

I would not say he was racially
prejudiced. He had mixed crowd in
his bar I don't know of any blacks
big beat up in there. There may have
been fights there - he didn't start
them.

I talked w/ him & got alot of him.

[redacted]
Employed at Chrysler. Team 9 wife
Det [redacted]

b6
b7c

Known [redacted] when he [redacted]
[redacted] 1976 or so - I frequented
the bar he problem had the most
damnable atmosphere - mostly from
white clients. - Some believe he
owned it.

I did not work for him or
know him @ work.

I never knew him to be prejudiced
toward blacks or other minority
we went @ lunch.

I did not know him to be violent. He
hadled fights & problems in his place
but not overly aggressive.

most of his business was from co-workers -
I believe came from most of people in
neighborhood who just sat around white or
black.

I've never seen any fight in their

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

B/m
Doo [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Det.

I never [Redacted] as long as long as he
[Redacted] [Redacted] frequented his bar on
occurred. I always felt comfortable
there. no problems toward Blacks as
long as they weren't troublemakers.
I got along well w/ [Redacted] he often
bought me a drink.

I never knew him to be violent or
prejudiced toward minorities.
I never knew any Blacks to have problems
[Redacted] in the bar. It was a happy
[Redacted] partnership.
he was in partnership of another I think

Field File No. 44A-5408 1A-38

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 6/11/89

From _____
(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

By _____
(City and State)

(Title of Special Agent)

To Be Returned Yes
 No
 Yes
 No

Receipt Given Yes
 No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate
Only Pursuant to Rules 6(e),
Federal Rules of Criminal
Procedure

b6
b7c

Description:

copy of subpoena
for

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
DE 44A 2408 1A-38

AO 89 (Rev. 10/82)

SUBPOENA

United States District Court	Eastern District of Michigan, S.D.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	89-60629
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 300px; height: 20px;"></div>	TYPE OF CASE <input type="checkbox"/> CIVIL <input type="checkbox"/> CRIMINAL
	SUBPOENA FOR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PERSON <input type="checkbox"/> DOCUMENT(S) or OBJECT(S) b6 b7c

TO:

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear in the United States District Court at the place, date, and time specified below to testify in the above-entitled case.

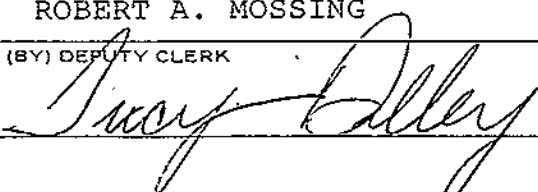
PLACE United States District Court Eastern District of Michigan 231 W. Lafayette Detroit, Michigan 48226	COURTROOM Hon. Anna Diggs Taylor Room 226
	DATE AND TIME June 13, 1984 at 9:00 a.m.

YOU ARE ALSO COMMANDED to bring with you the following document(s) or object(s):⁽¹⁾

None

See additional information on reverse

This subpoena shall remain in effect until you are granted leave to depart by the court or by an officer acting on behalf of the court.

U.S. MAGISTRATE(2) OR CLERK OF COURT ROBERT A. MOSSING	DATE June 11, 1984
(BY) DEPUTY CLERK 	
This subpoena is issued upon application of the: <input type="checkbox"/> Plaintiff <input type="checkbox"/> Defendant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. Attorney	ATTORNEY'S NAME AND ADDRESS Mr. S. Theodore Merritt, Trial Atty. Civil Rights Division U.S. Department of Justice Washington, DC 20530

(1) If not applicable, enter "none."
(2) A subpoena shall be issued by a magistrate in a proceeding before him, but need not be under the seal of the court. (Rule 17(a), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.)

RETURN OF SERVICE ⁽³⁾			
RECEIVED BY SERVER	DATE <i>6/11/84</i>	PLACE <i>Detroit</i>	
SERVED	DATE <i>6/11/84</i>	PLACE <i>Detroit</i>	
SE		FEES TENDERED	
		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO AMOUNT \$ _____	
SERV		TITLE	
STATEMENT OF SERVICE FEES			
TRAVEL	SERVICES	TOTAL	
DECLARATION OF SERVER ⁽⁴⁾			
<p>I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing information contained in the Return of Service and Statement of Service Fees is true and correct.</p> <p>Executed on _____ <i>Date</i> <i>Signature of Server</i></p> <p style="margin-left: 200px;"><i>Address of Server</i></p>			
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION			

b6
b7C

(3) As to who may serve a subpoena and the manner of its service see Rule 17(d), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, or Rule 45(c), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

(4) "~~Fees and mileage need not be tendered to the deponent upon service of a subpoena issued on behalf of the United States or an officer or agency thereof~~ (Rule 45(c), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; Rule 17(d), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure) or on behalf of certain indigent parties and criminal defendants who are unable to pay such costs (28 USC 1825, Rule 17(b) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure)".

Field File No. 44-2808-1A39

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 5/9/64

From INS
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By _____ (NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)
By _____
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

b6
b7c

To Be Returned Yes No
Receipt Given Yes No

Description:
CERTIFICATION OF
NATURALIZATION
VINCENT CHIN

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
DE 44-2408-1A39

United States of America

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
333 Mt. Elliott St.
Detroit, MI 48207

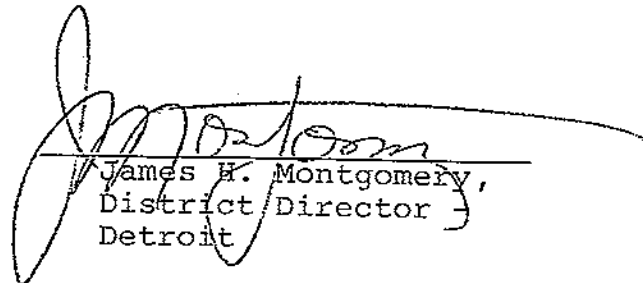
May 9, 1984

CERTIFICATION

BY VIRTUE OF the authority vested in me by Title 8, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 103 regulation issued by the Attorney General pursuant to Section 103 of the Immigration and Nationality Act,

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the annexed documents are originals, or copies thereof, from the records of the said Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, relating to

No. All 696 163, Vincent Jen CHIN, of which the Attorney General is the legal custodian by virtue of Section 103 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.


James H. Montgomery,
District Director
Detroit

Immigration and Naturalization Service

TO BE FORWARDED TO
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

No. 8682757

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE



Petition No. 286979

• DUPLICATE •

Personal description of holder as of date of naturalization: Date of birth May 18, 1955 sex Male
complexion Medium color of eyes Brown color of hair Black height 4 feet 9 inches;
weight 90 pounds; visible, distinctive marks Brown spot on left wrist
Marital status Single Country of former nationality China
I certify that the description above given is true, and that the photograph affixed hereto is a likeness of me.

Vincent Jen Chin

(Complete and true signature of holder)

EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN }
SOUTHERN DIVISION } s.s.:

Be it known that, at a term of the _____ District _____ Court of
_____ The United States _____

held pursuant to law at _____ Detroit _____
on June 29, 1965 _____ the Court having found that
Vincent Jen Chin

then residing at 12137 Woodward, Highland Park, Michigan
intends to reside permanently in the United States (when so required by the
Naturalization Laws of the United States), had in all other respects complied with
the applicable provisions of such naturalization laws, and was entitled to be
admitted to citizenship, thereupon ordered that such person be, and she was
admitted, as a citizen of the United States of America.

In testimony whereof the seal of the court is hereunto affixed this 29th
day of June in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred, and
Sixty-five



Fredrick Johnson

Clerk of the _____ U. S. District _____ Court.

By h. _____ Deputy Clerk.

It is a violation of the U. S. Code (and
punishable as such) to copy, print, photograph,
or otherwise illegally use, this certificate.

Field File No. 44A-2408-1A-40

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 9/27/85

From 3RD DISTRICT DISTRICT
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By _____ (NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT) _____ (DATE)

b6
b7C

To Be Returned Yes
 No
 Yes
 No

Receipt Given Yes
 No
Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description: Original notes re interview of _____

*SUBPOENA for
VINCENT CHIN Autopsy
photos.*

STATE OF MICHIGAN
JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Third JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY PROBATE COURT

**SUBPOENA
ORDER TO APPEAR**

CASE NO.
83-309788-CZ

Court address 201 City County Building, Detroit, Michigan

Court telephone no.

Plaintiff(s) Personal Representative of the Estate of Vincent Jen Chin, Deceased

Defendant(s) Fancy Pants and Michigan Follies, Inc.

Charge

b6
b7C

Civil case or Criminal case

In the Name of the People of the State of Michigan. TO:

Supervisor
Federal Bureau of Investigation
477 Michigan Ave., Detroit, MI 48226

**US 44A-2408-1A 40
KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT**

YOU ARE ORDERED to appear personally at the time and place stated: You may be required to appear from time to time and day to day until you are excused.		
Appear at:		
1. <input type="checkbox"/> The court address above <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>FBI Office - Detroit, Michigan</u>		
Day	Date	Time
2. <u>Friday</u>	<u>September 27, 1985</u>	<u>1:00 p.m.</u>

YOU ARE ALSO ORDERED to:

- 3. Testify at trial/examination.
- 4. Produce the following items: Autopsy photographs of Vincent Jen Chin, Deceased
- 5. *Testify as to your assets, and bring with you the items listed in line 4 above.
*Affidavit on reverse side must be completed for judgment debtor examination.
- 6. Testify at deposition.
- 7. Other: Permit temporary custody by Plaintiff's undersigned counsel of said

photographs

8. Person requesting subpoena <u> </u> on behalf of <u>Plaintiffs</u>	Telephone <u>(313) 356-7100</u>
Address <u>24800 Northwestern Hwy. Suite 403</u>	City <u>Southfield, MI</u> State <u>MI</u> Zip <u>48075</u>

b6
b7C

FAILURE TO APPEAR AT STATED TIME AND PLACE MAY SUBJECT YOU TO PENALTY FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT.



September 26, 1985
Date
Issuing (P-34507)
Judge/Clerk/Attorney Bar no.

JUDGMENT DEBTOR JUDICIAL ENDORSEMENT

Order to produce Judgment debtor examination

Court use only

Served

Not served

RETURN OF SERVICE

SUBPOENA

TO PROCESS SERVER: You must make and file your return with the court clerk. If you are unable to complete service you must return this original and all copies to the court clerk.

Case No. _____

CERTIFICATE/AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE/NON-SERVICE

OFFICER CERTIFICATE

or

AFFIDAVIT OF PROCESS SERVER

I certify that I am a sheriff, deputy sheriff, bailiff, appointed court officer, or attorney for a party [MCR 2.104(A)(2)], and that: (notary not required)

Being first duly sworn, I state that I am a legally competent adult who is not a party or an officer of a corporate party, and that: (notary required)

I served personally a copy of the subpoena, together with

I served by registered or certified mail (copy of return receipt attached) a copy of the subpoena, together with

_____ on the defendant(s):

Attachment

Defendant's name(s)	Complete address(es) of service	Day, date, time

After diligent search and inquiry, I have been unable to find and serve the following defendant(s):

I have made the following efforts in attempting to serve process: _____

I have personally attempted to serve the subpoena, together with

Attachment

on _____ at _____

Name

Address

and have been unable to complete service because the address was incorrect at the time of filing.

Service fee	Miles traveled	Mileage fee	Total fee
\$		\$	\$

Signature

Title

Subscribed and sworn to before me on _____, _____ County, Michigan.

Date

My commission expires: _____

Date

Signature: _____

Deputy Court Clerk/Notary Public

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SERVICE

I acknowledge that I have received service of the subpoena, together with

Attachment

_____ on _____

Day, date, time

_____ on behalf of _____

Signature

AFFIDAVIT FOR JUDGMENT DEBTOR EXAMINATION

I request that the court issue a subpoena which orders the party named on this form to be examined under oath concerning the money or property of: _____
for the following reasons: _____

Under penalty of contempt of court, I declare that the above statements are true to the best of my information, knowledge and belief.

