Commission of Inquiry

Into the Wrongful

Conviction of David Milgaard

before

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE

EDWARD P. MacCALLUM

* *

Transcript of Proceedings

and

Testimony before the Commission

sitting at the

Ramada Hotel at

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

* *

On Tuesday, April 18th, 2006

Volume 133

Inquiry Proceedings

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Appearances:

Mr. Hersh Wolch, Q.C.,   **for** Mr. David Milgaard

Ms. Joanne McLean,   **for** Ms. Joyce Milgaard

Ms. Lana Krogan,   **for** Government of Saskatchewan

Ms. Catherine Knox,   **for** Mr. T.D.R. (Bobs) Caldwell

Mr. Garrett Wilson, Q.C., **for** Mr. Serge Kujawa

Mr. Rick Elson, Esq.,   **for** the Saskatoon Police Service

Mr. Chris Boychuk, Esq.,   **for** Mr. Eddie Karst

Mr. Bruce Gibson, Esq.,   **for** the RCMP

Mr. David Frayer, Q.C. and Ms. Jennifer Cox,

                             for Minister of Justice

                             (Canada), The Hon. Vic Toews

Mr. Donald J. Sorochan, Q.C., **for** *Mr. David Asper*

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1   *Transcript of Proceedings*

2   *(Reconvened at 9:00 a.m.)*

3   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Good morning.

4   ALL COUNSEL: Good morning.

5   MR. HODSON: Morning, Mr. Commissioner.

6   Just one quick housekeeping matter before I

7   proceed with Mr. Asper.

8   Back when we adjourned, I think

9   on March 2nd or prior to that, I had raised with

10   you the issue of the Federal Justice Minister and

11   the privilege claim that they may be asserting

12   over both documents and subject matters, and

13   Mr. Frayer indicated that prior to or at the time

14   of recommencement yesterday they would provide us

15   with their position, and they have done that last

16   Thursday. And if I could just call up 337473,

17   please, it's actually 337471 I think might be the

18   doc. ID, and 473. There is two letters here that

19   I'll just quickly touch on just to advise you,

20   Mr. Commissioner. There was two issues, well,

21   actually three issues.

22   The first one related to

23   documents that were already in the Commission

24   database that we received I think from the

25   Government of Saskatchewan where the Federal

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1   Minister said they may claim privilege over even

2   though we had them, and this letter confirms

3   that, I mean as stated, that:

4   '... to expedite the work of the

5   Commission, the Minister is prepared to

6   allow documents generated by the Federal

7   Department of Justice that have already

8   been disclosed to the Commission by

9   other parties to be utilized by the

10   Commission.",

11   but not:

12   "... be construed as a waiver of

13   privilege...',

14   and:

15   '... nor ... an admission that the

16   Commission has a mandate to look into

17   the internal operations of the Federal

18   Department of Justice."

19   So to the extent that -- and there's been the odd

20   document that counsel, and in fact I have tried

21   to utilize where an issue has been raised, and

22   we've agreed to defer that issue, so now any

23   document in our database from the Federal Justice

24   Minister, I think they're now saying even though

25   it may have been privileged, you are entitled to

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1   utilize it on the conditions stated in this

2   letter.

3   Issue number 2, if I could get

4   337471, relates to the question of privilege over

5   the documents they have not provided us, and if

6   we can go to the, just the second paragraph,

7   their position as stated is that:

8   "Most of the documents the Minister

9   objects to producing are protected by

10   solicitor-client privilege. In addition

11   to being privileged, the Minister also

12   takes the position that production of

13   these documents takes the Milgaard

14   Inquiry beyond the mandate of a

15   Provincial Inquiry."

16   And you'll recall, back at the outset when the

17   Commission put its position paper together and

18   sent it to the parties, there was an issue with

19   respect to whether -- the extent to which this

20   Commission of Inquiry can delve into matters that

21   may affect the Federal Minister of Justice, and

22   there may well be a constitutional issue there as

23   to where the line must be drawn as to where our

24   Commission can go with respect to the operations

25   of the Department of Justice under 690 and other

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1   related matters, so that's an issue that we've

2   said the Commission would address at some later

3   point, and that later point is coming soon.

4   The next page to this letter

5   indicates -- is an appendix the sets out the

6   Federal Minister's position on what they claim

7   privilege and relevance over, so in other words

8   here's a summary of the documents that they say

9   they do not feel are -- they are required to

10   provide.

11   I can say that I spent two days

12   with Mr. Williams last week in Ottawa, with

13   Mr. Frayer, in interviewing him in preparation

14   for his evidence, and there certainly is a

15   significant part of his work that he will be

16   testifying on the investigative stage, and I

17   think there are some issues that need to be

18   resolved with respect to both privilege, to the

19   extent that whether it's properly asserted and,

20   to the extent that it is, what does it cover, and

21   secondly on this constitutional issue, so I think

22   I just want to raise it at this point.

23   I provided this to the parties,

24   and in the next short while I will be considering

25   how best to put that issue before the Commission

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1   so that parties can have an opportunity to be

2   heard and we can sort out and have you likely

3   rule on privilege and relevance before Mr.

4   Williams testifies.

5   Now, Mr. Frayer, have I

6   accurately put that forward?

7   MR. FRAYER: Yes, you have, Mr. Hodson.

8   MR. HODSON: Okay. So, with that, I'll

9   carry on with Mr. Asper.

10   **DAVID ALLAN ASPER, continued**:

11   **BY MR. HODSON:**

12   Q   If we could call up 004823. I just want to go

13   back. When we left off yesterday, Mr. Asper, we

14   were talking about, I think we were in March of

15   1990, and we were talking about the parallel -- or

16   the investigations that your client,

17   Mrs. Milgaard, was conducting with respect to

18   Larry Fisher, and what the RCMP were doing. But I

19   just want to go back, this relates to the Deborah

20   Hall issue, and you'll recall yesterday I showed

21   you the interview transcript where Eugene Williams

22   interviewed Deborah Hall I think on November 6th,

23   1989, and you indicated that at some point around

24   there you would have talked to Deborah Hall. This

25   is a newspaper article of the *StarPhoenix* November

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1   4th, Saturday, 1989, so two days before Mr.

2   Williams' interview, and it quotes you at the

3   bottom, or attributes to you, it says:

4   "Asper said justice officials have

5   finally contacted Debbie Hall, a woman

6   who can refute some testimony given at

7   the trial. She was never called as a

8   witness."

9   So it appears from this article that on November

10   4th you would have been aware, presumably from

11   either Ms. Hall or Mr. Williams, that he was

12   about to interview her; is that right?

13   *A*   Yes. I think Ms. Hall contacted me.

14   **Q**   Before the interview?

15   *A*   Yes.

16   **Q**   Okay. If we can then go back, 332053, and just

17   carry on where we left off. And this is a

18   memorandum from Mr. Williams to his file about a

19   conversation with Mr. Wolch, and again Mr. Wolch

20   tells Mr. Williams that his client has been

21   persuaded to avoid contacting potential witnesses,

22   and I think that's consistent with what you have

23   told us yesterday, that you would have talked to

24   Mrs. Milgaard and her team, if I can call it that,

25   and I think your advice to them was, "lookit,

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1   don't contact witnesses"; is that fair?

2   A   Yes.

3   Q   And I think you've told us that notwithstanding

4   that, under the radar and unbeknownst to you, they

5   did proceed and contact some?

6   A   Well, I'm not sure it would be totally accurate to

7   say unbeknownst to me, but they -- you are

8   essentially correct that they continued.

9   Q   Okay. Well let me rephrase that. Notwithstanding

10   your advice to her and your assurances to Mr.

11   Williams that they continue, then, to do some

12   investigative work?

13   A   Yes.

14   Q   Known to you?

15   A   Yes.

16   Q   But under the radar so that Mr. Williams and

17   Mr. Pearson wouldn't find out?

18   A   Yes.

19   Q   If we can go to 050467. And this is a letter from

20   you, Mr. Asper, March 15th, 1990 to Mr. Williams,

21   and this is where you send a copy of the statement

22   from Linda Fisher and then you go on to say:

23   "It is our understanding that Mr.

24   Fisher's record is as follows:",

25   and you record December 21, '71, Regina, and

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1   we've heard evidence that that's the date that

2   Mr. Fisher entered guilty pleas in Regina to the

3   four Saskatoon offences, being the three counts

4   of rape and one count of indecent assault. And I

5   think you told us yesterday that at this time you

6   and everybody else were of the view that Mr.

7   Fisher's rapes, if I can call them the Saskatoon

8   rapes, had occurred in Regina because the CPIC

9   said Regina; is that right?

10   A   Yes, I think so.

11   Q   And so -- and I think if we compare what's in the

12   body of your letter to the versions of the CPIC,

13   that they appear to be similar, and would this

14   information, then, have been obtained from a CPIC

15   record -- of Larry Fisher's record?

16   A   Yes.

17   Q   Now we, we had talked back in February when you

18   testified about newspaper clippings that had

19   talked about unsolved rapes in Saskatoon, and I

20   think there was a newspaper article December 14th,

21   1968 and then again in February 1969 where they

22   talked about these unsolved rapes. At what point,

23   are you able to tell us at what point in your

24   mind, sir, you connected -- if we can get the

25   letter back up -- umm, when you connected Mr.

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1   Fisher and these rapes as being the same rapes

2   that were reported back at the time? Do you

3   follow where I'm going?

4   A   Yes.

5   Q   And let me just --

6   A   I --

7   Q   I think it was in June, in July 4th of 1990 that

8   it appears -- and I will be showing you this memo

9   in a moment -- that Carl Karp contacted you or

10   Mr. Wolch and said "lookit, these are Saskatoon

11   rapes, and here's the names". So I put that to

12   you, and are you able to tell us at what point, in

13   your mind, you connected Mr. Fisher to the rapes

14   that you had read about in the newspaper articles?

15   A   I -- I have a feeling it was when we, when we

16   discovered that the Fisher offences had occurred

17   in Saskatoon.

18   Q   And then did you connect that to what was reported

19   in the newspapers, then, around that time?

20   A   I think that's when the light went on, as it were.

21   Q   And so, at this point, is it fair to say that you

22   and others had not connected Mr. Fisher to the

23   Saskatoon rapes that had been talked about in the

24   newspaper?

25   A   I think that's true, yes.

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1   Q   Now, if we can also go down, there's some

2   information here about:

3   "... the offence dates for some of the

4   convictions which are entered on the

5   record are as follows:",

6   and those are in fact the dates of the (V1)-,

7   (V2)-----, (V3)------ and (V5)--- rapes, and I'm

8   not sure, I don't -- and I stand to be corrected

9   on that -- but I don't believe those dates are

10   contained on the CPIC. I could be wrong on that.

11   Are you able to tell us where you got that

12   information from?

13 A   No. I think, at this point, all I had was the

14   CPIC though.

15 Q   Okay. And as I say, it may well be that certainly

16   --

17 A   I think there are different versions and different

18   requests that you can make of the CPIC.

19 Q   So your recollection is that this information

20   would have been obtained from the CPIC?

21 A   I think so.

22 Q   And again just, I think this confirms what you

23   said earlier:

24   "... it is our understanding that some

25   of the offences occurring prior to the

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1   murder of Gail Miller occurred both in

2   Regina and Winnipeg, and that's what

3   you've told us; correct?

4   A   Yes.

5   Q   Then the next paragraph, and again keeping in mind

6   this is March 15 of 1990, so up until this point

7   what the record reflects is you have the tip from

8   Sidney Wilson and you have Joyce Milgaard and Paul

9   Henderson interviewing Linda Fisher and Cliff and

10   Roy Pambrum and you say:

11   "As you are probably aware, Mr. Fisher

12   was interviewed by the police in

13   Saskatoon on February 5, 1969."

14   Let me just pause there and note that I think the

15   police report was dated February 5. February 3rd

16   was the actual interview date, but I don't think

17   anything turns on that.

18   "Evidently, Mr. Fisher took the bus to

19   work from the same bus stop used by Gail

20   Miller. He was apparently waiting at

21   that bus stop while the police were

22   asking individuals if they had seen or

23   heard anything on the morning of the

24   murder. Mr. Fisher apparently told the

25   police that on the morning of the

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1   murder, he had caught the bus at 6:30

2   a.m. or 7:00 a.m. and had gone to work.

3   You will see from Mrs. Fisher's

4   statement that her husband did not go to

5   work on the date of the murder."

6   What Mrs. Fisher, Linda Fisher's evidence was and

7   what's in the tape of the interview I think of

8   her by Mrs. Milgaard and Mr. Henderson is I think

9   she said she didn't know that Larry had been

10   contacted and stopped by the police and so from

11   that I'm just wondering again the source of this

12   information, Mr. Asper, would this have been from

13   the Peter Carlyle-Gordge work or from the file

14   work that you had or from Mrs. Milgaard?

15   A   I can't say for sure, but that would be my guess.

16   Q   Someone would have given you that -- someone

17   internal would have given you that information; is

18   that fair?

19   A   Yes, yes. That paragraph is dripping with

20   sarcasm.

21   Q   I didn't -- no drips hit me. Can you tell me

22   where?

23   A   Well, it's -- it's almost mocking Mr. Williams

24   because we would have hoped that Mr. Williams

25   would already be aware of that information. The

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1   beginning of the sentence, "As you are probably

2   aware," is a --

3 Q So let me go back. Would you have expected Mr.

4   Williams then after February 28th to have gone to

5   check to see whether Fisher's name --

6 A Yes.

7 Q And did you have information to suggest that he

8   had not?

9 A We were -- no, I didn't have any specific

10   information. We were making assumptions. I mean,

11   this sort of illustrates the character of the

12   relationship. It may not come off the page that

13   way, but --

14 Q I think --

15 A -- that's what was going on.

16 Q And I think there was some evidence from Mr.

17   Pearson that, and we'll hear from Mr. Williams, I

18   think there's some memorandums that after your

19   call on February 28th I think he did contact, it

20   may well have been Mr. Caldwell or it may have

21   been the city police, to find out if the police

22   had interviewed Fisher, I'm not sure, but I think

23   it was around this date. Were you aware of that

24   from Mr. Pearson or otherwise?

25 A I believe it came to my knowledge because I was

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1   very unhappy that Mr. Caldwell or any others

2   involved in the original investigation would have

3   been involved in the reinvestigation.

4   Q Okay. Let me -- and I'll touch on this, this

5   later. Did you have any concerns with Mr.

6   Williams contacting Mr. Caldwell to say on your

7   prosecution file do you have any information

8   relating to Larry Fisher?

9   A Yes, I had very serious difficulty with Mr.

10   Caldwell being treated as anything other than a

11   witness as the witnesses we had offered had been

12   treated as well.

13 Q Okay. Let me rephrase it. I think you said

14   yesterday as a source of information, so

15   presumably if Mr. Williams wants to find out if

16   the prosecutor had anything on his file that

17   related to Larry Fisher and given that his

18   memorandum of February 28th indicates that you

19   told him, at least according to his note, that

20   Linda Fisher was interviewed by Mr. Caldwell, how

21   did you expect Mr. Williams then to get the

22   information from Mr. Caldwell other than

23   contacting him?

24 A I would have expected, and I believe we made the

25   point to the Department of Justice several times,

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1   that Mr. Caldwell should have been put under oath

2   and treated as Deborah Hall was treated.

3   Q So as far as Mr. Williams wants to find out if Mr.

4   Caldwell has, for example, a police report or any

5   interviews with Larry Fisher, he should have been

6   put under oath?

7   A And produce his documents and be questioned about

8   them.

9   Q Okay. So as far as the request to gather

10   information, though, did you have concerns about

11   that, the simple request?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And what was the concern?

14 A Mr. Caldwell's prosecution of David Milgaard was

15   the subject of our application and I would not

16   want the reinvestigation of that potentially

17   tainted by someone who had a lot to lose

18   personally.

19 Q And there's some mention later on in the document,

20   I think where this issue comes up directly, I

21   think you write to the minister about this and

22   we'll deal with that, and I think at that point

23   the question was raised or the position they took

24   was prosecutorial misconduct was not part of your

25   application. Do you remember that being raised

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1   with you, and if you want, we can defer that and

2   go to the document a bit later.

3   A   I don't recall specifically.

4   Q   Okay.

5   A   But this isn't an issue of prosecutorial

6   misconduct, this is an issue of what is an

7   appropriate way to investigate a potential

8   wrongful conviction.

9   Q   I think what the federal department said back to

10   you was words to the effect that lookit, in your

11   application you did not raise as a ground for the

12   re-opening that Mr. Caldwell, or that there was

13   prosecutorial misconduct, so therefore, and I'm

14   paraphrasing, we weren't looking at his conduct

15   and therefore -- and I think they went on to say,

16   and we'll see it in the letter, that he's the

17   source of information and that's where we're going

18   to get it from anyway?

19   A   I understand, but I'm just making the point that

20   from my perspective it just so profoundly

21   illustrated the bias of the Federal Department of

22   Justice where witnesses that we offered were put

23   under oath and questioned and cross-examined by

24   Mr. Williams, but Mr. Caldwell was treated as an

25   assister, he was an assistant to the Department of

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1   Justice rather than a witness.

2   Q   So at this point then you would take issue with

3   Mr. Williams' contacting Mr. Caldwell to find out

4   whether he had interviewed Linda Fisher, whether

5   he had interviewed Larry Fisher, whether there was

6   any statement from Larry Fisher and whether

7   there's anything on the prosecutor's file relating

8   to Larry Fisher?

9   A   Yes. I would have expected that Mr. Williams

10   would have asked the Attorney General's Department

11   to turn over all of its files to the Federal

12   Department of Justice for review by the Federal

13   Department of Justice and Mr. Williams would then

14   treat Mr. Caldwell as a witness and interview him

15   as he interviewed Deborah Hall and Dr. Ferris.

16   Q   Okay. And again there is some correspondence that

17   sets out your concerns later and I'll allow you to

18   go through that again when we get to that letter.

19   A   Okay.

20   Q   And here it says:

21   "Secondly, we reviewed the transcript of

22   the preliminary enquiry, and can confirm

23   that a double-edged bone-handled

24   hunting-type knife was found at the

25   scene of the crime shortly after the

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1   police attended the scene. The police

2   clearly believed that this knife might

3   have had something to do with the crime,

4   and the pathologist agreed that some of

5   the wounds could have been inflicted

6   with a double-edged blade. Oddly

7   enough, this weapon was lost after being

8   taken into police custody, and never

9   played any part in the trial

10   proceedings."

11   We dealt a bit with this yesterday. Where would

12   this information have come from, Mr. Asper?

13   *A*   It appears to me that, as I said yesterday, that

14   it came from the preliminary inquiry.

15   **Q**   And again the fact that the police clearly

16   believed the knife might have had something to do

17   with the crime, was that based on your reading of

18   the prelim and trial transcript, or the prelim

19   transcript?

20   *A*   Yes, I think so.

21   **Q**   Okay. And then secondly about this weapon was

22   lost after being taken into police custody and

23   never played any part in the trial proceedings, do

24   you know where that information came from?

25   *A*   No, I don't recall.

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1   Q   And then down at the bottom, here you say:

2   "We are encouraged that you have

3   assigned this task to an

4   investigator --"

5   And I remind you that the day before this letter,

6   I think March 14th, was your first contact with

7   Mr. Pearson,

8   "-- and we feel that there are many

9   leads that ought to be pursued. We are

10   most willing to co-operate in any way

11   with your office, and if you require any

12   further assistance, please do not

13   hesitate to call."

14   And again, this most willing to co-operate with

15   your, in any way with your office, did that

16   relate to the Larry Fisher investigation?

17   A   Or any other aspect of the case, yes.

18   Q   Okay. Go to 155610, again it looks like the next

19   day Mr. Wolch also sends a copy of the statement

20   to Eugene Williams and says:

21   "I would only re-emphasize that it is

22   not our task to solve the crime 21 years

23   later, even though it appears we may

24   very well be able to do so."

25   Can you tell us, Mr. Asper, and this is March,

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1   March of 1990, and more information is obtained

2   about Mr. Fisher and provided to Justice in the

3   following months. Can you tell us, in the first

4   application, I think it's no dispute that the

5   original application letter December 28, 1988 did

6   not include Larry Fisher, but that it was

7   supplemented later on?

8   *A*   Yes.

9   *Q*   And we will be turning to Kim Campbell's letter

10   later on where she responds to the grounds put

11   forward by you, but can you tell us, what was the

12   position put forward to the Minister of Justice?

13   Can you explain how the Larry Fisher information,

14   how did you see that or portray that as a ground

15   in support of your application for relief under

16   Section 690?

17   *A*   In the first application?

18   *Q*   Yes, in the first application.

19   *A*   I think that -- I think in general the position

20   was that we, that David would have been entitled

21   at his trial to advance the possibility of an

22   alternate perpetrator, that we were able to do so

23   at that point, and that irrespective of being able

24   to prove that Larry Fisher was the true killer,

25   that the information regarding Larry Fisher could

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1   have changed the verdict had that information been

2   known, it's essentially a fresh evidence test, and

3   that on that basis the case should be re-opened.

4   That's my recollection of what we were trying to

5   do.

6   Q   Okay. If we could go to 056743 which is Mr.

7   Pearson's notes and go to page 056755, and again I

8   won't be going through all of these notes, but

9   this is March 19th of 1990 and it's Mr. Pearson

10   saying that he phoned you:

11   "... to assure him and Mrs. Milgaard

12   that the new information presented to

13   the Justice Department was in fact being

14   pursued."

15   And I think you told us yesterday that you had

16   pretty open dialogue with Mr. Pearson where he

17   would tell you what he was doing basically and

18   communicating what was happening; is that fair?

19 A   Yes. I mean -- yes, he didn't have to tell me

20   that there were things he wasn't going to be able

21   to tell me in our dialogue, I knew that, I knew

22   that's the nature of a police investigation, but

23   we had a very good dialogue.

24 Q   And then paragraph 54, it looks like the next day

25   another discussion and reiterating the concern

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1   that Mrs. Milgaard permit authorities to follow up

2   on the Fisher information, and then the next

3   paragraph, 55, it says while talking to you:

4   "... he stated he had received a

5   call --"

6   He being you,

7   "-- from Linda Fisher, he thought this

8   past Saturday, indicating that she was

9   going to the Prince Albert Penitentiary

10   with Larry Fisher's mother, and she was

11   going to talk to Larry and ask him about

12   this incident. Asper indicated that he

13   discouraged Linda from doing this, but

14   suggested that if she could get any

15   cigarette butts, or anything at all

16   which would assist in having the blood

17   typed for possible analysis, she should

18   consider doing that. At this time I'm

19   not sure if Linda did in fact go on

20   Saturday to P.A. as indicated."

21   Do you recall the discussion with Linda and your

22   discussion with Mr. Pearson about that?

23   A   I don't recall the specific conversation, but I do

24   remember hatching the idea at some point.

25   Q   And can you -- what was the idea?

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1   *A*   The idea was to try and get some of Fisher's

2   saliva.

3   Q   For what purpose?

4   *A*   To try to test him for his blood antigens and

5   potentially DNA.

6   Q   And so one of the plans was to get his daughter

7   and you -- I think at one point it included you;

8   is that right?

9   *A*   I think, yes, there was some discussion about

10   that.

11   Q   And going up and it would be surreptitiously

12   trying to get body fluids from Mr. Fisher?

13   *A*   Yes.

14   Q   And did that ever happen?

15   *A*   No.

16   Q   Why not?

17   *A*   I think it was probably not feasible.

18   Q   Okay. If we can go to the next page, Mr. Pearson

19   asks you about, and again I think the date of this

20   is March 19th, and you recall March 15th you wrote

21   to Mr. Williams and gave information about what

22   was in a police -- or about the city police

23   contacting Fisher. Pearson says he asked you if:

24   "... he or Mrs. Milgaard had possession

25   of a statement given to the City Police,

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1   indicating that Larry had been

2   interviewed, and had indicated he had

3   taken the 6:30 a.m. bus on the morning

4   of the Miller murder. Mr. Asper said he

5   had no such statement but indicated that

6   this information was the result of a

7   verbal conversation between the

8   Saskatoon City Police investigator and

9   Larry Fisher, sometime shortly after the

10   murder."

11   And again, would that be information that you

12   would have obtained from your files and most

13   likely from Mr. Carlyle-Gordge's notes or

14   information from him or Mrs. Milgaard?

15 A I assume so, yes.

16 Q Go to 009476, and this is a letter March 20th,

17   1990 from Mrs. Milgaard directly to the Minister

18   of Justice, and would you have been aware, Mr.

19   Asper, around this time that both David Milgaard

20   and Joyce Milgaard were sending their own

21   communications to the Minister of Justice or to

22   their department?

23 A I don't recall about this specifically, but we

24   were not always aware of what Joyce and David was

25   sending.

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1   Q   And so again the date here is March 20th and I

2   think I showed you yesterday a letter that she

3   wrote on March the 5th to the minister and goes on

4   to talk about -- if we can go to the next page --

5   she writes:

6   "A well respected forensic pathologist

7   has interpreted the evidence in my son's

8   case and concluded that the same

9   evidence used to convict him, in fact,

10   disproves his guilt."

11   And we touched on this back in February, or when

12   you were testifying, and I think you told us that

13   both David Milgaard and Joyce Milgaard put a

14   great deal of weight in Ferris' opinion in that

15   it proved David's innocence and that I think you

16   said in and of itself you believed that should

17   have re-opened the case. Is that correct?

18   A   Yes. I mean, you have to put it in the context.

19   At the time it was pretty much all we had.

20   Q   And I think you said in the case of David

21   Milgaard, that his view was, and I think we saw it

22   in one of his letters, that with the Ferris

23   opinion, that that should have sort of immediately

24   allowed him to get out of jail because it

25   proved -- in David Milgaard's mind that proved his

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1   innocence; is that --

2   *A*   Yeah, that's probably true.

3   Q   And that was his -- and we'll see it in some later

4   correspondence, I think he held that view and in

5   fact may still hold that view today, that the

6   Ferris report in and of itself should have

7   re-opened the case and got him out of jail; would

8   that be a fair -- is that your understanding of

9   what David Milgaard thought?

10   *A*   Oh, yes, yes.

11   Q   And I think that the fact that nothing was done in

12   his mind and Mrs. Milgaard's mind with respect to

13   the Ferris report by the Department of Justice was

14   one of the factors that caused them to grow

15   impatient and to lose some faith in the justice

16   system; is that fair?

17   *A*   Yes.

18   Q   And so here we see that Mrs. Milgaard has recited

19   that Ferris report as well and talks about:

20   "The facts of the case itself as

21   presented to the jury provided my son

22   with an alibi, yet the Crown pressed on

23   with evidence that police must have

24   tailored to fit their theory of the

25   murder."

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1   And I think that deals with, we saw in some of

2   the earlier documents the whole timing issue and

3   where David was at the time.

4   A   The last three lines are actually quite prophetic.

5   Q   The --

6   A   "The police must have tailored it to fit their

7   theory of the murder," given what we later

8   learned, but sure, that was Joyce's view.

9   Q   And what did you later learn?

10   A   The script document --

11   Q   Okay.

12   A   -- that was used to conduct the interrogations May

13   24th, 1969.

14   Q   And that's the document that I think was provided,

15   or you became aware of prior to the Supreme Court

16   reference and was used at the Supreme Court

17   reference?

18   A   Yes.

19   Q   And I'll go through that with you when we get to

20   that stage, it's probably more appropriate to

21   question you about that then. Then down at the

22   bottom she says:

23   "The officials in your department who

24   are handling this case have not given me

25   the slightest glimmer of hope. It has

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1   been over a year now since my son's

2   application was filed and there has been

3   no indication or communication as to

4   what has been done."

5   Next page. I think it says:

6   "I cannot --"

7   There's a whole punched there,

8   "I cannot stand by in the hope that the

9   system which condemned my son will

10   secretly help to free him. I'm afraid I

11   have lost faith in the justice system."

12   And then down at the bottom she says:

13   "My trust in the system has been so

14   shaken that I am forwarding the original

15   statements from my investigative work to

16   you directly with this letter."

17   And you had talked, I think on the opening day of

18   your evidence, that at some point in the process,

19   and I can't recall your words, but the rules

20   changed or the game changed when you sort of lost

21   confidence or lost faith in what the Justice

22   Department was doing. Do you recall evidence to

23   that effect?

24 A   Yes.

25 Q   Would -- and we had tried to identify a time

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1   frame, and would it be fair to say that around

2   this time, March 20th, at least according to Mrs.

3   Milgaard, that she had, as stated in this letter,

4   lost faith in the justice system, or it may well

5   have been prior, but --

6   A   Well, I think I said, and I would maintain that it

7   was a slow build, but yes, we were -- this was

8   reaching the boiling point.

9   Q   And so again, and I know we've covered some of

10   these, at this point, and again based on your

11   observations and your dealings with Joyce and

12   David Milgaard, this lost confidence or this lost

13   faith in the system, would it be primarily related

14   to the frustration they were experiencing with

15   Federal Justice and the fact that they hadn't

16   heard anything back on the Ferris and Hall

17   information, the time frame, and that they did not

18   believe things were being done properly and in a

19   timely manner?

20   A   Yes, and I think if you, if I may, if you look at

21   the time period even up to the point of this

22   letter that elapsed between the tip of Larry

23   Fisher, the production of the CPIC information as

24   to his record and what could have been very easily

25   obtained by the Department of Justice in terms of

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1   the location of the offences and the detail, not

2   necessarily the very precise detail, but certainly

3   the fact that the offences had been committed in

4   Saskatoon could have been found out in a day or

5   two days probably, and so -- and everything just

6   took a long period of time and everything,

7   everything did from the very beginning, and you

8   are seeing mounting frustration in this letter.

9   Q   Just back on that point, could have been found

10   out, and we'll see later -- how do you think they

11   could have found out?

12   A   I think it could have been found out a number of

13   ways. Number 1, Mr. Williams could have

14   contacted, could have put, continued an

15   examination of witnesses the Saskatchewan Justice

16   Department had prosecuted or Saskatoon police

17   officials, dug deeper into the Fisher matter and

18   discovered very quickly that the offences occurred

19   in Saskatoon. If the Department of Justice found

20   that those offences had occurred in Saskatoon,

21   within 24 hours of being provided the tip one

22   would think naturally that it would have led to a

23   path of inquiry that would have escalated the pace

24   of this matter in terms of the Department of

25   Justice and may have caused the Department of

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1   Justice, although the minister ultimately refused

2   our first application, it may not have changed the

3   outcome, but it certainly would have provided the

4   Milgaards and all of us making the application

5   with the information on a faster basis and it

6   would have come from the appropriate authority as

7   opposed to us having to get it.

8   Q   And we'll deal with that, I think it was July 4th

9   when Carl Karp phoned Mr. Wolch, I think that's,

10   at least from the documents, where that

11   information first came to light, and we'll come

12   back to this issue when we get to that point.

13   A   I mean, it is truly, I'll just try to confine this

14   to an observation, that it took from March until

15   July for the media to find out where these

16   offences had occurred.

17   Q   And how did the media find out; do you know?

18   A   I don't know. They investigated it.

19   Q   And again as far as your efforts, I think we

20   referred to the CPIC that indicated Regina being

21   the place where he pled guilty and I think people

22   assumed, and in hindsight incorrectly, that that's

23   where the offences took place. Did you do any

24   further, do you recall doing any further work on

25   your own on that or did you rely on Justice?

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1   A   I don't recall, but, you know, Mr. Williams could

2   have called Mr. Karst and asked him about it.

3   Q   Okay. So we'll come back to that, but at this

4   point, March 20th, just again at this point,

5   according to this letter, Mrs. Milgaard is saying

6   I don't, I've lost faith in the system and I think

7   I've lost faith in your department and I'm now

8   sending everything to you directly rather than to

9   rely on them, and I just want to make sure that

10   we've heard the reasons for that or what was going

11   on and I think you've told us, please correct me

12   if I'm wrong, that it was the frustration of

13   dealing with the Federal Department of Justice not

14   getting feedback, not knowing why something hadn't

15   been done with Ferris and Deborah Hall with the

16   information to date that led to that.

17   A   Yes. I think also it was just the fact that once

18   again we, or she felt, rightly or wrongly, that

19   with the Fisher information, that our efforts had

20   to be employed in addition to whatever Sergeant

21   Pearson was doing, and as I say, rightly or

22   wrongly.

23   Q   At this point though, on March 20th, I think what

24   the record shows is that you've had at least two

25   discussions, maybe three, with Sergeant Pearson

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1   and you've been told that he's investigating and

2   in fact by March 20th, although you may not have

3   known this, he had already interviewed Linda

4   Fisher, you may have known that from your

5   discussion with him, so at this point is it fair

6   to say, March 20th, that on the Fisher information

7   things were happening, maybe not as -- I think you

8   told us yesterday, not as quickly as you would

9   like, but at least Sergeant Pearson was doing his

10   best I think is what you said?

