# 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
Ramada Hotel at
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

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Volume 140
Inquiry Proceedings

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## Appearances:

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

Ms. Joanne McLean
for Ms. Joyce Milgaard

Ms. Lana Krogan-Stevely,
for Government of Saskatchewan

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

Mr. Garrett Wilson, Q.C.,

Mr. Pat Loran, Esq.,
for Mr. Serge Kujawa
for the Saskatoon Police Service

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

Mr. Bruce Gibson, Esq.,
for the RCMP

Mr. Eamon O'Keefe, Esq.,
for Mr. Larry Fisher

Mr. David Frayer, Q.C.,
for Minister of Justice
(Canada), The Hon. Vic Toews

Mr. Marshall Hopkins, Esq., for Justice Calvin Tallis
(Retired)

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

DESCRIPTION:
DAVID ALLAN ASPER, CONTINUED

- BY MS. KROGAN-STEVELY 28375
- BY MR. WOLCH
- BY MR. BOYCHUK
- BY MR. LORAN


## Transcript of Proceedings

(Reconvened at 9:04 a.m.)
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Good morning.
ALL COUNSEL: Good morning.
MR. HODSON: A couple things, Mr.
Commissioner. I understand we're still sorting
out some power issues, here, that we will
continue to work on, and/or Internet.
As far as the cross-examination
of Mr. Asper, Mr. Gibson and Mr. Wilson are complete, it's my understanding -- and I'll ask counsel to confirm this or not -- there still is not agreement on the order of cross-examination unless it was reached in the last 30 seconds, and counsel may wish to address that. I think the issue is where in the order Mr. Wolch and Ms. McLean go, whether they go right before Mr. Sorochan at the end, or some earlier part. I think apart from that issue, amongst the remaining counsel $I$ think they have agreed amongst themselves as to an order, so the only issue, I think, is where Mr. Wolch -- and I'm not sure whether Mr. Wolch and Ms. McLean have questions or not -- but maybe, with that, I would ask if $I$ have -- unless there's been some
agreement, have $I$ fairly stated it, and if so can counsel who wish to address it please do so, and, Mr. Commissioner, you can then order the order.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: May I ask, first of all, who wants to?

MR. BOYCHUK: Who wants to cross? I will be cross-examining.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: For city police?

MR. BOYCHUK: For Mr. Karst.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: For Mr. Karst?

Just a minute now. Okay, you want to, who else?

MR. LORAN: Pat Loran on behalf of the Saskatoon City Police, My Lord.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: City police? And who else?

MR. WOLCH: I do on behalf of David Milgaard.

MS. McLEAN: I don't expect to, Mr.

Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Thank you. Okay.

MR. HOPKINS: Mr. Pringle will be here
tomorrow, he expects to do a brief cross.

MS. KNOX: And Ms. Knox for Mr. Caldwell, I will be doing cross as well.

MS. KROGAN-STEVELY: Mr. Commissioner, if
it helps at all, my cross-examination will be very brief and I'm pleased to go next.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Thanks.

Mr. Frayer, you will?

MR. FRAYER: Yes, I will be cross-examining, Mr. Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: And of course, Mr. Sorochan, you will be?

MR. SOROCHAN: I will be doing -- I don't know if I'll need to do any redirect or not.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: And Mr. O'Keefe, do you want --

MR. O'KEEFE: No, sir.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Two, three, four, five, six, seven parties then.

Well listen, counsel, the
spirit of a cross -- of a public inquiry is not adversarial, or at least it's not supposed to be. Jockeying for position for tactical advantage in cross-examination is adversarial. If I must I will -- if you -- up to this point I think, probably with a very few exceptions, through the good offices of Commission Counsel agreement has been reached as to the order of cross-examination. That is not possible, it
seems, today, and if it's not possible in the future, this is what $I$ am going to do. I will hear representations, if $I$ must, and then $I$ will set the order of cross-examination without giving any further reasons.

So who wants to speak to this? MR. BOYCHUK: I'll -- if you please, Mr. Commissioner, Chris Boychuk for Mr. Karst.

I think the issue is primarily where Mr. Wolch fits in the order. I don't view it as purely an adversarial thing, we've had a debate on this before, $I$ think particularly looking at the transcript of Debbie Hall's testimony at the Inquiry. And the issue of order, $I$ know, can be a fluid matter. We look at in terms of, as $I$ understood your ruling at that time, that we would be looking at the parties who are most affected by a witness' testimony.

