# Commission of Inquiry <br> Into the Wrongful <br> Conviction of David Milgaard <br> before 

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE EDWARD P. MacCALLUM
and
Testimony before the Commission
sitting at the
Delta Bessborough Hotel at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

On Tuesday, February 21st, 2006
Volume 124
Inquiry Proceedings

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for Ms. Joyce Milgaard
for Government of Saskatchewan
for Mr. T.D.R. (Bobs) Caldwell
for Mr. Serge Kujawa
for the Saskatoon Police Service
for Mr. Eddie Karst
for the RCMP
for Mr. Larry Fisher
for Minister of Justice
(Canada), The Hon. Vic Toews

Mr. Alexander Pringle, Q.C., for Justice Calvin Tallis
(Retired)
Mr. Donald J. Sorochan, Q.C., for David Asper

## DESCRIPTION:

PAGE:
CALVIN FORRESTER TALLIS, CONTINUED

- BY MS. KNOX 24929
- BY MR. BERESH 24950
- BY MR. WOLCH 24969
- BY MR. WATSON 25035
- BY MR. WOLCH 25038
- BY MR. PRINGLE 25074
- BY MS. KNOX 25094

APPLICATION FOR STANDING AND FUNDING

- MR. SOROCHAN

DAVID ALAN ASPER, SWORN

- BY MR. HODSON


## Transcript of Proceedings

(Reconvened at 9:00 a.m.)
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Good morning.
CALVIN FORRESTER TALLIS, continued:

## BY MS. KNOX:

$Q$

A

Q

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$Q$

A
$Q$
2

Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. Mr. Tallis, for the record, last night you took
home with you or took away with you copies of three statements from the prosecution's file, that of (V4)---- (V4)---, document number 006404 , that of (V9) (V9)----, document number 006402 , and that of (V11) (V11) (V11)--, document number 006400 ; is
that correct?
Yes. I'm going by the dates. Yes, you are right.
The numbers are on --
On the bottom?
Yes.
And, sir, I have, again for the record I have exchanged with you this morning the original statements as they were found in the prosecutor's file and you now have the originals of the photocopies $I$ gave you last night before you? Yes, I do.

Okay. If I could direct you first then to the (V4)---- (V4)--- statement, 006404 . You note on
the document that in the top corner there is a notation in red ink, "indecent assault, not connected"?

A
Q

A

Q
Yes.

And you see at the bottom there's some underlining in red ink as well with respect to the description that Ms. (V4)--- gave of the person who assaulted her?

Yes.

Sir, in the course of review of the file and the testimony that he gave before this Commission, Mr. Caldwell indicated that when he was looking at your request for information that might point to the innocence, that this notation, or this assessment which was done we know from the record not by him but by somebody at Saskatoon Police Service, played some degree of influence in him determining that this wasn't related. Do you understand that that may have had an influencing factor, that the police had made that assessment and noted that assessment prior to turning the information over to him?

Yes, I understand your point.
And if we could bring up the (V9) (V9)---statement, 006402 , you see a similar assessment
done by the police prior to turning the statements over to him at his request, that it was an indecent assault only and it had no connection?

A questions were asked of you by Mr. Hodson with respect to other information that would have been Okay. Now, sir, just a couple of other points, and $I$ will indeed be relatively brief, some Meyer CompuCourt Reporting $\overline{=}$ Central Booking - Call Irene @ 1-800-667-6777 or go to www.compucourt.tv
provided to you and as well yesterday in response to one of the other counsel you indicated that after you wrote your letter to Mr. Caldwell asking him to provide you with any material in his file or in the possession of the police that might tend to show the prisoner innocent, you assumed that he did that work, and $I$ want to bring up document 007016 , please. Now, I'm not sure if you've seen this particular document before, it's taken from Mr. Caldwell's file, and in its original form it's a list written in his rather distinctive fountain pen ink about some inquiries he conducted that would appear to be in response to your request? Yes. I may have seen this, Mr. Hodson may have shown it to me, but --
$Q$ Okay.

But just looking at it right now, $I$ can't say definitely.

Okay. But you see that he indicated that he got -- and the first heading he has here being source, that he got some information or some suggestion apparently from Mr. Ullrich about the possibility of Dennis Elliott being a statement that would be of interest to you?

A Yes.

A
Q

And then he appears to have gotten some information or some suggestion from Mr. Karst about possible statements in the file that would be of interest or assistance to you?
Q

And then he makes another, other notations as we go down the page without attribution about other information in the file that might be of some interest or of some importance in him answering the query that you directed in the letter, you see that he did in fact do some work in that regard with respect to various other statements in his file?

Yes.
Okay. Then if I could bring up 007073 . Now, this again are notations, these are notes found in Mr. Caldwell's file, in his prosecution file in his handwriting in his fountain pen ink and you'll note that he's recording that on January 17 th he had a meeting with you on a Saturday that appears to have gone from 12 noon to about 1:30, if those notes make sense?

Yes. I may have been shown these as well. Uh-huh.

Although $I$ have to tell you $I$ don't recall that
specific meeting.
Okay.
But $I$ have no doubt that if Mr. Caldwell noted it, it took place, and if $I$ had my notes I probably would have a note of it too with details.

Okay. And, sir, there's just a couple of points here because they are just notes, but a few of the things that he indicates that he discussed with you would be the statement of the boy who brought Gail Miller home that morning, that would be the Dennis Elliott statement?

A
$Q$

A
$Q$
$Q$
A

Yes, I remember reading that in one of the reports --
Yes, I see that. I don't recall the discussion, but going through some of the police reports it's obvious that that's the type of thing that --

That you and he talked about?
That he would have and probably mentioned to me. Okay. And his next notation indicates he talked to you about the cross street man which would be referring to the man who Dennis Elliott said was in a car across the street when he brought Gail Miller home? Okay.
-- that $I$ was shown here for these proceedings.

Q

Okay. But you don't recall having that information at the time, although his notes would appear to indicate that he discussed it with you and he did send you the Dennis Elliott statement? Yes. I don't recall that specific discussion, but that's certainly the type of thing that $I$ would be looking for.

And his correspondence, and I don't have the number to bring it up quickly, but his correspondence would indicate that after this meeting he actually sent you the statement of Dennis Elliott that made reference to that man? Yes.

Okay. And that would have been a matter that you would have pursued to the degree that you could if you thought it had any evidentiary value? Yes. Okay. And then he references statements of other Crown witnesses, he didn't record who, and $I$ take it in fairness to you, you would have no memory, without some independent record having been made, of what other statements he discussed with you in that January 17 th meeting?

That's correct.
Okay. And this was the Saturday before the trial
commenced?


A
Q

A
asked --
Now, I should also say to you one of the things I do remember talking to him about, and it may have been at an earlier, a little earlier, is that $I$ was interested in knowing areas of potential contention with respect to admissibility of evidence and I'm sure that we had some discussion about that because when $I$ read the trial transcript, it brings back to me the fact that $I$ knew when certain issues were coming up and rather than have to jump up in front of the jury and say I'm objecting to this line of questioning, we discreetly arranged to have the jury go out while we discussed the matter in their absence. Now, whether it was at -- I think it was probably before this meeting.

Uh-huh.

A
$Q$

A
$Q$

Q Sir, are you aware that it's Mr. Caldwell's testimony that that document was not known to him, that at the time of the preliminary inquiry and trial it wasn't in his prosecution file?

Which you indicated would have been of interest to you if it -- because it contained some information that could have caused you to embark further on a chain of inquiry. Do you recall that?

Yes, $I$ recall that with particular reference to the background to, say, bringing Mr. Roberts in.

A
Well, that's the type of -- that's the type of information that $I$ wouldn't rule out as being of
interest to the defence.
$Q$
A
$Q$

A

Q

A
$Q$

A

Okay.
And could well lead one on a chain of inquiry. But, sir, it's information that was supportive of the position that the Crown was attempting to persuade the jury of more than the position that you were attempting to have the jury accept; is it not?

Yes. I'm sure that that's the way Mr. Caldwell -the prosecution, Mr. Caldwell, would probably have viewed it.

Okay. But the point, Mr. Tallis, is that, and the only point that $I$ make in regard to this, is that he didn't disclose it and he didn't use it, just as it was a piece of information that Mr . Hodson referred to you about the Merrimans that he missed in his notes and didn't disclose as well, that some of this, in the greater scheme of things, was minor pieces of information that may have been inadvertently overlooked?

Yes. I wouldn't -- the Merriman material I think is quite significant.

Yes. And in retrospect, as he looks at it, he agrees with you, I might say for the record?

I see. Well, I didn't know that, so --

Q
Okay. Now there is no question that, having the benefit of hindsight, there's some areas that he realizes that, had he to do it over again, I believe is his evidence, he would have done it different. Okay.

Now, sir, there's just one other
area that $I$ am gonna touch on, because much has been canvassed by Mr. Hodson in particular, and I spent some time reviewing it last night and cut down substantially what $I$ had intended to ask you, but Mr. Hodson did cover with you the issue of the hunting knife that was found on the stringer of the fence behind where Gail Miller's body was found; do you remember that?

A
Yes.
And, although you haven't been following a lot of the publicity that surrounded this file, are you aware or do you have a general knowledge that accusations have been made in the public media and in a book written by Mrs. Milgaard, that -- and in an interview that Mr. Wolch and others gave to the RCMP -- that Mr. Caldwell deliberately got rid of a knife believed to be the murder weapon? Well, $I$ wasn't aware of that, but -Okay.

A
Q

A

Q

A

Q

-- I'm now informed.
Okay. Sir, was there anything, in the course of your dealings with the exhibits in this case, in the course of your dealings with the police during the preliminary or -- inquiry or trial, or in any manner conveyed to you by anyone, that would cause you to conclude that this knife was the murder weapon?

No.
Okay. And, sir, I'm gonna direct your attention in particular if $I$ may, I'll ask; do you remember the cross-examination that you did of Lieutenant Penkala at the trial?

Umm, yes, I've read it over, but to say that I recall every detail would be an overstatement, but I certainly recall trying to refresh my memory from reading it over.

Okay. Mr. Commissioner, for the record, one of the versions of that evidence is -- begins at document number 177176 . And, sir, I'll summarize, and if you need me to refer to a particular passage or particular pages, I'll try to assist you.

Ms. Knox?

MS. KNOX: That's at trial.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Thanks.
BY MS. KNOX:
January 1970. Now, sir, during the preliminary inquiry, with Officer Kleiv, you spent some time talking with him about the heating operation, do you recall, that the police did at the crime scene to search for exhibits and evidence?

Yes, I recall in general terms about what $I$ would describe as the 'melting operation'.

Yes. And in fact you referred to it as a 'melting operation' in your cross.

A
$Q$
I see. Well, I didn't remember that.
Okay. More particularly, in the course of your cross-examination of Lieutenant Penkala, was his rank at the time $I$ see from the transcript, do you recall asking him about the physical area that surrounded the fence where this knife was found on February 28th, 1969, approximately a month after the incident, the event had happened?

I think $I$ probably did.
Okay.
Umm --
Sir, do you recall Lieutenant Penkala telling you, and ultimately Mr. Caldwell in redirect, that at
the time of the murder the stringer, the lower rung of the fence where this knife was found, was in -- was underneath a depth of snow probably as high as two feet?

A

Q
A
Q

I don't recall the depth, but $I$ do recall that it was found as -- and this is pure recollection on my part -- a significant depth of snow. Yeah.

But --

And Mr. Commissioner, for the record, the area of the cross-examination in this regard starts at approximately, page approximately 177218. And do you recall him showing you the photograph, or particular photographs where the body is on the ground, the fence is in the background, that shows the snow quite high along the fence line?

Umm, $I$ don't specifically recall that, but if it's there $I$ accept it without reservation.

Okay. Sir, and if you wanted to do a quick reference, what the transcript indicates is that you established, through him, that there were no tracks into that yard immediately to the east of the body, that there was no indication anybody had been in the area where the knife was found? Yes.

Q
There were no tracks or trail leading to the east, through another witness you established there was no trail of blood leading to the area where this knife was found, that was through Officer Kleiv at the preliminary inquiry, but essentially you established that there was no apparent activity in the area. And as you continued on through your examination, and Mr. Caldwell picked up on it at -- in redirect at page 177220 specifically, Mr. Commissioner, there was further discussion about the depth of snow that existed there, and the -Lieutenant Penkala indicated that he didn't recall seeing the knife because it was covered with snow at the time, and -- but he, he is willing to believe there was a stringer there, but it wasn't visible at the time. And Lieutenant Penkala goes on to say, further down the page here, that it was his estimate that there was upwards of two feet of snow, in thickness, covering the area where they subsequently found the knife. Do you recall getting that evidence at the --

I don't recall it now but certainly, you know, it's there, and $I$ remember it was found in the -there was a significant amount of snow, but -And do you remember --

A
$Q$

You indicated, in answering Mr. Hodson's questions, that you didn't want that knife admitted in evidence. Would you agree that, looking at the little pieces of the cross-examination that $I$ 've showed you, that after Lieutenant Penkala had finished his evidence before the jury at the trial, there was really no basis for the Crown to put this knife forward as connected to the murder and that a decision was made that Lieutenant Oliver or -- wouldn't be
called?


A
Q

That's correct.
And are you aware sir, as the records indicate, that what Mr. Caldwell did when he made a determination that, apparently that the evidence would -- couldn't be called in light of this, and maybe other related evidence, that he simply directed the police that the knife be returned back to the officer who had found it, the -Mr. Oliver?

I wasn't aware of those instructions.
Okay. The, I don't have the document number in front of me, but the Commission has a document where it is notated by one of the officers -Yeah.
-- that he was directed by Mr. Caldwell to turn it back to the officer who found it. Sir, in those days, given the concerns about the continuity of exhibits and so forth, would you expect that in fact it would be appropriate that it be returned to the officer that it was found in the event that it might be needed at any future time?

Yes, I think that was probably part of the protocol that was laid down.

Yeah. Sir, just a final question, and I'll try to
summarize, again knowing that you haven't got a lot of direct information as to what's been alleged. You know about the allegations of conspiracy and collusion as between yourself and Mr. Caldwell, it's also been alleged that Mr. Caldwell -- and these have been alleged headlines in papers across the country -- that he deliberately withheld the first statement of Ron Wilson from you, and you've indicated on the record that that was not true, not only did you have it, you cross-examined him on it; is that correct, that --

A
$Q$

A
$Q$
You established with them, through your cross-examination, that the police had approached them rather than the converse, that they got
involved because somebody else reported that they had a knowledge of parts of this event to the police?

A
Yes. I think somewhere along the way it came out or I learned, or maybe this is just from reading the reports that were given to me but $I$ think it goes back further than that, that Mr. Wilson actually put the police onto them as potential witnesses.

Okay. It's --
Umm --
I'm sorry, continue, please?
And that's just my general sense of things.
Okay. And, sir, the suggestion that those witnesses lied, and in particular that the Crown was complicit in getting them to lie, was pretty effectively rebutted, was it not, by the interview that you had with Ute Frank when you -- Mr. Caldwell made her available at your request? She told you that what those guys were saying happened, there may have been an issue of interpretation, but there was no question that Melnyk and Lapchuk were essentially telling the truth as to the factual occurrence in the hotel room that night?

A
Q
A

Q

Yes, without going into all the little -The nuance.
-- details and so forth, Ute Frank certainly confirmed essential details, and in her case she went farther and, as $I$ said earlier, she took the matter seriously.

And, sir, Mr. Caldwell has testified that, in making his assessment of the case that he was presenting, he developed the opinion that Nichol John, Ron Wilson, and Albert Cadrain were being truthful in the information that they were giving him, he relied to a degree in accepting that as truthful on the work of Inspector Roberts, and you, having acted both as a prosecutor and as a defence counsel, if, like Mr. Caldwell, you had believed that these witnesses were truthful, do you have any reservations about the fact that he prosecuted the case and believed that he was prosecuting the right man?
-- on that, and of course I guess that in terms of the use of a polygraph, --

Uh-huh?
-- I was never a great fan of that, because it had
Uh-huh.
-- on that, and of course $I$ guess that in terms of
not passed the litmus test of being admissible in evidence, and if the science is not developed to a sufficient degree that it can pass muster with the gate-keeper, namely the trial judge, then $I$ always had reservations about the way it was used in, you know, in both a civil and a criminal context. But that was just a, an idiosyncrasy of mine -And you would agree ---- and --
-- there were others in the profession who accepted it as being a reliable instrument? I, you know, I didn't, and I guess I have to say to you that anything I've read, and any research that I've done up to now, hasn't changed my mind. Sir, did Mr. Caldwell do anything, during the course of the conduct of this prosecution, to cause you to, for a moment, harbour any thought or suspicion that he might be working to knowingly, willfully convict an innocent young man of murder? No.

Thank you. I've nothing further. MR. HODSON: Mr. Beresh advised me this morning that he had a couple of questions, so I think he would be going before Mr. Wolch.

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BY MR. BERESH:
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Good morning, Mr. Tallis. My name is Brian Beresh. I think, by my recollection, we've known each other since about 1973 when you were my civil trial procedure prof, and although the solemnity of the occasion doesn't permit me to ask, I still wonder why you gave me the mark and thereby forced me into criminal law.

But $I$ was struck, yesterday,
by --
I was going to say it's too late for a reread.
I was struck yesterday, and $I$ should say, sir,
that $I$ was actually moved by your comment yesterday about the educational aspect of this Commission, and $I$ want to touch only briefly this morning on one mandate, which is term number 4 of the Commissioner's mandate, which is to make recommendations to the province about the administration of justice, and given my experience over time $I$ am as concerned, I'm sure, as you are. And $I$ just want to touch on few things if $I$ can, please, this morning, which might assist the Commission.

> I don't think that you and I
would disagree that, in order for our criminal
justice system to work, there has to be objective,
thorough, and independent investigation by whatever investigative body there is; would you agree with that, sir, be it a police force or some other investigative force?

A
$Q$
A
$Q$
No, but your insight in this is very important, and $I$ want to focus on a couple of areas that are of concern, $I$ know of concern to the Commission. And it's this whole Section 9(2), and I'd like your thoughts on it, because my suggestion is that the problem with the process under Section 9(2), even if we accept that $a$ voir dire in a jury trial ought to be held, is that if a statement is taken and a witness claims not to be able to remember, if the trial judge doesn't accept that failure to remember, that opens the door for an open cross-examination; would agree with that?

A
$Q$ By who?

By whichever counsel wishes to cross-examine, and
let's say in this case the prosecution?

A
$Q$

Q

A

Q
A

Q

Yes.
And that, in essence, the defence is left with no safeguard whatsoever if the witness -- if the product of cross-examination by defence only results in the witness saying "I can't remember making the statement"?

Yes.
And I -- my suggestion is that even a concluding caution by the trial judge is, is or can be, of little benefit in overcoming the potential of that statement being introduced in that fashion?

Well I guess the problem that you raise is, in my view, a difficult one, because if a witness says "I do not remember", the right to confrontation is virtually meaningless, and that's a very difficult problem --

Yeah.
-- not only when you're dealing with it directly, but jurisprudentially speaking, how do you exercise a right of confrontation under those circumstances.

Yes. And let's advance now, because His Lordship, when writing his report, will look at the present state of the law. In 1969 there was no such
theory as $K G B$ or Khan, which was developed only recently; you will agree?

A
$Q$

A

Now let's look at the application, the present state of the law, which $I$ suggest still creates or continues the dilemma. Nichol John provided a statement under oath before a Justice of the Peace, I think it was Justice of the Peace Ross. If we look at the provisions of the Supreme Court of Canada decision in Khan, $K G B$, we find one essential foundation is reliability, difference of opinion in the Court about whether it would be under oath or not, but it seems to me probably Nichol John's statement would, under the present state of the law, be considered reliable because it was under oath; would you agree?

No, I wouldn't agree with you, because I think that the full inquiry on the voir dire, with the burden being on the Crown to call all relevant witnesses, like I mentioned with respect to the admissibility --

Yes?
-- of a confession or a recent complaint, then the result, $I$ think, in these circumstances could be quite different from the one that you've --

Q
A
Q perfection.

Well I hope not.
A Yes.
Now it will not be infallible, but -- and maybe it's unreasonable to expect it to be, but what one must never cease looking at, or it's not unreasonable for a system to strive to achieve

Let's look at the second ground of $K G B$ and Khan, which is necessity. If a trial judge accepted that a witness could not remember, and let's say in this case Nichol John, let's say the trial judge, we don't know what Justice, Chief Justice Bence thought, I have my feelings about what he thought but let's assume for a minute he thought that she couldn't honestly remember; would you agree that, if we accepted first of all that trustworthiness or reliability was made out, that in that circumstance the statement could go in, to the great detriment of an accused person, without any ability to challenge it?

Okay. You are speaking of the present state of the law?

Q
Absolutely.
Yes. Well, you know, that could happen. But would you agree with me that there ought to be --

I would hope not, but we're dealing with hypotheticals here now.

Q
Well would you agree with me that one recommendation that the Commissioner might make is that there ought to be a third test, a sort of a safety net, which is based upon something similar
to what an appellate court applies, which is an unsafe situation? So, for example, we don't have Detective Roberts, we don't know what was said, but we -- and, because we don't have that link, then maybe it's unsafe to allow the use of the statement?

Well of course $I$ read, at the time, Section 9(2) as using the word "may", and I think that the word "may" implied that there was a discretion vested in a trial judge to disallow cross-examination on the statement, and so I take you back to the importance of considering all of the circumstances under which the statement was given, not just cherry-picking certain items, and at the end of the day in some cases, and $I$ happen to think that this may have been one of them, the circumstances might well persuade a judge sitting on the voir dire to exercise his or her discretion in favour of the defence.

Okay. The second area, and I take it we don't disagree, if some -- if a police force wishes to use a polygraph system or method, I take it you don't disagree that one recommendation by this Commission could be that it ought to be recorded in some fashion so we know what was said, similar
to recommendations by a number of commissions in relation to major statements from witnesses? Yes, I -- I -- I would certainly endorse that. And years ago $I$ was always of the view that it was a prudent measure on the part of police officers, and also for the benefit of society, if statements were actually tape recorded. The written, $I$ have no problem with the written script, signed, but the tape recording often gives you the inflection of the voice of the questioner and of the interrogee. Sir, I reviewed your transcript from last week and I heard your evidence yesterday, and you were asked about calling Mr. Milgaard as a witness, and I think, through Mr. Hodson, there was some concern expressed about whether or not some of his antecedents might arise in cross-examination. And it struck me that one recommendation that Mr . Commissioner might make is that we ought to consider a stricter rule on the application of character evidence, and that is when character is put into issue, that is a direct relationship between the alleged crime and the character that's trying to be impugned; would you agree with me on that, sir?

Well I would say that whenever you are getting into any of these areas it's difficult to give a hard and fast answer because changes invariably come incrementally and with the best of motives and good will. It's difficult to look into the future, unanticipated facts or unanticipated factual situations arise which inevitably drive people to sort of rethink the positions that they have taken, so I -- $I$ would say to you, on that, that this is an area that would have to be canvassed very carefully with all the ramifications thought out.

Frankly, I've been away from this for about a year now, and it's an area that, you know, people on the 'firing line', if $I$ may use that term, may be in a much better position to brief and advise on.

Well, except that we have seen some recent movements, and let me give you the example of Corbett. Before Corbett it appeared that the law was any criminal record, any conviction, could be put to an accused if he or she takes the box. The Supreme Court of Canada moved, of its own motion, to try to limit that to morality-related offences, some offences that might be telling of -- in terms
of credibility, with some exception. Would you not agree that a movement similar to the Corbett movement in the area of character evidence ought to be considered because --

A

$$
\mathrm{Q}
$$

A
$Q$

A
$Q$

Well, I'm not quarrelling with considering these things, all I'm saying is that to plunge into a particular area without considering the ramifications, which may or may not be favourable from the standpoint of the defence, must be considered.

I appreciate that, but --
Because every time something comes up there is usually an opposing force that is putting forth a competing idea and it's not, I guess with respect, as simple as you are putting it to me -Well --
-- is all I'm saying.
-- that's not the first time I've been accused of that. But $I$ guess my point is this: If defence counsel doesn't call the witness, doesn't call the accused who he or she believes is not culpable of the present crime because of concern about past antecedents which are not $a$, of a criminal record nature, would you not agree that that harbours the ability of the defence to make full-answer
defence?
Well, of course, $I$ think that's -- I mean that has been a problem for generations and that's one -and that was one of the -- you know, oddly enough an accused was not given the opportunity to give evidence until about 1898, and one of the leading counsel of the day, Lord Carson, didn't think it was a good idea because, among other things, he thought it would not enure to the advantage of the unsophisticated accused.

Now I'm not saying I share that view, but $I$ use it to illustrate to you that in these areas you have to think it out very, very carefully, and you may still be wrong at the end of the day. I happen to, I agree with the basic rule, I mean Wigmore articulated some of those rules years and years ago, and I think they're sound rules, you don't convict a person on the basis of his or her past. But, you know, as -there are exceptions to that rule.

But you do agree with me that it's difficult, if not impossible, to protect an accused from a wrongful conviction where evidence of impropriety from the past is put before a jury?

A
Oh, that's right, you strive to the best of your
ability to keep it out on the footing that it is not a relevant consideration with respect to this particular crime.

In that same vein, but a bit of a different matter of concern, of course, is the introduction of expert evidence, and there was expert evidence at this trial, and $I$ wonder about your thoughts about whether this Commission can make recommendations for the protection against wrongful convictions where you have expert evidence, some of which is considered incontrovertible. How do you protect the accused from being, some judges in Alberta have said, bedazzled by the expert evidence? Well, $I$ know you always have to sort of beware of bromides in white clothes, but $I$ really think in terms of recommendations on expert witnesses and so forth, I'm not in a good position to make recommendations on that, and $I$ can assure you that I know Mr. Pringle well enough to know that he will co-operate fully in putting forward ideas from the standpoint of an active criminal law practitioner.

I would just say this to you on that, that in the United Kingdom a great deal of thought is now being put into developing an expert
witness code with emphasis on the expert's duty to the Court as perhaps being an overriding duty rather than looking at his first, his or her first and primary duty being to the person that calls them. Now, I'm in no position to expand on that, but I think that if you are going to study that area, it is something of significance, and if $I$ have any references on that $I$ will certainly make them available to my counsel.

Sir, in this trial there was a warning of sorts to the jury about discreditable witnesses and this has, as you know, for a long time been of great concern to the administration of criminal justice, we have the Vetrovec warning, and my question this morning is your reflections on how we can improve upon that system, that the simple Vetrovec warning about unreliable witnesses is not sufficient and, as you expressed yesterday, you had some professional and personal thoughts about credibility in this case. How can we improve upon that warning, particularly in a jury trial?

Well, I think the warning with respect to unsavoury witnesses is essentially a matter of language that must be used in terms of cautioning oneself if you are sitting alone or cautioning a
jury, and here again $I$ don't have any particular form of words that $I$ am advancing. I'm sure there are many people here in this room who would be able to formulate a much better direction than $I$ could at this stage of my career.

But don't you think that we should be working toward a much stronger warning than what we're using?

Well, that's just what I've said, that this is something that can be formulated in a language that is clear and direct, but the moment you start elaborating on some of these concepts, you have to be careful that you don't sow more confusion than you've overcome.

Yes. Sir, I'm not sure I didn't hear this voiced by you, but as you know there are defence counsel who believe that addressing the jury in a jury trial last is extremely important and by calling evidence we forsake that right. What are your reflections on a recommendation by this Commission that that option ought to be left to defence, pure and simple, regardless of whether you call evidence or not?

Well, there are two ways of approaching it. First of all, I don't think that having the last word is
the primary consideration, but some counsel that $I$ recall in the past placed a fair amount of stock on it, but one way of course would be to permit defence under any circumstances to have the last word and I can think of one particular case where that issue was raised as being a denial of a constitutional right. I'm not sure that that was on sound ground, but the prosecutor in that case responded by saying I'm not interested in a constitutional argument over this, I'm prepared to go first. Now --

Would you agree with the recommendation that it should be left to defence option particularly in --

A
I think that probably, that you could also look at having a situation like this, that if the present situation remains as it is, then there would be a right of reply, but limited to certain matters that arise from the address.

And the Supreme Court in Rose suggested that. One final area, sir, in terms of --

But just on that particular point, this too is an area where you may be going down a slippery slope, if $I$ may say so, because when you propose some of these things in absolute terms, you invite, in
effect, a reaction from opposing forces and that's why I think that something can be learned maybe in these areas from the civil side of litigation and that's why $I$ mention the right of reply, but that would of course be a matter that has to be within proper bounds and the trial judge would deal with it, but those are really just casual thoughts on my part.

I appreciate that.
I didn't come here with them having, with them being briefed, my role is quite different here.

I appreciate that, except let's just deal with that for a moment. Of course we changed our jury selection rules, the Supreme Court of Canada changed those rules --

Yes.
-- without any concern raised, no prejudice to the prosecution. I fail to see any prejudice to the prosecution in being told they have to go first or last according to choice of counsel, or choice of defence counsel. Do you see any prejudice to the prosecution?

A
I don't have any problem with it, but I'm just saying to you that there is an alternative that has been raised in some of the writings and that
will merit consideration.
The last issue $I$ want to touch on, sir, which is something that this Commission $I$ suspect will want to report on, is the power of the Court of Appeal in dealing with allegations of unreasonable verdicts, has been suggested by many writers that that ought to be expanded to prevent cases where there might be a miscarriage of justice at trial and $I$ wonder about your thoughts on that, whether you believe or agree with those authors who say there ought to be an expanded role in that area. The standard of review that has been articulated with respect to whether or not a verdict is unreasonable or cannot be supported by the evidence is, in my view, a very strict or limited standard of review. The right to intervene at the appellate level is a very limited right and $I$ think $I$ can probably know, do know better than refer, for example, to the Biniaris case in the Supreme Court of Canada which followed on a number of others, and that case $I$ think indicates that even if the Court of Appeal and its -- and when $I$ say that $I$ mean the personnel of the Court -- has a lurking doubt about the conviction, that is not sufficient to warrant intervention. It may spawn
a deeper inquiry into the strength of the evidence and, frankly, I have long thought, and $I$ can say so now, that the standard of review is too restrictive under that section of the Criminal Code that we're talking about. I know a great deal of focus has been placed on the role of the trial judge in trying to prevent or minimize wrongful convictions, and actually very little has been said about the role of the Court of Appeal, I think that that warrants consideration, and $I$ guess $I$ can sum up my feeling this way, but once again $I$ want to make it clear that I'm not the best person to be asking this, there are many, many people here who are actively involved in the practice of criminal law and they are much closer to the rolling fire of the front line, if $I$ may use that term, but $I$ would use language of this type to illustrate my point.

If, after careful review of the
record, the Court -- by that $I$ mean its members -are left with such a sense of unease and disquietude that they feel that the verdict is unsafe, then there ought to be the power to intervene. I know that some have said the lurking doubt should open the door. I prefer the language
that $I$ have used to express my view on it and I rather like the use of the term unsafe because that is the term that is used in the United Kingdom legislation, and reading some of the cases that apply that particular provision gives me the sense that it has been interpreted to give a wider power of review than under our legislation. Now, that's the best $I$ can do to sum it up right now. MR. BERESH: I appreciate that. Thank you, sir.

## BY MR. WOLCH:

$Q$
Mr. Tallis, I'm Hersh Wolch, I'm David Milgaard's lawyer.

A Yes.
$Q$
I might start by saying that unlike Mr. Beresh, I passed law school.

Let me at the outset say that I don't intend to be overly long hopefully with you, but $I$ would like to say at the beginning that nothing I'm going to ask you will in any way have anything to do with your credibility, your integrity or question you in any sort, there's nothing in my questions that should be considered as having anything by faith in your answers.

The second point $I$ would make at
the outset, that there is nothing in my questions which is in any way suggesting anything regarding the handling of the trial, any questions $I$ may have had you've answered totally to my satisfaction. There will be no second guessing of judgment calls, that all of which appear reasonable, so I'm not going down that road at all, so $I$ just say at the beginning so you can appreciate, the questions aren't coming from that area at all.

I would like to start with, briefly with your relationship with David, and when Mr. Hodson and I met with David he indicated to both of us that he looked at you as a father figure, he expressed satisfaction that you tried very hard for him and indicated an admiration and that he liked you, that's the way he looked at it many years later, and $I$ take it from your experience you found that many people, even the really guilty ones, still blame their lawyers, you've certainly come across that; have you not? I suppose, you know, through the years I've run into almost everything, but there's always, I suppose, something new that will come along, but I understand where you are coming from as a
practitioner of the criminal law.
But -- no, but remarkably, even though he was wrongly convicted, David indicated nothing but admiration for you and indicated he got along very well with you. I'd like your perspective of him. Well, that's a fair statement. I mean, I always thought that $I$ had a good, enjoyed a good working relationship with him and also actually -- and also with his father and mother, although the primary working relationship was with David, and $I$ guess it doesn't surprise me in a way to hear you say that on reflection he certainly still feels that way because that's indicative I think of the relationship we had.

Now, whether or not $I$ was a father figure to him, $I$ cannot speak to that, but I can see why he would feel that way in a sense because $I$ know when $I$ did go to see him in Prince Albert, and $I$ now know that that was on three occasions, I was always concerned about whether or not he was being treated fairly there under the circumstances and $I$ guess $I$ was concerned about whether or not he was being abused.

Yes. He was but 16 years of age?
Yeah, between 16 and 17.

Q
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Q

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A
Well, very early, very early in my contact with him $I$ knew that his friends, as $I$ put in quotation marks, were the ones that had fingered him, if I may use that term. made up or said about him?