_____ Date

_____ Signature

Field File No. OM - 44A - 1083

Serial # of Originating Document 367

OO and File No. DE 44A - 2908 - 1A - 4

Date Received 10-27-86

From Lily Chin
(Name of Contributor)

327 Norquette Dr
(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)

By [Redacted]
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned Yes No Receipt Given Yes No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure Yes No

Title:

Reference: OM airtel to DE 10/31/86 ds
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: Original notes re interview of
FO - 465 on PO 406
signed Lily Chin

All Serial 221

b6
b7c

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
E.D.E 44A-2408-1A-41

AUTHORITY TO RELEASE INFORMATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I hereby authorize any Special Agent or other authorized representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation bearing this release, or copy thereof, within one year of its date, to obtain any information in your files pertaining to my CPA/State Bar records (including any grievance records), employment, military, educational records (including, but not limited to, academic, achievement, attendance, athletic, personal history, and disciplinary records), medical records, credit records, (including credit card and payment device numbers), and law enforcement records (including, but not limited to, any record of charge, prosecution or conviction for criminal or civil offenses). I hereby direct you to release such information upon request to the bearer. This release is executed with full knowledge and understanding that the information is for the official use of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Consent is granted for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to furnish such information, as is described above, to third parties in the course of fulfilling its official responsibilities. I hereby release you, as the custodian of such records, and any school, college, university, or other educational institution, hospital, or other repository of medical records, credit bureau, lending institution, consumer reporting agency, retail business establishment, law enforcement agency, or criminal justice agency, including its officers, employees, or related personnel, both individually and collectively, from any and all liability for damages of whatever kind, which may at any time result to me, my heirs, family or associates because of compliance with this authorization and request to release information, or any attempt to comply with it. I am furnishing my Social Security Account Number on a voluntary basis with the understanding such is not required by Federal statute or regulation. I have been advised the FBI will utilize this number only to facilitate the location of employment, military, credit, and educational records concerning me in connection with this application. Should there be any question as to the validity of this release, you may contact me as indicated below.

Full Name: X Lily Chen
(Signature)
(Include maiden & any other previously-used name)

10-27-86

Full Name: X LILY CHEN
(Typed or Printed)
(Include maiden & any other previously-used name)

Social Security Account Number: _____

Parent or Guardian: OF VINCENT CHEN
(If required)


Date: 10-24-86

Current Address: 22031 CARVER
OAK PARK MICHIGAN

Telephone Number: OR 322 MARQUETTE DAVENPORT IN

CPA/Bar Membership(s) STATE

REGISTRATION NUMBER

Witness:  _____
(Special Agent)
Federal Bureau of Investigation

b6
b7C

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
 DE. 44A - 2408-1A-41

AUTHORITY TO RELEASE MEDICAL INFORMATION

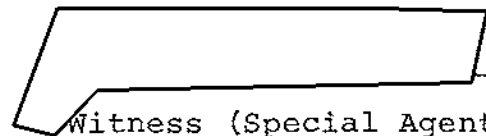
I, Lily CHEN, hereby authorize any Special Agent or other authorized representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation bearing this release to obtain information available from ~~my~~ ^{VINCENT CHEN} past or present medical records maintained at/by Henry Ford Hospital including those records relating to the treatment or care for drug abuse, alcoholism or psychiatric conditions. The release of these records is necessary for employment or investigative purposes. If for employment purposes with another Government agency, the information obtained may be disseminated by the FBI to other Government agency or agencies. I request that the custodian of such records in each instance permit my records in connection therewith to be examined, copied or otherwise reviewed.

I also realize that this release is subject to my revocation at any time except to the extent that action has been taken in reliance thereon. Absent such revocation, I understand that this release is valid for one year from the date of signing.

Date: 10-24-86

x Lily Chen
 (Signature)

OF VINCENT CHEN
 Parent or ~~Guardian~~
 (if required)


 Witness (Special Agent, FBI)

b6
 b7c

Field File No. 44A-2408-1A-42

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 6/8/84

From [Redacted]
(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)

By [Redacted]
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned Yes
 No
 Yes
 No

Receipt Given Yes
 No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate
Only Pursuant to Rules 6(e),
Federal Rules of Criminal
Procedure

Description:

Interview notes.

b6
b7C

6/8
w/ [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

b6
b7c

Approx 1973 - 1st time I saw him
Did photo

Down thru alone - really own business
He came in w/ 2 other w/m's
- got 1 beer - not drunk.

Started saying -

"What's this Black son-of-a-bitch
doing in the bar."

You're in the wrong place I know
what you niggers are doing you're
looting for white women."

Bar is Joe Joe's - w/ corner of Georgian &
Van Dyke (white owned)
owned by w/ Joe Joe - husband dead

kept saw - he took over Joe Ann's
Bar on Van Dyke. I knew Joe Ann for
years - related to her

His aunt or his wife's
Destruction firm - never forget

He worked @ Chyplers down the street
where he owned bar

He took over bar from aunt in 1976 or 77
I left in 1980. Joe Ann dead.

I didn't go in from 7. PM. The
crack was he was prepared.

I was known @ Joe Joe's - been going
there for years.
He came up to me - I showed him away
He seemed to be looking for trouble. I kept
see as next to cause problems.
I told him he was messing up wrong guy.
He followed me to the door. I went
to brush & got pitched out.

I saw 3 Rep's come to door.
I told him to come on out of Bar. I
pitched him out. He went out in 5
I kept.

I must have seen him when he took a number
I recognized him but he didn't recognize me.

Only conversation ~~was~~ was when
I asked him to clean up trash in alley - He
said ok & went off.

He said a lot of things (for 2-3 mins)
I can't recall other specifics.
Henry - Negroes beaten up - bar.

Field File No. 44A-2408-1A-43

OO and File No. _____

Date Received 8-4-87

From _____
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

By _____
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned Yes
 No
 Yes
 No

Receipt Given Yes
 No

Grand Jury Material-
Disseminate Only
Pursuant to Rules
6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure

Description: Original notes re interview of

FD-1920 Re: 44A-2408-1B-1
1B-5, 1B-7
1B-8.

Date 5/22/84

b6
b7C

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)

Date Property Acquired 5/18/84 Source From Which Property Acquired DET. HIGHLAND PARK PD

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit BULKY Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same EVIDENCE

To Be Returned Yes No See Serial SA Agent Submitting Report on Exhibit SA Agent Assigned Case [Redacted]
 Yes No Grand Jury Material [Redacted] Rule 6(e), Fed

Description of Property or Exhibit

COPY OF STATEMENT OBTAINED FROM
[Redacted] ON 6/19/82

COPY OF HIGHLAND PARK POLICE DEPT
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS FORM SIGNED BY
[Redacted] ON 6/20/82.

destroyed
8-3-87
Det AUSA

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only
Evidence Bag Seal # _____ Signature of Two Special Agents Verifying and Sealing Bag Contents _____

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

Field File # 44A-2408
OO: DETROIT

BLOCK STAMP
44A-2408-1685
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
MAY 23 1984
FBI - DETROIT

CHAIN OF CUSTODY

		Date	Time	Released/Custody	Date	Time
X	[Redacted]					
Signature	[Redacted]	5/1/87	10:00 AM	[Redacted]	5/24	10:30 AM
Reason	Not done			[Redacted]		
Signature	[Redacted]	5/24/87	10:30 AM	[Redacted]	4/14/87	12:00 PM
Reason	Secure storage	184		Agents Request		
Signature	[Redacted]	4/14/87	12:30 PM	[Redacted]	4/14/87	2:00 PM
Reason	[Redacted]					
Signature	[Redacted]	4/14/87	12:20 PM	[Redacted]	8/3/87	12:00 PM
Reason	Secure storage			Destroyed per AUSA		
Signature						
Reason						
Signature						
Reason						
Signature						
Reason						
Signature						
Reason						
Signature						
Reason						

Item No. 4/13/87, reviewed A Remarks

Date 3/19/87

Title and Character of Case
[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN - VICTIM (DECEASED)
CR(A)
OO: DE

b6
b7C

Date Property Acquired 3/9/87 Source From Which Property Acquired HILLERICH & BRADSBY Co.

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit BULKY on wall by front door Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same EVIDENCE

To Be Returned See Serial Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit Agent Assigned Case
 Yes No [Redacted] SA [Redacted] SA [Redacted]
 Yes No Grand Jury Material Discernible Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Fed. [Redacted] Procedure.

Description of Property or Exhibit
ONE LOUISVILLE SLUGGER BASEBALL BAT

*Destroyed - 8-4-87
Per AUSA*

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only
Evidence Bag Seal # _____ Signature of Two Special Agents Verifying and Sealing Bag Contents _____

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

44A-2408-1B7

Field File # 44A-2408
OO: DETROIT

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____
MAR 1 1987
FBI - DETROIT

EVIDENCE (PACKAGE, COPY)

Date
5/13/83

Title and Character of Case

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)
OO: DETROIT

Date Property Acquired: 5/3/83
Source From Which Property Acquired: [Redacted]

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit: BULKY
Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same: EVIDENCE

To Be Returned: Yes No
See Serial: [Redacted]
Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit: [Redacted]
Agent Assigned Case: [Redacted]

Yes No Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Description of Property or Exhibit

1. COPY OF PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION OF [Redacted]
2. COPY OF PLEA FOR [Redacted]
3. COPY OF SENTENCE FOR [Redacted]
4. COPY OF MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL PROSECUTOR.
5. COPIES OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, COURT DOCUMENTS, AND MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS.
6. ORDER OF PROBATION.

SS #16 in file for memo of delay

*destroyed
per AVSA
per 8-3-87*

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only
Evidence Bag Seal # _____
Signature of Two Special Agents Verifying and Sealing Bag Contents _____

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (initial and Date)

Field File # 44A-2408

OO: DETROIT

EVIDENCE (PACKAGE COPY)

BLOCK STAMP
44A2408-1B

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 13 1983	
FBI - DETROIT	

Date 11/18/86

Title and Character of Case

VINCENT CHIN -
VICTIM (DECEASED)
CR(A)
(OO: DETROIT)

Date Property Acquired 11/18/86
Source From Which Property Acquired Security,
HENRY FORD HOSPITAL

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit Bulky Room
Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same Evidence

To Be Returned See Serial Agent Submitting Property or Exhibit Agent Assigned Case
 Yes No SSRA SA

Yes No Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

Description of Property or Exhibit

Medical records of VINCENT CHIN;
X-rays of VINCENT CHEN

*destroyed
8-4-87
per BU SA*

For Valuable and/or Narcotics Evidence Only

Evidence Bag Seal # _____

Signature of Two
Special Agents
Verifying and Sealing
Bag Contents

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

Field File # 44A-2408

OO: DETROIT

EVIDENCE (PACKAGE COPY)

44A-2408-1B8
BLOCK STAMP
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
NOV 19 1986
FBI - DETROIT

CHAIN OF CUSTODY

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		Date	Time		Date	Time
Signature	[Redacted]			[Redacted]		
Reason	<i>Evidence</i>	<i>11/18/86</i>	<i>11:30⁰⁰</i>	[Redacted]	<i>11/19/86</i>	<i>9:30⁰⁰</i>
Signature	[Redacted]			[Redacted]		
Reason	<i>Storage</i>	<i>1/19/86</i>	<i>9:30⁰⁰</i>	<i>Agents Request</i>	<i>12/23/86</i>	<i>11:15</i>
Signature	[Redacted]			[Redacted]		
Reason	<i>Evidence</i>	<i>12/23/86</i>	<i>11:15</i>	<i>Postcard for HUSA</i>	<i>3/6/87</i>	<i>1:00⁰⁰</i>
Signature						
Reason						
Signature						
Reason						
Signature						
Reason						
Signature						
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Reason						

Item No. _____ Remarks _____

KEEP ATTACHED TO EXHIBIT
DE 44A-2408-1A-43

Field File No. 44A-2408-1A-44

Serial # of Originating Document _____

OO and File No. _____

Date Received _____

From _____
(Name of Contributor)

(Address of Contributor)

(City and State)

By _____
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned Yes No Receipt Given Yes No

Grand Jury Material - Disseminate Only Pursuant to Rule 6(e), Federal Rules
of Criminal Procedure Yes No

Title:

Reference: _____
(Communication Enclosing Material)

Description: Original notes re interview of

2 PHOTOS OF

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1619296-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 159

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X For this Page X
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Memorandum



WBR:DLB:RLC:ice
DJ 144-37-NEW

Subject: East Detroit, Michigan - Subjects: Vincent Chin, (Dec.) - Victim; Complainant; CIVIL RIGHTS	Date: APR 21 1983
--	-------------------

To: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

From: ^{WBR} Wm. Bradford Reynolds
^{By} Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Attached are copies of correspondence from alleging that Vincent Chin was beaten and consequently died as a result of the beating by

These allegations indicate a possible violation of 18 U.S.C. 245. Accordingly, please conduct the following limited investigation:

1. Obtain copies of any pertinent official reports.
2. Obtain copies of relevant medical reports.
3. Identify and interview any eyewitnesses whose accounts of the incident are not made available in official reports.