In this case, given the
testimony that Mr. Asper has given, at least we've come to an agreement amongst everybody but Mr. Wolch that Mr. Frayer should probably go last before Mr. Sorochan. A lot of Mr. Asper's testimony dealt with the dealings between the Milgaard group and the Department of Justice, the
federal Department of Justice, much of which was fairly critical.

With respect to the rest of us, leaving aside Mr. Wolch, we don't have a problem sorting out our own order. Some of us, of course, represent clients that have been identified specifically by Mr. Asper as the "bad guys" or "the enemy", I'm thinking particularly of my client, Mr. Caldwell for example, maybe the Saskatoon Police Service, the people who have been identified, and of course Mr. Kujawa, but Mr. Wilson has already gone.

And I guess the concern or the issue is, with respect to this witness, I don't know that there's much that can come out of our questioning of Mr. Asper that really has a major impact on Mr. Milgaard. Certainly, nobody is going to be trying to get any information out of Mr. Asper that casts a negative light on Mr. Milgaard, who is Mr. Wolch's client.

On the other hand, of course,
Mr. Wolch, and who has worked with Mr. Asper in the past as part of the Milgaard group, has made a number of allegations of various -- of varying severity against the bad guys, our clients, and
it's more likely, for example, that Mr. Wolch would get something from this witness that might call into question the conduct either of my client, Ms. Knox's client, or Mr. Loran's client, for example. So on that basis, and just on the way of economy, we probably -- the argument is we would go after Mr. Wolch so that we could respond to any of those allegations he might bring out, or any evidence to support those allegations that he might bring out through Mr. Asper.

So leaving aside Ms. Krogan is prepared to go first $I$ think the rest of us, and I speak I believe for Ms. Knox, I believe Mr. O'Keefe too -- or it doesn't matter, Mr. O'Keefe doesn't -MR. O'KEEFE: It doesn't matter. MR. BOYCHUK: But certainly for Ms. Knox, Mr. Loran and myself, we feel that it's appropriate, given the way our, the interests of our clients have been engaged by this witness, that we go after Mr. Wolch, and to allow us to respond to any evidence or allegations he might bring out against our clients. Thank you.

MR. WOLCH: Mr. Commissioner, the -- or it may be possible to look at this as if there's
been lots of debate over this. The only person $I$ have spoken to that $I$ recall is Mr. Frayer, in terms of order of witnesses, and as I understood it he and $I$ reached an agreement yesterday when $I$ explained to him that firstly, the ruling of the Commission has been consistently that those most aligned in interest with the witness go last. That is why I think I went first with every police witness, for example. That has been the ruling, you made that ruling in Deborah Hall, you made it in Tom Vanin, and in several places.

The second rule that you made, Mr. Commissioner, was that the people that are -counsel with the same interests should not be split, that is Mr. Lockyer and I, for example, shouldn't be split if at all possible. There may be exceptions but that was the general rule.

So, in terms of my
cross-examination of Mr. Asper, when Mr. Asper
finished direct I had none. I now have some questions arising out of Mr. Wilson's cross.

I don't intend to raise
anything new, $I$ intend to possibly explain things raised by other counsel in my questioning of the witnesses, and I explained that to Mr. Frayer
that, when it comes to his questioning of Mr .
Asper, $I$ may have no questions regarding his client unless there is something that arises new out of what he asks of Mr. Asper. So I believe he was content with that, and $I$ think he can speak for himself that that was the agreement we reached yesterday when we talked about it $I$ think for the first time, or the first time seriously, and that's what $I$ thought the order would be. So that at the end of the day, my cross-examination will be brief, I expect, I don't intend to go over anything again, unless somebody raised something new. Mr. Wilson raised a few new things that might take me five or ten minutes to question on, they weren't covered in direct, so I'm simply saying that the same rule that we have had all along should be applied.

I wasn't happy going ahead, and I think I voiced it several times, going ahead on certain witnesses, including Mr. Karst, I would have been much happier to go last, but I didn't, I followed the rule. And I submit that (a) the rule should still be followed, and (b) I believe Mr. Frayer and I have an agreement as to the order, so that's our position.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: I'm not sure that a rule was ever established. Parties aligned in interest was certainly a consideration, also parties most adversely affected by a witness' testimony was a consideration.

Yes, did you have any?