Q
A

Q
A
Q

A
$Q$

A
$Q$

A

Yeah.
And we, you know, continued to explore, you know, motives in that regard. Now, $I$ don't want to be too long winded or repetitious, but that was something that $I$ 'm sure that he couldn't put his finger on anything --

Yes.
-- at that time.
And as far as you understood, he had no criminal record at that time?

Yeah. I don't -- without my file I don't recall the details of, as I said to Mr. Hodson, of his conflict with the law. I used the term he had a troubled youth, but $I$ don't recall now any specific Criminal Code offences.

Yes.
Although in -- he may have referred to something. Mr. Caldwell testified that David had no criminal record. We've heard comments about sexual immorality, but my understanding was back in those days that was anybody under 18 having consensual sex with somebody else under the age of 18 , it's not a crime any more, that that wouldn't affect your judgment of him $I$ wouldn't think?

No, but, you know, there was -- the use of drugs
did come up in our discussions.

Q
A

Q

A

Q

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alluded to it now here and in the past, is the question of the releasing of privilege involving yourself. That $I$ think places you in somewhat of an uncomfortable position; does it not?

A

Q

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$Q$
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Q

Q
A

Q

Releasing privilege?
Sorry, for you to tell whatever David may have said or instructed?

Well, I think $I$ knew the rules with respect to that, and whether you are dealing with a civil or a criminal matter, my understanding was that the privilege was that of the client.

And --
And that that privilege was sacrosanct unless waived.

Correct, and $I$ won't go through all the principles, but all the reasons behind it are all very good reasons we all agree. Now, systemically though, the Department of Justice made it mandatory that privilege be released for them to consider David's innocence. Now -Privilege be waived.

Waived rather, yes.
Yes.
And presumably it was to determine if David ever confessed to you or -- because that would nullify
the bona fides of the application. At the end of the day it went way beyond that into everything that David may have said to you, but in principle I'm concerned about the release of privilege because it strikes me that lawyers who now say to their clients whatever you say to me is between us, you can be candid, you can be open, perhaps should be saying but, if you are wrongly convicted, $I$ may have to release, or you may have to release me from that to further any 690 application. You see what I'm getting at?

A

Q Oh, yes, I understand that.

And so really right now most lawyers will say to their client, look, you can come clean with me, you can tell me everything, $I$ can't tell anybody, but here's the but, if you are wrongly convicted and I'm wondering even if it should be mandatory or whether a person proclaiming their innocence should have to release their lawyer from privilege.

I assume you are inviting my comment on that and $I$ would have to say to you this, Mr. Wolch, that I'm probably not the best one to research and address that at this stage because many of you have been involved in this type of application, in this type
of application that you speak to, and I can see the point that you are advancing and that is, in effect, that any waiver ought to be a limited type of waiver with respect to just certain aspects, but ought not to be a general waiver that sort of potentially opens up a person having to justify their whole life. I think I'm following you on that.
$Q$
A
Yes.
And I guess as I said to Mr. Beresh, on some of these things one has to look at sort of all aspects of it and $I$ suppose there would be strong arguments made that, well, you know, a general waiver would be indicative of complete candour regardless of how painful it might be. On the other hand, $I$ can see the position of a defence lawyer who has, in the early stages, said anything that you say to me is completely confidential and can never be repeated by me unless you waive that privilege, it's your privilege, so there is a dilemma there, and $I$ really haven't, $I$ must say, applied my mind in trying to come up with a clear-cut answer. You may have pinpointed something that, you know, would have to be addressed by counsel on a case-by-case basis.

I guess my difficulty is that the application goes forward on the basis Wilson has recanted, we have the Fisher, the real killer, and the Department of Justice is hypnotizing Nichol John to get her to remember and going to you to see if maybe they can find something that will incriminate David, it's that sort of balancing I'm concerned about, and then privilege is waived with you and there's still some privilege being claimed by Justice that we haven't even got their documents as to what you told them.

A

Q

A

Q forward on Yeah.

So it's kind of a bizarre thing in the system that we are compelled on behalf of a wrongly convicted person to release privilege as a condition precedent to moving forward, and that's -- I think you've answered the question, unless you have something more to add?

No. I think I've tried to put it fairly, and I'm not suggesting that I've given an answer after having, you know, looked into it with mature and careful consideration because this is an area that will require just that, and of course your question, at least an aspect of it, posed the question -- you know, made the assumption that at
least in some instances they will be looking for things that actually incriminate.

Right.
And that of course, you know, does involve potential consideration of how reviews should be set up or handled.

The -- I thank you for that. The next sort of topic I have with you deals with memory, and you and $I$ met on a number of occasions, and what $I$ have been doing myself in this and other areas is trying to test my memory to see how well $I$ remember to give me some idea, perhaps, how well you remember. And what $I$ am finding is that $I$ remember meeting with you, and cordially and whatever else, and David maintaining innocence being told to me, but beyond that, without reading letters, it's not there. And $I$ think, as a judge, perhaps you might make some comments about what your findings have been on memory and honest people, that is how people can remember over time and some of the problems we do have with real memory? I'm not talking about Nichol John kind of memories but I'm talking of the long-range memories on truthful witnesses.

A
Well as I said earlier to Mr. Hodson, speaking
personally, $I$ have tried my best to direct myself with respect to the treachery of memory, and of course I've -- that includes directing or cautioning myself with respect to imaginative memory.

Yes. But what --
But at the end of the day you have to try to give your best recollection of events and, of course, that's not an easy task. It can be, as you've said, refreshed by reading documents and, you know, in this particular case I've tried to give my best recollection, and in some cases a reconstruction, a reasonable reconstruction. But $I$ would say this to you in general terms, that memories or the capacity to remember and convey what you remember differs widely from person to person, and this is one area where individual differences certainly arise, not only in general terms, but with respect to specific items. And you see it within your own family or families, and yet everybody is trying to, you know, honestly recollect it. And it goes back to, you know, three people are at an intersection when an automobile accident occurs, well, three honest people try to give their best
recollection and there are going to be differences.

Well the one thing that $I$ do remember from talking to you way back when, and perhaps you may or may not remember, is your comment that one of your biggest fears in the Supreme Court is that you were going to be believed on everything?

Well --
Do you recall anything to that effect?
Well, I don't think that $I$ used those words.
I don't think you did either, but that comment?
I think that's your -- those are your words. Umm,
I certainly did not want to convey to you, or anyone else, that $I$ remembered everything --

I think --
-- and --
I think what you were saying was that there is a tendency to mix up reliability and credibility, that is coming before $T h e$ Court you were simply an honest witness doing his best, and your background didn't make your memory any better than anybody else's, other than the fact that you have a decent memory, and that --

A
Well that goes back to what I said about individual differences.

Q
A witnesses -Right.

A
Yes. But -Sure.

Yes. a day-to-day basis. --

Yeah.
$Q$
A

I mean $I$ have been told in past years, and nothing to do with this case, that $I$ have a good memory.

Now I didn't necessarily subscribe to that view, because it's difficult for me to judge my personal capacity as far as memory, others around me may be in a better position. And there are some things you remember. I mean $I$ used to have $a$, $I$ think, $a$ very good ability in remembering particular cases and details of them, as time goes by that ability fades to some extent, --
-- particularly when you are not working at it on

Sure. I guess my point is that many counsel here might disagree as to what they remember happened even in this Commission four or five months ago,
-- let alone 20 years ago.
Well, I can't speak for them, if they want to be -- they can come forward.

Q

A
$Q$

A

Q
A
$Q$

A

Q
A

But what $I$ am getting at is it's quite possible that on an issue, if your memory and David's doesn't coincide on a particular point, one should not just assume that you are right and he's wrong simply because you are who you are?

Well I have never taken that position.
I know that. That's why $I$ am bringing it up.
I have never taken that position. I have, as I said, endeavoured to give my best recollection, and for the purposes of this Inquiry $I$ have been asked to read hundreds of pages of materials, and reading some of that material is of assistance to me.

Correct. But --
But there are some areas, as I've indicated to Mr.
Hodson and as $I$ just indicated to you, that the details that David told me about his troubled youth, without my file notes $I$ can't recall them, other than a general statement.

Correct. And your involvement in the matter ended in the early ' 70 s and then was rekindled in the late '80s, if -- I think $I$ have it right, umm -I think you are probably right -Okay.
-- as to those details.

And that was a very, obviously, busy time for you in terms of many cases, judgements, you were involved in a great number of important matters that you had to focus on?

Oh, yes.
And you weren't remembering or thinking back to put into your memory the Milgaard case, so to speak, over time?

No. I, later, when -- and as I say, in preparation for giving evidence here, read a great deal of material and did my -- have done my best to give the, --

Oh --
-- you know, my best recollection.
Oh, absolutely, and it's obvious you have done a great deal of work.

And I'm sure that $I$ have fallen far short in areas --

No, I don't think so.
-- and that, $I$ think, is certainly understandable.
But the big handicap has been that, while you are meticulous in keeping records and notes for accuracy and recall, you have never had the benefit of that?

No, except for the few items that --

Q
A

2 think it was the Dallison letter to Mr. Caldwell. So your evidence here is perhaps more -- much better prepared and -- than it was for the Supreme Court; is a fair way of putting it? that, and $I$ was not asked to read any materials over.

So you --
Except, I think there was one letter that you showed me the night before $I$ gave evidence, I

Oh, I think that's a fair statement.
Now I'd like to deal with a couple of the items -and I'm going into a new area, Mr. Commissioner, I don't know if you want me to start it or --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: We can take a break.
(Adjourned at 10:27 a.m.)
(Reconvened at 10:48 a.m.)
BY MR. WOLCH:
Mr. Tallis, keeping in mind the passage of time, the frailties of memory, and the lack of access to your detailed notes, might you agree with me that one guide to your instructions at the time would be the nature of the questions you asked of witnesses?

I think that that certainly would be of assistance.

For example, during the trial you would not have made a decision with David as to whether he would testify until the very last minute?

Well, there comes a time where you have to make the final decision, but it had been discussed before that.

But it's a decision you could change at the last minute, and quite properly so, depending on your
feel at the moment and just your trial experience and ability?

A
$Q$
A
Q

A

Q

A
$Q$

A
Q

A
-
Q

Yes. Although, you know, it wasn't a decision that was taken lightly at the last minute.

Oh no, --
Yeah.
-- but it's a decision that all the factors are thought about and thought about and thought about, so that when you have to make the decision the decision is quick, but it's long thought out?

Yes, you reflect on it, and you've -- what more can I say.

You might even think about the first day you met David, it's something you always think about, but postpone the ultimate until when you have to? Yeah, there comes a time when you know the question is going to be asked.

Yeah. But, as a skilful lawyer, you do question the witnesses with a thought in mind that your client might be up there testifying?

Yes, you have to take that into account.
So for example if David is gonna take the stand, and I'll pick an issue of the compact, -Yes.
-- if he is going to say "yes, $I$ threw something
out", then it may be your questions would focus on
it not being anything related to Gail Miller; but
if your instructions are he's going to say "I never threw anything out", you might take a different approach?

A

Q

But you don't want to be in the position of saying to a witness, "I suggest to you that David threw out an item that was different than what you are
saying it is", and then have David get on the stand and say "no, I did not throw anything out", that would be not what you want to be in a --

A
Q
A
$Q$

BY MR. WOLCH:
This is the statement of Nichol John on May 24 th, and this is the first incriminating part, and she

MR. WOLCH: Perhaps the clerk could -COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Thank you.

MR. WOLCH: Yes.
says here, 'On our way about half way between Saskatoon and Rosetown $I$ looked in the glove compartment for a map, saw a cosmetic case, there was a compact, 2 lipstick and an eye shadow, I asked whose it was. Nobody knew whose it was, David grabbed it and threw it out the window.' Now I pause there, and I just point out to you that it's not a compact, it's a cosmetic case with two lipstick and an eye shadow; do you see that?

A
$Q$
A
Q

A

Q
A
Q
I take it to read that there was all those items inside a cosmetic case, that's my reading of it, but --

A
Well, I guess you could read it two ways.

Q Yeah, no, I'm just looking at it --

A
Q

A

Q Yeah.
-- and saying it's not a compact per se, it's a cosmetic case containing a number of items, and that's her version of it given way back then. Yes.

She asked whose it was, and nobody knew, and David threw it out. Now that's what she says happened.

Now if we turn to 065361 , now this is Ron Wilson's statement of May $23 r d$, it says:
"On the way to Calgary Nicky found a white or cream coloured compact with a flower design, I'm not just sure about the color. She found this someplace in the car."

He doesn't have her finding it in the glove compartment necessarily:
"She asked Dave ...", she says she asked everybody:
"... who's it was and $I$ don't know what he said, he just took it and threw it out the window."

So in his case he doesn't see a bag, he doesn't see lipstick, he doesn't see the other items, he
somehow was able to see the design on the compact, and there seems to be some inconsistency here that exists as to what, if anything, was thrown out of the car; do you see that? I mean I'm just pointing it out now, I mean for you to remember back that far about a compact is a test of memory $I$ can't imagine, but I'm just pointing out there are differences in the initial
descriptions as to what happened between the two of themselves?

A
Q
Yes.
Yes. And then the fact of the matter is we know that there was no compact belonging to Gail Miller, and we know she didn't even lose one according to the evidence, but that is the contrast between the two of them.

Now it seems to me that if David
has instructed you that he threw something out, you would have been seizing on the discrepancies and said "yes, it was something else, and no relation", you would have made more of an issue of it than you did -- and we can study it in cross-examination on that point.

But I'd like to take you to your
jury address, then, on that point, and I'm on page
031268. I think the original number, that's the original number $I$ was going to give you, yes. See, in your address you say:
"... and also consider the question of
the purse, the contents of the purse, and then ask yourselves, when you examine that, bearing in mind the alleged dimensions of this other so-called compact is it reasonable, is it probable that there was in fact another compact or cosmetic bag as is alleged in this particular case?"

And if you could scroll down --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Could I have the
doc. ID there, please?
MR. WOLCH: Yes, it's 031255.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Thank you.

MR. WOLCH: At 268 .

BY MR. WOLCH:

Q See, you say here:
"... if you find that you are not
satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that
there either was this other compact that
was allegedly tossed out of the window,
the one that allegedly came from this
purse, then that is something that you will have to consider ...", I'm mainly on your word "allegedly tossed out of the window", and I'm wondering if it -- that might not be consistent, at least, with your instructions that it just didn't happen, if you follow what $I$ am saying?

No, there is no doubt in my mind that David told me what $I$ indicated that he told me, and of course I asked "where did it come from" and he told me he didn't know, and I asked him why he threw it out and he said, "you know, well $I$ just don't know, it was there". And we, we revisited this area several times, because it was of significance to me in making the decision as to whether or not he should be called.

Now $I$ felt that, in my jury address, that $I$ was free to raise, sort of like an identification issue, $I$ was free to raise the issue of whether or not the evidence satisfied the legal test that this had been established by the prosecution.

Q Yes. Were you able to reconcile it with Nichol John saying it was a cosmetic bag with lipstick as opposed -- and a compact, of course, but it seemed
like a lot more things?

A

Q

A

Q

A
recollection is that he used the term
"soft-bladed", but $I$, in my mind $I$ know that it conveyed to me a flexible blade, type of blade. Well just on that point as to whether he had a knife or not, and keeping in mind that one was
bought in Rosetown afterwards by kids that didn't have very much money so there's an inference to be drawn there wouldn't have been one, but if you look at 106670 , that starts at 106669 I think -that's good -- you see Wilson, at the very beginning in this police report, says:
"... that he could not recall a knife
being in the car nor did he see Milgaard bring one from the elevator. On further questioning, he thought that possibly Milgaard could have picked up a knife from the Champs Hotel where they had eaten earlier that day where Nickey had been employed, however, could shed no further light on that aspect."

An interesting comment there, that why did he think David could have been -- could have picked up a knife when he never saw one, but that goes from, you know, the police perspective, I suppose, but that's where he starts from.

And if $I$ go to your Supreme Court evidence at 300669 --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: The doc. ID, please?
MR. WOLCH: I'm sorry, sir?

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Doc. ID? 56?
MR. WOLCH: Looks like that, 300656, yes. BY MR. WOLCH:
$Q$

Well all $I$ can tell you is that my best recollection, and I've thought a great deal about it, is that he had a knife, it had a flexible type of blade -- now I'm not saying "flexible" is his word -- and it was that the flexible blade was the type of blade that sometimes could be used for -like a plastic card is sometimes used for slipping a lock in $B$ \& Es.

Would it --
So we'd had a discussion about that.
Would a jackknife fit that description?
Well, depending on the type of jackknife. Some of
If you just turn it to 69, your evidence in the Supreme Court is:
"... our discussions from time to time -- that he may have had a jackknife with him when he was in Saskatoon, but certainly not a paring knife.",
seems to indicate some uncertainty on your point that the most David would have said is "I may have had a jackknife, $I$ don't know", he's thinking back six months, or six weeks?
the blades on them, particularly the cheap ones, were pretty flexible. The point is that he never had a paring knife --

Q
A a knife with this type of blade. Okay, I would like to turn to the trial, and I want to deal with disclosure and the disclosure recollection --

Oh absolutely?
-- and I have no doubt that he told me that he had
provided to you, and I'm wondering, and I don't want to belabour it, I'm wondering if, and $I$ don't want to show it, if you have seen the video that was prepared for the Supreme Court on behalf of David Milgaard which talks about the Crown's theory and how it couldn't work.

Yes. Mr. Hodson made that available and I actually viewed it in his office.

Right. And I would suggest there it would have been clear to you that there was a great deal that wasn't disclosed to you for whatever reason?

Yes. I think we've gone through those areas and identified them. Now, there may be some that I've missed, but $I$ think that they canvassed them all, Mr. Hodson and Ms. Knox $I$ think in particular went into them.
Well, there were the roommates that said that Gail Miller went down Avenue O?

A The usual path --

And my memo that surfaced makes reference to that as well.

Yes. And there was --

## Page 25000

A
$Q$

A

Q

A

But on the other -- but just so that I present the thing as objectively as $I$ can, and fairly, $I$ did have information that people used to go down the back, go down the lane, but --

But the back lane couldn't work with any theory because the car could not have turned around? No, but we're not talking about the theory right now.

Okay, right.
I'm just talking about the fact of people walking down there was known to me because I interviewed, as I said, a lady who had gone down there that morning, but obviously earlier, the time wasn't right, and then after the trial my attention was brought to get in touch with another lady who had been down there, but essentially the same thing with that lady was of no assistance to me. I won't take the time to go through the roommates, but they are -- Mr. Commissioner, do you wish the doc numbers or should I just move on?

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: No, that's fine, thank you.

BY MR. WOLCH:

There were the three roommates at least who have her go down where logic dictates she would go
down, but wouldn't fit the Crown's theory, but you weren't given that, and then you weren't given the Merrimans who would have been looking right at the alleged crime scene?

Yes, I think the Merrimans was --
Very important?
Was quite significant. That's just, you know, my retrospective assessment.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Let me be clear about this, he wasn't given the roommates' statements?

BY MR. WOLCH:
Yes, or even any knowledge about them. You didn't know that there was the three roommates who said she went down Avenue O, Friesen, Hundt and -- I can't pronounce her name, but the Merrimans would have been at the actual alleged scene of the crime?

Yes.
And you also weren't given Mrs. Gallucci who said she saw the pretty nurse taking the bus every morning pretty well at that spot on Avenue $O$ ?

A
$Q$
A

A

And I'm --

Q
A
$Q$

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$Q$

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$Q$

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$Q$

Sorry?
Just to fill the picture in, $I$ didn't receive the information, $I$ gather a statement wasn't taken from him, but Mr. Sargent --

That's right.
-- phoned and he actually had said that he saw Gail, who he knew, Gail Miller at the bus stop on Avenue $N$ if $I$ recall.

Okay. I think Ms. Knox covered with you Simon Doell.

Yes, but $I$ think there was --
Sargent, yes.
-- Sargent, Mr. Syd Sargent as well.
Correct.
And then Ms. Knox, as you say, covered Simon Doell.

I might point out that Simon Doell last took the bus there in August.

Yeah.
But that wasn't put to you, that --
That's why I'm focusing on Syd Sargent.
Right.
To fill the picture in.
What $I ' m$ saying is you've seen the tape, $I$ don't want to play it again, but you've seen it, you see
all the things you weren't told, many of which would have helped you, some considerably, some less considerably, and there's nothing in there that you take exception to $I$ take it, but -No. The only thing with the film, I think, like, with any reconstruction you have to make certain assumptions, and whether or not those assumptions or variables are valid can always be a matter of debate and discussion, and of course in light of the section $9(2)$ disposition, one has to bear in mind that there were portions of Nichol John's statement that were not evidence in a substantive sense.

Q
A
$Q$
A
Q
Yes.
And I think the film to a large extent was predicated on the footing that the whole statement was evidence, but we've been through that and $I$ don't want to --

No, I agree.
-- flog a dead horse, so to speak.
You talked about considerably through questioning the evidence about stealing of the flashlight and possible purse snatching and I'm a little unclear as to that not being of use as part of the Crown's case. Was that an understanding you had with Mr.

Caldwell or how did that come about?
Well, there are two, really two aspects to that. One, of course, $I$ knew from what David had told me with respect to the older lady, that he did look her over with a view to either robbing or snatching her purse. Now, with respect to the other discussion that had allegedly taken place along the way, I'm quite sure that I told Mr. Caldwell that $I$ would be challenging the admissibility of that evidence.

And that would apply also to stealing the flashlight on the way in too? Well, $I$ think that that's probably so, although my focus was, $I$ know would be on this business of the shortage of money and the discussion about getting some money by purse snatching. The flashlight, I don't recall the discussion now, $I$ don't think that David said anything about getting a flashlight out there, but, you know, without my notes $I$ couldn't assist.

2
Did you think that Mr. Caldwell was being fair about it or was motivated out of fairness or -Well, that's a difficult assessment for me to make, but $I$ was focused on keeping it out, whether it was flowing from a sense of fairness that he
may have had or whether it was flowing from agreement with my view that this was evidence that the trial judge could be persuaded to rule as inadmissible.

I think there was a third option $I$ might draw to your attention. If we look at 006908 I believe, that number is blurry here. 0069 blank 8, I think it's zero. No. Maybe try 38 then. That's the document. This apparently was Mr. Caldwell's notes.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: What does that say, Mr. Wolch?

MR. WOLCH: It's 38.
COMMISSIONER MaCCALLUM: 38?
BY MR. WOLCH:
$Q$
See, he says, it says here 'Wilson', I'm not sure what the next word was, but 'make sure to leave out' something 're: purse snatching, but would this make him an accomplice in it. Better left out. Yes, leave it out. Don't mention $B$ \& $E$ dope,' etcetera. Now, leaving it out regarding the purse snatching with Ron Wilson seems to be based on the idea that it then would make Wilson a potential accomplice and the judge would have to give a warning.

A Yeah.

Q
Did it cross your mind that putting it in might put $W i l s o n$ in a different light, that he might require a caution from the judge?

A

And we're really talking about Mr. Caldwell's mental processes at the time. I wasn't aware of the fact that this was a concern of his from a tactical standpoint, but what $I$ did know was that I did not want what $I$ perceived to be this prejudicial evidence going in before the jury. So the downside on the prejudicial evidence might outweigh a warning to the jury that these should be looked at with caution, and that's really a valid decision?

A
And not only that, while the judge, the trial judge did not give a direction with respect to Wilson as an unsavoury witness, you might say, in the same light as the two that were mentioned, Melnyk and Lapchuk, certainly $I$ recall -- I think in his charge to the jury he did indicate that, you know, in some instances, and here I'm paraphrasing, that the evidence of, you know,
responsible, hard-working citizens might well be preferred to the evidence of some who live a different lifestyle, so that -- and secondly, and here of course one, you've raised this business of an accomplice, $I$ would have difficulty in seeing how it would help David's case to have him, to have Wilson characterized as an accomplice. I tend to agree with you, but it seems there was obvious concern here that he would require the warning.

A

Q
A
Well, I'm saying that this obviously, the way you read this, and $I$ think that's probably a fair reading of it, refers to the mental processes that he was going through --

Right.
-- in formulating these sort of thoughts and then putting them on paper.

Let me jump totally away from what I'm on right now because it crosses my mind, I don't want to forget it, and that's the question of murder trials being held in front of a judge without a jury. You may not be able to answer this question, but if you were doing the trial tomorrow with what you knew, would you prefer to have a jury or not have a jury?

A
That's a very difficult question to answer, frankly, because it's trying to deal with it retrospectively, but let me put it to you this way. I think I would like to have the choice in terms of advising a client, and of course you and I, I think, are both aware, and many of the people here, if not all of them, that it was rather a unique feature, but there was a special provision in the Criminal Code of Canada permitting trial before a superior court judge alone in Alberta even on murder cases. We did not have that option here and $I$ think that it's, you know, if you did have that option, it's something that you would weigh and consider very carefully and discuss with the client, but to say whether or not $I$ would have made that particular decision in this case was difficult for me to say at this time.

But you would like to have a choice is what you are saying?

Oh, yes. I mean, I think there's a lot to be said for that because it goes back to looking at the, you know, the evidence that you face, and $I$ referred to the Biniaris case earlier this morning under cross-examination by Mr. Beresh and one of the factors that is mentioned in that case, even
though lurking doubt isn't run to the top of the flag pole as far as intervention, is that the examination of the evidence, you know, even in the case of a jury verdict, should be done through the lens of judicial experience, and I refer to that because there may well be cases where you would want to exercise that choice having regard to the nature of the evidence. For example, in some cases there might be medical expert evidence and so on that you feel more comfortable having dealt with by a judge alone.

Now, I don't think $I$ can really
add anything more than that at this stage, Mr.
Wolch, but $I$ certainly understand your point and appreciate the significance of it.

That's quite helpful. I would like to briefly turn to the script document that we've seen so many times, although you perhaps haven't. I have 001499, that's one of the numbers, there's another number too in the 300 s , or thousands, but I'm not sure which one -- $I$ can give both if you like. Okay, that's a third one. COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: 006799 then for the record?

BY MR. WOLCH:

Q 006799 I think. Yes. Just briefly, I think Mr. Fox was asking you about the (V1)- rape and you certainly covered the fact that she was, or that David was not in town and could easily be proven. You might also note that the assailant appears to be five foot two, which certainly is not anywhere close to David's height. You see that?

That's correct.
And if we go down to the bottom of the page, Ms. Knox took you to Simon Doell, but $I$ won't take you to it, but there's other evidence that, from him that he last took the bus in August of that year. I would like to turn to the, the last page or second last page, I can't remember now. Yes. This is the page that would have been, I suppose, in a defence lawyer's terms, pure golden to you; would it not? What I'm getting at is it basically predicts in general terms what John and Wilson are going to say and then gives you a real peek at the attitude of the investigators, they are to be taken to Saskatoon where the true story can be obtained even if hypnosis or polygraph are necessary. So that would have been very valuable for you to have that obviously?

A
Yes, and as I said yesterday, particularly with, like, Inspector Roberts was not a person that I would have dared call as a defence witness, but it would, if there had been a voir dire on the section $9(2)$, it would have been very helpful, and as $I$ said earlier, and $I$ don't want to be too repetitious, this is one of those situations where I think the Crown would be obliged to call all the relevant witnesses so as to set out the circumstances under which this statement, or the statements were obtained.

Well, I think, you know, we've, we're pretty aware now what happened with, between Roberts and the young people. You of course didn't know and couldn't know at the time, but we have also heard evidence that a number of police officers were listening in to what occurred there, in fact, possibly taping it, we're not sure exactly, but a whole bunch knew as to what went on there, and that in no way found its way to you?

No, and that of course in my view, as I expressed the other day, would have been relevant and material evidence as to the circumstances under which the statements were obtained.

Sure. If you knew there was --

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Particularly the 9(2).
Sure. If you knew there was a script, and I use that term loosely, and an interview where bloody clothes were shown, autopsy pictures and you knew all the circumstances, that would change your whole approach if you knew it?

And possibly if there was other recording of what went on it would be even better, and we've discussed the desirability of recording things. So in dealing with the $9(2)$, we start off with the fact that you were severely hampered by lack of disclosure, you just didn't know; correct?

Yes.
And then that was compounded by the procedure that was followed in terms of the jury hearing what they shouldn't have heard?

Yes, that was certainly my view on it, and of course that was one of the main points in the Court of Appeal and, as I said before, Mr. -- and the record shows Mr. Caldwell actually agreed with my position on having a voir dire and the judge, the learned trial judge had a different view of it and in the Court of Appeal Mr. Kujawa did not resile from the position that Mr. Caldwell had taken, but of course the focus then shifted to the
argument that notwithstanding the error, there was no substantial miscarriage of justice or, in short, no reversible error.

Right. The Court of Appeal of course would not have had the circumstances for taking the statement?

And that of course was one of the arguments, that without having the benefit of all the circumstances under which the statement was taken, this is not a case where the curative provision should be applied.

No.
And I guess I obviously was unpersuasive in advancing that argument, but $I$ certainly endeavoured to put it as strongly as $I$ could.

And you were probably right because the prejudicial effect was quite considerable?

Yeah.
And I just want to draw a document to your attention, 006864 . This is a letter from Mr. Caldwell to Inspector Roberts on February the 17th, 1970, so it was shortly after the trial, and this is how Mr. Caldwell describes Nichol John. Have you seen this letter before?

Yes, I'm sure that this was in the package that

Mr. Hodson asked me to read.
Okay.
"The witness Nichol John once again persisted in giving, during her examination in chief, similar evidence to that which she gave at the preliminary ... and in failing to describe what she actually saw of the attack on the victim by Milgaard."

So Mr. Caldwell is still firmly of the belief
that she was holding back.
"On conclusion of the
examination in chief, $I$ applied for, and was granted, leave to cross-examine her pursuant to the ... new sub-section 2 of section 9 of the Canada Evidence Act for the purposes of determining whether she was hostile, and on conclusion of this cross-examination, the Chief Justice ruled her hostile, whereupon I
cross-examined her in the presence of
the jury on the statement she gave to
... Mackie after your interview with Ron
Wilson and herself in May of 1969. This brought to the attention of the jury
that she had, at one time, given a
statement indicating that she had seen
the actual attack on the girl by
Milgaard."
You see his view there?

A
Q

A
$Q$

A doing my best to --

Oh, absolutely.
-- contain that type of thing and $I$ didn't want it to happen that way, but it did. If we can just turn the page, there's a bit of irony in here:
"Please accept my thanks for the assistance you gave the Saskatoon Police Department --"

That's true,
"-- myself --"
That's true,
"-- and Mr. Tallis during the
Preliminary Inquiry, and also during the
trial. Your work with the polygraph and
interviewing Wilson and Nichol John in
general was of great importance in the
final outcome of this matter."
So Mr. Caldwell seems to purely, to simply know that Roberts played a very significant role.

Now, in terms of the use of the polygraph, were you even aware that Nichol John wasn't polygraphed?

Yes, I'm quite sure $I$ was aware that she wasn't polygraphed, but $I$ think my suspicion was, and this would be a suspicion on my part, and that's one of the reasons why $I$ wanted to interview Inspector Roberts, was not only with respect to what happened, the procedure with respect to Wilson, but also contact that he may have had with Nichol John.

Okay. So whatever Roberts did in the room that the eavesdroppers would have known about and all that simply never got to you?

A No, and as I -- I've already described the result
of my discussions with Inspector Roberts and I can't really add to that.

Q
No, I appreciate that.
A

Q
about that.
Yes, it should have been disclosed, and not only that, it would have led you certain ways because it's not just the fact that David couldn't have done that, it's more than that, it would have led you to think, well, are other crimes being committed in the area, what is going on, and then obviously between the notes and the newspaper and general knowledge, you would have led yourself to the other sexual assaults?

Yes. The similarities in some of the others that we mentioned $I$ think were very significant on the issue that this crime was probably committed by a third person, albeit unidentified, but once again, I've gone through that in some detail.

I think, Mr. Tallis, the point I'm trying to make is it's not just the lack of disclosing this, this would have prompted you to look further and even ask have there been other assaults in the neighbourhood, it would have --

A
Well, I think I tried to sum that aspect up by saying that it would have launched one on a chain of inquiry, or words to that effect, and $I$ think that best describes it, that it would spawn a chain of inquiry.

Are you aware that after Miss (V4)--- was attacked her attacker, who we say is Fisher obviously, was on railway tracks that led virtually directly to the Cadrain house?

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$Q$

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Q
That the railway tracks lead directly to the house, and that would have been helpful for you, because if articles were found around there they easily could have been left by the man coming down the railway tracks?

Yeah. As $I$ recall it, the railway tracks would run -- would be south of the Cadrain place. Just about to the door, straight through. I can get a map, if you like, and --

Well, no, but there is a road.
Right.
There is a street going on the south side of the Cadrain place and then, south of that, there is the rail. As $I$ recall it the rail line runs in a, it would be almost sort of southwest-northeast direction. I think that's the CPR, if I recall,
because it used to run to the station and it was in a different location than the CN.

The, another area of interest you mentioned was Ute Frank, and that she indicated that she had found God and was prepared to say damaging things about David?

Yeah, well, and $I$ didn't use that in a disparaging way --

Oh, gosh, no.
-- about her new-found faith, but she described the events in the room and indicated that she took it seriously. And I gathered, as I told you or told the Commission, that she certainly indicated to me that she had, you might say, opened up in her discussions with me much more than she had with Mr. Caldwell. I gather that there had been some sort of friction or something that had arisen, but $I$ didn't realize until I read some of the later materials, you know, that it had probably been much more serious than $I$ appreciated at the time. I just don't know what happened, but she certainly was quite friendly, as distinct from antagonistic, toward me.

