

Al Kerness Blames Slaying on Fear of Brother-in-Law

Meant to Scare Him, Confessed Killer Tells Officers

Al Kerness, confessed killer of his brother-in-law, Ulysses Nicles, who was returned to Detroit from Duluth Saturday night, will plead self-defense, he indicated in a statement Sunday to Assistant Prosecutor Thomas A. Kenney.

Kenney said that Kerness would base his claim on the fact that he is only five feet five inches tall, and weighs only 120 pounds, whereas Nicles stood well over six feet. He feared Nicles' wrath, the prisoner said.

"William Keller and I with George Kerness and my brother, Abe, behind us, walked out of Nicles' house to meet him," Al Kerness told Mr. Kenney. "I told the others that I would take care of this matter."

"When Nicles came I called his name and he walked toward me. He said 'Hello Al.' I told him to stay where he was and that we wanted an explanation of where he had been. He said that he was working and I called him a liar. I held the gun at him."

"I had the idea that I could scare

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AL KERNESS