MR. FRAYER: Yes, just to observe what Mr. Wolch has said, Mr. Commissioner, he's accurate in terms of the discussions that he and I had yesterday, and I communicated those to Commission Counsel late in the day. And the position that $I$ took at that time as a result of that discussion, bearing in mind your observations with respect to the non-adversarial issue, is that $I$ would go fourth-last, in other words Mr. Sorochan would be last, with Mr. Wolch or Ms. McLean, and myself in fourth position as the fourth-last cross-examiner.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Anybody else? Thank you.

The order of cross-examination
will be Mr. Wolch, $I$ don't know what to do about Mr. Pringle, $I^{\prime} m$ not prepared to say that he will be allowed to cross-examine since he is not here to make any representations in that respect.

MR. HODSON: I should -- I'm sorry, I did have a discussion with Mr. Hopkins about that. Mr. Pringle arranged to be here tomorrow, he asked whether he needed to be here today, he only had about 20 minutes and had another commitment in Edmonton, and I indicated that since we had Mr. Asper here for two days I didn't foresee a problem with Mr. Pringle doing it tomorrow, and so $I$-- that, and I think certainly, if Mr. Pringle knew he had to be here today to cross he would have been, so I may take some responsibility for that.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Well, that's fine, we'll just hear him whenever it seems convenient then.

Ms. Knox, Mr. Boychuk,
Mr. Loran, Mr. Frayer, Mr. Sorochan.

MR. WOLCH: Mr. Commissioner, that raises a practical problem for me. Because of the conversation $I$ had with Mr. Frayer, who told me he would be, and $I$ expect he will be, at least a day, $I$ have left my notes back at the hotel. I never dreamt I'd be first, I thought we would be going with the rule that you had established.

COMMISSIONER MaCCALLUM: Don't argue it
again, please, $I$ have had enough of this.
MR. WOLCH: I'm not arguing, I'm just telling you --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Yes.

MR. WOLCH: -- that my notes are back at the hotel.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Well, if you wish to go back and get them, then somebody else can start.

MR. WOLCH: I'd like to hear the cross-examination.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Well, we're not going to adjourn waiting for you to get your notes.

MR. WOLCH: That's fine.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Who wants to go in that order?

MS. KROGAN-STEVELY: Mr. Commissioner,
given that you didn't mention my name I just
assume that I'm able to begin first?
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Ms. Krogan, I'm sorry, I had you down, I wrote it down here, but it was -- I had you before Mr. Frayer.

MS. KROGAN-STEVELY: Okay.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Just before

Mr. Frayer.
MS. KROGAN-STEVELY: Thanks. Thank you, sir.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Is anybody ready to go, then, right now?

MS. KROGAN-STEVELY: Mr. Commissioner, I do have a funeral to attend tomorrow, so if $I$ could get on today, I would certainly appreciate that.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: If that's all
right with your friends, $I$ have no objection.
MS. KROGAN-STEVELY: Thank you, sir.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Go ahead, then.

## DAVID ALLAN ASPER, continued:

## BY MS. KROGAN-STEVELY:

Q
Mr. Asper, my name is Lana Krogan, I represent the Government of Saskatchewan in these proceedings and $I$ have three short areas to cover with you this morning.

The first is, and my apologies to staff, I didn't provide document numbers, I presume it will be all right. The first document, if we could, first area $I$ would like to cover and the first document, sir, is 331961. Sir, this is a January 6th, 1981 letter to Mr. Gary Young who was at that time of course representing Mr.

Milgaard and Mrs. Joyce Milgaard as I understand it, the letter is from the chief of police, and if we could just look, if that area could be called up, please, and beginning right about here:
"If there is some justification for re-examining this conviction --"

And this is in response -- well, perhaps I'll read it:
"-- re-examining this conviction $I$ feel
that the reasons for that must be
presented to the Attorney General's
Department and if necessary we will
certainly be prepared to discuss our
file with a representative of the
Attorney General's Department..."

That's one piece of correspondence that indicates in response to a request to see their file, yes, we will be co-operative, but please go through the Attorney General's office. There is a further document, $I$ won't ask that it be brought up, but just for the record it's 331932, and again Chief Gibbon is ostensibly saying the same thing to Mr. Young, if you would like to see our file, we would be pleased to, but go through our office.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: 331. What was the other one?