Oh, okay.
And she, of course, is the one that David had
mentioned that he thought that, you know, he'd always got along all right with her and she would probably be favourable to him.

Right. I think you might agree with me, though, that from her perspective, leaving aside what she may or may not have seen, it would not be a very nice position to be in, as a young woman, to be in front of a jury, and possibly in the newspapers, testifying that she was taking a whole bunch of drugs and having sex with a whole bunch of people hanging around and watching; that would not be a nice position to be in?

A
Q

A
And $I$ hope $I$ didn't suggest that it was.
Oh, no, what $I$ am saying is that she may have had every motive in the world not to want to testify? Well, frankly, I think, if I had wanted her to testify, she would have.

Well, yes, but let me back it up.
And that she would have outlined what she told me.
I mean she had found faith and, umm, wanted, I
think, to be candid with me, I thought she was, but having talked to her I concluded that her testimony would not assist David.

Oh, absolutely.
And --

Q
A

054371 . And I'll -- if -- take my word for it that the next document number, 054372 , is the less-easy-to-read copy of that -- okay, you didn't -- at that time when $I$ interviewed her.

Well, you're a kind man, but let me take you to
take my word for it. But, in any event, it's dated -- well, perhaps we should go to it, and I'll get it exact. I'm having a hard time reading it, it looks like, is that January 19th, 1970?

A
$Q$

I think probably.
I think that's what it is. So that's the statement that Detective Karst took from her, and if we go to the other copy it's just easier to read, and she says in this that she, 'Had sex with Hoppy and about four capsules of $T H C, I$ was quite stoned, wasn't aware of what was going on around me, hallucinating, I asked:
"... hopy if he killed that nurse they were talking about \& he just looked at me and smiled oddly."

And that's her, what she talks about as being the, what occurred in the motel?

Yes.
You can see that. And that would probably not really advance the Crown's case very far; might you agree?

Umm, I agree.
Yes.
Not as much as on the basis of what she told me. Well no, I appreciate that, but if -- Mr. Caldwell
and she may not have gotten along, if that's what she was persisting in, when it didn't necessarily corroborate Melnyk or Lapchuk?

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$Q$

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$Q$

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A
-- some new gossip, I think around Regina by phone, that, you know, some of the people that had
hours or a day?
Yes, I can under -- and, you know, I picked up -- Yeah.
known her were referring to her new-found faith in
a rather disparaging way, but that sometimes happened with --

Q

A

Q Well she already knew, perhaps, that, from Mr. Caldwell, that he wasn't going to call her, he was giving her to you, "do you want to call her?"
her or not, but that was certainly my assessment, --
$Q$

A
Q

A
$Q$
A

Q
A
$Q$

A
Q

But she'd be --
-- but $I$ couldn't call her as my witness.
And she'd be smart enough to be able to tell you, "look, I'm going to hurt your client if you put me on", and she accomplished her purpose, is what I'm suggesting?

Well she didn't, certainty didn't put it that way --

No, but she --
-- or come across that way, she --
No, but she --
-- she made it clear that she hadn't told Mr.
Caldwell everything.
But she didn't tell him what he wanted to hear, she didn't tell you what you wanted to hear, -Yeah.
-- and that got her out of it, is what $I$ suggest happened?

Sorry, I'm just getting a little
more organized here. I do want to turn, now, to
later developments, and I'd like to take you to the judgement of the Supreme Court, which I believe is 058828, and if we can go to 832. Now
the Supreme Court, in its judgement in this paragraph here, and there's a -- only a portion of it $I$ care about, 'Fresh evidence has been presented to us, Ron Wilson, the key witness, has recanted part, additional evidence presented regarding motel', and here's the key:
"More importantly, there was evidence led as to sexual assaults committed by

Larry Fisher which came to light in
October 1970, when Fisher made a confession."

Now October of 1970 would be prior to you arguing in the Court of Appeal I take it?

Yes, I think the appeal was heard in November, if I recall the correspondence that --

Yes, the decision $I$ think was January 5th, I think.

But, in any event, it was after Fisher came to light --

A Yes.
-- in October of 1970? And if we can go to

012639, you see you have here October $22 n d$, this is one of the statements.

A
$Q$

A

A

Oh, yes, this is a statement by Fisher.
Yes, given to Detective Karst. If we can just go to the next page, if there is one, yeah. See, this is the confession to the (V3)------ incident, but that came to light October 22nd, 1970. Now you are aware of the fact, obviously, that Detective Karst was intimately involved in the Milgaard prosecution?

Yes.
That's not much of a question, but --
Yes.
Okay. I mean he even knew whether he was left-handed or right-handed, that is David; correct?

Yes.
And we do know that -- and I'll refer to him as 'Fisher' but he wasn't known then -- but Fisher was the prime suspect in the Gail Miller murder, just unknown? You will be -- we've gone through all those documents, the $R C M P$ reports, references to (V1)- and (V2)-----, and I don't need to take you through that, but it was understood or believed that the same guy had struck again? That
would be pretty well knowledge among the police force and everywhere else; correct?

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: I'm sorry, I didn't understand the question?

MR. WOLCH: Okay.
BY MR. WOLCH:

Q
That Karst and the people investigating the Miller murder clearly knew that the other rapist was a suspect, that --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: That --
A Well I --

BY MR. WOLCH:
It goes without saying that he would know who the main suspect was in the case they were investigating?

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: I just wish you would attach some names to this; suspected of what?

MR. WOLCH: Of being the killer of Gail Miller.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: So Karst knew what?

MR. WOLCH: Well, that they were looking at the same person who had attacked (V2)----- and (V1)- and (V3)------. Before David Milgaard came along that was the suspect, I mean, we've gone through that $I$ think?

Mr. Commissioner, do you wish
me to --
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: I'm not trying to be difficult, --

MR. WOLCH: Oh, and neither am I.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: -- I just don't understand the question. Perhaps you could rephrase the whole thing.

MR. WOLCH: Okay.
BY MR. WOLCH:
$Q$

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Q
A
crime, that is the murder of Gail Miller, was probably committed by a third person, albeit unidentified by name or otherwise, that is a person other than David, and that one of the aspects of the argument would be the similarities in the attacks with the type of attack that had apparently been made on Gail Miller.

Okay. Now it could have been very fortunate that, by coincidence, Detective Karst, who was involved in the Miller investigation, is the one who went to Winnipeg in October of 1970 when it came to light, however, my question to you is did Detective Karst bring this to your attention in any way?

No, this was not brought to my attention by anyone on behalf of the prosecution.

Yeah, but detective -- I'm still dealing with Detective Karst; he did not call you up and say "look, I may still believe in the conviction, but you've got an appeal coming up, --"

It just didn't happen?
It didn't happen, and $I$ did not receive the
information from the prosecution.

Q

A
$Q$

## Page 25033

BY MR. WOLCH:

Q
And you see here you've got (V1)- grabbed from behind, knifepoint, forced down a lane, removing some of her clothing; then we've got (V2)-----, man carrying a knife, forced down a lane where her coat and dress were removed, knife, I mean it stands out. And if we can just keep scrolling down, now $I$ won't go through the others, but they are helpful. But if you can turn the page, please. And at this point in time, Fisher is denying two of the offences, but it is interesting here:
"Police investigation revealed that
Fisher lived within a block of the
locations where these rapes occurred,
the description of the culprit is very
similar and the modus operandi is the
same in all four cases. Fisher claims
that he had never heard of these
offences being committed, which is hard
to believe as they happened within a
three week period in the same area and
received wide publicity."
is the deputy chief writing for the
nd it's interesting that Fisher should be
presumed to know about them, and yet people in the justice system perhaps don't know about them. It just strikes me as a bit of an interesting observation that even Fisher should have known about the wide publicity which was meted out to these offences, I think you can see is his view at the time. And believe me, I'm not suggesting you knew in a million years, I'm just saying that that was the view of the chief as to what was known in the community about them.

Now the letter started out that
the writer was contacted by Mr. Caldwell to forward the summary to Mr. MacKay, and my
question to you is did Mr. Caldwell call you up and say "Mr. Tallis, $I$ have some information that might help you in the appellate procedure", or anything like that?

No, I never received any notification of that. Mr. Commissioner, I haven't got too much left, but I note the hour and it might be appropriate. COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Okay, we'll break. (Adjourned at 11:59 a.m.) (Reconvened at 1:30 p.m.) MR. HODSON: Mr. Commissioner, if I could just, as far as order of questioning, Mr. Watson
who represents Mr. Kujawa advised me that he had some questions for Mr. Tallis. I wasn't aware of that when we had the order set here and $I$ think Mr. Wolch had indicated he wished to go, based on his client's interest, next to last and that Mr. Pringle would go last. In any event, Mr. Watson has agreed to go right now, he's just got a few questions, and Mr. Wolch is quite fine to have him break his examination for that, so Mr. Watson will have a few questions.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Okay.

## BY MR. WATSON:

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way $I$ can put it without, you know, being able to go back and check specific cases.

There's not an occasion you recall where you ever had a problem; in other words, you felt -- did you ever feel that you didn't get what you were entitled to at the least?

No, under the rules that existed at that time.
And with respect to matters that you dealt with him at the appellate level, did you have any issues or concerns with respect to his ethics at that level?

A
Q

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No.
And with respect to difficulties that you encountered, $I$ think you mentioned in your exam-in-chief that there were times where a problem came up and perhaps you got some consideration from him in that regard? Well, that's correct, there were times when matters came to my attention which would indicate that if they were correct the appeal probably should be conceded in part or in whole and on some occasions $I$ recall actually getting in touch with him asking him to check out the veracity of what $I$ was putting forward with a view to putting an end to the litigation without protracted argument, and
when $I$ say litigation, $I$ mean criminal litigation, and on several occasions $I$ recall that actually happening, and of course later on in my career when he was appellate counsel appearing before the Court I recall him being asked by the Court sometimes to check out matters, particularly where there was an appeal by someone who started out as an unrepresented appellant, but clearly would need counsel.

And on those occasions where it appeared that justice dictated that the Crown take some steps to either discontinue an appeal or take some other steps, you found Mr. Kujawa was receptive to those requests?

Yes.
Q Now --
A
He didn't always agree with me as a counsel, but $I$ didn't expect that, but $I$ always thought that one could rely on him to give it careful consideration.

Now, I understand you also did some prosecutions in your career as a lawyer?

A
Yes, from time to time $I$ was instructed on prosecutions.
$Q$
And did you take instructions from Mr. Kujawa with
respect to some of those prosecutions?
Not specifically that $I$ can recall. I think that once you were instructed, it was your responsibility to handle the matter in an appropriate -- in what you felt as counsel to be an appropriate fashion.

MR. WATSON: Thank you very much. Those are my questions.

## BY MR. WOLCH:

Mr. Tallis, just on that last point, you've been asked about disclosure, whether you got appropriate disclosure, and might $I$ say that like a number of counsel here, defence counsel, we go to pretrial conferences where the judge says is disclosure complete and our answer is how do I know, and -- or maybe -- it's really not a question that the defence counsel can answer, he doesn't know what the Crown has I'm suggesting. Well, $I$ think that you raise the question as $I$ see it from the perspective of the trial judge, or the pretrial judge, and this is an area where the professional obligations of counsel come into play and the courts of course in those circumstances must rely upon the professional integrity of the counsel appearing before the Court.

No, I couldn't agree with you more, but all I'm saying is it's almost impossible for defence counsel to say $I$ got full disclosure without knowing what he didn't get, it's impossible to know?

No. That's axiomatic.
Right. Just a couple of housekeeping matters, so to speak, from this morning. I believe Ms. Knox asked you about Melnyk receiving any special favour or whatever. Could I get 219652. This is an article dated February 9th, 1970 which puts it very close in time to the end of the trial. Have you seen this article before?

I'm not sure. It may have been in the batch of material that $I$ was given to read.

This would have been between the trial and the appeal and $I$ 'm wondering if you know if you saw it back then?

I don't specifically recall that, no. I'm going to show you the, or highlight in particular that paragraph there, "This is regarding the sentence imposed --"

A
Now when you highlight that, I recall that this was in the package of material that $I$ was asked to read.

Q

Yes. I think one of the problems that has arisen in other cases as well, and there will be another inquiry coming, is that unsavoury people will deny arrangements, they think they have an support to that notion.
understanding with the prosecution that they can deny it, but wink, wink, something good will happen down the road, and so they can say, no, I have no deal, but in the back of their mind they've got a deal, I think you can see that happening?

Oh, I'm sure that some of them are quite capable of pursuing that course that you've outlined. Right. And what $I$ 'm saying here is that if one looks at --

And of course that raises a question as to whether or not a person should be sentenced before they give evidence. I know that, you know, reading things, and this goes not just in Canada, but in other countries, the sentencing is put off to see how fully the individual co-operates, and since you are raising it in this context, I've always had, in a very personal way, misgivings about that procedure. Others take a different view, but you've raised it in this context -Yes.
-- and $I$ think you are entitled to the benefit of my observations. Whether they are worth anything or not is -No, they are quite helpful.
-- is another matter.

They are helpful. The other unrelated matter that I wanted to go from this morning, 164351, you were doing sort of a memory test this morning about the map arrangement. Have you seen this particular map?

Oh, I'm sure I have. If not this particular one, at least one almost identical to it.

You see where we have the (V4)---- (V4)---, where that occurred, and there are the railway tracks that head for the Cadrain home, Fisher home?

Yes, that's the tracks that $I$ was referring to this morning.

Okay. And you can see how (V2)-----, (V1)- and the murder are all in a fairly close proximity of space?

Yes. As I said to you this morning, I thought the -- my recollection is that the railway track runs and did run from southwest to northeast, but south, just south of the Cadrain street, if $I$ may use that term.

Sure. And you see how close (V4)--- is to where --

Oh, yes.
Where the murder occurred is quite close?

A Yes.
Q
And it's interesting that there had been suggestions that there wouldn't be time perhaps to go from Miller to (V4)---, yet there's time for, to go from Miller to the Trav-a-leer Motel? Yes.

Way over there. Okay, I want to now turn back to where I left off this morning, and that was dealing with Larry Fisher coming to light in October of 1970. If $I$ can have document number 056385. Now, this is one of the informations against Larry Fisher and what $I$ want to point out is it's sworn December 30 th of 1970 , you see that?

And that would have been well before your appeal, the appeal on David Milgaard?

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Q I'm getting my days mixed up. MR. HODSON: '70.

BY MR. WOLCH:
$Q$
'70. So this would have been in between the arguing and the judgment $I$ take it?

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$Q$
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Yes, that's --
After the argument and before the judgment?
-- why I raise that because something twigged.
That would be between the date of the hearing and the date the judgment was delivered.

Right.
And I think we discussed that when Mr. Hodson was asking me questions.

Yeah, but that's the time frame, between the arguing and the judgment --

Yes.
-- Fisher is being charged, and we do know that on December 21 st of '71 he actually entered the guilty pleas, but the charges were laid in the time before the Court of Appeal judgment?

Yes.
And $I$ would just like to bring a few documents to your attention. 032190 , this is a letter from Bill Morton, the Crown attorney in Manitoba, to the Attorney General, and it seems to be passed on to Mr. Kujawa --

Yes.
-- at the bottom.
The first $I$ saw of that was when it was in, $I$ think, the package Mr. Hodson asked me to read.

Q Yes. And you'll see that the advice given is:
"... that at no time was Fisher's
Saskatchewan involvement made known to the sentencing Judge and therefore this involvement was not taken into account in his 13 year sentence."

You see that?
Yes.
And the obvious significance to that is that he hasn't received a penalty for all the terrible crimes he committed in Saskatoon, it's a clear message?

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But based on what is written there, that's a fair inference from that letter.

And if we turn to 057896 , this appears to be some sentencing documents, this is dated December $23 r d$ of '71, it refers to the Saskatoon incidents, and it appears that Fisher received four and a half years concurrent, or four years concurrent, and indicates there's absolutely no change to the sentence he received in Manitoba. If we can just scroll down a little bit. And there's no change
to his release date. So in other words, he got not a day extra for what occurred in Saskatoon even though there was a clear message that he hadn't been punished for them?

A
$Q$

Yeah, that's -- I have no reason to doubt those documents.

Right. So it would appear then that the charge -sorry, it would appear that Fisher came to light, as the Supreme Court said, in October of '70. Between the arguing of the appeal and the release of the judgment, the charges were laid against him and he was dealt with prior to the Supreme Court turning down leave, so it's all in the same period of time is what I'm getting at, and it would appear that Mr. Kujawa was handing the Fisher charges and was handling the Milgaard appeal?
Yes. I can't speak for him, but $I$ do know that he was certainly counsel on the hearing of the appeal.

Yes, and you can see from the documents that he handled the prosecution of Larry Fisher, I don't think that's --

Yeah, and whether he appeared in Court on any of those other matters $I$ can't tell you.

Okay. But it would appear he had both matters
going simultaneously?
A
At least they were there and, as $I$ say, $I$ can't, you know, speak for him on that.

Right. And my question to you is did he at any time advise you as counsel for David Milgaard that the original suspect in the Miller murder has been apprehended, he committed the crimes in the same area and you should know that for whatever use you want to make of that?

The answer to that is no.
The final area $I$ would like to take you through briefly is your dealings with the Department of Justice, and we already touched on it a bit about the unusual nature of privilege having to be waived, etcetera. Dealing first with 157044, this is a letter from Bruce MacFarlane to yourself, February 23 rd of $' 90$, and $I$ 'm interested in this portion here, that:
"Mr. Williams has also undertaken that the information received will not be provided to the applicant, his counsel, or made public in any manner."

Was it ever explained to you what the rationale was that David Milgaard should not know what you say he told you?

## Page 25048

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No, I don't recall any discussion of that, and I'm sure $I$ read the decision in Idziac and the Minister of Justice, but $I$ have to say that having read that decision, $I$ did not see how that could be binding for all time if David chose to weigh -I didn't view it as my privilege really.

Right. It is a bit strange, the whole notion that you, he's allowing you to release something that's very, very confidential, but he shouldn't be told what you released?

And of course, frankly, that's why I had no hesitation in letting you have a look at it and actually come behind my desk and read it over my shoulder with fleshed out notes that $I$ put on for the purposes of our discussions.

I was probably peeking elsewhere too.
Well, no, but that was the logical place to peek at my invitation.

Thank you. Now, there's another document that's of interest, 333486 . Now, this is a letter from Murray Brown to Mr. Williams, and I'm not sure if you are familiar with this or not, but it says that Mr. Brown is sending Mr. Williams:
"... a copy of the cross-examination
from the preliminary hearing dealing
with the polygraph examination and the issue of what statements by Wilson were disclosed to Cal Tallis. With respect to the polygraph, Tallis goes over the circumstances but $I$ am not sure it will be helpful."

I don't know what that means, but I'm more interested on this:
"On the latter matter, it is clear that Tallis knew of the existence of and contents of all of Wilson's statements to the police. Indeed, given he knew how often this guy was visited in jail, Tallis probably had complete access to the Crown file."

Now, that strikes me as a bit strange, that here you have Mr. Brown telling Mr. Williams that you would probably have had access to the Crown file. I'm just wondering, Mr. Caldwell would know the answer, why the information wasn't coming from Mr. Caldwell as to what you were given, why it has to be deduced in this manner?

A Well, of course I'm not privy to the communication that you have there.

Right.

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And the answer is that $I$ did not have access to the complete Crown file, and I think I've made that clear --

Absolutely.
-- in earlier testimony, so I don't want to repeat it.

Correct.
The next document is 335388 , this is a memo from Mr. Williams to his file, and I guess this is one of the documents over which some kind of privilege isn't being claimed, and if we can just turn the page on that, it says here:
"In answer to question 5, Milgaard acknowledged asking a woman for directions in Saskatoon."

Ostensibly you had told Mr. Williams that. The fact is, though, that David had acknowledged that in his first statement to the police; is that not correct.

Yes. I haven't read the statement in the last day or so, but I'm sure you are correct. And once again:
"David Milgaard did not implicate anyone else in the assault robbery and fatal wounding of Gail Miller."

Well, that goes without saying.
Well, that was quite clear and, I mean, I think
the focus of that inquiry was, at least $I$
interpreted, did he blame Wilson.
Right.
And the answer was no, he didn't blame Wilson or any other person that he could identify, he simply said, and quite directly, that he did not do it.

And then we have:
"Milgaard did not wish to testify."
That's a very simplistic way of putting it. It was based on advice, and good advice, I'm not --

Yes. Well, I've gone into that in significant detail and as a result of our discussions, and I don't want to repeat it, I received written instructions that he did not wish to testify, but it was -- but $I$ simply repeat what $I$ said earlier and that is that $I$ spent time discussing it with him, the pros and cons, and on balance $I$ gave the advice that $I$ did with nothing more than his interests at heart.

Q
And the decision $I$ would expect was correct, it's just that this implies that he didn't want to, it's more a matter of a reasoned decision based on advice. It creates an impression that is really
not a fair one $I$ would suggest.
Well, I have to leave that for others to judge because I've given my testimony as to how it was handled and the instructions $I$ received in the light of that.

And if $I$ can go to 335386 , this is a memo from Bruce MacFarlane to Eugene Williams dated May the 11th, 1990.

I think it's to Mr. MacFarlane from Mr. Williams. Sorry, absolutely, absolutely, and I'm not sure how this got under the so-called privilege that was being talked about, but we got it, and I'm going to suggest that it's almost farcical what's contained herein, if $I$ can just zero in on that:
"Based on his recollection and assisted by the summary of facts outlined in the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal decision, Mr. Justice Tallis recalled that Milgaard's version of evidence was similar to the version given by Nicole John and Ron Wilson, except --" If we can go down, he denied attacking Gail Miller, changing the blood-stained clothes, making remarks about Gail Miller, telling Wilson he had fixed a girl, denied a paring knife. Now,

## Page 25053

it's almost farcical, I suggest, to suggest that it's similar. I mean, we know for a fact that the kids came into town together, left together, you would expect similarities, but every key ingredient there's disagreement; is there not? Well, that certainly outlines significant areas of disagreement.

But to start with the premise that there's some support is kind of bizarre, but -Well, but those are not my words.

I know that, we'll get to Justice eventually, and hopefully with documents. But in any event, and number 3 is really not even close to what you were saying:

> "Making disparaging remarks about Gail Miller in the car following his unsuccessful attempt to obtain directions from her."

At no time was it suggested that he spoke to Gail Miller in your conversations with David or any instructions he gave you? That's correct.

Q That's taking it totally not only out of context, it's simply wrong. I mean it's technically correct, but the impression is that they had
spoken to Gail Miller; did you agree with that observation?

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And yet somehow, out of an interview with you, Justice is saying that, in effect, this -- there was a stopping of Gail Miller, and somehow linking
That's right.
So it just didn't go together?
That's right.
that to talking to you; you can see the connection made there which really isn't there?


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Yes.
And then if we can turn the page, see, once again we are back to:
"He ... acknowledged that he asked an older woman for directions, but, he denied saying anything about it."

Now I take you back to the fact he told the police that too, so it's not a startling revelation that he told you the same thing he told the police.

And then when we go further down the page, about the compact and everything else:
"These denials were not characterized by
the outrage and vehemence that one would
expect from someone confronting an
unjust accusation."

I'm going to suggest to you that's Williams' interpretation, not yours?

Well that, obviously, is his assessment of how I described the responses to the -- my questions, "where did", you know, "where did it come from", he said "I don't know", "why did you do it", the
answer was words to the effect "I don't know".
Yeah. But what $I$ am saying is that you were meeting with David on a regular basis, going over facts with him, he was proclaiming his innocence, the fact that he didn't explode or scream or yell or do that is hardly something to be held against him but yet it seems to be here?

Well, this is interoffice memoranda, -Yeah.
-- and I can't really say --
Right.
-- any more than that.
No, I appreciate that. But you can see the danger
if that's held back from the applicant who can
then say "eh, wait a minute, if it's held back", even now we don't know what was told to anybody about what you said, that is $I$ mean we know it went to Mr. McIntyre for opinion, we don't know what was given to him and what was received even today, yet these are the same people that want privilege released holus bolus from accused people. But in any event, here it is, misquotes that we can't even see normally.

So what I am getting at is this document could have gone to Mr. McIntyre without
any challenge, without anybody having a chance to say to you "Justice Tallis," as you then were, "that's not what you were conveying; is it?" You see the problem in that?

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$Q$

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of that statement unless, of course, it can come in under some exception, such as a contemporaneous statement or one nearly contemporaneous to the commission of the act.

But coming back to the issue of self-serving statement, $I$ don't think that -number 1, $I$ don't think that it was admissible at that time, when it could be characterized as a self-serving statement, unless the Crown for some particular reason chose to put it in as part of their case, and in order to do that they would have had to have had a voir dire to demonstrate its voluntariness. Now sometimes, of course, the Crown will do that where the statement raises, shall we say, a false alibi or something like that, but here we're talking about a self-serving statement.

I guess my concern is this; statements, and this one in particular, would have been elicited by questions, that is it may look like a narrative at times but a lot of it is questions, question/answer, question/answer, and the suggestion is made well look, you can't believe it because he left out taking a battery in Regina the day before or left out taking a flashlight from a
grain elevator on the way. Now logic dictates that unless you are asked about it nobody, particularly a 16-year-old, is going to say "oh, by the way, $I$ did that", yet the argument is made that this statement isn't credible because it left out significant things?

Well, but $I$ think there is a more fundamental aspect to it than that, and that is whether or not a self-serving statement is admissible under these circumstances.

You may have a compeling argument to make for some sort of a modified change in the law, but I'm not in a position to really comment on that because $I$ haven't researched and studied it, I'm sure, to the extent that you and some of your colleagues have. Well maybe a judge should have some discretion? Well that's why $I$ say that, you know, maybe some consideration should be given to admissibility of that type of statement under certain circumstances, and that, of course, then goes to the issue of discretion.

But, of course, as a counsel you
might still face the situation, then, of having
Crown counsel or the Court being allowed to focus
on significant omissions from the statement, and the points that you raise might well go to the question of the weight that's to be given to that statement.

And of course in a case where the accused, on the advice of counsel or otherwise, decides not to testify, you might run into a situation -- and $I$ think that it could happen -- where the judge could be persuaded to advise the jury, instruct the jury that "in your deliberations you may come -- you should remember that this statement was not under oath".

Now that's getting into an area that could spawn some argument, but all I'm saying to you is that $I$ can foresee that type of thing arising, so one has to be very careful about how an amendment, how a change in this principle, should be formulated.

I think the logical progression, then, is to look at the next major decision, and that was the choice of testifying or not.

A
Yes.
$Q$
And it strikes me as problematic --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Excuse me,
Mr. Wolch, I apologize for interrupting you but I
just wanted to make sure $I$ had your point.

I understood that you were
asking why the statement was not receivable for the accused's benefit at trial when it was used by the police as a basis for suspecting Mr. Milgaard; is that what you were getting at?

MR. WOLCH: I think what $I$ am saying is
that it's a statement that's basically true, with
a couple of omissions which $I$ suggest are
irrelevant and nobody would put in, but it's
basically true and yet there is a suggestion it wouldn't help -- if I understood Justice Tallis earlier -- that it wouldn't help, and even if it did help, it can't get in.

COMMISSIONER MaCCALLUM: So you are just talking about the trial, not the police?

MR. WOLCH: Just, well just generally, not just the police, just generally what $I$ see as problematic.

BY MR. WOLCH:

And I'll raise the problem even better, $I$ hope, in this sense. You have a person who is factually innocent, he tells you he is innocent, and you have made or advised him, correctly I agree, not to testify -- correctly; isn't there something
wrong with the system, or some problem that a truly innocent person is better off not testifying?

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Well $I$ can, $I$ guess, put it to you as -- respond in this way: Unfortunately, that's the way the system presently works, and counsel cannot abdicate his or her responsibility in terms of giving advice to a person that is required to make a decision whether or not to testify.

No, but --
And whether there should be a change is, of course, a question that you raise, and a genuine question.

But what $I$ am saying to you is
that counsel, $I$ think, are faced with this responsibility and under a duty to discharge their responsibility to the best of their ability, and yet of course one knows that cross-examination of an innocent person can result in statements that are viewed in relation to other matters that turn out to be very damaging.

But you have a 16-year-old boy, or 17 at the time, who really can't be a match for a highly-skilled cross-examiner even if he's innocent?

Well, $I$ agree with you, and the same thing applies
to many unsophisticated adults. And many of us that have worked our way through the courts, and I'm sure you are one of them, have observed things that create real difficulties.

Well --

And, you know, that was -- that's why, I guess, there were two schools of thought that developed whether the decision to testify or not to testify was solely the client's without the benefit of advice or direction from his counsel.

The other school of thought, if
you want to divide it into two schools of thought -- and it's clear that $I$ belong to that school -was that $I$ had an obligation to not only explain the options that were open to the accused person, whether a boy of David's age, an unsophisticated adult, or a highly-educated adult, and in the light of the evidence and the interviews and knowing the areas that are going to be probed, what, in my best judgement, was the advice that should be given. So those are the two schools of thought that $I$ had in my mind at the time and still, essentially, do.

Now, just to sort of cap this off, Sir Edward Marshall Hall, who was one of the
leading advocates of the day, and particularly in murder trials, was that -- one of those who refused to give advice and would simply give his client a piece of paper, "you cross out one of these, I wish to give evidence, I do not wish to give evidence, and sign it." Now that brings it into perspective from my standpoint, and I really can't emphasize the difficulties that you have alluded to any better than by referring to those two schools of thought.

I want to make it abundantly clear I didn't share the views that had been expressed by Marshall Hall and some of his fellow members of the bar that took that position. But, you know, one of the things $I$ remember in my reading was that he once had a client who said "well, $I$ 'm placing myself in your hands", appealing for direction and advice, and as the leading advocate of the day he was offended by that demand.

I hear what you are saying very clearly. I guess what $I$ am troubled with is that the best advice, and I agree, the best advice in this case, to an innocent person, is not to testify; that's sort of a troubling concept?

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$Q$
eight years, had been sentenced to hang when he
testified in the Supreme Court, and he had trouble
remembering what colour pants he was wearing on a
certain night. David, at 23 years in jail I think when he went to the Supreme Court, trying to recall minor details after he'd been through a horrific period in his life, was on medication.

How do we handle wrongfully convicted people who are testifying so many years later and it becomes a memory contest, it would appear to become that kind of thing at the end of the day, how do we handle that?

Well, $I$ wish $I$ knew the answer to that, because I would be glad to give it.

But it does seem to me that at least in some cases, a vetting of things some years later may lead on a chain of inquiry that can achieve relief without too much reliance being placed on the faulty memory, as you've described it, of the individual, whether it be a young boy, an older person, and so on. And, of course, I say that because there are things that can happen along the way after the usual remedies have been exhausted, and one of course is that new evidence may come to light. And one of the most significant areas $I$ would point to, and I'm sure many here would point to, involves medical or scientific evidence. We never really reach the
last frontier in these areas. And, of course, sometimes disclosure issues arise, sometimes there is a recanting of evidence, and so forth.

And so I guess that I've tried
to at least give some consideration to, sort of, the post-exhaustion of the usual route, and I'm -I -- and, you know, $I$ want to make it very clear $I$ haven't done any in-depth study on this, but $I$ am attracted to a couple of ideas. One -- and you're probably, you and your colleagues here are probably very familiar with it -- and that's the notion of a Protection of Innocents Act similar to the one that has been propounded in the U.S. Congress and sponsored by some very responsible people in the Senate. And under that legislation, of course, it would be open to have statutory provisions for the retention of exhibits and maintaining them in a suitable condition, as far as possible, for future testing when the frontiers of science move even further. That's -- and then, of course, enshrined
in that type of legislation is an entitlement in appropriate cases -- I mean you, and you will understand what $I$ mean by that -- for DNA testing as of right where it may exculpate the individual
who has been wrongfully convicted, and of course in some cases faces the potential of wrongful execution.

That's --
Now that's one theme.
And I don't want to belabour it,
but the other is whether or not consideration should be given to something similar to the

Criminal Cases Review Commission concept that has found its way into the jurisprudence of the United Kingdom. And if one views that as an independent commission but adequately funded, not just with investigators and counsel but also the availability of experts who will keep abreast of developments in the various fields of forensic science, that may go a long way toward helping remedy the -- some of the wrongs. I'm not saying that it's in, it will be infallible, but what $I$ am saying is that it's reasonable for us to never cease to try to achieve perfection in this area. I appreciate your remarks, and I'm close to concluded.

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$Q$

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And I just wanted to add one other thing -Please.
-- to that since you've sort of pointed me in that
direction, and that is that there has been a great deal of jurisprudence in recent years in England with respect to the so-called cot deaths or sudden infant death syndrome deaths, and $I$ can't do any better than to refer to the case of the Queen versus Sally Clark where this young mother, who happened to be a solicitor and whose husband is a solicitor, she was convicted of the murder of two children, and later on the case was referred by the Commission to the Court of Appeal, and there were two bases on which the matter was dealt with; number 1 , there was an non-disclosure issue; but number 2, and perhaps even more important, the evidence of the leading expert that was called was discredited and resulted in the matter being rectified.

And there were, you know, there were a couple of other cases, the Canning case and the Anthony case, that were not dealt with by the Commission but dealt with by the Court of Appeal and, in light of the fresh evidence that was adduced, the error was corrected.

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Q

And $I$ think many years ago Mr. Justice Pigeon was most emphatic that, you know, juries can take that
Well that's, that's, that has been addressed by the Supreme Court on a number of occasions. Yes.
of held against you at that level; I think you
might agree with that?
Well that's, that's, that has been addressed by
the Supreme Court on a number of occasions.
Yes.
And $I$ think many years ago Mr. Justice Pigeon was
most emphatic that, you know, juries can take that
into account even though we don't tell them.
Q
A

Q

A
$Q$
And so --
And, you know, --
So even though David makes a rational decision it penalizes him at the appellate level?

