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INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

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RE: Cadrain interviews on 5/26/90

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BACKGROUND - Last week we received a telephone number in the Vancouver area supposedly that of Albert Cadrain. On the evening of May 24, I called this number from Saskatoon and it was Albert's brother, Dennis, who answered the phone. Dennis was surprisingly receptive to the call and spoke at length about Albert and his brother's role in the 1970 Milgaard murder trial. He explained that Albert has a transient lifestyle in the Vancouver area but stays with him on occasion. Dennis indicated he had information that might be helpful in the Milgaard investigation and agreed to meet me in Port Coquitlam, B.C., on Saturday. He said he would try to have Albert available, but could not promise that his brother would talk to me. We arranged to meet at a restaurant near Dennis' home.

Dennis and Albert both showed up. We got acquainted over coffee at the restaurant and it became immediately apparent to me that Albert is stuck on the same old record. He was literally ranting and raving about how he remains convinced that David Milgaard was Gail Miller's killer. He talked about seeing the bloody clothing on David and witnessing Nicol John freak out over David on the morning of the murder. He described how David broke off the aerial from the car (to prevent him from hearing about the murder on the news) and how David made a solo trip to the library in

Calgary to read about the murder. Albert presented a detailed conspiratorial theory about David being connected with the Mafia and how this has continued to haunt him (Albert) through the years. He said he has always feared that David would kill him and and possibly harm his family if he is released from prison.

The most surprising comment from Albert during the initial restaurant rendezvous concerned the bloody clothing he claimed to have seen on David. Contrary to his statement and trial testimony, Albert claimed that David threw the clothing in a garbage can at the rear of the Cadrain house and that it was immediately picked up by a garbage truck and hauled off. (I would later correct Albert on this by reading to him from the transcript. His reaction to this was to shake his head and appear confused.)

During this initial talk, I detailed the developments relating to Larry Fisher and made a strong case for his guilt, noting also that the RCMP has been meeting with Fisher in prison and that a confession could be coming. This served to slow down Albert a bit, but he was soon back on the same old track. Dennis Cadrain will tell you that his brother truly believes what he says and that all of this has somehow become imprinted in his mind. After spending a lot of time with both brothers, I would have to agree with Dennis that Albert is not likely to see the situation any other way - even in the face of a confession from the real killer. For Albert to recant his testimony would be for Albert to lie.

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Contradictions from Albert were not surprising to his brother. It became immediately apparent that that Dennis views Albert as being mentally deficient in ways. But in dealing with Dennis it's important to keep in mind that he is extremely protective of his brother. Dennis treats Albert somewhat like a child but also feels immensely sorry for him and doesn't want him to end up looking like a monkey.

TAPED INTERVIEW AND STATEMENT - After spending about an hour at the restaurant we went to Dennis Cadrain's house nearby. Considering his family's poverty-level existence in Saskatoon, Dennis has done very well. He's married with a family, makes good money as a carpenter (\$27.50 an hour, he said), and lives in a well-kept split-level home valued at somewhere around \$200,000.

Dennis agreed to a taped interview and politely asked his brother, Albert, if we could talk alone. (Albert's response was to shrug and comment, "Oh, you want me to get lost, eh?") Throughout the interview, Dennis paced back and forth and constantly peeked around the corner to see if his brother might be within hearing distance. The most promising information emerging from this interview concern the observations of Celine Cadrain and the question of Albert's sanity at the time of trial. As mentioned earlier, Dennis revealed that he became seriously concerned about his brother's mental health when Albert told him he'd seen a vision in the clouds of the Virgin Mary stomping on a serpent with the head of David Milgaard. What Dennis did not tell me was that he personally intervened following this and convinced

Albert to commit himself to a mental institution. Albert, himself, later told me this.

I made it clear to Dennis that I wanted to be sure the statement he signed accurately expressed his feelings and insights. It was carefully crafted with his assistance, and I would expect Dennis to stand by it when he is contacted by authorities.

INTERVIEW WITH ALBERT - I offered to buy Albert dinner and we returned to the restaurant alone, where he talked practically non-stop about the Milgaard case and his life in general. Dennis says that Albert has never been quite right since the police in Saskatoon worked him over mentally 20 years ago. After listening to him ramble on, it became apparent that Albert is either out of touch with reality or has lived a very strange life.

Albert talked about his childhood and lamented his plight as the "dummy of the family." He admitted to dropping out of school after failing the sixth grade three times. He expressed resentment of both his mother and father for making him feel like a reject in the family. Albert said his father made him work to help support the family from his early teenage years and that of all of the children he was the only one his mother never baked a birthday cake for. Additionally, he said he resents his mother for not letting him take piano lessons as a child.