11 A   I seem to recall a conversation with Joyce, and it

12   was a very heated conversation at one point, where

13   she says it only took them two days in Saskatoon

14   to work over Nichol and Ron, how come they can't

15   get it that fast from Fisher, meaning an

16   admission, and that was her mindset.

17 Q   Okay.

18 A   And that was part of the frustration.

19 Q   So on March 20th of 1990 then, are you able to

20   tell us whether the Federal Justice's dealings

21   with and reaction to the Fisher information, which

22   would be about 20 days old, was that a factor as

23   well are you able to tell us?

24 A   Oh, sure.

25 Q   I suppose Mrs. Milgaard can speak for herself on

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1   that, but I'm looking for your observations, was

2   what Federal Justice was doing with the Fisher

3   information on March 20th, did that cause you to

4   lose faith in the justice system or cause your

5   clients to or your group to?

6   A   Yes.

7   Q   And what was it again at that time about what they

8   were doing or not doing with the Fisher

9   information other than what you've already told

10   us?

11   A   I think that Joyce and, as I say, I'm sympathetic

12   with her view, but I didn't completely accept it

13   because I understood that the process might take

14   some time, the investigative process might take

15   some time, but Joyce's view was that we had

16   provided the Department of Justice with the

17   information on Larry Fisher and she wanted a

18   resolution to it instantly and just wasn't in a

19   state of mind to be patient.

20   Q   And I think you told us yesterday as well that her

21   patience level may have been different in March of

22   1990 because she was already impatient for the

23   previous 14 months; in other words, that had this

24   information come about earlier on, she might have

25   been more patient or allowed more time. Is that

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1   fair, that --

2   A   Yes, yes.

3   Q   If we can go to 158345.

4   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Excuse me. I'm

5   not sure you answered the question, Mr. Asper. I

6   think it was by March the 20th did Pearson's

7   activities with Linda Fisher, or at least his

8   activities with respect to the Larry Fisher

9   investigation cause you to lose faith in the

10   justice system. We know that it caused Mrs.

11   Milgaard according to her own letter, but the

12   question was did it cause you to lose faith at

13   that point, and then I'm not sure -- you answered

14   yes and then you seemed to qualify it by saying

15   that she lost faith. Which is it? Both?

16   A   No. I still, remarkably I still had faith in the

17   system.

18   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: All right.

19   A   At that point.

20   BY MR. HODSON:

21   Q   158345 is a March 26th letter to Paul Henderson

22   and --

23   A   Sorry, and I want to qualify that, because I do

24   want to, for the record, and I hope I'm doing it,

25   the dealings with Sergeant Pearson were really a

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1   ray of light in the whole process in what had been

2   quite icy between us and the Department of

3   Justice. Dealing with Sergeant Pearson gave me

4   hope.

5   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: So you had faith

6   in Pearson?

7   A   Yes.

8   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Okay.

9   BY MR. HODSON:

10 Q   And this is a letter, March 26th, 1990, to Paul

11   Henderson, and it's sending a draft, what it says:

12   "Enclosed herewith is a draft of the

13   brief that was originally contemplated

14   as comprising the application ... that

15   was written before the report of Dr.

16   Ferris, and was never sent to Ottawa.

17   Nonetheless, it provides a relatively

18   detailed analysis of the facts, as well

19   as the theory of the prosecution. I can

20   appreciate that it is in draft form, but

21   hope that you will be able to get the

22   gist of the argument."

23   And then statements of Linda Fisher. And March

24   26th would have been a couple of weeks after Paul

25   Henderson first became involved and went to

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1   interview Linda Fisher and this, I think what Mr.

2   Henderson's evidence was, that you had sent him

3   this information to assist him in briefing him

4   for the next, I think for the next round of

5   interviews, or it was given to him and he

6   certainly used it to sort of inform himself of

7   the facts, and I just want to confirm, if we

8   could call up 157552, and I went through this

9   with you earlier, this is the cover page. Maybe

10   just go to the next page. And this is -- how

11   many pages is this document?

12   MS. KARA ISABELLE (DOCUMENT ASSISTANT):

13   72.

14   BY MR. HODSON:

15   Q   It's a 72-page brief, and I think this is one that

16   you told us that you drafted I think in the latter

17   part of 1986 based on what you had, and I think

18   Mr. Henderson said, yeah, this is the brief that

19   he received from you, and I just -- does that

20   sound right, that you would have sent him sort of

21   the -- the -- your letter says you sent him one

22   that wasn't filed with Ottawa and your brief

23   before Ferris, and this appears to be the only one

24   that we have, and it's the one that he says he

25   got?

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1   A   I think so, yes, I think that's the one.

2   Q   157062. So, again, this is now March 26th, 1990,

3   a letter from Mr. Williams to you, and you'll note

4   that he acknowledges Mrs. Milgaard has sent a

5   video, and I think the video, I don't know that I

6   have identified it but I think it related to

7   interviews of David Milgaard, and it may well have

8   been media clips, it's not a video of a

9   re-enactment or anything like that, at least to my

10   knowledge. But then he goes on to say:

11   "I am also writing to determine whether

12   there are any further submissions to be

13   made on behalf of David Milgaard ...",

14   and:

15   "... please submit them on or before

16   April 12, 1990 so that a decision can be

17   made ...".

18   And, again, we saw this, this type of letter

19   earlier, I think we saw one in January saying

20   "okay, here's two weeks, we're gonna" -- and I

21   think what you told us is that you believed that

22   this was a signal that they were going to

23   complete their report, send it up -- 'they' being

24   the Department of Justice or Mr. Williams -- and

25   send it up the line to the Minister; is that

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1   right?

2   A   Yes.

3   Q   And so at this time, again, do you recall whether

4   you had any reaction or any concerns about this

5   letter at this time?

6   A   I just -- I don't recall a specific reaction, I --

7   as I look at it, I, my best guess would be

8   bewilderment --

9   Q   And can you --

10   A   -- at the paragraph "do you have anything else".

11   Q   And could you elaborate on that?

12   A   Umm, we were in the middle of an investigation

13   being conducted by Sergeant Pearson, and we had

14   provided the identity of potentially the true

15   killer, and it seemed to me, and it looks from

16   this letter, that Mr. Williams or his superiors

17   are applying a deadline where the investigation

18   really had only just begun. My reaction in seeing

19   this letter is -- now, I think, reflects what it

20   would have been at the time.

21   Q   If we can go 162388. And this is March 27th, I'm

22   not sure who Mr. Alan Aitken is, he may have

23   been -- do you recall? I don't think anything

24   turns on it, just there's some statements in here

25   I want to ask you about; do you remember who?

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1   *A*   I don't recall.

2   **Q**   And it may well have been someone who just

3   inquired about some information. But in any event

4   this is March 27th, I want to ask you, you say in

5   the letter:

6   "In brief, the Crown's case rested on

7   three major foundations:"

8   And:

9   "2) The evidence of experts who claimed that

10   semen samples found at the scene of the

11   crime belonged to David Milgaard."

12   And we talked a bit about this yesterday, I think

13   you said that was your understanding of the

14   Crown's theory, but what experts or what did you

15   understand the experts' evidence to be at the

16   original trial, and did you understand it to be

17   that the semen belonged to David Milgaard?

18   *A*   Oh no, the expert of Staff Sergeant Paynter was as

19   Mr. Tallis had hoped, but the Crown's theory, and

20   the Crown attempted to have an interpretation by

21   Mr. Paynter of that evidence that would have, umm,

22   inculpated David.

23   **Q**   Okay. But as far as the evidence of experts who

24   claimed that semen samples found at the scene

25   belonged to David, were there -- did you

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1   understand that there was expert evidence that

2   said "in my opinion, the semen sample belongs to

3   David Milgaard"?

4 A No. I think, to be fair, that paragraph misstates

5   what I just said.

6 Q Okay. And so what your understanding was at the

7   time, can you just --

8 A No, but the understanding clearly was that Staff

9   Sergeant Paynter provided evidence that, in a

10   linear sense, excluded David as the perpetrator.

11   Mr. Caldwell attempted to provide an explanation

12   or to elicit from the witness an explanation as to

13   how David might be included that was ultimately

14   rejected by -- umm, that the presiding judge

15   didn't allow him to go down that path, although

16   the jury heard it.

17 Q Okay. So just on that, I guess if -- if your

18   understanding was that Paynter said, "okay, it

19   excludes David Milgaard because I can't find any

20   blood in the sample, my test doesn't show that",

21   you say Mr. Caldwell then tried to put blood there

22   to say -- so that it would include David, --

23 A Right.

24 Q -- not eliminate him, and the judge says, "no",

25   and we've looked at that passage on a number of

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1   occasions, saying, "there is no evidence of any

2   blood". I guess my question was what was your

3   understanding and how did that, then, link the

4   semen sample to David Milgaard in light of what

5   you just said, being the judge's comment and Staff

6   Sergeant Paynter's?

7 A   It didn't.

8 Q   Okay. So what -- what was it? We have seen in

9   some of the correspondence and certainly in the

10   application your position being, lookit, the Crown

11   theory was and the evidence was that this semen

12   sample belonged to David Milgaard. If what you

13   say about Paynter --

14 A   Well the indication of tendering evidence of a

15   semen sample at a trial is that the perpetrator of

16   the crime left the semen sample. Staff Sergeant

17   Paynter didn't provide Mr. Caldwell with what he

18   needed in a linear sense, as I say, and so the

19   only way for it to tie -- to be tied to David was

20   to find the explanation that a drop of blood was

21   in the semen --

22 Q   You --

23 A   -- based on the evidence at the time.

24 Q   But based on that, one view might be -- and I'd

25   like your response to this -- that the evidence at

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1   trial actually exculpated, exonerated Mr. -- was

2   exculpatory, because what Staff Sergeant Paynter

3   said is, "David is a non-secretor, there is no

4   blood in the sample", and the judge says, "don't

5   go down there, there is no blood", and I think Mr.

6   Tallis told us in his closing address to the jury

7   he said, "the semen sample exonerates my client",

8   and so what is your response to that? Because in

9   some of your materials you seem to be taking a

10   different view, that that evidence was that --

11   that linked David Milgaard to the crime?

12 A   Well Mr. Caldwell as I say, and I don't recall the

13   length of the exchange, he certainly tried to tie

14   it to David. And I think you have to look at the

15   evidence from the perspective of a juror. Why is

16   that evidence there? If it excludes David, why

17   didn't the Crown say so, why didn't the Crown --

18   why was the Crown trying to tie it to him if it

19   was exculpatory?

20 Q   I think what -- and, again, one position that has

21   been put forward was that it wasn't to tie him but

22   it was to say, "lookit, it doesn't exclude him",

23   which is maybe saying the same thing, that -- and

24   I think in his closing address to the jury, the

25   closing addresses to the jury, Mr. Caldwell says,

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1   "it's neutral, it doesn't implicate him but it

2   doesn't exculpate him", and Tallis, Mr. Tallis

3   says, "no, it exculpates him". And, again, just

4   going back to try and get -- because the Ferris

5   report and the Markesteyn report says, "lookit,

6   the semen sample doesn't link David Milgaard to

7   the crime", and I think you put it forward to the

8   Federal Minister saying, "lookit, this is new

9   evidence, what was used to convict him doesn't

10   convict him", and I guess that's the question.

11   What was your understanding of the basis of your

12   belief that the semen sample was used to convict

13   David Milgaard, to link him to the crime?

14   *A*   Well, that it was tendered by the Crown, and that

15   the Crown's theory was that in order for the

16   antigens to be present in the semen sample, David

17   must have bled into it.

18   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: I understand that

19   was your under -- that was what you believed from

20   the Crown's tactics, if I can call them that, but

21   the problem here is that I think you've already

22   admitted that this was a misstatement, "the

23   evidence of experts who claimed that the semen

24   samples"; the experts never said anything like

25   that?

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1   A   That's correct.

2   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: That's right.

3   A   That's a misstatement.

4   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: That's a

5   misstatement.

6   BY MR. HODSON:

7   Q   But, again, I think what Mr. Tallis told us at the

8   end of the trial he wanted the semen sample in

9   because it was exculpatory, and he argued that in

10   front of the jury, as opposed to it being used to

11   convict him he -- his view was that it was in

12   primarily because he wanted it in, and it was used

13   to exculpate, and I'm trying to figure out --

14   A   Well, but Mr. Hodson, if he -- either the evidence

15   at the trial exculpates Mr. Milgaard or it has --

16   or it inculpates him, or it has no value.

17   Q   Right.

18   A   Okay. Umm, Mr., Mr. Caldwell attempted, in my

19   opinion as from a reading of the evidence, to im

20   -- to inculpate, to use it to establish, because

21   it's a matter of common sense, you have a sex

22   crime and a murder and semen and a perpetrator,

23   and we want to tie them together.

24   Q   Okay. And so that was his effort, and I think you

25   told us that it didn't work because Staff Sergeant

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1   Paynter said "no" and the trial judge said "no"?

2 A Well, not only did it not work, it was

3   exculpatory, and his position was not that it was

4   exculpatory, that it was neutral.

5 Q Okay. And I guess what I am trying to understand

6   is, in light of that, you -- can you explain how

7   your position was, then, in the first application

8   that the semen -- that the frozen semen was used

9   to convict David Milgaard and to link him to the

10   crime? That's -- I appreciate what you are saying

11   and I'm just trying to understand what your

12   thinking was, at the time, as to how you arrived

13   at that conclusion?

14 A My thinking was that the jury is sitting listening

15   to the case of a horrendous murder, a piece of

16   evidence is tendered, it's confusing probably to

17   the jury, it's confusing to all of us, and that

18   it's reasonable to assume that people might

19   misconstrue the value of that evidence.

20 Q Okay. So is it, let me put it to you this way and

21   see if you agree; that even though Mr. Caldwell's

22   effort was to have evidence that there was blood

23   in the semen and therefore not exclude David, even

24   though that didn't succeed because of Staff

25   Sergeant Paynter's evidence and the trial judge

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1   saying so, your view was that the jury may have

2   still construed this as being David Milgaard's?

3   And, again, I --

4   A   Yes.

5   Q   -- don't think any of us know what the jury were

6   thinking at the time, but was your conclusion

7   based on the fact, based on your reading of the

8   transcript, that 'I think that the jury might have

9   thought that this frozen, or that this semen

10   belonged to David Milgaard'?

11 A   Yes.

12 Q   Based on your reading, and not notwithstanding

13   Paynter's evidence and the judge's comments, you

14   still held the view that the jury might have

15   thought that it was connected to him?

16 A   Yes.

17 Q   Is that fair?

18 A   Yes.

19 Q   Okay.

20   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: But just a minute.

21   You didn't know anything about the judge's

22   comments, did you, at the time?

23 A   I think we had the charge, yes.

24   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Oh, okay.

25 A   I'm talking about the judge's comments during the

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1   trial.

2   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Oh yeah, I'm

3   sorry, what you didn't have was Caldwell's

4   summing up?

5   *A*   Right.

6   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Okay.

7   BY MR. HODSON:

8   Q   Yeah, and I think the charge to the jury was

9   silent on this issue. Certainly, in the course of

10   Mr. Paynter's evidence, the judge made some

11   statements about the blood issue; I think that's

12   what you are referring to?

13   *A*   Well, I mean yes, I mean Mr. Caldwell continued to

14   question Mr. Paynter on the assumption that there

15   was blood in the sample, and Justice Bence

16   interrupted him several times --

17   Q   Right.

18   *A*   -- and said "wait a minute, there is no evidence

19   of blood".

20   Q   Okay. And I think, and we'll see some documents

21   later, that suggest that certainly at this time

22   that what you would have had and what your review

23   would have been is the trial transcript and Mr.

24   Caldwell's opening address, but not his closing

25   address, and not Mr. Tallis' closing address?

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1   *A*   Right.

2   **Q**   Okay. And the judge's charge to the jury, which

3   was silent on the issue?

4   *A*   Right.

5   **Q**   So if we could go to 056761. This is, again, part

6   of -- just for the record, when I referred to

7   Mr. Pearson's notes, the doc. ID is 056743, we'll

8   see this is page 19 of that. So this is now March

9   28th, 1990, and Mr. Pearson says you called him

10   wanting to know what he had come up with, and

11   Sergeant Pearson told you that:

12   "... new information was being pursued

13   ... contact had been made with the

14   Saskatoon City Police, Larry's former

15   boss, and that Mr. Williams had been in

16   Saskatoon."

17   And, again, would that be -- any reason to

18   dispute that comment?

19   *A*   No.

20   **Q**   010045. This is an April 2nd letter from you to

21   Mr. Williams, and you'll recall the March 26th

22   letter I showed you was the one that said 'give us

23   your final submissions by I think April 12th or

24   within two weeks', and if we can just go down to

25   this part here you say:

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1   "Since the filing of our original

2   application in December of 1988, we have

3   also acquired information which we

4   believe establishes the identity of the

5   true killer of Gail Miller."

6   At this point again, and yesterday, you expressed

7   your own concern about at least publicly

8   identifying someone else as the perpetrator of

9   the crime. At this point it, it appears that

10   your belief is, "lookit, that Larry Fisher is the

11   perpetrator of the crime", is that a fair reading

12   of this letter?

13 A   Well I want to, I want to -- I mean I think you've

14   got to go further down in the letter, --

15 Q   Sure, that's --

16 A   -- in the paragraph, because it's a little

17   contradictory.

18 Q   Yeah, I'm sorry, let me read the paragraph.

19 A   Yeah, it's a little contradictory, because I mean

20   further down the paragraph I make reference to the

21   type A secretor issue that may exclude him as

22   well.

23 Q   Okay. Let me just go through that. You say:

24   "We're not privy to the results of your

25   investigation into Larry Fisher, but

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1   based upon what we do know, we are

2   satisfied that he is the culprit. If it

3   is discovered that Mr. Fisher is a Type

4   A secretor, then we're all the more

5   convinced. If he is not a Type A

6   secretor, then he might very well be as

7   innocent as Mr. Milgaard. However, the

8   fact that Mr. Fisher was in the midst of

9   a spree of rapes and other violent

10   crimes at the time that Gail Miller was

11   murdered, coupled with other

12   circumstantial evidence, certainly

13   raises strong suspicion--the likelihood

14   of there being two violent rapists in

15   the same home in Saskatoon on the

16   morning that a nurse was murdered one

17   block away from that home is difficult

18   to accept."

19   So, again, would that -- would that accurately --

20   A   I think I'm trying to say there is a lot of smoke

21   here, we may not have the burning fire but there

22   is a lot of smoke here.

23   Q   And is it fair to say that the secretor evidence

24   might exclude him but, apart from that, you have

25   the belief that he is the likely killer; is that

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1   fair?

2   *A*   Yes, yes.

3   **Q**   So by this time at least in your mind, April of

4   1990, would it be fair to say that, lookit, you're

5   -- and I appreciate that you are not the judge and

6   jury, but that unless something else comes

7   forward, you have pretty strong feelings that he's

8   the culprit; is that fair?

9   *A*   Yes, I'm -- you know, I think it's fair to say

10   that our thinking, my thinking fairly evolved.

11   Some people got to it faster than me. But when

12   you start, as we started to think about just the

13   odds and the probabilities, I guess -- I guess I

14   became firmer in my thinking.

15   **Q**   If we can go to 162387. This is an April 6th

16   memorandum to the file from you, and there is a

17   comment here where you spoke with Jim McCloskey on

18   April 4th, and it says:

19   "He urged that we not go public and

20   start attacking the Department of

21   Justice until giving them a fair

22   opportunity to investigate. However, he

23   said that if we could wait no longer, he

24   would be prepared to come to Canada with

25   Henderson and get involved."

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1   And am I right that "a fair opportunity to

2   investigate"; would that be related to Larry

3   Fisher?

4   A   Yes.

5   Q   And can you elaborate or tell us what brought this

6   discussion about, and any more than what's in the

7   file memorandum?

8   A   Umm, I was probably, it seems to me that we were

9   probably talking about tactics and McCloskey was

10   urging patience.

11   Q   And when you say 'tactics', was one of the

12   potential tactics going public with the

13   information about Larry Fisher, not only that he

14   was a suspect but naming him, and basically what

15   happened at the end of June 1990, that type of

16   thing?

17   A   I have to assume that that would have been the

18   subject matter of the conversation.

19   Q   And it appears here that Mr. McCloskey was saying

20   "no, wait, let them, let them investigate"?

21   A   Yes.

22   Q   And would you be consulting Mr. McCloskey because

23   of his expertise in this area of work or --

24   A   Yes.

25   Q   And --

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1   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: What was the doc.

2   ID, I'm sorry?

3   MR. HODSON: Oh, I'm sorry, it's 162387.

4   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Thank you.

5   BY MR. HODSON:

6   Q   And did you end up taking his advice on this or

7   did -- can you tell us what impact or influence,

8   if any, Mr. McCloskey's advice had on your

9   tactics?

10   A   Umm, I took his advice, I was prepared to allow

11   the investigation to continue.

12   Q   And then, at some point, did your thoughts change

13   on --

14   A   Well, I don't recall when we started our contact

15   with the media to conduct what I would call the

16   covert investigation, where the media -- and it

17   was, I believe, the CBC and *The Globe and Mail* --

18   much as it bothers me to say that but, umm, on a

19   personal level -- umm, that had resource, had

20   offered the resources, and we provided them with

21   information, and I don't -- I -- it must have been

22   around this time because it took them some time to

23   do their investigation. So I think we took

24   McCloskey's advice at a public -- in terms of the

25   public, --

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1   **Q**   Okay.

2   *A*   -- but we were doing some other things quietly.

3   **Q**   Let me just follow up on that. So, and we'll see

4   some documents later, but around this time,

5   whether it's April or May of 1990, at some point

6   you decided to, I think your words were, to get

7   the media to assist in some covert investigation

8   of Larry Fisher; is that right?

9   *A*   Yes.

10   **Q**   And so *The Globe and Mail*, I think you said, and

11   the CBC?

12   *A*   Yes.

13   **Q**   And the CBC; would that have been Carl Karp and

14   Cecil Rosner?

15   *A*   Yes.

16   **Q**   And *The Globe and Mail* would have been Dave

17   Roberts and Tim Appleby?

18   *A*   Yes.

19   **Q**   And so what would you -- what information would

20   you give from them and what would you ask them to

21   do?

22   *A*   I think, as I recall, I don't recall the specific

23   meetings but I think we probably provided them

24   with a copy of the CPIC, or at least a transcript

25   of what was on the CPIC information sheet, and

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1   probably the Linda Fisher statements, whatever

2   I -- probably whatever we had at the time.

3   Q   And so any information you had at that time

4   related to Larry Fisher. What about Peter

5   Carlyle-Gordge's notes about what was on the

6   police files; is that something you think you

7   would have provided?

8   A   I, I suspect we did, but I don't recall

9   specifically.

10   Q   And would it be a simple case of, "here, we think

11   Larry Fisher is the real killer, here is some

12   information, go out and investigate and see what

13   you can find to assist us in establishing that"?

14   A   I'm not sure that we would have given them the

15   conclusion the way you did at the beginning.

16   Q   Okay.

17   A   I, umm, I think we said, "we have received this

18   information, this looks very fishy to say the

19   least, why don't you take this information and see

20   where it leads".

21   Q   And were you not prepared to let Sergeant Pearson

22   do that same thing?

23   A   Umm, yes, we were.

24   Q   And -- but, well, let me ask it a different way,

25   were you -- it sounds like you were not prepared

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1   to rely solely on Sergeant Pearson's investigation

2   work?

3   A   That's true.

4   Q   And why was that?

5   A   Because, umm, the Milgaards were not content to

6   rely on it.

7   Q   And so then it's given to the media, am I to

8   understand, so that the media might be able to

9   find out facts or information that Mr. Pearson

10   could not?

11   A   Yes. I think that, and as I recall, it may have

12   been Mrs. Milgaard who actually initiated the

13   first contact with the media on the Fisher

14   investigation -- on the Fisher investigation side.

15   But I think the theory was that if, umm, if there

16   was pressure on the RCMP because they were aware

17   that there was pressure coming from an outside

18   investigative source, that that might make things

19   happen faster.

20   Q   So again, back to a bit of a parallel to what you

21   told us about yesterday, would this be -- and

22   maybe "tactic" is the wrong word, maybe it's the

23   right word -- but this would be an effort the

24   purpose of which would be (a) to uncover some

25   information, but (b) to put pressure on the

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1   investigators and the authorities to try and get a

2   favourable result on David's request to re-open;

3   is that fair?

4   A   Yes.

5   Q   And so that if Mr. Pearson knew that the media was

6   watching over his shoulder, that that might

7   influence him to do a quicker job, a better job,

8   things of that nature; would that have been one of

9   the purposes?

10   A   That was the theory anyway.

11   Q   Theory. And did that happen?

12   A   No. As I recall, it, it adversely affected what

13   he was trying to do. Umm, umm, the unnamed

14   publicity, the publicity which did not name

15   Fisher, as I recall, somehow got into the

16   institution where Fisher was residing and put him

17   on, put him on guard, and as I recall it became

18   difficult for Sergeant Pearson to establish the

19   kind of rapport that I think he wanted to try to

20   establish for his -- the purpose of questioning

21   Fisher.

22   Q   And so was it your understanding that these, these

23   covert efforts, then, actually impeded the work

24   that Mr. Pearson was trying to do with Mr. Fisher?

25   A   That was my understanding.

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1   **Q**   Now just back on the --

2   *A*   Now I didn't know that, I discovered that after

3   the fact, --

4   **Q**   Okay.

5   *A*   -- I was not knowing that contemporaneously.

6   **Q**   So the theory going in was that this may help, and

7   ultimately are you saying that it not only didn't

8   help, but it may have actually hurt what the

9   authorities were doing on the investigation; is

10   that --

11   *A*   Yes.

12   **Q**   And when you went to the media, you talked about

13   this yesterday a bit, was there some -- and I'm

14   afraid I don't understand how they operate, but

15   this 'off the record', what prevented *The Globe*

16   *and Mail* and the CBC, from the day they met with

17   Mrs. Milgaard, running a story (a) they're looking

18   at someone else, and (b) here's who he is, and was

19   there some agreement that "lookit, you can't,

20   you've got to embargo this or you can't run with

21   it", can you elaborate on that?

22   *A*   To be honest, I do not recall the exact

23   conversations, but -- umm, and I don't even recall

24   if I had them or if Mrs. Milgaard had them,

25   frankly, but typically what one would say is you

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1   would provide information on a background or

2   off-the-record basis, and on an embargoed basis in

3   this case, umm, for the purpose of conducting an

4   investigation, investigative journalism, the

5   product of which would be determined.

6   Q   So that you'd give them the seed, if they could go

7   develop it whatever they developed they could do

8   what they wished, but they couldn't come back and

9   say "Joyce Milgaard told me X, Y, and Z"; is that

10   the --

11   A   That's true, but there may also have been an

12   embargo on the outcome, give them the seed and

13   whatever they develop can't be used unless certain

14   conditions are satisfied.

15   Q   And are you aware that there was some type of

16   conditions put in place at the time, are you

17   familiar with what --

18   A   I -- I'm pretty sure there were conditions.

19   Q   And the reason I raise that is we'll see in June,

20   when the CBC report does break, I think you

21   contacted Mr. MacFarlane, and I think your words

22   were to the effect that, lookit, it was out of

23   your control, and even though you didn't want it

24   publicized, it was being publicized, and I got the

25   impression that, lookit, we opened the door

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1   because we gave them the information, but at some

2   point we lost the control of it not being

3   published; is that a fair characterization of what

4   you --

5   A   Well, I don't want to -- I really don't have a

6   detailed recollection as to whether there was,

7   there were terms, umm, on the use of the

8   information. I don't recall.

9   Q   Okay. Maybe when we get to, I think there is a

10   letter in June from you to I think Mr. MacFarlane

11   on this, and maybe we'll come back to this issue.

12   So again, as far as this covert media operation,

13   did you -- would you have told Sergeant Pearson

14   about this?

15 A   I don't recall.

16 Q   And then, again, let's just go back to this memo

17   where we're talking about --

18 A   Now I will say, I will say that I treated --

19   Sergeant Pearson was, as far as I was aware was

20   focusing on Fisher and the people around him, the

21   Pambruns and Linda Fisher. This, the media

22   investigation, was more of a background, as I

23   understood it, looking into Fisher's past

24   activities.

25 Q   And some of his victims as well?

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1   A   Well, I think that came later, but I'm not sure.

2   Q   Okay. So let's just go back to this memo, and

3   about I think you said you took Mr. McCloskey's

4   advice not to go public for reasons stated, and

5   then you told us that there was this media

6   operation underway. Ultimately in June, or

7   actually in May of 1990, I think around May 10th

8   or thereabouts, John Harvard raised the subject in

9   the House of Commons, and based on some documents

10   I'll show you later it looks like he was not

11   supposed to do that, is that fair, that you had --

12   that you did not want him to do that or had asked

13   him not to do it but he did; is that fair?

14   A   Yes, that's true.

15   Q   And so that the story of another suspect got out

16   through Mr. Harvard, and did you or Mrs. Milgaard

17   tell Mr. Harvard about this and that's where he

18   got the information, is that right?

19   A   Yeah, we were, we were -- I'm -- we were keeping a

20   number of people abreast of what was happening,

21   but --

22   Q   And I think in Mr. Harvard's questioning -- and

23   we'll see it in a moment -- if I'm not mistaken, I

24   think he attributes his source of information to

25   be either you or the Milgaards or something; is

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1   that fair?

2   A   Yes.

3   Q   And so the fact that there was a parallel

4   investigation came out in May, and would that have

5   been unplanned in the sense that you did not want

6   it to come out, but it came out?

7   A   I think that's true, yes.

8   Q   Was there a difference, a different view between

9   you and Mrs. Milgaard as to whether this

10   information should come out?

11   A   There was certain -- yes. I don't know if it

12   existed -- well, certainly I did not want the

13   information out at that point.

14   Q   Did Mrs. Milgaard to your knowledge want it out?

15   A   I don't recall if it was then or at other times,

16   but there were differences of opinions,

17   absolutely.

18   Q   And there was some suggestion in the documents

19   that she wanted the information to go out and you

20   didn't and you were trying to convince her not to

21   go public?

22   A   Well, then I would rely on those documents.

23   Q   Well, in fairness, there's different times and

24   we'll go through them, but does that -- do you

25   have any recollection of that?

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1   A   As I say, I don't recall that specific moment.

2   Q   Okay.

3   A   There were moments where we debated that issue.

4   Q   Okay. Now -- so the second -- so the first

5   disclosure is that there's another investigation,

6   the second disclosure comes in June, on June 21,

7   1990 when the CBC says not only is there another

8   investigation, but here's who the suspect is and

9   here are his previous crimes, or some information

10   on that, and again, was that an unplanned

11   disclosure as well, in other words, something that

12   you did not want out that came out?

13   A   I think that's true, yes, I did not want it out

14   because I remember that I was quite floored by it.

15   Q   And is it fair to say that you didn't want it out

16   based in part on your discussions with

17   Mr. McCloskey and as well your discussions with

18   Mr. Pearson, that lookit, disclosing, A, the fact

19   that there's another suspect, and B, who it is,

20   might impede his work?

21   A   Yes. It was sort of the betrayal of the

22   conversation with Pearson that concerned me.

23   Q   And is it fair to say that I think you said when

24   Mr. Harvard made it public, that the source of his

25   information was from you?

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1   A   Yes.

2   Q   Or from your group?

3   A   Yes.

4   Q   And when the CBC made it public, is it fair to say

5   that at least the initial source of information

6   was from you or Mrs. Milgaard?

7   A   Yes.

8   Q   Go to 010041, this is now April -- sorry, 010044.

9   This is April 9th, 1990 and this is just a memo

10   from Mr. Williams to the file and this is where

11   Mr. Wolch is asking about Fisher's blood type and

12   then he says:

13   "He also wanted to alert me to the fact

14   that there will be further media

15   coverage of the Milgaard application.

16   In the past Mr. Wolch's advice to me

17   that he was having trouble keeping the

18   lid on this file, occurred the day

19   before another news item on the Milgaard

20   case appeared in Winnipeg or Saskatoon."

21   And then in the next paragraph it talks about:

22   "... I spoke with John Maddigan who

23   advised me that Dan Lett of the Winnipeg

24   Free Press had contacted him concerning

25   a story which is slated to appear on

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1   April 10, 1990."

2   And at this time can you tell us, Mr. Asper, you

3   talked yesterday about your objectives in

4   communicating information through the media, that

5   one of them, one of the objectives was to put

6   pressure on the authorities to provide a

7   favourable response to the re-opening request; is

8   that correct?

