

January 19th, 1929.

Statement of Lafon Fisher, 3341 Wabash Ave. Statement made in Supervisors Room, third floor, Detective Bureau, January 19th, 1929, at 5:45 p.m.

Present:

Lieut. Wm. J. Cusack, Squad 36-B  
Ptlmn. Al. Snyder, " 1-B  
" John Dewe, " 1-B  
" Jos. Sullivan, " 36-B  
" Jas. Wolfe, " "  
" E. Pieske, " "  
" J. Kangin, " "

Leon Brown, 3035 Michigan Ave. (Defendant)

Questioned by Lieut. Cusack.

Q. State your name and address and phone number?

A. Lafon Fisher, 3341 Wabash Avenue, Victory 5427.

Q. How old are you? A. 31 years.

Q. My name is Cusack, I am a Lieutenant of Police. I am going to ask you to make a statement with reference to a bank robbery which was committed on January 18th, 1929, about 1:00 p.m. at the Franklin Trust and Savings Bank, located at 35th and Michigan Avenue. Now, Lafon, are you willing to make a statement?

A. Yes sir.

Q. I want you to go on in your own way, Lafon, and talk very slow so the man at the typewriter can write what you say. I want you to tell me in detail what particular part you took in this robbery, who was present, where and how the robbery was framed, and how much you received for your share of it?

A. The robbery was framed when they met me. Leonard Shadler and Leon Brown met me at 3341 Wabash Avenue about 2 weeks before the robbery. I had a conversation with them. Leonard said: "Do you want to make a job?" This conversation was between Leonard Shadler, Leon Brown and myself, in the basement at 3341 Wabash Avenue, front part of the building where they hold crap games. Two or three days later I had another conversation with them. They told me at that time the place was the Kenwood Bank at 47th and Grand Blvd. Leonard Shadler told me that they had looked that bank over. At that time we talked about that job; they talked about getting a car to pull the job. I had 3 or 4 conversations with Leonard and Leon covering about 2 or 3 weeks.

Q. Now (to Leon Brown) Leon, you were brought in here by Deputy Commissioner of Detectives John Stege, and you stated in the presence of Lafon Fisher to Commissioner Stege that you wanted to make a statement in reference to the part you had taken in this bank robbery and I had Officer Sullivan read the statement which was previously made by Lafon Fisher in the presence of Lafon and yourself. Now you state that that statement he made was correct in every detail. Now if there are any changes you want to make in that statement I want you to make them now.

A. Its right in every detail except that I kon't know Lafon Fisher not more than three weeks. I talked to him about doing the job at 47th and South Parkway and the job at the Franklin State Bank.

Q. Now Lafon I want you to go on with your story about what part you took in this robbery. X

A. Yesterday morning about 11:00 o'clock we all met in my room at 3341 Wabash Ave., on the second floor. Leon Fisher, Brown, Jenkins, Leonard Shadler and myself met there. Every one had their own guns. We talked it over and we agreed that we would hold up the Franklin Bank at 35th & Michigan Ave. Brown myself and Leonard went out the front way and Jenkins went out the back way to get the car. Leonard told Jenkins to be there. The rest of us all walked over to the bank. I walked into the bank and stood in the center of the floor. Some of the fellows in our gang said "Stick them up" and I jumped over the counter and went into the cage where the money was. Just as I got into the cage the shooting started, and I grabbed a hand full of Bills and ran out of the door and jumped into the car.

Continued.

L BROWN

Lafon Fisher

January 19th, 1929.

Statement of Leon Brown, 3033 Michigan Ave. Statement made in Office of Deputy Commr. of Dets. John Stege, Jan. 19, 1929, at 9:45 p.m.

Present:

Deputy Commr. of Dets. John Stege.  
Chas. A. Bellows, Asst. State's Attorney.  
Frank A. Sheeder, Court reporter.  
Harry W. Solomon, 310 S. Michigan Ave.  
Robt. A. McEwen, 3451 S. Michigan Ave.  
John R. French, 3451 S. Michigan Ave.  
Capt. Fred G. Armstrong, Michigan State Police.  
Lieutenant, Wm. J. Cusack, Squad 36-B.  
Plmn. Jos. Sullivan,

Questioned by Asst. State's Attorney Bellows.

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- Q. What is your name? A. Leon Brown.  
Q. Where do you live? A. 3033 Michigan.  
Q. How old are you? A. 28.  
Q. Where do you work? A. Not working.  
Q. Since how long? A. 2 mos.  
Q. Where did you work? A. City of Chicago.  
Q. Doing what? A. Night watchman.  
Q. How long did you work as a night watchman for the city?  
A. Close to a year or 10 mos.  
Q. What did you do before that?  
A. Head porter for Illinois Steel Co.  
Q. Married? A. Yes sir.  
Q. What is your wife's name? A. Virginia Brown.  
Q. Do you know Leonard Shallow? A. Yes - 1 month.  
Q. How long do you know Lafon Fisher? A. 4 or 5 days.  
Q. How long do you know Melvin Jenkins?  
A. About 2 mos.  
Q. How long have you known Steve? A. 4 or 5 days.  
Q. What is Steve's last name? A. I don't know.  
Q. You know you are in the Detective Bureau? A. Yes.  
Q. My name is Bellows, Asst. State's Attorney - this is Mr. Sheeder,  
Court reporter, this is Dr. McEwen, Mr. Solomon is over there, Mr.  
McKay, and Mr. Saunders. You know you are here in connection with the  
robbery of the Franklin Savings Bank and the killing of the police  
officer Martin B. French?  
A. Yes sir.  
Q. Now anything you say here may be used for or against you. Realizing  
that do you want to tell the truth?  
A. I sure do.  
Q. While you've been in the custody of the police, no one abused you  
did they? A. No sir.  
Q. Nobody promised you immunity? A. No.  
Q. You are willing to tell the truth? A. Yes sir.  
Q. When did you first plan the robbery of the Frank Trust & Savgs. Bank?  
A. The day before it was pulled. Two days.  
Q. When did you first talk about robbing the Franklin Trust & Savgs. Bank?  
A. 2 days before.  
Q. Who did you talk about it?  
A. Leonard Shallow, Fisher, Melvin Jenkins and Steve.  
Q. Where did you talk about this?  
A. At 3341 "abash" Avenue.  
Q. Whose apartment was that?  
A. I don't know.

continued

*Leon Brown*