

# Suspect Accepts Responsibility in Ryan's Death

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GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — A Peoples Temple member charged with five counts of murder in the slayings of Rep. Leo J. Ryan and four other persons has told police he accepts full responsibility for the deaths and for injuries to other persons at the scene, informed sources said Wednesday.

"I, Larry Layton, take full responsibility for all the deaths and injuries that took place at the Port Kaituma airstrip," the statement begins. "I had begged Bishop Jim Jones that I be allowed to

bring down" the plane that was to carry Ryan and his party back to Georgetown Nov. 18.

The content of Layton's statement, which the prosecution said would be introduced later in a preliminary hearing that began Wednesday, was reported by informed sources who declined to be named.

In the statement, Layton did not admit killing anyone himself.

The hearing is to determine if there is enough evidence to bring Layton, 32, of San Francisco, to trial.

Another American, Charles Beikman, 43, Indianapolis, Ind., is charged with four counts of murder in the throat-slashing deaths of a Temple

member and her three children in Georgetown. His hearing is recessed until Friday.

Shortly after the airstrip shootings, more than 900 Temple members died in a massive suicide-murder.

The sources said the statement stated that Jones, the cult leader, turned down Layton's request.

The defendant borrowed a gun from a friend and proceeded with his plan on the belief that Ryan, a California Democrat, and others in his party worked for the CIA and were trying to discredit Guyana, it said.

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## Ryan Murder

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Layton, who had boarded one of the Ryan party's two planes, began shooting while the plane was still on the ground, the statement said, because he heard gunfire at the airstrip and believed it was too late for his plans to wait until the plane was off the ground before opening fire. It concluded, "I don't know why I did it."

Layton's alleged involvement in the airstrip shootings also was described by Dale Parks, 27, one of the Peoples Temple members who tried to flee the Jonestown settlement with Ryan.

Parks told Magistrate Krishna Veni Chinta that Layton joined a truckload of defecting Peoples Temple members at the last moment after talking with Jones.

Layton insisted on going on the smaller of two planes that were to carry the Ryan party back to the Guyanese capital of Georgetown from the jungle airstrip 150 miles to the northwest, Parks said.

Layton boarded the plane without permission from Ryan's administrative assistant, who was assigning seats, Parks testified.

The witness said Layton was taken off the plane and searched but nothing was found, and he returned to the same seat, directly behind the pilot.

The small plane with its five passengers plus the pilot had taxied to the end of the runway when gunshots were heard near a larger plane that was to carry the rest of the group, Parks said.

Just before the shots rang out, he said, Layton was saying, "Hurry up, get off the ground, there's going to be trouble."

When the shots were heard, Layton produced a pistol from the front of his trousers and started firing, Parks said.

He first shot Monica Bagby, who was sitting in front next to the pilot, then shot Vern Gosley next to him, then pointed the gun at Parks' chest and pulled the trigger, Parks said.

Parks said he was sitting in the third row of seats, beside his sister Tracy and behind Layton. "There was an explosion but no bullet came out," Parks said. "I fell back thinking I had been shot.

"He (Layton) turned around and shot Monica one more time and Vern Gosley one more time. Realizing I was not shot, I jumped him and fought him for the gun," Parks said.

He wrested the gun from Layton and all those aboard the small plane jumped out and fled into the brush surrounding the small airstrip as gunfire continued near the larger plane at the other end of the runway, he said.

Parks, wearing a striped jersey and brown pants, stood in an elevated witness box at the side of the dingy courtroom, leaning against a carved railing and twisting his hands together.

Layton sat upright in the accused's box about 15 feet away. He stared intently at Parks, a deep frown on his thin face.

After the gunfire was over, Parks said, he gave the gun to Richard Dwyer, deputy chief of the U.S. Embassy in Georgetown, who had been wounded in the fusillade at the larger plane.

The .38-caliber Smith and Wesson, was examined in court by prosecutor Nandram Kissoon, who wore a black business suit, and Layton's three lawyers, all dressed in white Nehru jackets.

Parks said he saw five bodies on the airstrip. "I recognized my mother, Patricia Parks. She had been shot in the head with her brains blown out," he said.

The other bodies were those of Ryan and three newsmen.

Meanwhile in San Francisco, the federal grand jury probe into the slaying of Ryan was delayed for two weeks, and lawyers for surviving members of the Peoples Temple charged that FBI agents had abused their clients during interrogations.

U.S. District Judge Robert F. Peckham granted the delay to allow newly obtained lawyers for 16 Peoples Temple witnesses to study transcripts of lengthy questioning by FBI agents.

U.S. Attorney G. William Hunter denied that FBI agents had employed improper tactics and said the government will provide transcripts of the interrogations, which lasted up to 10 hours beginning immediately upon the group's return to the United States last week.

The legal maneuvering involved cult members who were in Georgetown, Guyana, at the time of Ryan's death at an airstrip near the Temple's agricultural commune at Jonestown.

At Wednesday's grand jury proceedings, the lawyer for Tim Jones, the 19-year-old adopted son of Jim Jones, said his client "requested an attorney several times and was told he couldn't have one" during questioning at New York City's Kennedy Airport.

The lawyer, Peter Keane, told Peckham that FBI agents also lied to young Jones, telling him that Temple attorney Charles Garry had been charged with various crimes in connection with Ryan's death.

At a news conference later, Keane said the witnesses were "subjected to interrogations by FBI agents who were very hostile, accused them of lying from the onset, told them they were being subjected to lie detector tests with instruments which obviously were not lie detectors."

William Osterhoudt, representing Robert Stroud, 21, said the FBI questioning was conducted in "an atmosphere that was sometimes hostile."