9   A   Yes.

10 Q   So again at this time would April 9th, and I think

11   the record shows that there are more and more

12   media reports about the matter, would things have

13   been, I think the words are, heating up at this

14   time in the media?

15 A   Yes.

16 Q   And again, are you able to tell us whether, and

17   again this is a call between Mr. Wolch and Mr.

18   Williams, but would this be one of the purposes of

19   the call, to say lookit, the media is on this and

20   is going to be pressure on you, so A, act quickly,

21   and B, act favourably, that that's --

22 A   Yes.

23 Q   If we can then go to 159873, and this is the next

24   day, April 10th, and this is a story by Dan Lett,

25   can you tell us -- we see a lot of stories from

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1   Dan Lett in the database and in the record. Can

2   you just give us a quick and general overview of

3   Mr. Lett's involvement in this matter as it

4   relates to what you told us yesterday about

5   communicating information through the media to the

6   public to influence authorities?

7 A   I'm not sure how we originally met Dan. I think

8   possibly Joyce had established a relationship with

9   him by the time he had, by the time she had

10   retained our firm. After that Dan, we provided

11   Dan with copies of all the trial transcripts and

12   invited him to read the material and invited him

13   to follow along what we were trying to do and to

14   reach his own conclusions as to what we were doing

15   and the merit of what we were doing and he did.

16 Q   And when you had occasions where you had some

17   information that you wanted to get out in the

18   public domain for the purposes of influencing the

19   authorities, would Dan Lett be a resource that you

20   would often go to?

21 A   I'll just be quite candid in saying that Dan

22   served value insofar as the *Winnipeg Free Press*

23   was concerned and making it a local issue. When

24   we decided that we needed to get Ottawa's

25   attention, Ottawa didn't pay much attention to

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1   what goes on in Winnipeg and so we decided that we

2   needed to attract different media outlets and to,

3   if we were going to make it a national issue, we

4   needed to go beyond Dan and the *Winnipeg Free*

5   *Press*.

6 Q   And so I think the record shows you made efforts

7   with Dave Roberts at *The Globe and Mail*, the

8   *Toronto Star*, I think Peter Edwards, CBC National,

9   CTV National; is that correct?

10 A   Yes.

11 Q   So let's just go back though to my question about

12   Dan Lett though. Was he a person that, I think

13   you told us, was familiar with the issues and I

14   think wrote a number of stories, and if you had

15   information, then would you go to him with, so

16   lookit, here's a new piece of information, look at

17   it and if you think it's worthy of a story run

18   with it? If you wanted -- let me back up. If you

19   wanted something in the media, and I think you

20   told us yesterday you did, you wanted information

21   to go into the media to influence authorities, and

22   we'll see it later with the Ron Wilson

23   recantation, for example, and tell us, what was

24   your relationship with Dan Lett, was he one you

25   could go to and say lookit, here's something, give

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1   him an exclusive or here's something, go ahead and

2   run with it?

3 A Yes, I could do that, but I don't want you to

4   misunderstand the nature of the relationship with

5   the media.

6 Q I want you to explain it to me.

7 A Well, the risk with the media is we have no

8   control whatsoever as to the outcome of an

9   approach to the media, so that if me or Joyce

10   Milgaard or anyone went to Dan Lett and said

11   here's a piece of information, you know, tell us

12   what you think or here's the information, do a

13   story, you have no idea what's going to come of

14   that story, absolutely no idea, or control, and

15   the risk with Dan Lett, with any other journalist,

16   was that they might reach an adverse

17   interpretation of what we were providing them and

18   it can backfire, so yes, there was a relationship

19   with Dan, that we provided Dan with information

20   and we provided him on a favourable basis with

21   information.

22 Q What do you mean by that?

23 A Well, Dan would get information on occasion that

24   the *Winnipeg Sun* wouldn't, we wouldn't call the

25   *Winnipeg Sun*, we would call Dan Lett.

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1   **Q**   And again, what would be the reason for that?

2   *A*   Because the *Winnipeg Free Press* has a daily

3   average readership of 123,000 and the *Winnipeg Sun*

4   is 40,000.

5   **Q**   So again, over the course of time, did you ever

6   have a case backfire where something you gave to a

7   reporter they ended up reporting something

8   unfavourable to your position?

9   *A*   Any case?

10   **Q**   In this matter.

11   *A*   I don't recall.

12   **Q**   Okay.

13   *A*   I don't recall that. As I say, we would provide

14   Dan with information and I have to say his

15   newspaper also, to their credit, gave him the time

16   and resources to follow it and to take the time

17   that they felt was necessary to evaluate the

18   information that we were providing them.

19   **Q**   And would it be fair to say that his articles were

20   generally favourable to the position that you were

21   putting forward to the minister?

22   *A*   Yes.

23   **Q**   Just one comment in here, and again this is April

24   10th, and what this talks about here is that the

25   file has never been forwarded to the minister.

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1   Actually, go back to the full page, please. And

2   then Maddigan saying that the report from the

3   Justice Department will not go to the minister

4   until all the evidence is collected, and then it

5   says:

6   "However, Asper said he was personally

7   assured by Justice Department

8   investigators that Lewis had seen the

9   Ferris report and other important

10   details in January.

11   "The Justice Department

12   official told me: 'It's out of my hands

13   now; the minister has it,'" Asper said.

14   "Now, I hear it never made it to

15   (Lewis's) in-basket. That's

16   incredible."

17   Do you know who told you or what they told you?

18   A   I don't recall.

19   MR. HODSON: This is probably an

20   appropriate spot to break, Mr. Commissioner.

21   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Okay.

22   *(Adjourned at 10:26 a.m.)*

23   *(Reconvened at 10:52 a.m.)*

24   BY MR. HODSON:

25   Q   If I can call up 150566, please, this is a letter

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1   April 17th, 1990 from Mr. Tallis to you and Mr.

2   Wolch saying he has pursued inquiries and searches

3   with respect to his old files pertaining to this

4   matter and all that he had was a copy of the

5   prelim hearing broken down into segments. I want

6   to show you three documents, Mr. Asper, and see if

7   you can assist us as to whether you saw them

8   before or where they came from, and let me give

9   you a bit of background. The first one is 153491

10   and this is a June 10th, 1969 memo to file and

11   it's actually Mr. Tallis' memo to the file and

12   there's three of them that I'll show you, and the

13   evidence from Mr. Tallis is that he would have

14   prepared many internal memorandum when he was

15   preparing for the trial and I can't recall if he

16   gave a number, but around 50 or a significant

17   number that set forth his thoughts, he said those

18   would have been on his file. We've heard evidence

19   from Gary Young who was Joyce Milgaard's lawyer in

20   1980, '81 for a time period who actually requested

21   Mr. Tallis' file which existed at the time and he

22   was given an opportunity to review the file back

23   then and I think Mrs. Milgaard had access to it.

24   Mr. Young's evidence is that none of the internal

25   memorandum, including the three I'm going to show

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1   you, were on the file that he saw and there were

2   some documents that suggested that internal memos

3   were culled by Mr. Tallis' subsequent firm before

4   they were given to them. Mr. Tallis testified

5   that these memorandums would not have been

6   provided to either David or Joyce Milgaard at the

7   time because it was internal memorandums and I

8   think he expressed, or he -- he didn't know how or

9   where they would have come from, so I guess my

10   question to you is do you know -- and they were

11   documents the Commission received from Joyce

12   Milgaard. Do you have any information or

13   knowledge about whether or not any part of

14   Mr. Tallis' file was part of the files you had an

15   opportunity to look at or where these came from,

16   and I can go through them with you if that would

17   help.

18   A   I don't recall seeing these.

19   Q   Okay. And just for the record, this is the June

20   10th one and this is his very first meeting, he

21   just talks about some of his efforts. The next

22   one is 212231 and this is an August 20th, 1969

23   memo and when he takes a look at the site, so this

24   is shortly after, this is right in the middle of

25   the preliminary hearing and just his observations

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1   about the site, and then the next one, 048305, is

2   a September 8th memo detailing his meeting with

3   Mr. Caldwell and reviewing the file and discussing

4   witnesses and disclosure and we've only got the

5   front page of that. Now, I do not believe that

6   these documents were made part of the Supreme

7   Court reference record. Do you have any -- as far

8   as the three memos, do you recall seeing these

9   before?

10   A   No.

11   Q   Is it a case of you might have seen them and you

12   don't remember or you don't think you saw them?

13   A   I don't recall. I don't recall seeing these.

14   Q   Do you have a memory of -- I think you made

15   efforts to find Mr. Tallis' file and these

16   memorandums being his review at the time. Would

17   they have been something that would have been

18   significant to you in your work?

19   A   Well, I don't recall seeing them, so I can't say

20   if they would be significant.

21   Q   Okay. And, I'm sorry, I'm just trying to get a

22   sense of whether it's a case of I might have seen

23   them and I simply don't remember or I don't think

24   I saw them.

25   A   I don't think I saw these.

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1 **Q**   Okay. And again do you have any information as to

2   where or how these memorandums might have been

3   obtained by Mrs. Milgaard or others?

4 *A*   No.

5 **Q**   On her behalf?

6 *A*   No.

7 **Q**   If we can go to 333378, and this is a memo from

8   Mr. Corbett to John Maddigan at the minister's

9   office and just before the break I brought up --

10   actually, if we can just go -- this refers to an

11   article from the *Winnipeg Free Press*, it talks

12   about continual delays, and if we can just go to

13   the next page, this is the -- no, 333381, sorry,

14   this is the article where we talked about the fact

15   that the report had not gone to the minister,

16   etcetera, so I touched on that.

17   Let's just go back to the memo.

18   And this issue we see from time to time in the

19   documents and let me just go through what Mr.

20   Corbett is saying here. He says:

21   "The "continual delays" referred to were

22   occasioned by additional submissions by

23   Mr. Walsh, another of Milgaard's

24   lawyers. The most recent submission

25   (February 28 and March 15, 1990) --"

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1   And that would be the Larry Fisher tip and March

2   15th would be the Linda Fisher statement,

3   "-- alleges that someone else committed

4   the murder of Gail Miller. This

5   obviously required investigation which

6   is now taking place.

7   I believe the press should be

8   forcefully informed of the reasons for

9   delay in this case."

10   I just want you to respond or comment on what the

11   position of Federal Justice and/or the minister

12   was from time to time on the issue of delay, that

13   every time you gave them new information it

14   delayed the process because they had to look at

15   it and they couldn't complete their work until

16   everything was in, and I think you expressed

17   concern about that position from time to time.

18   Can you just tell me your response to that?

19   A   Well, yes, I was very frustrated by that response,

20   but I think it again speaks to the fundamental

21   disconnect that existed between our expectations

22   of what would happen and the Department of

23   Justice's expectations of what they were supposed

24   to do. We expected the Department of Justice to

25   be proactive, the Department of Justice was acting

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1   reactively, and this, the comment you've referred

2   to simply underlines again that problem.

3   Q   And again was it a case, or it seems from the

4   documents to be that you would want to give them

5   further information as it became available that

6   might assist you, every time you gave them some

7   information they then would take more time to look

8   at the information, so let me pause there. I take

9   it when you gave them the Fisher information, you

10   expected that they would follow up on it?

11 A   Yes.

12 Q   So it would take some time and it might otherwise

13   delay the process?

14 A   Yes.

15 Q   And their Federal Justice position back to you

16   seemed to be lookit, every time we're ready to

17   deal with it, we get another piece of information,

18   and not being critical of you for giving new

19   information, but basically saying every time you

20   do that we're going to take longer. Did you take

21   issue with that response?

22 A   Yes. Well, I didn't take issue with the response,

23   I mean, that was the response. I think we were

24   very frustrated with the length of time it was

25   apparently taking given that there was basically

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1   no, no communication with us as to what they were

2   actually doing. It was very frustrating being

3   told, well, it's just going to take longer, you've

4   given us more information, it's going to take

5   longer, but we're not going to tell you what we're

6   doing, we're not going to tell you where we're

7   headed or what interpretations we're placing on

8   the information you provided us.

9   Q   And did that happen on the October 1, 1990

10   meeting?

11   A   Yes.

12   Q   And so that would have been the response, here are

13   our views?

14   A   Yes.

15   Q   And were those views favourable?

16   A   But remember, by that time we had faced at least a

17   couple of, you know, deadlines, give us all you've

18   got because we're wrapping up our investigation.

19   Q   And so again let's go back, what we know the

20   minister said in her letter of February 27th of

21   '91 is, with respect to Dr. Ferris' report and

22   Deborah Hall, what if the minister, what if Eugene

23   Williams would have called you up on January 2nd,

24   1989 and said I've read the Ferris report, it's

25   wrong, here are the following reasons, it doesn't

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1   help you, it actually hurts you and I'm going to

2   interview Deborah Hall tomorrow, she's amplified

3   what she said and this doesn't help you at all,

4   just so you know. What if anything would you have

5   done different?

6   A   Well, I think at least, you know, we would have

7   known and been able to react to it. I don't know,

8   I can't say what we would have done, but at least

9   we would have known and been able to move on.

10   Q   And try to get other information?

11   A   Absolutely.

12   Q   If we can go to 333384, please, and this is an

13   April 20th memorandum of Eugene Williams to his

14   file of a conversation with you and we've touched

15   on some of this subject earlier, he says:

16   "David Asper called today to find out

17   whether there were any developments in

18   this investigation and to advise that

19   Mrs. Joyce Milgaard was returning from

20   her European trip sooner than

21   anticipated. He also said that he had

22   learned that Joyce Milgaard had told

23   members of the press (in Saskatchewan or

24   Manitoba I assume) details of the

25   alleged involvement of Larry Fisher in

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1   the death of Gail Miller.

2   He expressed some concerns

3   about the impact, if any, that those

4   revelations may have on the outcome of

5   our investigation and upon Mr.

6   Milgaard's application. He indicated

7   also that his firm preferred that those

8   allegations be kept confidential until

9   they could be thoroughly investigated.

10   He expressed some concerns about the

11   risk of defamatory libel that the public

12   airing of these concerns could attract."

13   And let me just pause there. I'll go through the

14   rest of the memo with you, but would that be an

15   accurate recording of what you would have said to

16   Mr. Williams?

17 A   Yes, I think so.

18 Q   And again I think it suggests here that around

19   April 20th, that you had learned that your client

20   had told members of the press details of the

21   involvement of Larry Fisher and so around this

22   time, this would be the, I think you called it the

23   covert operation of the media; is that what you

24   are talking about here?

25 A   I believe so, yes.

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1   Q   And that you indicate to Mr. Williams that you and

2   your firm have some concerns and I guess one read

3   of that is that you disagreed with the disclosure

4   of the information to the media for reasons

5   stated; is that right?

6   A   I think that's a fair interpretation. I can't be

7   definitive on my view there. I was very worried I

8   can tell you.

9   Q   I'm sorry?

10   A   I was very concerned.

11   Q   And why was that?

12   A   Because it was such a sensitive moment, it was the

13   precipice of everything we had been working for.

14   Q   And so what prompted you to tell Eugene Williams

15   this?

16   A   I don't know. I can't recall.

17   Q   Did you trust him with this information?

18   A   Well, we were trying to pressure, we were trying

19   to get action and, you know, to keep the heat on.

20   Q   Okay. Would this be communicated to him then,

21   would one of the reasons you would tell him this

22   would be to put some heat or pressure on him to

23   give a favourable or a prompter response to your

24   application?

25   A   I think that may have been the implication, but I

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1   think it was also in the spirit of telling him

2   what was going on just as I was telling Sergeant

3   Pearson that Mrs. Milgaard was frustrated and was

4   going to do her own thing. I think there came a

5   point -- I think I refer to her in the first part

6   of this memorandum, I think she's -- yes, she's

7   returning from her trip and I think there was, I

8   recall having a conversation with Sergeant Pearson

9   where I had to say to him, okay, she's coming back

10   because she had been overseas and I said to

11   Sergeant Pearson she's coming back and, you know,

12   I don't know if I can hold her out of your way. I

13   don't know if that was at this point or a

14   different point, but I do recall that occurring,

15   so I think the first part of this memorandum with

16   Mr. Williams was in the spirit of just, of the

17   same kind of conversation I had with Sergeant

18   Pearson which was telling him what was going on on

19   my end.

20 Q   And then if we can go to 056763 which is Pearson's

21   note --

22 A   I mean, I want to tell you also, and I think you

23   should know just sort of the whole psychology at

24   this point, which starts to infuse, or everything

25   becomes infused with the sense that we were

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1   getting close to being successful and we all

2   started to believe that we had hit the right path

3   here and so communication levels I think improved

4   a little bit on the one hand, the public campaign

5   had been managed a little bit differently and we

6   started to get a feeling that we were going to

7   succeed.

8   Q   Based on the Larry Fisher information?

9   A   Yes.

10   Q   And so when you say the public plan or whatever

11   changed, were you scaling that back?

12   A   Yes. The plan was or the theory was to allow the

13   investigation to occur and run its course and with

14   that information in hand we just couldn't believe

15   that there would be any sort of an adverse

16   conclusion.

17   Q   And so the plan then was to hold back on the

18   public pressure that you talked about earlier?

19   A   That was plan A, yes. It didn't work, but that

20   was plan A.

21   Q   Okay. And why -- were you concerned that you

22   would upset Justice officials in continuing with

23   that? I don't understand -- explain why you would

24   hold off?

25   A   No, we were not concerned about upsetting Justice

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1   officials, we were concerned about, at our law

2   firm we were concerned about undermining what

3   Sergeant Pearson was trying to do.

4 Q Okay. So here we have this --

5 A The slam dunk for us, the slam dunk was for

6   Sergeant Pearson to get Fisher and to have Fisher

7   confess to the crime, that was the slam dunk, and

8   that's what we were looking at.

9 Q And when you say we, are you referring to you and

10   your law firm or we being the Milgaard group?

11 A I was saying that to everybody in our group over

12   and over and over again.

13 Q Okay. And would it be fair to say that maybe Mrs.

14   Milgaard and some others had a different view?

15 A No, I think they agreed. I think we probably had

16   a debate as to how that was going to happen.

17 Q Okay. If we can go just down to the bottom, this

18   is April 20th, '90 and this is Pearson's note and

19   it looks as though you called him the same day you

20   called Mr. Williams. Go to the next page. And it

21   looks as though Mr. Williams reported to him about

22   the call with you and that Mrs. Milgaard is coming

23   back from England and will be promoting publicity.

24   And then paragraph 106, if we can scroll down:

25   "Asper called me, wanting to know what

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1   was happening. All I could tell him was

2   that I had contacted Fisher and that

3   ongoing inquiries were being made.

4   Asper wanted to know what Fisher had to

5   say, however I told him I had no more to

6   tell him at this time. Asper said he

7   was relieved that contact had been made

8   with Fisher because Mrs. Milgaard was

9   coming home early from England and it is

10   suspected that she is going to press

11   ahead with the inaction of the Federal

12   Justice Department on their Section 690

13   application and Asper stated he felt

14   better knowing that Fisher may

15   co-operate with us. I advised Mr. Asper

16   that unnecessary publicity would

17   possibly hamper the police investigation

18   and that there is a certain danger in

19   having Fisher's name become the subject

20   of a press release, and this will have

21   no positive effect on our inquiries. I

22   explained to Mr. Asper that my role at

23   this point is to find the truth and to

24   gather evidence, not become embroiled in

25   a press release, which in my opinion

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1   would serve no one's interest at this

2   time."

3   Now, again, would that be an accurate note of

4   what Sergeant Pearson told you?

5   A Yes.

6   Q And did you agree with what he said?

7   A Yes.

8   Q And at this time, I think it was April 10th

9   Sergeant Pearson had interviewed Mr. Fisher, so he

10   was keeping you up to date with the fact that he

11   had talked to Fisher; is that right?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And was he sharing all the details or -- the note

14   indicates that he had no more to tell you, but

15   were there indications like lookit, he hasn't

16   confessed yet, or did you get that impression?

17 A At some point it may have been in this

18   conversation. We expressed an understanding

19   toward each other that he was going to be doing

20   certain things and obtaining certain information

21   that he wasn't going to tell me and the same was

22   going to be true from my side and we understood

23   that and we understood that where there was

24   something that needed to be said it would be, and

25   I don't know if it was this time or a different

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1   time, but this, I don't think he told me any

2   details about his conversation with Fisher.

3   Q   And is it fair to say that you understood that

4   because of what he was doing and who he was, as a

5   police officer, that there were some things he

6   could not share with you?

7   A   Absolutely, and he fully, I'm confident that

8   Sergeant Pearson understood how mightily I was

9   cheering for him to get a confession.

10   Q   If we can go to 112914 -- actually, the doc ID is

11   912912 -- and this is a letter, we're now April

12   26th, 1990, this is a letter to Eugene Williams

13   with a memorandum that you have sent to Mr. Wolch

14   which you say is fairly self-explanatory. 001817,

15   if you can call that up, is a similar letter of

16   the same date to Sergeant Pearson again enclosing

17   a memorandum to Mr. Wolch. And if we can go to

18   112915, which is part of 112912, this is the

19   memorandum. It's April 26th, 1990, so this is the

20   memo that you send to Mr. Williams and Sergeant

21   Pearson.

22   A   This is the "she's back" memo.

23   Q   The pardon me?

24   A   The "she's back" memo.

25   Q   Oh. It says:

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1   "As you know, the Milgaards are becoming

2   more and more anxious about David's

3   fate. To that end, Mrs. Milgaard has

4   now returned from England and is once

5   again focusing her energy on David's

6   case. The original reason for her

7   return was that they were prepared to

8   'go public' with the entirety of the

9   case in an effort to publicize their

10   plight."

11   And would it be fair to say that "the entirety of

12   the case"; that would be the Fisher information?

13   A   Yes.

14   Q   And not only him as a suspect, but naming him, is

15   that fair?

16   A   Yes.

17   Q   And then:

18   "Joyce Milgaard ...",

19   or pardon me:

20   "Based on my most recent conversation

21   with Sgt. Pearson, however, I have been

22   able to dissuade them from doing

23   anything at this point."

24   And would that be the conversation where Pearson

25   told you "lookit, I've met with him, and I am

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1   making progress or I am working on it"?

2   *A*   Yes.

3   Q   Would that be fair?

4   *A*   Yes.

5   Q   It says:

6   "Joyce Milgaard contacted me on

7   Thursday, April 26th, to advise that she

8   had called Mr. O'Sullivan, who is the

9   Warden at Prince Albert Penitentiary.

10   According to Joyce, O'Sullivan concurs

11   that she could very well be an 'Ace in

12   the hole' for the investigator in terms

13   of obtaining a confession from Larry

14   Fisher. The Warden also indicated that

15   he would be prepared to make any

16   arrangements required to have Joyce

17   attend at the prison."

18   Do I take it, from that, that Mrs. Milgaard was

19   attempting to go to the prison and interview

20   Larry Fisher on her own?

21   *A*   Yes.

22   Q   And did you have concerns about that?

23   *A*   Yes.

24   Q   And what were they?

25   *A*   That it would undermine what Sergeant Pearson was

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1   doing. I mean I have to say that we brainstormed

2   that idea, among many others, as to what might

3   move Mr. Fisher, but in the end I didn't agree

4   with it.

5 Q   And then you say:

6   "I have strongly cautioned Joyce that it

7   would be contrary to our advice for her

8   to get involved while the police

9   investigation is under way. She has

10   nevertheless asked that I communicate

11   with Sgt. Pearson and advise him that

12   she is available if he feels that her

13   presence could be of some value. Both

14   David and Joyce are prepared to respect

15   the judgment of Sgt. Pearson in this

16   matter, but they simply want him to know

17   that they are prepared to do anything

18   that might be of help. They also insist

19   that I forward a copy of this memorandum

20   to both Eugene Williams and Sgt.

21   Pearson, and I will have done so by the

22   time you read this."

23   So, again, would that be an accurate statement of

24   their position?

25 A   Yes.

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1 Q   So you had convinced them not to go, or her not to

2   go and interview David Milgaard in jail --

3 A   Larry Fisher.

4 Q   Or, I'm sorry, you had convinced her not to go

5   interview Larry Fisher in jail?

6 A   McCloskey may have been the one that convinced her

7   ultimately, yes.

8 Q   And what --

9 A   But she was convinced.

10 Q   She was, Mrs. Milgaard was convinced, --

11 A   Not to do it.

12 Q   -- by Mr. McCloskey?

13 A   Or Henderson, or a combination of all of us.

14 Q   And you?

15 A   Yes.

16 Q   And do you recall what McCloskey's advice on the

17   subject was?

18 A   Umm, I think all the advice was don't do it.

19 Q   And was it because it might undermine Sergeant

20   Pearson's work?

21 A   Yes.

22 Q   And then:

23   "Finally, both Joyce and David have

24   imposed a deadline of May 7, 1990. They

25   are prepared at that time to go public,

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1   regardless of the stage of the

2   investigation, as they feel they can no

3   longer wait for what to them seems to be

4   an interminable process. They are very

5   adamant about this, and are prepared to

6   go forward over our advice to the

7   contrary."

8   And, again, would that be accurate?

9 A   Yes.

10 Q   And so is it fair to say that May 7th they were

11   going to go public, even though you and perhaps

12   Centurion Ministries had said don't, they were

13   gonna do it anyway?

14 A   Yes.

15 Q   And was this put forward to Williams and Pearson

16   as pressure, do it quicker because if you don't

17   we're gonna do something that you don't want us to

18   do, and that might undermine what you are doing,

19   and therefore do it quicker; is that --

20 A   I think there was -- I think there was a part of

21   that. I -- my view, Mr. Hodson, is that, umm, as

22   I say, we had reached such a sensitive moment

23   that, umm, umm, we were prepared to give them more

24   slack and more respect than we had up until this

25   point in the whole process, and that if in fact it

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1   became public under the circumstances that was

2   described by Mrs. Milgaard, we wanted them to know

3   that that was happening because the Milgaards had

4   decided it should happen, and not that it was our

5   advice.

6 Q   Okay. And when --

7 A   We felt, and it was a real conflict, I mean it was

8   a very difficult position to be in as counsel,

9   because we felt at this point that we needed to

10   maintain a, to the extent that we could, a working

11   relationship with the RCMP, a working relationship

12   with, as I say, to the extent possible with the

13   Department of Justice, and to take instructions

14   and act in the best interests of our client, and

15   it became a real juggling act.

16 Q   And as far as, I think what the record shows is

17   that May 7th came and went and there was no public

18   disclosure at that time; what happened to the

19   deadline?

20 A   I don't recall specifically.

21 Q   Okay. What, what Sergeant Pearson testified to is

22   that, umm, he had been in touch with Fisher, had

23   interviewed Fisher, talked to him at least I think

24   on April the 10th, Fisher then retained Legal Aid

25   counsel, namely Stephen Carter, and that Stephen

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1   Carter asked that all further communications be

2   through Stephen Carter, and that Fisher then said

3   he wanted to wait until I think some later -- he

4   was delaying, I think, were Sergeant Pearson's

5   words. Do you recall being informed of that

6   information from time to time by Sergeant Pearson?

7   A   I, I don't recall specifically, --

8   Q   Yeah.

9   A   -- but there was a point where Mr. Fisher was no

10   longer available on the same basis.

11 Q   Yeah. And I think there is a note of Sergeant

12   Pearson where he actually told you, gave you the

13   name of Mr. Fisher's lawyer, do you remember that,

14   saying "here's who his lawyer is"?

15 A   No, I don't recall specifically.

16 Q   And do you have any reason to dispute his note and

17   his evidence about that?

18 A   No, I'm sure he told me.

19 Q   And, in fact, I think what Sergeant Pearson said

20   is that as a result, I think in part because of

21   this deadline, he actually went and saw Fisher, I

22   think through his lawyer, his lawyer said, "he is

23   not available until after the deadline" but

24   nonetheless he went anyway and talked to him

25   without his lawyer knowing; were you aware of

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1   that?

2   A   I seem to recall that, yes.

3   Q   And what do you recall about that?

4   A   That there was, well, that there was one final

5   attempt.

6   Q   Yes.

7   A   Pearson made one final attempt, and if that was

8   it, then that's what I recall.

9   Q   And did he tell you about that?

10   A   I believe so, yes.

11   Q   And I think his evidence, I don't know that his

12   lawyer, I think his lawyer expressed concern about

13   it, but were you aware that Sergeant Pearson was

14   having trouble getting a chance to fully interview

15   Larry Fisher, that he was delaying him a bit?

16   A   I don't recall that specifically. I know he was,

17   he was getting, I recall Sergeant Pearson sounding

18   a little frustrated.

19   Q   Okay. And I think it was actually in early July

20   that Mr. Fisher was finally interviewed by Eugene

21   Williams. Do you recall Mr. Pearson or Sergeant

22   Pearson telling you that his efforts to interview

23   Larry Fisher were, were a bit more difficult

24   because Mr. Fisher was aware, and others inside

25   the institution were aware, that he was identified

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1   as a suspect in this murder?

2 A   Umm, yeah, yes I do. I think I said, I think I

3   had testified to that earlier, there was -- and

4   that may have been early on in my discussions with

5   Sergeant Pearson where he was worried about the

6   publicity, and it may have been after the John

7   Harvard moment in Question Period where, yes,

8   he -- yeah, Fisher started, others in the prison

9   started bugging or, you know, getting on Fisher

10   about him being the suspect.

11 Q   Okay.

12 A   And I believe he had to go into isolation and he

13   had to be managed differently in the prison than

14   he had been. I think he was even moved at one

15   point.

16 Q   I think in the later 1990 he was moved out to

17   British Columbia, yes. We can now go ahead, this

18   is April, and I think May 7th this information

19   wasn't disclosed. If you can just give me a

20   moment here on the --

21   I now want to turn to mid-May

22   when, if we can call up 220898, please. This is

23   May 15th, and I think around -- this is just a,

24   one of the reports, but there is a -- an encounter

25   between Mrs. Milgaard and Kim Campbell, I think

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1   around May 15th, it may in fact have been May

2   14th. And I think what the report suggests is

3   that Mrs. Milgaard attempted to provide a copy of

4   the Ferris report to her and Ms. -- the Minister

5   indicated to her:

6   "I'm sorry, but if you want your son to

7   have a fair hearing, don't approach me

8   personally, ...",

9   "I'm sorry, but I want her son to have a

10   hearing that will withstand scrutiny.

11   I'm sorry."

12   And you are familiar with this event; correct?

13   *A*   Yes.

14   *Q*   Can you tell us, how did this come about, was it

15   something that was planned in advance for this to

16   happen or was it a spur of the moment thing, can

17   you shed some light on that?

18   *A*   It was, yes, it was planned in advance. Umm, it

19   was, umm, an attempt at a photo op, a photo

20   opportunity between Mrs. Milgaard and the

21   Minister, and I think that Joyce believed that if

22   she could speak directly to the Minister, she

23   might -- that the Minister -- I think Joyce

24   believed that the Minister was surrounded by

25   officials who were filtering the information, umm,

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1   I do recall that the Minister said that she -- I

2   think she had said publicly that she doesn't pay

3   much attention to the media, and Joyce decided

4   that she would try to, because up to that point

5   the only way that Joyce could communicate with the

6   Minister was either through the application or via

7   the media, that she could try communicate directly

8   with the Minister, and the Minister was in

9   Winnipeg at this point, and so that's what Joyce

10   tried to do. The elevator opened up, the Minister

11   walked out, and it became one of the turning

12   points in the case.

13 Q   And why is that?

14 A   It catalyzed public opinion and got played over

15   and over and over again and cast the Minister of

16   Justice -- and I -- again, you know, it's one of

17   the lucky things, but in the drama as this

18   unfolded that moment made Kim Campbell into the

19   evil empire and catalyzed public opinion. She

20   then -- and I'll just, I'll just take a step

21   ahead.

22 Q   Okay.

23 A   But that role that the Minister walked into, umm,

24   was exacerbated with the rejection of the

25   application in February, so the beginning of the

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1   huge public outcry that occurred started with this

2   moment that you are showing in this article.

3   Q   And, again, was that -- was that part of the plan

4   when Mrs. Milgaard went to see Ms. Campbell, is to

5   get some, I think you said photo op, but something

6   of value to use in your media campaign to

7   influence the public and influence authorities?

8   A   I don't think it's possible to plan what actually

9   happened. It was impossible to plan the outcome

10   that occurred.

11 Q   And so let me just --

12 A   This was, in theory, going to be David's mother

13   going to meet with just, you know, seen with the

14   Minister pleading her case.

15 Q   There's some documents that suggest that media

16   were contacted in advance saying, "you know, be

17   here, be at this spot because Mrs. Milgaard is

18   going to be there and is going to present this,

19   and don't tell anybody because I don't want the

20   Minister to find out, otherwise she might not

21   come".