V-31

DE-133

44-112-1

[Handwritten signature]

UIC

[Handwritten signature]

3-ENCLOSURE
4/27/83
MJP/AN

Memorandum.



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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

DI 144-37-1096

WBR:DLB:RLC:kif

Subject [redacted] Subjects
Vincent Chin (Deceased) - Victim
CIVIL RIGHTS

Date
JUL 5 1983

EXP. PROC.
JUL 9 1983

To Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
From William Bradford Reynolds
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

EX

Reference is made to your memorandum dated June 21, 1983 which enclosed a copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated June 16, 1983 at Detroit.

Please conduct the following additional investigation:

1. Contact former co-workers and/or acquaintances of subject [redacted] to determine whether he has ever made derogatory comments regarding Chinese or other Asians.

2. In a "Confidential Report" prepared by [redacted] reference was made to [redacted] who were present at the Fancy Pants Club on June 19, 1982 in addition to [redacted] Please locate and interview these women.

3. The "Confidential Report" described above also identifies two eyewitnesses to the beating of Vincent Chin -- a [redacted] [redacted] Please interview these two men.

Smith

u //

JUL 12 1983

1983

only read



Washington Post
 Complaisant 3/83
 Vincent Chin - victim
 OO: Detroit

b6
 b7c

The \$3,000 License to Kill

TWO NIGHTS before he was to be married, Vincent Chin and three friends went out to celebrate in a Detroit bar. During the course of the evening, a fight broke out between Mr. Chin and his friends and two white men. An eyewitness said that Mr. Chin, a Chinese-American, was mistaken for a Japanese, and that hard times in the motor city have increased racial animosity toward Asians in general. But whatever the cause of the dispute, no one denies that Mr. Chin was beaten to death with a baseball bat by the two white men.

Both assailants were charged with second-degree murder, which was reduced in a plea bargain to manslaughter, a crime that carries a maximum sentence of 15 years. But neither man was to spend a single night in jail, for Judge Charles Kaufman freed them on probation after each paid a fine of \$3,000. Listen to the judge's reasons for imposing such a preposterous sentence: "We are talking here about a man who has held down a responsible job with the same company for 17 or 18 years, and his son who is employed and is a part-time student. These men are not going to go out and harm somebody else. I just didn't think that putting them in prison would do any good for them or for society. *You don't make the punishment fit the crime; you make the punishment fit the criminal.*"

One person who wasn't surprised by this kind of thinking was Wayne County prosecutor William

Cabalan. Unfortunately, he said, this sentence is not at all unusual. He cites three recent cases: a woman was convicted of stabbing her lover to death, inflicting 19 knife wounds. A policeman was convicted of beating to death a prisoner in his custody. A merchant admitted killing an 8-year-old after the child had stolen grapes. In all three cases, the killers walked out of court on probation.

These cases are strong evidence that two reforms being considered by courts across the country are badly needed. The first is the establishment of a set of victims' rights. It would have been much more difficult for Judge Kaufman to focus his concern exclusively on the killers in the Chin case if the victim's survivors had had an opportunity to make a statement before sentencing. The second is the adoption of sentencing guidelines that force judges to consider not only the record and the prospects of the offender, but also the nature of the crime. Guidelines used by Maryland courts, for example, would have produced a prison sentence in the Chin case even if the defendants had no prior criminal record. Guidelines minimize the chance for sentence disparity, clarify the likely penalties that will be meted out and mandate the consideration of the broader interests of society in addition to the welfare of the convicted criminal. Such standards narrow discretion but greatly reduce the potential for quixotic decisions. They would be as useful in Michigan as they are in Maryland.

NOT RECORDED
 18 MAY 26 1983

4-10-83 380

AIRTEL

Date: 8/8/83

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To: Director, FBI
(Attn: Photographic Processing Unit, Rm. 1B903)

From: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408)

Att: Photographer [redacted]

Subject: [redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (deceased)
CR (A) OO: DETROIT

AUG 18 1983

FBIHQ USE ONLY		Initials	Date
Received			8-11-83
Developed	(40)	WMS	8/12/83
Printed			
Enlarged			
Slides			8-12-83 (84)
Copied			
Other			

1. ENCLOSED PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK RELATES TO:
 Current Investigation Mug Shot Other

2. ENCLOSURE(S) CG-135-24 exp. and CGL35-36 exp.

Film To Be Processed

Size	Color	B&W	Quantity
4x5			
135	XXX		2 rolls
126			
120			
Slides			

Movie Film or Microfilm

Size	Color	B&W	Quantity
16mm			
35mm			
8(super)			
70mm AHU			

Negatives To Be Printed

Size	Color	B&W	Quantity
8x10			
4x5			
135			
120			
126			
220			
110			

Other

[redacted]
Run 5/31

3. WORK REQUESTED

Processing

- Process only
- Process & make print
- Process & make contact print
- Slides to be processed
- Slides to be duplicated

Prints To Be Made

- (From 135, 126, and 110)
- 3 1/2 x 5 5x7
 - _____ # prints from each frame
 - Color B&W
- (From 120 and 4x5)
- 4x5 8x10
 - Two 2 # prints from each frame
 - Color B&W

Prints To Be Made

- (Prints from slides)
- 3 1/2 x 5
 - 5x7
 - 8x10

Custom Prints

- (From any size negative or slide)
- Quantity _____
- Size _____
- Color B&W

4. REMARKS

(include trial date or other mandatory deadline and any other specific instructions)

The Bureau is requested to make ^{Two} 8x10 of each for a Trial Date of 8/31/83.

1-Detroit
JLC/cad

03426
03425

1cc retained in Rm 1B903

Ack: SPS, LAB

Work Completed:

- Film processed
- Prints made
- Slides made

Initialed: [Signature]

006452

Enclosure

8/19/83

51A

9

TRANSMIT VIA: Airtel

CLASSIFICATION: _____

DATE: 8/5/83

FROM: Director, FBI

TO: SAC, Detroit

1 - [Redacted Box]

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[Redacted Box] - SUBJECTS;
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS
OO: DETROIT

Re Bureau FD-448 to Detroit dated 8/5/83.

Enclosed are two copies of a self-explanatory Departmental letter dated 8/2/83.

Complete the requested investigation in accordance with the provisions of Section 44, Manual of Investigative Operations and Guidelines, and surep within 21 workdays of the receipt of this communication.

Advise all persons interviewed
 appropriate officials at the outset that this investigation is being conducted at the specific request of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Remarks:

Due to scheduling of a Federal grand jury for 9/7/83, Detroit is instructed to furnish the information requested in item number 1 of the attached request by 8/19/83. The information needed for FBIHQ to prepare trial exhibits described in item number 2 must reach FBIHQ by cob on 8/12/83.

In addition to obtaining measurements and preparing diagrams of other places described in item number 2, Detroit should obtain photographs of those places.

JAS:mj ml
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AUG 11 1983

AUG 2 11 11 AM '83

Enc. (2)

MAIL ROOM

Memorandum

7

WBR:DLB:RLC:rs
DJ 144-37-1096



Subject [Redacted] Subjects; Vincent Chin (Dec.) - Victim CIVIL RIGHTS	Date AUG 2 1983
--	--------------------

To
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

From
WBR/DFR
Bradford Reynolds
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

b6
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Reference is made to your memorandum dated June 27, 1983 enclosing a copy of the report of Special Agent [Redacted] dated June 16, 1983 at Detroit.

This matter has been approved for presentation to a grand jury although, as of this date, no date has been set for the presentation. In preparation for that grand jury presentation, please conduct the following investigation:

1. Obtain copies of the taped interviews of witnesses made by the "American Citizens for Justice."
2. Prepare exhibit-size diagrams of the following:
 - (a) The Fancy Pants Lounge as it existed on June 19, 1982;
 - (b) The Fancy Pants Lounge and parking lot; and
 - (c) The neighborhood showing the Fancy Pants Lounge and surrounding streets including Woodward Avenue; show the McDonalds Restaurant and parking lot on this diagram.

9756
15
10/10/83

JS?

SIA

Memorandum

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EXP. PROC.
AUG 3 1983

WBR:DLB:RLC:rs
DJ 144-37-1096

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

<p>Subject</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>Subjects; Vincent Chin (Dec.) - Victim CIVIL RIGHTS</p>	<p>Date</p> <p>AUG 2 1983</p>
---	-------------------------------

To
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

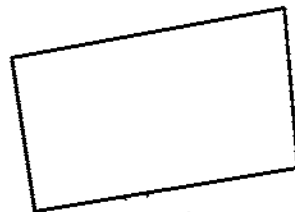
From
WBR/DFR
Bradford Reynolds
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

b6
b7C

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 - (b) The Fancy Pants Lounge and parking lot; and
 - (c) The neighborhood showing the Fancy Pants Lounge and surrounding streets including Woodward Avenue; show the McDonalds Restaurant and parking lot on this diagram.



13 AUG 3 1983

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*1/12/83 original
original facsimiled to SAC Detroit 8/15/83
SIX*

September 2, 1983

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Honorable Edwin B. Forsythe
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Forsythe:

Your August 11th correspondence on behalf of

[redacted] has been referred to me for reply. Since the FBI is investigating the case involving Vincent Chin and is reporting the results of this investigation to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice, [redacted] may wish to pursue his inquiry directly with that office in Washington, D. C. 20530. The enclosure you furnished is being returned as requested.

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Sincerely yours,

Oliver B. Revell
Assistant Director
Criminal Investigative Division

Enclosure

- 1 - Newark - Enclosures (2)
- 1 - [redacted] - Enclosures (2)
- 1 - Administrative Unit, CID (Room 5121) - Enclosures (2)
- 1 - Congressional Affairs Section - Enclosures (2)

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NOTE: Constituent [redacted] cannot positively be identified in Bufiles. He wrote to Congressman Forsythe to request a Federal grand jury to look into the June, 1982, death of Vincent Chin who was brutally beaten by two whites, and to encourage Congressman Forsythe to work toward adopting new legislation which would provide more severe and more uniform punishment for murderers. Handling of attached coordinated with SA [redacted] CID, who advised that the FBI is currently conducting an extensive investigation into the death of Chin and all pertinent facts will be turned over to the Civil Rights Division, DOJ, for prosecutive opinion.

