

# Complete Verbatim Testimony of Joel Baker at Legislative Hearing

(Continued From Page Three)

the Harrison Hotel and had two drinks.

Q—Where did you meet Peter Cancilla that particular morning? A—I am not sure as to that, Senator. I can't say definitely but I think I met him either in my office, when he had come by there, and told me he had some business in the State House, and I said I was coming here, I think he said he had some business over here, or on Market St. A—Well, I am not definite.

Q—What time in the morning, of that particular morning that you came to the State House, did you first see Peter Cancilla? What time in the morning did you first see him? A—Whenever I met him to come over here.

Q—What time was that, Mr. Baker? A—I would say, as I recall it, I could not fix time, as you can't fix time in the morning, between 11 and 12.

Q—You met him and came directly from your office to the State House, except that you stopped at the Harrison Hotel? A—Yes, we stopped at the Harrison Hotel.

Q—How long were you and Peter Cancilla at the Harrison Hotel? A—Oh, I would say, that would be rather hard to say, but I would say 10 or 15 minutes.

Q—Did you see anybody that you remember at the Harrison Hotel that morning? A—No, sir, other than the bartender that served the drinks.

Q—You drank in the bar room there at the Harrison? A—That is what they call the Tap Room.

Q—Where did you take the particular drink at the counter or table or— A—At the bar.

Q—Bar? A—Yes, sir.

Q—Anybody else present? A—It there was, I do not recall it.

Q—Then after you took the two drinks you went direct to the State House? A—That is right.

Q—You remember meeting anybody as you went to the State House that morning? A—Meeting anybody, yes.

Q—Who do you remember meeting? A—The first person I remember meeting was Judge Baker.

Q—Judge Frank Baker? A—Judge Frank Baker.

Q—Where did you meet him? A—I met him in the lower lobby.

Q—Talk to him? A—Yes, sir.

Q—Then after talking to Judge Baker where did you go? A—Went around to the elevator and came up to the second floor.

Q—That is the floor upon which the session of the General Assembly was being held, Mr. Baker? A—Yes, sir.

Q—Who did you see there that you remember? Did you talk to anybody? A—Yes, I remember of talking, Senator, may I say this?

Q—No, please answer my question. We can't make a record, A—Sir.

Q—You can make a record if it is the truth—if you want the truth.

Q—We will get the truth. A—I am somebody that knows a lot of people in this town.

Q—I am asking you the ones you remembered, Mr. Baker? A—Well, now, trying to remember right now—as an attorney you are putting me on the spot to remember certain people. I saw innumerable people—I would say at least a dozen that spoke to me and came over.

Q—And talked to you? A—Hi, Joel, newspaper men, all that, could—might relate 15, but I might be wrong in 12 of them.

Q—All right, now where did you first go after you came up to the second floor of the State House, if you remember, Mr. Baker? A—I went back to the office, or to the cloak room of the House of Representatives, which is directly opposite here.

Q—Did you see anybody there that you knew and talked to? A—Yes.

Q—Who? A—I saw former deputy sheriff, I would have to think now just of his name. I will think of it. His name is Billy Sidlinger. His father was Sheriff back here, Democratic Sheriff along about 1906 or 1908.

Q—You talked to him? A—Yes, and some one else was with him, whom I can't recall, somebody else. I don't recall who that was, Senator.

Q—Do you remember anybody else that you talked to in the cloak room back of the House of Representatives? A—I don't recall that. I was in the cloak room, Senator, when I was there, though, for a particular purpose. Now if you want that purpose I want to give it to you.

Q—All right, tell the Committee what purpose you were there for, A—I wanted to see that there was a public hearing on Senate Bill 173.