22 A   Absolutely.

23 Q   Is that correct?

24 A   Oh, as I say, it was a photo opportunity, but it

25   was designed -- the thinking was that it would be

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1   a positive moment, that -- that Mrs. Milgaard

2   would meet the Minister and actually say "help

3   me".

4   Q   And so --

5   A   What happened, what happened was the Minister blew

6   by her and created one of those moments that just

7   get repeated over and over again, and creates an

8   image.

9   Q   And I take it your view that what happened was

10   favourable to your cause and favourable to your

11   efforts to re-open?

12   A   Couldn't have asked for a better response from the

13   Minister.

14   Q   And so to go back, then, when this was being, umm,

15   planned or staged or prepared for this to happen,

16   was one of the outcomes you were looking for was

17   to get a photo op that would put a favourable

18   light on your position and an unfavourable light

19   on the Minister's position?

20   A   Absolutely not. I want to be -- I want to be

21   totally clear here. At every step of the way, and

22   it became -- and it occurred at a political

23   level -- we began to communicate to the Minister,

24   through intermediaries to the Minister suggesting

25   that this could become a political problem, and we

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1   wanted to help the Minister actually, and advised

2   the Minister that the political problem could be

3   avoided and the Minister could look like a hero by

4   taking this ever-increasing controversy, getting

5   it off her plate and having a Court grant a new

6   hearing, irrespective of the outcome, the Minister

7   looks like a hero. So we were not trying to put

8   the Minister in a bad light.

9 Q So --

10 A We were trying to get the -- the Minister could

11   look good.

12 Q So in other words, "Minister, your easy out here

13   is, regardless about other factors, the easy out

14   for you politically is send this to a Court, it's

15   off your plate, and the Court can deal with it"?

16 A Absolutely.

17 Q But if the Court dealt with it in a reference

18   case, it's advice that ultimately comes back to

19   the Minister, correct?

20 A Yes.

21 Q So it's not off her plate completely?

22 A Well, except that the Minister's decision is then,

23   would then be with the benefit of a judicial

24   intervention.

25 Q And was that, then, one of your strategies, then,

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1   to -- again we talk about the public pressure --

2   but to make it politically difficult for the

3   Minister to reject your application and a

4   political plus for her to grant it?

5 A   Yes.

6 Q   And that was -- would it be fair to say that your

7   efforts with the media and this incident here

8   would be one of those, a planned effort to try and

9   further that cause, the objective of putting

10   political pressure on the Minister to have a

11   favourable decision?

12 A   Sure. And I think you need to look at the

13   difference in how -- there are two very distinct

14   moments, TV moments, political moments. Look at

15   the difference between how Minister Campbell

16   handled her encounter with Mrs. Milgaard and how

17   the Prime Minister, Prime Minister Mulroney,

18   handled his encounter with Mrs. Milgaard. Vastly

19   different.

20 Q   Now, and I don't want to skip ahead because we'll

21   deal with this subject in more detail later, but I

22   think when the Minister, in February of 1991,

23   rejected the application, and it was either then

24   or perhaps in November of 1991 when she granted

25   the second application, commented publicly that

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1   "lookit, I can't base my decisions on whether an

2   applicant gets media play or looks good in the

3   media, that that's not the basis upon which I

4   exercise my discretion and I will not be, and I

5   cannot be, persuaded by how big a media machine an

6   applicant can get going", and I'm paraphrasing

7   that; do you recall those statements coming from

8   her?

9 A Yes.

10 Q What, did you have any concerns that this effort

11   might be counterproductive in the sense that she

12   might not look favourably on the merits of your

13   application because of the political pressure?

14 A Yes, I -- I was -- I suppose we were aware of that

15   risk. Umm, but I -- again, look, I think you have

16   to understand there was an arc to this story. It

17   began as a small little story and a small little

18   news item in a, in a very, umm, localized sense.

19   Particularly after we got the Fisher information,

20   this whole campaign took on totally different

21   proportions, and I certainly felt highly

22   emboldened, with the Fisher information, that we

23   could fight and win a political battle against the

24   Minister, and so I -- so whatever risk might have

25   existed in our minds, umm, essentially dissipated

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1   completely.

2 **Q**   And let me just try and --

3 *A*   And, sorry, I want to make -- because in -- you've

4   asked questions regarding the role of publicity

5   vis-a-vis officials in the Minister's office and

6   in the Justice Department. I have to say that the

7   media pressure, you know, may have been designed

8   in some way to put a spotlight on what they were

9   doing, but I do want to say that certainly when we

10   get to this point, the sort of April-March of

11   1990, we were talking, we were trying to talk to

12   the people, not the Justice officials, because we

13   came to believe that our support and the pressure

14   on the Minister was not going to come from inside,

15   we knew that they were not on our side.

16 **Q**   And again, though, the support of the people, as

17   you say, the purpose of getting the support of the

18   people would be to influence the authorities to

19   re-open the investigation; is that fair?

20 *A*   Yes.

21 **Q**   To put pressure on them?

22 *A*   Yes.

23 **Q**   And is what you are --

24 *A*   Yes. I mean at the political level, the people

25   hire and fire these people at the political level,

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1   and we wanted to have the political level consider

2   that there may be consequences to ignoring us.

3   **Q**   Okay. Can you elaborate on that; what do you mean

4   "consequences"?

5   *A*   Electoral consequences.

6   **Q**   So in other words political, make it as difficult

7   as possible, politically, for the Minister of

8   Justice to turn down your application?

9   *A*   Yes.

10   **Q**   That was one of your goals?

11   *A*   Bearing in mind that we believed we had the merits

12   as well. This wasn't a, just a sort of a vacuous

13   political campaign, we believed we had merit to

14   our application, --

15   **Q**   Yeah.

16   *A*   -- were being ignored, and therefore we were going

17   to mobilize the people, you know, in the general

18   sense, get people across the country interested,

19   and if, if we were treated badly by the Minister

20   or by the government, that the people might exact

21   consequences upon the politicians by un -- by not

22   electing them.

23   **Q**   Did you have any concern that your political

24   campaign, if I can call it that, might have a

25   negative effect or undermine the merits of your

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1   legal campaign, if I can call it, in other words

2   the merits of the actual information you put

3   forward that formed the basis of the application,

4   and were you ever concerned that when the Minister

5   sat down to consider the merits of the case -- and

6   we know on February 27th she got back to you and

7   said "I don't accept the merits of what you put

8   forward" -- but were you concerned that the

9   political campaign might undermine what you were

10   doing through Section 690? Do you understand

11   where I'm going?

12   A   Yes, and the answer is "no", I was not concerned.

13   Q   If we can just, when we finish up then on this,

14   and you mentioned that this thing was played, this

15   incident was played over and over again; was it

16   something, as well, that, after this event

17   occurred, that you -- and when I say "you" being

18   the Milgaard group -- used this photo op and this

19   exchange later on in your efforts to get public

20   support and put pressure on the politicians; is

21   that --

22   A   I don't actually think we had to use it. It

23   became the definitive -- a definitive moment.

24   Q   So, in other words, the media. Let me ask you

25   this; did this moment, then, that you talk about

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1   cause more media attention to the case?

2   *A*   Without a doubt.

3   **Q**   Let's just turn to Dr. Peter Markesteyn. And just

4   going through chronologically, I'll deal with him

5   in more detail when we get to his report, but his

6   report is dated June 4th, 1990. And if we call up

7   155505, this appears to be when you first retain

8   Dr. Markesteyn, and we've -- we have not yet heard

9   from Dr. Markesteyn but he will be testifying

10   before the Commission, we have certainly made

11   reference to his reports, and he reviewed Dr.

12   Ferris' report and the letter is fairly

13   self-explanatory. Umm, you give him the same:

14   "... materials with a view to offering

15   your opinion on the report prepared by

16   Dr. Ferris."

17   Why did you get Dr. Markesteyn, or not him

18   specifically, but why did you go get another

19   forensic pathologist to provide a report?

20   *A*   Well, my recollection is that Dr. Markesteyn

21   called us, but irrespective of who called whom we

22   thought that, given that we hadn't heard anything

23   from the Department of Justice -- and you've seen

24   from the earlier correspondence that we were

25   asking on numerous occasions "what's going on,

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1   have you validated, have you looked at Dr. Ferris'

2   report", didn't hear anything back from Ottawa in

3   that respect -- that it would make sense that

4   we'll do it for them.

5 Q   And I think we touched on, yesterday or your

6   previous evidence, the fact that when the *Fifth*

7   *Estate* was going to run a story on the *David*

8   *Milgaard* case at some point prior to this they

9   declined, and there was a letter from, I think it

10   may have actually been from David Milgaard, but it

11   suggested that one of the reasons that the *Fifth*

12   *Estate* didn't run the story is that they got their

13   own expert in Toronto to review Dr. Ferris' report

14   and either explicitly or implicitly said, "it's,

15   it's either wrong or it doesn't help the cause";

16   do you recall that? Do you recall becoming aware

17   that the CBC had done their own investigation and

18   concluded that Ferris didn't help you?

19 A   Right.

20 Q   And was that -- did you provide that information

21   to Eugene Williams?

22 A   I don't know that we ever saw that information.

23 Q   No. Well, you would have been aware from -- let

24   me back up. Were you aware, '88-'89, in that time

25   frame, from CBC, that one of the reasons they

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1   weren't going to run the *Fifth Estate* was because

2   they checked into your application materials,

3   namely the Ferris report, they also interviewed

4   Deborah Hall -- because we saw footage of that

5   later -- but on the Dr. Ferris report I think the

6   documents suggest that they had it checked and

7   information, they had it checked and their expert

8   said -- and I'm paraphrasing here -- but that

9   "it's not favourable to your cause", and I think

10   you said you would have been aware of that at the

11   time?

12   A   I think so, yeah.

13   Q   And you may not have been aware of who the expert

14   was or exactly what the expert said; is that fair?

15   A   That's true.

16   Q   But you were aware that another expert looked at

17   Ferris for the CBC and said "either he is wrong or

18   he's not favourable"; you would have been aware of

19   that, is that correct?

20   A   I think so, yes.

21   Q   Yeah. And was that one of the reasons that

22   prompted you to get Dr. Markesteyn?

23   A   No. As I say, I have a feeling that Dr.

24   Markesteyn called us and offered to assist --

25   Q   Okay.

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1   A   -- out of the blue. I did, I was doing a lot of

2   work with Dr. Markesteyn in my practice, he was

3   the Chief Medical Examiner in Manitoba and I saw

4   him routinely.

5   Q   And so again, whether he called you or you called

6   him, would it be fair to say one of the objectives

7   would be to sort of bring the issue up again with

8   Justice or give one further piece of information

9   to them?

10   A   Yes.

11   Q   And would it be fair to say that, when you got the

12   report from Dr. Markesteyn, that if you gave it to

13   Federal Justice, that that would probably cause

14   some further delay because they'd have to look at

15   it, was that -- and the reason I say that, there's

16   some reference in some of the documents at some

17   point where you, I think it's a discussion with

18   Mrs. Milgaard, say that, "lookit, every time we

19   give them more information it takes longer and a

20   catch 22, you know"?

21   A   I don't recall. I -- at this point, umm, I don't

22   recall precisely what was in my -- whether that

23   was in my mind or not.

24   Q   If we can go to 056767, please. This is

25   Mr. Pearson's note, we're now May 4th of 1990, and

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1   he -- Mr. Pearson gave us evidence on this, about

2   a discussion he had with you, I can just read part

3   of it. You called him saying you're concerned

4   about David's problem with penitentiary staff,

5   having difficulties, they're being cancelled, and

6   having some trouble, David Milgaard is, with pen

7   authorities, and then David apparently reacted

8   badly after his last cancellation, and David:

9   "Mr. Asper is going to see David on

10   Monday. Asper really wanted me ...",

11   being Pearson:

12   "... to talk with David to assure David

13   that the system has not abandoned him

14   and that his case is being examined.

15   Asper will call me on Monday and update

16   me ..."

17   And is that, would that be a fair recording of

18   what was discussed with Sergeant Pearson?

19 A   Yes.

20 Q   And so did you go to him and say, "lookit, maybe,

21   Pearson, you could go talk to David directly", and

22   can you -- what was your thinking there?

23 A   I don't know. I was probably just expressing,

24   umm, umm, just sort of -- I was probably venting,

25   actually.

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1   Q   And were you seeking, though, it looks -- it

2   appears that you were seeking Sergeant Pearson's

3   assistance to talk to David and give David some

4   comfort that authorities were doing something?

5   A   Yes, I may have hoped that he would do that, but

6   it sounds to me like I was just completely not

7   having a good day.

8   Q   If we can then scroll down, there is a couple

9   points here. You talk about you informed Sergeant

10   Pearson about:

11   "Audrey Bouton, a nurse, was assaulted

12   approximately one month before the

13   Miller assault, and the assailant at

14   that time had a knife, possibly could

15   have been Fisher."

16   Do you have any -- and just some background,

17   Audrey Boutin, her married name was Audrey

18   Odnokon, and there is a police report of February

19   3rd, '69 where she gave some information that a

20   month earlier there was some suspicious activity.

21   In any event, it was investigated by the police,

22   I think Peter Carlyle-Gordge had a note of this

23   on his file when he looked at Mr. Caldwell's file

24   in '83, and I think it was followed up but

25   nothing to connect it to Mr. Fisher, I think is

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1   what the documents suggest. Do you have any

2   recollection of anything beyond what's in this

3   note, was this -- was this something you would

4   have read in Peter Carlyle-Gordge's notes or

5   document and passed on?

6   A   I'm assuming so. I don't recall where I would

7   have got that information.

8   Q   And do you recall any discussion with Sergeant

9   Pearson following up on this?

10 A   On the Boutin matter?

11 Q   Yes.

12 A   Umm, I don't recall specifically.

13 Q   Okay. And just for the record, we can quickly

14   call them up, 009232, and this is the February 3rd

15   police report, and I think we've been through this

16   already with Sergeant Pearson, just the

17   information from Audrey Odnokon -- I'm sorry,

18   Odnokon was her maiden name -- about events in the

19   alley, and then as well if we could call up

20   173869, this is Peter Carlyle-Gordge's notes from

21   March of '83 when he looked at Mr. Caldwell's file

22   and then he phoned this Audrey Boutin and got some

23   information, and is it fair for us to assume that

24   when you phoned Pearson, it would have been likely

25   this information that Peter Carlyle-Gordge had

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1   that would have been the source of your

2   information?

3   A   Yes, probably.

4   Q   Would there have been any other source of

5   information that you can think of where that might

6   have come from?

7   A   I don't -- I wouldn't know. I don't know.

8   Q   And I think at this time, I don't believe you had

9   copies of any Saskatoon City Police files did you?

10   A   Well, I know we're going to get into that. I

11   don't recall.

12   Q   Okay. When you say we're going to get into

13   that --

14   A   Well, the whole issue of the Saskatoon police

15   files I'm sure is a matter of interest.

16   Q   Oh, I see.

17   A   But I don't recall at this point having access to

18   any files.

19   Q   And then if we could just call up again 010056,

20   and this is a document I showed to you earlier,

21   it's an August 29th, '89 letter and I think I

22   showed it to you back in February, your letter,

23   and:

24   "It has also come to our attention that

25   there may have been reports of an

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1   individual harassing or accosting nurses

2   in the vicinity where Gail Miller was

3   murdered in the days or weeks preceding

4   the murder. Our information comes from

5   Ms. Sandra Bartlett who is a researcher

6   for C.B.C. in Regina. She indicated

7   that she had reviewed the file of Mr.

8   Caldwell who of course was the

9   prosecutor in this case. Ms. Bartlett

10   advises that she saw in the file either

11   newspaper clippings or police incident

12   reports showing that various other

13   nurses had been accosted. Indeed, our

14   information is that another nurse had

15   actually been accosted by a

16   knife-welding person but the attack was

17   interrupted when the nurses boyfriend

18   arrived ..."

19   And then you go on to say:

20   "We've attempted to locate this

21   information by reviewing the

22   Star-Phoenix in the time period

23   including the weeks proceeding the

24   murder of Gail Miller."

25   So certainly at this time, August 29th, I think

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1   the review of the -- and if not earlier, a review

2   of the newspapers had been done for this

3   information; is that correct?

4   A   Yeah, it looks like it, yes.

5   Q   And so the December 14th, 1968 news article that

6   talked about the actual rapes, I mean, was that --

7   I take it this was an attempted assault as opposed

8   to a rape? I'm just trying to understand whether

9   you connected this incident to the December 14th,

10   '68 news article that talked about --

11   A   No.

12   Q   And is this, are you able to tell us whether the

13   information in this letter is in fact the Audrey

14   Boutin or Audrey Odnokon, is it the same piece of

15   information?

16   A   I can't say.

17   Q   Now, let me just pause here because here you are

18   writing -- this letter went to the minister

19   instead of to Eugene Williams, but what you are

20   saying is lookit, Sandra Bartlett, who is with the

21   CBC, got a chance to look at Caldwell's file and

22   she tells us that she saw something on Caldwell's

23   file that might be relevant, and I think what we

24   see, if we can call up 332490, this is on

25   September 26 of 1989, this is Mr. Caldwell's note

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1   that got a call from I think Eugene Williams and

2   basically Mr. Williams asked Mr. Caldwell to

3   review his file to see if he could identify what

4   it is that you said Sandra Bartlett said was on

5   his file, and my question is did you have any

6   concern with Mr. Caldwell being deployed by Mr.

7   Williams to follow up on your request to say

8   lookit, we think there's something on his file

9   that Sandra Bartlett saw that might be relevant?

10 A   I find it astonishing that the Department of

11   Justice would not have retrieved all of Mr.

12   Caldwell's files and done this for themselves.

13 Q   I'm sorry --

14 A   And so yes, I do have a concern.

15 Q   Sorry, federal or provincial?

16 A   Federal Justice.

17 Q   Okay, sorry.

18 A   So yes, I do have a concern, I have a huge concern

19   that the Federal Department of Justice would rely

20   on the original prosecutor to assist them in the

21   reinvestigation of the case and would be relying

22   on the original prosecutor to provide evaluation

23   or analysis of information that may or may not be

24   in his file. Why wouldn't Mr. Williams look at

25   the file for himself.

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1   **Q**   Okay. And so your view is what Mr. Williams

2   should have done is got the entire prosecutor's

3   file himself and done his own review as opposed to

4   relying upon Mr. Caldwell to do it?

5   *A*   Yes, and it places Mr. Caldwell in a potentially

6   very difficult position.

7   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: What's the doc ID,

8   please?

9   MR. HODSON: The doc ID is 332490.

10   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Thank you.

11   BY MR. HODSON:

12   **Q**   If we can go to 056771 and down at the bottom,

13   again these are Mr. Pearson's notes, May 9th, '89,

14   Pearson phoned you, indicated, you indicated to

15   him that:

16   "... David Milgaard had calmed down and

17   there was no need to make any contact

18   with David. I also explained to Asper

19   that I had been to the P.A. Pen

20   yesterday and made contact with Fisher,

21   and that I would be seeing him again

22   after the weekend of 19 May.

23   Mrs. Asper --"

24   But I'm assuming that's a typo,

25   "Mr. Asper requested that I provide the

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1   name of Larry's lawyer, which I did,

2   with the request that no contact be made

3   with him at this time as I wanted my

4   dealings with Fisher to be as clean as

5   possible."

6   Again, is that an accurate note, would that

7   have -- do you recall that happening?

8   A   Not specifically, but I'll accept the note as

9   being accurate.

10   Q   And 213579, this is David Milgaard's May 9th, 1990

11   letter directed to the minister and talks about:

12   "Your department will not disclose what

13   action it has taken in regard to the

14   conclusions of forensic expert ..."

15   And we've talked about this a bit, I think you've

16   told us that you were frustrated yourself that

17   you weren't getting any feedback from the Justice

18   Department about the Ferris report and what did

19   they make of it and it appears here that -- would

20   you have passed that onto your client, David

21   Milgaard, and said lookit, I haven't heard

22   anything, I'm frustrated and conveyed those

23   thoughts to him?

24   A   Yes.

25   Q   And so here, if we can go to the next page, what

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1   David Milgaard says:

2   "In all likelihood, this report --"

3   And he's talking about the Ferris report --

4   "-- once validated will see me

5   released."

6   And I think that's consistent with what you told

7   us before, that that was David Milgaard's view,

8   that this Ferris report was really the key that

9   would open the door and let him out of jail?

10   A   Yes.

11   Q   If we can go to 056772 which is again part of the

12   Pearson notes, and this is the, I think the first

13   disclosure, so May 10th, 1990:

14   "I returned a telephone call to Mr.

15   Asper, he expressed concern that Joyce

16   Milgaard has released information to the

17   press that the RCMP are investigating a

18   suspect who is currently doing time in a

19   Saskatchewan Penitentiary. Apparently

20   Mrs. Milgaard has been talking with John

21   Harvard, a member of Parliament, who

22   raised certain questions with the

23   Standing Justice Committee, who brought

24   the Milgaard case up in the House of

25   Commons. There are two parts to the

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1   concerns raised by Harvard, (1) Why the

2   Farris report has not been acted upon,

3   and (2) What current inquiries are being

4   made with Larry Fisher. According to

5   Mr. Asper, Harvard was not to raise the

6   issue of Fisher because he is under

7   police investigation, however, it did

8   seem that Harvard was to pursue the

9   hold-up with the Justice Department so

10   far as their action on the Farris

11   report.

12   Mr. Asper also indicated that

13   Joyce Milgaard had been in contact with

14   Star Phoenix reporter Cam Fuller and

15   that Fuller will soon be releasing a

16   story on the details provided him by

17   Mrs. Milgaard."

18   And let me just pause there. Again, would that

19   be an accurate recording of what you told him?

20 A   Yes.

21 Q   And so it looks that on May 10th Mr. Harvard

22   raised the issue in the house about an

23   investigation and as well that Mrs. Milgaard had

24   given the information. Is it fair to say that

25   releasing a story of the details provided him by

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1   Mrs. Milgaard, that the details would be the Larry

2   Fisher information?

3   A   I'm assuming that, but that doesn't sound correct

4   actually. It doesn't sound -- I'm not sure that

5   Cam would have been the source that Joyce would

6   have employed.

7   Q   And so it may have been just the fact of the

8   investigation as opposed to the individual?

9   A   Yes.

10   Q   Or are you able to tell us?

11   A   I can't tell you exactly what she might have

12   discussed with Cam.

13   Q   And then if we go to 212997, and this is a fax

14   cover sheet, May 10th, 1990, and if we can go to

15   page 213001, and this is where Mr. Harvard is

16   questioning the minister and he says:

17   "Just two or three more quick questions,

18   Mr. Chairman. Madam Minister, the

19   counsel for Mr. Milgaard tells me that

20   the real killer has possibly been

21   already identified. That the real

22   killer is serving time in jail in

23   Saskatchewan. That the RCMP have been

24   appraised of this, in fact, the RCMP

25   have interviewed this man twice. Can

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1   you comment on that? What do you know

2   about that?"

3   And would you be the counsel referred to by

4   Mr. Harvard as the source of the information?

5   A   I would assume so, yes.

6   Q   And the fact that he had been interviewed twice

7   would have been information that Mr. Pearson had

8   given you?

9   A   Yes.

10   Q   And was the information that Mr. Pearson had given

11   you about interviewing him twice, is that

12   information that you wanted to be made public?

13   A   No.

14   Q   And why not?

15   A   I treated it as highly sensitive information.

16   Q   And why would you then have given that information

17   to Mr. Harvard?

18   A   Mr. Harvard was a member of parliament who had

19   been briefed by Mrs. Milgaard and, as I recall,

20   was very excited because they felt that there was

21   a political gain to be made at Minister Campbell's

22   expense and so I explained to Mr. Harvard in

23   detail why exploiting the case at that moment

24   could be harmful.

25   Q   Okay. Are you telling us that in addition to

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1   assisting you, that Mr. Harvard was in a position

2   to be involved in this matter to his political

3   advantage by -- he was an opposition MP at the

4   time?

5   A   Absolutely.

6   Q   So his interest in this matter was that it could

7   give him some political mileage, for lack of a

8   better word?

9   A   Oh, yes, and this exploded into the House of

10   Commons in question period, I'm not sure if it was

11   before or after this, but Mr. Harvard and others

12   took full advantage of this case in the House of

13   Commons on television for all to see.

14 Q   And then if we go to 159870, this is a report by

15   Dan Lett the next day about:

16   "The RCMP are investigating a suspect

17   they believe may be responsible ..."

18   And:

19   "Winnipeg MP John Harvard told the

20   Commons justice committee yesterday the

21   investigation, which has been going on

22   for the last two months, involves a man

23   now serving time in the Saskatchewan

24   federal penitentiary for rape and

25   assault charges."

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1   Would this -- are you able to tell us whether

2   this information, and presumably the committee

3   transcripts are public information, but would you

4   or someone from the Milgaards have given the

5   Harvard information to Mr. Lett, do you know, or

6   would he have got that --

7   A   No, I think that -- I think that John Douglas was

8   the Ottawa bureau reporter for the *Free Press*.

9   Q   And he's co-author or co --

10   A   Yes, he shares the by-line, and I suspect he would

11   have been following Mr. Harvard as a Winnipeg

12   member of parliament in the justice committee.

13   Q   And again, this information, in addition to you

14   not wanting it to be disclosed by Mr. Harvard in

15   parliament, is it fair to say you also did not

16   want it reported in the media, this information?

17   A   That's true.

18   Q   212951, here's a letter May 14th to Mr. Harvard

19   saying:

20   "Firstly, on behalf of the Milgaard

21   family, let me express my thanks to you

22   for raising the matter before the

23   Commons Justice Committee on May 10th,

24   1990. As you know, this has been a very

25   long and difficult process, and we truly

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1   appreciate your confronting the Minister

2   directly with the problem."

3   And again, was it your position that -- I thought

4   you had told us that you didn't want him to raise

5   the Fisher, or the second investigation matter.

6   This letter, you appear to be thanking him for

7   doing it. Can you elaborate on that?

8 A   Well, I think that there were two parts to it and

9   I think that's, I think it's reflected, I think

10   it's in Sergeant Pearson's note, the delay was the

11   main issue that we had and wanted to have raised.

12   I think the -- I'm interpreting, but I think

13   Mr. Harvard took the matter of delay to an extreme

14   by trying to show the problem of or trying to

15   illustrate the delay by suggesting, by using the

16   police investigation as an example of what was

17   going on. I had to keep everybody on side and I

18   was not prepared at this point to cut Mr. Harvard

19   loose even though I wasn't totally happy with what

20   he had done.

21 Q   Okay. So at this time you were not -- I mean,

22   although you appreciated him bringing up the

23   subject matter, your view was he went further than

24   you had hoped or asked him to do?

25 A   Way beyond.

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1   **Q**   And yet you still wanted to utilize his services

2   down the road, so you didn't want to --

3   *A*   Well, you have to imagine, you know, I mean, I

4   don't want to get too philosophical here, but you

5   have to act in the best interests of your client.

6   Keeping everybody on side here was in the best

7   interests of my client.

8   MR. HODSON: This is probably an

9   appropriate spot to break for lunch.

10   *(Adjourned at 11:58 a.m.)*

11   *(Reconvened at 1:31 p.m.)*

12   BY MR. HODSON:

13   **Q**   Mr. Asper, we were in mid May when we finished off

14   1990 and now I want to go into two, sort of two

15   areas that followed, and I think May and June of

16   1990 were quite busy months. I think during May

17   we've heard evidence that this is when, through

18   May and June, up until June 21, 1990 when the

19   Larry Fisher information broke in the media, so

20   that was one of the areas that you were tending

21   to. The other two were, number 1, Dr. Markesteyn

22   and Dr. Merry, his report came June 4th and I

23   think you were pursuing that, and the third one is

24   the interviews of witnesses, and May 26th is when

25   Dennis Cadrain was interviewed, June the 4th --

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1   actually, the same day as Dr. Markesteyn's report

2   Ron Wilson was interviewed and thereafter, so what

3   I would like to do is rather than go through this

4   area chronologically, I'm going to deal with Dr.

5   Markesteyn first and then go through the witnesses

6   and then we'll pick it back up towards the middle

7   of June. If we can just go back to 155507, and

8   this is a letter May 15th, 1990 from you to Dr.

9   Markesteyn. I had shown you the May 1 letter

10   which is the initial letter of instructions and it

11   looks as though this is a follow-up and you are

12   asking him in addition to reviewing Ferris'

13   report, to offer an opinion if possible on whether

14   the evidence tendered at the Milgaard --

15   presumably trial -- supports the Crown's theory of

16   the case, and I think this related to the location

17   of the body and things of that nature; is that

18   correct?

19   A   It looks to be, yes.

20   Q   And I think in his report we'll see a bit later

21   that he came back and said lookit, I can't answer

22   that, I don't have enough information or I don't

23   have enough time; is that right?

24   A   I think so, yeah.

25   Q   039010 -- sorry, I think we've -- no, sorry, I

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1   think we've touched on that, that's the article

2   that talks about Mr. Harvard. If we can go to

3   169911, and this is May 25, 1990, a memo from you

4   to Mr. Wolch, and you say:

5   "In anticipation of the Markesteyn

6   report I think you should be aware of

7   the relevance of the blood-typing issue

8   at the trial.

9   Firstly, the prosecutor devoted

10   four pages of transcript in his opening

11   address to the evidence he expected to

12   get from Staff Sgt. Paynter, who was the

13   RCMP Serologist that ultimately gave the

14   evidence about the secretor stuff."

15   And then:

16   "... Paynter's evidence takes

17   approximately fifty pages of the trial

18   transcript."

19   You then go on and recite from the Court of

20   Appeal and you say:

21   "The bottom line is that the suggestion

22   that this evidence did not play any kind

23   of a meaningful role in the trial does

24   not make sense. The Crown obviously

25   thought it did, and so did the Court of

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1   Appeal. The Crown successfully fit a

2   square peg into a round hole."

3   I'm wondering where this -- you talk about the

4   suggestion that the evidence did not play any

5   kind of meaningful role. Where did that come

6   from, what were you responding to; do you

7   remember?

8   A   No, I don't. It may have been something, a

9   conversation with Federal Justice, but I'm not

10   sure about that. By this point we were having,

11   Mr. Wolch certainly was having conversations,

12   general conversations with the senior officials

13   about the case and the nature of the case and the

14   evidence in the case and --

15 Q   And when you say senior officials, who would that

16   be?

17 A   MacFarlane, Rutherford.

18 Q   Corbett?

19 A   I don't know if Corbett was part of it.

20 Q   And Williams, Mr. Williams?

21 A   He may have been involved. I don't know.

22 Q   And so is it possible then at this stage that Mr.

23   Wolch had received some feedback from senior

24   justice officials to the effect that the evidence,

25   being the frozen semen, did not play any

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1   meaningful role in the trial and that what you

2   were getting Dr. Markesteyn to do was to respond

3   to what Federal Justice was, through senior

4   officials through to Mr. Wolch, communicating

5   about concerns?

6   *A*   That seems to ring a bell, but I can't be

7   absolutely certain about that, but it looks to be

8   that we were responding to something.

9   *Q*   So would it be fair to say that someone outside of

10   your group raised an issue that lookit, this

11   frozen semen didn't play any meaningful role in

12   the trial?

13   *A*   Yes.

14   *Q*   And I take it in this memo you are expressing your

15   view to the contrary because, as you told us

16   earlier, you thought that it did; is that right?

17   *A*   Yes, yes, very much so.

18   *Q*   And you rely on the opening address of Mr.

19   Caldwell, Paynter's evidence and thirdly the Court

20   of Appeal; is that correct?

21   *A*   Yes.

22   *Q*   And then just again you talk about four pages of

23   his opening address. If we could call up 210858

24   which is a lengthy document, and this is the

25   transcript of the opening of the original trial in

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1   1970. If we can go to 210899, and I think I've

2   identified the four pages, I just want to go

3   through, and again the opening address speaks for

4   itself, Mr. Asper, it says what it says, but I

5   think this, I just want to get your comment as to

6   whether this is what you are referring to and

7   relying upon. Mr. Caldwell says there will be a

8   group of other experts who will testify from the

9   crime lab and you will recall they received a

10   goodly number of items and then talks about

11   Paynter's evidence about what he found, and then

12   if we can go to the fourth page of this, 210902,

13   and again this is just where -- we've been through

14   this before with Mr. Caldwell, so I won't read it

15   all, but this part here Mr. Caldwell says -- he

16   describes about the first test not looking for

17   blood and then Paynter goes back and looks at it,

18   he says:

19   "The first time he hadn't looked for

20   blood as such; the second time I expect

21   he will testify that he did; and that

22   when he looked for blood as such, using

23   of course a different technique than

24   that used to check for the antigens,

25   that he got what he calls a positive

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 1              presumptive test for blood on the

 2              sample, which in our language means that

 3              he found a minute trace of blood as such

 4              in the sample.  Now, the presence of

 5              blood is such - that is not talking

 6              about the broken down parts - in the

 7              sample would of course account for the

 8              presence of the antigens in the sample

 9              and would account for the presence of

10              antigens in the sample of fluid of a

11              non-secretor."