BHM:kw (9)

APPROVED: _____

Director _____

Exec. AD Adm. _____

Exec. AD Inv. _____

Exec. AD LES _____

Adm. Serv. _____

Ident. _____

Intell. _____

Laboratory _____

Legal Coun. _____

Plan. & Insp. _____

Rec. Mgnt. _____

Off. of Cong. & Public Affs. _____

FBI/DOJ

- Exec AD Adm. _____
- Exec AD Inv. _____
- Exec AD LES _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. _____
- Crim. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Insp. _____
- Intell. _____
- Lab. _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Off. Cong. & Public Affs. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Tech. Servs. _____
- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

MAIL ROOM (2)

1983

EDWIN B. FORSYTHE

2210 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

202-225-4765

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MEMBER:
COMMITTEE ON
MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES
COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE ON
STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

August 11, 1983

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Congressional Liaison
Federal Bureau of
Investigation
J. Edgar Hoover Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Friends:

The attached correspondence from [redacted] regarding the pending case of the late Vincent Chin is sent for your consideration and review. I would appreciate it if you could investigate this matter as soon as possible.

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b7c

Your assistance in providing me with the necessary information for replying to my constituent and returning the enclosed correspondence with your answer would be most helpful.

Thank you very much for your time and efforts in responding to this request.

DE-95

Sincerely,

Edwin B. Forsythe
Member of Congress

V-47

Edwin B. Forsythe

12X

EBF/jdx
Enclosure

80-124

ACK 8/16/83

[Handwritten signature]

The Honorable Edwin B. Forsythe
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

July 29, 1983

Dear Congressman Forsythe:

AUG 1 1983

I am writing as your constituent to request that you take two actions in the Vincent Chin's case.

BACKGROUND

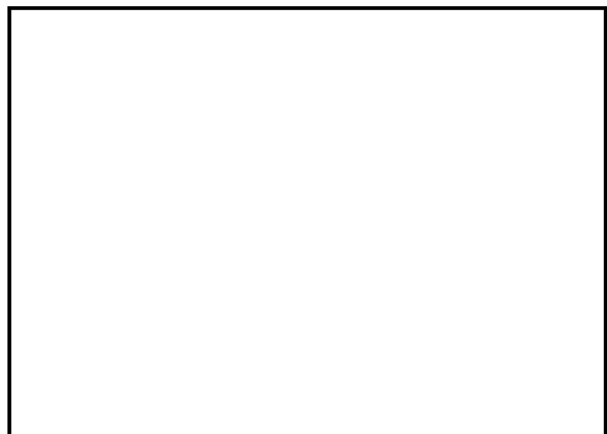
You are probably aware that in June 1982, Vincent Chin, a 27-year old Chinese-American engineer in Detroit was beaten to death by two whites with a baseball bat. In March 1983, the two criminals were sentenced to pay a mere \$3000 fine and three years probation! The Chinese-American communities throughout the country were up in arms. At the urging of Organization of Chinese Americans, and Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the Justice Department started an FBI investigation for any violation of federal laws. On June 29, Assistant Attorney General Reynolds met with and told leaders of Chinese organizations that the investigation had been completed, and that the Department would decide whether to take grand jury action by Labor Day.

REQUESTED ACTIONS

At this crucial stage of decision-making in the Justice Department I request that for the short-term, you make timely inquiries to the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department and urge them to take grand jury action.

For the longer-term, I urge you to work with your congressional colleagues for some legislation to provide for more severe and more uniform punishment for such murderers, no matter who the murderers and victims are.

Yours truly,



b6
b7c

(Handwritten note)

(Handwritten mark)

Transmit attached by Facsimile - UNCLAS

Precedence PRIORITY

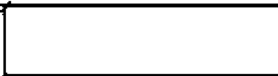
To: SAC, DETRIOT (44A-2408)

Date: 8/5/83

From: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-94566)

Time: Transmitted - 10:14

Subject



Initials - [initials]

b6
b7c

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -VICTIM

Fingerprint Photo Fingerprint Record Map Newspaper clipping Photograph

Artists Conception Other Department of Justice letter dated 8/2/83.

Special handling instructions:

Grand Jury scheduled for 9/7/83. Detroit furnish information requested in item #1 by 8/19/83. Furnish information for item #2 to reach FBIHQ by COB 8/12/83.

Approved: [Signature]

12 SEP 28 1983

FBI/DOJ

To: Director, FBI
(Attn: Photographic Processing Unit, Rm. 1B903)
(Att: [redacted] Lead Photographer)

Date: 8/8/83
AUG 18 1983
b6
b7c

From: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408)
(Att: Supervisor [redacted])

Subject: [redacted]
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED)
CR(A)
OO: DE

FBIHQ USE ONLY		
	Initials	Date
Received	[initials]	8/13/83
Developed	[initials]	8-16-83
Printed		
Enlargements		8-17-83
Slides		
Copied		8/16
Other		

1. ENCLOSED PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK RELATES TO:
 Current Investigation Mug Shot Other

2. ENCLOSURE(S) ONE DRAWING TO BE COPIED AND A 30X40 POSTER MADE

Film To Be Processed			
Size	Color	B&W	Quantity
4x5			
135			
126			
120			
Slides			

Movie Film or Microfilm			
Size	Color	B&W	Quantity
16mm			
35mm			
8(super)			
70mm AHU			

Negatives To Be Printed			
Size	Color	B&W	Quantity
8x10			
4x5			
135			
120			
126			
220			
110			

Other	
[redacted]	[redacted]

1 B&W drawing
Km 5/31
Aug/AUG 18 1983

3. WORK REQUESTED

Processing

Process only
 Process & make print
 Process & make contact print
 Slides to be processed
 Slides to be duplicated

Prints To Be Made
(From 135, 126, and 110)

3 1/2 x 5 5 x 7
_____ # prints from each frame
 Color B&W
(From 120 and 4x5)
 4x5 8x10
_____ # prints from each frame
 Color B&W

Prints To Be Made
(Prints from slides)

3 1/2 x 5 5 x 7 8x10
Quantity _____
Size _____
 Color B&W
Initials _____ Date: AUG 17 1983

4. REMARKS

(include trial date or other mandatory deadline and any other specific instructions)

COPY THE ENCLOSED DRAWING IN KODALITH AND MAKE A 30x40 Mounted Poster and return to Detroit by 8/31/83

1-Detroit
JLC/cad

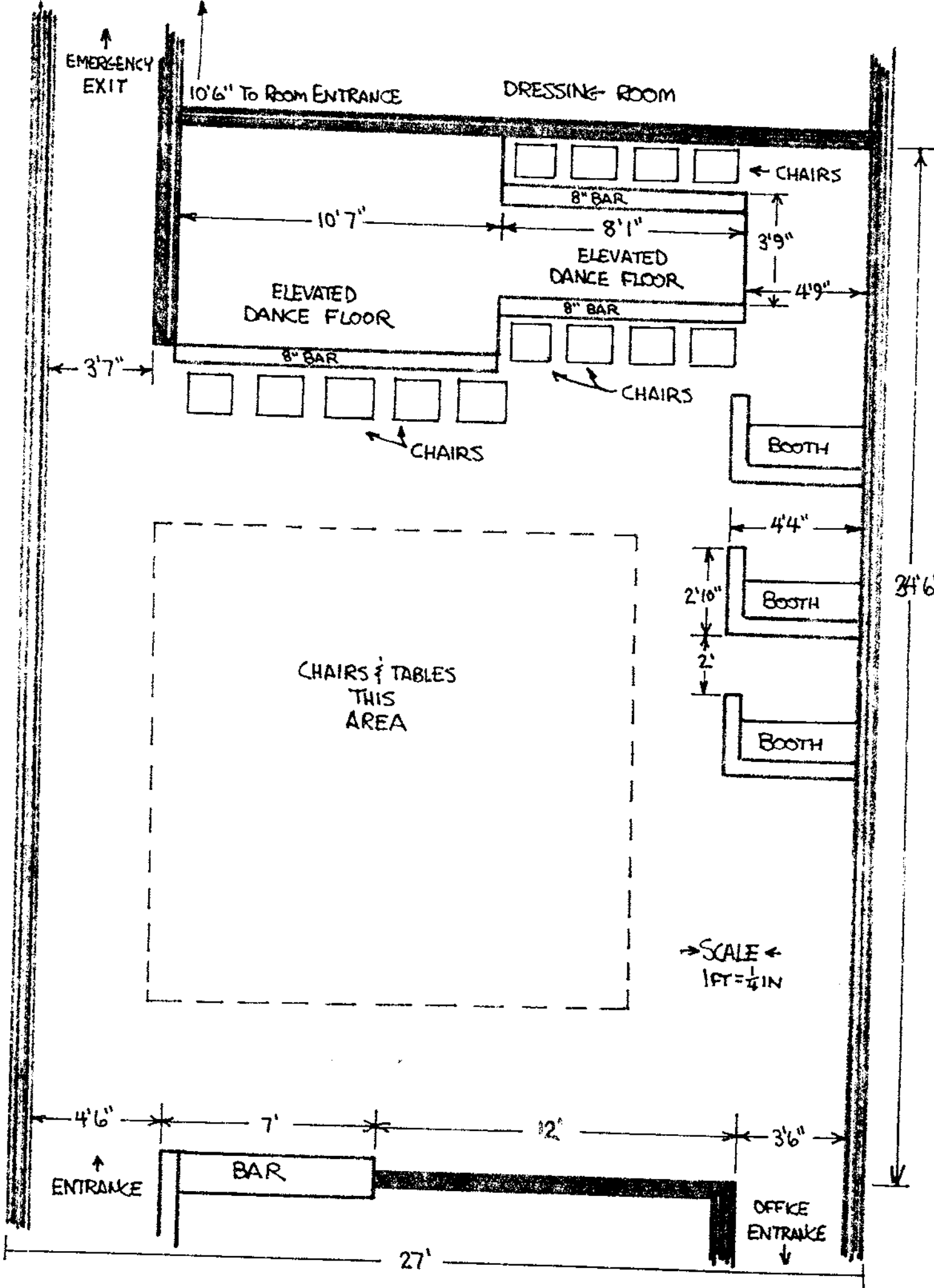
1cc retained in Rm 1B903
AGK: SPS, L/S
Work Completed:

Film processed _____
Prints made _____
Slides made _____
Init/date: Aug 17 1983

006489

FBI

b6
b7c



No......

Name.....

Order.....

Remarks.....

Retouched.....

Order Finished.....

Reorder.....

44-94566

To: Director, FBI -44-240-362
(Attn: Photographic Processing Unit, Rm. 1B903)
(Att: [redacted] Lead Photographer)

Date: 8/8/83

AUG 18 1983

From: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408)
(Att: Supervisor [redacted])

Subject: [redacted]
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED)

CR(A)
OO:DE

FBIHQ USE ONLY	
Initials	Date
Received	rk 8/10/83
Developed	
Printed	
Enlargements	DCBRC 8/10/83
Slides	
Copied	FBS 8/15/83
Other	

b6
b7C

1. ENCLOSED PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK RELATES TO:
 Current Investigation Mug Shot Other

2. ENCLOSURE(S) One map to be copied for 30x40 poster

1 map (color)

Film To Be Processed			
Size	Color	B&W	Quantity
4x5			
135			
126			
120			
Slides			

Movie Film or Microfilm			
Size	Color	B&W	Quantity
16mm			
35mm			
8(super)			
70mm			
AHU			

Negatives To Be Printed			
Size	Color	B&W	Quantity
8x10			
4x5			
135			
120			
126			
220			
110			

[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

aug AUG 18 1983

3. WORK REQUESTED

<p>Processing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Process only</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Process & make print</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Process & make contact print</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slides to be processed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Slides to be duplicated</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>	<p>Prints To Be Made</p> <p>(From 135, 126, and 110)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3 1/2 x 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 x 7</p> <p>_____ # prints from each frame</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Color <input type="checkbox"/> B&W</p> <p>(From 120 and 4x5)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4 x 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 8 x 10</p> <p>_____ # prints from each frame</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Color <input type="checkbox"/> B&W</p>	<p>Prints To Be Made</p> <p>(Prints from slides)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3 1/2 x 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 5 x 7</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 8 x 10</p>	<p>Custom Prints</p> <p>(From any size negative or slide)</p> <p>Quantity _____</p> <p>Size _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Color <input type="checkbox"/> B&W</p>
---	---	--	---

44-94566

4. REMARKS

(include trial date or other mandatory deadline and any other specific instructions)

COPY THE ENCLOSED SECTION OF MAP AND MAKE ONE 30x40 poster in color, upon completion the Bureau is requested to mount this poster and return to Detroit for August 31,

1-Detroit
JLC/cad

Hand carried to Special Projects [redacted]

1cc retained in Rm 1B903	
1 letter each sent to	
Ack: SPS, LAB	
Work Completed:	
Film processed	
Prints made	
Slides made	
Initials:	
Date:	

b6
b7C

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

ENCLOSURE

1cc retained in Rm 1B903
1 letter each sent to
Ack: SPS, LAB
Work Completed:

Film processed _____
Prints made _____
Slides made _____

Init/date: [signature]
006490

AUG 18 1983

RECORDED
AUG 10 1983

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- _____

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 10/4/83

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (SQD. C-4)

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)

OO: DETROIT

Enclosed for Milwaukee is a grand jury subpoena for [Redacted]

For the information of Milwaukee, during the evening of 6/19/82, victim, with three friends, was having a bachelors party at the Fancy Pants Go Go Club located in Highland Park, Michigan. While in the club, victim exchanged words with captioned subjects. It is alleged that subjects were directing racial slurs toward victim. A fight ensued between victim and subjects inside the club. The disturbance was quickly quelled; however, upon leaving the club, victim encountered the subjects in the club parking lot. Once outside the club [Redacted] obtained a baseball bat from his vehicle. He and [Redacted] gave chase to victim. Victim was able to elude subjects for approximately ten minutes, but was then located by subjects and was beaten by [Redacted] with the baseball bat. Victim suffered serious injuries from the beating and was transported to Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Michigan. At the hospital victim was treated by [Redacted] Victim died four days later.

