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May 8, 2000

Mr. Ronnie Kimble
#0628799
Odom Correctional Institute
Route 1, Box 36
Jackson, NC 27845

Dear Ronnie:

I am in receipt of your letter dated April 19 and postmarked May 3 from Julian. I have not had occasion to write to you since June 22, 1999 when I responded to your previous request to turn over copies of documents and other evidentiary items.

I have looked over my records of your murder trial and related matters and they are very voluminous, filling two large file boxes. Innumerable items of pretrial discovery and correspondence that was turned over to me at various times bear my personal notations along with post-it notes and other memoranda.

Also I have numerous file folders labeled with the names of potential witnesses containing interviews, discovery materials, addresses and the like.

If and when it is going to be necessary to copy these files, it will be extremely difficult to do.

As I told your father when he called me a few days ago, I do not believe that my duties as a lawyer in North Carolina require me to operate some kind of lending library of innumerable documents, remembered or imagined, that you ask me to find and copy and forward to you or your family. Bear in mind it is not the copying costs but the human time involved in locating these documents in the files. After a long trial my files are shaped by the sequence of events of the trial itself. Sometimes items are put back in the file in a random way because they were pulled out for a short time for review before a particular witness was called to the stand or for motions that may have been heard in court. My personal work product is not separate and

Mr. Ronnie Kimble
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distinct from the documents given to me to prepare for trial. Since I am entitled to keep my work product it makes it difficult for me to turn over items of pretrial discovery and other documents that may be given to me during the preparation stages of a trial. I am sure you can understand this because all of the documents in your case were personally reviewed by you in the jail.

As I wrote to you on June 22, "You participated in the preparation and evaluation of every material witness..." who appeared in your trial with the possible exception of Dr. Wilmington, and the decision not to call Dr. Wilmington was made by David and myself because we believed that his testimony would hurt more than help you.

In your letter of April 19 you have turned to the subject of Janet Smith. Your first request is for copies of the warrant. I cannot find this and since it is a matter of public record, your parents can obtain it as easily as I can. You request all original letters from Janet Smith that you supposedly turned over to David Lloyd and me. Because I am not sure that the Janet Smith matter is entirely over, I am going to decline to turn over originals to you at this time. However, I am enclosing transcripts prepared by the State and copies made by me and reviewed by you.

You asked for a memorandum circulated by Detective Church at the detention center. I have never heard of such a memorandum and do not have it in my file. You asked for specific dates of all hearings prior to trial. The only hearing I recall involving Janet Smith was a voir dire in the murder trial to determine the admissibility of your statement to the effect that you would lie to protect her. Obviously since it was used in the murder trial you can obtain it yourself in the trial transcript.

I am sending the enclosed materials directly to you because I want to use this opportunity to remind you that everything that David Lloyd and I could do to prepare your murder case for trial was done. Both David and I met with you in the jail scores of times. I hope that the materials I am including with this letter are helpful and satisfy your curiosity about Janet Smith. You may be interested to know that neither David Lloyd nor I were ever informed that the Smith case had been dismissed. Thus neither of us have been able to apply to the court for compensation for the work that we did in the Smith matter.

Very truly yours,


John B. Hatfield, Jr.

JBHjr/ph
Enclosures

cc: Mr. David Lloyd

8/14/98

Plea Offer

- PG
- 1) 2nd
 - 2) Arson 1
 - 3) Conspiracy - (2nd)

No conditions on plea offer

Transcript can state that
~~this~~ the Defendant's testimony
for the State is not a
condition of negotiated plea -
or any similar language

"NO THANKS"



Ronnie Kimbe

...owed our nonprofit savings and loans to
se convert to for-profit banks," he said. "This
ed will become a T... Dome scandal"

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Ex-jailer indicted on sex charges

● An inmate is also indicted on charges of having sex in the Greensboro jail.

BY PAUL BERGEN
Staff Writer

A former jailer at the Guilford County Detention Center in Greensboro and a man being held there were indicted Monday on charges that they had sex in November 1997.

Janet Lynn Smith was indicted on one charge of sexual activity by a custodian and one charge of conspiracy to commit sexual activity by a custodian. Ronnie Lee Kimble, an inmate at the jail, was indicted on one charge of conspiracy to commit sexual activity by a custodian.

The indictment states that Smith and Kimble had sex at the Greensboro jail between Nov. 1 and Nov. 19.

Smith could not be reached for comment Monday night; her address was not released. A Greensboro telephone number for a Janet Smith was temporarily disconnected Monday night.

Kimble is being held at the jail until his trial on charges of arson, murder and conspiracy in the October 1995 death of his sister-in-law, Patricia Blakley Kimble, whose body was found in the ashes of her burned house. She had been shot once. Kimble's brother Ted is awaiting trial on first-degree mur-

Please see **CHARGES**, Page **B2**

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

B

at Florence Elementary, Southwest Middle and Southwest High School.

— John Newsom

CHARGES

Continued from page B1

der charges in the Guilford County Detention Center in High Point.

Sheriff BJ Barnes said Monday that a colleague of Smith's tipped off authorities about the affair. "Someone saw something going on that was not appropriate and reported it to us," Barnes said.

An internal investigation took a day and turned up letters between Smith and Kimble, he said. Barnes said he suspended Smith and turned the matter over to the district attorney; Smith has since been fired.