12        And again I take it, would that be part of what

13        you were relying upon, Mr. Asper?

14   A    For what?

15   Q    I'm sorry, when you said that as far as the

16        evidence, you were saying that the frozen semen

17        was used to link Mr. Milgaard to the crime and was

18        evidence at the trial.

19   A    Yes.

20   Q    And you said based upon the opening address of Mr.

21        Caldwell, secondly, the evidence of Paynter, and

22        third, the Court of Appeal?

23   A    Right.

24   Q    And so I'm just going through, you said --

25   A    Yes, this is -- yes, this is what I'm referring
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1   to.

2   Q   And then on the next page, so what Mr. Caldwell

3   says here is that Staff Sergeant Paynter did a

4   test and found minute traces of blood that would

5   explain why a non-secretor, explain why it could

6   be from a non-secretor because there's blood in

7   there?

8   A   Well, we're not going to retry the case. I could

9   go back to the other page and ask a bunch, or

10   wonder aloud of certain things that Mr. Caldwell

11   said there, but let's I guess proceed.

12   Q   And I think, you know, and I've gone through, up

13   until this point there's one other comment I want

14   to put to you.

15   A   Yes.

16   Q   The earlier comments, I think, are referring to

17   the test, and this is the part where he talks

18   about the blood. Now I think your evidence and

19   the evidence we heard from Mr. Paynter and Mr.

20   Caldwell is that when Staff Sergeant Paynter gave

21   his evidence he actually said, "there was a

22   presumptive test for blood, it was positive, but

23   that doesn't mean there was blood in there and I

24   can't say there is."

25   A   But that's actually at odds with --

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1   Q   That's at trial?

2   A   That's at odds with the page you just showed me.

3   Q   Okay. And so that's, I think, what you were

4   referring to earlier?

5   A   Yes.

6   Q   Okay. So the opening address, and then what Staff

7   Sergeant Paynter said at trial, if we could just

8   go to the next page, here, and here is just, I

9   think, the concluding part, or concluding part,

10   this is opening address:

11   "Now, as part of this picture

12   incidentally I believe the evidence will

13   indicate that Milgaard who gave the

14   saliva sample was a non-secretor, so the

15   finding of blood as such in the sample

16   would not rule him out let us say as the

17   donor of it if it were blood in there

18   rather than items secreted."

19   And it goes on to say:

20   "... I think the evidence will go along

21   those lines."

22   I mean this is what his opening address was and

23   this is what you construed as trying to put a

24   square peg in a round hole?

25   A   Yes. I mean, you know, the inverse is that if you

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1   accepted the evidentiary, or evidence that the

2   sample excluded David, if Mr. Caldwell were to

3   accept that then one would have to ask whether he

4   could think there was a reasonable likelihood of a

5   conviction in the first place if the scientific

6   evidence excluded the man he was trying to

7   prosecute.

8   Q   I think what Mr. Caldwell's evidence, at least

9   before the Commission of Inquiry, is that as far

10   as the sample was concerned, if there was blood in

11   the sample, then it would be consistent with

12   coming from a non-secretor, and the evidence

13   seemed to suggest that, certainly from Mr. Tallis'

14   perspective, that it was established that there

15   was no blood in there either chemically, based on

16   Staff Sergeant Paynter's test, and secondly no

17   evidence that David Milgaard bled into his semen.

18   So, from his perspective, I think Mr. Tallis' view

19   was that it was exculpatory.

20   A   Mr. Tallis' view.

21   Q   Yes.

22   A   But my problem has always been with Mr. Caldwell's

23   view of that evidence, and my view has always been

24   that it was thrown up against a wall and tried,

25   and they tried to make it stick.

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1   Q   Yes. If we could then go to 169913. And with

2   some reluctance I will enter into the issue of the

3   dog urine, Mr. Asper, and Dr. Merry, who we did

4   hear from. This is a memo of May 30th, 1990, and

5   it looks as though you were contacted by a Dr.

6   Merry, who was a hematopathologist at the Health

7   Services Centre who was consulted by Dr.

8   Markesteyn, and conducting tests which he believes

9   will establish:

10   "That human semen is not yellow in the

11   snow, but rather either clear or white,

12   and not visible to the human eye. This

13   likely means that what the police

14   officer found in the snow was urine, and

15   probably urine from some kind of an

16   animal. He believes that certain

17   enzymes found in human urine will give

18   rise to a positive test for human semen,

19   as well as any testing for the presence

20   of antigens."

21   And then:

22   "Assuming that the samples were in fact

23   human semen, there is no evidence

24   whatever to establish the presence of

25   blood, and in the absence of such, the

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1   only conclusion was that the antigens

2   were present in the semen by virtue of

3   secretion, and therefore excludes

4   Milgaard as the donor ...".

5   Again, that last point is similar to what Dr.

6   Ferris said; correct?

7   A   Yes.

8   Q   The dog urine issue is a new one; correct?

9   A   Yes.

10   Q   Can you tell us, umm, elaborate on what your

11   discussion was with Dr. Merry? He was, he was

12   brought into the picture by Dr. Markesteyn; is

13   that right?

14   A   Yes.

15   Q   And ultimately this got a fair bit of play in the

16   media, didn't it, that this might be dog urine, or

17   that it is? It went from it "might be", "could

18   be", "probably", to "it is dog urine", would you

19   agree with that, in the various stages? And I

20   think in fact you, at least from what I have

21   reviewed in the media, said a number of things,

22   including that "it is dog urine", as opposed to

23   "probably". Can you explain what your thoughts

24   were at the time and how this fit into the

25   re-opening?

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1 A Umm, it's -- fell out of the blue. To be

2   perfectly honest, it fell, completely fell out of

3   the blue. It challenged a fundamental aspect, or

4   at least what we felt was a fundamental aspect of

5   the Crown's case, and I think, you know, in

6   hindsight I really don't recall, umm, exactly what

7   we were thinking at the time other than it

8   probably had great publicity value in terms of

9   continuing to discredit the evidence at the trial.

10 Q Okay. Apart from great publicity value, what

11   about value as being information that might prove

12   --

13 A Well, that's what I say.

14 Q -- to --

15 A To discredit the evidence tendered at the trial.

16 Q Okay. But you talked about publicity, let's talk

17   about as far as scientific evidence that might

18   convince the Justice Minister that this frozen

19   sample is dog urine, and therefore might assist

20   you in your efforts?

21 A We'll we had two very well-regarded scientists in

22   Dr. Merry, as quirky as he may be, and Dr.

23   Markesteyn who brought and drew into serious

24   question the integrity of the evidence tendered at

25   David 's trial, and that information was provided

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1   to the Department of Justice.

2   **Q**   And would the focus be, and let's just focus on

3   the dog urine, the fact that it would be dog

4   urine; would that be dependent upon the premise

5   that the frozen semen was actually used to

6   incriminate David Milgaard, in other words used to

7   convict him?

8   *A*   Well, Mr. Hodson, I know you and I have gone back

9   and forth on this. I'm going to tell you I don't

10   believe it's a premise, I believe that the

11   evidence at the trial is clear and unequivocal

12   that Mr. Caldwell believed that the sample was

13   tendered for the purpose of linking David Milgaard

14   to the murder.

15   **Q**   Fair enough. Okay. Let's --

16   *A*   There is no other reason for it being there.

17   **Q**   So let's take that as the premise then.

18   *A*   Okay.

19   **Q**   And I appreciate your point on that. So by saying

20   it's dog urine, then, you would undermine that

21   evidence saying, "evidence used to convict David

22   Milgaard was really dog urine and not his semen"?

23   *A*   Yes.

24   **Q**   Is that --

25   *A*   Yes.

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1   Q   And so I guess the reason I asked the question is

2   because Mr. Tallis, who testified here, he took a

3   different approach and he said, "well, it wasn't

4   used to convict him, in fact I tried to use it to

5   exonerate him". And let me pose you this

6   question. How, when you got this information on

7   the dog urine saying, "okay, it might be dog

8   urine, therefore of no value and shouldn't have

9   been used to convict Mr. Milgaard", how did you

10   rationalize that with Dr. Ferris who came and

11   said, "the frozen semen actually exonerates David

12   Milgaard, in fact if it is from the assailant it

13   actually proves David didn't do it", so on the one

14   hand one expert says "lookit, the frozen semen is

15   from the killer and it's not David", now I've got

16   a guy who says, "oh, that frozen stuff is dog

17   urine", and did it not end up undermining Dr.

18   Ferris' position that it exonerates, or was that a

19   potential? Do you follow what I am --

20   A   Oh, yeah, I follow it. It, yes, it was a

21   potential, but I think at that point it was part

22   of -- it's true that we may have undermined Dr.

23   Ferris. At that point, umm, it was so -- we -- I

24   think we were at the point of discrediting

25   everything.

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1   **Q**   What was the, you talked about the publicity, was

2   the fact of -- that it might be dog urine or it is

3   dog urine, or whatever, did that have a certain

4   value to you in the publicity area that you could

5   use publicly to discredit the case, in other words

6   that --

7   *A*   Umm, I don't -- well, no, I don't think it was so

8   much to discredit the case as it was to, again,

9   try to motivate the public to put pressure on the

10   politicians to give us a hearing.

11   **Q**   And in your experience did the fact that it might

12   be dog urine; was that something that interested

13   the media?

14   *A*   It was very sensational.

15   **Q**   And maybe that was the right word I was looking

16   for was 'sensational'. So was this something,

17   when you got this information, that it was

18   something that was sensational that would get out

19   in the public, and it favoured your client; is

20   that fair?

21   *A*   Yes.

22   **Q**   And now what about the -- were you concerned about

23   proving that it was dog urine?

24   *A*   I believe we asked for the testing to be done to

25   -- in that regard, yes.

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1   Q   And the evidence that we've heard before the

2   Commission, we haven't heard from Dr. Markesteyn

3   yet but we -- if I can summarize it a bit this

4   way, I think Dr. Markesteyn and even Dr. Merry

5   said that first of all they relied upon that the

6   first starting point to get them to the dog urine

7   was because someone described it as a yellowish

8   substance, and --

9   A   Lieutenant Penkala did, yes.

10   Q   And Penkala and Staff Sergeant, he actually

11   described it as a clear or pale yellow, and doctor

12   (sic) Paynter described it in his evidence as a

13   pale yellow or yellowish, and doctor (sic)

14   Paynter's evidence here was that you had to give

15   it a colour, and I think he said it had that

16   tinge.

17   The second thing that the

18   Commission has heard is, I think that in the

19   Markesteyn and Merry reports they say "well this

20   test to prove that it's human, we're not sure if

21   it's done", and Markesteyn said he phoned Paynter

22   or phoned the lab person who said he didn't have

23   his notes. Mr. Paynter has testified here saying

24   "Markesteyn never called me, I do have my notes",

25   and we have his notes, and he says, "yes, I did do

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1   the test and I confirmed that it was human and it

2   was not dog urine", and I think Dr. Merry -- and

3   I'm not even going to try and summarize Dr.

4   Merry's evidence -- umm, but I think we've heard

5   some evidence to suggest that testing was done to

6   exclude the possibility that it's dog urine. Were

7   you -- did you follow up on any of that, or was

8   that uppermost in your mind at the time, or was it

9   sufficient for your purposes that it might be dog

10   urine?

11 A   Well, you know, I -- to be honest, at this point

12   in time this was a side show in terms of the

13   larger events that were going on, this was a side

14   show, it became a circus and was a distraction.

15 Q   And what do you mean by that, 'a side show' and 'a

16   distraction'?

17 A   Because the whole, as I say, the whole

18   sensationalization of dog urine -- and of course I

19   got caught up in it -- but it was a side show. We

20   had Larry Fisher under investigation as well as

21   other very much more important things under way.

22 Q   But if the public were led to --

23 A   Now --

24 Q   Oh, I'm sorry?

25 A   Sorry, and I'll just say that it served a purpose

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1   in terms of the public, but in substantive terms I

2   think it would be fair to say that there were

3   other more important things on our mind.

4   Q   And so, if the public were led to believe that

5   evidence at David Milgaard's trial that was used

6   to convict him was in fact dog urine, that would

7   be something that would cause the public to have

8   concerns about the justice system, is that fair,

9   and the fairness of trial?

10   A   Yes. I'm surprised to hear you say that I

11   actually said definitively that it was dog urine,

12   but the intention was certainly to raise the

13   spectre that it might be.

14   Q   The, there is a number of reports where you say it

15   might be, and we may have the opportunity later,

16   there is a video where I believe your words are

17   that "it came from fido", was in the media report,

18   and other --

19   A   Well I think the full quote was, "the jury might

20   have been interested to know that fido was also at

21   the murder scene", if I'm not correct --

22   Q   Well we --

23   A   -- if I'm not mistaken.

24   Q   Yeah, I'll find it for you a bit later.

25   A   Something like that.

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1   Q   But I think, and on other occasions it was

2   "possibly", "probably", "maybe", and it varied,

3   and various people said different things, and all

4   I'm saying is I don't want to go through all of

5   the media quotes, but in there there was a range

6   of statements from various people as to whether it

7   was or wasn't. And would you agree, at least,

8   that it was raised out there as a good possibility

9   that this could have been dog urine?

10   A   Sure.

11   Q   And, again, would that, to the extent that the

12   public believed that David Milgaard might have

13   been convicted on the basis of dog urine, really

14   on the thinking that the jury was led to believe

15   that it was semen from David Milgaard when in fact

16   it was dog urine, that had value with you in

17   getting the public to say "something is wrong

18   here"?

19   A   Yes.

20   Q   And as far as going to the Justice Department and

21   saying, "here is a ground, here is a fact for the

22   miscarriage of justice", can you tell us whether

23   the significance of the dog urine issue was as

24   prominent in the legal approach you took with the

25   Minister, saying, "here, on the basis of the fact

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1   that this is dog urine, there is a miscarriage of

2   justice"? I'm trying to get some sense of whether

3   this was more of a public relations ground or

4   whether it was actually put forward to the

5   Minister?

6 *A*   Well I think it was put forward to the Minister

7   but, as I say, there were other more -- what I

8   certainly considered more substantive --

9 **Q**   Okay. And I guess when you say, sorry, you put it

10   forward to the Minister, my concern or my question

11   then is, "okay, but you were saying Ferris proves

12   his innocence", that was your front and centre of

13   your first application, "this lump of frozen snow

14   proves David Milgaard is innocent"; to then go to

15   the Minister and say "and it is dog urine", I'm

16   just trying to get you to --

17 *A*   Well, if it is dog urine, it couldn't be David's

18   either.

19 **Q**   Okay. So --

20 *A*   So they're equal, it would lead to the same

21   conclusion.

22 **Q**   And just --

23 *A*   And I will just say that, as I say, there were

24   more substantive issues that we were dealing with

25   in -- evidentiary issues that we were dealing

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1   with, or application-related issues, I should say.

2   This had the effect, there is no question, of

3   creating the sensationalism and laying blows,

4   public relations blows, on the Department of

5   Justice.

6   **Q**   Okay.

7   *A*   And we laid 'em as much as we could.

8   **Q**   And, as well, the Saskatoon City Police, because

9   they are the ones who gathered the evidence

10   presumably?

11   *A*   Collaterally, yes, yeah, of course.

12   **Q**   And the RCMP, who did the lab work, presumably?

13   *A*   Yes, collaterally.

14   **Q**   Yeah. Just back on when you said it led to the

15   same result, and let me just ask you this question

16   because I'm not sure, I think with Dr. Ferris,

17   with his opinion when he says "if it's

18   uncontaminated and it's from the assailant it

19   actually exonerates and proves that David didn't

20   do it", I think that was your position, that it

21   proves that he doesn't do it; if it's dog urine,

22   it's simply taken out of the equation, right?

23   *A*   Yes.

24   **Q**   It doesn't prove that David didn't do it so

25   it's -- would you agree that it was of less value

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1   if it was dog urine than if it was semen that

2   excluded him?

3   A   I, well, I might argue that if it were dog urine

4   and tendered by the Crown as semen, and shown to

5   be dog urine, it might undermine the credibility

6   of the Crown in the eyes of the jury.

7   Q   Okay. But again, as far as proving that David

8   didn't commit the crime, if it's dog urine it

9   wouldn't have that same effect; is that fair?

10 A   That's true, yes.

11 Q   Whereas Dr. Ferris' opinion was, if accepted, that

12   it did?

13 A   That's true.

14 Q   002510. And this is a memo of Mr. Williams to the

15   file, and it looks as though he had communication

16   directly with Markesteyn to getting a copy of the

17   report, and I'm just wondering how -- how that

18   came about or whether you were aware of that?

19 A   I'm sorry, say that again, ask that again?

20 Q   Well, just, it looks from this memo, this is May

21   29th, --

22 A   Yes.

23 Q   -- this is before the report, and it looks like

24   Dr. Markesteyn -- if we can go to the top of the

25   memo -- that Mr. Williams and Dr. Markesteyn

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1   talked, and I don't know who phoned who, but they

2   talked about the report and Dr. Markesteyn said he

3   would send a copy to Mr. Williams, and I was just

4   wondering how it came about that Mr. Williams

5   would be in touch with Dr. Markesteyn before the

6   report came and whether that was something you had

7   --

8   A   I don't recall.

9   Q   333433. Again, this is just another memo May 31,

10   1990, and Markesteyn just says that, lookit, he's

11   sending his report to you, and that Williams said

12   he spoke to you, and you said you'd give him a

13   copy as soon as you got it; is that correct?

14   A   Yes.

15   Q   106948 is a June 1, 1990 letter from Dr. Merry,

16   and I think this is where, the first written

17   report, at least, about the dog urine. And he

18   says:

19   "... I do not believe that the

20   possibility can be excluded that the

21   frozen yellowish substance found near

22   the body of the deceased was dog urine

23   ...",

24   and then goes on to talk about the testing. And

25   so would that be the genesis? This would be

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1   the -- I mean you may have had an earlier phone

2   call, but the idea that it might be dog urine,

3   that came from either Dr. Merry or Dr.

4   Markesteyn; is that correct?

5   A   Yes. I think the night before or a couple of days

6   before I had a phone call from one of the two

7   doctors, umm, I recall the call because the doctor

8   was very excited, umm, umm, screeching, "what's

9   yellow in the snow, what's yellow in the snow",

10   and then went on to tell me what their report was

11   going to conclude, so I had heard where they were

12   headed before this letter arrived.

13   Q   And was that Dr. Merry or Dr. Markesteyn?

14   A   I can't recall.

15   Q   All right.

16   A   I just can't recall.

17   Q   Now they also go to talk about the test, and if we

18   go to the next page, Dr. Merry says:

19   "From the manner in which the test for

20   secretor status was performed it is not

21   possible to be certain if David Milgaard

22   is a secretor or non-secretor of blood

23   group A antigen."

24   And so this is June 1, 1990, and I think Dr.

25   Ferris, I think his evidence before the

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1   Commission was that when he gave his report in

2   September of 1988, that he would have had

3   communication I think either with you or with

4   Mr. Wolch along the same lines, about questioning

5   whether the secretor test done on David Milgaard

6   was proper; do you remember that?

7   A   I don't recall specifically, but that sounds

8   familiar.

9   Q   And so here, June 1, your expert says, "lookit,

10   don't rely on the secretor test they did in 1969";

11   is that correct?

12 A   Yes.

13 Q   And did that cause you any concern?

14 A   No. David had always been prepared to do whatever

15   tests and, you know, submit to any tests that were

16   required.

17 Q   And did you consider having a secretor test done

18   on David at this time, after Dr. Merry gave you

19   the report saying, you know, "don't rely on the

20   old one"; did you consider getting a secretor test

21   done?

22 A   I don't recall. I don't think so.

23 Q   Okay. And why not?

24 A   Don't recall. I --

25 Q   If we can go to 155517.

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1   A   Maybe we ultimately did at the Supreme Court but I

2   can't recall.

3   Q   Right, and I'll get to that, --

4   A   Okay.

5   Q   -- and there is a few other documents that might

6   assist your memory on that. 155517. And this is

7   Dr. Markesteyn's report of June 4th, 1990, and he

8   will be testifying in the next month or two, and

9   we'll go through this in detail with him. Just a

10   couple points. I think you ended up you provided

11   to him the same information that you provided to

12   Dr. Ferris, is that right, the same background

13   information? I think that --

14   A   Or more, yeah.

15   Q   And what Dr. Ferris told us is that he did not get

16   either Mr. Caldwell's closing address to the jury

17   or Mr. Tallis' closing address to the jury; do you

18   remember that, do you take any issue with that?

19   A   I don't take any issue with it, no.

20   Q   And if we can go to the next page. And, again,

21   here is just the part where Dr. Markesteyn says,

22   lookit, I can't, you asked me to comment on the

23   Crown's theory, and he says:

24   "Due to a restriction on my time,

25   compounded by the lack of scale

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1   drawings, ...",

2   he can't do it, declined your request.

3   Then to the next page, he talks

4   about window of opportunity, and it looks as

5   though you asked him to comment on the opinion of

6   how long it would take to commit the assault,

7   undress, alleged rape, partial redressing,

8   etcetera. And I believe this would have been

9   related to your position before the Minister

10   that, lookit, there was not enough time, there

11   was not enough of a window of opportunity. I

12   think what you said to the Minister was, "look,

13   he wasn't even there at the time, but worst-case

14   scenario", I think were your words, "he would not

15   have had enough time to do everything that was

16   done to Gail Miller"; is that fair?

17   A   Yes.

18   Q   And would this be to get his opinion on that

19   subject matter, how long it would take?

20   A   I assume so, yes.

21   Q   And then the next page, actually if we can skip

22   ahead to 155522, and this is where we talk about

23   the seminal stains, and he says:

24   "I share Dr. Ferris' concerns about the

25   integrity and continuity of the samples

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1   of the alleged semen which were

2   recovered on February 4 ... at the

3   scene.",

4   and then goes on to talk about it. So he raises

5   the same concern as Ferris, saying, "lookit, I

6   don't think this is of any value because it's

7   contaminated"; is that correct?

8   A   Yes.

9   Q   And he then goes on to talk about that it may be

10   of canine origin, and sort of ends up saying:

11   "We will never know."

12   And then, if we can scroll down, he actually

13   talks about:

14   "In order to reach a firm scientific

15   conclusion whether the semen retrieved

16   from the snowbank four days after the

17   assault was indeed human one needs to

18   review the methodology used by the

19   serologist at that time and thus one

20   needs to review the notes that were made

21   at that time."

22   And it goes on to say:

23   "I have been informed that the original

24   notes ...",

25   by Paynter:

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1   "... are no longer available."

2   And I think Staff Sergeant Paynter refuted that,

3   but would you be relying on Dr. Markesteyn to be

4   doing what he thought he needed to do on this?

5   A   Yes.

6   Q   And then, the next page, he says:

7   "If this was uncontaminated semen, then

8   this semen cannot possibly be from Mr.

9   Milgaard as he was stated to be an 'A,

10   non-secretor'.",

11   and then goes on to emphasize the point you made

12   earlier, the judge made it quite clear that there

13   was no evidence to show blood. And then he ends

14   up saying here:

15   "I must stress, however, my assumption

16   that Mr. Milgaard is an A, non-secretor

17   is based on the evidence submitted at

18   the trial. This assumption could be

19   subject to challenge. The determination

20   of the non-secretor status of Mr.

21   Milgaard, although perhaps acceptable at

22   that time, would now no longer serve as

23   proof of his non-secretor status."

24   And again, in giving this report to Justice --

25   and I had asked you this question a few minutes

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1   ago -- were you concerned about Justice saying

2   "well, hang on, both of your experts say David

3   may be a secretor, don't rely on the tests

4   before". So in putting forward the Dr. Ferris

5   report and the Markesteyn report and the Merry

6   report, to the extent that you are going down the

7   path of saying, "the sample exonerates him

8   because he's a non-secretor", how did you deal

9   with the fact that two -- that actually all three

10   of your experts, I think, said to you, "but we're

11   not sure if he's a, we're assuming he's a

12   non-secretor based on a test which we're now

13   telling you may not be reliable"?

14   A   Umm, we weren't saying that the test wasn't

15   reliable, the experts questioned whether the test

16   at the time was reliable.

17   Q   Yes.

18   A   Right.

19   Q   No, but I think, yeah, I think what the experts

20   were saying is that at the trial the experts said

21   he was a non-secretor --

22   A   Right.

23   Q   -- but the experts said --

24   A   The current, the new experts were questioning the

25   validity of that test.

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1   **Q**   Yes, they just said --

2   *A*   Yes.

3   **Q**   -- it may not be right?

4   *A*   Yes, that's correct.

5   **Q**   And so my question was when you were putting it

6   forward, because the Markesteyn report went to the

7   Minister as did the Ferris as did the Merry, to

8   say "okay" --

9   *A*   Oh, I see what you are saying. At this point this

10   was a -- this would surely have been of some

11   concern, I think, earlier in the application

12   process. Umm, at this point we believed we had

13   the perpetrator of the crime in Larry Fisher, so

14   it was of less concern.

15   **Q**   Okay.

16   *A*   Or of no concern.

17   **Q**   And so that if the Justice Minister, which she

18   ultimately did, said "look, you are assuming that

19   he's a non-secretor, and initially we don't accept

20   that, but even if we do" -- and we'll get to that

21   in the letter, but that was one of the issues that

22   came back in the response to the first

23   application, didn't it, that "lookit, we don't

24   accept that he's a non-secretor"?

25   *A*   Right.

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1   Q   Next page. And, again, his conclusion was that:

2   "... serological evidence at the trial

3   <u>failed to link</u> ... Milgaard with the

4   semen ...",

5   and:

6   "If, to everyone's satisfaction, it was

7   established that the origin of the

8   yellowish patch was unadulterated,

9   uncontaminated human semen, then the

10   presence of the A-antigen in this

11   specimen clearly, from a serological

12   point of view, <u>could not be Mr.</u>

13   <u>Milgaard's</u>."

14   Did you have any discussions with either Dr.

15   Markesteyn or Dr. Merry around this time about,

16   "lookit, do you really think it's dog urine, or

17   how reliable is this, what further tests should

18   we do?"

19   A   Yes, there was discussion about this, and I

20   believe it was my suggestion that they freeze

21   human semen, that they actually conduct the test,

22   or at least I was certainly -- there was certainly

23   a conversation where that was discussed, because I

24   wanted -- because I knew that it would -- that it

25   had some explosive value, potentially, and I

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1   didn't want it to be a frivolous finding.

2   Q   If we can go to 336785. And Mr. Commissioner,

3   this is the first of the, one of the new

4   transcripts that were added, so parties will not

5   find it on CaseVault yet, and this is tape 102.

6   It says May 17th, I'm -- I'm speculating based on

7   the contents that this is a discussion around June

8   of 1990, and if we can go to page 336796, please.

9   And this is a discussion between you and

10   Mrs. Milgaard and perhaps, it says, Maureen

11   Milgaard, and you're talking about Markesteyn's

12   and Ferris' finding, umm, and 'that could be

13   dynamite', so it may well be before the report is

14   issued but in anticipation of it. I'm not sure it

15   much matters. And you say, 'The problem is

16   ideally, and you know, I talked about this with

17   Hersh, what I would ideally like is for the

18   evidence to be sound, for the integrity to be

19   sound. What we've got now is Markesteyn saying

20   this evidence is junk, this is not even evidence'.

21   And at the bottom, 'Well we have now got', if we

22   can go to the top right, 'No forensic evidence to

23   link him to the scene of the crime and yet, you

24   know, so now you've got to rethink the whole trial

25   without that evidence, or having that evidence but

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1   having it subject to cross-examination.'

2   And I think this touches on the

3   issue that we talked about earlier, and is it

4   correct that you are saying here, lookit, I'd

5   rather have it to be uncontaminated because then

6   it at least proves innocence as opposed to being

7   contaminated, is that --

8   A   Yes.

9   Q   And then if we could just go to the next page, and

10 this might just give us some assistance as to the

11 time frame, it says, 'So you might as well wait

12 and get this report from Markesteyn before even

13 putting to Ferris about the other'.

14   And so would it be fair to say

15 this would be a discussion, you would have heard

16 from Dr. Markesteyn and Dr. Merry about what might

17 be in the report about the dog urine, and is that

18 --

19 A   Yes.

20 Q   -- a fair assumption?

21 A   Yes.

22 Q   And then if we can go to 337073, and for the

23 record this is tape 147, this is a new tape, and I

24 think --

25   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Could I have the

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1   doc. ID, please?

2   MR. HODSON: Oh, I'm sorry, it is 337073.

3   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Thanks.

4   MR. HODSON: Tape 147.

5   BY MR. HODSON:

6   Q   And I believe it is again around the same time,

7   June of 1990, and if we can go to page 337094, and

8   down at the bottom, and you say, 'By the way, as

9   I'm going through this thing, Ferris has a blood

10   sample from David', top right-hand corner, 'And

11   we've got to get Ferris to confirm', you say,

12   'We've got to get Ferris to confirm that he is a

13   secretor, a non-secretor'. 'On January 18, 1988 a

14   blood sample was taken from him and sent to

15   Ferris, what do you think, well of course Ferris

16   is out of town now, yeah, he's on holidays or

17   longer', and then Mrs. Milgaard, 'Well how come

18   Justice has just interviewed him then?'

19   And I think the record shows

20   that Mr. Williams interviewed him on June 12th of

21   1990, and so that's why I think this is around

22   that date.

23   And then scroll down to the

24   bottom right, and she says, 'Well I'm sure', you

25   end up saying, 'Sorry, no, it was for the DNA

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1   testing, he got it so he could extract genetic

2   material'.

3   And just so you know, Mr. Asper,

4   Dr. Ferris testified that he did take blood, but

5   only for DNA, and that he didn't do a secretor

6   test. And then you say -- Mrs. Milgaard says,

7   'Well I'm sure he must have tested the other two,

8   wouldn't you think so', and you say, 'I don't know

9   that that necessarily follows', and Mrs. Milgaard

10   says, 'Well it would follow to me, if I had David

11   Milgaard's blood sample there and I was going by

12   the fact that he was a non-secretor and I was

13   reading it in evidence, I would be checking it to

14   make sure'. You say, 'One would think so then',

15   and then, 'Well then I think the proper procedure

16   would be to ask him'. You say, 'Yeah', and

17   Mrs. Milgaard, 'Did you?', you say, 'Yeah', 'Okay,

18   and if, I mean if they conclusively approve the

19   other way, the point is another question I've

20   often had is if you're once a secretor' and you

21   say, 'Are you always a secretor?', 'Always a

22   non-secretor, do you ever change?', you say, 'No,

23   you don't, although what they're saying now is

24   that', and Mrs. Milgaard, 'With the new

25   technology', and then she says, 'I'm not so

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1   concerned, I mean the way the Markesteyn report

2   reads on that sample it doesn't matter', 'In any

3   event it doesn't matter'. And then Mrs. Milgaard,

4   'But it would be a question you should ask him',

5   'I would agree', 'Okay', and you say, 'All right'.

6   And I'm just wondering if you

7   ever did follow up with Dr. Ferris, then, to get

8   the secretor test done on David?

9   A   I don't -- no, I don't think so.

10   Q   His evidence is that he was not asked to do it.

11   A   Yeah. I don't think so.

12   Q   And then I guess the next question is why not.

13   A   I don't know.

14   Q   If we could then go to 157075, and this is the

15   letter where you communicate Dr. Markesteyn's

16   report to Mr. Williams and this is where you say,

17   the report:

18   "... goes further to suggest that the

19   samples used to link David to the scene

20   of the crime could well have been dog

21   urine, which could have caused the

22   results suggesting the presence of sperm

23   and/or blood. Assuming that these

24   samples were in fact semen, Dr.

25   Markesteyn confirms that they could not

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1   have come from David Milgaard."

2   And then here:

3   "There is a clear perception that it is

4   only in response to public pressure that

5   your Department seems to show any

6   interest in this case. Moreover, the

7   truth of the matter is that the

8   Applicant has had to do all the work

9   with virtually no resources available to

10   him."

11   I'm just wondering if you can elaborate on that

12   comment?

13   A   No, I can't. We had done all the investigation as

14   far as we were aware up to that point and the only

15   time we got any response really from the

16   Department of Justice was when we resorted to the

17   public arena.