Yeah. And that, again, is a matter that is ingrained in our law at this stage, but maybe a compelling argument can be made for some modification of it.

Well, except the other, the other option is -- and I've heard this from Court of Appeals as well -"your client testified and he wasn't believed"?

Yeah. That's what happened in the Truscott case. Yeah. So what's the third option for the poor accused?

A

Q

A

Q
It could be -- you see the problem from an accused's point of view?

A
$Q$
I haven't --
That he is a loser in the Court of Appeal either way, whether he testified or he didn't?

And, finally, $I$ think you can discern from the questions $I$ asked you that we're not very thrilled with how the Department of Justice handled this matter in terms of secrecy, in terms of dealing with you, in terms of using you against David when there was no disagreement to speak of on anything serious. And if you look at the, David's testimony in the Supreme Court, cross-examination by the Federal Department of Justice was not that of an innocent party to the -- or an unbiased party to the event.

And I'm very interested, then, in your comments about the independence that's needed and the openness that's needed in the process, and I think you've dealt on that, and -Well, I've expressed a tentative personal view on it and, as I say, I haven't studied it on an in-depth basis, but $I$ have done some reading and given some consideration to it, and of course I use the term not only -- I use the term wrongful execution because one of my neighbours and friends, Dr. James Pfeifer, a prominent forensic psychologist at the University of Regina, is writing a book on executions that have taken place
in Saskatchewan and Alberta since their inception as a province and one always has to ask are there, among those executions, someone who has been lawfully but yet wrongfully convicted.

And you see the value in an independent body, well funded, able to investigate properly and not one side or the other, but can do its job?

And I think the aspect that $I$ see as particularly important in terms of well funded has to do with experts that are available to it, and I use those cot deaths cases as perhaps a classic illustration, and secondly of course, or as sort of a subsidiary point on that, $I$ think that the role of expert evidence, experts in the Court should probably be addressed in, as $I$ said this morning, $I$ think it was Mr. Beresh was asking me about it, in terms of having a code of conduct, a code for experts testifying in Court and also emphasis on the role of an expert testifying in Court and his obligation to the Court rather than, you know, I think of the Preece case in Scotland some years ago where an expert had testified on the secretor issue, but he omitted to tell the Court that the victim's blood group was of a particular group which could have affected the
whole theory that he advanced, and that wasn't uncovered until some years later, so I emphasized that point because $I$ think that's part and parcel of what I'm talking about.

Mr. Tallis, I believe that completes the questions that $I$ have for you and $I$ simply want to thank you for your assistance before and now. Thank you. Thank you.

MR. HODSON: I believe Mr. Pringle is the only counsel left.

I wonder if we could just break for --
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Yes, we can take a break. We might as well take our 15 minutes now then.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { (Adjourned at 2:34 p.m.) } \\
& \text { (Reconvened at 2:54 p.m.) }
\end{aligned}
$$

## BY MR. PRINGLE:

$Q$
$Q$

Mr. Tallis, I'm going to promise you that I'll get you done before your birthday.

Mr. Hodson will be glad to hear that.
Yeah. Just a couple of loose ends here and I would just like to cap up your testimony.

As far as your experience at
both prosecuting and defending, which you had the opportunity to do both before this case, do you
think that was a detriment in defending David Milgaard or do you think that was something that benefited you as far as the experience you gained on both sides of the bar?

A

Q
And with respect to your commitment to Legal Aid, both before and after, you've talked about it in answer to Mr. Hodson's questions, but can you give us any idea as to whether you turned down Legal Aid cases when they were forwarded to you?

No, unless there was a major conflict with a case that $I$ was actually engaged in $I$ don't recall ever turning down or abdicating what $I$ perceived to be my responsibility as somebody participating in it. Now, $I$ want to once again say that $I$ was not alone in this and there were many other counsel in this city that were actively involved in it, but some of us actually, and $I$ may have mentioned this to Mr. Hodson in chief, we used to go on the circuits in northern Saskatchewan with a number of the younger lawyers and the idea was to have one of the more senior lawyers go along with a view to
assisting and advising and that was sort of an informal process that grew up and everyone $I$ think accepted it as part of your duty as a practicing barrister and solicitor, and $I$ know those trips that we took in, it was the -- the understanding was that the only remuneration was actually for expenses on those occasions, but the importance of it was not in the expense money, but rather in the hope I think that we all had that younger members of the bar would pursue work in the criminal law field and naturally would take our place when the torch was passed.
$Q$
And you weren't here, but Mr. Merchant testified back a couple of months ago and one of the things he said, and $I$ would just like to clean up this matter, but at the transcript, if we could pull up page 20603 , please -- it looks like I've got the wrong page.

A

Q
A
Q
No, I think right at the top, the page I'm looking at, 20603 .

Yes, there it is there, $I$ do have the right page. Yes.

This is where he indicated that he met with you and you had described what David had told you, and one of the things he said was:
"... that between Saskatoon to Regina he threw out a compact which Nichol John found in the glove compartment and that would have been tough cross."

Now, that particular comment that Mr. Merchant made in his testimony, was that -- is that a correct recollection that he had of your conversation?

No. I've already given testimony on the question of where this compact was thrown out, that Mr. Merchant simply has not got it right.

Okay. And also there was, when Mr. Merchant gave his evidence there was some mention of a delay in him arranging a meeting with you, there's some delay, and were you suffering from any health problems during that period of time?

A
Yes, I had significant health problems, I had had major surgery for cancer and was still under the weather and taking some treatment and so on, but I've always tended to downplay that because I consider myself so fortunate.
$Q$

A
So that was -- was that in part the reason for
some of the delay that occurred?
Yes, and of course Mr. Merchant was never the easiest person to get hold of when you had time.

Q
Mr. Wolch questioned you about what David had said, what David had said concerning him being in possession of a knife and you might recall that he had questioned you about your testimony at the Supreme Court of Canada which $I$ think is found at document 300669 , if we could just pull that up, please, 300669 , and this is part of the questions and answers that Mr. Brown in examining you as part of the testimony that took place, and you can see Mr. Wolch had pointed you out to lines 13 to 15 --

A
Q

So when you were testifying before the Supreme Court, at that point in time did you have a memory that David had told you about a flexible knife
that he had in his possession?

A
Yes, I noticed that $I$ indicated my best recollection is that the discussion focused on the flexibility of the blade.

Okay.
And the preceding point about it being, in effect, useful for getting into places, and I mentioned that earlier, today actually that $I$ mentioned it. And then when you said on the following page, at page 300669 , that he may have had a jackknife with him when he was in Saskatoon, when you said that you weren't derogating from the fact that you had a memory that he had a flexible knife with him? That's right.

Mr. Tallis, when you, you know, I'll take you back to the time of the trial and a few days before -no, let's take you back to the night before the trial. Did you view this trial at that point in time as being a difficult trial?

Yes, $I$ certainly knew that it was going to be a difficult trial, and right from the very beginning

I appreciated that it was a serious matter that deserved to be treated seriously and I did so. And part of the reason for the difficulty of the trial was with respect to Mr. Wilson, you didn't
have a clear motive as to why he would implicate what appeared to be, at one point in time, his friend David Milgaard?

A

Q

A

Q

A

Q

Yes, that was something that was of concern and which I had discussed with David, as I mentioned here, on more than one occasion, on a number of occasions.

And also another difficulty with Wilson was the subtly of his evidence?

Yes. Well, I've described him as a treacherous witness or a treacherous type of person and included in that assessment of course is the apparent ability to be very subtle.

And Mr. Caldwell, $I$ don't know if you remember, in his final address to the jury made a big point of that. Do you remember that?

No, I don't right offhand, but $I$ certainly accept what you say and I'm not surprised to hear you, you know, allude to that, even though $I$ don't remember it.

Okay. Well, if we could take a look at 141929, and if we could take a look --

COMMISSIONER MaCCALLUM: Can $I$ have the doc ID, please, if you've got it handy? MR. PRINGLE: No, I don't. 141929 is the
number I have. 905.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: 905, thank you. BY MR. PRINGLE:

And from here down Mr. Caldwell says:
"I want to --"
He says from here on:
"... I want to go on and say that if it
should be suggested that Wilson, for
some unknown reason, is out to get his
friend Milgaard, I would certainly think
that he could have done a more
workmanlike job of that in his
testimony, if that were his intention.
Wilson, for instance, says that
Milgaard's remarks upon arriving at the car were, "I fixed her", or something to that effect. It seems to me that surely if Wilson was out to get Milgaard or frame him, he could have quoted the accused as saying he stabbed or killed the girl, which certainly would have been more damning language on the part of Wilson as against the accused. Then there is the matter of the accused volunteering the information to Wilson
in the bus depot in Calgary ... that he had a girl, or got a girl in Saskatoon, that he had put a purse in a trash can and he thought she would be all right." Is it fair to say that the fact that Wilson was being subtle and not, you know, not being more blatant, that it made it more difficult to cross-examine him?

Yes, and $I$ always thought being the treacherous type of person that $I$ thought him to be, that he was clearly endeavouring to be as convincing as possible and that the subtleties that he employed were part of that.

Yeah. And going into that trial you had Nichol John, and would it be fair to say it would be difficult to predict what she was going to do on the witness stand going into that trial, that that made the trial difficult also?

A

Q
Yes, that was certainly a major factor in the concerns that one had to have.

And in fact what she ultimately did is she adopted part of her second statement, but not all of it, and that made it even more difficult, that she adopts part of it, but then claims that she did not remember for the rest of it?

## Page 25083

That's correct.
And when you went into that trial, $I$ think you've already made this point, you had no idea that Mr. Cadrain was suffering from any mental illness? No, there was certainly no indication of that. I thought that he was not too bright, comparatively speaking, and $I$ don't say that in a disparaging way, and as $I$ mentioned earlier, even before the trial, just as a matter of routine, I sort of, I checked to see if he been involved in any untoward instance or anything up in the Meota, Jackfish Lake area where $I$ understood he had been working and so on.

So you didn't have a lot to work with with him either?

That's right, and of course $I$ also checked to see whether he or any of the others had applied for the reward money before the trial actually started, but --

Yeah.
-- the answer I ultimately got was that no application had been made at that time. And then in addition to that, you had Lapchuk and Melnyk coming forward at the last minute?

Yes.

Q

A

Q

A
$Q$

A
Q
And of course we know now that this was a difficult trial going into it, but it could have been a lot different and a lot easier if you had had all the disclosure that we now know about?

A Yes.
Q

A
$Q$

A

A
Q

And you would have had a lot more to work with? Yes.

Now, part of the difficulty of this trial was that you were left, when working with particularly Wilson and to a certain -- when you were -- you know, cross-examining Wilson was ultimately you are left with the issue that somehow they got manipulated into giving a statement against David, that was -- you didn't have anything, any other motive that you could go at and that was what you were trying to do, that the police had pressured or manipulated him into giving a statement against David?

Yes, and that's why $I$ had tried to probe that issue in an interview with Mr. Roberts and I've alluded to that here.

And Roberts was not co-operative in giving a lot of information about that, what happened to turn Wilson around?

And really you didn't have any police reports that would have been very helpful, some of these police reports that you've seen now that would have been very helpful in giving you some insight as to how

## Page 25086

Wilson got turned around?
A
Yes, that's right, they would have been of assistance in that area.

And as you said, if there was a tape recording, that would have been very important because you could have saw the whole process, the questions and answers, the statements that were made to Wilson that caused him to turn around to give evidence against his friend?

Yes, and the tone could often be quite significant.

You didn't have any of that?
No.
And then the trial itself, the trial itself became complicated by the situation where Nichol only agreed with part of the statement and not all of her statement, or second statement?

A

Q Yes.

And perhaps you might expect that she would deny the entire statement or she would testify as indicated in that statement, or maybe you anticipated that she would only agree with part of it, but $I$ imagine the thing that really was the thing that you couldn't expect is the way the judge dealt with her during that process where she
was being cross-examined on that statement after the prosecutor was given leave to do so?

Yes. I've already described that and I don't think $I$ can really add anything more to my description of how that unfolded. I think that the stern admonition in the presence of the jury would undoubtedly carry a strong suggestion that her words "I don't remember" were not a genuine "I don't remember".

Yeah. And do you think the fact that the judge wanted to give admonitions and then he did some cross-examination of her himself, do you think that that also points to the fact that there should have been a hearing in the absence of the jury where he could have done that in the absence of the jury if he felt obligated to do so?

A Well, $I$ feel quite strongly about that as a matter of principle, that that's the way it should be handled, and of course that was the argument in the Court of Appeal, and while there was agreement in principle with that, when you come to the reversible error provision, or the curative provision that was applied, the decision that a voir dire should have been held was, in a sense, a hollow victory.

## Page 25088

And it would be difficult to anticipate a judge making the comments that he did, like, you are in front of a jury, there's -- as defence counsel could you anticipate that happening and once it happened it's happened; right?

Yes, and you then have to deal, you know, try to conduct the trial as skillfully as you can in the light of that, and of course, and I've alluded to this earlier, ever mindful of the importance of the final instructions and you hope to get final instructions to the jury that are as favourable as possible.

So you are walking a bit of a tightrope trying to stay on relatively good terms with the judge and yet the transcript reveals at times you stood up to the judge, but -- and stood up to the judge and --

Yes, and in fairness to the presiding judge, I never detected any resentment on his part when $I$, you know, submitted, in rather strong terms when $I$ read them, that $I$ thought he was wrong.

Yeah.
But this is the stuff that courtrooms are made of, so to speak, and if -- I think there was a feeling of mutual respect even though there were

## Page 25089

irreconcilable differences of opinion on certain matters that were addressed there and ultimately again raised in the Court of Appeal.

So one of the difficulties here was just the way the judge intervened, but you had to maintain a relationship with him, and is it fair to say that later in the trial it benefited David by getting a favourable instruction and then when you asked for a re-instruction, he virtually accepted what you had to say and re-instructed as you asked for --

A Yes.
-- on many issues?
Yes. I thought at the end of the day that $I$ was able to persuade him to give what some would view as a relatively favourable charge.

And from a tactical point of view in doing trials, if you get a recharge that is totally favourable
to one side, is that viewed by trial lawyers as
being something that is something very favourable to the side in the sense that the last words that the jury hear are comments that favour your position?

A
I know that $I$ thought so, and my request for a recharge on certain areas was framed with that in mind.

Do you recall that the judge, during the course of the 9(2) hearing after he found that there was differences in the statement and the testimony with respect to Nichol John, do you recall the fact that the judge declared Nichol John to be hostile?

A

Q
Yes, I've read it over, and I think that's pretty well imprinted in my mind.

I won't bring that up again, but he did that -like, the first step would be under section 9(2) is to declare the statement to be inconsistent or contradictory to the testimony that the witness is giving?

Yes.
And then if that is the case, the judge can allow, in this case Crown counsel, the right to cross-examine the witness on the statement, but limited to the statement itself; is that fair to say?

Yes.
There's a further step that can be taken under section 9(1) of the Evidence Act --

A That's right. -- and that is the witness can be declared hostile and then you can cross-examine at large; is that
correct?
A
Q
And what the judge in this case, after the witness was being questioned about the statement, he essentially unilaterally declared the witness to be hostile without hearing argument from you and without receiving any submissions in the absence of the jury?

A
Q
And the fact that he declared the witness to be hostile in front of the jury, that normally isn't done, is it, that type of ruling is done in the absence of a jury?

A
$Q$

A

Q
A
Yes. That's correct. Well, that certainly was my view of things. And do you think the fact that he declared, in front of the jury, that the witness was hostile; do you think that also was a bit of a problem? It was, but I think the -- looking back, and I think $I$ mentioned this probably with Mr. Hodson, I really think the stern admonitions were the most dramatic when she was weeping or crying, and I don't need to go back and read them, but they have been covered here --

Yeah.
-- quite adequately.

Yeah. And just one last question, Mr. Tallis. I noticed that both you and Mr. Caldwell, in your final arguments, both argued approximately the same period of time when you made your final arguments, and, you know, if there is a suggestion -- and $I$ don't think there is -- but if there is a suggestion you missed an argument or something like that, is there some conventional wisdom amongst trial lawyers not to argue too long and make the points that you feel are relevant, and that if there is another point the jury will, somebody in the jury room will pick it up, and you don't want to talk too long?

Yes, I think that's a very practical assessment of the situations that you are often confronted with. You can't cover everything, otherwise it would mean you would be reading all through your notes, just as a trial judge when charging a jury, you know, ought not to engage in mindless recitation of every bit of evidence that comes out. Thank you. Those are my questions. MS. KNOX: Mr. Commissioner, there were two areas raised by Mr. Wolch in direct, and I'll specify to you which ones they are, that $I$ would like to be able to re-examine on.

One is the questions that were put to the witness with respect to the roommates of Gail Miller, Adeline Nyczai and Ann Friesen and the others, the name was actually Betty Hundt although I'm not sure that he mentioned it.

The second area that $I$ would
like to be able to re-examine on is the letter that Deputy Chief Corey wrote to I think it was Mr. MacKay in 1971 about -- or 1970 about Larry Fisher where the paragraph starts:
"I was asked by T.D.R. Caldwell to ...", if $I$ could clarify whether or not the witness has any knowledge of Mr. Caldwell knowing about the contents of that letter.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: And what about the roommate, was he --

MS. KNOX: I'm not -- I didn't record, exactly, the question exactly as it was phrased, but what $I$ understood Mr. Wolch to be suggesting is that counsel has not been told, or it had not been disclosed to him, the existence of the roommates who would have testified about Gail Miller walking down Avenue O.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: That's what I took from the evidence.

MS. KNOX: Yes.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Yes, go ahead. MS. KNOX: Yes.

## BY MS. KNOX:

Mr. Tallis, just very -- and $I$ will be very brief -- you will recall, and you may better recall the exact language that Mr. Wolch used, but he raised with you the subject of whether the Crown had disclosed to you information about other roommates, or roommates of Miss Miller who would have testified that she ordinarily went to the bus down Avenue 0 ?

Yes, I recall that being raised.
At various points in time in your file and in your evidence you have indicated that you were shown contents of the Crown file, even contents like statements that you might not ultimately have gotten copies from, whether it was by Mr. Wolff or otherwise, but you did have access to the file or parts of the file, not necessarily that you received written copies of eventually?

Well, I can't be precise on that, but --
And that's the only point that $I$ wish to make. I'm not sure that Mr. Wolff had all of that there.

I know the crucial information, I must have
discussed with him, but I'm not saying that that would fall into that category.

Q
Without the benefit of your file notes and your memo books are you able to say that you weren't, in fact, made aware of what those young women would have said if they'd been called to give evidence?

No, I -- I just have no recollection of that.
Okay. And --
And that's the best $I$ can do to assist you. You do recall that Adeline Nyczai was called as a witness at the preliminary inquiry and at the trial?

Oh, yes, there is no question about that.
And if it may be of assistance, if we could bring up the transcript of her testimony, the document number is 007421 . And she was one of the early witnesses in -- after the preliminary started, if we could go to the next page and the page after that, these are -- as it appears in the transcript with some notes. She testified on August 21 st, as I see here, and basically gave some evidence about her observations of Miss Miller the morning of her death. And if we could go to 007428 , please. And this is in the course of your cross-examination of
her, and at about question 26 , do you see, you began to ask her some questions about whether there were other people on the floor?

A
$Q$

A
$Q$

A
Q

And then she went on to name a couple of other people on the floor --

A
Yes.
She gave you the name Betty Hundt -- and if we could go to the next page, please -- and you asked her about Miss Hundt and whether she was still there, and do you recall being told at the preliminary inquiry, as is indicated here, that Miss Hundt had moved to Whitehorse in the Territories?

I don't recall that.
But, certainly, that would have been a piece of information that, from the record, became known to you?

Oh, yes, $I$ mean there's no --
Yeah. And with respect to Anne Friesen, the next roommate that she identified, do you recall telling her that -- or her telling you that she believed Anne Friesen was now living in British Columbia?

Obviously, I was told that. Yes.

Q

A

Q

A
$Q$

A
$Q$

A
Q
-- Trudy Hoffman, or if we go down a bit, Linda Markwart. Okay. Now if I could bring up 032107, please. Mr. Caldwell, this is the letter that Mr. Wolch referred you to that's written by Deputy Chief Corey to Mr. MacKay, and you indicated that you had an opportunity to review it?

A
Q

You can see that it's directed to the Deputy AG's office in Regina?

A
$Q$
Yes.
And he pointed you to the paragraph where the deputy chief stated that he'd been contacted on March $16 t h, 1971$ by T.D.R. Caldwell who requested that he forward a summary of the facts relating to offences of rape allegedly committed by Larry Fisher, being the above-named.

Now are you aware that it is Mr.
Caldwell's evidence that this was not a letter
that was sent to him and it was not a letter that
was seen by him until the early '90s?
No. And of course I didn't see this particular letter until it was in the package --

Okay.
-- that $I$ was asked to read.
If you could --
And I think $I$ indicated that --
Yes.
-- I am in no position to speak on behalf of the letter-writer, or Mr. Caldwell, or anyone else with respect to that.

Yes, yeah.
And if we could go to the last page, please, page

## Page 25099

09, you can see there's nothing on it to indicate that was any -- were any copies sent to anywhere other than the one that went directly to --

A

Q
 That's correct.

And, sir, would you agree that if Mr. Caldwell's recollection and his evidence is correct -- and I might add, as well, that this wasn't found in the Saskatoon prosecution office, it was found in Regina -- that in fact he had, he could find nothing on Larry Fisher at the prosecutors office and had no knowledge of the facts as outlined by Deputy Chief Corey in this letter, that he obviously couldn't have disclosed it to you because, like you, he didn't know; could he? Yes, $I$ have no basis to question that. Thank you. I have nothing further.

MR. HODSON: The good news, Mr. Tallis, is that you are done, the bad news is that you won't get to share your birthday with the rest of us, but thank you very much for attending before the Commission.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Thank you, Mr. Tallis, for testifying.

Thank you.

MR. HODSON: And I believe the next matter is Mr. Sorochan is here on behalf of Mr. Asper, who will be making some submissions regarding his application for standing and funding, and following that we'll proceed with Mr. Asper.

MR. SOROCHAN: Mr. Commissioner, my name is Don Sorochan, I'm from Vancouver, I'm a member of the Yukon and British Columbia Bars.

You have before you an application on behalf of my client, David Asper, for standing and funding of counsel. I've advised Mr. Hodson that $I$ would be content to rely on the written materials, but $I$ wanted to make two additional submissions.

Since being here in this room
it has become apparent that, as a person that does not have standing, Mr. Asper does not have access to many of the documents that are clearly of importance. I have on my computer over 2,000 documents and images that have been very thoughtfully provided by Mr. Hodson and the staff of the Commission and yet, through the hearing yesterday and today, many of the key documents, in fact I'd almost go to say most of the key documents, have not been available to myself or
to Mr. Asper for us to consider in preparation for his testimony.

So $I$ would add that as an
additional ground, that in order to properly represent his interests and, in my submission, the -- his viewpoint as to the important issues that are raised in this Inquiry, he requires standing for that purpose.

The other matter that $I$ would raise is that in the summary of Mr . Asper's evidence that has been distributed, as I understand it, to the parties, you will see that there is a great deal of issue being raised about his relationship with the Department of Justice and his duties in moving forward the 690 applications, and there's been some criticism leveled at him with respect to his use of the press as part of those processes. I notice that -- and it's already been commented on by other counsel today -- that we do not have the documents of the Federal Department of Justice, at least all of those documents, and $I$ don't know if my additional voice would be needed in that regard, but it would certainly be my intention to press for the production of those documents as
being necessary to fully explain Mr. Asper's position.

Now I don't expect that we'll be finished this week.

Just parenthetically, I -- Mr. Tallis has said that he had doubts about the lie detector procedure, $I$ wondered if we could use it as part of this Commission's processes to deal with time estimates and we could try to come up with some valid data on the machine.

But we are going to be here, we're going to be here on another occasion, and before that other occasion, I think I submitted to Mr. Hodson, we should bring this issue to a head about whether the Federal Department of Justice was acting -- or certain people there were acting in a solicitor/client basis or whether they were acting as functionaries of the Department of Justice, and that those documents should be produced.

So those are the two additional
areas that $I$ wanted to add to my written
submissions. Thank you.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: The second one,
Mr. Sorochan, is distinct from your application
for standing, however, is it?

MR. SOROCHAN: Well $I$ think it's a matter of standing. As $I$ understood it, I wouldn't have any business coming in and asking, raising the issue with the Department of Justice as a mere counsel to a witness. It seems to me that, on the way that this Inquiry has been carried on, that that's a matter that would require my position to be that of a party.

I should say by the way, just
in case you think you are going to be burdened by another long-winded lawyer asking questions or repeatedly putting forward my client's testimony through my own mouth, that it would not be my intention to fully participate in all of the proceedings, but there are certain key witnesses that have been identified by Mr. Hodson that $I$ believe $I$ could be of assistance to this Commission.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Uh-huh.

MR. SOROCHAN: Thank you, Mr. Commissioner. COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: On your point of being able to press for production of Federal Justice documents, sir, you would, as counsel for a witness, certainly be entitled to object that
he was being taken by surprise or being unfairly questioned about documents which he should have access to $I$ would think.

MR. SOROCHAN: I suppose I could, but I would submit -- and $I$ haven't gone into my other application further -- that Mr. Asper's interest goes beyond that of a mere witness here, he is obviously a key element in the --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Oh yes, I
recognize what's in your material, sir, and I --
MR. SOROCHAN: Yes. And it also turns out that, Mr. Commissioner, that it doesn't appear that my concern -- these are my concerns alone. I've heard, this afternoon, other counsel expressing the desire to get on with getting this issue of the Federal Department of Justice -- and I guess they have used an excuse they didn't know who was running the place for the last period of time, but we now seem to know, at least until the next election is called, and $I$ think it should be something that's dealt with with some urgency so that -- because they may resist things, and we should know, or this Commission should know what the state of affairs are with respect to those documents.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Well anybody is free to make a motion in that respect if they wish.

MR. SOROCHAN: Well, if I get status, maybe I will. Anything else, Mr. Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: I think not, Mr. Sorochan, thank you very much.

MR. SOROCHAN: Thank you, Mr. Commissioner.
MR. HODSON: Just on the issue of the Federal Justice documents, perhaps $I$ can clarify. Federal Justice has provided their documents to the Commission and they have been provided to the parties. They maintain privilege, solicitor/client privilege, with respect to certain documents. Our rules recognize that a party may assert privilege with respect to documents, solicitor/client privilege, and, like in other proceedings, that can be put to the test.

And where we stand now, there
are really two issues, there are some documents that Federal Justice claims as privileged that were provided $I$ think to the Government of Saskatchewan that found their way into our database, and there's not very many, there's an
issue there that we need to resolve.
Secondly, I have asked, some time ago, Federal Justice to provide me with two things; one, a general description of the documents over which they claim privilege, and again, whether that's a listing or a description of the type of document, in other words who's it from and what does it relate to generally; and secondly, to assert the basis of the privilege, in other words who is claiming it and what is it, to allow me as Commission Counsel, and other parties, to address that issue.

In fairness to Mr. Frayer, over the last couple of months there have been other matters ongoing that have made him difficult -made it difficult for him to get instructions, I am advised that when we return on April $16 t h$ or 17th that we will have the situation in hand and either -- well, their position will be known, and if there's an application to be heard for that issue and the privilege can be tested, that will happen shortly upon our return. So I think, again, over the break -- and I'll keep the parties informed about that; is that fair, Mr. Frayer?

MR. FRAYER: That is, Mr. Hodson.
MR. HODSON: Yes. And, with that, maybe I can call David Asper, our next witness.

## DAVID ALAN ASPER, sworn:

BY MR. HODSON:
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Good afternoon, Mr. Asper. Thank you for agreeing to testify before this Commission.

Afternoon.
And thank you for your patience in waiting the last couple of days and, as well, thank you to you and your counsel for your assistance in the past number of months in meeting with me and reviewing documents.

Again, just for the record, you
are represented by Mr. Don Sorochan who is your counsel; is that correct? ,  And your involvement in this matter stems back to early 1986 and extends to June of 1992 , approximately, where you were legal counsel
representing David Milgaard; is that correct? That's correct.

And $I$ understand that, after your departure from private practice in June of 1992, that you did not have any direct dealings on the matter, although from time to time you may have provided commentary or had some minor role; is that fair?

That's correct. I ceased formal legal
representation, $I$ remained a -- continued a
relationship with the family, and certainly commented on the case and on the systemic issues of wrongful convictions.

And I understand, sir -- and we'll maybe go to that in a bit more detail later -- that there was a ten-month period in $I$ think 1987, perhaps '88, where you left the law firm, the Wolch Pinx law firm, on a leave and worked for a media company; is that right?

That's correct, CKND Television, our family's media company.

And so, for that time period, I take it you were not involved in representing Mr. Milgaard; is that correct?

A
That's correct.
If $I$ can call up your CV, 335443. And this is a
document, Mr. Asper, that you have provided that just provides a summary, and I'll go through just parts of this. Since January of 2000 you have been the Director, Executive Vice-President, and Chairman of the National Post; is that correct? Yes. That refers to as a member of the Board of Directors of CanWest Global Communications. And then, if we can just scroll down, $I$ think from 1994 to 1999 again involved Executive Vice-President with CanWest Global?

Yes.
Correct?
Yes.
And CanWest Global is a company that owns or oversees or directs the operations of a number of -- a national newspaper, provincial newspapers, television stations, radio stations; is that a fair -- I'm sure I'm missing things in there, but is that a fair --

Yes, we have some media properties in Canada, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, Turkey now.

And then if we can go to the next page, please. Here you identify your work, and I think it was with the Wolch Pinx Tapper Scurfield law firm, is that the firm you were associated with when you
represented Mr. Milgaard?
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$Q$

A included the winter mo
some television progra
months and being cold.

So the latter part of '87-early '88, does that sound --

I think that's correct. I think I came back in the spring of '88.

And if we can go to the next page, again just some legal background, June '84-December '85 it looks, I understand you got your law degree in the United States, is that right, in San Diego? Yes.

And that you spent a time period in -- at the Buchwald Asper Henteleff law firm doing the equivalency program?

Yes. I had to apply through the Canadian, I think it is called the Federation of Canadian Law Societies, had to go to school for a year at the University of Manitoba Faculty of Law, and
concurrently worked at Buchwald Asper Henteleff, and then began my articles there and switched articles midway through.

And that's when you went to the Wolch -Yes.
-- Wolch law firm?
Yes.
And, again, at the Buchwald firm you were doing, I think, corporate/commercial law; is that correct? Yes.

And so would it be fair to say that your first taste of criminal law came when you joined the Wolch law firm in January of 1986 ?

Yes, that's true. I had, other than the advocacy program, studied and concentrated basically in commercial and corporate law at law school, and my clerking in Manhattan in New York City was in the area of securities litigation, and that's where I was headed until roughly March of '86 when $I$ disappointed my parents and went into criminal law.

Q And would your representation of David Milgaard; would that have been your first criminal law file or one of your first criminal law files?

Well, $I$ don't want to get too anecdotal, I had an
interest in March of 1986. Umm, I think I started at the firm March 3rd, which was the day that a member of the RCMP was shot in a -- and killed in a place called Pine Falls, Manitoba, and everybody had left the office and $I$ was the only one in the office, having never had anything to do with criminal law, and got the phone call, the proverbial phone call, from Edgar Martin Olson that day, who was the accused, and I believe that the hook came out of Mr. Wolch's office later that week on the Milgaard case.

And so, other than perhaps Mr. Olson, would it be fair to say that Mr. --

No other experience.
If we can maybe go to the next page of your resume, and $I$ don't propose to go through this other than to indicate that -- I don't mean to downplay them -- but there are other memberships, community activities, and community involvement, those are on the record.

If we could go to 335476 . And
what $I$ want to do, Mr. Asper, is try and just outline for you and the Commissioner and others sort of where $I$ see your evidence fitting in and what I intend to cover. Obviously, you spent six
years on this matter, and much of what you were involved in has been before the Commission in some form or another, so $I$ want to just outline where I intend to go.

And I want to start with the Terms of Reference, which we're familiar with, that talk about inquiring into the conduct of the investigation and trial and the re-opening, seek to determine whether the investigation should have been re-opened based upon information subsequently received by police and Justice. And the four areas, if we can just scroll down, that $I$ intend to cover with you, sir; number 1, to review the efforts made by you and others on David Milgaard's behalf to have the investigation re-opened by the authorities; number $2--$ and this focuses on the third prong of our terms of reference -- to review the information provided to the authorities on David Milgaard's behalf relevant to the re-opening of the investigation, including all information provided to the authorities through the media and general public with a view to influencing the authorities to re-open the investigation, and in particular, review:
a) the reliability of the information,
b) how it was obtained,
c) the manner in which the information was communicated to the authorities, and
d) the relevance/purpose of the information provided; next -- and, again, these are somewhat related and overlap -- all information provided to the authorities through the Section 690 applications and the Supreme Court reference; and lastly, to the extent that it constitutes information provided to the authorities relevant to the re-opening of the investigation, I intend to review with you some commentary or criticism that you had, and provided to the authorities, of the conduct of the investigation and trial.

And so I just want to -- the next document, if we could go to 335470 . And what I've tried to do, Mr. Asper, based upon our interviews and the review of the documents, and tried and put together in a document -- and, again, I'm sure it's not complete -- but just sort of the key areas that, when you and I are finished, that $I$ hope to have all of these covered. Again, one of the challenges is if we look at the, some of these issues, is that what you did in '86 was buttressed in '88 and in '90
with further information, so $I$ just want to touch on this.