On 9/26/83, an attempt was made to serve a subpoena on [Redacted] for appearance before a Federal Grand Jury at Detroit, Michigan on 11/2/83. Contact with the legal department of [Redacted] determined that [Redacted] currently resides at [Redacted]

- 2 - Bureau
 - 2 - Milwaukee (Enc. 1)
 - 2 - Detroit
- JLC/dlb

(6)

OCT 7 1983

OCT 6 1983

Approved: [Signature]

Transmitted _____

(Number)

(Time)

Per [Signature]

b6
b7C

b3
b6
b7C

b6
b7C

b3
b6
b7C

DE 44A-2408

LEAD

MILWAUKEE

AT MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Serve enclosed grand jury subpoena on



b3
b6
b7C

Property Type Codes*

Code No	Description
1	Cash (U.S. and foreign currency)
2	Stock, Bonds or Negotiable Instruments (checks, travelers checks, money orders, certificates of deposit, etc)
3	General Retail Merchandise (clothing, food, liquor, cigarettes, TVs, etc)
4	Vehicles (autos, trucks, tractors, trailers, campers, motorcycles, etc)
5	Heavy Machinery & Equipment (heavy equipment, computers, etc)
6	Bulk Materials (grain, fuel, raw materials, metals, wire, etc)
7	Jewelry (including unset precious and semiprecious stones)
8	Precious Metals (gold, silver, silverware, platinum, etc)
9	Art, Antiques or Rare Collections
10	Dangerous Drugs
11	Weapons or Explosives
12	Businesses or Assets Forfeited
20	All Other Recoveries (not falling in any category above)

Potential Economic Loss Prevented (PELP) Type Codes *

Code No	Description
21	Blank Negotiable Instruments or Tickets
22	Counterfeit Stocks, Bonds, Currency or Negotiable Instruments
23	Counterfeit or Pirated Sound Recordings or Motion Pictures
24	Bank Theft Scheme Aborted
25	Ransom, Extortion or Bribe Demand Aborted
26	Theft From, or Fraud Against, Government Scheme Aborted
27	Commercial or Industrial Theft Scheme Aborted
30	All Other Potential Economic Loss Prevented (not falling in any category above)

*The case file must contain an explanation of the computation of the recovery value or loss prevented. An explanation airtel must accompany this report if the recovery is \$1 million or more, or if the PELP is \$5 million or more.

Subject Description Codes *

- Enter Description Code Only When Reporting a Conviction -

Organized Crime Subjects:

- 1A Boss, Underboss or Consigliere
- 1B Capodecina or Soldier
- 1C Possible LCN Member or Associate
- 1D OC Subject Other Than LCN

Known Criminals (Other Than OC Members):

- 2A Top Ten or I.O. Fugitive
- 2B Top Thief
- 2C Top Con Man

Foreign Nationals:

- 3A Legal Alien
- 3B Illegal Alien
- 3C Foreign Official Without Diplomatic Immunity
- 3D U.N. Employee Without Diplomatic Immunity
- 3E Foreign Students
- 3F All Others

Terrorists:

- 4A Known Member of a Terrorist Organization
- 4B Possible Terrorist Member or Sympathizer

*If a subject can be classified in more than one of the categories, select the most appropriate in the circumstance.

Union Members:

- 5A International or National Officer
- 5B Local Officer
- 5C Union Employee

Government Official Or Employees:

- 6A Federal - Elected Official
- 6B Federal - Nonelected Executive Level
- 6C Federal - All Other
- 6D State - Elected Official
- 6E State - Nonelected Executive Level
- 6F State - All Other
- 6G Local - Elected Official
- 6H Local - Nonelected Executive Level
- 6J Local - All Other

Bank Officers Or Employees:

- 7A Bank Officer
- 7B Bank Employee

All Others:

- 8A All Other Subjects (not fitting above categories)

Instructions**Subject Priorities for FBI Arrest or Locates:**

- A - Subject wanted for crimes of violence (i.e. murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault) or convicted of such crimes in the past five years.
- B - Subjects wanted for crimes involving the loss or destruction of property valued in excess of \$25,000 or convicted of such crimes in the past five years.
- C - All others

Claiming Convictions Other Than Federal:

It is permissible to claim a local (state, county or local) conviction if the FBI's investigation significantly contributed to the successful local prosecution. A succinct narrative setting forth the basis for claiming a local conviction must accompany this report. When claiming a conviction other than Federal, enter the word "LOCAL" in the "Conviction-Section" block, disregard the number of conviction counts, but enter the sentence in the appropriate blocks. Enter "LF" in the "In-Jail" block for all life sentences and "CP" for all capital punishment sentences.

Reporting Convictions:

Convictions should not be reported until the sentence has been issued. There are two exceptions to this rule. The conviction information can be submitted by itself if:

1. The subject becomes a fugitive after conviction but prior to sentencing.
2. The subject dies after conviction but prior to sentencing.

An explanation is required in the Remarks section for either of the above exceptions.

Rule 20 Situations:

The field office that obtained the process (normally the office of origin) is the office that should claim the conviction, not the office where the subject enters the plea in cases involving Rule 20 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedures.

Investigative Assistance or Techniques (IA/Ts) Used:

-Since more than one IA/T could have contributed to the accomplishment, each IA/T must be rated.

-The IA/T used must be rated **each time** an accomplishment is claimed. (For example - if informant information was the basis for a complaint, an arrest, a recovery and a conviction and if separate FD-515s are submitted for each of the aforementioned accomplishments, the "Informant Information" block must be rated on each FD-515 even if it was the same information that contributed to all the accomplishments.)

11/15

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- _____

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 11/9/83

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
 (ATTN: FBI LABORATORY,
 GRAPHIC PRESENTATION UNIT)

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (SQD. C-4)

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
 CR (A)
 OO: DETROIT

Handwritten initials: BF

Re Detroit telephone call of Supervisor [Redacted]
 to Unit Chief [Redacted] FBIHQ.

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Enclosed for the Graphic Presentation Unit is one copy
 of floor plan of Fancy Pants Night Club and a section of a
 street map depicting Highland Park, Michigan.

On 11/2/83, subjects [Redacted] were indicted by a
 Federal Grand Jury at Detroit, Michigan, for violation of
 Title 18, Section 241 and 245. No trial date has been set;
 however, it is anticipated that trial will begin in early
 January, 1984.

Handwritten circled initials: MP

Exhibits needed for trial will be drawn to scale diagram
 of the enclosed floor plan and a blow-up color poster of the
 enclosed street map.

Liaison should be established with Departmental Attorney
 ROSS CONNELLY at the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., and
 before any diagrams are made, he should be contacted to determine
 his exact needs.

1cc and encl (2) detached [unclear] 11/15/83

- ② - Bureau (Enc. 2) (RM)
 - 2 - Detroit
- JLC/dlb
(4)

Handwritten: 117-41566-15

NOV 14 1983

[Redacted]

no. 8400777

Approved: [Signature] Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per [Signature]

b6
b7C

Memorandum



WBR:DLB:RLC:rs
DJ 144-37-1096

~~REDACTED~~

Subject <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 300px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Subjects Vincent Chin (Deceased) - Victim CIVIL RIGHTS	Date NOV 1983
--	------------------

b6
b7C

To
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

From *WBR/DFR*
Wm. Bradford Reynolds
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

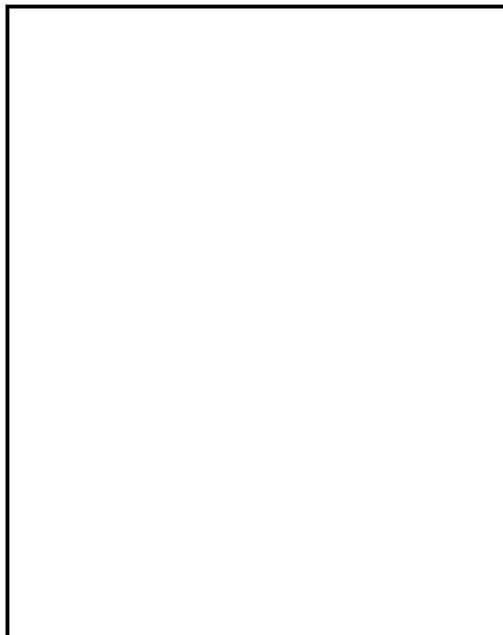
Reference is made to your memorandum dated October 17, 1983 which enclosed a copy of the report of Special Agent dated October 5, 1983 at Detroit.

On November 2, 1983, a Federal Grand Jury returned a two-count indictment charging the subjects with violations of 18 U.S.C. §§241 and 245. In preparation for trial, please conduct the following investigation:

1. Prepare exhibit-size photographs of the crime scene. (Note - Photos have already been taken; attorney Ross Connealy will designate those photographs which should be blown up and mounted.

2. Prepare exhibit-size diagrams of the Fancy Pants Lounge and the neighborhood around the Lounge and the McDonalds Restaurant where the victim was fatally beaten.

3. Determine the criminal records of the following witnesses:



K.C.

*2 cc to Detroit
11/15 to
1 cc to
11/14/83*

[Handwritten signature]
Superior
Forger's

b6
b7C

11-14-83
JAC

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 11/21/83

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (C-4)



VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -
VICTIM
 CR (A)
 (OO: DETROIT)

For information of the Bureau, pre-trial in captioned matter scheduled for 12/6/83, and a trial date of 1/17/84, has been set.