18   Q   And I guess that's what -- if you could elaborate

19   or give me some particulars, you say that it's

20   only in response to public pressure that your

21   department seems to show any interest in this

22   case, whether you can recall, whether anything

23   specifically you were referring to at the time.

24   Are you able to --

25   A   I can't recall anything specific.

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1   **Q**   But it was to the effect that whenever you made

2   noise in the media, they did something; was that

3   your perception?

4   *A*   Yes.

5   **Q**   If you can go to 229913, and this is June 6th of

6   1990, so this is two days after the report, and I

7   think this is the *StarPhoenix*, the front page,

8   "Key evidence in conviction called flawed," and I

9   think the second paragraph:

10   "Alleged semen found in the snow at the

11   scene four days after the murder, which

12   was linked to Milgaard, could have been

13   contaminated by dog urine."

14   And then goes on to cite the report. It says:

15   "... investigators failed to eliminate

16   the possibility that the two yellowish

17   frozen lumps were dog urine."

18   And then scroll down:

19   "The evidence doesn't exclude it (as dog

20   urine)," Markesteyn said from Winnipeg."

21   Presumably in an interview.

22   "There are various sources of yellow

23   stains in a snowbank."

24   David Asper, Milgaard's lawyer,

25   is more blunt about the report.

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1   "It concludes that what Penkala

2   found in the snow could very well be dog

3   urine," said Asper."

4   And again, would that be an accurate -- do you

5   have any reason to dispute that that's what you

6   would have said?

7   A   No.

8   Q   And so at this point your position, at least

9   publicly, was lookit, it could well have been

10   or likely -- I'm sorry, it says could very well be

11   dog urine?

12   A   Yes.

13   Q   And Markesteyn at least above seems to be

14   saying --

15   A   Well, that wasn't my conclusion, that was the

16   conclusion of the report.

17   Q   And if you can scroll to the right-hand side:

18   "The report "seriously eliminates the

19   value of the forensic evidence,"

20   according to Asper."

21   And so again just at this time, and I know we've

22   covered this, you are saying okay, this is,

23   eliminates the value of the forensic evidence.

24   Were you in effect, at least publicly, saying

25   okay, well, Ferris, when Ferris says it

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1   exonerates, were you sort of abandoning that

2   pitch or were you going to try and run both

3   horses?

4   *A*   I think we were running both horses, absolutely,

5   and in fact there was a third horse that got

6   introduced to this which was the integrity of the

7   gathering of the sample in the first place which

8   we should have actually, I think in hindsight,

9   played with a little bit more vigour.

10   *Q*   And can you explain that?

11   *A*   The fact that these samples weren't found until

12   four days after the crime had been committed and

13   that the scene had been extensively trampled and

14   contaminated.

15   *Q*   Is that something different than what

16   Dr. Markesteyn and Ferris were saying, is lookit,

17   they are contaminated because the scene was

18   trampled?

19   *A*   No, but Dr. Markesteyn raised that in his report

20   and it was just another aspect that we really

21   hadn't emphasized in my view, and certainly, one

22   that certainly would tend to affect the

23   credibility and the integrity of the samples in

24   their entirety.

25   *Q*   If we can then go to 159853, this is Mr. Lett on

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1   June 6th, the same date, and a couple of quotes

2   here, here's where Dr. Markesteyn says:

3   "I was not convinced myself that enough

4   was done to make sure that it was,

5   indeed, human semen," the top coroner

6   said. "I'm not saying it was dog urine;

7   I'm saying how do you know it isn't? No

8   tests were done to exclude urine."

9   And then down at the bottom Markesteyn said:

10   "... the technology was available in

11   1969 to conclusively analyse the two

12   yellowish spots, but the tests were

13   never performed.

14   Asper said after reading the

15   Markesteyn report it seems entirely

16   likely that his client was convicted

17   partly on the basis of dog urine left in

18   the snow after the murder."

19   And again, would that be an accurate recording of

20   what you would have said at the time or your

21   position at the time?

22   A   I can't say that's an accurate recording. That's

23   not in quotes.

24   Q   Okay. And again, I think you said yesterday that

25   you talked to the media a fair bit and you said

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1   two things, one, I can't tell you what I said on a

2   given occasion, and two, I may have said far more

3   than what was printed?

4   A   Yes.

5   Q   Is that correct?

6   A   Yes.

7   Q   And I'm just wondering generally, what is

8   attributed to you here, would this have been what

9   you were thinking at the time or may have been

10   saying at the time?

11   A   Look, we keep coming back to this, but I'm just

12   going to tell you my view of the evidence was that

13   there were shaky witnesses in Wilson, John and

14   Cadrain, there were latecomers to the party named

15   Melnyk and Lapchuk. The other credible people who

16   testified at David's trial provided evidence that

17   did not link him to the crime and so the only

18   thing of any potential scientific validity,

19   whether it was science or not, was this semen

20   sample, and my view was that it played a very

21   significant role at the trial, and irrespective of

22   the interpretation that either side tried to put

23   on it, I read it as being important, and if you

24   take away the unsavoury witnesses, that's all

25   that's left, and if that piece of evidence is

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1   either exculpatory or of so little value as to be

2   worth nothing, then all you are left with is the

3   unsavoury witnesses.

4   Q Right. And again, and I guess my question was is

5   whether what's reported on June 6th, was that --

6   A And that's my thinking, yes, absolutely.

7   Q Yes.

8   A Absolutely, that was my thinking.

9   Q And so to the extent that it's dog urine, it

10   serves its purpose either way, if it's dog urine

11   or if it's uncontaminated semen, either way it

12   does not connect David Milgaard to the crime?

13 A Well, if it's dog urine it serves a better purpose

14   because it really undermines the credibility of

15   the Crown.

16 Q Okay, let's just pursue that a bit. So the fact

17   that it's dog urine, would your position then be

18   lookit, suggesting that some type of misconduct

19   took place, or was it just an error? I'm not sure

20   what you mean by saying affecting the credibility

21   of the Crown.

22 A If I was a juror and the Crown attorney was asking

23   me to link and convict David Milgaard on the basis

24   of what -- and the Crown was suggesting that this

25   was semen and it were determined that it was

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1   potentially dog urine, I would look with a

2   jaundiced eye at everything else the Crown

3   attorney was telling me.

4 Q Let's skip ahead though to the re-opening which is

5   where this information comes out, in 1990.

6 A Right.

7 Q And I just want you to explain -- you said that

8   the value of it being dog urine was in addition to

9   that it wasn't a link, it also undermined the

10   investigation, and my question was were you, did

11   you see the fact that it might be dog urine or

12   that it was dog urine as somehow tainting the rest

13   of the investigation?

14 A Whose investigation?

15 Q The police investigation.

16 A The original investigation?

17 Q Yes.

18 A Potentially, yes.

19 Q And so that you might say to the public lookit, he

20   was convicted on dog urine, you know, don't you

21   think that that -- that if there's a problem

22   there, there's a problem elsewhere. Do you

23   follow?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Is that what you were --

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1   *A*   Yes.

2   **Q**   -- alluding to?

3   *A*   That was part of our theme overall, which was --

4   that was part of our theme overall.

5   **Q**   And so again on the dog urine thing, one scenario

6   could have been if it was dog urine, that there

7   was some mistake in the lab or the testing, I

8   hesitate to use the word innocent mistake, but

9   something was mistaken along the way or something

10   deliberate?

11   *A*   Yes.

12   **Q**   And what was your thinking on that issue?

13   *A*   I wouldn't have had a view on what was in the mind

14   of the offeror of the evidence, what was in my

15   mind was that the evidence was such a mess that it

16   was, that we were certainly justified at this

17   point to go back and have a court look at it.

18   **Q**   Okay. I'm sorry, maybe I didn't ask the question

19   well.

20   *A*   I wasn't ascribing motive to the Crown or to the

21   police or to anybody else.

22   **Q**   But was it a case of saying okay, you had already

23   called into question the conduct of the police in

24   the investigation prior to this time?

25   *A*   Yes.

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1   Q   And the conduct of the prosecutor, that had

2   already been called into question?

3   A   I'm not sure about that.

4   Q   Okay. But certainly the investigation, the work

5   done?

6   A   I know there's a quotation that has been referred

7   to with earlier witnesses that purports to call

8   into question the conduct of the Crown. I don't

9   read it that way.

10   Q   And, I'm sorry, I'm not sure what you are

11   referring to.

12   A   This is a quote, I believe it's a Dan Lett quote

13   regarding the Wilson statement, the disclosure of

14   the Wilson statement, where it's asserted that I

15   alleged misconduct of the Crown in that

16   circumstance.

17   Q   Okay, and we'll get to that.

18   A   Yeah.

19   Q   But again, just back, let's talk about the police,

20   was the fact that it might be dog urine, did that

21   assist your position, at least in the public

22   domain, of saying lookit, the police did not do a

23   good job in this investigation, here's another

24   component, and sort of have that impact?

25   A   Yes.

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1   **Q**   If we can now turn to the interviews of witnesses,

2   and again I want to talk about May of 1990, and it

3   appears that at some point in May of 1990 a

4   decision was made by your group, if I can call it

5   that, and I mean you and Mr. Wolch and Mrs.

6   Milgaard, David Milgaard and I think Paul

7   Henderson and McCloskey, whoever was involved, but

8   a decision was made to interview the three main

9   Crown witnesses, Cadrain, John and Wilson; is that

10   correct?

11   *A*   Yes.

12   **Q**   And I think as well the documents suggest maybe

13   Melnyk and Lapchuk, although I don't think that

14   happened until later, I think Paul Henderson or

15   McCloskey said lookit, let's interview them as

16   well?

17   *A*   Yes.

18   **Q**   And what prompted that decision, why May of 1990

19   that you had decided to go interview those

20   witnesses?

21   *A*   I guess by that point we had expected that it

22   would have been done by the Department of Justice.

23   We had provided them with the Fisher information

24   and weren't satisfied with the pace with which it

25   was being digested by the Department of Justice,

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1   we were not getting to any sort of conclusion and

2   we decided to just pull out all the stops, and we

3   had abandoned any thought that Justice was going

4   to work with us earlier and I guess I'm not sure

5   why that particular time.

6 **Q** And I guess, and you may have touched on this

7   earlier, but why the interviews wouldn't have been

8   done before you filed your initial application?

9 *A* We thought that that's what Justice would do.

10 **Q** So you thought Justice would interview the three

11   in May of 1990, you decided, okay, well, they

12   hadn't or they weren't or whatever, now we're

13   going to go do it; is that correct?

14 *A* Yes.

15 **Q** Now, as far as the application itself, I think the

16   initial application raised issues, at least one of

17   the grounds put forward is a miscarriage of

18   justice was the Nichol John statement and we went

19   through that and your initial letter said lookit,

20   her statement wasn't evidence, we can prove that

21   it's actually impossible, but we're not. Justice

22   comes back and says give us what you've got and

23   you respond saying okay, here's why her statement

24   isn't valid, so the Nichol John statement, the May

25   24th statement was part of the application;

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1   correct?

2   A   Yes.

3   Q   And it does not appear that there was anything

4   explicit or express in the application to the

5   minister that, at least at this time, May of '90,

6   that said Albert Cadrain's evidence or Ron

7   Wilson's evidence is a ground put forward as being

8   a miscarriage of justice; is that fair?

9   A   That's true.

10   Q   So you hadn't said Justice, one of the grounds of

11   our application is Cadrain had psychological

12   problems and lied and Wilson lied, I mean, they

13   weren't specifically there; is that fair?

14   A   That's true.

15   Q   And notwithstanding that, I think you've told us,

16   maybe just confirm, that even though that wasn't

17   part of the application expressly, you expected

18   that Federal Justice would interview those people?

19   A   Yes.

20   Q   And can you just elaborate on why you thought

21   that?

22   A   It was my view that if the Department of Justice

23   were interested in determining whether there had

24   been a miscarriage of justice in David's case, it

25   would take what I considered to be the very basic

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1   steps of interviewing all of the witnesses or

2   certainly the key witnesses, and that would have

3   been Nichol, Ron and Albert and Melnyk and

4   Lapchuk.

5   Q   And again, I think we've heard evidence that Mrs.

6   Milgaard had, and I think you indicated you had

7   them as well, transcripts and tapes of interviews

8   of all of these people, Melnyk, Lapchuk, Albert

9   Cadrain, Nichol John and Ron Wilson that had been

10   conducted in the early '80s. I asked you this

11   question with respect to Nichol John, but with

12   respect to those five witnesses, was there any

13   reason that you did not provide those tapes and

14   transcripts to the minister in December of 1988

15   when you filed your application, saying here's

16   what they told us, do with it what you will?

17   A   I don't recall why that decision was made.

18   Q   And let's just talk generally, and I'll go through

19   some documents with you, but what was your, again

20   at this time we're going to go interview them and

21   I think Paul Henderson ended up being the person

22   chosen to go interview; is that correct?

23   A   Yes.

24   Q   What was your objective or what were you trying to

25   get from these people?

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1   A   Well, in a perfect world we would have gotten

2   clear and complete recantations of the

3   incriminating evidence that they provided at the

4   trial and in so doing an admission that they had

5   lied.

6   Q   And before Mr. Henderson went out to see Wilson,

7   Cadrain and John, in your mind, Mr. Asper, had you

8   concluded that they had lied at trial certainly

9   with respect to the incriminating evidence?

10   A   Yes.

11   Q   And did you have any thoughts as to what had

12   prompted them to lie?

13   A   Yes.

14   Q   And what were they?

15   A   That the police had assisted them in their

16   recollection of the events.

17   Q   Assisted meaning what?

18   A   I don't know necessarily. I wasn't prepared to

19   make any kind of conclusions about the nature of

20   the assistance, but somehow these people went

21   from -- somehow these people went to incriminating

22   David and if David didn't commit the crime,

23   something helped them along the way.

24   Q   Let's just talk a moment about Albert Cadrain for

25   a moment. I think the critical part of his

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1   evidence was his observation of what he thought

2   was blood on David's pants; is that correct?

3   A   Yes.

4   Q   And had you given any thought that there might be

5   an explanation of that evidence, that he could

6   have been truthful and yet, and that be consistent

7   with David not having committed the crime; namely,

8   that he saw something that looked like blood, or

9   that it was blood but completely unrelated to Gail

10   Miller?

11   A   No, because David always maintained that he did

12   not have blood on his pants.

13   Q   Okay.

14   A   There was a, there was an explanation that at one

15   point David had offered which was that in getting

16   the battery for the car in Regina, he had spilled

17   some battery acid on his clothes or something to

18   that effect.

19   Q   And again, just going into these interviews, and

20   what we know from the record is that in 1981 Ron

21   Wilson was interviewed twice by telephone by Joyce

22   Milgaard and we've played the tape and saw the

23   transcript and I think in those interviews -- you

24   would have looked at those at some point did you?

25   A   At some point, yes.

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1   Q   And I think I saw you describe them somewhere as

2   being, he was very close to recanting at that

3   point; is that --

4   A   It looked like it, yeah.

5   Q   That he was -- he looked favourable at that point?

6   A   Looked like it, yeah.

7   Q   And I think the Nichol John evidence, the

8   interview with Tony Merchant and Mrs. Milgaard,

9   you would have read that as well?

10 A   At some point, yeah.

11 Q   And I think in that interview we've read it and

12   heard it as well, that she continued to say that I

13   don't recall specifically that time frame, but I

14   would have told the police the truth or something

15   to that effect; is that fair?

16 A   Yes.

17 Q   That it wasn't favourable to your position; is

18   that --

19 A   Right.

20 Q   And third, that the Albert Cadrain interview by

21   Peter Carlyle-Gordge in 1983, which I think he

22   stuck to his evidence at trial and was quite, I

23   think, adamant about his evidence, and so that was

24   not favourable; is that fair?

25 A   Right.

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1   Q   So how did you -- you said in an ideal world you

2   would get all three of them to recant, and how did

3   you think that might happen?

4   A   We tested a whole bunch of different approaches

5   and I discussed this both with Joyce and with Paul

6   Henderson as to how to approach these particular

7   witnesses and in the end we left it to Paul, Paul

8   Henderson to make the approach and to have the

9   discussion and to try to give them an opportunity

10   to come clean basically.

11 Q   Did you give any thought to inviting either Eugene

12   Williams or Sergeant Pearson to go with Mr.

13   Henderson to participate in the interview, the

14   initial interview?

15 A   No.

16 Q   And, sorry, I asked that question badly. You

17   didn't consider. Was it something that you

18   thought of and said no, we're not going to do

19   that, or is it something that never came to mind?

20 A   No, we did not consider that.

21 Q   And again, was that something that you might have

22   considered in hindsight or would you have -- if

23   someone would have raised it at the time, lookit,

24   let's get a police officer or someone from Federal

25   Justice to come and be there in case we get

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1   something good?

2   A   We might have considered that, but I don't recall

3   it.

4   Q   I want to go through some of the documents that

5   touch on this issue. The first one is 336785, is

6   the doc ID, again this is tape 102 and I think it

7   says May 17th, and go to page 336792, and down at

8   the bottom, this is a discussion I think between

9   you and Mrs. Milgaard about who you are going to

10   get, and I'll just go through parts of this, but

11   it's whether you get Paul Henderson, McCloskey or

12   someone local, and Mrs. Milgaard says, 'Well, I

13   have really given it a lot of thought and, like,

14   Paul is not an impressive figure, as far as I'm

15   concerned. I think that, with Jim, he would have

16   been great by himself, like, my own assessment,

17   and I'm being very truthful, David, is everything

18   that I did up there I could have done on my own

19   without Paul.'

20   And I think that's referring to

21   the Linda Fisher interview; is that right?

22   A   I don't know.

23   Q   And did you have concerns about Paul Henderson

24   after the Linda Fisher interviews? Do you

25   remember anything about that?

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1   *A*   I don't recall having concerns about him, no.

2   **Q**   And then the top right-hand page and as well

3   there's some further discussion, Mrs. Milgaard

4   says, 'The other concern that I have is that if we

5   have him up, like, I realize Jim is going to pay

6   him, but my thought was that if we got someone in

7   Saskatoon maybe they would have better

8   connections, like, in finding people and

9   everything there.'

10   And it would appear that one of

11   the issues discussed was do we get someone local

12   or do we bring in Paul, or bring in Centurion

13   Ministries?

14   *A*   Right.

15   **Q**   And then if we can go to the next page, and again

16   the parts I've skipped over are further

17   discussions about who might come in. If we can

18   just actually scroll up a bit, you say, 'I know

19   exactly who I would love to get to go and do this,

20   but they are two, they are active police officers

21   in Winnipeg and I don't know if they would do it,'

22   and you -- scroll down, you say, 'These are the

23   two smoothest guys in the whole world. They get

24   blood from a stone, and I've seen how they

25   operate, and they can play the game, and they're

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1   smart. They are real smart.' And etcetera.

2   Go to the next page, 'And if you

3   tell them what you want they will get it, even if

4   what they were getting is a lie, they'll get it.'

5   Mrs. Milgaard, 'Oh, well, we don't want that.'

6   'Well, listen, we don't know that it's a lie,

7   first of all.' 'No, but I mean --' and then you

8   say, 'But, I mean, if you get Cadrain saying of

9   course I didn't say anything, I was afraid that

10   Fisher was gonna kill me, we take that down and we

11   run with it, whether it's true or not, because,

12   you know, how are we going to know whether it's

13   true or not.' Mrs. Milgaard, 'Well, I think the

14   only way, we've just got to be very truthful in

15   everything. His number is 985 --' and scroll

16   down, Mrs. Milgaard, 'Make any mileage for herself

17   by lying or taking lies.' You say, 'No, I'm

18   saying if we get a statement from these people, we

19   don't know whether they are telling the truth or

20   not.' Mrs. Milgaard, 'I realize that, but, you

21   know, anyhow, I mean, if they say, they give us a

22   statement denying that there was any impropriety,

23   how do we know that that's the truth?' 'I see

24   what you are saying.' 'Well, you know, so, you

25   know, we're not sitting as judge on these

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1   statements so that, you know, whoever we send

2   there we say, we tell them up front what our

3   theory is, I mean, we have to because they don't

4   know anything about the case.'

5   I'm wondering if you can just

6   elaborate on that discussion, Mr. Asper, and

7   explain what your thinking was?

8   A   Well, as I say, we were brainstorming and bouncing

9   all kinds of ideas. The point here was, and I was

10   trying to explain to Joyce, that if Paul went in

11   and got a statement from these witnesses and they

12   were, and they were lies -- if they were

13   factual -- in fact determined to be lies, that we

14   wouldn't know that they were lies until a judge

15   had adjudicated that they were lies, but this

16   was -- I have to say this was sophistry with Mrs.

17   Milgaard because it was just, it was simply sort

18   of trying to sort out what the outcome might be of

19   these witness statements.

20   Q   And would it be a case of saying okay, well, if we

21   get from Cadrain, for example, saying I didn't say

22   anything, I was afraid Fisher was going to kill me

23   and that you knew that was a lie, that you would

24   still be able to use the statement?

25   A   Well, no, my point was we're not in a position to

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1   know whether it's a lie or not.

2   Q   And so if you got a statement that was

3   unfavourable, though, which you had in the past,

4   you said, well, lookit, that is a lie and you said

5   Nichol John's statement is a lie, right, you would

6   be in a position, you were in a position to say

7   lookit, that's a lie?

8   A   Well, we would decide, I would assume we would

9   decide what to do and how to interpret the

10   statements after we got the statements, but this

11   was sophistry, this was going back and forth with

12   Joyce in an hypothetical sense.

13   Q   And again these are your words, I want you to --

14   was it a case of you saying lookit, if we get a

15   favourable statement, whether it's true or not may

16   not matter, because we're not the judges of truth,

17   but we'll be able to use it; is that a fair

18   reading of it?

19   A   Yes, yes, that's true. And I have to say that I

20   was, you know, I -- and I have seen this

21   transcript. I think it's entirely possible that I

22   was motivated, at this point, by being prepared to

23   serve up to the Department of Justice what, in my

24   view, was served up to the jury for a meal at the

25   trial of David Milgaard.

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1   Q   Meaning what; a lie?

2   A   Lies.

3   Q   And so that, if you got what you knew to be a lie

4   from Albert Cadrain that assisted David Milgaard,

5   you were prepared to give that to Federal Justice

6   to assist in the re-opening?

7   A   I think it was in my mind.

8   Q   Yeah. And is that, in fact, what happened?

9   A   Umm, no.

10   Q   And how, how do you know that?

11   A   No, because I -- because when Paul Henderson went

12   to get the statements he was under no instructions

13   from us other than to obtain a statement, get what

14   these people said, and we would turn it over to

15   the Department of Justice.

16   Q   And so again just on this point, was your

17   thinking, and I say this was on your mind, the

18   fact that you felt that lies had convicted David

19   Milgaard, that if, for example that if Albert

20   Cadrain ended up giving you a favourable statement

21   that you thought might have been a lie or had a

22   good idea it might be a lie, but if it was

23   favourable, it was a thought in your mind that

24   "okay, well, if it can assist David Milgaard I'm

25   prepared to use it"; is that correct?

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1   A   In -- for the purpose of this discussion, yes, for

2   the purpose of the discussion that you have cited

3   to me, and I think probably beyond that, I was of

4   a mind to consider that.

5   Q   And then, if we can just go to the next page, I

6   think this is --

7   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: I just want to be

8   sure I understand you. You say -- are you

9   telling me that you were prepared to consider

10   using the statement which you knew to be a lie in

11   support of the Section 690 application?

12   A   No. That's the point. I -- umm, we -- the point

13   was we wouldn't know, we couldn't know if they

14   were lies, we couldn't make that finding, but we

15   were prepared to take what we got, whether it was

16   ultimately a lie or not. But not knowingly submit

17   a lie.

18   BY MR. HODSON:

19   Q   But again, if I could just ask, when you say you

20   couldn't know whether it's a lie or not, what

21   would the difference be between you looking at

22   Albert Cadrain's statement in 1990 and saying, "I

23   can't tell if it's a lie or not", versus you

24   looking at Nichol John's May 24th, '69 statement

25   and saying, "well I know that's a lie "?

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1   *A*   Because, in my opinion, her statement in May of

2   1969 was not physically possible.

3   **Q**   Okay. So that, again, if you have got an Albert

4   Cadrain statement in 1990 you would do some

5   analysis in your own mind to say "well is that

6   feasible, is that true"?

7   *A*   Yes, absolutely, absolutely.

8   **Q**   And, but again, and if you concluded, "you know

9   what, it doesn't smell of being truthful, I don't

10   think it checks out, but I'm still prepared to use

11   it, I may still be prepared to use it to assist

12   David"; is that what you are saying?

13   *A*   Yes.

14   **Q**   And then you go back and say, well, you could,

15   "because how would I know if it's a lie or not?"

16   *A*   Yes.

17   **Q**   I guess that's the question. On the one hand you

18   are saying "some statements I can tell, but other

19   statements I can tell, but really I can't tell"?

20   *A*   Yes. I mean let's just be clear, though, I mean

21   in -- on the specifics facts here. Cadrain

22   implicated Milgaard by saying there was blood on

23   his pants. If, if Cadrain were to say, "I didn't,

24   I lied, I didn't see blood on his pants", how am I

25   supposed to -- how are we supposed to know whether

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1   that was a lie? Because if that was the truth

2   then by definition, you well know the problem, and

3   we've got into the problem with Wilson at the

4   Supreme Court. If, if Cadrain says that he didn't

5   see blood on Milgaard's pants, that means that he

6   lied at the trial.

7 Q If you can just go back a page earlier, and I

8   think where we are still -- is your comment here,

9   you say, 'even if what they're getting is a lie',

10   which presupposes that you know what you have got

11   is a lie, and I think that's the question. I

12   suppose if Albert Cadrain said, "lookit, I really

13   did see blood, but I'm prepared to give you a

14   statement that says I lied and I didn't see

15   blood" --

16 A I would not have used the statement under those

17   circumstances. No chance.

18 Q Okay. We'll maybe come back to this a bit later.

19   If we can go to the next page.

20 A I want to be clear about that, Mr. Commissioner,

21   because you asked about that.

22   If Cadrain had openly offered to

23   lie to support our case, and we knew about it, no

24   chance.

25 Q I guess that the question, then, is what, what

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1   statements, if you thought they were lies, would

2   you use?

3   *A*   I wouldn't use statements that I thought to be

4   lies.

5   *Q*   Okay. I, and I'm sorry, I thought you had said

6   earlier that if you got a statement, I think you

7   said that "if we" --

8   *A*   No, no, no, you're -- use present and future

9   tense.

10 *Q*   Okay.

11 *A*   A statement that I receive today, I can believe

12   it's true and accurate, that is later judged to be

13   false, which means that the statement, when I got

14   it, was as false as it was when it was later

15   judged to be false, I don't know that it's false

16   when I get it.

17 *Q*   Okay. And I think, when we started down this

18   path, I think what you said is that you were

19   prepared to use what was put before the jury?

20 *A*   What we got.

21 *Q*   What was used, put before the jury in David

22   Milgaard's trial, and then I think you said

23   "lies"?

24 *A*   Yes.

25 *Q*   And so then that's how we got down this. And then

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1   I thought I heard you say that yes, if there was a

2   statement that you thought was a lie that didn't

3   sort of pass the smell test, that you were

4   prepared to use that because, and I think what you

5   said was the sophistry was, "well who am I to say

6   whether it is true or not, I got it", and --

7   A   No, no, I'm not saying -- I'm not -- I'm not

8   stating myself clearly.

9   If we received a statement from

10   Cadrain that we believed was an outright lie in

11   1990, we weren't going to submit it. The

12   discussion here with Joyce was a hypothetical

13   discussion about what to do with statements that

14   were lies, that were actual lies that we

15   determined, that we could see were lies, or

16   whether we would try to elicit lies from

17   witnesses.

18   Q   Okay.

19   A   And we didn't do that.

20   Q   If we can just go, again, to the end of this

21   discussion, is I think you end up saying, 'I want

22   the world's best statement-taker, that's who I

23   want, and it's actually funny, Hersh, Hersh has

24   been sort of letting his mind', and then the tape

25   ends.

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1   So, again, would that have

2   been -- was a decision then made to get Paul

3   Henderson, was he considered --

4   A   I assume so. I don't know.

5   Q   If we can go to 337359. This is tape 176, and it

6   says May of 1990, I think it's around the same

7   time. And if we can go to the next page, and I

8   think there is a similar discussion here, Mr.

9   Asper, I'll just go through it, about McCloskey,

10   and I'm not sure if this is before or after the

11   earlier discussion, it's on a different tape. And

12   you say, 'In my view it would be great, and I

13   don't know how open he is to this' -- and I think

14   you are talking about McCloskey or Henderson, 'But

15   it would be a very positive starting point for

16   them to have a chat with Cadrain and get a

17   statement from Cadrain to the ex -- sort of

18   saying, I mean I was talking to Hersh about this

19   and, you know, I mean it would be just wonderful

20   if we could get a statement from Cadrain saying

21   'yeah, I knew it was Fisher, lived in the

22   basement, you know, I didn't want to say anything

23   about it because I figured he'd kill me', you

24   know, something like that, and then 'I saw Fisher

25   come home with blood on him', you know, something

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1   like that', Mrs. Milgaard says, 'Well that would

2   be nice', you say, 'And then 'and that, you know,

3   when the cops came and asked me about Milgaard,

4   you know, it was easy for me to get off the hook

5   with Fisher by just pointing it at Milgaard'',

6   Mrs. Milgaard 'wouldn't that be great', 'okay',

7   and then you say, 'So I mean you can even lead

8   him to believe that, even if he's lying, you

9   know, you can, you can have a chat with him to

10   plant the story in his mind, you know, to give

11   him an easy out from the questioning with

12   McCloskey and, you know, I'm going say that to

13   Jim'. Scroll down. 'But I think, you know, the

14   other thing is that Wilson should be seen, and

15   Nichol if possible, that's a big jump in

16   geographic location.'

17   And, again, can you elaborate

18   on that discussion, Mr. Asper?

19 A   Yes. We were playing out questioning scenarios as

20   to how to approach these witnesses and to test

21   their recollection, to prod their recollection,

22   that's all we're doing here.

23 Q   And the part here, here you say, 'Lead him to

24   believe that even if he's lying and plant the

25   story in his mind'.

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1   Would that be the story that

2   "lookit, here is your out, Mr. Cadrain, if you say

3   it was really Fisher and you saw Fisher with blood

4   and you were scared of him, plant that idea in his

5   mind so that it would be easy for him to say "yes,

6   I lied, and here's the reason", even if what you

7   planted in his mind wasn't true?

8   A   Yes. This was part of, this was part of a larger

9   discussion that we had far beyond this limited

10   telephone conversation, which is that if we're

11   correct, if we were correct and for whatever

12   reason Wilson, John and Cadrain had not spoken the

13   truth at the trial, they may need a re -- they may

14   need an explanation as to why they did that,

15   because the consequences were so serious, and so

16   we were constantly playing out different scenarios

17   as to how, how they might explain away what they

18   did.

19   Q   And was one of the things you discussed is

20   planting or giving them an out?

21   A   Yes.

22   Q   In other words --

23   A   Yes.

24   Q   And even if the out wasn't true, giving it to them

25   so it would be easier for them to recant?

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1   *A*   Yes.

2   **Q**   And is that what happened?

3   *A*   I don't think so, no.

4   **Q**   Okay. Well how, what, was it -- from the

5   discussion stage, and I think there was some

6   discussion with Mr. Henderson, what happened

7   between this discussion and what Mr. Henderson did

8   then?

9   *A*   Well, I wasn't there, but my understanding is Mr.

10   Henderson went and basically had a preliminary

11   conversation with these witnesses, I wasn't there

12   for that conversation, and then took a statement

13   as a narrative.

14   **Q**   And so if, for example, Mr. Cadrain would have

15   said, "okay, I lied at trial and the reason I lied

16   is because I saw Mr. Fisher with blood, and he

17   came home that night and I was scared, and when

18   the police came it was easy for me to say

19   Milgaard", and if he had given you that type of

20   statement and you knew that the explanation wasn't

21   correct, is that something you would have used in

22   your efforts?

23   *A*   Umm, I can't tell you. I mean that's

24   hypothetical, I'm -- I can't tell you.

25   **Q**   Okay.

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1   A   I doubt it, but I can't tell you that one way or

2   the other.

3   Q   Well here you are saying it would be great if you

4   could get this, and so you are saying, "if we

5   could get Albert Cadrain, if we could, if we could

6   give him this out about saying it's Fisher", would

7   it being fair to say that if you could get that,

8   that you would use it, or are you saying no, you

9   don't think so?

10   A   I don't think so. And I have to say, Mr. Hodson,

11   that this -- this -- these 15 lines of

12   conversation are taken within a broader context of

13   conversations that were occurring within our

14   office among counsel, between investigators that

15   we were talking to just in the course of our daily

16   work, and it was a constant process of trying to

17   evaluate how to approach these witnesses and what

18   approaches to take.