Again, we will spend some time on the 690 process and your understanding of it, how it worked, and probably be -- I intend to go through chronologically, and so we're going to deal with probably three different time phases about what you knew about the section and how you thought it operated. The first one is your initial view, and then as you got into the application, and third, looking back at it.

Sources of information, we will spend some time on that, and $I$ will be asking you what information you had, what information you didn't have, what information you tried to get, etcetera. And, again, I've tried to outline the various sources based on our materials.

If we go to the next page, and I've tried to summarize the information provided to authorities in support of the re-opening, and again $I$ think it is a bit of a list -- if we can maybe go to the next page -- of the various grounds that you and others, on behalf of David Milgaard, put forth to the authorities. And again, as $I$ mentioned earlier, $I$ will be dealing
with these in stages. The first will be prior to your first application to the Minister in December of '88; second, before the Larry Fisher information came about; third, the dismissal of your first application by the Minister; fourth, the second application to the Minister; and, finally, the reference to the Supreme court of Canada, because I think we'll see that the information that -- was gathered not all at once and over that course of time.

And, next if we can go to page 474, and $I$ will be asking you about the manner in which information was communicated to the authorities, and $I$ think in -- it's fair to say, Mr. Asper, that the media played a role in the communication of information to authorities to assist in the re-opening; is that fair?

A
$Q$ Absolutely.

And, as well, what $I$ have tried to put forward here is the channels of communication, and I've included in the media -- and, again, we'll get into this in greater detail -- but $I$ understand that there may have been two different phases, if I can call it that, where, the second phase, the media maybe played a more prominent role than the
first phase; is that correct?

A
Umm, well I think, as we discuss it, I would make the case that the ability to communicate as we did in the second application was the product of the cumulative effect of what had come before.

And I would also say that the
communication through the media was not simply
limited to the authorities, it was limited to the public at large, and it was directed at the public at large, qua public at large, and to potential witnesses.

And was the purpose of that communication in part to influence the authorities to re-open the investigation?
in the second application was the product of the
$Q$

To influence the political masters, yes.
To re-open the investigation?
Yes.
So that when we get into this, and we'll deal with
this in a fair bit of detail, to the extent that information was disseminated through the media to the public, one of the purposes would be to have the public influence or put pressure on the politicians to re-open the investigation; is that a fair general statement?

And secondly, would it be fair to say as well that it would be communicating the information to the authorities as well, directly to the authorities through the media; is that --

Yes, yes, there was certain tactical, I would call it tactical choices that we had to make in certain circumstances, yes.

And a third thing I think you said, and again $I$ don't mean to limit you on what you viewed as the role of the media in this, but the third thing you said is to bring forward witnesses; is that correct?

Yes.
And I take that would be for information that would assist you in putting forward a case to re-open the investigation; is that fair?

A
Q

A
Yes.
And we'll also see, and again I've got it under number 4, the public supporters of David Milgaard, and I think maybe that's what you've touched on, and then as well some --

Well, $I$ would distinguish between people who were kind enough to support us, some financially, some emotionally, which was necessary quite a bit of the time, $I$ would distinguish that from the people
who were being marshaled either for, as witnesses or to put pressure on the politicians. We actually needed some friends and $I$ would put that group into that category.

And we'll have a chance to elaborate on that a bit further, I've also got politicians, and I think we'll see in the documents that some of these people were used to get information through and influence decision-makers; is that fair?

Yes.
And as well we'll talk about --
Used, I'm not comfortable with the word used, it implies that sort of somehow they were manipulated. They helped us.

So they provided assistance, is that a fair way to put it?

A
Yes, yes.
I didn't mean to use the word used in a derogatory sense.

Yes. They helped us and they provided assistance. And then we've got the, a couple of events where there was contact directly with the Minister of Justice and the Prime Minister which we will touch on. Then I've summarized again from the materials, and we'll go through this in the course
of your questioning, concerns that you raised, maybe go to the next page, about the dealings with Federal Justice.

The next document that $I$ want to touch on before we get too far in is the chronology, 335477, and I provided this to you, Mr. Asper. I've also provided a much lengthier and more detailed chronology of events, but I wanted to just quickly walk through the 1986 to 1992 time frame where you were involved so that we get a picture of what are some of the key dates and milestones, because when $I$ intend to go through the questioning, $I$ think $I$ will raise with you whether it's before or after the first application, before the Fisher information, etcetera, and $I$ think, and again this is not meant to say that there were not other important things happening, but $I$ think this will give some idea.

$$
\text { I think it was early } 1986 \text { that }
$$

Mr. Wolch's firm was retained, $I$ think you said in March of '86 is when you got the file?

A

2 Yes.

November $23 r d, 1986$ is when Deborah Hall swore an affidavit contending that Craig Melnyk and George Lapchuk lied at trial. November 26 , ' 86 is an
affidavit that David Milgaard swore. February of 1987 we start into the Dr. Ferris information about DNA testing, and then if we can scroll down, about 10 months later there's an order to get the exhibits, some information on DNA in March of '88, and then September of 1988 Dr. Ferris' report, and then December $28, \quad$ '88 is the first application, so that will be the first phase, that's when the first application is sent in, and again there's some following correspondence about getting further information.

Then if we can go to the next page, here is August of '89, David Milgaard's affidavit is filed. In November of '89, and I've included some of the steps that Justice have taken, not all of them, but as they relate to some of the witnesses, Deborah Hall and Nichol Demyen were examined, and then February 28, 1990 is a significant date where the name Larry Fisher was raised with Federal Justice and so we'll spend some time --

A
Mr. Hodson, $I$ wouldn't want you to imply that I, or we were aware of what Justice was doing -Certainly.

A -- on this time table.

Q

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## .

$\square$ Actually, he became involved in March with Linda Fisher, but here again we get into the statements from Dennis and Albert Cadrain and Ron Wilson. We
then see the reports of Dr. Markesteyn and Dr. Merry regarding the frozen semen. If we can go to the next page. We'll spend some time about the publication of Larry Fisher's name as the perpetrator, or potential perpetrator, and then if we can just scroll down, again much of this matter in here involves Mr. Williams, and when we go through that chronologically $I$ will be asking you what you knew at the time.

And then here, February 27, 1991
the first application is dismissed. We'll then spend some time on what happened following that, and again we then have, in the spring of '91, we've already heard from Mr. Henderson on this, the interviews of the sexual assault victims. Scroll down, please. August 14 th being the second application, and then what follows there is some publication and the Saskatoon City Police missing records issue, I'll spend some time with you on that.

And then if we can go to the next page, and actually go to the next page, please, and one further -- I'm sorry, right there. November 28 , ' 91 the minister refers the case to the Supreme Court of Canada. The reference
occurs, the decision of April 14th, 1992, and I think shortly after that, Mr. Asper, you left the private practice of law; is that correct?

Yes. I think it was in June.
If we can just, having gone through this
chronology of '86 to '92, can you give us some sense, and again just very general, and I'm not talking about specific hours, but how much time of your practice, let's take the 1986 to 1988 period up until the first application, about what percentage of your time as a lawyer did you spend on this matter?

In the first phase $I$ was an articling student and this was sort of an extra-curricular activity $I$ would call it, $I$ had to earn a job first of all and build a practice, so whatever we were doing was bolted on the top of whatever else young lawyers are doing, and in a criminal firm on call basically 24 hours a day, so it was -- I would say that it began as a fairly modest project, although I took it on in earnest. Over the years the involvement escalated, sort of $I$ would say on a gradual level to the point where $I$ would think by about 19 -- mid '89 it became pretty much a full-time pre-occupation while $I$ was also trying
to maintain a practice. I sort of had two full-time jobs and $I$ was travelling a bit on circuit in northern Manitoba and trying to juggle both events, both matters, you know, a practice, an active practice and a developing Milgaard case. By about 1990 it was full time, $I$ couldn't do anything else.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: What date, sir?
A

A

Q
BY MR. HODSON:
If we could call up 335465, please, and again this is the outline that $I$ propose to follow, we'll try to go chronologically, Mr. Asper, and we may come back to this, but again, and I've covered most of this, just the introductory matters, we've touched on some of those. If we can scroll down. We'll spend some time about your initial engagement, your mandate, and then $I I^{\prime} m$ going to deal with the first of the three year period from January or March, '88 through to the end of December of '88
when the first application was filed.
Go to the next page. We'll then deal with that application, I'll go through that with you. Scroll down. Then break it down from December 28, ' 88 to February $28, \quad$ ' 90 and that's of course when the Larry Fisher information came, and then we'll deal with that date right through until the application was dismissed.

I will go through with you again chronologically the Justice Minister's decision, what happened with the second application, some specific matters relating to missing files, and then again the reference, the Supreme Court decision itself and then some of the allegations that came out of that, and finally the next page, and we will probably cover these as we go through your evidence, Mr. Asper, some of the systemic issues that came out of your work on the matter. So with that, why don't we start off and have you tell us, again $I$ think you started to say in March of 1986, your first week on the job, you got handed this file. What were you given and what was your mandate?

A My recollection is that Hersh -- I was an articling student, you know, I physically didn't
have an office, $I$ was working out of the library right across from Hersh's office learning how to do bail applications and, you know, the hook sort of comes out of the senior partners office as juniors walk by often with things that the senior partner is either too busy to do or doesn't want to do and he, Hersh called me in and asked me if I was familiar with the Milgaard case. I lied and said $I$ was having gone to law school in the United States and just learning criminal procedure. He said that he had been retained by Mrs. Milgaard to look into the matter of her son's case and that they were claiming that David was innocent and could we do something about it, so my -- I think we had been provided with a box of material including trial transcripts and some investigative background material that Joyce had gathered and Hersh asked me to look at it, primarily to read the transcripts and to tell him what the case was about and give my impressions as to whether there might be any merit to what Mrs. Milgaard was saying. I don't recall early on discussing what we were going to do about it, my initial task, and I think our initial task was to look at the case and become very familiar with it to know whether
there might be any merit. I again read the trial
transcripts $I$ believe and formed some initial opinions about it, communicated those to Hersh and then began the discussion of what to do.

Okay. If we can maybe just back up. I think you said you were provided a box. Was that from Mrs. Milgaard or do you know where that came from?

That was from Mrs. Milgaard.
And it had, $I$ think you said, the transcripts.
Did it have all of the transcripts?
A
$Q$
A
$Q$

A

Q
I seem to recall there were some pages missing, but fundamentally all the transcripts were there. And --

Or what $I$ thought were all the transcripts. The jury addresses weren't there and other things. And what about witness statements, police reports, things of that nature, do you recall any of that? I can't recall if that was in the box or whether that -- whether what she had collected or notes that Peter Carlyle-Gordge or others had made came later, $I$ can't recall.

And do you have any recollection of whether sort of what, on what basis either David Milgaard or Joyce Milgaard was putting forward as the basis for his contention that he had been wrongfully
convicted?
A
Well, that emerged -- after $I$ kind of briefed the case and explained my views to Hersh, I met Mrs. Milgaard and then $I$ went to Stoney Mountain Penitentiary to meet with David and, to be honest, they were pretty emphatic that David hadn't committed the crime, $I$ mean, the starting point was, "I didn't do it, I'm innocent," which seemed good enough for me. I think, you know, there's a misconception, not that $I$ had a wealth of experience, but certainly Hersh did and others in the firm, that there's a bunch of people in prison saying I didn't do it and that just isn't the case, and when somebody does come along and says I didn't do it, and we talked about this, there is some duty of a lawyer to consider that possibility, to consider whether that's true, so we did, and we took it at face value.

Do you have any recollection again, and $I$ appreciate, Mr. Asper, that many things happen and you learn more information over the years, but as far as an initial reaction when you read the case in the transcripts, as to what conclusions you may have reached, or what did you tell Mrs. Milgaard when you met with her for the first time to give
your views on the case?
Oh, I had spoken with Hersh and several other partners in the firm, senior partners in the firm, because $I$ read the transcript and $I$ don't want to sound cavalier about it, but having read the transcript, and again with this great wealth of experience that $I$ didn't have, the case looked ridiculous to me, it just looked completely implausible, and it looked implausible that five unsavoury people could send a man to prison for life and be preferred over the evidence of reliable people, leaving aside all the details that later came out as $I$ tried to reenact, you know, who was where and test the Crown's theory, so my interaction with Joyce and with David early on was not so much to tell them why $I$ thought the case was bad, but to hear from them why they thought the case was bad. They had lived it, they had studied it, they knew it way better than $I$ could ever know it and $I$ sat and listened to them. And what is your recollection, and I'll talk a bit later about your first meeting with David Milgaard in more detail, but just generally what did Mrs. Milgaard and David Milgaard tell you generally about why the case against him was deficient?

A
$Q$
Yes. I was troubled by that.
Now, let's just talk a bit about your role and the
role of Mr. Wolch. I think at that time, and
let's talk over the three year period from, I
think it was January, 1988 that, and I'll show you
some documents in a moment, that your law firm was had read?

Yes. I was troubled by that.
Now, let's just talk a bit about your role and the role of Mr. Wolch. I think at that time, and let's talk over the three year period from, I think it was January, 1988 that, and I'll show you some documents in a moment, that your law firm was
retained, and $I$ think it was March of '88 that you got the file; is that correct?
' 86
I'm sorry, '86, thank you. And when you got the file did it appear that you were the first person getting into it; is that fair?

No. Mrs. Milgaard had indicated that --
In your firm, I'm sorry.
Oh, in our firm. Yes, $I$ was the first one.
So in early '88 to December, '88 when the application was filed, can you give us a general idea of what role you played, what role Mr. Wolch played as far as reviewing the matter, giving direction, things of that nature?

Well, I was doing leg work, I was poring over not just the trial transcript, we ultimately $I$ think got the, $I$ seem to recall we had the preliminary inquiry transcript, we were reconciling the differences. Joyce had done a considerable, and through others, through Peter Carlyle-Gordge, had done a considerable amount of investigation up to that point through the ' 80 s and, you know, $I$ was going through that material. A fair bit of time $I$ would say was spent testing the case against other members of our firm, other senior partners,
litigation partners in the firm to find out whether $I$ was crazy or not, we did spend a lot of time on that particular subject because we were being asked to get involved in something that we really had to believe in, and I think that's probably -- we -- I think Mr. Wolch had had some informal conversations with some of his colleagues from the Department of Justice as to what we had to do in order to activate section 617 as it then was.

We looked at other potential remedies, considered other remedies, ruled them out and then focused on having to find something new in terms of evidence. Mr. Wolch seemed to be, and I'm not, I can't recall if this was on the basis of conversations with his colleagues at Justice or whether we had done some research on it, the view seemed to be we had to find something new, we had to find a hook.

Q And for what purposes?
A
In order to make an application under 617, to call on the minister to intervene we had to find something new, and that's where we started to focus.

So let me just back up. New as in new evidence or
something that wasn't considered by the jury?
A
Q

A
Q

A
$Q$

A That's correct.
$Q$

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And so when you say new, what did you think you needed to get by way of new?

Well, I mean, you get into the systemic issues here. We frankly had no idea, we didn't know whether we were dealing with a fresh evidence test, we didn't know what we had to provide, we just assumed that it had to be something that didn't exist at the time of the trial, or the
appeal.
And you used the word hook. Can you explain what you mean by that?

Well, $I$ mean, you are getting into sort of a larger philosophical question, but I'll just -I'll lay it out for you and I'm sure you will come back to it, and every time $I$ say this people look at me incredulously for saying what I'm about to say because they can't believe that anybody would be so naive, but $I$ think we all believed that if we provided the Department of Justice with something, anything in concert with a claim of innocence, that there would be a bonding, a collaboration between the claimant and the Department of Justice to find out whether the claim was true and that there would be this fixation to find out, especially where the claimant was in custody, and I really believed, and I was of the view that -- and will take the view as I'm sure we go through my evidence -- that liberty ought to prevail over everything, and so I thought that if we found something new and gave the Department of Justice a hook, we would march off together and go find out what happened. And where did you get this understanding from, can
you tell us, did someone tell you that or did you read it somewhere or was it an intuitive thought?

A

Q
later, is that a fair way to put it?
I don't think we ever thought we might get paid later, that came into play later. We were doing this on a pro bono basis. It cost the firm several hundred thousands of dollars in disbursements, it cost me, I spent some of my own money, we couldn't get Legal Aid, so we were -but we were committed to it and we were going to take the case as far as we could.

Maybe just talk a bit about Legal Aid. We will see in some of the documents, and $I$ won't take you through all of them, but it appears that early on you or Mr. Wolch applied to both Manitoba and Saskatchewan Legal Aid and were denied on a number of occasions, I believe there may have been a small payment for Dr. Ferris' disbursements, I stand to be corrected on that, but other than that, there was no Legal Aid provided?

I can't recall if there was a payment for Dr. Ferris, but it's correct, Legal Aid consistently refused coverage.

And can you tell us what was your understanding as to why Legal Aid was not provided?

A
I seem to recall that their argument was that there wasn't a proceeding to which Legal Aid would
be attached and that this was the argument base, that they based it on. As well they kept asking us for what's the merit, what are the merits of what we were doing and what was the likelihood of success and it was -- I have to tell you, you know, we'll get to the systemic issues, it was an extremely troubling response from Legal Aid.

And did the fact that there was not funding from Legal Aid impact your efforts in trying to assist Mr. Milgaard?

Not a bit, but that's because of the charity of Wolch Pinx Tapper Scurfield, that was the charity of our law firm, and one shudders to think how others in a similar position might have fared. If we can go back, there's another name that we'll see on some of the documents early on and $I$ think it's Heather Leonoff or Heather Campell?

A

And was she involved in the early phases of this matter doing some of the work?

A
Yes. She helped us, she was the smartest one in the firm in terms of knowing the law, so she
helped us on some of the legal research issues, and she was a great writer, so she helped us on some of the integration that we had to do of the documents.

What about again, about private investigators, and let's talk before Centurion Ministries came along which was in March of 1990 , were you able to or did you hire any private investigators or utilize private investigators to do work on this matter?

Not that $I$ recall.
And was there a reason for that?
Yes. It goes back to my earlier answer. I mean, it mortifies me in hindsight, everybody wants to talk about hindsight, it mortifies me in hindsight that we thought that by someone getting the Department of Justice involved, that we would get access and collaboratively work to get all the things that an investigator would have otherwise gotten us.

And so was it your understanding that at some point Federal Justice would investigate the matter?

A
Yes. We treated Federal Justice, and philosophically, as an independent Crown vis-a-vis David Milgaard and the Province of Saskatchewan
and we thought that they would be independent and help us find justice.
$Q$
Again, just back to sort of your initial instructions or mandate, if $I$ can call it that, and maybe it wasn't so precisely put to you, but $I$ understand you've told us that job one would be to get David Milgaard out of jail, to set aside the conviction; is that --

It's interesting, that sometimes was, those were sometimes separate objectives depending on the day we were talking to David. There were times that David didn't want to get out of jail except as a free man, i.e., you know, he debated certainly the question of whether he would take parole, so sometimes getting David out of prison was distinct from exonerating him. One meant the other, but not necessarily the two together.

Q Are you --
The mission here clearly was to undo his wrongful conviction and get him out of prison, that was the big picture.

Q And we've heard some mention, and we see it in some of the documents, a distinction between setting aside the conviction and proving his innocence. And, again, did you see those as
different things?

A
Yes. Umm, I mean I recognized, notwithstanding the Milgaards' claim of innocence, that that was a pretty tough sell; first of all there wasn't a quick remedy for it; and secondly, in terms of moving a very intransigent system, I had compromised, $I$ think in my own mind, what outcome we could best hope to achieve, and that was to get a new hearing.

And a new hearing under 617 --
Yes.
-- or 619?
Yes.
And the intended result would be to have the conviction -- at the hearing would be to have the conviction set aside?

A
Q

A
Okay. You know, that, that's a great point, and that's the insidious little hook that Saskatchewan and others have hung to, or hung onto immediately guess -- and $I$ don't want to debate this point, we've heard some evidence on this -- but to be legal innocence, in other words that you are no longer convicted; is that fair?
following David's release. If you are not guilty you are innocent, period, there is no other distinction.

Q

And so part of your engagement by him would be to assist him in attaining parole?

A
It made for interesting parole hearings on occasion.

Q
Yeah. And $I$ take it that those efforts were not
successful, is that a fair way to put it, on - -
A

Q

A
No, well, no. It's hard to dig deep into that psychology.

David was damaged goods
psychologically, psychiatrically, as a result of his experience in prison. He was not a model prisoner, he rebelled, he gave the parole board lots of reasons to not let him out. Primarily, he would go to the parole hearings and deny any guilt whatsoever, and that would fly in the face of the attempt by the parole board to reconcile whether he had come to terms with the seriousness of his crime and, therefore, was a candidate for rehabilitation.

So I wouldn't say -- well, I
wouldn't say he didn't want parole, he certainly didn't like to be in prison, but he was conflicted as to whether he would take parole, as I say, it
being, umm, the badge of a guilty man, part of the badge of a guilty man.

We heard some evidence $I$ think from Mr. Merchant and perhaps others, earlier, that if Mr. Milgaard had been out of jail on parole -- and we maybe heard conflicting evidence on this -- that it would have either (a) helped his cause in challenging his wrongful conviction, and $I$ think we may have also heard or will hear, some might say "no, it would actually be counter-productive", and $I$ wouldn't mind your comment on that?

A
$Q$

A
$Q$
A
It allowed us -- in a couple of ways. It allowed us to portray to the public the image of somebody who was possibly -- and all we asked of the public was to think possibly, not conclusively -possibly wrongfully imprisoned, to appeal to
people's sense of fairness, and to the outrage at the wrongful deprivation of liberty. And it worked, and we wouldn't have had that, we wouldn't have had that tool if he was out of prison.

Okay. That's --
And $I$ can say that on a personal level, it was a
highly motivating factor for me, as I came to
treat getting David out as a -- and I don't want
to be exaggerating here -- but $I$ treated it as a war of liberation.

This is probably an appropriate spot to break for the day, Mr. Commissioner.
(Adjourned at 4:27 p.m.)

OFFICIAL QUEEN'S BENCH COURT REPORTERS' CERTIFICATES:
We, Karen Hinz, CSR, and Donald G. Meyer, RPR, CSR, Official Queen's Bench Court Reporters for the Province of Saskatchewan, hereby certify that the foregoing pages contain a true and correct transcription of our shorthand notes taken herein to the best of our knowledge, skill, and ability.
$\qquad$ , CSR

Karen Hinz, CSR
Official Queen's Bench Court Reporter
$\qquad$ , RPR, CSR

Donald G. Meyer, RPR, CSR
Official Queen's Bench Court Reporter

Page 1


Page 2

| ```abdicate [1] - 25062:7 abdicating [1] - 25075:16 ability [10] - 24956:13, 24960:25, 24962:1, 24982:10, 24982:11, 24987:2, 25062:17, 25080:13, 25117:3, 25146:7 able [18] - 24952:20, 24964:4, 24985:2, 24992:1, 24994:23, 25007:22, 25026:5, 25036:1, 25073:6, 25084:8, 25089:14, 25092:25, 25093:7, 25095:4, 25103:23, 25110:4, 25125:11, 25139:7 above-named [1] - 25098:7 abreast [1] - 25068:14 absence [6] - 24936:22, 25087:14, 25087:15, 25091:7, 25091:13, 25110:4 absences [1] - 25143:5 absolute [1] - 24965:25 absolutely [7] - 24984:15, 24998:21, 25015:17, 25021:24, 25045:23, 25052:10 Absolutely[6] - 24952:9, 24956:16, 24972:4, 25006:7, 25050:4, 25116:18 abundantly [1] - 25064:11 abused [2]-24971:23, 24972:6 accept [6] - 24939:7, 24943:18, 24952:18, 24952:21, 25015:22, 25080:17 accepted [5] - 24950:11, 24956:2, 24956:9, 25076:3, 25089:9 accepting [1] - 24949:12 access [8]-24986:11, 25049:14, 25049:18, 25050:1, 25094:19, 25100:18, 25104:3, 25139:17 accident [1] - 24980:24 accomplice [4] - 25005:19, 25005:24, 25007:5, 25007:7 accomplished [1] -``` |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |


| 25007:22, 25008:1, | appeared [5] - | appropriate [8] - | 25067:2 | assess [1]-25022:18 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 25038:15, 25038:17, | 24959:20, 24974:8, | 24946:20, 24974:6, | arisen [2] - 25020:18, | assessment [16] - |
| 25047:10, 25049:20, | 25037:10, 25046:23, | 25034:20, 25038:5, | 25040:22 | 24930:15, 24930:20, |
| 25050:1, 25050:13, | 25080:2 | 25038:6, 25038:12, | arising [1] - 25060:16 | 24930:21, 24930:25, |
| 25051:6, 25056:1, | appearing | 25067:23, 25145:1 | armed [1] - 25040:6 | 24931:11, 24931:15, |
| 25066:10, 25071:19, | 25037:4, 25038:25 | appropriately [1] - | arranged [1] - 24936:21 | 24931:19, 24949:8, |
| 25075:11, 25078:20, | appellant [1] - 25037:8 | 24972:8 | arrangement [2] - | 24955:9, $25001: 8$, |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25083:21, 25139:12 } \\ & \text { answered [3] - 24970:4, } \end{aligned}$ | appellate [7]-24957:1, 24967:17, 25034:16, | April [2]-25106:17, 25124:1 | 24937:3, 25042:5 | 25004:23, 25022:7, |
| 24974:6, 24978:17 | $25035: 19,25036: 9$ | area [36]-24938:3, | $25040: 2$ | $25080: 12,25092: 1$ |
| answering | 25037:4, 25071:5 | 24940:7, 24942:17, | arranging [1] - | assist [10] - 24938:3, |
| $24933: 9,24945: 16$ | applicant [2] | $24943: 10,24943: 24$ | 25077:14 | $24941: 22,24951: 21,$ |
| answers [3] - 24969:24, 25078.8, 25086.7 | $25047: 21,25056: 14$ |  | arriving [1] - 25081:15 | 25004:20, 25021:23, |
| antagonism [1] | $24928: 11$ | $24957: 20,24959: 10$ | article [2] - 25039:11, | 25118:15, 25138:9, |
| 25025:17 | application [30] - | 24959:14, 24960:3, | 25039:13 | $25142: 22$ |
| $25020: 23$ | $24976: 1,24976: 11$ | $24965: 21,24965:$ | articles [3] - 25019:12, | $24933: 4,24938: 6$ |
| antecedents [2] - | 24976:25, 24977:1, | $24967: 11,24970: 10$ | articling [2] - 25124:13, | 24983:12, 24986:17, |
| 24958:17, 24960:23 | 24978:1, 25083:22, | 24978:22, 24980:17, | 25126:25 | 25000:17, 25015:23, |
| Anthony[1] - 25069:19 | $25100: 4,25100: 10$ | $24986: 3,24994: 13$ | articulated [3] | $25074: 7,25084: 14$ <br> 25086.3, 25095:15 |
| anticipate [2]-25088:1, 25088 :4 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25102:25, 25104:6, } \\ & 25106: 20,25115: 11 \end{aligned}$ | 25018:7, 25020:3, 25030:15, 25033:2 | $24955: 2,24961: 16$ | $\begin{aligned} & 25086: 3,25095: 15, \\ & 25103: 18.25107: 11 \end{aligned}$ |
| anticipated [1] | $25116: 2,25116: 5,$ | $25038: 21,25047: 8$ | articulating | 25119:15, 25119:20 |
| 25086:22 | 25116:6, 25117:4, | 25047:11, 25060:13, | 25065:7 | Assistant [2] - 24926:3, |
| Anyway [1] - 24995:11 | 25120:15, 25121:7, | $\begin{aligned} & 25068: 20,25083: 12 \\ & 25086: 3.25093: 6 . \end{aligned}$ | $\text { aside }[7]-25021$ | 24926:6 |
| apart [1] - 25017:13 apologize [1] - | $25123: 17,25124: 10$ | 25111:18 | 25130:12, 25140:7, | $25057: 15,25084: 7$ |
| $25060: 25$ | $25126: 1,25126: 3,$ | areas [21] - 24936:13, | $25142: 5,25142: 13$ | assisting [2] - 25076:1, |
| apparent [3] - 24944:6, | 25126:8, 25126:11, | 24940:2, 24952:13, | aspect [7]-24951:13, | 25142:18 |
| 25080:13, 25100:16 | $25132: 11,25133: 21$ | $\begin{aligned} & 24959: 2,24961: 13 \\ & 24966: 3,24972: 10 \end{aligned}$ | 24974:12, 24978:24, | associated [1] - |
| Appeal[17] - 24967:4, | applications [3] - | 24966:3, 24972:10, | 24996:15, 25018:21, | $25109: 25$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & 24967: 22,24968: 9 \\ & 25012: 19.25012: 23 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 25101: 16,25114: 8 \\ & 25127: 3 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24979:10, 24983:15, } \\ & 24984: 18,24999: 12, \end{aligned}$ | $25059: 8,25073: 8$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { assume }[4]-24956: 7, \\ & 24976: 21.24983: 4 . \end{aligned}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25012:19, 25012:23, } \\ & 25013: 4,25027: 13, \end{aligned}$ | applied [6] - 24977:22 | 25053:6, 25063:19, | aspects [4] - 24977:4, | 25024:10 |
| 25044:15, 25052:17, | 25013:11, 25014:13, | 25066:23, 25067:1, | 25031: | assumed [3]-24932:6, |
| 25069:10, 25069:20, | 25083:17, 25087:23, |  | Asper[24]-24927:15, | $24974: 15,25134: 24$ |
| 25070:13, 25070:16, | 25137:13 <br> applies [2] - 24957: | $25113: 12,25114: 21$ | $24928: 13,25100: 2$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { assumption [1] - } \\ & 24978: 25 \end{aligned}$ |
| $25087: 20,25089: 3$ | $25062: 25$ | argue [1] - 25092:9 | $25100: 5,25100: 10$ | assumptions |
| appeal [15] - 25027:14, | apply [3] - 24969:5, | argued [2] - 25027:18, | $25107: 3,25107: 4$ | $25003: 7$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & 25027: 18,25031: 20, \\ & 25036: 20,25037: 7 \end{aligned}$ | 25004:11, 25110:22 <br> appreciate [13] - | arguing [4] - 25027:12, | $25107: 6,25109: 1$ | assure [1] - 24962:18 <br> atoning [1] - 25142:15 |
| 25037:12, 25039:17, | 24960:11, 24966:9, | 25043:25, 25044:10, | $25112: 22,25114: 1$ | attach [1] - 25029:17 |
| 25043:15, 25043:16, | $24966: 12,24969: 9$ | 25046:10 | 25116:15, 25120:7, | attached [1] - 25138:1 |
| 25046:16, 25046:19, | $25009: 15,25017: 3,$ | $24965: 10,25013: 1$ | $\begin{aligned} & 25122: 13,25124: 2, \\ & 25125: 18.25126: 1 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { attack [3]-25014:9, } \\ & 25015: 3,25031: 6 \end{aligned}$ |
| 25135:1, 25144:25 | $25023: 25,25025: 7,$ | $25013: 14,25030: 24$ | $25129: 20,25131: 14$ | attacked [2] - 25019:1, |
| Appeal's [1] - 25070:5 appealing [1] - | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25056:13, 25068:21, } \\ & 25129: 20 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 25031: 5,25036: 25, \\ & \text { 25044:2, } 25059: 4, \end{aligned}$ | $25136: 8$ | $25029: 24$ |
| 25064:18 | appreciated [2] | 25059:12, 25060:14, | $25102: 1,25104: 6$ | attacking [2] - |
| Appeals[1] - 25071:11 appear [10]-24932:13, | $\begin{gathered} 25020: 20,25079: 22 \\ \text { apprehended [1] - } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 25071: 8,25087: 19, \\ & 25091: 6,25092: 7, \end{aligned}$ | $\text { assailant }[1]-25010: 5$ | $25017: 13,25052: 22$ |
| 24935:3, 24970:6, | 25047:7 | 25137:24, 25138:1 | 24931:3, 25050 :24 | attaining [1] - 25142:22 |
| 25046:7, 25046:8, | approach [3] - 24988:5, | arguments [4] - | 25123:15 | attempt [2] - 25053:17, |
| 25046:15, 25046:25, | 24989:9, 25012:6 | 24977:13, 25013:7, | assaulted [1] - 24930:7 | 25143:18 |
| 25066:8, 25104:12, | approached [1] - |  | assaults [3]-25018:10, | attempted [1] - |
| 25132:5 | 24947:24 | arise [6]-24958:17, | 25018:19, 25027:8 | 24938:19 |
| Appearances[1] - | approaching [1] - | 24959:7, 24965:19, <br> 24980:18, 24989:13, | assert [2] - 25105:16, | attempting [3] |
| 24927:1 | 24964:24 | 24980:18, 24989:13, | 25106:9 | 24938:22, 24939:5, |