44-4000-18

CRIS

Received _____
 Forwarded _____
 Mailed _____
 Completed _____

NOV 30 1983

NOV 23 1983

2 - Bureau
 2 - Detroit
 JLC/srb
 (4)

Approved: [Signature] Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

b6
 b7c

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

NOV 25 1 07 PM '83

U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

FD-448 (Rev. 9-16-78)

Transmit attached by Facsimile - UNCLAS

Precedence _____

To: DIRECTOR

Date: 11/25/83

From: SAC DETROIT 44A 42408

Time Transmitted -

Subject:

[Redacted]

ET AL

Initials:

3-1

Fingerprint Photo Fingerprint Record Map Newspaper clipping Photograph

Artists Conception

Other

Diagram of fancy pants

Special handling instructions:

ATTN

[Redacted]

Room 18224

65 4245

Approved:

[Signature]
44-92408-11

FBI/DOJ

12 DEC 30 1983

"TREAT AS ORIGINAL"

SEVEN HEATMERS

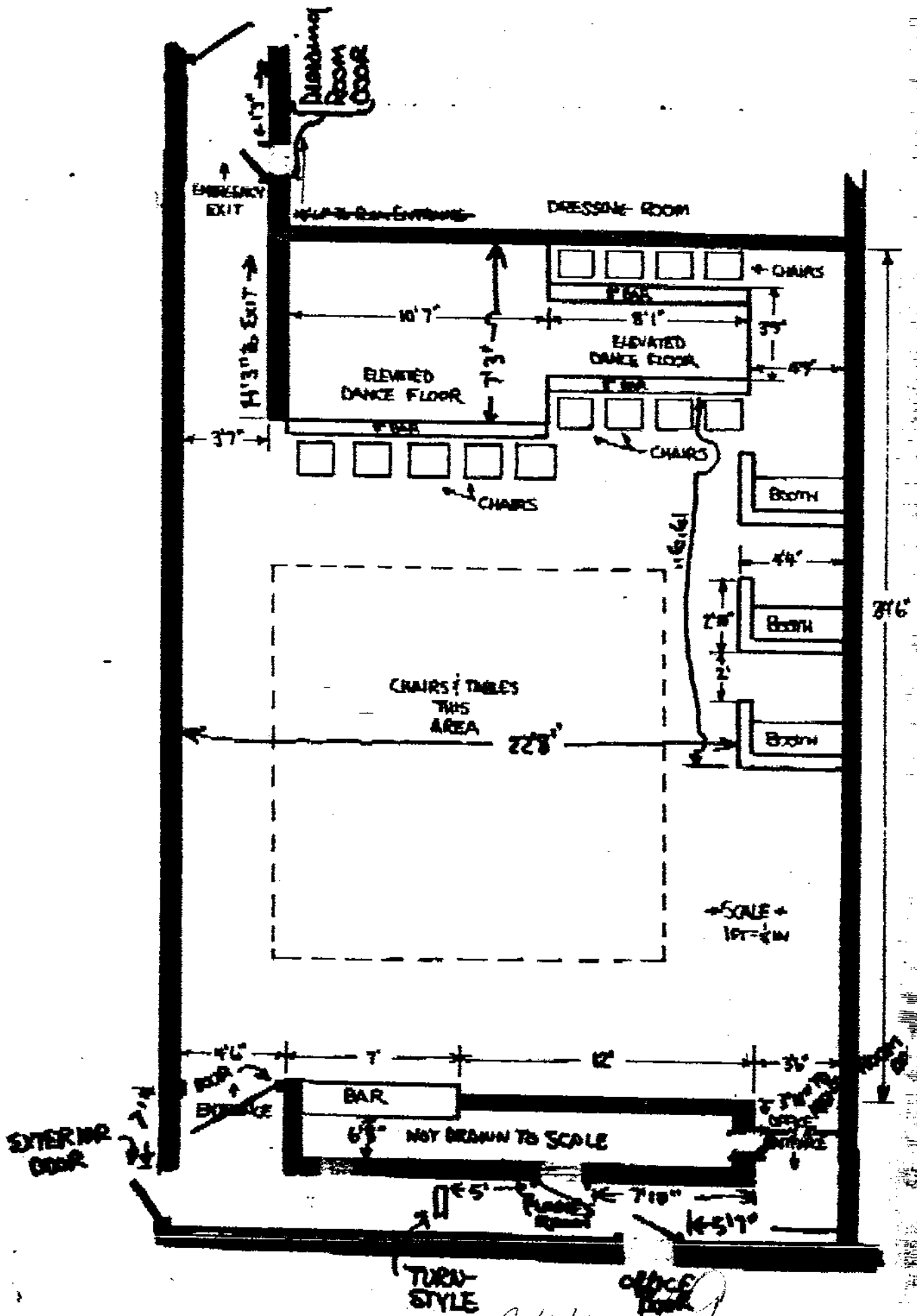
W/O, 840077

ENCLOSURE

[Signature]

57 JAN 1984

b6
b7c



TURN-STYLE
 CEILING LIGHT
 17-9-15/11

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, DETROIT

DATE: 3/23/84

ATTENTION: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT

Initial submission supplemental submission _____ revision _____

2. File No: 44A-2408 (include alpha)

3. Status: P (P - pending, P* - pending inactive, C - closed, RUC - referred upon completion)

4. Title:

VINCENT LICHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM,
CR (A)
OO: DETROIT

MIE

2 -

b6
b7c

Re:

5. If Title changed, show previous Title:

262

6. TYPE OF CASE: (check one)

- A. CR
- B. CRA64-E
- C. CRA64-PA
- D. CRA64-PE
- E. CRA64-PF
- F. CREL
- G. CRIPA
- H. DIH
- I. ECOA
- J. FRS
- K. ISS
- L. PRIV. ACT - CRIM.

7. AGENCY TYPE: (check one)

- A. City-County Jail
- B. Federal Agency
- C. Police Department
- D. Prison/Penitentiary
- E. Private Security
- F. Sheriff's Office
- G. State Police - Hwy Patrol
- H. Other
- I. Not pertinent

8. AGENCY NAME: _____ (20) STATE: _____ (use 2-char. abbrev.)
(omit if "Not pertinent" checked above)

BP

9. ACTION: UACB;

- (check if applicable) A. LHM enclosed
- B. LHM being submitted
- C. Report enclosed
- D. Report being submitted
- E. No further action being taken
- F. FD-376 (enclosure to LHM)

*10. Further action: A. investigation instituted
B. investigation continuing
C. investigation completed

11. Copy of above submitted to: (check as many as applicable)

- A. USA
- B. Secret Service
- C. BATF

44-94566-21

Received _____ Date _____ Initials _____ (15) (other - specify)

2-Bureau (ENC 3)
2-Detroit
JLC/dlb
(4)

Entered _____ (RM) **MAR 28 1984**

Modified _____

Complete _____

1-CRD
3-27-84
0-70-B
AEK:Um

MAR 26 1984

Enclosure

(ATTACHMENT A)

REC'D
ADMIN. UNIT
O.I.D.

MAR 20 1984

MAR 26 2 07 PM '84

F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

I. PURPOSE

The FD-610 was designed to provide a complete set of pertinent facts for each Civil Rights case which can then be directly entered into a computer which will assist in a more effective, efficient and economical management of the Civil Rights Program. Each office **MUST** correctly complete **ALL** items requested on the form either on the initial submission or later by supplemental submission prior to the close of the case.

II. WHEN TO SUBMIT

The FD-610 is to be submitted in all cases supervised by the Civil Rights Unit, which include the following classifications: 44-CR; 50-ISS; 173-CRA 1984; 177-DIH; 187-Privacy Act of 1974-Criminal; 189-ECOA; 204-FRS; 214-CRIPA.

One function of the FD-610 is to replace the FD-365 in Civil Rights cases. It should be, in most cases, the initial communication advising FBIHQ of the initiation of an investigation, however, if the urgency of the situation requires a teletype the FD-610 should be submitted as soon as possible.

III. DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS REGARDING ITEM #1 ON THE FD-610

- Initial -** should be checked if it is the first FD-610 submitted in the case - every attempt should be made to provide all the information required on the form on the initial submission; however, the initial submission of the form should not be held in abeyance while awaiting data which will be obtained at a later date.
- Supplemental -** should be checked when providing data which was not available, and therefore was omitted from the FD-610 form(s) previously submitted.
- Revision -** should be checked in all instances wherein information previously provided by form FD-610 was incorrectly reported. When submitting revisions, provide data only in those items requiring a change.

IV. *Denotes items on the FD-610 which must be completed on the initial submission by the Field Office.

12. SUBJECTS (number):
- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------|
| A. _____ Amer. Indian | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| B. _____ Asian | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| C. _____ Black | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| D. _____ Hispanic | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| E. _____ White | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| F. _____ Other | _____ Male | _____ Female |

If "Other" please specify: _____ (15)

13. VICTIMS (number):
- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------|
| A. _____ Amer. Indian | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| B. _____ Asian | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| C. _____ Black | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| D. _____ Hispanic | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| E. _____ White | _____ Male | _____ Female |
| F. _____ Other | _____ Male | _____ Female |

If "Other" please specify: _____ (15)

14. Other descriptive data re victims: _____ not applicable

If applicable (number):

A. _____ under 18	C. _____ handicapped
B. _____ over 62	D. _____ institutionalized

15. Matter type (use best description, check more than one if applicable):

- A. brutality type _____ (15) (i.e., shooting, beating)
- B. nonbrutality
- C. death of victim
- D. suicide method _____ (15) (i.e., hanging, slashed wrist)
- E. known extremist group type _____ (15) (i.e., Klan, Nazi, JDL)
- F. suspected ext. group type _____ (15) (i.e., Klan, Nazi, JDL)
- G. cross burning
- H. migrant victim
- I. violence to property type _____ (15) (i.e., arson, shooting)
- J. ISS matter type _____ (i.e., peonage, enticement, servitude, other slavery)
- K. other explain _____ (25)

- *16. Synopsis of Complaint - Date of initial complaint _____

Final motions in captioned case have been heard by USDJ, EDM, Detroit, Michigan, and trial has been scheduled to begin on 6/5/84.

- *17. Indices: (check one) negative positive (if positive explain in body of report/LHM)

Remarks/Administrative

Airtel

May 7, 1984

Director, FBI

SAC, Detroit (44A-2408)

1 - [redacted]
1 - FOF

b6
b7C

[redacted]
VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS
OO: DETROIT

Re Detroit airtel/LHM dated 3/23/84.

Advise status of captioned case.

MAILED 9
MAY 07 1984
FBI

44-2408-23

- Exec AD Adm. _____
- Exec AD Inv. _____
- Exec AD LES _____
- Asst. Dir.:
 - Adm. Servs. _____
 - Crim. Inv. _____
 - Ident. _____
 - Insp. _____
 - Intell. _____
 - Lab. _____
 - Legal Coun. _____
 - Off. Cong. & Public Affs. _____
 - Rec. Mgnt. _____
 - Tech. Servs. _____
 - Training _____
 - Telephone Rm. _____
 - Director's Sec'y _____

RMB:VIR
(5)

RETURN TO ROOM: 5131

86 JUN 1984

TTC/KMS

MAIL ROOM X

RECEIVED
TELETYPE UNIT
23 MAY 1984 452
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

Exec. AD-Adm.	_____
Exec. AD-Inv.	_____
Exec. AD-LES	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	_____
Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

DE011 01442042

RR HQ

DE DE

R 0232042Z MAY 84

FM DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (C-4)

TO DIRECTOR FBI (ROUTINE)

CHICAGO (ROUTINE)

EL PASO (ROUTINE)

LOUISVILLE (ROUTINE)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

(CHANGED)

[REDACTED]

VINCENT CMH (DECEASED)

VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS; OO: DETROIT.

TITLE MARKED CHANGED TO REFLECT MIDDLE NAME OF [REDACTED]

FOR INFORMATION OF RECEIVING OFFICES [REDACTED]

WHITE MALE, BORN [REDACTED]

MURDERED VICTIM

BY BEATING HIM TO DEATH WITH A BASEBALL BAT ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 19, 1983, AFTER AN ARGUMENT AT A LOCAL CO-OP S.P.

DE-130

44-2408-24

TRIAL IN CAPTIONED MATTER IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JUNE 5, 1984. A REVIEW OF [REDACTED] MILITARY RECORD DISCLOSES THAT [REDACTED] RESIDES [REDACTED]

17 MAY 31 1984

53 DEC 14 1984

cc - CRU

b6
b7c

130

PAGE TWO DE 44A-2407 UNCLAS E F T O

AT [REDACTED] AND ENTERED THE U. S. ARMY IN 1962.