19   Q   Okay.

20   A   And so, you know, I think you have to put that

21   into -- this into a much larger context.

22   Q   Okay. And so tell me more about who else was

23   involved in the discussions, and what else was

24   discussed, and what other considerations or ideas,

25   strategies, were discussed?

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1   A   I would say that every senior lawyer in our firm

2   was involved with the, with the discussions.

3   There were several friends who were helping us in

4   the investigation, friends of Mrs. Milgaard, who

5   we would brainstorm with.

6   Q   And again, just so that I'm clear, on the narrow

7   issue of how to approach Cadrain, Wilson and John?

8   A   Yes.

9   Q   And would it be focused on what strategies should

10   be used in questioning these people?

11   A   Umm, I'm not sure it was focused on specific

12   questioning strategy as it was more psychology of

13   how to approach them.

14   Q   Were you kind of --

15   A   To dislodge them from fairly fixed positions.

16   Q   Did you have any discussions or any, or was any

17   consideration or concern expressed that if, for

18   example, you got a recantation, but that in

19   getting the recantation a lie was planted with the

20   witness, for example, or the witness made a

21   statement that was later proven to be untrue, that

22   that might somehow taint the recantation?

23   A   Absolutely.

24   Q   And tell me about those discussions?

25   A   Well we -- notwithstanding the, sort of the wide

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1   breadth of discussion that we had as to how to

2   approach these witnesses, we were pretty conscious

3   of the fact that if we were successful in having

4   them change their evidence it would have profound

5   importance and, umm, and we wanted the statements

6   to be credible and have high, a high level of

7   integrity.

8   Q   Okay. And that if that's the case, then, I'm just

9   wondering about the, umm, I guess the comments

10   here, then, about even if they're lying and to

11   plant -- and just go down to the bottom -- about

12   planting the story in his mind. Did you not have

13   concerns that if -- I guess if -- let me put it

14   this way; if what was discussed here on this page

15   in fact was utilized in getting the statement from

16   Cadrain or Wilson, would you agree that that might

17   jeopardize the validity of that statement and its

18   credibility?

19   A   Yes, Mr. Hodson, and it wasn't used.

20   Q   Okay. And if we can go to 156873. And just to

21   follow up, this, it looks like May 22nd you wrote

22   to Robinson Investigations to find them, and again

23   there is a letter 156871 -- and, sorry, I don't

24   mean to have that -- the last letter I had up said

25   "here's Wilson, John, Cadrain, and here's the

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1   information we had", and here is Robinson

2   Investigation that gave information about where

3   these people were. It looks like on May 22nd you

4   asked them to look for the witnesses, and I think

5   Paul Henderson interviewed Dennis Cadrain on May

6   26th, Ron Wilson on June the 4th, and tried -- or

7   got ahold of Nichol John's father on June 7th or

8   8th, and is it fair to say that there wasn't a

9   problem in locating these three witnesses?

10 A   That's true.

11 Q   I shouldn't say "a problem", but --

12 A   Yeah, that's true.

13 Q   And, in fact, here -- and I think we see this in

14   Mr. Henderson's interview with Ron Wilson -- they

15   tracked him down in Nakusp, B.C. And he says:

16   "I contacted Kal Tire ... and the phone

17   was answered by Dale Wilson. I then

18   confirmed I had the right Ronald Dale

19   Wilson and then convinced him to give me

20   his home phone number so he could be

21   called at home."

22   Next page:

23   "Dale stated he didn't really want to

24   talk to anyone but gave me his home

25   phone number ... and stated he is off

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1   Mondays if anyone wants to get ahold of

2   him."

3   And I think that's in fact what happened, Mr.

4   Henderson went there on a Monday, and I think Mr.

5   Wilson was in part expecting him; is that --

6   based on Robinson's initial contact with him; is

7   that correct?

8   A   Yes, yes.

9   Q   This is probably an appropriate spot to break, Mr.

10   Commissioner.

11   *(Adjourned at 2:57 p.m.)*

12   *(Reconvened at 3:17 p.m.)*

13   BY MR. HODSON:

14   Q   If we could call up 337359, please. And this is

15   tape, I think, 176, and if we can go to page

16   337378, it says May 20th on the date, 337378, and

17   I think it is around May 20th. It's also, there's

18   some reference in here to the Victoria Day May

19   long weekend in the discussions with Mr.

20   Henderson, so I think it's around that time, Mr.

21   Asper. So it would be right, I think right, May

22   22nd is when you wrote to the private

23   investigators and May 26th is when Mr. Henderson

24   first met with Dennis Cadrain, so I think this is

25   right, right around the time these things were

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1   being set up. Umm, and there is a discussion here

2   about who's going to go with Mr. Henderson,

3   whether it's Joyce Milgaard, and there's one

4   reference here, umm, I think Mrs. Milgaard wanted

5   to go, you say, 'You know, you won't even pick it

6   up. The other thing is I suppose Paul, and

7   you're, you know, you're the pro at obtaining

8   statements here, psychologically my sense is that

9   these people may not particularly feel comfortable

10   admitting to shafting David in front of David's

11   mother', 'Right'.

12   So, again, would that be one of

13   the discussions, again, about who goes and who's

14   at the statement, what's the best scenario to get

15   these interviews done?

16   A Yes.

17   Q And so that was one of the considerations that I

18   take it was discussed but said, "no, we're not

19   gonna send Joyce Milgaard with Paul Henderson"; is

20   that right?

21   A Yes.

22   Q And then I think as well, we'll see it a bit

23   later, there was some reference to Dan Lett

24   possibly going; was that discussed?

25   A Yes.

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1   Q   And I think, just further down -- and -- and what

2   was the thinking there? I mean that didn't

3   happen, but what was the thinking, there, of

4   having Dan Lett go with Paul Henderson?

5   A   I don't recall specifically, other than I'm

6   guessing that we wanted to have a witness, and I

7   -- another party there to witness the

8   circumstances of the taking of the statement.

9   Q   And so what would be your concern if you didn't

10   have someone there to witness the circumstances?

11   A   That it would be the witness' word against Paul's

12   if there was some --

13   Q   I see.

14   A   -- dispute.

15   Q   And, again, so Dan Lett, that would have been one

16   person to go as being someone who was not in the

17   Milgaard group that could go and observe?

18   A   Yes.

19   Q   If we can go to the next page, and again this

20   looks to be a three-way call between you and

21   Mrs. Milgaard and Paul Henderson, did -- do you

22   recall if -- was it a three-way phone call, or

23   were you present with Mrs. Milgaard on the phone

24   and Mr. Henderson was on the other line; do you

25   remember?

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1   A   Mr. Hodson, I don't recall these phone calls

2   specifically.

3   Q   Okay. Were you aware that you were being taped by

4   Mrs. Milgaard?

5   A   No.

6   Q   If we go down to the bottom, here, and

7   Mrs. Milgaard says, 'But the major one that we

8   need is Cadrain', and you say, 'I think, you know,

9   and Paul, I think that the first person that we

10   should go to is Cadrain. I think that he's

11   probably the most likely to respond, umm, to the

12   new scenario, that being, quote, "we understand

13   that you were scared of Fisher, we know that

14   Fisher did it and you can be a hero or a bum",

15   quote'. And let me just pause there.

16   As far as the new scenario, what

17   did you mean by that, being 'the new scenario'?

18   A   Well, again, that was a scenario that we were

19   discussing about how to approach these people and

20   see if they had anything to say?

21   Q   And, again, the 'We understand you were scared of

22   Fisher, we know that Fisher did it and you can be

23   a hero or a bum', on that last, I guess with

24   Cadrain he would have had -- he lived in the same

25   house as Fisher so he at least knew who Fisher

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1   was; is that fair?

2   A   Yes.

3   Q   Wilson and John, on the other hand, did you have

4   any reason to think that they had any connection

5   to Fisher or any knowledge of Fisher?

6   A   No. But I think at one point we discussed a

7   scenario where I -- where the approach with them

8   would be on the basis that we knew who really did

9   it, "it wasn't David, therefore you must not have

10   been honest at the, or truthful at the trial, so

11   you can now be a hero by coming clean".

12   Q   And I think we see that in the limited transcript

13   we have of Paul Henderson's interview with Dennis

14   Cadrain, I think when he first thought it was

15   Albert Cadrain, and I think we see it elsewhere;

16   that what Mr. Henderson put forward is "lookit, we

17   know, we know David is innocent, we know Larry

18   Fisher did it, it's gonna break and at that point

19   you're gonna be branded a liar, so come forward

20   now and tell us, and recant your evidence and

21   you'll be a hero as opposed to being on the other

22   side once it breaks". Was that the type of

23   scenario that you were thinking that --

24   A   Well, I'm not sure it was "recant your evidence",

25   I think it was "tell the truth".

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1   **Q**   Okay. So that that was one of the, and I can't

2   recall the words you used earlier, trying to give

3   these witnesses some reason to -- to be

4   cooperative with you; is that fair?

5   *A*   Yes, to make it easier for them to, to tell the

6   truth.

7   **Q**   And so if your premise going in, which I think you

8   told us, is that they lied at trial, and you had

9   your theories about why they lied, that in order

10   to get them to tell the truth and say, "okay, I

11   lied", you needed some, umm, something to assist

12   them to get to that point; is that fair, some

13   reason?

14   *A*   Yes.

15   **Q**   And one of the reasons was to say "lookit, if you

16   don't, it's gonna break and you're gonna be, you

17   know, branded", I think you say, "hero or bum", I

18   think Mr. Henderson used different language but

19   along the lines, "lookit, if you tell the truth

20   now you will be a hero, if you don't you are gonna

21   be branded a liar, because we're gonna get to the

22   point where we show David is innocent and Fisher

23   did it"; is that fair?

24   *A*   Yes, yes.

25   **Q**   And so here, then, Mrs. Milgaard says, and this is

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1   about Albert Cadrain, 'He's not real bright',

2   Henderson, 'Uh-huh', and you say, 'You know, I

3   think he can be shaped reasonably easily

4   throughout the course of an interview with him,

5   and once we get that, I mean, that's our ace in

6   the hole, then we go to the other two who are

7   tougher to crack a little bit, I think, and say

8   "not only do we know who did it, but Cadrain now

9   agrees".' End quote.

10   And let me pause there. What

11   did you mean by saying, 'He can be shaped

12   reasonably easily throughout the course of an

13   interview'?

14   *A*   Well I think that my -- or I'm, I'm assuming that

15   my view there was that Cadrain was the least

16   intelligent of them and would be the easiest for

17   Mr. Henderson to question.

18   **Q**   And I guess the word, when you say, 'He can be

19   shaped reasonably easily', what did you mean by

20   "shaped"?

21   *A*   I -- I'm assuming that refers to the beginning

22   part of the interview, which is to give him an

23   out, is to provide him with an out, to either be a

24   hero or a bum.

25   **Q**   And are you saying you think, because he, because

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1   of his level of intelligence, he might be easier

2   to get a favourable statement out of?

3 A   Umm, that would be the implication, but he would

4   be easier to convince that, by telling the truth,

5   he could be a hero.

6 Q   Okay. And then you go on to say, 'Then once you

7   have that we go to the other two who are tougher

8   to crack and say "not only do we know who did it

9   but Cadrain now agrees".'

10   Would that be a case of saying,

11   okay, if I can get one of the three to recant then

12   we can use that with the other two to say, "lookit

13   Wilson, lookit John, Cadrain has now told us he

14   lied at trial and, you know, get on the wagon or

15   you" --

16 A   To play one against, one off against the other,

17   yes.

18 Q   Yes. And so is that one of the strategies, that

19   lookit, let's -- and I hesitate to use the word

20   pick the weakest link -- but let's start with

21   Cadrain and if we can get him, he's the easiest

22   one, and then we can use him, if we get favourable

23   results, to go on to Wilson and John?

24 A   Yes, that was one, this was one scenario that was

25   discussed. I have to emphasize, again, that this,

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1   these were very intensive and day-long discussions

2   that were going on among many people, as I said,

3   including the senior people in our firm. There

4   was the possibility of not disclosing what the

5   others had said, or even potentially handing the

6   statement over, and not simply paraphrasing but

7   handing the statement over to each person as they

8   were interviewed. There were a whole bunch of

9   different scenarios discussed.

10   Q   Sorry, when you say "handing it over", so you are

11   talking about Cadrain, Wilson and John, about

12   handing over the statement of --

13   A   Of the others.

14   Q   I see. Okay.

15   A   There were a whole variety of scenarios discussed

16   here.

17   Q   And then I think there is a discussion about

18   Lapchuk and Melnyk as well being interviewed, but

19   I don't think they were interviewed at this time,

20   is that right?

21   A   I think that's true.

22   Q   I think Lapchuk was a bit later, and I don't think

23   Melnyk ever was interviewed by Mr. Henderson, is

24   that right?

25   A   I think that's true.

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1   Q   And would it be -- would it be a function of the

2   timing, I think we will see that it took a couple

3   of weeks for Mr. Henderson to go through this,

4   would it be a case that he ran out of time to do

5   Melnyk and Lapchuk or he didn't get to them on

6   this go-round; are you able to shed any light on

7   that?

8   A   I don't recall what happened there.

9   Q   If we can then go to 337381. Again, this is the

10   same tape, I think the same discussion. And there

11   is a discussion here about the media becoming

12   aware of what you are doing. Now I think earlier

13   you talked about having Dan Lett go with you, so

14   presumably he would be aware about what you were

15   doing, that was abandoned or decided you weren't

16   going to take him along, or can you shed any light

17   on that?

18   A   I can't recall. My recollection is that Dan

19   wouldn't go, that he would not go, and did not

20   want to become a witness himself to the

21   proceedings.

22   Q   Okay. Because there actually, there are some

23   comments here about making arrangements and it

24   looks like the last minute, so it was a case where

25   Dan Lett said I'm not prepared to get involved

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1   because I would be a witness?

2   A   I think so.

3   Q   And would it follow then that if he became a

4   witness, he couldn't report on it any more; is

5   that --

6   A   Potentially.

7   Q   Potentially that was one of the issues?

8   A   Right.

9   Q   And did you consider sending anybody else then as

10   a witness?

11   A   I don't recall.

12   Q   So here you talk about, you say, 'Secondly, I know

13   that there are at least three reporters who will

14   probably be calling hotels and checking out to see

15   for Joyce and my name -- around Regina and

16   Saskatoon. One is a reporter in Saskatoon, and

17   the other is that Donna Friesen in Regina. I

18   mean, they were bugging me all last week asking me

19   when Joyce and I are going to Saskatoon.' And

20   Henderson says, 'And you don't want anybody to

21   know.' And you say, 'No, no, no, not until we're

22   ready to let them know?'

23   And it appears here that your

24   concern is that the media are going to find out

25   that Joyce and you or Mr. Henderson are out

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1   interviewing these witnesses and they are going to

2   put a story out before you are done the

3   interviews; is that fair?

4   A   Yes.

5   Q   And then the top, the top right-hand side of this

6   page, and you say, 'I mean, I think what we should

7   keep it, lay really low and then if we get

8   something, you know, I think we do an interview

9   with, like, and bring Cadrain, you know, if he

10   cracks and he comes on side, he will feel very

11   good about himself because he is going to be, he's

12   going to crack on the basis that he's going to be

13   a hero, and, you know, I think it's very powerful

14   if you can get him to do it and get him on side so

15   much that he's prepared to sort of publicly do his

16   mea culpa, you know.' And Mrs. Milgaard, 'Yeah,

17   and do it with someone like Colleen Wilson.'

18   So as part of this interviewing

19   process, was there a media component to this as

20   well, as to if you get a favourable statement as

21   to using the media -- I mean, I think what you are

22   saying is, if I read it right, we don't want the

23   media to know we're out there until we get a

24   product and then once we get the product, we'll

25   then use the media to publicize it; is that a fair

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1   reading of that?

2   A   Yeah. I can't say specifically. I can't say

3   specifically what we had in mind there, but if we

4   were -- look, if we were successful with what was

5   being undertaken here, there truly was nothing

6   left of the Crown's case and there was a media

7   component to this, no question.

8   Q   And so again, and we'll see this a bit later when

9   we see what happens with the Wilson and Cadrain

10   statements, but would it be fair to say at this

11   stage in advance of the interviews, that one

12   consideration or one part of the plan, if I can

13   call it that, was that if we get a favourable

14   statement, how do we publicize that statement in

15   the media to assist David's re-opening efforts; is

16   that fair?

17   A   Yes. You'll see the -- it was at such a

18   preliminary stage where Mrs. Milgaard is referring

19   to Colleen Wilson. Colleen used to have an

20   afternoon chat show on STV here in Saskatoon. To

21   the extent that a media strategy developed, it was

22   far bigger than that.

23   Q   But just so that I'm clear, would one of the

24   components be let's go out, let's interview these

25   three witnesses and then if we get a favourable

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1   statement, that we will consider publicizing it in

2   the media as you mention here?

3   A   Yes. Well, the answer is yes to that.

4   Q   If we can go to 050412. This is part of the

5   transcript between Paul Henderson and Dennis

6   Cadrain and I think Mr. Henderson's evidence is he

7   had taped his interview, I think this is by

8   telephone, with Dennis Cadrain, and we've gone

9   through this with him, I just have a couple of

10   questions, and I think initially Paul Henderson

11   thought he was talking to Albert Cadrain and says,

12   you know, we mean absolutely no harm and then

13   talks about Larry Fisher and then finds out it's

14   Dennis Cadrain. And then if we can just skip

15   ahead to 050414, and the previous tape I showed

16   you talked about the new scenario about Fisher and

17   here Mr. Henderson says, and he's talking to

18   Dennis, but he says:

19   "Larry Fisher is the guy who committed

20   the murder. We know what happened to

21   Albert, we know what happened to Nichol,

22   and Ron Wilson, they were, they had, a

23   lot of pressure put on them by the

24   police back then."

25   "They were kids, they were children.

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1   And they were manipulated, coerced,

2   threatened, a lot of things happened to

3   them that should not have happened to

4   people."

5   And again, was that, and I think Mr. Henderson

6   told us that was his view at the time and that

7   that's his view as to why, or was his view as to

8   why the witnesses lied at trial. Did you -- was

9   that the same view as yours, did you share that

10   view?

11 A   Yes.

12 Q   And was this -- you said there was many

13   discussions at these meetings before the

14   interviews. Was it -- was the tact that you

15   decided on taking, when I say you I'm talking

16   about the collective group, to take with these

17   witnesses, to go in and say lookit, (a), we know

18   Fisher is the killer and therefore David is

19   innocent, (b), we know you lied, and (c), we know

20   what happened to you, you had a lot of pressure

21   put on by the police, you were manipulated,

22   coerced, threatened, etcetera, and that your out

23   witness is the police made you do it and therefore

24   come clean, tell us the truth, recant, because the

25   police are the ones that made you lie. Was that,

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1   in a nutshell -- I mean, I think that's what Mr.

2   Henderson said he was putting forward. Was that

3   in a nutshell the end product of your discussions,

4   lookit, that's the tact to take with these people?

5   A   I would agree with that, yes.

6   Q   If we can just go ahead to page 050419, just at

7   the bottom, and again this is the conversation May

8   26th between Dennis Cadrain and Henderson, and he

9   talks about:

10   "Larry Fisher is under a lot of pressure

11   to confess. The R.C.M.P. is talking to

12   him. But (unintelligible) a couple of

13   weeks ago said they didn't want him

14   talking seriously until after he had his

15   conjugal trailer visit with his new

16   wife. Now, we've heard today that he's

17   confessed. That may be true or may not

18   be true, it may be a rumour, may be a

19   fact, but, if he's, if he has confessed

20   or if he confesses down the line, which

21   I think he probably will --"

22   Etcetera. Mr. Henderson wasn't able to tell us,

23   I think he said someone would have told him. Do

24   you have any information that at this time, that

25   there was any information from anybody that Larry

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1   Fisher had confessed or was this part of the

2   questioning process to let the witnesses think

3   that Mr. Fisher had confessed and therefore the

4   scenario you were painting for them of being a

5   hero or a bum was actually more imminent than

6   not?

7 A I don't recall getting any information that Fisher

8   had confessed and it was certainly not, at least

9   as far as I was involved, part of any

10   interrogation strategy.

11 Q And then again just on the next page, I think this

12   is where Mr. Henderson explains to Dennis, he

13   says:

14   "... down the line ... because the

15   R.C.M.P. is convinced that he's the

16   person."

17   Right here, and Mr. Pearson didn't agree with

18   that, he said he thought he was a suspect. Do

19   you have any information to suggest that at the

20   end of May, 1990, that the RCMP were convinced

21   that Larry Fisher was the culprit?

22 A No, I don't.

23 Q And what was your understanding of Mr. Pearson's

24   position at this time, or the RCMP position as to

25   whether or not Larry Fisher was the culprit?

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1   A   I don't recall exactly. I think it would be fair

2   to say that Sergeant Pearson thought he was a

3   suspect.

4   Q   Okay. And then here's where Mr. Henderson says:

5   "Now, when he does --"

6   And he's talking about confessing,

7   "-- what that means is, that all the

8   witnesses against David suddenly become

9   liars. Now here is Albert's chance to

10   beat them to the punch."

11   "Come forth and say, the bastards made

12   me do to. And I feel badly about it and

13   I want to clear my conscience and help

14   this guy that I've been worried about,

15   heartsick about all these years. He was

16   my pal, the pricks made me do it."

17   Again, is that the type of strategy then or

18   questioning technique that had been discussed

19   amongst the collective group as a method to give

20   these witnesses an out on a recantation?

21   A   In a general sense, yes.

22   Q   If we can go to 048357, and this is a transcript,

23   we've seen this already, of Mr. Henderson, and as

24   far as I can tell, what I think this is is that

25   Mr. Henderson telephoned Joyce Milgaard to give

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1   the results of his interview with Albert Cadrain

2   and Dennis Cadrain, and I won't go through this

3   transcript, but then there's a second -- sorry,

4   let me back up. So this document is the

5   transcript between Joyce and Mr. Henderson. Then

6   if we can go to 048385, I think what happened here

7   is then Mrs. Milgaard phoned you I believe, I'm

8   just speculating based on the transcripts, but

9   played to you the tape of her conversation with

10   Mr. Henderson and recorded both that tape and her

11   discussion with you because we'll see the

12   transcript repeated and then you have some

13   comments from time to time, so whether I'm right

14   or not on that, I think that's what it shows, and

15   there's just some questions here about -- do you

16   have a recollection of hearing a recording of Paul

17   Henderson saying here's what I got from Albert and

18   Dennis Cadrain?

19   A   No.

20   Q   And let's just go to 048387. Actually, just go

21   back to the previous page and, you know, he's

22   talking about, I think Henderson is simply reading

23   off what Dennis Cadrain said in his statements,

24   and then we go to the next page, here's where you

25   come in, you said "oh God," and then down here,

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1   "Unbelievable." And here, this is when Henderson

2   says:

3   "... what convinced ah' Dennis that his

4   brother was not of sane mind is when

5   Albert told him, sometime around the

6   time of the prelim ... that he was

7   seeing visions, and he saw, looked up in

8   the clouds and saw David, and saw the

9   Virgin Mary. She was standing on a

10   serpent and the serpent was David

11   Milgaard."

12   And I think this is the first time the visions,

13   the fact that Albert was seeing visions came

14   about. Do you remember hearing about that from

15   Mr. Henderson?

16 A   Yes.

17 Q   And again just on the next page you say:

18   "Do you want to stop the tape right

19   there for a second."

20   And that's why I say I think Mrs. Milgaard was

21   playing the tape. And then if we can scroll

22   ahead to page 048391, and this is where, and

23   again this is the conversation between Mrs.

24   Milgaard and Mr. Henderson, and I think Mr.

25   Henderson said lookit, Albert Cadrain will not

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1   back off his original statement about seeing

2   blood. Mrs. Milgaard asks:

3   "So there was no way you could swing him

4   around?"

5   And Mr. Henderson says:

6   "Well no, I wouldn't try to. That would

7   be manipulation and he's going to swing

8   right back."

9   And so again, do you recall being made aware that

10   lookit, Albert Cadrain will not change his -- I

11   shouldn't say not change his, he is adamant that

12   what he said at trial about the blood is true.

13   Do you remember that being --

14 A   Oh, yes, absolutely.

15 Q   Then go to page 048394, and here's where I think

16   the call between Mr. Henderson and Mrs. Milgaard

17   ends and then you and Mrs. Milgaard carry on about

18   what to do in getting hospital records, I think

19   they relate to Albert Cadrain. Then the next page

20   and you say, again talking about what was said

21   there:

22   "... that's unbelievable. I mean

23   there's so many things that are being

24   said there."

25   And you say:

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1   "One he's crazy."

2   And then go on to talk about what the other

3   family members may have seen, and I think Mr.

4   Henderson's evidence was at this time based on

5   his interview, that he felt that Albert Cadrain

6   had some, and I can't recall what his words were,

7   but that he had some mental issues at the time

8   and that he really wasn't -- I can't recall if he

9   used this word, reliable, or he had some

10   psychiatric issues and that what he was saying at

11   the time was not very reliable. Would you agree

12   with that being the assessment of your -- your

13   assessment of him as well based on the

14   information you had?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And then the next page, and then there's a

17   discussion here about, Mrs. Milgaard:

18   "I mean if we go public with that. What

19   would the Justice Department do at that

20   point?"

21   You said:

22   "Let me sleep on this because it may be

23   the type of thing where we send what we

24   have to Justice with a letter."

25   "Saying um this is getting deeper and

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1   deeper and deeper and you people aren't

2   doing anything ..."

3   "And we've had to. And you've got seven

4   days before we start trying this thing

5   in the media. And we start making

6   these, I mean whatever the words are,

7   whatever the exact words."

8   "The message then is, here's what we

9   found out while you guys have been

10   lolly-gagging around. Here's your

11   Markesteyn report. Here's the Cadrain

12   stuff. Now get off your butt."

13   So let me just pause there. Actually, just go to

14   the --

15 *A*   The top of it.

16 Q   Pardon me?

17 *A*   I see the top of it, we were trying to take Meech

18   Lake off the front page.

19 Q   "An' you got seven days and we don't

20   care about Meech Lake. You know."

21   And I take it Meech Lake was a competitor in

22   grabbing news headlines at the time?

23 *A*   It was a bad deal for Canada anyways.

24 Q   So if we just go back on the, this information

25   about Cadrain, it would appear that when you first

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1   became aware that, (a), Albert Cadrain was

2   currently suffering from some psychiatric illness,

3   number 1; number 2, he had seen some visions,

4   according to Dennis Cadrain, around the time of

5   David Milgaard's trial; three, that he had been

6   admitted into a psychiatric hospital, I think it

7   was 1973 the records show, but within a few years

8   after, that that was the type of information that

9   would be of assistance in challenging David's

10   conviction. Is that fair?

11   *A*   Yes.

12   Q   And here it looks like you are thinking how do we

13   use this in the public, how do we get this out

14   there, and would it be fair to say that that would

15   be to assist David Milgaard's efforts to re-open

16   the case and, as you said before, to get the

17   public behind you to influence the politicians or

18   the authorities to make a favourable decision on

19   the re-opening; is that --

20   *A*   Yes.

21   Q   And can you tell us at this time, were you -- is

22   it correct to look at this and say that instead of

23   going first to Federal Justice with this, here's

24   the information, follow it up, you were now in the

25   position of saying no, we're going to go, we're

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1   going to go public first, go to the media, then

2   give it to Justice, put some pressure on there and

3   turn up the heat a bit; is that correct?

4   *A*   I think that's probably fair to say, yes.

5   *Q*   And can you explain what your thinking was and why

6   you would do it that way?

7   *A*   Because the other way wasn't working.

8   *Q*   And so if Justice found out, for example, and

9   we'll see this when we get to a few examples, that

10   they find out in the newspaper that a witness has

11   recanted or that, you know, there's something

12   wrong with the case, was that part of your plan,

13   to say okay, we'll get it in the media, in the

14   public eye and put the heat on so you don't have

15   time to respond or deal with it; is that one of

16   the strategies?

17 *A*   Yes.

18 *Q*   And what were you hoping to achieve by that?

19 *A*   We were trying to put the spotlight on the

20   Department of Justice. When the information got

21   filed, we were going to file it in the spotlight

22   of the television cameras in the hope that it

23   would put the Department of Justice in the

24   position of having to do something about it.

25 *Q*   Now if we can go to 048398, this is part of the

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1   same transcript, you have -- there's a discussion

2   here, and this is before Paul Henderson has gone

3   to see Ron Wilson, and Joyce Milgaard says:

4   "Don't forget we hopefully will have the

5   statement saying Ron Wilson lied."

6   "From the CBC reporter."

7   "Is she gonna do it?

8   "She's quite willing to do it providing

9   CBC has no objections."

10   And I think it's referring to Donna Friesen. Do

11   you recall the name Donna Friesen?

12   *A*   Yes.

13   **Q**   And do you recall what information she might have

14   had about Ron Wilson or what this is referring to?

15   *A*   No, I don't.

16   **Q**   There's another tape, and I'll bring it up in a

17   minute, that suggests someone got a call saying

18   Ron Wilson told me he lied and that it was traced

19   back to Mrs. Cadrain, that would be Albert's

20   mother's address. Does that assist your memory at

21   all?

22   *A*   No.

23   **Q**   And then to page 048400, again I think this is

24   just talking strategy and here we see the

25   Markesteyn information come up:

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1   "Hopefully we'll get Markesteyn sometime

2   this week ... we'll send it to Ottawa.

3   Okay ... our receiving it, and our

4   sending it to Ottawa will go without any

5   media attention."

6   "While that process is underway we will

7   continue to develop um the Cadrain,

8   Wilson line here. With a view to let's

9   say a week Monday. Or a week Wednesday.

10   Whatever day it is. Having a news

11   conference. And telling the media about

12   Markesteyn and Cadrain and whatever we

13   get from Wilson."

14   "All at the same time."

15   "All at the same time and just dump it."

16   "Sounds good to me. Talk to, I'll talk

17   to Hersh but I think that we need ...

18   to get this Salina."

19   So again that would be a part of the plan to

20   publicize the information?

21   A   Yes.

22   Q   Go to 054362, this is a memorandum May 28th, 1990

23   from Paul Henderson to you I think setting out the

24   background of his interview, and I take it it's a

25   memo that you would have received at the time from

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1   him? Do you remember or --

2   A   Yes.

3   Q   And there's a couple of points here, 054364,

4   there's some discussion here about, and I think I

5   can, rather than going through it, maybe just

6   quickly paraphrase. I think what Dennis Cadrain

7   told Paul Henderson initially, that on the morning

8   that David came, David Milgaard came to their

9   house, that his sister Celine had been home and

10   younger brother Kenny had been home and that

11   Celine said that Dennis had checked and Celine

12   said she had never seen any blood on David

13   Milgaard's clothing and there was some discussion

14   here in this memo and some further interviews

15   where I think the thinking was okay, well, she

16   never saw any blood and I think Dennis also said

17   the police talked to her and she told them that

18   and I think there was some discussion about, okay,

19   well, was this evidence that was suppressed,

20   etcetera, and some follow-up. Do you recall that

21   being something you were pursuing?

22 A   No.

23 Q   And what we've heard before the Commission, Celine

24   Cadrain did testify, it's now Celine Armstrong,

25   she said she was home that morning, but she was in

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1   bed and that by the time she got up David had

2   changed his clothes and so she did not observe the

3   clothing that Albert observed where he said he

4   observed blood. Do you remember learning about

5   that at any point?

6   A   No.

7   Q   There's also mention in this memorandum, go to

8   page 054366, about information that I think Mr.

9   Henderson got either from Dennis on Albert about

10   halos and Albert seeing -- some information --

11   what do you recall at the time, what did you --

12   what did you make of that information and how did

13   you think it best to use that in your efforts to

14   have the investigation re-opened?

15   A   I have to be careful as to when my thinking

16   evolved, because I can't say for certain that what

17   I'm about to say occurred at this point or later,

18   but that Cadrain started the ball rolling on the

19   Milgaard investigation with his comments that he

20   had seen blood on Milgaard's pants. If Cadrain

21   was not a reliable witness and was as looney as

22   Mr. Henderson's information suggested, that

23   whatever Cadrain said was not reliable and

24   whatever flowed from that may be fruit of a

25   poisonous tree.

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1   Q   And so if I can maybe just take a step back, I

2   think when you went out -- before you went out or

3   Mr. Henderson went out to see Albert Cadrain, I

4   think you said lookit, our belief is that he lied

5   or the others lied and that he was pressured by

6   the police; correct?