Although there are private places in the jail that are open to officers — bathrooms, offices and closets — Barnes said it would be unusual for an inmate to be there. "That's why we found out about it."

Of the 154 jailers in Guilford County, 45 are women. The Sheriff's Department has policies that forbid fraternization with the inmates, Barnes said. He said he couldn't remember the last time there was such a case in Guilford County.

In March, after an 11-month investigation by the State Bureau of Investigation, two former jailers in Davidson County were indicted for having sex with two female inmates.

Grand juries determine if probable cause exists to prosecute a suspect. During a grand jury proceeding, prosecutors present evidence and witnesses. If the grand jury finds probable cause that a felony was committed, it issues an indictment, or formal accusation.

The defendant's case is not presented during the grand jury proceeding.

Record
p. At
the
p.

8 October 1997

Ronnie,

Just, let me say that I shouldn't be writing this. Please keep this between us at all cost.

At one point during your incarceration, I was a sounding board for your frustrations, your ups, and your downs. I enjoyed our many conversations. It has been over a month since I've worked "D" floor or have been on the floor for any reason. The few times that I've been able to get to "D" floor, allegations have been made by my supervisors that you and I are having sexual relations. Therefore I've been "banned" from "D".

Anytime I come to your floor, I'm questioned extensively and then the floor officer is also questioned (supposedly without my knowledge). For unimportant reasons, I've had major problems with both my Lt and my Sgt. and they're looking for any reason to get me fired. Every thing I do is logged and secured with a date, time, and tape recording.

I don't care what you did or didn't do. Personally, it's best that I know nothing about your case. I neither

Condone nor condemn your actions. My job is to provide you with housing, food, medical care, and a safe and secure environment. I'm not judge or jury and have no intentions to be either. If you are guilty then you will have to face the ultimate judge. As I've said, the feast I know, the better my job security.

Whether or not there's an attraction between us is not the point. It's not as if we could do anything about it anyway. I just felt like you needed to know that I'm still here for you if you need to talk. The only thing I can suggest is that you give notes to Cpl Robinson, Cpl Bishop, or Cpl White only if you need something. These are the only three trustworthy officers on my shift. The order of preference would be Cpl White, then Bishop but all three are very protective of me. If I should happen to fill in for another platoon, I'll try to come by and say "hello". Just remember that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Again, please understand that basically it's not you but my supervisors who are searching for any reason to get me out of here. My distance from you is for job security only. I also ask that you please destroy this (flush it) in case there's ever a raid. The fast thing I need is a letter to you from me. Thanks
Cpl J Smith

I'M SO VERY SORRY IF I HAVE IN ANY WAY BEEN THE CAUSE OF YOUR PROBLEMS. PLEASE DON'T DO ANYTHING ON MY BEHALF THAT WOULD GET YOU INTO TROUBLE OR GET YOU FIRED.

YOU'RE A VERY NICE WOMAN AND I SAY THIS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD! "YOU HAVE A JOB TO DO AND IT DOESN'T INCLUDE EMOTIONAL INVOLVEMENT." WHEN YOU LEAVE HOME YOU NEED TO LEAVE YOUR EMOTIONS THERE. YOU'RE TOO NICE AND THERE'S TOO MANY PEOPLE IN THIS PLACE THAT WILL USE YOU BECAUSE OF IT. BELIEVE ME I'VE FOUND OUT THE HARD WAY AFTER LIVING WITH THESE KIND OF PEOPLE FOR 6 MONTHS AND WATCHING THEM COME AND GO. THE ONLY THING THEY THINK OF IS THEIR SELVES AND THEY WOULD NOT CARE IN THE LEAST BIT IF YOU GOT FIRED.

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS OTHER THAN TO BE STRAIT FORWARD. SO THAT YOU DON'T TAKE ME WRONG FROM THE START, I WILL BEGIN BY SAYING THAT I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE SINCERE. ALTHOUGH DUE TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF YOUR JOB AND MY CASE I THINK THAT IT'S BEST THAT WE NOT WRITE.

In hindsight, you're probably right. I must confess that when I started reading about your case I wasn't really interested. (In fact, I don't really remember the actual beginning). As the case progressed, like any "rubber necker" became intrigued and fascinated as the tale unfolded. Surprisingly, at the time, I was not employed by the FBI and was not hired until Jan '97. I came to the jail with the "tough cop" attitude and swore that

re inmates would know who was boss. When I discovered that you and Ted were incarcerated here, I got very defensive and hostile. My vow was not to let you get away w/ anything on the inside. I've never met Ted but in working w/ you, I've grown to like you. Whatever the circumstances surrounding your case, you are a great person, easy to talk to, and have a great personality. You don't do too bad in the looks dept either. Like I was trying to say earlier, I can't be subpoenaed for any reason relating to you. Because you're outgoing, I ^{re} really enjoy^d the conversations. Sgt we've been able to have in the past and miss those. That's the reason I suggested that we write, especially when you're shipped. Obviously, though, you have better foresight than I. My supervisors are enjoying intimidation, harassment and mind games to try to get me to quit my job. This evening, tho, it had nothing to do with you. My Sgt feels that it is duty to search my briefcase and purse when I'm not around to see what "I'm hiding." I want no more problems for you than you want for me. When I can, I'll talk to you and when I can't, I'll think of you. I wish you well in the coming months with your case. I'm really glad that your family is sticking by you. Take care and don't hesitate to write if you need anything. Janet