| 24939:7 | 24981:20, 24989:15, | 25031:16, 25098:19, | 25094:6, 25130:19 | board [3] - 24938:12, |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| attending [1] - | 25110:15, 25127:17 | 25100:2, 25100:10, | Betty [3] - 25093:4, | 25143:14, 25143:18 |
| 25099:20 | bad [3] - 25099:18, 25130:17, 25130:18 | 25113:15, 25113:19, 25115:23 | $25096: 5,25097: 13$ | Board [1] - 25109:6 |
| 24941:10, 25000:14, | badge [2]-25144:1, | behind [4]-24940:13, | between [17]-24947:4, | Bobs[1] - 24927:5 |
| 25005:6, 25013:20, | 25144:2 | 24975:16, 25033:3, | 24958:23, 24971:25, | body [5] - 24940:13, |
| 25014:25, 25031:13, | bag [4]-24 | 25048:13 | 24976:6, 24990:1, | 24943:14, 24943:23, |
| 25031:15, 25036:19, | 24993:11, 24994:24, | Beitel [1] - 24926:10 | 24992:9, 24992:16, | 24952:2, 25073:5 |
| 25044:18 <br> attitude [1] - 25010:21 | $\begin{aligned} & 24995: 4 \\ & \text { bail }[1]-25127: \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { belabour [2]-24999:2, } \\ & \text { 25068:6 } \end{aligned}$ | 25011:13, 25018:8, <br> 25039:16, 25043:24, | bolted [1] - 25124:17 <br> bolus [1] - 25056:21 |
| attorney [1] - 25044:19 | balance [3]-25051:19, | belief [1] - 25014:10 | 25044:4, 25044:9, | bona [1] - 24976:1 |
| Attorney [1] - 25044:20 | 25084:9, 25084:13 | believes [1] - 24960:21 | 25077:1, 25118:22 | bonding [1] - 25135:13 |
| attracted [1] - 25067:9 | balancing [1] - 24978:7 | ng [1] - 25063:13 | 25135:14, 25140:23 | bono [3]-25136:14, |
| attribution [1] - 24933:7 | bar [3] - 25064:14, | belonging [1] | are [1] - 24962:1 | 25136:24, 25137:4 |
| Audio [1] - 24926:14 | 25075:4, 25076:10 | 24992:13 | beyond [5] - 24976:2, | book [2] - 24940:20, |
| August[5]-25002:18, | barrister [1] - 25076:4 | below [1] - 25017:12 | 24979:16, 24993:22, | 25072:25 |
| 25010:13, 25095:21, | Bars [1] - 25100:8 | Bence [1] - 24956:6 | 25017:13, 25104:7 | books [1] - 25095:4 |
| 25121:13, 25123:16 | base [1] - 25138:1 | Bench [4]-25146:1, | big [4]-24984:21, | Boswell [1] - 24926:5 |
| Australia[1] - 25109:21 | based [13] - 24956:25, 25005:23, 25035:4 | $25146: 3,25146: 14$ <br> 25146:20 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25057:13, 25080:15, } \\ & 25140: 21 \end{aligned}$ | bottom [6]-24929:16, |
| author [1] - 24931:10 authorities [16] - | 25005:23, 25035:4, <br> 25045:16, 25051:12, | 25146:20 <br> benefit [10] - 24931:9, | $\text { biggest [1] - } 24981 \text { :6 }$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24930:5, 24938:8, } \\ & \text { 25010:10, 25044:23, } \end{aligned}$ |
| 25113:16, 25113:18, | 25051:24, 25113:10, | 24940:2, 24953:11, | Bill [1] - 25044:19 | 25078:18 |
| 25113:21, 25113:23, | 25114:17, 25115:17, | 24958:6, 24984:24, | binding [1] - 25048:5 | bought [1] - 24996:1 |
| 25114:3, 25114:7, | 25131:17, 25131:18, | 25013:8, $25041: 22$ | Biniaris [2]-24967:19, | bounds [1] - 24966:6 |
| 25114:10, 25114:13, | 25134:10, 25138:2 | 25061:4, 25063:9, | 25008:23 | box [4] - 24959:22, |
| $\begin{aligned} & 25115: 20,25115: 24, \\ & 25116: 14,25116: 16, \end{aligned}$ | Based [1] - 25052:15 bases [1] - 25069:11 | 25095:3 <br> benefited [2] - 25075:3, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { birthday [2] - 25074:19, } \\ & \text { 25099:19 } \end{aligned}$ | 25127:15, 25128:6, $25128: 18$ |
| 25117:8, 25117:13, | basic [2] - 24961:15, | benefited [2] - 25075:3, 25089:7 | bit [25] - 24962:4 | $\begin{aligned} & 25128: 18 \\ & \text { boy }[5]-24934: 9, \end{aligned}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25118:3 } \\ & \text { authors }[1]-24967: 10 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 25030: 19 \\ & \text { basis [18] - 24945:23 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Beresh }[11]-24927: 10, \\ & 24928: 5,24950: 22, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 25015: 20,25034: 3 \\ & 25035: 24,25045: 25 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24974:16, 25062:22, } \\ & \text { 25063:16, 25066:17 } \end{aligned}$ |
| automobile [1] - | 24961:19, 24977:25, | 24950:25, 24951:2, | 25047:13, 25048:7 | break [9] - 24952:7, |
| 24980:24 | 24978:2, 24982:15, | 24969:9, 24969:15, | 25049:16, 25088:13, | 24986:6, 25034:21, |
| autopsy [1] - 25012:4 | 25023:24, 25056:3 | 24977:10, 25008:24, | 25091:17, 25092:20, | 25035:9, 25074:11, |
| availability [1] - | 25061:5, 25072:19, | 25070:5, 25073:16 | 25097:1, 25108:14, | 25074:13, 25106:23, |
| 25068:14 | 25099:15, 25102:17, | Bessborough [1] - | 25115:21, 25117:19, | 25126:4, 25145:11 |
| available [5] | 25106:9, 25128:23, | 24925:16 | 25118:24, 25119:5, | Brian [2]-24927:10, |
| 24948:19, 24963:9, | 25128:24, 25133:16, | best [28] - 24959:4 | 25122:12, 25125:2, | 24951:1 |
| 24999:7, 25073:10, | 25136:14, 25136:24, | 24961:25, 24968:13, | 25130:21, 25131:21, | brief [3]-24931:23, |
| 25100:25 | 25137:4 | 24969:8, 24976:23, | 25132:23, 25137:10, | 24959:17, 25094:6 |
| Avenue [9]-24938:12, | batch [1] - 25039:14 | 24980:1, 24980:8, | 25138:11, 25142:8 | briefed [2]-24966:11, |
| 24938:15, 24999:18, | battery [1] - 25058:24 | 24980:12, 24980:25 | bizarre [2]-24978:13, | 25129:2 |
| 24999:20, 25001:15, | bear [1] - 25003:10 | 24981:20, 24983:9 | 25053:9 | briefly [6] - 24951:14, |
| 25001:22, 25002:8, | bearing [1] - 24993:7 | 24984:11, 24984:14, | blade [8]-24995:23, | 24970:12, 25009:16 |
| 25093:23, 25094:12 | became [4]-25086:14, | 24997:14, 24998:19, | 24997:17, 24997:18, | 25010:1, 25017:5, |
| aware [17]-24937:22, | 25096:14, 25122:23, | 25015:16, 25018:24, | 24997:19, 24998:9, | 25047:12 |
| 24940:18, 24940:24, | 25124:24 | 25035:25, 25057:5, | 24998:23, 25079:4 | $\text { right }[1]-25083: 6$ |
| 24946:3, 24946:11, | become [3] - 25066:8, | 25057:6, 25062:17, | bladed [1] - 24995:22 | bring [15] - 24930:2 |
| 25006:9, 25008:6, | 25100:16, 25127:25 | 25063:20, 25064:22 | blades [1] - 24998:1 | $24932: 7,24933: 15$ |
| 25011:12, 25016:12 | omes [1] - 25066:7 | 25064:23, 25079:2 | blame [3] - 24970:20, | 24935:9, 24938:6, |
| 25016:14, 25019:1, | $\text { bedazzled }[1]$ | 25095:10, 25141:8, | 25051:4, 25051 :6 | $24996: 9,25017: 7$ |
| 25023:11, 25028:8, 25035:2, 25095:5, | 24962:13 | $25146: 6$ | blank [1] - 25005:7 | $25031: 13,25044: 17,$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25035:2, } 25095: 5, \\ & 25098: 8,25121: 23 \end{aligned}$ | began [4]-25096:2, 25111:2, 25124:20, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Better [2] - 25005:19, } \\ & 25107: 22 \end{aligned}$ | blatant [1] - 25082:7 <br> block [1] - 25033:14 | $\begin{aligned} & 25090: 9,25095: 15, \\ & 25097: 9,25097: 21, \end{aligned}$ |
| axiomatic [1] - 25039:6 | $25111: 2,25124: 20$ 25128:4 | better [15]-24959:16, | blood [5] - 24944:3, | $25102: 14,25118: 11$ |
|  | beginning [4] | 24964:4, 24967:18, | 24945:11, 25030:16, | bringing [2] - 24937:21, |
| B | $24969: 19,24970: 8,$ | 24981:21, 24982:8, | 25052:23, 25073:24 | 24983:7 |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24996:6, 25079:21 } \\ & \text { begins }[1]-24941: 19 \end{aligned}$ | 24985:24, 25012:8, <br> 25061:21, 25062:2, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { blood-stained }[1] \text { - } \\ & \text { 25051.23 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { brings [2]-24936:17, } \\ & \text { 25064:6 } \end{aligned}$ |
| background [6] - | behalf [10]-24938:22, | 25064:9, 25065:6, | bloody [1] - 25012:3 | British [2] - 25096:20, |
| 24937:21, 24943:15, | 24978:14, 24999:4, | 25065:14, 25069:5, | blurry [1] - 25005:7 | $25100: 8$ |

Page 5

| bromides [1] - | 25022:14, 25023:25, | care [1] - 25027:3 | cases [18] - 24957:15, | 25143:23 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 24962:15 <br> brought 99 - 24934:9, | $\begin{aligned} & 25025: 13,25025: 18, \\ & 25025: 23,25026: 15, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { career [4] - 24964:5, } \\ & \text { 25035:15, 25037:3, } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24967:7, 24969:4, } \\ & \text { 24980:12, 24982:10, } \end{aligned}$ | certainty [1]-25026:9 Certificates [1] - |
| 24934:20, 24938:13, | 25032:4, 25032:8, | 25037:22 | 24984:2, 25008:11, | 25146:1 |
| 25000:15, 25014:25, | 25034:12, 25034:14, | careful [5]-24964:13, | 25009:6, 25009:9 | certify [1] - 25146:4 |
| 25019:8, 25031:15, | 25049:19, 25049:21, | 24968:19, 24978:22, | 25033:18, 25036:2 | chain [5]-24937:19, |
| 25097:8, 25097:14 | 25080:14, 25081:4, | 25037:19, 25060:16 | 25040:23, 25066:13, | 24939:3, 25018:22, |
| Brown [4] - 25048:21, 25048.23, 25049:17, | 25092:2, 25093:11, <br> 25093:13, 25097:5 | carefully [4] - 24959:11, | 25067:23, 25068:2, 25069:18, 25073:11, | 25018:25, 25066:14 |
| 25078:8 | 25097:22, 25098:4, | 25008:14 | 25075:13 | challenge |
| Bruce [3]-24927:9, | 25098:20 | caring [1] - 24974:18 | Cases[1] - 25068:9 | 24956:13, 25057:1 |
| 25047:16, 25052:7 | $\begin{gathered} \text { Caldwell's [7] - } \\ \text { 24932:10. } 2493 \end{gathered}$ | Carlyle[2]-25128:20, 25132:20 | casual [1] - 24966:7 | challenges [1] - |
| $25110: 20,25111: 1,$ | 24937:22, 25005:9, | Carlylegordge [2] | 25119:4 | challenging [2] - |
| $25111: 8$ $\text { build }[1]$ | $\begin{aligned} & 25006: 8,25098: 9, \\ & 25099: 5 \end{aligned}$ | 25128:20, 25132:20 <br> carried [1] - 25103:7 | Catherine ${ }_{[1]}$ - 24927:5 <br> caused [3] - 24937:18 | $25004: 9,25144: 8$ |
| bunch [4] - 25011:19, $25021 \cdot 925021 \cdot 10$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Calgary[2]-24991:12, } \\ & 25082: 1 \end{aligned}$ | carry [1] - 25087:7 | $\begin{aligned} & 24945: 13,25086: 8 \\ & \text { caution [3]-24953:10, } \end{aligned}$ | chance [4]-25057:1, $25070 \cdot 13 \quad 25119 \cdot 5$ |
| 25129:12 | Calvin [3] - 24927:13, | carrying [1] - 25033:5 | $25006: 4,25006: 16$ | 25070:13, 25119:5, $25136: 4$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { burden }[1]-24954: 19 \\ & \text { burdened [1] - } \end{aligned}$ | 24928:3, 24929:4 <br> Campell $[1]$ - 25138:17 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { case }[77]-24938: 21, \\ & 24941: 3,24949: 4, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { cautioning [3] - } \\ & 24963: 24,24963: 25, \end{aligned}$ | chances [1] - 25017:12 |
| 25103:11 | Canada[12]-24927:12, | 24949:8, 24949:18, | 24980:4 | 25012:5, 25045:23, |
| bus [8]-24938:12, | 24954:10, 24959:23, | 24953:1, 24956:4, | cavalier [1]-25130:5 | 25045:25, 25059:13, |
| 24938:14, 25001:21, | 24966:14, 24967:20 | 24963:20, 24965:5, | cease [2]-24955:21, | 25060:17, 25062:11, |
| 25002:7, 25002:18, | 25008:9, 25014:16, | 24965:8, 24967:19, | 25068:20 | 25065:12 |
| 25010:13, 25082:1, | 25041:14, 25078:5, | 24967:21, 24972:18, | ceased [1]-25108:8 | changed [3] - 24950:14, |
| 25094:11 | 25109:20, 25116:8, | 24977:25, 24980:11, | Centurion | 24966:13, 24966:15 |
| business [3] - | 25123:25 | 24982:3, 24984:7, | 25122:21, 25139:6 | changes [2]-24959:3, |
| 25004:14, 25007:4, | Canadian [2] | 24990:3, 24990:9, | certain [18]-24936:18, | 25025:6 |
| 25103:4 | 25110:22, 25110:23 | 24990:13, 24990:16, | 24938:16, 24957:14, | changing [1] |
| busy [2] - 24984:1, | cancer [1] - 25077:18 | 24990:23, 24991:4, | 24965:18, 24977:4, | 25052:23 |
| 25127:6 | Candace [1] - 24926:4 | 24991:24, 24993:12, | 24998:15, 25003:6, | channels [1] - 25116:20 |
| buttressed [1] - | candid [2] - 24976:7 | 25003:25, 25007:6, | 25018:3, 25059:20, | character [4] - |
| 25114:25 | 25021:21 | 25008:16, 25008:23, | 25066:1, 25085:6, | 24958:21, 24958:23, |
|  | candidate [1] | 25008:25, 25009:4, | 25089:1, 25089:24, | 24960:3 |
| C | 25143:20 | 25013:10, 25023:20, | 25102:16, 25103:16, | characterize [1] |
|  | candour [1] - 24977:14 | 25029:14, 25040:12, | 25105:15, 25118:5, | 25131:13 |
| Cadrain[9]-24949:10, | Canning[1]-25069:18 cannot [3] - 24967:14, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25057:15, 25057:20, } \\ & \text { 25058:11, 25060:5, } \end{aligned}$ | 25118:6 <br> Certainly $[1]$ - 25121:24 | characterized [4] 24974:3, 25007•7 |
| 25019:4, 25019:16, | 24971:16, 25062:6 | 25064:23, 25069:5, | certainly [42] - 24935:6, | 25055:16, 25058:8 |
| 25019:22, 25042:11, | canvass [1] - 25070:10 | 25069:9, 25069:18, | $24941: 16,24944: 22$ | characters [1] - |
| 25042:20, 25083:4, | canvassed [4] - | 25069:19, 25071:13, | 24949:3, 24958:3, | 25131:4 |
| 25122:25, 25131:5 | 24940:8, 24959:11, | 25073:21, 25074:25, | 24963:8, 24970:21, | charge [3] - 25006:2 |
| Cal[1] - 25049:3 | 24998:12, 24999:14 | 25075:14, 25084:18, | 24971:12, 24980:18, | $25046: 7,25089: 15$ |
| Caldwell[52] - 24927:5, | Canwest[3]-25109:7, | 25090:15, 25090:16, | 24981:13, 24984:20, | charged [1] - 25044:12 |
| 24930:12, 24932:3, | $25109: 10,25109: 14$ | 25091:3, 25103:11, | 24986:16, 24997:9, | charges [4]-25032:11 |
| 24934:3, 24937:5, | cap [2] - 25063:24, | 25108:11, 25112:11, | 25006:22, 25009:14, | 25044:14, 25046:11, |
| 24938:19, 24939:9, | 25074:22 | 25117:3, 25118:15, | 25010:3, 25010:6, | 25046:16 |
| 24939:10, 24940:22, | capable [1] - 25041:7 | 25123:24, 25125:5, | 25012:17, 25013:14, | charging [2] - |
| 24942:25, 24944:8, | capacity [2]-24980:15, | $25127: 8,25127: 12,$ | $25020: 13,25020: 22,$ | $25040: 20,25092: 18$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24946:4, 24946:16, } \\ & \text { 24947:5, 24947:6, } \end{aligned}$ | 24982:7 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25127:19, 25127:24, } \\ & \text { 25129:3, 25129:14, } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 25026: 1,25040: 14, \\ & 25046: 18,25053: 6, \end{aligned}$ | charity [2] - 25138:11, |
| 24948:19, 24949:7, | $\text { otor }{ }_{[1]}-25142: 16$ | $25129: 22,25130: 1,$ | 25079:20, 25080:17, | 25138:12 |
| 24949:15, 24950:15, | captors [1]-25142:17 | 25130:7, 25130:17, | 25081:10, 25081:21, | check [3] - 25036:2, |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24973:18, 24985:22, } \\ & \text { 25004:1, 25004:9, } \end{aligned}$ | car [8] - 24934:20, | $\begin{aligned} & 25130: 18,25130: 25, \\ & \text { 25132:24, 25134:8, } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 25082: 19,25083: 5, \\ & \end{aligned}$ | $25036: 23,25037: 6$ |
| 25004:21, 25012:20, | 24936:4, 24991:16, <br> 24992.4 24996:8 | $25137: 9,25143: 3,$ | 25097:17, 25101:24, | checked [2] - 25083:10, |
| 25012:24, 25013:21, | 25000:6, 25053:16, | 25144:18 | 25103:25, 25108:10, | 25083:16 <br> cherry [1]-24957:14 |
| 25013:23, 25014:10, | 25081:16 | case-by-case [1] - | 25110:6, 25122:5, | cherry-picking [1] - |
| 25016:9, 25020:16, | card [1] - 24997:20 | 24977:25 | 25129:11, 25140:13, | 24957:14 |

Page 6


| ```24978:7 concerning [1] - 25078:2 concerns [6] - 24946:18, 24955:17, 25036:10, 25082:20, 25104:13, 25120:1 concert [1] - 25135:12 conclude [1] - \(24941: 7\) concluded [2] - 25021:22, 25068:22 concluding [1] - 24953:9 conclusion [5] - 25014:12, 25014:18, 25040:13, 25131:16, 25134:7 conclusions [1] - 25129:23 conclusively [1] - 25144:24 concurrent [2] - 25045:22 concurrently [1] - 25111:1 condemned [1] - 25022:9 condition [2] - 24978:15, 25067:19 conduct [6]-24950:16, 24955:15, 25073:17, 25088:7, 25113:7, 25114:14 conducted [1] - 24932:12 conferences [1] - 25038:14 confessed [1] - 24975:25 confession [3] - 24954:23, 25027:11, 25028:6 confidential [2] - 24977:18, 25048:9 confirmed [1] - 24949:4 conflict [2] - 24973:13, 25075:14 conflicted [1] - 25143:24 conflicting [1] - 25144:6 confrontation [2] - 24953:15, 24953:21 confronted [2] - 25084:12, 25092:15 confronting [1] - 25055:18 confusion [1] - 24964:13 Congram[1] - 24926:4``` |  | ```25120:24 content [1] - 25100:12 contention [2] - 24936:14, 25128:25 contents [5]-24993:5, 25049:11, 25093:14, 25094:16 contest [1] - 25066:7 context [6] - 24950:6, 24998:10, 25041:17, 25041:20, 25053:23, 25057:9 contingency [1] - 25136:17 continue [1] - 24948:12 Continued [1] - 24928:3 continued [4]- 24929:4, 24944:7, 24973:2, 25108:9 continues [1] - 24954:6 continuity [1] - 24946:18 contradictory [1] - 25090:12 contrary [1] - \(24938: 21\) contrast [1]-24992:16 conventional [1] - 25092:8 conversation [1] - 25077:8 conversations [4] - 24938:11, 25053:20, 25133:7, 25133:16 converse [1] - 24947:25 convey [3]-24980:16, 24981:13, 25057:8 conveyed [2] - 24941:6, 24995:23 conveying [1] - 25057:3 convict [2] - 24950:19, 24961:18 convicted [11] - 24971:3, 24976:9, 24976:16, 24978:14, 25065:21, 25066:6, 25068:1, 25069:8, 25073:4, 25129:1, 25141:22 Conviction [1] - 24925:4 conviction [13] - 24959:21, 24961:23, 24967:24, 25015:14, 25031:19, 25140:8, 25140:20, 25140:24, 25141:15, 25141:16, 25142:4, 25142:12, 25144:8 convictions [3] - 24962:9, 24968:8,``` | ```25108:12 convincing [1] - 25082:11 copies [4]-24929:8, 25094:18, 25094:21, 25099:2 copy [3] - 25022:25, 25023:8, 25048:24 Corbett[3] - 24959:20, 24960:2 cordially [1] - 24979:14 Corey[5] - 25032:23, 25032:24, 25093:8, 25097:24, 25099:12 corner [2] - 24930:1, 24938:12 corporate [1] - 25111:16 corporate/commercial [1] - 25111:9 Correct [7] - 24974:5, 24975:15, 24983:14, 24983:20, 25002:14, 25050:7, 25109:12 correct [59] - 24929:13, 24935:24, 24945:8, 24945:15, 24946:2, 24947:12, 24974:10, 24989:5, 24990:20, 25010:9, 25012:12, 25027:19, 25028:16, 25029:2, 25035:17, 25035:18, 25036:18, 25036:20, 25040:18, 25050:19, 25050:21, 25051:22, 25053:22, 25053:25, 25054:8, 25077:7, 25083:1, 25084:21, 25091:1, 25091:9, 25099:4, 25099:6, 25107:16, 25107:17, 25107:19, 25108:1, 25108:2, 25108:8, 25108:19, 25108:23, 25108:24, 25109:5, 25110:12, 25111:9, 25117:1, 25118:12, 25122:19, 25124:3, \(25131: 4\), 25131:14, 25132:2, 25134:5, 25134:17, 25136:10, 25136:14, 25136:15, 25136:20, 25137:20, 25146:5 corrected [2] - 25069:22, 25137:17 correctly [2] - 25061:24, 25061:25 correspondence [4] - 24935:8, 24935:10,``` |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |



Page 9

| 25041:5, 25057:13, | declared [5] - 25090:5, | 25103:5, 25104:16, | detective [1] - 25031:17 | difficulty [5] - 24978:1, |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\begin{aligned} & 25069: 2,25088: 6, \\ & 25101: 13,25102: 8, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 25090: 24,25091: 5, \\ & 25091: 10,25091: 15 \end{aligned}$ | 25133:8, 25135:11, <br> 25135:15, 25135:23, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Detective [8]-24957:3, } \\ & \text { 25023:7, 25025:12, } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 25007: 5,25079: 24, \\ & 25080: 8,25085: 4 \end{aligned}$ |
| 25115:7, 25117:18, | deduced [1] - 25049:22 | 25136:5, 25139:16 | $25028: 4,25028:$ | $\operatorname{dig}[1]-25143: 9$ |
| 25125:23, 25126:3, | deep [1] - 25143:9 | departure [1]-25108:3 | 25031:9, 25031:13, | dilemma [2]-24954:6, |
| 25126:7 <br> Dealing [1] - 25047:15 | deeper [1]-24968:1 <br> defence [22]-24939:1, | depot [1] - 25082:1 deprivation [1] - | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25031:18 } \\ & \text { detector }[1]-25102: 7 \end{aligned}$ | 24977:21 <br> dimensions [1] |
| dealing [12]-24953:19, | 24949:15, 24953:3 | 251 | determin | 24 |
| 24956:20, 24967:5, | 24953:5, 24957:19 | depth [6]-24943 | 24931:10, 24946 | [1] - 24995:14 |
| 24975:9, 25012:10, | 24960:9, 24960:19 | 24943:5, 24943:7 | determine | e [8] - 24952:18 |
| 25031:17, 25043:9, | 24960:25, 24961:1 | 24944:11, 25067:8 | 24975:24, 25113:9 | 24954:18, 24955:1 |
| 25048:25, 25072:5, | 24964:16, 24964:21 | 25072:19 | ing | 24957:18, 25011:4 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25115:25, 25122:17, } \\ & \text { 25134:22 } \end{aligned}$ | 24965:4, 24965:13, 24966:21, 24977:16, | Deputy [4] - 25093:8, 25097:23, 25098:22, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24930:18, 24931:16, } \\ & 25014: 17 \end{aligned}$ | 25012:21, 25058:12, <br> $25087 \cdot 24$ |
| dealings [5] - 24941:3, 24941:4, 25047:12, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25010:17, 25011:3, } \\ & \text { 25038:13, 25038:17 } \end{aligned}$ | 25099:12 <br> deputy | $\begin{aligned} & \text { detriment }[3] \text { - } \\ & 24956: 12,25075: \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { direct [8]-24929:24, } \\ & \text { 24941:10, 24947:2, } \end{aligned}$ |
| 25108:5, 25120:2 | 25039:2, 25084:16 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { deputy } \\ & \text { 25098:3 } \end{aligned}$ | 25075:5 | $24958: 22,24964: 1$ |
| deals [1] - 24979:8 <br> dealt [9] - 25009:10, | 25088:3 defended | $\begin{aligned} & \text { derogating [1] } \\ & \text { 25079:12 } \end{aligned}$ | developed [5] - $24949: 9,24950: 2$ | $\begin{aligned} & 24980: 1,25092: 23, \\ & 25108: 5 \end{aligned}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & 25036: 8,25046: 12, \\ & \text { 25069:11, 25069:19, } \end{aligned}$ | 25035:20 | $\text { derogatory }{ }_{[1]}$ $25119: 18$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24954:1, 25025:17, } \\ & \text { 25063:7 } \end{aligned}$ | directed [5] - 24933:10, 24946:8, 24946:16, |
| $\begin{aligned} & 25069: 20,25072: 16, \\ & 25086: 25,25104: 21 \end{aligned}$ | 25074:24, 25075:1 $\text { deficient [1] - } 25130$ | describe [2] - 24942:10, | developing [2] <br> 24962:25, 25125 | $25098: 22,25117: 9$ $\text { directing [1] - } 2498$ |
| death [2]-25069:4, 25095:24 | definite [1] - 24988:21 | described [8] | developments [2] 25026.23 25068:15 | direction [7]-24964:4 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { deaths [3] - 25069:3, } \\ & \text { 25069:4, 25073:11 } \end{aligned}$ | $\text { 24932:18, } 24937:$ | 25022:10, 25055:23, 25066:16, 25076:24, | dictated [1] - 25037:11 | $\begin{aligned} & 25063: 10,25064: 18, \\ & 25069: 1,25132: 14 \end{aligned}$ |
| debate [3]-25003:9, | 24935:15, 24949:12, | 25080:10, 25087:3 | 25059:1 | directions [3] |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25057:19, 25141:19 } \\ & \text { debated }[1]-25140: 13 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 24950: 3,25110: 16 \\ & \text { delay }[3]-25077: 13, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { describes [2] - } \\ & \text { 25013:23, 25018:24 } \end{aligned}$ | Diego [1] - 25110:17 | $\begin{aligned} & 25050: 15,25053: 18, \\ & 25055: 7 \end{aligned}$ |
| Deborah [2]-25120:23, | 25077:15, 25077:23 | Description [1] - | 24954:1 | directly [8] - 24953:1 |
| 25121:17 | deliberately ${ }^{[2]}$ | 8:2 | differenc | 25019:3, 25019:10, |
| December [8] | 24940:22, 24947:8 | description [6] | 24980:18, $24981: 2$ | 25040:19, 25051:8, |
| 25043:13, 25044:13, | deliberat | 24930:6, 24997 | 24981:25, 24992: | 25099:3, 25118:3 |
| 25045:19, 25116:2, | 25060:1 | 25033:16, 25087:5 | 25089:1, 25090:3, | 25119:22 |
| 25121:7, 25125:25, | delivered [1] - 25044:5 | 25106:4, $25106: 6$ | 25132:19 | Director [2]-24926:4, |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25126:5, 25132:10 } \\ & \text { decent }[2]-24981: 22, \end{aligned}$ | Delta[1] - 24925:16 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { descriptions [1] - } \\ & 24992.9 \end{aligned}$ | different [15] - 24940:5, 24954:25, 24962:4 | 25109:4 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 25025: 8 \\ & \text { decides }[1]-25060: 7 \end{aligned}$ | demand [1] - 25064:20 <br> demonstrate [1] - <br> 25058:12 | deserved [1] - 25079:23 <br> design [2]-24991:14, | 24966:11, 24988:5, 24988:25, 25006:3, | directs [1] - 25109:15 disagree [5] - 24951:24, |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { decision }[28] \text { - } \\ & \text { 24945:24, 24954:10, } \end{aligned}$ | Demyen [1] - 25121:17 <br> denial [1] - 24965:6 | 24992:1 <br> desirability [1] - | $\begin{aligned} & 25007: 3,25012: 22, \\ & 25020: 2,25041: 19, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24957:21, 24957:23, } \\ & \text { 24982:17, 25057:12 } \end{aligned}$ |
| 24986:19, 24986:22, | denials [1] - 25055:16 | $25012:$ | $25084: 24,25115: 7,$ | disagreeing [1] - |
| 24986:24, 24987:3, | denied [4] - 25052:22, | desire [1]-25104:1 | 25116:23, 25141: | 25065:2 |
| 24987:7, 24987:9, | $25052: 25,25055: 8,$ | sk [1] - 25048:13 | differs [1] - 24980:16 | disagreement [3] |
| 24987:10, 24988:21, | 25137:14 | detail [8]-24941:15 | difficult [23]-24953:14, | 25053:5, 25053:7, |
| 24994:15, 25006:17, | nis [6] - 24932:23 | $25018: 15,25051: 14$ | 24953:16, 24959:2, | 25072:7 |
| 25008:16, 25027:16, | 24934:11, 24934:1 | 25108:14, 25116:22, | 24959:5, $24961: 21$, | disallow [1] - 24957:10 |
| 25048:2, 25048:4, | $24935: 4,24935: 12$ | 25117:19, 25122:12 | 24972:17, 24974:16, | disappointed [1] - |
| $\begin{aligned} & 25051: 22,25051: 24, \\ & \text { 25052:17, 25060:20, } \end{aligned}$ | 25122:25 | $25130: 23$ | 24982:6, 25004:23, | 25111:20 |
| 25062:9, 25063:8, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { deny [4] - 25040:24, } \\ & 25041: 2,25086: 19, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { detailed [2]-24986:12, } \\ & \text { 25120:8 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25008:1, 25008:17, } \\ & \text { 25030:6, 25030:21, } \end{aligned}$ | disbursements [2] - 25137:6, 25137:16 |
| 25071:4, 25087:23, | 25143:16 | details [11]-24934:5 | 25079:19, 25079:21, | discern [1] - 25072:2 |
| 25119:9, 25124:1, | denying [1] - 25033:11 | $24949: 3,24949: 4,$ | 25082:7, 25082:16, | discharge [1] - |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25126:10, 25126:14 } \\ & \text { decision-makers [1] - } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Department }[18] \text { - } \\ \text { 24975:18, 24978:3, } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 24972: 2,24972: 13, \\ & 24973: 12,24982: 11 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25082:18, 25082:23, } \\ & \text { 25084:23, 25088:1, } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25062:16 } \\ & \text { disclose [2] - 24939:14, } \end{aligned}$ |
| 25119:9 | 25015:24, 25047:12, | 24983:17, 24983:25 | 25106:15, 25106:16 | 24939:17 |
| decisions [1] - | 25072:4, 25072:10, | $25066: 3,25130: 12$ | difficulties [4] | losed [9] |
| 24995:12 | $25101: 14,25101: 21,$ | detect [1] - 25025:21 | 25036:13, 25063:4, | 24938:18, 24999:11, |
| declare [1] - 25090:11 | 25102:15, 25102:19, | detected [1] - 25088:19 | 25064:8, 25089:4 | 25017:8, 25017:17, |