Q—All right, right. A—I wanted a public hearing on that bill, Senator, because of the reason that I had maintained the biggest county welfare board in the State of Indiana with distinct credit by the State Department and acknowledged by the Federal Government as the best County Department in eight states, in which the Security Law was working. I wanted that because, Senator, I had been a Democrat, like you have been all my life, born and bred in the principles, and I did not believe that this bill which took away from the local taxing units, all of their power and placed it in a state department which I knew to be inefficient and which I can prove is inefficient by the records of the Marion County Department, was the right kind of a bill for this Legislature to pass. That is why I wanted a chance to talk to you and to you, and to you, and to you, and to you (pointing to each member of the committee), but I did not do that up to that and I only talked—

Q—Sit down, Mr. Baker. That was the reason you wanted a public hearing, so that— Did you talk to anybody about a public hearing to that morning? A—I was waiting to talk to Speaker Stein so that I might be seated by him that he would give me a public hearing and the Judiciary A—To which the bill had been referred and the same committee that had the bill in this Senate, and which railroaded it through because why—because they said and told me in the Governor's office that this was a MUST bill, Bill 173 on Monday, March 13, the last day you were at the State House? A—I can't tell you that, Senator. I asked for a copy of a bill and I had several, I had received from this office, right here, several copies. I had received two copies of 173 from this office. I had gone to the Legislative Reference Bureau where I know you can get about that.

them and you can get them. I had received at least three, I would say.

Q—Did you— A—And a copy of the amendments of the bill with amendments after it had passed this Senate because I had come to this Senate and I never—

Q—Now, Mr. Baker— A—Wait a minute. Let's get the truth. Now do you fellows want to know whether they want to get the truth or not? (to newspaper men).

Q—You just sit down and we will ask you questions. A—Here, I am an individual against six lawyers. It is admitted the committee is six lawyers and I am not a lawyer.

Q—And a fellow that they put in there took his job away from him. Taking that job away does not hurt me. Yes, I loved the job because I thought I could help the poor people in Marion County, but you took over a rider while I was out of town.

Q—Now, Mr. Baker, who did you talk to about a public hearing that morning? A—That morning?

Q—Yes, A—I did not talk to anybody that morning.

Q—Well, where did you go after you left the State House? A—Now, Senator, that may be a little wrong, I don't know that I can talk to you, but I may have talked to somebody. To say something definite is wrong. After two weeks or something I am not sure that that is so, that I did not talk to somebody about a public hearing.

Q—Did you see anybody that you remember at the Harrison Hotel that morning? A—No, sir, other than the bartender that served the drinks.

Q—You drank in the bar room there at the Harrison? A—That is what they call the Tap Room.

Q—Where did you take the particular drink at the counter or table or— A—At the bar.

Q—Bar? A—Yes, sir.

Q—Anybody else present? A—It there was, I do not recall it.

Q—Then after you took the two drinks you went direct to the State House? A—That is right.

Q—You remember meeting anybody as you went to the State House that morning? A—Meeting anybody, yes.

Q—Who do you remember meeting? A—The first person I remember meeting was Judge Baker.

Q—Judge Frank Baker? A—Judge Frank Baker.

Q—Where did you meet him? A—I met him in the lower lobby.

Q—Talk to him? A—Yes, sir.

Q—Then after talking to Judge Baker where did you go? A—Went around to the elevator and came up to the second floor.

Q—That is the floor upon which the session of the General Assembly was being held, Mr. Baker? A—Yes.

Q—Who did you see there that you remember? A—What?

Q—Who did you leave the State House with? A—By myself.

Q—Did you meet anybody after you left the State House? A—No.

Q—You can make a record if it is the truth—if you want the truth.

Q—We will get the truth. A—I am somebody that knows a lot of people in this town.

Q—I am asking you the ones you remembered, Mr. Baker? A—

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Q—I am asking you definitely the time that got here, Mr. Baker? A—I don't put my watch out every time I walk in some place.

Q—I understand you don't but can you tell us more definitely the time you got to the State House?

Q—I have put it pretty definite between one hour and another. I think I should go in I took it to my desk in the Marion County Welfare Board.

Q—What did you do with the particular bill you got from Martin Downey, if it was a copy? A—

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