IN APRIL, 1962, [REDACTED] DIVORCED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED]

PRIOR TO THE

DIVORCE, THEY RESIDED AT [REDACTED]

WHILE [REDACTED] WAS IN THE U. S. ARMY, HE WAS STATIONED AT FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY, AND FORT BLISS, TEXAS. IN VIEW OF THE SHORT TIME FRAME BEFORE TRIAL BEGINS IN CAPTIONED MATTER, IT IS REQUESTED THAT RECEIVING OFFICES SUPPLY ALL RESULTS OF LEADS SET FORTH.

CHICAGO AT OREGON, ILLINOIS: CONDUCT LOGICAL CRIMINAL CHECK REGARDING [REDACTED]

CHICAGO AT ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS: CONDUCT LOGICAL CRIMINAL CHECK REGARDING [REDACTED] ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW [REDACTED], [REDACTED] AND DETERMINE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DIVORCE.

EL PASO AT FORT BLISS, TEXAS: CONDUCT LOGICAL CRIMINAL CHECK REGARDING [REDACTED]

LOUISVILLE AT FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY: CONDUCT LOGICAL CRIMINAL CHECK REGARDING [REDACTED]

BT

RECEIVED
TELETYPE UNIT

30 MAR 84 03 50z

FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

Exec. AD-Adm.	_____
Exec. AD-Inv.	_____
Exec. AD-LES	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Off. Cong. & Public Affs.	_____
Rec. Mgmt.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

CG0022 1510623

PP HQ DE LV

DE CG

P 300623Z MAY 84

FM CHICAGO (44A-3264) (RUC) (SQUAD 12/16)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

DETROIT (44A-2408) PRIORITY

LAS VEGAS (44A-NEW) PRIORITY

UNCLAS E F T O

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -

VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS; OO: DETROIT.

RE DETROIT TELETYPE TO BUREAU, MAY 23, 1984.

FOR INFORMATION OF LAS VEGAS, [Redacted]

WHITE MALE, DOB [Redacted]

MURDERED VICTIM BY

BEATING HIM TO DEATH WITH A BASEBALL BAT ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 19, 1982 AFTER AN ARGUMENT AT A LOCAL GO-GO BAR.

TRIAL IN CAPTIONED MATTER IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JUNE 5, 1984. A REVIEW OF [Redacted] MILITARY RECORD DISCLOSED THAT

DE 33 44-94566-25

[Redacted] RESIDED AT [Redacted]

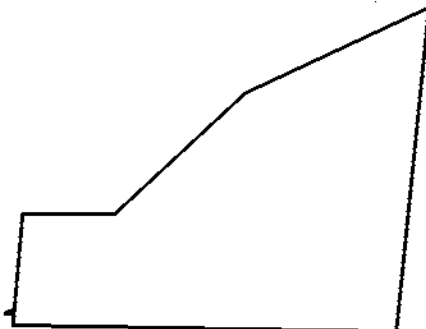
AND ENTERED THE U.S.

ARMY IN 1962. IN APRIL, 1962, [Redacted] DIVORCED [Redacted]

17 MAY 31 1984

32
53 DEC 14 1984

cc-CRU



PAGE TWO

CG 44A-3264

UNCLAS E F T O

[REDACTED] DOB [REDACTED]

THE DETROIT DIVISION REQUESTED THAT CHICAGO AT OREGON AND ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS CONDUCT LOGICAL CRIMINAL CHECKS REGARDING [REDACTED] INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY THE CHICAGO DIVISION ON MAY 29, 1984 DETERMINED THAT [REDACTED] HAD NEVER BEEN ARRESTED BY THE ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS POLICE DEPARTMENT, WINNEBAGO COUNTY, ILLINOIS SHERIFF'S POLICE, OREGON, ILLINOIS POLICE DEPARTMENT, OR THE OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS SHERIFF'S POLICE.

DETROIT DIVISION FURTHER REQUESTED THAT THE CHICAGO DIVISION LOCATE AND INTERVIEW [REDACTED] AND DETERMINE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING HER DIVORCE. ON MAY 29, 1984, [REDACTED] TELEPHONE NUMBER [REDACTED] AND BUSINESS TELEPHONE NUMBER [REDACTED] ADVISED SHE IS THE

[REDACTED] SHE STATED [REDACTED] IS CURRENTLY RESIDING IN [REDACTED] AND IS EMPLOYED THERE WITH A [REDACTED] SHE ADVISED SHE WAS CURRENTLY UNABLE TO FURNISH [REDACTED] ADDRESS

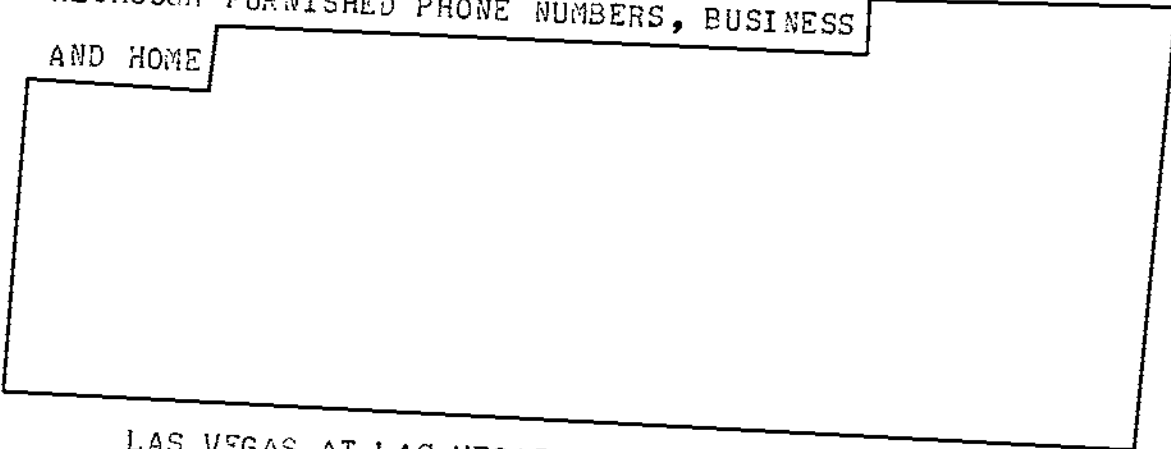
PAGE THREE

CG 44A-3264

UNCLAS E F T O

ALTHOUGH FURNISHED PHONE NUMBERS, BUSINESS

AND HOME



b6
b7c

LAS VEGAS AT LAS VEGAS, NEVADA. WILL LOCATE AND
INTERVIEW [REDACTED] AND DETERMINE CIRCUMSTANCES
SURROUNDING HER DIVORCE [REDACTED] (IN VIEW OF
THE SHORT TIME FRAME BEFORE TRIAL BEGINS IN CAPTIONED
MATTER, DETROIT DIVISION IS REQUESTING THAT RECEIVING
OFFICES SUTEL ALL RESULTS).

BT

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 5/11/84

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (C-4)



VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -
 VICTIM
 CR (A)
 (OO: DETROIT)

Re Detroit airtel and LHM dated 3/23/84, and Bureau airtel to Detroit, 5/7/84.

As stated in re Detroit airtel and LHM, trial date in captioned matter scheduled for 6/5/84. Since re airtel and LHM, no investigation conducted by Detroit as there were no outstanding leads. Any further investigation will be coordinated with DOJ Attorneys TED MERRITT and AMY HAY.

LEAD:

DETROIT

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Will report results upon completion of trial in captioned matter.

1 - Bureau
 2 - Detroit
 JLC/srb

(4)

Approved: W60/JP Transmitted _____ Per _____
 (Number) (Time)

b6
b7c

(Handwritten mark)

44-2408-26

ack

(Handwritten signature)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- _____

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

AIRTEL

Date 5/21/84

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P) (SQD. C-4)

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CR (A)
OO: DETROIT

Enclosed for Milwaukee is a subpoena for [Redacted] to appear for trial in captioned matter on 6/5/84 at Detroit, Michigan.

[Redacted] upon receipt of subpoena, should contact Supervisor [Redacted] Detroit Office of the FBI at telephone number (313) 965-2323, so that he can be given an exact time to appear, thus avoiding a delay in his absence from his work.

LEAD

MILWAUKEE

AT MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Serve enclosed subpoena on [Redacted]
[Redacted]

- 2 - Bureau
 - 2 - Milwaukee (Enc. 1)
 - 2 - Detroit
- JLC/dlb
(6)

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

Approved: WGS/je Transmitted _____ Per _____
(Number) (Time)

132

ask

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT
(Submit within 30 days from date of accomplishment)

Date 6/6/84

TO: **DIRECTOR, FBI**

FROM: **SAC, CHICAGO**

SUBJECT

VINCENT CHIN (DEC.)
VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS (A)
OO: DETROIT

Bureau File Number
44A-3264
Field Office File Number
12
Squad or RA Number

- X if a joint FBI/DEA (or other Federal Agency **) operation.
- X if case involves corruption of a public official (Federal, State or Local)

Investigative Assistance or Techniques Used

Were any of the investigative assistance or techniques listed below used in connection with accomplishment being claimed? No Yes - If Yes, rate each used as follows:
1 = Used, but did not help
2 = Helped, but only minimally
3 = Helped, substantially
4 = Absolutely essential

1 Acctg Tech Assistance	6. ELSUR - Title III	11 Lab Div Field Support	16 Show Money Receipt Usage
2 Aircraft Assistance	7. Hypnosis Assistance	12 Pen Registers	17 Surveill Sqd Asst
3 Computer Assistance	8 Ident Div Assistance	13 Photographic Coverage	18 SWAT Team Action
4 Consensual Monitoring	9. Informant Information	14 Polygraph Assistance	19. Telephone Toll Records
5. ELSUR - FISC	10. Lab Div Exams	15. Search Warrants Executed	20 Undercover Operation
			21 Visual Invest. Analysis (VIA)

A. Preliminary Judicial Process (Number of subjects)	Complaints	Informations	Indictments	D. Recoveries, Restitutions, Court Ordered Forfeitures or Potential Economic Loss Prevented (PELP)			
	Subject Priority (See Reverse)			Property or PELP Type Code *	Recoveries	Restitutions	Court Ordered Forfeitures
B. Arrests, Locates, Summonses & Subpoenas (No. of subjects)	A	B	C				
	FBI Arrests -						
FBI Locates -							
Number of Subjects of FBI Arrests Who Physically Resisted _____							
Number of Subjects of FBI Arrests Who Were Armed _____							
Criminal Summons _____			Subpoenas Served <u>1</u>				
C. Release of Hostages: (Number of Hostages Released)				E. Civil Matters		Government Plaintiff	
Hostages Held By Terrorists _____ All Other Hostage Situations _____				Amount of Suit			
				Settlement or Award			Enter AFA Payment Here

F. Final Judicial Process: Judicial District _____ (Use two letter state abbreviations per U.S. Post Office Guide For Example The Northern District of Texas as ND TX. The District of Maine as ME in the state field only.)

Subject 1 - Name _____ District _____ State _____ Subject's Description Code * - _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Pretrial <input type="checkbox"/> Diversion <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal <input type="checkbox"/> Acquittal	- Convictions - Enter conviction and sentence data in space at right. If more than four sections are involved, limit to the four most relevant.	<input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Plea <input type="checkbox"/> Trial	Conviction			In-Jail Term		Suspended		Probation		Fine
			Title	Section	Counts	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	
												\$
												\$
												\$
												\$

Subject 2 - Name _____ Subject's Description Code * - _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Pretrial <input type="checkbox"/> Diversion <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal <input type="checkbox"/> Acquittal	- Convictions - Enter conviction and sentence data in space at right. If more than four sections are involved, limit to the four most relevant.	<input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Plea <input type="checkbox"/> Trial	Conviction			In-Jail Term		Suspended		Probation		Fine
			Title	Section	Counts	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	
												\$
												\$
												\$
												\$

Subject 3 - Name _____ Subject's Description Code * - _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Pretrial <input type="checkbox"/> Diversion <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal <input type="checkbox"/> Acquittal	- Convictions - Enter conviction and sentence data in space at right. If more than four sections are involved, limit to the four most relevant.	<input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Plea <input type="checkbox"/> Trial	Conviction			In-Jail Term		Suspended		Probation		Fine
			Title	Section	Counts	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	Yrs	Mos	
												\$
												\$
												\$
												\$

Attach additional forms if reporting final judicial process on more than three subjects.