Albert claimed to have had "died" at age 15 or 16 after drinking a "quart of wood alcohol" to impress his friends. "I actually died and went through the tunnel; I felt my soul leave my body,"

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he said.

Albert said his Yogi training at the Saskatoon YMCA instilled him with supernatural powers, such as the ability to see auroras (halos) around the heads of others. "I was seeing them on people all the time; I was like a priest, eh? I saw purple on Milgaard, and that means he murdered someone - that's what purple means, eh?" Albert said he doesn't have such visions these days because he's been out of touch with his Yogi exercises. But the power could return with practice, he said. "You have to be in the corpse position," he explained.

Albert volunteered that he was committed to a mental institution following the Milgaard trial. He was initially reluctant to identify the hospital, expressing concern that it might be used to discredit his testimony, but finally volunteered: "University Hospital...fifth floor...nut ward."

Albert added: "I did it on my own because Dennis said I was crazy."

It was apparent that Albert resents Dennis for persuading him to committ himself and that he (Albert) feels that his brother, as well as the hospital staff, were incorrect in their assessment of his mental health. Albert volunteered that he was diagnosed as being schizophrenic and said he was subjected to repeated shock treatment and continuously sedated with medication. Albert said the doctor who treated him had a name sounding like S-C-H-O-O-D-A.

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Albert said he's not sure how long he was hospitalized. He said he hated every minute of it and that he threw his medication out the window. Also that he almost killed himself by violating his doctor's orders not to drink any water. Shock treatment and water can be lethal, he explained.

Albert said he remembers Larry Fisher as being "just like any other guy." Fisher, he said, got him a short-lived job at a masonry company, where Fisher worked, and also "wanted me to hang around with him and pick up sluts in the pool hall." Albert said he didn't care to socialize much with Fisher because, for one thing, he felt that Fisher was only trying to mooch from him.

As for David Milgaard, Albert admitted that he would "really feel bad" if he was responsible for sending the wrong man to prison. He admitted finding it "hard to believe that David did it." But he added:

"Why was Nicol John so freaked out (by David)? And why did David snap off the aerial one half mile out of town. I wanted to listen to the news and find out why everyone was being stopped by the cops heading out of town. (Interesting point: were there really roadblocks, or is this another distortion by Albert?)

"I can't change my story because if I do it's a lie. I'm not changing my story - I won't lie for the devil."

ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS - I found Albert to be a likeable but pathetic little guy. I mentioned that we'd talked to his wife,

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Barbara, and met his children in Saskatoon. Barbara had told us how Alberta deserted the family a few years ago and led us to believe that she couldn't understand why. It seemed from talking to Albert that he really loves his children, as Barbara had acknowledged to us, and that he misses them. Albert presented a different picture of Barbara than the one who Joyce and I picked up on when we visited her last week. He described Barbara as a lesbian who flaunted her sexual affairs with women, as well as with other men, in front of him and the children. He said she gave him gonorrhoea several times also that she also carved up his face with a knife. Albert bears the scars of proof. The tip of his nose has been severed (and crudely reattached) and he has several other nasty facial scars as well.

I suppose that the point of detailing all of this is to provide a better understanding of where Albert's brother, Dennis, is coming from. Dennis feels badly about his brother's life and made it clear that he doesn't want Albert subjected to humiliation.

Dennis talked about Albert's generosity and expressed resentment over what he called implications by Joyce Milgaard that his brother testified against David Milgaard for the reward money.

"Money means nothing to my brother," he said. "It means absolutely nothing to him at all. I remember when he'd work his ass off on a job then come home and spend every penny of his earnings taking all of us to the movies and buying us things.

"When Albert got the reward money he wanted to donate it all to famine relief. We were able to talk him out of that. Then he

insisted on giving the money to my mother and father to help support the family. My father took the money, then paid it back to Albert when he got married."

A final point: I found it interesting that Albert seems to personally accept responsibility for the Milgaard conviction. All of you who've been involved in the case through the years have a better understanding than I as to how the witnesses evolved. But from talking with Albert I got the distinct impression that he may have had an even more significant role than anyone realizes, and that without his influence Ron Wilson and Nicol John may have never turned against David. How police might have played Shorty against the others is anybody's guess. But if Shorty was the catalyst, and if we can show that he was not mentally competent to testify 20 years ago, Saskatoon police look real bad and the Crown is over a barrel.

Additionally, Dennis Cadrain also told me he is almost sure that police interviewed his sister and that she made it clear to them that she saw no blood on David's clothing. According to Dennis, the only Cadrain children at home that morning were Albert, his 5-year-old brother, Kenny, and the sister, Celine, who was 19 or 20 at the time. Surely the police would have talked to Celine, and you can also bet that the Crown would have brought her in as a witness to back up Albert if she had told police she saw blood.

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