Tiffany Chen 11/6/14

700 Social Studies

“Let There be Truth and Justice for All!”

 Leonard Peltier, an AIM (American Indian Movement) member, has been put on trial for something he was accused of, and did not do. Peltier was having a normal day when a turn of events occurred. Peltier was accused of first degree murder, for the killing of two FBI agents in South Dakota on 1975. First degree murder is when someone purposely plans to kills someone or something, but this is not true, and everyone is putting the blame on him. He did not expect any visitors that day, and couldn’t have planned it if he didn’t know they would be coming. Also, he is not guilty for this murder because there were no credible witnesses when this happened. Leonard Peltier should not go to jail for a crime he did not commit.

 The first reason why Peltier is not guilty of first degree murder is because he did not plan their deaths. According to exhibit G3, titled “Myrtle Poor Bear’s Three Affidavits in the Peltier Case- Affidavit 3” the document stated that Peltier had just found out the arrivals of FBI agents, William and Coler. Stated in paragraph four, “Leonard Peltier came into the residence of Harry Jumping Bull which is located in the area of Jumping Bull Hall, and said, ‘They’re coming.’ I understood this to mean that police or agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were in the immediate area.” This quote shows how the FBI unexpectedly showed up, and Peltier had to alert the others too. This quote is important because it supports the claim that Peltier didn’t know FBI agents were going to make a stop at Jumping Bull Hall. If he knew their arrivals were going to be present, he would have reacted differently. He would’ve been more prepared, and been on his guard. Also, in the “Witness Affidavit” of Clarence M. Kelly, he stated that William and Coler were only investigating at Pine Ridge. If they were only “investigating”, then how did they end up in Peltier’s area? It sounds like they were starting to start trouble themselves. They are only blaming Peltier for his quick, self-defense actions that were necessary. Peltier did not commit first degree murder on the FBI agents, and is taking all the blame.

 Another reason Peltier did not commit first degree murder is simply for the fact that there were no credible witnesses. According to exhibits G1, G2, and G3, the FBI called in Myrtle Poor Bear 3 times, and made her tell what happened when the murder occurred. Bear was a really close friend to Peltier, and had a really good relationship with each other- she actually considered herself his “girlfriend” through her perspective. When she told the story about what happened during the scene, she changed it up each time, and the data/information given had been altered or differed. G1 was about their plans and what happened when everything occurred- she did not go in specifics when some events occurred. G2 was quite similar in ways, but the dates were given differently. G3 was a totally different setting, and a totally different story in a matter of fact. This document was spoken through her perspective, and she stated that she was not part of this plan at all, and was working at this time, but oddly enough, she witnessed what happened. In exhibit G1, titled “Myrtle Poor Bear’s Three Affidavits in Peltier Case- Affidavit 1”, it states, “Leonard Peltier was mostly in charge of the planning. All persons involved in the planning had specific assignments. There was also a detailed escape route planned over the hills near the Jumping Bull Hall.” However, in exhibit G3, she did not say anything about the planning, and how other people were there. Also, other people were with him at that time when the murder occurred, so it could’ve been someone else who shot the agents instead of Peltier himself. However, there were no credible witnesses because Bear had been changing the story up every time. Peltier shouldn’t go to jail for something people aren’t sure about.

 Some may say, however, that Peltier committed the crime because his fingerprints were found inside this paper sack, which included a gun, and some pistols. According to exhibit B, titled “Ballistics Notes of the U.S. Government,” the FBI found Peltier’s fingerprints on the gun that shot both agents. Peltier always had a bad relationship with the FBI, and the U.S government. “…developed the fingerprint of Leonard Peltier on the brown paper sack.” This quote shows how he was part of the crime because he took part of shootout. This information is important because it supports the idea that Peltier was part of the murder.

 Peltier’s fingerprints may have been on the sack; however, it was the FBI who did he investigation. It could’ve been easily tampered with. They could’ve purposely put his fingerprints on it, and framed him for it. All of this was from the FBI’s perspective, so all the information given could’ve been false, and really exaggerated. This leads to the idea of how Peltier didn’t have a voice to speak the truth. The FBI is lying about everything. According to the affidavit of Darelle “Dino” Butler, he stated that Peltier didn’t commit the crime. “He is serving two life sentences for something he did not do.” Butler and his friends who were also put on trial got an unfair trial because of the FBI’s lies. Peltier is innocent, and is rather far from being guilty. All the theories made up by the FBI is false, and no one really knows what happened.

 In conclusion, Peltier is not guilty for first degree murder of two FBI agents because he did not now they would be coming, and there were no credible witnesses. Peltier is not guilty by all means, and should not be charged with first degree murder. He is innocent. Simply innocent.