Remarks On 6/5/84, a subpoena was served on _____ to appear in U.S. District Court, Eastern Division of Michigan.

Initials _____

② Bureau
2 - Field Office (1-66-2574 - Sub A)

• See codes on reverse side. Subject description codes in Section F are required only when reporting final disposition.

** Identify the other Federal Agency(ies) in the Remarks Section.

SLK/wh
(4)

JUL 30 1984
JUN 20 1984
THUR

b6
b7C

FBI/DOJ

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 9/20/84

Re: [REDACTED]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
 CIVIL RIGHTS
 OO: DETROIT (44A-2408)

On 9/18/84 [REDACTED] was sentenced to 25 years custody of the Attorney General by Judge Anna Diggs-Taylor, EDM, Detroit, Michigan. On 6/28/84 a federal jury returned a guilty verdict against [REDACTED] for violating T18, USC, Section 245 and 2 in the beating death of Vincent Chin. The jury acquitted [REDACTED] of all charges. [REDACTED] is currently free on bond with a scheduled date of 10/18/84 to begin serving his sentence.

By way of background, the FBI initiated a Civil Rights investigation on 4/29/83 per request of the Department of Justice. During the evening of 6/19/82, Vincent Chin, a Chinese male, was attending his bachelor party with friends at the Fancy Pants Go-Go Club located in Highland Park, Michigan. Racial slurs were directed toward Chin in the bar and words were exchanged. A fight ensued in the bar but was quickly quelled.

1 - Mr. Revell
 1 - Mr. Gilbert
 1 - Mr. O'Connor

1 - [REDACTED]
 1 - [REDACTED]

LJM:ej

(6)

f

44-94566

SIX
 FBI/DOJ

b6
b7c

As the victim left the bar, he was chased and beaten by subjects with a baseball bat. Victim suffered serious injuries and died four days later. Subjects were charged locally and pled guilty to the charge of manslaughter. They were both sentenced to three years' probation and fined \$3,000 each. Due to these minor sentences, public outcry, and formal complaints to the Department of Justice, this investigation was opened, investigated and successfully prosecuted.

APPROVED: *TTJ*
 Director _____
 Exec. AD-Adm. _____
 Exec. AD-Inv. _____
 Exec. AD-LES _____

Adm. Servs. _____
 Crim. Inv. *OBM* _____
 Ident. _____
 Insp. _____
 Intell. _____

Laboratory _____
 Legal Coun. _____
 Off. of Cong. & Public Affs. *WDF* _____
 Rec. Mgmt. _____
 Tech. Servs. _____
 Training _____

[REDACTED]

January 29, 1985

b6
b7C

RE: [REDACTED]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS
OO: DETROIT (44A-2408)

Judge:

I have been advised that you and Mr. O'Malley met with the Attorney General yesterday regarding a case entitled [REDACTED] aka, - Victim, Intimidation/Possible Harassment/ Murder FCI - PRC/Taiwan; OO: San Francisco.

b6
b7C

During the course of this briefing, the Vincent Chin case was discussed. Mr. O'Malley has requested a summary of that case.

The FBI initiated a Civil Rights investigation on 4/29/83 per request of the Department of Justice. During the evening of 6/19/82 Vincent Chin, a Chinese male, was attending his bachelor party with friends at the Fancy Pants Go-Go Club located in Highland Park, Michigan. Racial slurs were directed toward Mr. Chin in the bar and words were exchanged. A fight ensued in the bar but was quickly quelled.

As Mr. Chin left the bar, he was chased by [REDACTED] and beaten by [REDACTED] with a baseball bat. Mr. Chin suffered serious injuries and died four days later. [REDACTED] were charged locally and pled guilty to the charge of manslaughter. They were both sentenced to three years probation and fined \$3,000 each. Due to these minor sentences, public outcry, and formal complaints to the Department of Justice, an investigation was opened, investigated and successfully prosecuted.

On 11/2/83 [REDACTED] were indicted by a FGJ, EDM, Detroit, Michigan, of 2 counts each for violation T18, Section 241(Conspiracy Against Rights of Citizens) and Section 245(Civil Rights Act of 1964 - Federally Protected Activities).

b6
b7C

On 6/28/84 a Federal jury returned a guilty verdict against [REDACTED] for violating T18, USC, Section 245 in the beating death of Vincent Chin. The jury acquitted [REDACTED] of all charges. On 9/18/84 [REDACTED] was sentenced to 25 years custody of the Attorney General by Judge Anna Diggs-Taylor, EDM, Detroit, Michigan. [REDACTED] is currently free on bond pending appeal before the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, Cincinnati, Ohio.

O. B. Revell


GRL:vm

Memorandum




WBR:SPC:FC:rs
DJ 144-37-1096

b6
b7c

Subject: Vincent Chin (Dec.) - Victim Summary Punishment CIVIL RIGHTS	Subjects; FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	Date OCT 10 1986 
--	---------------------------------	--

To: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

From: 
Wm. Bradford Reynolds
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Reference is made to your field office file number 44A-2408.

Please conduct the following additional investigation:

1. The United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit has reversed and remanded for a new trial the conviction of for violating 18 U.S.C. §245. Please re-open the case. The United States District Judge has set a status conference for October 23, 1986, at 4:00 p.m. Trial will be scheduled at that time and could begin as soon as thirty days from October 23, 1986. The following witnesses must be located immediately as they must be interviewed by DOJ attorneys. The witnesses are as follows:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.

14-94566-25

11/7/86

10

2. Please make the case agent available to DOJ attorneys during week of October 20, 1986, for viewing the scene and discussion of the case.

2cc Detroit
1cc CIO/CRU
10-16-86
sg/cw



Memorandum



WBR:SPC:FC:rs
DJ 144-37-1096

Subject Subjects
Vincent Chin (Dec.) - Victim
Summary Punishment
CIVIL RIGHTS

Date
15 OCT 1986

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

mm

efv

To Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

From *WBR*
SA Wm. Bradford Reynolds
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

b6
b7C

Reference is made to your field office file number 44A-2408.

Please conduct the following additional investigation:

1. In addition to the witnesses listed in a FBI request dated 10/10/86 the following witnesses should be located in preparation for interview by DOJ attorneys:

1.
2.

2cc Detroit
1cc CIO/CRU
10.22.86
Jg/cm

4/1 - 94 508
12/2
11-12-86
007

Q

b6
b7C

2

TRANSMIT VIA: AIRTEL

CLASSIFICATION: _____

DATE: 10/22/86

FROM: Director, FBI

1- []

TO: SAC, Detroit (44A-2408)

mm

[]

SUBJECTS

VINCENT CHIN (DEC.) - VICTIM
SUMMARY PUNISHMENT
CIVIL RIGHTS
OO: DETROIT (44A-2408)

RE: Bureau airtel dated 10/16/86.

Enclosed are two copies of a Department of Justice letter dated 10/15/86 requesting investigation in captioned case.

This request has been reviewed by the Civil Rights Unit, FBIHQ, and unless reasons exist to the contrary, you are to complete the requested investigation in accordance with the provisions of Section 44, Manual of Investigative Operations and Guidelines, and submit results within 5 workdays of the receipt of this communication.

~~Submit FOI request within 5 workdays of receipt of this airtel~~

Remarks:

****Note: See DOJ request enclosed with re Bureau airtel for deadline.**

9456-3

10 DEC 12 1986

MAILED 22
OCT 22 1986

FBI

Enc. (2)

DLA/cam

1987

MAIL ROOM [] BAR/ DLA

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel _____

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 2/27/87

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (P)

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM

CR(A)
(OO: DETROIT)

On 2/19/87, a change of venue was granted by U.S. District Court Judge ANNA DIGGS TAYLOR in captioned matter. Retrial is now scheduled for April 21, 1987, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

- ② - Bureau
- 2 - Detroit
- JLC/kac
- (4)

44-94566-41

Received

File

Index

Complete

R. J.

[Handwritten signature]

Approved: *[Signature]*

Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time)

Per _____

b6
b7c

Assistant Attorney General
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

Attn: Floyd Clardy

3/19/87

Director, FBI

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM
See attached LHM for title.
OO: Detroit (44A-2408)

	DE	44A	2408
Field Office File Number	144	37	1096
DOJ File Number			

Reference: DOJ memorandum dated 10/15/86.

Enclosed is one copy of: Detroit LHM dated 3/13/87.

Also enclosed is an Internal Affairs Report

A. This is the initial communication in this matter:

Type matter (Initial communication only)

- Brutality - Law Enforcement
- Brutality - Nonlaw Enforcement
- No Brutality - Law Enforcement
- No Brutality - Nonlaw Enforcement
- Racial Violence
- ISS Matter
- Death Case

XB

B. FBI Status-Pending

C. FBI Status-Closed

D. This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation unless specifically requested by the Department of Justice.

E. Due to the nature of this matter, it should receive your expeditious attention. Please contact the Civil Rights Unit, DLA/cam FBIHQ, Attn: _____

Enc 1

Received
Entered
M...

Date: 3/19/87
Initials: [Signature]

3/19/87

MAIL ROOM

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 5/5/87

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DETROIT (44A-2408) (C)



VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) -
 VICTIM
 CR (A)
 OO: DETROIT

Enclosed for the Bureau is the original and two copies of self explanatory LHM.

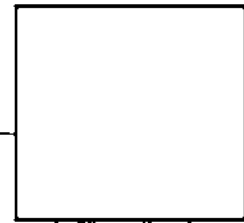
2 - Bureau (Encs.-3)
 1 - Detroit
 JLC:psn
 (3)

2 det
 ENCLOSURE

→ 1 - CID, CRU 644-C 5/11/87 DLAKT

44-2408-46

10 MAY 8 1987



Approved: *KPW/jh*

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

R. J.

SEARCHED _____
 SERIALIZED _____
 INDEXED _____
 FILED _____

b6
b7C

b6
b7C



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Detroit, Michigan
May 5, 1987

Re: [redacted]
Vincent Chin (Deceased) -
Victim
Civil Rights

b6
b7c

Retrial of [redacted] who was charged with violating the civil rights of Vincent Chin, began on April 20, 1987 at Cincinnati, Ohio. On May 1, 1987 a federal jury found [redacted] not guilty of all civil rights charges.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

111-01

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Assistant Attorney General
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

Attn: Floyd Clardy

5/12/87

Director, FBI

[Redacted]

VINCENT CHIN (DECEASED) - VICTIM;
CIVIL RIGHTS
OO: DETROIT

b6
b7c

Field Office File Number ~~DE44A~~ - ~~2408~~

DOJ File Number ~~144~~ - ~~37~~ - ~~1096~~

Reference: FBI memorandum dated 3/19/87

Enclosed is one copy of: Detroit LHM dated 5/5/87

Also enclosed is an Internal Affairs Report

A. This is the initial communication in this matter:

Type matter (Initial communication only)

- Brutality - Law Enforcement
- Brutality - Nonlaw Enforcement
- No Brutality - Law Enforcement
- No Brutality - Nonlaw Enforcement
- Racial Violence
- ISS Matter
- Death Case

B. FBI Status-Pending

C. FBI Status-Closed

D. This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation unless specifically requested by the Department of Justice.

E. Due to the nature of this matter, it should receive your expeditious attention. Please contact the Civil Rights Unit, FBIHQ, Attn:

CRIS

Date

Initials

Enc ()
DLA/ct

[Handwritten signature]

Received
Date
Initials
Completed

[Handwritten initials/signature]

[Handwritten signature]

MAIL ROOM

SENT BY COURIER

DATE 5/12/87 INITIAL ct