| 25018:2, 25049:3, | disseminated [1] - | dollars [1] - $25137: 5$ | 25005:5, 25013:19 | effectively [2] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 25093:21, 25094:9, | 25117:20 | Don[3]-24926:12, | drawn [1] - 24996:3 | 24945:3, 24948:17 |
| disclosing [1] - | distinct [3] - 25020:22, | 25100:7, 25107:15 <br> Donald [3] - 24927 | dress [1] - 25033:6 drive [1] - 24959:7 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { efforts [3] - 25113:1 } \\ & \text { 25138:9, 25142:25 } \end{aligned}$ |
| 25018:17 | 25102:25, 25140: | 25146:2, 25146:19 | drugs [2]-24973:25, | [1] - 25065:23 |
| disclosure [11] - | distinction [3]- | done [22]-24930:15, | 25021:10 | either [13]-24981:11, |
| 24998:25, 25012:12, | 24995:7, 25140:23, | 24931:1, 24931:19, | During [2] - 24947:17, | 24985:2, 24993:23, |
| 25035:23, 25038:11, | 25142 | 24940:4, 24950:14 | 25035:15 | 25004:5, 25037:12 |
| 25038:12, 25038:15, | ctive [1] | 24984:11, 24984:15, | during [13]-24937:10, | 25071:24, 25083:15, |
| 25039:3, 25067:2, | 24932:11 | 25009:4, 25018:5, | 24941:4, 24942:4, | 25097:13, 25106:19 |
| 25069:12, 25084:25 | g | 25057:5, 25067:8, | 24950:15, 24986:18, | 25119:1, 25127:6, |
| discontinu | 25118:22, 25118:25 | 25072:19, 25074:19 | 24995:13, 25014:4, | 25128:23, 25144:7 |
| 25037:12 | distributed | 25081:11, 25087:15, | 25016:3, 25016:4, | elaborate [2]-25119:5, |
| discreditable [1] - | 25101:11 | 25091:12, 25099:18, | 25077:16, 25086:25, | 25142:9 |
| 24963:11 | divide [1] - 25063:12 | 25132:19, 25132:21, | 25090:1, 25110:8 | elaborating [1] - |
| discredited [1] | Dna[3]-25067:24, | 25133:17, 25136:13 | duties [1] - 25101:15 | 24964:12 |
| 25069:15 | 25121:3, $25121: 5$ | door [3] - 24952:22, | duty [6] - 24963:1, | election [1] - 25104:20 |
| discreetly [1] - | doc [4]-24993:15, | 24968:25, 25019:17 | 24963:2, 24963:4, | element [1]-25104:8 |
| 24936:21 | 24996:23, 25000:20, | dope [1] - 25005:21 | 25062:16, 25076:3, | elevator [2]-24996:9, |
| discrepancies [1] - | 25080:23 | doubt [10]-24934:3, | 25129:16 | 25059:1 |
| 24992:19 | Doc [1] - 24997:1 | 24945:1, 24967:24, |  | elicited [1] - 25058:19 |
| discretion [4]- | Document [2] - | 24968:25, 24993:22, | $E$ | Elliott [5] - 24932:23, |
| 24957:9, 24957:18, 25059:17, 25059:22 | $24926: 5,24926: 6$ | $\begin{aligned} & 24994: 8,24998: 22, \\ & 25009: 1,25017: 22, \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 24934: 11,24934: 19 \\ 24935: 4,24935: 12 \end{array}$ |
| discuss [2]-25008:14, | 24929:10, 24929:11, | 46:5 | early [14] - 24972:22, | elsewhere [1] - |
| 25117:2 | 24929:12, 24930:1, | doubts [2]-25070:8, | 24977:17, 24983:21, | 25048:16 |
| discussed [11] - | 24932:7, 24932:9, | 25102:6 | 25095:17, 25098:11, | Elson[1] - 24927:7 |
| 24934:8, 24935:3, | 24937:12, 24937:23, | Douglas [1] - 24926:2 | 25107:24, 25120:19, | embark [1] - 24937:18 |
| 24935:22, 24936:22, | 24938:7, 24938:8, | down [43]-24933:7, | 25127:22, 25130:15, | emerged [1] - 25129:2 |
| 24972:13, 24986:22, | 24941:20, 24946:12, | 24940:10, 24944:17, | 25132:10, 25137:12, | emotion [1] - 24974:20 |
| 24998:10, 25012:9, | 24946:13, 25005:9, | 24946:24, 24952:8, | 25138:16, 25138:22 | emotionally [2] - |
| 25044:7, 25080:5, | 25006:5, 25009:17, | 24965:23, 24970:7, | earn [1] - 25124:15 | 24974:11, 25118:24 |
| 25095:1 | 25013:19, 25022:24, | 24993:13, 24999:18, | earnest [1] - 25124:21 | emphasis [2] - 24963:1, |
| discussing [2] - | 25032:5, 25043:10, | 25000:3, 25000:4, | easier [2]-25023:8, | 25073:19 |
| 25051:18, 25127:22 | 25048:19, 25050:8, | 25000:11, 25000:12, | 25084:24 | emphasize [1] - |
| discussion [12] - | 25056:25, 25078:6, | 25000:16, 25000:25, | easiest [1] - 25077:25 | 25064:8 |
| 24934:12, 24935:5, | 25095:16, 25106:7, | 25001:1, 25001:15, | easily $\left.{ }_{[2]}\right]$ 25010:4, | emphasized [1] |
| 24936:15, 24944:10, | 25109:1, 25114:16, | 25010:10, 25019:13, | 25019:13 | 25074:2 |
| 24997:23, 25003:9, | 25114:19, 25120:4 | 25032:16, 25033:3, | east [2]-24943:22, | emphatic [2] - |
| 25004:7, 25004:15, | documents [34] | 25033:5, 25033:8, | 24944:1 | $25070: 25,25129$ |
| 25004:17, 25048:1, | 24978:10, 24980:10, | 25041:3, 25045:25, | easy [2] - 24980:9, | employed [2] - |
| 25079:3, 25128:4 | 25028:22, 25044:17, | 25046:13, 25052:22 | 25022:25 | $24996: 14,25082: 1$ |
| discussions [10] - | 25045:19, 25046:6, | 25055:14, 25075:12 | eaten [1]-24996:13 | enable [1]-25030:23 |
| 24936:4, 24974:1, | 25046:20, 25050:10, | 25075:16, 25081:4, | eavesdroppers [1] - | encountered [1] - |
| 24997:6, 24998:5, | 25053:12, 25100:18, | 25093:23, 25094:12, | 25016:23 | 25036:14 |
| 25017:1, 25020:15, | 25100:20, 25100:23, | 25097:1, 25109:8, | Eddie [1] - 24927:8 | end [9] - 24957:14, |
| 25048:15, 25051:14, <br> 25054:11, 25097.6 | 25100:25, 25101:21, 25101:22, 25101:25, | 25113:12, 25121:3, 25122.16, 25123.6, | $\operatorname{Edgar}_{[1]}-25112: 8$ | 24961:14, 24976:1, |
| dismissal [1] - 25116:4 | 25102:19, 25103:24, | 25123:16, 25125:21, | edge [1] - 24998:9 educated [1] - 25063:17 | 24980:7, 25036:24, |
| dismissed [2] - | 25104:2, 25104:25, | 25126:4 | educational [1] | 25089:13, 25125:25 |
| 25123:11, 25126:8 | 25105:10, 25105:12, | downplay [2] - | 24951:13 | endeavoured [2] |
| disparaging [5] - <br> 25020:7, 25024:19, | 25105:15, 25105:17, $25105: 21,25106: 5,$ | 25077:20, 25112:18 downside [1] - | Edward [2] - 24925:7, | 24983:9, 25013:15 |
| $25025: 2,25053: 15,$ | 25107:13, 25114:18, | 25006:14 | 25063:25 <br> effect [11] - 24966 | endeavouring [1] - <br> $25082 \cdot 11$ |
| 25083:7 | 25119:7, 25131:25, | Dr [7] - 25072:23, | $24977: 3,24981: 9,$ | ended [1] - 24983:20 |
| disposition [1] - | 25137:11, 25138:16, | $25121 \text { :2, } 25121: 6$ | 25013:17, 25018:23, | endorse [1] - 24958:3 |
| 25003:10 | 25139:4, 25140:23 | 25123:1, 25137:16, | 25022:10, 25054:24, | ends [1] - 25074:21 |
| dispute [1] - 25017:25 | Doell [5] - 24938:9, 25002:10, 25002:16, | dramatic [1] - 25091:21 | 25056:1, 25079:6, | engage [1] - 25092:19 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { disquietude [1] - } \\ & 24968: 22 \end{aligned}$ | 25002:17, 25010:11 | draw [3] - 24995:6, | 25081:17, 25117:5 <br> effective [1] - 24988:10 | engaged [1] - 25075:15 |
|  |  |  |  | engagement [3] - |

Page 11

| 25125:22, 25136:9, | everywhere [1] - | 24943:11, 24944:8, | exhibits [5] - 24941:3, | extensively $[1]$ - |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 25142:21 | 25029:2 | 24945:20, 24947:18, | 24942:8, 24946:19, | 24947:19 |
| England [1] - 25069:2 | evidence [86] <br> 24936:15, 249 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24947:24, 24952:23, } \\ & \text { 24953:5, 24957:10, } \end{aligned}$ | $25067: 18,25121: 5$ | extent [5] - 24982:12, 25003:15, 25059:15, |
| enshrined [1] - | 24940:4, 24941:19, | 24958:17, 24992:23, | existed [2]-24944:11, | 25114:9, 25117:19 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25067:21 } \\ & \text { entered }[1]-25044: 13 \\ & \text { entire }[1]-25086: 20 \\ & \text { entitled }[3]-25036: 6 \text {, } \\ & 25041: 22,25103: 25 \\ & \text { entitlement }[1] \text { - } \end{aligned}$ | 24942:8, 24944:21 | 25008:24, 25009:3 | 25036:7 | extra [2]-25046:2, |
|  | 24945:18, 24945:21, | 25014:5, 25014:13, | existence [2] | 25124:14 |
|  | 24946:5, 24946:7, $24950: 2,24958: 13,$ | 25014:19, 25035:9, <br> 25048:24, 25049:1, | $\begin{gathered} 25049: 10,25093: 21 \\ \text { exists }[1]-24992: 3 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { extra-curricular [1] - } \\ & \text { 25124:14 } \end{aligned}$ |
|  | 24958:21, 24960:3 | 25062:18, 25072:9 | exonerated [1] | extreme [1] - 25144:17 |
|  | $\text { 24961: 6, } 24961 \text { : } 24$ $\text { 24962:6, } 24962: 10$ | 25087:12, 25095:25 | 25142:12 | extremely ${ }_{[2]}$ - |
|  | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline 24962: 6,24962: 10 \\ \text { 24962:13, 24964:19, } \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { examine [13] - } \\ & \text { 24952:25, } 24993: 7 \text {, } \end{aligned}$ | exonerating $[1]$ - 25140:16 | 24964:18, 25138:7 |
| 25067:22 enure [1] - $24961: 9$ equivalency [1] - | 24964:23, 24967:15, | 25014:14, 25082:8 | expand [1]-24963:5 | $24990: 9,24990: 11$ |
| 25110:21 | $\begin{aligned} & 24968: 1,24984: 10, \\ & 24985: 21,24985: 23, \end{aligned}$ | 25084:2, 25084:6, 25084:8, 25084:17, | expanded [2] - 24967:7, | 24990:19 |
| 25013:1, 25013:3, | 24992:15, 24994:20, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25084:19, 25090:17, } \\ & \text { 25090:25, 25092:25, } \end{aligned}$ | expect [11] - 24946:19, | F |
| Es[1] - 24997:21 escalated [1] - | 25003:22, 25004:10, | examined | $\begin{aligned} & 25037: 18,25051: 22, \\ & \text { 25053:4, 25055:18, } \end{aligned}$ | face [5] - 24974:21, |
| 25124:22 | $\begin{aligned} & 25005: 2,25006: 13, \\ & 25006: 14,25006: 25, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24947:11, 24947:19, } \\ & \text { 25014:21, 25087:1, } \end{aligned}$ | 25084:13, 25086:19, | $\begin{aligned} & 25008: 22,25059: 24, \\ & 25129: 18,25143: 17 \end{aligned}$ |
| especially [1] | 25007:2, 25008:22, | 25121:18 | expense [1]-25076:8 | faced [1] - 25062:15 |
| 25135:17 | 25009:3, 25009:8, | examiner [1] - 25062:24 | expenses [1] - 25076:7 | faces [1] - 25068:2 |
| Esq[4]-24926:3, | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \text { 25009:9, 25010:12, } \\ \text { 25011:16, 25011:23, } \end{array}$ | examining [2] - <br> 25078:8, 25085:7 | experience [14] - <br> 24951:18, 24970:19, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { fact [35] - 24933:11, } \\ & \text { 24936:17, 24942:11, } \end{aligned}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24927:6, 24927:7, } \\ & 24927: 9 \end{aligned}$ | 25014:5, 25027:3, | example [6] - 24957:2 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24951:18, 24970:19, } \\ & \text { 24974:12, 24987:1, } \end{aligned}$ | $24946: 20,24947: 15,$ |
| essence [1] - 24953:3 | $\begin{aligned} & 25027: 5,25027: 7, \\ & 25030: 24,25041: 13, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 24959: 19,24967: 19, \\ & \text { 24986:18, 24987:22, } \end{aligned}$ | 25009:5, 25035:22, <br> $25065 \cdot 18,25074 \cdot 23$ | $\begin{aligned} & 24949: 17,24981: 22, \\ & 24992: 12,24993: 10 \end{aligned}$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { essential [3]-24949:4, } \\ & \text { 24954:11, 24995:2 } \end{aligned}$ | 25052:19, 25063:18, | 25009:8 | 25075:3, 25075:6, | 24995:4, 24995:6, |
| essentially [7] - | $\begin{aligned} & 25064: 5,25064: 6, \\ & \text { 25066:21, 25066:25, } \end{aligned}$ | except [6] - 24959:18 | 25112:14, 25129:11, | $25000: 10,25006: 10,$ |
| 24944:5, 24948:23, | 25067:3, 25069:14, | $25052: 21,25071: 10$ | 25130:7, 25143:13 | 25012:11, 25018:4, |
| 25063:23, 25065:9, | 25069:21, 25073:14, | 25140:12 | $24$ | 25028:8, 25050:17, |
| 25091:5 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25077:13, 25080:9, } \\ & \text { 25086:9, 25092:20, } \end{aligned}$ | Except [2] - 24985:20 | expert [11]-24962:6, | $25053: 2,25055: 9,$ |
| established [6] - | 25093:25, 25094:15, | exception [3]-24960:1 | 24962:10, 24962:13, | 25056:5, 25065:17, 25079:12, 25082.5, |
| 24943:21, 24944:2, <br> 24944:6, 24945:3, | 25095:7, 25095:22, | 25003:4, 25058:2 | 24962:16, 24962:25 | 25082:21, 25087:10, |
| 24947:23, 24994:21 | 25098:9, 25099:6, | exceptions [1] | 25073:14, 25073:19, | 25087:13, 25090:5, |
| establishing [1] - | $\begin{aligned} & 25101: 11,25112: 24, \\ & \text { 25126:17, 25130:11, } \end{aligned}$ | 24961:20 | 25073:22 | $25091: 10,25091: 15,$ 25095:5, 25099:9, |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24945:9 } \\ & \text { estimate }[1]-24944: 18 \end{aligned}$ | $25131: 8,25133: 14,$ | 24929:19 | expert's [1] - 24963:1 <br> experts [4]-25068:14, | $25100: 24,25138: 8$ |
| estimates [1] - 25102:9 | 25133:25, 25134:22, | exclusion [1] | 25073:10, 25073:14, | factor [4] - 24930:20, |
| Eta's [1] - 25143:4 <br> etcetera [4] - 25005:21, | $25144: 3,25144: 6$ | 24985:15 exculpate [1] | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25073:18 } \\ & \text { explain }[3]-25063: 14, \end{aligned}$ | 24955:10, 25082:19, \|25145:7 |
| 25047:15, 25115:16 | 25014:16, 25090:22 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25067:25 } \\ & \text { excuse }[1]-25104: 17 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 25102: 1,25135: 2 \\ & \text { explained [2] - } \end{aligned}$ | factored [1] - 24931:16 <br> factors [2] - 24987:7, |
| ethics [1] - 25036:10 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { evidentiary [1] - } \\ & \text { 24935:16 } \end{aligned}$ | Excuse [1] - 25060:24 execution [2] - 25068:3, | $\begin{aligned} & 25047: 23,25129: 3 \\ & \text { explode }[1]-25056: 5 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25008:25 } \\ & \text { facts [6] - 24936:5, } \end{aligned}$ |
| event [9]-24942:20, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { exact }[3]-25023: 3, \\ & 25024: 12,25094: 7 \end{aligned}$ | 25072:22 | explore [1] - 24973:2 | 24959:6, 25052:16, 25056:4 25098:5, |
| $24946: 21,24948: 2,$ | exactly [3] - 25011:18, | executions [2] - <br> 25072:25, 25073:3 | express [1] - 24969:1 | 25056:4, 25098:5, 25099:11 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25023:1, 25027:22, } \\ & 25035: 6,25053: 12, \end{aligned}$ | 25093:18 | Executive [3]-24926:4, | 24958:16, 24963:18 | factual [2] - 24948:24, |
| $\begin{aligned} & 25056: 22,25072: 12 \\ & \text { events [6] - 24980:8, } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { exaggerating [1] } \\ & \text { 25145:9 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25109:4, 25109:9 } \\ & \text { exercise }[3]-24953: 21, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 24970: 15,25011: 21, \\ & 25017: 11,25030: 22, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 24959: 7 \\ & \text { factually }[1]-25061: 22 \end{aligned}$ |
| 25020:11, 25119:21, | exam [1]-25036:15 exam-in-chief [1] - | 24957:18, 25009:7 | 25064:13, 25072:17 | Faculty[1] - 25110:25 |
| 25120:8, 25122:13, | 25036:15 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { exhausted [1] - } \\ & 25065 \cdot 21 \end{aligned}$ | expressing [1] - 25104:15 | fail [1] - 24966:18 |
| eventually [2] - | examination [24] - | exhaustion [1] - | extending [1] - 24937:6 | failing [1] - 25014:7 |
| 25053:11, 25094:21 |  | 25067:6 | extends [1] - 25107:24 | failure [2] - 24952:21, |

Page 12


Page 13

|  | ```24960:25, 25039:3, 25124:25, 25125:2, 25125:6, 25125:11 full-answer [1] - 24960:25 full-time [2] - 25124:25, 25125:2 fully [4] - 24962:20, 25041:16, 25102:1, 25103:15 function [1] - 24952:10 functionaries [1] - 25102:18 fundamental [1] - 25059:7 fundamentally [1] - 25128:12 funded [3] - 25068:12, 25073:6, 25073:9 Funding[1] - 24928:11 funding [4] - 25100:4, 25100:11, 25136:19, 25138:8 future [3] - 24946:22, 24959:6, 25067:19 \\ Gail[26]-24931:13, 24934:10, 24934:20, 24938:11, 24938:16, 24940:13, 24988:2, 24992:13, 24995:9, 24999:17, 25002:7, 25028:20, 25029:19, 25030:16, 25031:1, 25031:7, 25050:25, 25052:22, 25052:24, 25053:15, 25053:19, 25054:1, 25054:25, 25093:3, 25093:22 gained [2] - 25075:3, 25075:6 \\ Gallucci[ \({ }_{[1]}\) - 25001 :20 gate [1] - 24950:4 gate-keeper [1] 24950:4 gather [2]-25002:3, 25020:16 gathered [3] 25020:12, 25116:9, 25127:17 \\ gee [1]-25015:12 general [20]-24940:18, 24942:9, 24948:13, 24952:5, 24952:6, 24977:5, 24977:13, 24980:15, 24980:19, 24983:19, 25010:19,``` | ```25016:7, 25018:9, 25057:25, 25106:4, 25113:22, 25117:24, 25122:8, 25124:7, 25132:11 General[1] - 25044:20 generally [6] - 24937:8, 25061:17, 25061:18, 25106:8, 25130:23, 25130:24 generations [1] - 24961:3 genuine [3] - 25025:5, 25062:12, 25087:8 George[2] - 25120:24, 25131:6 Gibson[1] - 24927:9 girl [5] - 25015:3, 25052:25, 25081:21, 25082:2 given [28] - 24946:18, 24948:6, 24951:18, 24957:13, 24961:5, 24978:20, 24991:5, 25001:2, 25001:10, 25001:20, 25015:1, 25028:4, 25039:15, 25045:1, 25049:12, 25049:21, 25052:3, 25052:20, 25056:19, 25059:19, 25060:3, 25063:21, 25068:8, 25072:20, 25077:9, 25087:2, 25126:23 glad [2]-25066:11, 25074:20 Global[3] - 25109:7, 25109:10, 25109:14 glove [3] - 24990:2, 24991:17, 25077:3 God[1] - 25020:5 golden [1] - 25010:17 gonna [3] - 24940:7, 24941:10, 24987:22 goods [1] - 25143:11 gordge [2] - 25128:20, 25132:20 gosh [1] - 25020:9 gossip [1] - 25024:24 Government[2] - 24927:4, 25105:23 grabbed [2] - 24990:6, 25033:2 gradual [1] - 25124:23 grain [1] - 25059:1 granted [1] - 25014:14 great [16] - 24949:25, 24956:12, 24962:24, 24963:12, 24968:5, 24984:3, 24984:10,``` | ```24984:16, 24997:15, 24999:10, 25016:7, 25069:1, 25101:13, 25130:6, 25139:2, 25141:23 greater [2] - 24939:18, 25116:22 grew [1] - 25076:2 ground [5] - 24943:15, 24955:15, 24956:1, 24965:8, 25101:4 grounds [1] - 25115:23 group [3] - 25073:24, 25073:25, 25119:4 groupings [1] - 25030:16 guess [26] - 24949:22, 24950:12, 24953:13, 24955:3, 24960:14, 24960:19, 24968:11, 24971:11, 24971:22, 24977:10, 24978:1, 24982:16, 24990:14, 24990:25, 24998:9, 25013:13, 25030:22, 25050:9, 25058:18, 25062:4, 25063:6, 25064:21, 25067:4, 25069:23, 25104:17, 25141:19 guessing [1] - 24970:5 guidance [1] - 25065:19 guide [1] - 24986:13 guilt [1] - 25143:16 guilty [5] - 24970:20, 25044:14, 25142:1, 25144:1, 25144:2 guy [2] - 25028:25, 25049:13 guys [1] - 24948:20 \\ H \\ half [2]-24990:1, 25045:21 \\ Hall[4]-25063:25, 25064:13, 25120:23, 25121:17None``` | ```handled [5] - 24979:6, 25046:21, 25052:4, 25072:4, 25087:19 handling [3] - 24970:3, 25046:15, 25046:16 hands [1] - 25064:17 handwriting [1] - 24933:18 handy [1] - 25080:24 hang [1] - 25065:23 hanging [1] - 25021:11 harbour [1] - 24950:17 harbours [1] - 24960:24 hard [7] - 24959:3, 24970:16, 24974:18, 25007:1, 25023:3, 25033:20, 25143:9 hard-working [1] - 25007:1 hardly [1] - 25056:6 Hardy[1] - 24926:3 harsh [1] - 25025:10 head [2]-25042:11, 25102:15 headed [1] - 25111:19 heading [1] - 24932:20 headline [1] - 24947:15 headlines [1] - 24947:6 health [2] - 25077:15, 25077:17 hear [10] - 24964:15, 24971:11, 25026:16, 25026:17, 25064:21, 25074:20, 25080:18, 25089:21, 25130:17, 25144:9 heard [19] - 24958:13, 24973:19, 25011:15, 25012:16, 25015:12, 25015:13, 25027:14, 25033:19, 25071:11, 25104:14, 25106:20, 25122:14, 25123:14, 25140:22, 25141:20, 25144:3, 25144:6, 25144:9 hearing [14] - 24985:14, 24988:18, 25012:15, 25044:4, 25046:18, 25048:25, 25084:12, 25087:14, 25090:2, 25091:6, 25100:22, 25141:9, 25141:10, 25141:15 hearings [2] - 25142:23, 25143:16 heart [1] - 25051:21 Heather [3] - 25138:17, 25138:20 heating [1] - 24942:6``` |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |



Page 15

| indications [1] - | initial [11] - 24992:8, | 24992:18, 25037:23, | 24967:16, 24968:24, | 25075:20, 25083:10, |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 25097:5 | 25115:10, 25125:22, | 25038:3, 25089:10 | 25133:22, 25134:16 | $25108: 22,25109: 9,$ |
| indicative [2] - 24971:13 24977.14 | 25127:23, 25127:24, 25128:2, 25129:22, | instruction [2] 25089:8, 25089:9 | intervened [1] -25089-5 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25113:2, 25120:10, } \\ & 25122: 23,25133: 4, \end{aligned}$ |
| 24971:13, 24977:14 individual [5] - | $\begin{aligned} & 25128: 2,25129: 22, \\ & 25131: 11,25136: 9, \end{aligned}$ | 25089:8, 25089:9 instructions [13] | 25089:5 <br> intervention [2] | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25122:23, 25133:4, } \\ & \text { 25138:22, 25139:16 } \end{aligned}$ |
| 24980:18, 24981:25, | 25136:12, 25140:3 | 24946:11, 24986:13, | 24967:25, 25009:2 | involvement [7] - |
| 25041:16, 25066:17, | k [4] - 24930:2 | 24988:3, 24994:6, | iew | 24983:20, 25045:3 |
| 25067:25 | 24930:6, 24932:12 | 25037:25, 25051:16 | 24940:21, 24948:17, | 25045:5, 25107:23 |
| inevitably [1] - 24959:7 | 24933:18 | 25052:4, 25053:21 | 25012:3, 25014:23, | 25112:19, 25124:22, |
| infallible [2] - 24955:19, | nocence [11] | 25054:5, 25088:10 | 25016:17, 25054:23, | 25142:1 |
| 25068:18 | 24930:14, 24974:17, | 25088:11, 25106:16, | 25085:16 | involves [2]-25066:24, |
| infant [1] - 25069:4 | 24975:20, 24976:18, | 25140:4 | rviewed [2] | 25123:7 |
| inference [2]-24996:2, | 24979:15, 24989:11, | instrument [1] | 25000:11, 25022:21 | involving [1] - 24975:2 |
| 25045:17 | 25056:4, 25135:13, | 24950:11 | interviewing [1] | Ireland [1] - 25109:21 |
| inflection [1] - | 25140:25, 25141:3, | integration [1] | 25016:6 | Irene [1] - 24926:10 |
| 24958:10 | 25141:21 | 25139:3 | interviews [4] | irony [1] - 25015:21 |
| influence [5] 24930:17 251 | innocent [14]-24932:6, 24950:19, 25057:18, | integrity [2] - 24969:22, 25038:24 | 25063:18, 25114:18, | irreconcilable [1] 25089:1 |
| $25117: 15,25117: 22$ | 25061:23, 25062:2, | intend [8] - 24969:18, | intimately [1] - 25028:9 | irrelevant [1] |
| 25119:9 | 25062:19, 25062:24 | 25017:6, 25112:25, | intransigent [1] - | 25061:10 |
| influenced [1] - | 25064:24, 25072:11 | 25113:4, 25113:12 | 25141:6 | Isabelle [1] - 24926:6 |
| 24931:19 | 25127:13, 25129:8, | 25114:11, 25115:5, | introduced [2] | issue [28]-24940:11, |
| influencing [2] - | 25142:2, 25142:6 | 25120:12 | 24938:19, 24953:12 | 24948:21, 24958:22, |
| 24930:19, 25113:22 | Innocents [1] | intended [3] | introduction [2] | 24965:6, 2496 |
| informal [2]-25076:2, | 25067:13 | 24940:10, 25070:9, | 24962:5, 25057:25 | 24983:2, 24987:23, |
| 25133:7 | inquiries [1] - 24932:12 inquiring [1] - 25113:7 | $\begin{aligned} & 25141: 14 \\ & \text { intention [3] - } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { introductory [1] - } \\ & \text { 25125:20 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24992:21, 24994:19, } \\ & \text { 24994:20, 24995:16, } \end{aligned}$ |
| $24930: 13,24930: 22$ | inquiry [20]-24937:19, | 25081:13, 25101:24, | intuitive [1] - 25136:2 | 25018:13, 25049:2, |
| 24931:25, 24932:21, | 24937:24, 24939:3, | 25103:15 | invariably [1] - 24959:3 | 25058:5, 25059:22 |
| 24933:2, 24933:8, | 24941:5, 24942:5, | interaction [1] | investigate [2] - | 25069:12, 25073:23, |
| 24935:2, 24937:17, | 24944:5, 24954:18, | 25130:15 | 25073:6, $25139: 21$ | 25085:8, 25085:16, |
| 24938:18, 24938:25, | 24968:1, 25018:23, | interest [10]-24932:24, | investigating [2] - | 25101:13, 25102:14, |
| $24939: 4,24939: 15,$ <br> 24939.19, 24947.2 | $\begin{aligned} & 25018: 25,25040: 24 \\ & 25051: 3,25066: 14, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 24933: 4,24933: 9 \\ & 24937: 16,24939: 1 \end{aligned}$ | 25029:7, 25029:15 investigation [15] | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25103:5, 25104:16, } \\ & \text { 25105:9, 25106:1, } \end{aligned}$ |
| 24949:11, 25000:3, | $25084: 2,25084: 6,$ | $25020: 3,25035: 5 \text {, }$ | $24952: 1,25031: 1$ | $25106: 12,25106: 21,$ |
| 25002:3, 25032:1, | 25084:20, 25095:12 | 25048:20, 25104:6, | 25033:13, 25113:8, | 25123:19 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 25034: 15,25047: 20, \\ & 25049: 20,25081: 25, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25096:9, 25097:18, } \\ & 25132: 18 \end{aligned}$ | 25112:1 <br> interested [5] | 25113:9, 25113:15, <br> 25113.20, 25113.23, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { issues [13]-24936:18, } \\ & \text { 25035:23, 25036:10, } \end{aligned}$ |
| 25085:19, 25094:9, | Inquiry [6] - 24925:2, | $24936: 13,24965: 9$ | 25114:11, 25114:14, | $25067: 2,25089: 12,$ |
| 25094:25, 25096:14, | 24925:23, 24983:10, | 25047:17, 25049:8 | 25117:14, 25117:16, | 25101:6, 25105:21, |
| 25113:10, 25113:18, | 25016:4, 25101:7, | 25072:13 | 25117:23, 25118:16, | 25108:11, 25114:24, |
| 25113:20, 25113:25, | 25103:7 | interesting [7] | 25132:21 | 25126:18, 25134:20, |
| 25114:2, 25114:4, | inquiry/trial [1] | 24996:16, 25033:11 | investigative [3] | 25138:6, 25139:1 |
| 25114:6, 25114:10, | 24937:7 | 25033:25, 25034:3, | 24952:2, 24952:4 | item [2]-24988:25, |
| 25115:1, 25115:12, | inside [1] - 24990:23 | 25043:2, 25140:9, | 25127:16 | 24995:10 |
| 25115:14, 25115:15, | insidious [1] | 25142:23 | investigator [1] | items [9]-24937:11, |
| 25115:19, 25116:4, | 25141:24 | interests [2] | 25139:18 | 24957:14, 24980:20, |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25116:9, 25116:13, } \\ & \text { 25116:16, 25117:20, } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { insight [2]-24952:12, } \\ & \text { 25085:25 } \end{aligned}$ | $25051: 21,25101: 5$ <br> interoffice [1]-25056:8 | investigators [5] | $\begin{aligned} & 24984: 25,24986: 2, \\ & 24989: 12,24990: 22, \end{aligned}$ |
| 25118:2, 25118:14, | pector [5] | interpretation [2] | $25139: 5,25139: 8,$ | $24991 \text { :4, } 24991 \text { :25 }$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & 25119: 8,25120: 15, \\ & 25121: 2.25121: 5 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24949:13, 25011:2, } \\ & \text { 25013:21, 25016:18, } \end{aligned}$ | 24948:22, 25055:21 interpreted [2] - | 25139:9 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { itself }[4]-25086: 14, \\ & 25090: 18,25126: 14 \end{aligned}$ |
| 25121:11, 25126:6, | 25017:1 | $\text { 24969:6, } 25051: 4$ | 25048:18 |  |
| 25129:21 informatio | $\begin{array}{\|l} \text { instance [2] - 25081:14, } \\ \text { 25083:11 } \end{array}$ | interrogee [1] - | invite [1] - 24965:25 | J |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25043:11 } \\ & \text { informed [2] - 24941:1, } \end{aligned}$ | instances [2] - 24979:1, 25006:24 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { interrupting }[1] \text { - } \\ & 25060: 25 \end{aligned}$ | olve [1] - 24979:4 volved [17] - 24948:1, |  |
| 25106:24 | instruct [1] - 25060:10 | intersection [1] - | $24968: 14,2497$ | jackknife [6] - 24997:7, |
| ingrained [1] - $25071: 7$ | instructed [6] - | $24980: 24$ | 24976:25, 24984:3, | 24997:12, 24997:24, |
| ingredient [1] - 25053:5 | 24975:7, 24988:9, | intervene [4] - | 25028:9, $25031: 9$, | 24997:25, 25078:13, |



