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September 22, 1977

Birmingham Police Dept.
Birmingham, Michigan

re: phone call tip concerning John
McKinney

To Whom It May Concern:

At about 9:30 p.m. today I received a phone call from [redacted] who stated he resides at [redacted]. His phone is [redacted]. He is employed as an [redacted] and worked for John McKinney in his art studio and shop in Birmingham until about 1969-70. Earlier today or yesterday he had taped an interview for the Birmingham Police Department but had not talked of what he related to me as he was concerned about whether he should mention any suspicions about a possible connection with the Oakland County child abduction murder cases. He felt he had seen me on t.v. and heard me on radio and felt it was easier to talk to me.

He related that Mr. McKinney worked as a minister for an old folk's home and would be nice to his parishioners and customers in the art shop but was terrible when not in public view. He was an overly strict father and kept his wife a virtual social prisoner in their home. [redacted] suspected that John was a homosexual as he made suggestive sexual movements toward him and others, e.g., touching his knee with his hand, putting an arm around his shoulders, bumping inot his buttocks and relating that in an art gallery in New York he had been followed by another man who wanted to dance (a term used by homosexuals indicating an affair.) In John McKinney's studio [redacted] failed to recall any pornographic pictures or art except for some Japanese art. He did recall that John McKinney kept a private file and had a safe or vault near his desk, may have been using some drugs in terms of those available on the street and was compulsive and rigid and was easily upset if he felt that someone else knew more than he did about some subject. With his wife he always talked of what happened to his childhood but never talked to anyone of his parents. It was apparent that Joh had been raised by relatives like an aunt with cousins and was surrounded by women in his earlier years. [redacted] suspected that McKinney kept a firearm but never saw one. He kept his shop closed on Mondays and the door only then was locked day and night but he was in his studio and would admit only those persons he knew. [redacted] thought this was strange. McKinney kept a boy working on frames and a girl in the office and they were his only staff. He kept an office upstairs.

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As regards an opportunity to view his art work [redacted] mentioned that the family is considering him along with Mike [redacted] as person to appraise McKinney's art work. If chosen, [redacted] would take about 3 days to accomplish that task and would do it on a week-end. It is possible that such a search might reveal some meaningful evidence and possible child porno material if McKinney was connected with the Oakland County child abduction cases.

I asked if he would be willing to discuss this matter further with Officer Tobias, a friend of mine and [redacted] stated he knew him from contacts at [redacted]. It was left that Tobias would contact [redacted]. [redacted] stated he was suspicious of McKinney as I had stated that it might be someone whom no one would suspect in terms of the child killer and he felt that McKinney hated children as he was a harsh disciplinarian and was a homosexual person.

Truly yours,

Bruce L. Danto
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