7   A   Yes.

8   Q   And I take it you wouldn't have had any inkling

9   about any psychiatric problems he might have had

10   before Mr. Henderson went out to see Dennis or

11   Albert Cadrain; is that fair?

12   A   That's correct.

13   Q   And then once Mr. Henderson met Dennis and Albert

14   Cadrain, at some point, maybe not on May 28th, but

15   around this time, you would have become, you would

16   have concluded that based on what you read and

17   what you were told, that lookit, Albert Cadrain

18   had psychological or psychiatric problems around

19   the time of trial and therefore he was not a

20   credible witness because of those problems;

21   correct?

22   A   Yes.

23   Q   And that in 1990, in May when Mr. Henderson was

24   talking to him, those problems may well have been

25   worse; in other words, his credibility in 1990 may

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1   have been worse than his credibility in 1970. Is

2   that fair?

3   A   That's correct.

4   Q   Because his mental illness may have gotten worse;

5   is that your understanding?

6   A   Yes.

7   Q   And so did -- was it fair to say that your

8   approach with respect to his evidence changed from

9   being okay, you lied because the police made you

10   lie, to okay, we now know about your mental

11   condition, your evidence isn't reliable?

12   A   Well, Cadrain had also said some fairly explosive

13   things in his statement and we didn't know whether

14   they were true or not and it was very difficult to

15   discern where the truth lay in what he was saying

16   and where his recollection was. We knew that,

17   from the evidence that Cadrain had been

18   interrogated, I believe he had testified that he

19   had been stripped naked in a prison cell in Regina

20   when he had been picked up an a vagrancy charge,

21   so that we did know from the time of the trial I

22   believe, or the preliminary inquiry, that there

23   was, there were some heavy-handed tactics used

24   with him. When he later gave the statement to

25   Paul Henderson that he had suffered this

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1   incredible interrogation, I think he talked about

2   spitting blood, it seemed very serious, it was

3   difficult to know whether that was true or not,

4   but there was some relationship to some prior

5   incidents with Cadrain and his relationship with

6   the police had made it seem reasonable.

7 Q And --

8 A But on the other hand -- but let me finish. On

9   the other hand, we've got these halos and these

10   visions and you just don't know what to make of

11   the whole thing.

12 Q And I guess let me put it this way, that the plan

13   going in was to say the reason you changed your

14   evidence and lied at trial was because the police

15   coerced you, and I think with Mr. Cadrain what you

16   found out was that no, he wasn't prepared to

17   change his evidence, I mean, if the police coerced

18   him, he went in saying I saw blood and he went to

19   trial saying I saw blood?

20 A Right.

21 Q And the question I think that has been posed to

22   some is, well, how could you coerce, bully and put

23   through mental hell and torture a witness who

24   comes in and says --

25 A And doesn't change his story.

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1   Q   And doesn't change his story.

2   A   Yes.

3   Q   And did that cross your mind, did you consider

4   that when you looked at Albert Cadrain?

5   A   I think that yes, I think that in the end we came

6   to the conclusion that Mr. Cadrain was more a

7   sympathetic character and may not have been in his

8   right mind at the time.

9   Q   Let me just go back up. So again if the approach

10   is, okay, Mr. Cadrain, and as we've seen in the

11   discussions you had with Mrs. Milgaard and what

12   Mr. Henderson said, and I think what he's told us

13   is okay, Albert Cadrain, we know you lied, we know

14   Fisher did it and we know the reason you lied is

15   the police coerced, manipulated, pressured and

16   bullied you and that's why you lied, they did all

17   these things to you, they did it to Nichol, they

18   did it to Ron. Henderson does that the first

19   go-round, he comes back and Albert says okay, no,

20   no, I'm not changing my story, I saw blood, but by

21   the way, here's a bunch of information that says I

22   may not have been credible. Mr. Henderson then

23   goes back and says, okay, Albert, I'm not going to

24   try and get you to change, I'm not going to try

25   and say okay, you lied about the blood because

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1   you're not going to change, instead I'm going to

2   get some information that tends to lessen the

3   credibility of that and gather information from

4   Dennis and from you that talks about your mental

5   state so that that would undermine the value of

6   his evidence at trial, so a bit of a change in

7   tact; is that fair?

8   A   Yes.

9   Q   And then when Albert gives his statement though,

10   he says, okay, well, I've had all these problems

11   and, oh, by the way, I was manipulated, coerced

12   and bullied by the police; correct?

13   A   Yes.

14   Q   But he didn't change his evidence?

15   A   Right.

16   Q   So I'm just wondering if that was a concern to

17   you, that he may have picked up the suggestion

18   that I was manipulated, coerced and bullied, but

19   didn't pick up the second part and that's why I

20   lied. Do you follow?

21   A   Yes. I can't explain that, I really can't, and as

22   I say, I think you could argue that he was coerced

23   and manipulated, or certainly he was treated

24   badly, let's say, with his first encounter with

25   the police.

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1   Q   And you are referring -- is that to the Regina

2   police?

3   A   Yes.

4   Q   I think that's where the vagrancy charge was.

5   A   Right, right.

6   Q   Okay. We'll actually come back to this and I

7   think in fairness when we get to his statement.

8   So again, just so that I'm clear, at some point,

9   whether it's May 28th, but around this time, I

10   think what you are saying is lookit, we felt that

11   we had a better way to attack the credibility of

12   Albert's statement and rather than saying he lied

13   and was bullied by the police, his mental

14   condition was such that his evidence wasn't

15   reliable?

16   A   Yes.

17   Q   If we can then go to 335929. And this is tape 17,

18   this is one of the new tapes, this is around May

19   of 1990. And if we can just go to the next page,

20   and there's just a bit more information here about

21   the CBC reporter, Mr. Asper, I'm just going to see

22   if this jogs your memory at all. If we can go to

23   335947. I'm sorry, the doc. ID is 335929, and

24   this is before Ron Wilson has been contacted, and

25   there is a discussion here, 'Well I'm not going to

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1   worry about Nichol but I really think this CBC

2   reporter' 'who' 'Donna', 'yeah', 'Donna was

3   talking to -- hold onto your hat -- a woman that

4   phoned in that had left her phone number and

5   wanted to remain anonymous, and it was

6   Mrs. Cadrain, yeah, the mother on Confederation,

7   and in her talk with her she said that Ron Wilson

8   had told her that he had lied at the trial.'

9   And then the next page, and then

10   I think you discuss, 'I got a phone call', and I

11   think you're talking about what you could get from

12   Donna, 'I got a phone call, the woman was,

13   remains, wanted to remain anonymous but she left

14   me a number, I traced back the number and

15   discovered that it was Mrs. Cadrain. In this

16   conversation this anonymous caller indicated that

17   Ron Wilson had said he had lied at the trial.

18   Period. If that sends, these, that focus is now

19   on Wilson and gets somebody', I think that should

20   be, there are some typos there, 'Off their butts',

21   I presume that should be two t's in the "butts",

22   that's how you are using that, Mr. Asper, 'Going

23   and talking to Wilson, and then next thing get, if

24   you can, could you tape your conversation with

25   Dennis Cadrain'.

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 1   And let me just pause there on

 2   the Donna comment. Does that assist you at all?

 3   And let me just add, it's something further that

 4   it was talked about in -- as using an opener with

 5   Ron Wilson to say, "lookit, we know you told

 6   somebody, Mrs. Cadrain, or phoned somebody, we

 7   have information where you have admitted to

 8   lying"; does any of that ring a bell?

 9   A   No, it doesn't.

10   Q   And then, down here, you talk with getting Joyce

11   to tape the conversation with Dennis Cadrain and

12   you say, 'Get Dennis to give a statement

13   describing how he believes that Albert was

14   mentally incompetent, well, and worked over by the

15   police, and well, this is what he was going to get

16   from him when he was out there'.

17   Now let me just pause there. On

18   what basis, at this time, are you saying that you

19   should get a statement from Albert that he was

20   worked over by the police?

21   A   I, I don't know when this occurs, I don't recall

22   this.

23   Q   Okay. And I think it's around -- because the two

24   tapes, if we can go to the next page -- well,

25   sorry, back, 'Well this is what he is gonna get

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1   from him when he was out there, yeah, get that,

2   Dennis to give that statement, because he never

3   suspected that we could have a news release with

4   both of these tapes', and again it's a bit

5   garbled, and then you say, 'Well, no, what I was

6   going to say and what I would do is we would say,

7   we would say we would tape both of them and we

8   would say to the Department of Justice look, you

9   know, we've given you the Ferris stuff by the way,

10   March-April' -- actually that should be

11   Markesteyn, that's a typo -- 'Has not completely

12   his report', Joyce says, 'He's not okay', and so I

13   think this puts it before June 4th, which is

14   before the Ron Wilson interview. But, again, any

15   recollection of any of that?

16   A   No.

17   Q   Then to page 335951. And, again, you are talking

18   about, 'You then can put to Wilson everything, let

19   him read the statement if he wants', and at this

20   time, May 26th of 1990, you got a statement from

21   Dennis Cadrain that talked about Albert's mental

22   problems; do you remember that?

23   A   Yes.

24   Q   Okay.

25   A   Oh, I remember Dennis' statement, sure.

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1   **Q**   Yeah. And so I think what this is talking about

2   is using Dennis' statement --

3   *A*   Right.

4   **Q**   -- with Wilson; is that right?

5   *A*   Right.

6   **Q**   And then here, 'But you could certainly, you know,

7   psychologically put to him, look, we know who did

8   it and we have a fairly reliable source who knew

9   you at the time who related to us the conversation

10   where you admitted to lying'. And, again, I think

11   that ties back to the Donna Friesen thing, but you

12   don't have a recollection of that?

13   *A*   I have a feeling, Mr. Hodson, that this page

14   relates to the previous page where I was saying to

15   Joyce, it looks like, "can you talk to Donna

16   Friesen, get her to get a statement from

17   Mrs. Cadrain who called that Ron Wilson was

18   lying", and that -- and that the statement that's

19   referred to on the page you've got on the screen

20   refers to the Donna Friesen conversation.

21   **Q**   Okay. I'm sorry. So --

22   *A*   I think that's what it refers to.

23   **Q**   Okay, fair enough, so in other words --

24   *A*   And that the attempt here with Wilson is not to

25   show him the Dennis Cadrain statement but to show

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1   him the Mrs. Cadrain statement.

2   Q   Okay. If we can just go to the bottom, there is

3   another part here I could maybe read, and you talk

4   about how it goes, 'The other thing, we could

5   approach him by telephone', you think about

6   phoning, and then you say, 'I wouldn't think that

7   you would want to be putting Cadrain's information

8   to him over the telephone', and that's why I

9   thought it was referring to the Cadrain

10   information?

11   A   It may be right. I think the, I think the better

12   effect, frankly, in terms of questioning Wilson

13   would be to put to him Mrs. Cadrain, and

14   'Cadrain's information' in the last sentence there

15   may relate to Mrs. Cadrain, not to Dennis. I

16   don't know but I'm trying to reconstruct here.

17   Q   Okay. And then if we can go to 335953, and this

18   is again a conversation, I think Mr. Henderson --

19   actually, if we can go back a page, it says,

20   'Joyce leaves phone, Paul continues conversation

21   with David Milgaard', so I'm not sure if, again,

22   this is a three-way call or whether you're, you

23   and Mrs. Milgaard are together phoning Paul

24   Henderson; do you know?

25   A   I don't. I don't recall any of these

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1   conversations.

2 Q   And so here, just to put this in time frame, Paul

3   Henderson says, 'Yeah, right, we certainly are. I

4   was very encouraged last night with my

5   conversation with Dennis. I think that Dennis

6   could do us some good.'

7   And I think that conversation

8   was May 26th of 1990 --

9 A   Okay.

10 Q   -- so I'm assuming this is around May 27th.

11 A   Okay.

12 Q   And you talk about, 'Well, you are in the wrong

13   province', and I think he's in B.C., because you

14   thought Wilson was in Saskatchewan; didn't you?

15 A   Yes.

16 Q   And then you say, 'And if Wilson winds up not

17   saying anything at least what we've got in the

18   bank is an anonymous call to this reporter, traced

19   back to Mrs. Cadrain, where, in the latest

20   conversation that Wilson had with her where Wilson

21   admits to lying at trial'. And then the next

22   page, 'Well, Joyce has the conversation with Donna

23   on tape, doesn't she?' 'I don't know'. 'I think

24   she does'. 'Okay'. 'Well most', Paul says, 'Well

25   okay, well most things up here are taped?' David

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1   'Yeah'. Paul, 'But then of course Donna wouldn't

2   know that it was taped.' David, 'Well, too bad

3   for Donna.' Paul, 'Well, yeah, anyway'. And then

4   David, 'And similarly with Dennis, you know, if

5   you could Dennis to say that Albert was really

6   messed up and the police really did a number on

7   him, and then, you know, he believes that Albert

8   was saying just whatever the police wanted him to

9   say, that's something'. And then Paul, 'Well we

10   have Dennis on tape, we taped him last night'.

11   And, again, can you elaborate on

12   that discussion with Paul about what you were

13   trying to get Dennis to say?

14   A   I don't -- I don't recall this. I mean I must

15   have had some information about Albert in what I

16   said there.

17   Q   And I think the information you had is I played

18   for you earlier the tape where I think, on May

19   26th, you and Joyce Milgaard talked and she played

20   you the tape where Paul Henderson reported on his

21   interview?

22   A   Right.

23   Q   So this would be the next day?

24   A   Right.

25   Q   And I'm just wondering, here, about the comment,

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1   'To get Dennis to say that Albert was really

2   messed up and the police really did a number on

3   him and, you know, he believes that Albert was

4   just saying that whatever the police wanted him to

5   say'.

6   And, again, was this something

7   that you were putting forward as, umm, a lever, or

8   something to get Albert Cadrain to give a

9   favourable statement, or was this information that

10   you thought had happened, or I'm just trying to

11   understand where this came from?

12   A   I don't know. I can't put it into context.

13   Q   And then the next page, again you and Mr.

14   Henderson, 'Yeah, that would be wonderful, and

15   even if he could put to Albert, I mean even blank

16   in terms of, you know, we understand that your

17   recollection may as well be demented in your mind

18   based on what you said at the trial, but are you

19   prepared to admit that it might not have been what

20   really happened, are you prepared to admit that',

21   and then Paul Henderson, 'He might have been

22   influenced by the police in terms of', and then

23   you, 'That's right, and that's now believed

24   happened might have been the product of what you

25   were told by the police, and even if he says well

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1   that's possible, I was so messed up at the time,

2   you know, that's something.'

3   And, again, were you thinking

4   that perhaps the police had told Albert Cadrain

5   that he saw blood?

6 A   I -- I -- I assume so.

7 Q   And again, just to go back, and I think the

8   question; if what you're saying here is okay, well

9   if Albert Cadrain says "lookit, I was a product of

10   what the police told me and that's why I said what

11   I said", I'm just wondering, in light of the fact

12   that he went in -- and I appreciate what you said

13   earlier, he was in Regina on a vagrancy charge,

14   but as far as the Saskatoon City Police -- that he

15   went in and voluntarily gave a statement saying,

16   "I saw blood on David Milgaard and I think he

17   killed Gail Miller", I'm just wondering how -- how

18   that fits in with this thinking that, okay, well

19   the police -- umm, that that information was the

20   product of what the police told him. Do you

21   follow?

22 A   I -- yes. I'm not sure I understand your

23   question.

24 Q   Well the question is I'm trying to understand,

25   you're talking to Mr. Henderson about presumably

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1   what, what Albert might say?

2 A   Right.

3 Q   And you talk, and I think what you are saying

4   here -- and please correct me if I'm wrong -- that

5   Albert might be prepared to say, or that Dennis

6   might be prepared to say that, "lookit, Albert was

7   worked over by the police, and that as a result of

8   that" --

9 A   Oh, I see what you are saying.

10 Q   -- "Albert's statement that he saw blood on David

11   was a product of what he was told by the police"?

12 A   Yes. We were discussing the possibility that what

13   happened to Albert was possibly what happened to

14   Nichol John and Ron Wilson.

15 Q   And I guess my question was, --

16 A   Right.

17 Q   -- okay, and how did that -- I mean the Wilson --

18   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Excuse me.

19   MR. LORAN: Mr. Commissioner, this witness

20   has continually referred to what happened to

21   Nichol John and Ron Wilson as if it were an

22   established fact. We've heard from those

23   witnesses and I don't think that there's any

24   evidence to suggest that these witnesses were

25   abused by the police. If this witness has direct

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1   knowledge of any evidence to support these

2   allegations, we could hear from that evidence --

3   we could hear from him with regard to that

4   evidence, but otherwise I'd object to these

5   references to something which is not established

6   in evidence.

7   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Well I understand

8   him to be saying that they believed, he believed

9   at the time that that's what happened, not

10   that -- you are not stating it now as a fact that

11   it happened, and am I right about that?

12 A   Yes sir.

13   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Yes. That was his

14   state of mind at the time.

15   MR. LORAN: Thank you, Mr. Commissioner.

16   COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: I hope everybody

17   understands that.

18   BY MR. HODSON:

19 Q   Yeah. And I think, Mr. Asper, on that, just back

20   on the --

21 A   Yes. I think it's very important, Mr.

22   Commissioner and everyone, to understand we're

23   talking about what was in my mind in 1990 in the

24   heat of this moment, and that's --

25 Q   Yeah. And I think, let me just contrast Cadrain

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1   with Wilson and John, because I think with Wilson

2   and John they had initially given statements to

3   the police that were not incriminating; correct?

4   A   Yes.

5   Q   And then later gave incriminating statements?

6   A   Yes.

7   Q   And I think the theory, or your thinking at the

8   time was, okay, well the police coerced,

9   manipulated, bullied between statement 1 and

10   statement 2; correct?

11 A   I think it was between statement 2 and statement

12   3, but yes, that's the point.

13 Q   Or between non-incriminating and incriminating?

14 A   Yes. It was the May 24th incident.

15 Q   Yeah, exactly. With Cadrain, however, the first

16   statement was incriminating and his evidence was

17   incriminating?

18 A   Well my understanding is, in fact, the first

19   statement in Regina was not incriminating.

20 Q   Okay. So if we go back, then, the statement in

21   Regina as being incriminating -- or

22   non-incriminating, the statement in Saskatoon to

23   the police was incriminating; was this thinking

24   here that somehow, between the time that he was in

25   the Regina police cells for vagrancy and when he

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1   went into the Saskatoon City Police on March the

2   2nd, 1969, that the police had somehow coerced or

3   worked him over and told him what to say?

4 *A*   Yes.

5 **Q**   And was that your thinking at the time, or a

6   possibility, or --

7 *A*   It was a possibility, yes.

8 **Q**   And so when you went to Albert Cadrain, or when

9   Paul Henderson did, one of the theories was, or

10   one of the things that was put to him to say

11   "here's your out" is "okay, somewhere between the

12   time when you went to see -- or when you were

13   picked up on vagrancy, between then and when you

14   went in on March 2nd, 1969 and gave police the

15   statement, the police made you do it, they coerced

16   you, they bullied you, manipulated, and that's why

17   you ended up lying"?

18 *A*   Yes.

19 **Q**   And 335956. And this is the discussion, again

20   with Mr. Henderson, and this is where he talks

21   about -- again, there is a few typos here still.

22   Paul, 'Now he expects a call from us?' 'Yes, he

23   does', and this is Ron Wilson. 'I don't know

24   exactly how that came about', and that should be

25   'Skip trace company contacted him and he said well

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1   I suppose they will be calling me, or something to

2   that effect, he said well the best time to reach

3   me is Monday. He didn't exactly sound like he was

4   looking forward to the call but he acknowledged

5   that he knew that it was coming.'

6   And I connected that to the

7   Robinson Investigation report where Mike Brecht

8   says "lookit, I traced him and he confirmed and he

9   seemed to be expecting, expecting a call", and is

10   that fair, that was your understanding, that Mr.

11   Wilson was -- didn't try and avoid Mr. Henderson

12   or you people and was prepared to talk?

13   A   That's true.

14   Q   And, again, a discussion here. Paul, Paul says,

15   'Now what we could use is we could use this

16   hearsay revelation that he told', and I'm assuming

17   that's referring to the Mrs. Cadrain/Donna Friesen

18   information, you say, 'Except, you know, I said to

19   Joyce, you know, the problem is that it

20   intensifies the conversation and, you know, he

21   could sort of hang up and disappear. I was

22   wondering if you can't, again I'll sort of see

23   your judgement here, you're the pro, but just

24   wondering if maybe try the honey approach, have a

25   nice chitchat with him, lay the we know who did it

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1   and you know who, we got to sort of get yourself

2   out of this mess here, Mr. Wilson, why don't you

3   just tell us what really happened'. And then

4   Paul, 'Well we used some real strong logic on

5   Dennis last night'. 'Yeah, for a minute I thought

6   I was talking to Albert'. Paul, 'But the point is

7   I said look, this guy is going to confess later,

8   and like we heard that he may already have

9   confessed and, you know, that leaves three people

10   out there, the three perjurers, and if you want to

11   desert the sinking ship now is the time to get

12   off', 'Yeah, and then Paul could even say the

13   devil made me do it, you are gonna come off

14   looking good'. 'Yeah'. 'That's, well you know,

15   judge, I guess if you can talk to Wilson, sort of

16   feel him out, you know, and if you think you can

17   sort of grab him by the throat, do it.'

18   So, again, would this be a

19   similar discussion about what approach Paul

20   Henderson might use with Ron Wilson?

21   A   Yes.

22   Q   And, again, you'll see a reference there where he

23   refers to the fact that, you know, 'we heard that

24   he may have already confessed, Larry Fisher', do

25   you remember any -- does that refresh your memory

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1   at all, this discussion?

2   A   No.

3   Q   156718. This is a letter June 4th from you to

4   Dennis Cadrain, and it attaches a release of

5   information to try and get Albert's medical

6   history, do you remember sending that letter out?

7   A   No. I accept that I did. I don't remember

8   sending it.

9   Q   And I guess the -- we don't have, we don't have

10   any record of any response. It looks like you

11   tried to get Albert's hospital records about his

12   hospitalization in 1973 and sent a release out,

13   and I -- I -- I think Dennis Cadrain said that he

14   didn't send it back, and I can't recall his

15   evidence specifically, but do you remember

16   anything about that; whether there was any further

17   discussion or further efforts to get Albert's

18   hospital records?

19 A   No.

20 Q   Now I want to turn to -- we're done with that

21   document -- to Ron Wilson. And we have heard from

22   Ron Wilson before the Commission, we've heard from

23   Paul Henderson regarding the taking of the June

24   4th, 1990 statement, and I think it was at a motel

25   or hotel in Nakusp, or in that area in B.C., and I

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1   think the evidence is they met for the day, I

2   think around eight hours give or take, and Mr.

3   Wilson signed the statement of June 4th, 1990

4   where he recanted some of his incriminating trial

5   evidence and said that he lied at trial because he

6   was coerced, manipulated, and bullied by the

7   police. And do you recall, again, your

8   discussions with Mr. Henderson at this time, do

9   you remember him getting back to you in the course

10   of any of this Wilson interview, or did you

11   basically leave it up to him during that -- for

12   that day?

13   A   Oh, I certainly left it up to him for that day.

14   Umm, I think that night he probably called me.

15   Q   And would it be fair to say that Ron Wilson's

16   statement, his recantation, was a significant

17   piece of information in your -- in your quest?

18   A   Yes.

19   Q   And I think what Mr. Henderson said, or his

20   evidence was that when he met with Mr. Wilson, he

21   outlined that the Larry Fisher evidence indicated

22   the case was going to turn and, and, "we think you

23   lied, and we think the reason you lied is because

24   the police manipulated, coerced and bullied you,

25   and here is your chance to be", I'm not sure if he

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1   used the word hero, but "here is your chance to

2   be" --

3 A   Get it off your chest.

4 Q   -- "get it off your chest". Would that have been

5   consistent with your recollection of how -- of

6   what the approach was to be with him?

7 A   Yes.

8 Q   Now both Mr. Henderson and Mr. Wilson testified

9   that at least part of the interview was taped by

10   Mr. Henderson and -- or a good part of it. Did

11   you ever listen to the tape of the interview

12   between Paul Henderson and Ron Wilson?

13 A   If I did I don't recall.

14 Q   And do you know what happened to the tape?

15 A   No.

16 Q   And I think the Federal Justice and the Supreme

17   Court, or as part of the Supreme Court process,

18   requested that tape for the Supreme Court

19   reference and it wasn't produced, and the RCMP in

20   their 1993 investigation also asked Mr. Henderson

21   for the tape and it wasn't produced, and we have

22   asked Mr. Henderson for the tape and I don't think

23   he can locate it, although he might still be -- be

24   making efforts to find it. Umm, do you know, do

25   you have any knowledge or information as to what

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1   may have happened to that, the tape or tapes of

2   that interview between Mr. Wilson and Mr.

3   Henderson?

4 *A*   No.

5 *Q*   Now after this statement was obtained from Ron

6   Wilson the documents suggest, and maybe the

7   evidence confirms this, but it looks as though Ron

8   Wilson's statement, or at least its contents, were

9   provided to Dan Lett of the Winnipeg *Free Press*

10   before it was sent to Federal Justice, and that

11   Dan Lett interviewed Ron Wilson either the day of

12   the statement or the next day, and so that a story

13   could run, I think -- and I'll show you the

14   stories in a moment -- I think within a day or two

15   after the statement, umm, and I think his story

16   ran the same day or the morning that Federal

17   Justice would have received the statement from

18   you, or close. Do you recall that being the

19   scenario?

20 *A*   Yes.

21 *Q*   And can you tell us, was that -- was that done

22   deliberately, or can you elaborate on what was

23   happening?

24 *A*   I can only guess. Umm, I can only guess.

25 *Q*   Well is it -- I'm prepared to hear your guess if

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1   it's based on --

2   A   I think this was Dan's reward, as a journalist,

3   for the work that he had done up to that point,

4   and his reward was the scoop.

5   Q   And so, again, --

6   A   I think that's what it was.

7   Q   And, okay, so the scoop being, "here's Ron

8   Wilson's statement, you get to see it, you get to

9   interview him before anybody else even knows about

10   it, namely Federal Justice or any other media

11   outlet"?

12   A   Yes.

13   Q   And was there any -- the fact that --

14   A   I can't be sure of that, but I don't have another

15   explanation at this moment.

16   Q   Was there any desire to have the statement appear

17   in the media either contemporaneously or with --

18   when Federal Justice received it?

19   A   Oh, as I -- yes. As I said, by this point our

20   view was that anything that we did should be

21   marched into Justice with blaring horns so that

22   the public would see that information was coming

23   in, and we felt that it would put Justice in a

24   position of having to do something about it.

25   Q   And so was your desire, then, to be -- and in one

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1   scenario, and I think earlier on in the process it

2   would be, "here is your information, we'll give

3   you a chance to deal with it and then publicize

4   it", was the approach now, "lookit, we're going to

5   publicize it as soon as we get it, and we might

6   even publicize it before we give it to you"?

7   A   Yes.

8   Q   And, again, that was done deliberately to put some

9   pressure on them; is that right?

10   A   Yes.

11   Q   Now, after Paul Henderson interviewed Ron Wilson,

12   did you have occasion to talk to Ron Wilson?

13   A   Yes, I did.

14   Q   And can you tell us when that was, and how it came

15   about, and what you recall of it?

16   A   I think it was, umm, when Paul was finished with

17   Wilson, either that night or the next day.

18   Q   And, and what was the nature of your discussion?

19   A   Umm, I thanked him, umm, for his candour. Umm, he

20   wanted to speak with David to apologize, umm, and

21   I agreed to facilitate that conversation --

22   Q   And so you --

23   A   -- or to try to facilitate it.

24   Q   -- so you arranged to have Mr. Wilson contact Mr.

25   Milgaard; is that right?

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1   A   I think I did, yes.

2   Q   Now there is also some reference in the documents

3   to efforts being made by either you or Mr. Wolch

4   --

5   A   And, sorry, to get counsel.

6   Q   Oh, sorry?

7   A   To get counsel for Mr. Wilson, right.

8   Q   That was my question, to get counsel?

9   A   Right.

10 Q   And, again, was that something that you talked to

11   Mr. Wilson about?

12 A   Yes.

13 Q   And can you tell us, what do you recall about that

14   discussion?

15 A   I suggested that he might want to get counsel,

16   that this would be a matter that would attract

17   significant attention, including from the

18   Department of Justice and from the media, and that

19   he may want to have counsel. He was very

20   reluctant, he didn't quite understand it, and I

21   just suggested that he go get counsel.

22 Q   And then we know that Mr. Watson ended up being

23   retained; did you or Mr. Wolch assist in

24   identifying or finding Mr. Watson or arranging

25   that?

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1   A   I think we did, and I certainly had numerous

2   conversations with Mr. Watson just about what was,

3   what was all going on and what I thought Mr.

4   Wilson's potential exposure was.

5   Q   And so, again, would you have been -- did you

6   initially contact Mr. Watson before Mr. Wilson

7   did, do you know, or --

8   A   I don't recall. I can't recall.

9   Q   And I think, and I'm not sure if this is in

10   evidence or whether it was in one of the documents

11   about, but was it a *pro bono* effort by Mr. Watson

12   for Mr. Wilson; do you know?

13   A   I believe he applied to the Department of

14   Justice -- actually, it may have been *pro bono* in

15   the first phase.

16   Q   And then at the Supreme Court there was a --

17   A   And then at the Supreme Court he got funding.

18   Q   And as far as getting counsel, were you concerned

19   at all about -- you mentioned Federal Justice; did

20   you think Mr. Wilson needed to have counsel for --

21   let me back up. Presumably, when you sent the

22   statement of Ron Wilson to Federal Justice, you

23   would have believed that they would have followed

24   up with it; is that fair?

25   A   I don't want to sound facetious, but it was not a

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1   foregone conclusion.

2 Q   But that it was likely that Eugene Williams would

3   want to interview Ron Wilson, was that --

4 A   We were, yes, we were hoping so.

5 Q   And was one of the reasons, was one of the reasons

6   you thought Mr. Wilson should get a lawyer was to

7   deal with any interview by Eugene Williams?

8 A   I think the principal concern was that Mr. Wilson

9   may have some liability for perjury, and that

10   there may be some legal issues that he would want

11   some advice on, that would have been our primary

12   thinking, and of course in dealing with Justice

13   and the, all the others that were surely bound to

14   come his way.

15 Q   Were you concerned that Federal Justice or the

16   police or the authorities would sit down with Ron

17   Wilson and -- and question him in a way that might

18   undo his recantation, for example; was that

19   something that concerned you?

20 A   Umm, no, no, that was not our concern at all. We

21   wanted Wilson, he was off on his own, to have

22   somebody he could talk to on an independent basis

23   and have representation, both as to potential

24   criminal and civil liability as well as, as I say,

25   to the hordes that were no doubt going to descend

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1   upon him, and among that included the Department

2   of Justice and potentially the RCMP.

3   Q   And when you say "hordes" are you referring to the

4   media perhaps?

5   A   Media, and by this point I think there were

6   authors starting to circle, and yes, there were --

7   there was -- there could have been a lot of people

8   coming his way.

9   Q   Did you -- do you recall any discussions with

10   Mr. Watson about -- we'll see in some of the

11   documents, and we've already heard evidence that

12   Mr. Wilson for a while, or Mr. Watson took the

13   position that they would not be interviewed by

14   Eugene Williams and not interviewed by Federal

15   Justice?

16   A   Yes.

17   Q   Did you remember that?

18   A   Yes, yes.

19   Q   And did you have any discussions with either Mr.

20   Wilson or Mr. Watson about that?

21   A   Yes, I would. I believe I discussed with

22   Mr. Watson my view that Justice, on the basis of

23   the discussions I had had with other witnesses,

24   seemed to be taking a relatively aggressive

25   approach with the witnesses, and that he might

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1   be -- want to be wary of that.

2   Q   And "the other witnesses", would that be --

3   A   Deborah Hall, Linda Fisher.

4   Q   Yeah. And did you ever tell Mr. Watson that you

5   didn't want him or Mr. Wilson to be interviewed,

6   in other words "don't be interviewed by Mr.

7   Williams"?

8   A   No, no.

9   Q   And so, to the extent that they took that

10   position, that would come from either Mr. Wilson

11   or Mr. Watson?

12   A   Yes.

13   Q   And I think, and I think there is also a document

14   or a transcript where it indicates you maybe even

15   called him and urged him to attend an interview;

16   is that right?

17   A   That's probably true, yes.

18   Q   That's probably an appropriate spot to break, Mr.

19   Commissioner.

20   *(Adjourned at 4:27 p.m.)*

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5 contain a true and correct transcription of our shorthand

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7 and ability.

8

9

10

11

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