

JIM CONLEY WILL TAKE STAND TODAY AS STATE WITNESS

Negro Sweeper Will Be Called Upon to Testify Against Dan Lehon, Carlton Tedder and Arthur Thurman.

RAGSDALE ON THE STAND WHEN COURT ADJOURNED

Preacher Grilled by Lawyers for Defense After He Tells Story of Alleged Effort to Bribe Him.

New and startling developments are expected in the third session of the Lehon-Tedder-Thurman trial before Judge Ben Hill this morning when Solicitor Dorsey will, in all probability, put Jim Conley, the noted Frank case witness, on the stand in behalf of the prosecution.

The nature of Conley's proposed testimony has not been divulged. It is expected, however, that he will testify to his relations with Carlton C. Tedder previous to the trial of Frank, when Tedder—a secret Burns operative—was in the employ of William M. Smith, Conley's counsel.

This morning's session will be resumed with Rev. G. B. Ragsdale, the star witness, on the stand. Ragsdale's testimony occupied most of Thursday's session. Thus far he has been the only witness called. His story revolved around the alleged bribery by Burns agents to swear to an affidavit that he had overheard Jim Conley confess to Mary Phagan's murder, for which he swears he was paid \$100, while his accomplice, R. L. Barber, received another \$100.

Held on Ragsdale's Testimony.

Dan S. Lehon, Tedder and Arthur Thurman, the lawyer, were indicted on Ragsdale's story on charges of subornation of perjury, for which they are now being tried. Tedder and Lehon were connected with the Burns forces at the time of his famous investigation into the Leo Frank mystery.

Ragsdale testified that on April 23 he agreed with Arthur Thurman to swear that he and Barber, while standing at the mouth of an alley on Madison avenue, had overheard Jim Conley tell another negro that on the day of Mary Phagan's murder he had "killed a little girl in the pencil factory."

He met Tedder and Thurman in the latter's office and, after talking the proposition over, he consented to make the affidavit whenever required. He swore that he was taken to the office of the Burns agency in the Healey building to see Dan Lehon, and then to Luther Rosser's office. Mr. Rosser, he stated, asked him a few questions, and then he signed the affidavit.

The following day, he and Barber, who swore to an affidavit corroborating the minister's story, returned again to Thurman's office, according to Ragsdale's story. Tedder was there, he testified, but said nothing, throwing down on a bookcase two packages of bills, each containing \$100. Thurman, Ragsdale swore, picked up one package and gave it to the witness, and the other to Barber.

Only the Beginning.

He quotes Thurman as having said:

"That makes \$200 for you and \$100 for Barber, but it is only the beginning of what you are going to get."

"Thurman then took two paper wrappers marked \$500 that looked as though they came from around a batch of bills," Ragsdale testified, "and threw them into a cuspidor, saying: 'That's the way to cover your tracks.'"

Some days later, Ragsdale said, some one called him over the telephone, and, in a voice that sounded like Lehon's, told him that "we've got plenty of money and will go on your bond if you get into any kind of trouble. Just sit steady in the boat, there's \$10,000 in it for you."

When court adjourned, Ragsdale was still on the stand, but was in the hands of Judge Arthur Powell, counsel for the defense, who was putting him through rigid cross-examination. In reply to Judge Powell's queries, Ragsdale admitted that he had not told the grand jury of the telephone conversation with the man whose voice sounded like Lehon's. He also said that this was the first time he had told of that incident.

A large array of witnesses will be submitted by the defense, including all members of the grand jury who indicted the three accused men; Luther Rosser, chief counsel for Leo Frank; Herbert & Leonard Haas, associate lawyers, and Morris Brandon, attorney affiliated with the Rosser law firm.

The twelfth juror was obtained within thirty minutes after court convened Thursday morning. He is R. F. Bishop, a member of the real estate firm of Bishop & Turner, and was chosen after six talesmen had been examined.

The trial is expected to last at least two more days.