Page 17

| 25089:20, 25092:1, | 25036:6, 25042:8, | 25047:16, 25048:20, | line [5] - 24936:20, | 25023:14, 25130:7, |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 25098:25, 25104:18, | 25047:2, $25051: 3$, | 25093:7, 25093:14, | 24943:16, 24968:16, | 25130:8, 25130:9, |
| 25106:14, 25107:10, | 25066:13, 25067:5, | 25097:5, 25097:22, | 25019:23, 25078:20 | 25133:11 |
| 25136:4 | 25097:4, 25101:22, | 25098:9, 25098:10 | line' [1] - 24959:15 | looking [17] - 24930:12, |
| lastly [1] - 25114:9 | 25104:19, 25136:22 | 25098:13, 25098:20, | lines [1] - 25078:10 | 24932:17, 24935:7, |
| late [4]-24951:10, | leave [8]-25005:17, | 25099:12, 25136:11 | link [1] - 24957:4 | 24945:19, 24955:21, |
| 24983:22, 24985:5, | 25005:20, 25014:14, | letter-writer [1] - | linking [1] - 25054:25 | 24963:3, 24979:1, |
| 25122:18 | 25046:13, 25052:2, | 25098:20 | lipstick [6] - 24990:4, | 24990:14, 24991:1, |
| lately [1]-24931:18 | 25087:2, 25108:17, | letters [2]-24979:17, | 24990:9, 24990:11, | 25001:3, 25008:21, |
| latter [2] - 25049:9, | 25110:3 | 25097:4 | 24990:18, 24991:25, | 25029:23, 25040:17, |
| 25110:10 | leaving [3]-25005:21, | letting [1]-25048:12 | 24994:24 | 25057:16, 25076:19, |
| launched [1] - 25018:22 | 25021:5, 25130:12 | level [11]-24967:17, | list [2]-24932:11, | 25091:18, 25115:11 |
| Law[2] - 25110:23, | led [5] - 25018:3, | 24974:4, 25035:19, | 25115:21 | lookit [1] - 25134:14 |
| 25110:25 | 25018:5, 25018:9, | 25035:21, 25036:9, | listened [1] - 25130:20 | looks [5] - 24939:23, |
| law [36] - $24951: 7$ | 25019:3, 25027:8 | 25036:11, 25070:19, | listening [1] - 25011:17 | 25023:4, 25041:10, |
| 24953:25, 24954:5, | leer [1] - 25043:5 | 25071:5, 25124:23, | listing [1] - 25106:6 | 25076:17, 25110:15 |
| 24954:15, 24955:4, | left [19]-24953:3, | 25145:6 | lists [1] - 25032:11 | Looks[1] - 24997:2 |
| 24956:15, 24959:20, | 24964:21, 24965:13, | leveled [1] - 25101:17 | litigation [7] - | loose [1] - 25074:21 |
| 24962:21, 24968:15, | 24968:21, 25005:19, | liberation [1] - | 24937:10, 24966:3, | loosely [1] - 25012:3 |
| 24969:16, 24971:1, | 25019:13, 25028:15, | 25145:10 | 25036:25, 25037:1, | Lord[1] - $24961: 7$ |
| 24973:13, 25035:25, | 25034:19, 25043:8, | liberty [5] - 25135:21, | 25111:18, 25133:1 | Lordship[1] - 24953:23 |
| 25059:13, 25071:7, | 25053:3, 25058:24, | $25136: 4,25136: 7,$ | litmus [1] - 24950:1 | lose [1] - 24992:14 |
| 25076:10, 25108:16, | 25058:25, 25059:5, <br> 25074:10, 25085.5, | 25145:2 | live [1] - 25007:2 | loser [1] - 25071:24 |
| $25110: 20,25111: 6$ | 25085:8, 25108:16, | library [1] - 25127: <br> lie [2] - 24948:16 | lived [2] - 25033:14, | lottery [1] - 25017:14 |
| 25111:9, 25111:12, | $25112: 5,25124: 2$ | 25102:6 | living [2] | lurking [3]-24967:24, |
| $\begin{aligned} & 25111: 13,25111: 16, \\ & 25111: 21,25111: 23, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { left-handed [1] - } \\ & \text { 25028:15 } \end{aligned}$ | lied [4] - 24948:15, 25120:25, 25127:8, | 25097:15 | 24968:24, 25009:1 |
| $25111: 24,25112: 7$ | $\operatorname{leg}[1]-25132: 15$ | $25131: 2$ | locate [1] - 24985:2 <br> located [1] - 24985:3 | M |
| $\begin{aligned} & 25124: 3,25127: 9 \\ & 25131 \cdot 25 \quad 25138 \cdot 13 \end{aligned}$ | legal [6] - 24994:21, | Lieutenant 8 ] | location [1] - 25020:2 |  |
| $25138: 25$ | $25110: 15,25139: 1$ | $24942: 24,24944: 12$ | locations [1]-25033:15 |  |
| lawfully [1] - 25073: | $25141: 21$ | 24942.24, 24944.1 | lock [1] - 24997:21 |  |
| lawyer [9]-24969:13, | Legal[11]-25075:9, | 24945:21, 24945:25 |  | 24941:24, 24942:2, |
| 24976:19, 24977:17, | 25075:12, 25137:7, | life [4] - 24977:7, | logical [3]-24999:21, | $24986: 5,24989: 18$ |
| $\begin{aligned} & 24987: 18,25035: 16, \\ & 25037: 22,25103: 12, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 25137: 10,25137: 14, \\ & 25137: 18,25137: 20, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25066:4, 25125:13, } \\ & 25130: 11 \end{aligned}$ | $25048: 17,25060: 19$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24989:21, 24993:14, } \\ & \text { 24993:17, 24996:23, } \end{aligned}$ |
| $25124: 11,25129: 16$ | $25137: 23,25137: 25,$ | lifestyle [1] - 25007:3 | Logical[1] - 24999:22 long-range [1] - | 24997:1, 25000:21, |
| lawyer's [1] - 25010:17 | 25138:7, 25138:9 | light [16] - 24946:6, | $24979: 23$ | 25001:9, 25005:11, |
| lawyers [9] - 24970:20, | legislation [4] | 24996:15, 25003:9, | long-winded [2] | 25005:14, 25009:23, |
| $24985: 5,25075: 24$ | $25067: 16,25067: 22$ | $25006: 3,25006: 21,$ 25027:9, 25027:23, | 25069:24, 25103:12 | $25029: 16,25029: 21$ |
| 25075:25, 25089:18, | legitimacy [1] | 25028:7, 25031:12, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { look [30] - 24953:24, } \\ & 24954: 4,24954: 9 \end{aligned}$ | $25030: 5,25030: 8,$ |
| $25092: 9,25124: 18$ | $25142: 17$ | 25043:9, 25046:8, | $24955: 13,24956: 1$ | $25032: 21,25032: 24$ |
| lay [1] - 25135:6 | lengthier [1] - 25120:7 | $25052: 5,25063: 18$ | $24959: 5,24965: 15$ | 25034:21, 25035:11, <br> 25060.24, 25061:15 |
| $25019: 10,25066: 14$ | lengthy [1]-25024:18 <br> lens [1] - 25009:5 | 25066:22, 25069:21, 25088:8 | 24976:14, 24977:11, | 25074:12, 25080:23, |
| leading [7]-24944:1, | lent [1] - 25040:20 | lightest [1] - 25040:5 | $\text { 24988:8, } 24996: 4$ | $25081 \text { :2, 25093:15, }$ |
| $24944: 3,24961: 6$ | Leonoff[2] - 25138:17, | lightly [1] - 24987:4 | 25018:18, 25026:6, | $\begin{aligned} & 25093: 24,25094: 2, \\ & 25099: 23,25102: 24, \end{aligned}$ |
| $25064: 19,25069: 14$ |  | $25040: 15,25138$ | 25031:19, 25032:5, | $25103: 20,25103: 22,$ |
| leaf [1] - 25022:11 | $25022: 25,25144: 15$ | likely [1] - 24945:6 | $\begin{aligned} & 25048: 12,25058: 20 \\ & 25058: 23,25060: 19, \end{aligned}$ | $25104: 9,25105: 1,$ |
| learn [1] - 25129:21 | less-easy-to-read [1] - | limit [2] - 24959:24, | 25065:22, 25072:8, | 25105:6, 25125:8, |
| learned [3]-24948:5, | 25022:25 | 25118:9 | $25080: 21,25080: 22$ | 25125:10 <br> Macfarlane [3]- |
| 24966:2, 25012:22 | letter [23]-24932:3, | limited [7] - 24965:18, | $25114: 24,25127: 12$ | 25047:16, 25052:7, |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { learning [2] - 25127:2, } \\ & 25127: 10 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 24933: 10,24985: 20, \\ & 24985: 22.25013: 20 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24967:15, 24967:17, } \\ & \text { 24977:3, 25090:18, } \end{aligned}$ | $25127: 18,25127: 24,$ | 25052:9 |
| least [15] - 24955:16, | 25013:24, 25032:6, | 24977:3, 25090:18, 25117:8 | 25135:7 | machine [1] - 25102:10 |
| $24978: 24,24979: 1$ | 25032:16, 25034:11, | Linda[3] - 25097:1, | looked [10] - 24970:14, | Mackay [3]-25034:13, |
| 24994:5, 25000:24, | 25044:18, 25045:17, | 25122:14, 25122:23 | $24990: 2,25006: 16$ | 25093:9, 25097:24 |

Page 18


Page 19


| 25125:3 <br> notated [1] - 24946:14 <br> notation [4]-24930:2, <br> 24930:14, 24931:4, <br> 24934:17 <br> notations [2]-24933:6, <br> 24933:16 <br> note [8] - 24929:25, <br> 24931:10, 24933:19, <br> 24934:5, 24938:7, <br> 25010:5, 25024:7, <br> 25034:20 <br> noted [2] - 24930:21, <br> 24934:3 <br> notes [23]-24933:16, <br> 24933:22, 24934:4, <br> 24934:7, 24935:2, <br> 24936:3, 24937:1, <br> 24939:17, 24972:11, <br> 24983:18, 24984:22, <br> 24986:12, 24998:11, <br> 24998:13, 25004:20, <br> 25005:10, 25018:8, <br> 25048:14, 25092:17, <br> 25095:3, 25095:21, <br> 25128:19, 25146:6 <br> nothing [15]-24936:6, <br> 24945:9, 24945:12, <br> 24950:21, 24969:20, <br> 24969:23, 24970:1, <br> 24971:3, 24982:2, <br> 25003:3, 25051:20, <br> 25054:6, 25099:1, <br> 25099:10, 25099:16 <br> notice [1] - 25101:18 <br> noticed [2] - 25079:2, <br> 25092:2 <br> notification [1] - <br> 25034:18 <br> notion [3] - 25040:21, <br> 25048:7, 25067:12 <br> notwithstanding [3] - <br> 24974:14, 25013:1, <br> 25141:2 <br> November [8] - <br> 25027:14, 25027:19, <br> 25043:17, 25043:19, <br> 25120:23, 25120:25, <br> 25121:14, 25123:24 <br> nuance [1] - 24949:2 <br> nullify [1] - 24975:25 <br> number [44]-24929:10, <br> 24929:11, 24929:12, <br> 24935:9, 24938:7, <br> 24938:10, 24938:15, <br> 24941:20, 24946:12, <br> 24951:15, 24958:1, <br> 24967:20, 24972:10, <br> 24979:9, 24984:3, <br> 24989:17, 24989:19, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 24991:4, 24993:1, } \\ & \text { 24993:2, 25005:7, } \\ & \text { 25009:20, 25011:16, } \\ & \text { 25022:8, 25022:24, } \\ & \text { 25024:10, 25038:13, } \\ & \text { 25043:10, 25053:13, } \\ & \text { 25058:7, 25069:12, } \\ & \text { 25069:13, 25070:22, } \\ & \text { 25075:23, 25080:6, } \\ & \text { 25081:1, 25095:17, } \\ & \text { 25107:12, 25109:15, } \\ & \text { 25113:13, 25113:16, } \\ & \text { 25118:19, 25136:17, } \\ & \text { 25137:14 } \\ & \text { numbers [3] - } \\ & \text { 24929:15, 25000:20, } \\ & \text { 25009:19 } \\ & \text { nurse [2]-25001:21, } \\ & \text { 25023:13 } \\ & \text { Nyczai } 27-25093: 3, \\ & 25095: 11 \end{aligned}$ O oath $[7]-24954: 7$, 24954:13, 24954:16, 24955:4, 24955:5, 24955:6, 25060:12 ob $[1]-25057: 15$ object $[1]-25103: 25$ objecting $[1]-$ 24936:20 objective $[1]-24951: 25$ objectively $[1]-$ 25000:2 objectives $[1]-$ 25140:10 objectivity $[1]-$ $24974: 14$ obligated $[1]-$ 25087:16 obligation $[2]-$ $25063: 14,25073: 20$ obligations $[1]-$ $25038: 22$ obliged $[1]-25011: 8$ observation $[2]-$ $25034: 4,25054: 2$ observations $[2]-$ $25041: 23,25095: 23$ observed $[2]-24931: 4$, $25063: 3$ obtain $[1]-25053: 17$ obtained $[4]-$ $25010: 23,25011: 11$, $25011: 24,25114: 1$ obvious $[4]-24934: 14$, $24984: 15,25007: 9$, $25045: 9$ |  |  | 25028:5, 25030:23, <br> 25031:4, 25031:10, <br> 25037:18, 25040:22, <br> 25041:9, 25042:7, <br> 25042:8, 25043:11, <br> 25050:9, 25052:1, <br> 25055:17, 25058:3, <br> 25058:19, 25060:16, <br> 25062:18, 25063:3, <br> 25063:25, 25064:2, <br> 25064:4, 25064:15, <br> 25066:21, 25066:22, <br> 25067:13, 25068:5, <br> 25068:11, 25068:23, <br> 25070:11, 25072:22, <br> 25073:2, 25073:6, <br> 25075:6, 25075:24, <br> 25076:14, 25076:25, <br> 25080:2, 25080:6, <br> 25082:20, 25084:13, <br> 25089:4, 25089:18, <br> 25092:1, 25095:17, <br> 25097:4, 25099:3, <br> 25102:24, 25106:4, <br> 25111:24, 25112:5, <br> 25114:23, 25115:9, <br> 25117:21, 25123:23, <br> 25132:9, 25138:13, <br> 25138:24, 25140:6, <br> 25143:6 <br> ones [4] - 24970:20, <br> 24972:24, 24998:1, <br> 25092:24 <br> oneself [1] - 24963:25 <br> ongoing [1] - 25106:15 <br> open [10] - 24952:22, <br> 24968:25, 24976:7, <br> 25063:15, 25067:17, <br> 25113:23, 25117:13, <br> 25117:16, 25117:23, <br> 25118:16 <br> opened [5] - 24990:16, <br> 25020:14, 25113:10, <br> 25113:15, 25143:4 <br> opening [5] - 25113:8, <br> 25113:19, 25114:11, <br> 25115:20, 25116:17 <br> openness [1] - <br> 25072:15 <br> opens [2]-24952:22, <br> 24977:6 <br> operandi [1] - 25033:17 <br> operate [1] - 24962:20 <br> operated [1] - 25115:9 <br> operates [1] - 25041:16 <br> operating [1] - <br> 25136:23 <br> operation [2] - 24937:5, <br> 24942:6 <br> operation' [2] - |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

Page 21

| ```24942:10, 24942:12 operations [1] - 25109:15 operative [1] - 25085:18 opinion [5] - 24949:9, 24954:12, 25056:18, 25089:1, 25134:14 opinions [1] - 25128:3 opportunity [6] - 24961:5, 25074:25, 25084:1, 25084:5, 25084:19, 25097:25 opposed [3] - 24989:10, 24994:25, 25122:8 opposing [2] - 24960:13, 24966:1 option [7] - 24964:21, 24965:13, 25005:5, 25008:11, 25008:13, 25071:10, 25071:14 options [1] - 25063:15 order [9] - 24951:24, 24985:15, 25034:25, 25035:3, 25058:11, 25101:4, 25121:4, 25133:9, 25133:21 ordinarily [1] - 25094:11 organized [1] - 25026:22 original [5] - 24929:19, 24932:10, 24993:1, 24993:2, 25047:6 originals [1] - 24929:21 Ostensibly[1] - 25050:16 otherwise [5] - 25031:3, 25060:7, 25092:16, 25094:19, 25139:18 ought [15] - 24952:19, 24956:18, 24956:24, 24957:24, 24958:19, 24960:3, 24964:21, 24967:7, 24967:11, 24968:23, 24974:13, 24977:3, 24977:5, 25092:19, 25135:21 out' [1] - 25005:18 outcome [2] - 25016:8, 25141:7 outline [4] - 25112:23, 25113:3, 25115:16, 25125:17 outlined [4] - 25021:19, 25041:8, 25052:16, 25099:11 outlines [1] - 25053:6 outrage [2] - 25055:17,``` | ```25145:1 outset [2] - 24969:17, 24970:1 outweigh [1] - 25006:15 overcome [1] - 24964:14 overcoming [1] - 24953:11 overlap [1] - 25114:6 overlooked [1] - 24939:20 overly [1] - 24969:18 overriding [1] - 24963:2 oversees [1] - 25109:15 overstatement [1] - 24941:15 own [5] - 24959:23, 24980:20, 25103:14, 25137:6, 25141:7 owns [1] - 25109:14 package [5] - 25013:25, 25032:18, 25039:24, 25044:25, 25098:13 page [45] - 24933:7, 24937:14, 24938:8, 24943:12, 24944:9, 24944:17, 24989:16, 24992:25, 25010:10, 25010:14, 25010:15, 25010:16, 25015:20, 25028:5, 25033:9, 25050:12, 25055:4, 25055:14, 25076:17, 25076:18, 25076:19, 25076:21, 25078:17, 25078:18, 25078:19, 25079:9, 25079:10, 25095:19, 25096:6, 25098:25, 25109:22, 25110:14, 25112:15, 25115:18, 25115:22, 25116:11, 25120:2, 25121:13, 25123:3, 25123:22, 25126:2, 25126:15 Page [1] - 24928:2 pages [4] - 24941:22, 24983:11, 25128:11, 25146:4 paid [5] - 24947:15, 24947:17, 25136:25, 25137:2 painful [1] - 24977:15 Pambrum [1] - 25122:14``` |  | ```25008:16, 25039:21, 25042:5, 25042:7, 25058:10, 25058:19, 25073:25, 25077:5, 25098:12, 25113:24, 25133:3 particularly [11] - 24942:14, 24963:21, 24965:13, 24982:14, 24998:1, 25011:1, 25037:6, 25059:3, 25064:1, 25073:8, 25085:5 Particularly [1] - 25012:1 parties [4] - 25101:12, 25105:13, 25106:12, 25106:24 partisan [1] - 24974:14 partner [2] - 25127:6, 25138:20 partners [5] - 25127:4, 25130:3, 25132:25, 25133:1 parts [3] - 24948:2, 25094:20, 25109:3 party [4] - 25072:11, 25072:12, 25103:9, 25105:16 pass [1]-24950:3 passage [2] - 24941:22, 24986:10 passed [5] - 24931:17, 24950:1, 24969:16, 25044:20, 25076:12 past [7] - 24960:22, 24961:19, 24961:24, 24965:2, 24975:1, 24982:2, 25107:11 path [2] - 24999:19, 24999:22 patience [1] - 25107:9 Paul [2] - 25122:14, 25122:18 pause [1] - 24990:7 payment [2] - 25137:16, 25137:19 Paynter [1] - 25131:10 Peace [2] - 24954:8 Pearson [1] - 25122:15 peek [2]-25010:20, 25048:17 peeking [1] - 25048:16 pen [2]-24932:12, 24933:18 penalizes [1] - 25071:5 penalty [1] - 25045:10 Penitentiary [1] - 25129:5 Penkala [7] - 24941:13,``` | ```24942:15, 24942:24, 24944:12, 24944:16, 24945:13, 24945:21 people [35] - 24959:8, 24959:15, 24964:3, 24968:14, 24970:19, 24979:20, 24980:23, 24980:25, 25000:3, 25000:10, 25008:6, 25011:14, 25021:10, 25024:25, 25029:7, 25034:1, 25040:16, 25040:24, 25056:20, 25056:22, 25065:21, 25066:6, 25067:15, 25096:3, 25096:24, 25102:16, 25118:22, 25118:25, 25119:8, 25129:12, 25130:10, 25130:12, 25131:1, 25135:7 people's [1] - 25145:1 per [1]-24991:3 perceived [2] - 25006:12, 25075:16 percentage [1] - 25124:11 perfection [2] - 24955:23, 25068:20 perhaps [24] - 24963:2, 24974:24, 24976:7, 24979:12, 24979:18, 24981:4, 24985:23, 25009:18, 25023:2, 25025:12, 25025:13, 25025:22, 25034:2, 25036:16, 25043:3, 25069:13, 25073:11, 25086:19, 25105:10, 25107:21, 25108:15, 25112:12, 25136:17, 25144:4 Perhaps [2] - 24989:20, 25030:9 period [14] - 25033:22, 25046:13, 25066:4, 25077:16, 25092:4, 25104:18, 25108:15, 25108:21, 25110:19, 25124:9, 25125:24, 25131:23, 25134:4, 25142:2 permit [2] - 24951:5, 24965:3 permitting [1] - 25008:9 perpetrator [2] - 25123:5 persisted [1] - 25014:4 persisting [1] - 25024:2 person [34] - 24930:7,``` |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |


| 24956:12, 24961:18, | pick [2] - 24987:23, | 25043:12, 25061:1, | position [27]-24939:5, | pre-occupation [1] - |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 24963:4, 24968:13, | 25092:12 | 25066:23, 25066:24, | 24939:6, 24959:16, | 25124:25 |
| 24974:23, 24976:18, | picked [4] - 24944:8, | 25071:22, 25073:13, | 24962:17, 24963:5 | precedent [1] - |
| 24977:6, 24978:15, | 24996:11, 24996:17, | 25074:3, 25078:24 | 24972:17, 24975:4 | 24978:16 |
| 24980:17, 25011:2, | 25024:22 | 25079:6, 25079:18 | 24977:16, 24982:8 | preceding [2] - |
| 25018:14, 25025:8, | picking [1]-24957:14 | 25080:2, 25080:15 | 24983:6, 24983:8, | 25078:16, 25079:6 |
| 25029:24, 25031:2, | picture [4] - 25002:2, | 25083:3, 25089:16, | 24988:23, 24989:5, | precise [1] - 25094:22 |
| 25031:4, 25041:12, | 25002:23, 25120:11, | 25092:11, 25094:23, | 25012:21, 25012:24 | precisely [1] - 25140:5 |
| 25051:7, 25057:18, | 25140:21 | 25103:22, 25124:23, | 25021:7, 25021:12, | precludes [1] - |
| 25061:22, 25062:2, | pictures [1] - 25012:4 | 25129:7, 25132:22, | 25059:13, 25064:14 | 25057:25 |
| 25062:8, 25062:19, | piece [3] - 24939:15, | 25139:21, 25141:19, | 25065:14, 25084:16, | predicated [1] - |
| 25063:15, 25064:24, | $25064: 4,25096: 13$ | $25141 \text { :23, } 25143: 2$ | 25089:22, 25098:19, | 25003:16 |
| $25077: 25,25080: 1$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { pieces [2] - 24939:19, } \\ & 24945: 19 \end{aligned}$ | 25068:25, 25078:10, | $25106: 19,25138: 14$ | predict [2] - 25082:16, |
| 25082:10, 25100:16, | Pigeon [1] - 25070:24 | 25098:2 | positions [1] - 24959:8 | predicts [1] - 25010:19 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 25132: 5,25138: 19 \\ & \text { personal [6] - } \end{aligned}$ | $\text { Pine }[1]-25112: 4$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { pointing [2] - 24992:5, } \\ & \text { 24992:7 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { possessed [1] - } \\ & \text { 25022:18 } \end{aligned}$ | Preece [1] - 25073:21 |
| 24963:19, 24982:6, | pinpointed [1] | points [7]-24931:22, | possession [3] - | 25007:24 |
| $\begin{aligned} & 25041: 18,25045: 13 \\ & 25072: 17,25145: 6 \end{aligned}$ | 24977:23 | $24934: 6,25012: 18$ $25060: 2,25087: 13$ | $\text { 24932:5, } 25078: 3,$ | preferred [3]-25007:2, |
| personally [1] - | $\operatorname{Pinx}[3]-25108: 16,$ | $\begin{aligned} & 25060: 2,25087: 13, \\ & 25092: 10,25094: 14 \end{aligned}$ | possibility [3] | $25130: 11,25131: 8$ |
| $24980: 1$ <br> personnel [1]- | place [12] - 24934:4, | pole [1] - 25009:2 <br> Police [5] - 24927:7, | $24932: 23,25040: 15$ 25129:17 | $24926: 14$ |
| $24967: 23$ | 25004:7, 25019:16, | $24930: 16,25015: 23$ | possible [9] - 24933 | prejudice [3] - |
| perspective [6] - | $\begin{aligned} & 25019: 22,25022: 3 \\ & 25048: 17,25072: 25 \end{aligned}$ | $25033: 13,25123: 18$ | 24936:4, 24983:1, | $\begin{aligned} & 24966: 17,24966: 18 \\ & 24966: 21 \end{aligned}$ |
| 24971:5, 24996:19, | 25076:11, 25078:9, | police [33] - 24930:20, | 24995:18, 25003:23, | prejudicial [3] - |
| 25021:5, 25038:20, | 25104:18, 25112:4, | 24931:1, 24931 :8, | 25024:6, 25067:19, | 25006:13, 25006:14, |
| $\begin{aligned} & 25064: 7,25142: 4 \\ & \text { persuade [3] - 24939:6, } \end{aligned}$ | $25134: 4$ | $\begin{aligned} & 24931: 20,24932: 5, \\ & 24934: 13,24938: 10, \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { 25082:12, } 25088: 12 \\ \text { possibly [7] - } 24996: \end{gathered}$ | 25013:17 |
| 24957:17, 25089:14 | 24968:6, 25066:16 | 24941:4, 24942:7, | 25011:18, 25012:7, | $25016: 4$ |
| persuaded [2] | places [2] - 24975:3, | 24946:8, $24947: 24$ | 25021:8, 25144:23, | preliminary [17] |
| $25005: 3,25060: 9$ | 25079:7 | $24948: 3,24948: 8$ | $25144: 24,25144: 25$ | 24937:7, 24937:24, |
| perverse [1] - 25144:17 <br> Peter [2]-25128.20 | placing [1] - 25064:17 | $\begin{aligned} & 24952: 3,24957: 21, \\ & 24958: 6.24996: 6 \end{aligned}$ | Possibly [1] - 25057:12 | 24941:5, $24942: 4$, |
| Peter [2] - 25128:20, 25132.20 | planned [1] - 25022:10 | $\begin{aligned} & 24958: 6,24996: 6, \\ & 24996: 19,25011: 1 \end{aligned}$ | Post [1] - 25109:5 | $24944: 5,24988: 18$ |
| 25132:20 | plastic [1] - 24997:20 |  | post [1] - 25067:6 | 25014:7, 25048:25, |
| Pfeifer [1] - 25072:23 <br> phase [4]-25116:24, | play [3] - 25002:25, | $25050: 18,25055: 10$ | post-exhaustion [1] - | $25084: 2,25084: 6,$ |
| 25117:1, 25121 :8, |  | 25055:12, 25057:14, | postpone [1] | 25095:12, 25095: |
| $25124: 13$ | 25016:10, 25116:15, | $25061: 5,25061: 16$ $25061: 18,25085: 12$ | 24987:15 | $25096: 9,25097: 18$ |
| $25116: 23,25138: 22$ | 25116:25, 25132:12, | $25085: 22,25085: 23,$ | potential [9] - $24936: 13,24948: 8$ | $25132: 17$ |
| philosophical [1] - | 25132:13 <br> pleas [1] - 25044:14 | $\begin{gathered} \text { 25113:11, } 25128: 16 \\ \text { political [1] - 25117: } \end{gathered}$ | 24953:11, 24979:5, | premise [1] - 25053:8 preparation [2] - |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25135:5 } \\ & \text { philosophice } \end{aligned}$ | plunge [1] - 24960:6 | politicians [3] - | 25005:24, 25068:2, | $24984: 10,25101: 1$ |
| 25136:5, 25139:24 |  | 25117:23, 25119:2, | 25133:11 |  |
| philosophy [1] - | $25145: 13$ | 25119:6 | potentially [1] - | 4965:10, 24985:8 |
| $25136: 6$ | point [51] - 24930:13, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { polygraph [7] - } \\ & 24949: 23,24957: 22 \end{aligned}$ | 24977:6 | 24985:9, 24985:11, |
| 25112:7, 25112:8 | $24930: 23,24931: 21,$ | $25010: 23,25016: 5$ | $24968: 23,24969: 7$ | $24985: 24,24999: 4$ |
| phoned [1] - 25002:6 | 24939:13, 24955:3, | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 25016:11, 25049:1, } \\ & 25049: 4 \end{aligned}$ | practical [1] - 25092:14 | presence [3] - |
| photocopies [1] - $24929: 22$ | 24960:19, 24965:22, | polygraphed [2] | practice [9] - 24937:8, 24968:15, 25108:4 | 24945:11, 25014:21, 25087:6 |
| photograph [1] - | 24977:2, 24982:16, | $25016: 13,25016: 15$ | $25124: 3,25124: 9$ | present [8] - 24953:24, |
| 24943:13 | 24983:3, 24990 :8, | poor [1] - 25071:14 | $25124: 16,25125: 1$ | $24954: 4,24954: 14$ |
| photographs [1] - | 24992:23, 24992:25, | poring [1] - 25132:15 | $25125: 4,25125: 5$ | $24955: 4,24956: 14$ |
| 24943:14 <br> phrased [1] - 25093.18 | $24995: 15,24995: 17$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { portion [2]-25027:2, } \\ & \text { 25047:18 } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { practicing [2] - } \\ & 25075: 7,25076: 3 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 24960: 22,24965: 16, \\ & 25000: 1 \end{aligned}$ |
| physical [1] - 24942:17 | $\begin{aligned} & 24995: 24,24997: 10, \\ & 24998: 2,25002: 17, \end{aligned}$ | portions [1] - 25003:11 | practitioner [2] - | presented [2] - |
| physically [1] - | 25009:14, 25018:16, | portray [1] - 25144:22 | 24962:22, 24971:1 | 25027:4, 25027:5 |
| 25126:25 | 25033:10, 25038:10, | posed [1] - 24978:24 | pre [1]-25124:25 | presenting [1] - |

Page 23


Page 24


| ```24944:9 reenact [1] - 25130:13 refer [6] - 24936:7, 24941:21, 24967:19, 25009:5, 25028:18, 25069:5 Reference[1] - 25113:6 reference [11] - 24935:12, 24937:20, 24938:9, 24943:20, 24999:23, 25113:17, 25114:8, 25116:7, 25123:25, 25126:13, 25136:19 references [3] - 24935:18, 24963:8, 25028:22 referred [6] - 24939:16, 24942:11, 24973:17, 25008:23, 25069:9, 25097:23 referring [5] - 24934:19, 24947:16, 25025:1, 25042:12, 25064:9 refers [4]-25007:13, 25045:20, 25109:6, 25123:24 reflect [1] - 24987:11 reflection [1] - 24971:12 reflections [2]- 24963:15, 24964:20 refresh [1] - \(24941: 16\) refreshed [1] - 24980:10 refused [2]-25064:3, 25137:21 regard [8]-24933:11, 24939:13, 24943:11, 24973:3, 25009:7, 25036:17, 25084:11, 25101:24 regarding [6] - 24970:2, 25005:21, 25027:6, 25039:22, 25100:3, 25123:2 regardless [2] - 24964:22, 24977:15 Regina 7] \(^{2}\) - 25024:24, 25040:5, 25058:24, 25072:24, 25077:1, 25098:23, 25099:9 regular [1] - 25056:3 rehabilitation [1] - 25143:21 reiterate [1] - 25017:10 rekindled [1] - 24983:21 relate [3] - 24936:3, 25106:8, 25121:16``` |  | ```24953:15, 24956:3, 24956:8, 24978:5, 24979:12, 24979:13, 24979:14, 24979:20, 24980:16, 24981:3, 24981:5, 24982:9, 24982:17, 24992:6, 24998:11, 25010:15, 25060:11, 25064:15, 25080:14, 25080:16, 25080:20, 25082:25, 25087:8, 25087:9 remembered [1] - 24981:14 remembering [3] - 24982:10, 24984:6, 25065:25 remorse [1] - 25015:11 removed [1] - 25033:6 removing [1] - 25033:3 remuneration [1] - 25076:6 repeat [3] - 25050:5, 25051:15, 25051:17 repeated [1] - 24977:19 repeatedly [1] - 25103:13 repetitious [2] - 24973:4, 25011:7 rephrase [1] - 25030:10 reply [2] - 24965:18, 24966:4 report [4] - 24953:24, 24967:4, 24996:6, 25121:6 reported [2] - 24938:10, 24948:1 Reporter[2] - 25146:14, 25146:20 Reporters[2] - 24926:11, 25146:3 Reporters [1] - 25146:1 reports [9]-24934:13, 24934:23, 24948:6, 25028:22, 25030:14, 25085:22, 25085:24, 25123:1, 25128:16 represent [1]-25101:5 representation [2] - 25108:9, 25111:22 represented [2] - 25107:15, 25110:1 representing [2] - 25108:1, 25108:22 represents [1] - 25035:1 request [5] - 24930:13, 24931:2, 24932:13, 24948:19, 25089:23 requested [1] - 25098:4``` | ```requests [1] - 25037:14 require [4]-24978:23, 25006:4, 25007:9, 25103:8 required [2] - 25035:25, 25062:8 requires [1] - 25101 :7 reread [1]-24951:10 research [4] - 24950:13, 24976:23, 25133:17, 25139:1 researched [1] - 25059:15 resentment [1] - 25088:19 reservation [1] - 24943:18 reservations [2] - 24949:17, 24950:5 reside [1] - 25107:19 resile [1] - 25012:24 resist [1] - 25104:22 resolve [1] - 25106:1 respect [41]-24930:6, 24931:25, 24933:12, 24936:14, 24938:7, 24947:19, 24954:20, 24960:14, 24962:2, 24963:22, 24967:13, 24975:8, 24977:4, 24980:2, 24980:4, 24980:19, 25004:4, 25004:6, 25006:19, 25016:18, 25016:19, 25035:22, 25036:8, 25036:10, 25036:13, 25038:1, 25049:3, 25069:3, 25075:9, 25079:25, 25084:15, 25088:25, 25090:4, 25093:2, 25096:17, 25098:21, 25101:17, 25104:24, 25105:2, 25105:15, 25105:17 respectful [1] - 24974:6 respond [1]-25062:4 responded [1] - 24965:9 response [3]-24932:1, 24932:13, 25138:7 responses [1] - 25055:23 responsibility [5] - 25038:4, 25062:7, 25062:16, 25062:17, 25075:17 responsible [2] - 25007:1, 25067:15 rest [3]-24936:3, 25082:25, 25099:19``` |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |



Page 27


Page 28


Page 29


Page 30


Page 31