MS. KROGAN-STEVELY: The other one was 331932.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Okay.
MS. KROGAN-STEVELY:
Q
There was interest at that time by the Milgaards to see the file and obviously the message was, if you want to see it, please contact the officials from Saskatchewan Justice. I'm just wondering, sir, in the course of your dealings with the files during the time that you did, was there ever a request made, insofar as you know, to Saskatchewan Justice to look at the file?

I don't believe directly. I believe we were making our requests through the Department of Justice.

The Federal Department?
Federal Justice, yes.
But insofar as you know, nothing directly to Saskatchewan Justice?

All right, thank you. I just wanted to bring up a few other documents if $I$ could, 001637 . This is a letter from Mr. Wolch to Mr. Fred Dehm who was a

Crown prosecutor in the Saskatoon office. The letter is dated October 6, 1987 and this letter and a few others that I'll just ask be put up were ostensibly conversations or correspondence endeavouring to get the exhibits that were held at the courthouse and this was presumably for the analysis that your experts were to do on it. Now, I raise this, 1987, you'll see that the, this is actually a response from Fred Dehm to a letter of September 22 nd, 1987 and Mr. Dehm indicates:
"We believe that in a case of this nature, it is only proper that the court be allowed to make the decision..."

And:
"We will cooperate as far as possible. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact..."

That's his response to a request for the exhibits. And if you could call up 001609 , a letter shortly after November 9th, 1987, it's from Mr. Wolch back to Fred Dehm. Could you please -- the notice of motion is enclosed and the last sentence reads:
"Could you please advise me as soon as possible if you will consent to the
granting of the Order for release of the exhibits."

And now I'll get to the document that I'll ask the question on, sir, 001608 , just call the body of that out. This is the response from Mr. Dehm to Mr. Wolch and the last line reads:
"We will certainly not oppose your application. We only want to make sure that the integrity of the exhibits are preserved."

Now, I bring that, I raise these documents.
During the time of 1987, and in fact after that there was contact with officials from the Provincial Department of Justice and it appears, and $I$ wonder if you will agree with that, that the officials at that time were certainly co-operative with the requests that were being made. Would you agree with me on that?

Yes, for a very limited purpose. Yes, I would agree.

Absolutely. And my point, sir, is that there was contact, 1987, there appeared to be a favourable response, and albeit in a very limited sense there was one topic that was being dealt with, but appeared to be co-operation; is that right?

Yes.
Any reason then, sir, why perhaps later in the '80s or early in the '90s that a request wouldn't have been made to Saskatchewan Justice for that information?

Well, I think I've said before that it was our view that it would be inappropriate, and we felt it inappropriate, that Saskatchewan be called on to effectively, or Saskatchewan Justice to look into the conduct of its own agents. Well, fair enough, sir, but that's different than asking for information; would you agree with that?

No, I wouldn't agree with it. Our view was that the Federal Department of Justice should be the repository of all of the information requests. I could give you an answer right now that might seem facetious, but Mr. Tallis also had asked for information from justice at the time of the trial and we know that wasn't entirely successful and for the very same reason we went to an independent party, we went to the Federal Department of Justice to try to get everything.

I'm sorry, Mr. Tallis asked for information from whom?

The Crown attorney, from the department, from the

Attorney General at the time of the trial.
Oh, that's back to the disclosure issue.
Well -- but that's why you ask for an independent third party.

To make -- I certainly don't want to engage in a debate, sir, but that's, $I$ think, separate than seeking just --

No, the principle is the same.
Seeking the information from --
The principle is the same.
And -- but, sir, there was no analysis that would have been done on behalf of Saskatchewan Justice, you were simply asking for documentation; is that not correct?

I understand that, and we went to a third department, the Federal Department of Justice as a neutral, independent party that could investigate the possibility that there was a wrongful conviction rather than having people investigated or gather documents where there may be a conflict of interest in disclosing the documents.

Sir, how would that be any different than Saskatchewan Justice officials providing the information directly to the federal government, wouldn't the same logic apply?

A

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I'll leave that, sir. On April 17 th when you were testifying, if $I$ could call up, this is from the transcript of these proceedings, April 17th, 2006, this is at page 26524, your comment on that date, sir -- this is regarding obviously the role Saskatchewan Justice was going to play in the reference, and your comment is:
"I wasn't all together clear on the role that Saskatchewan Justice was going to play, and I'm not sure that -- and my recollection may fail here --"

And I certainly accept that's a difficulty:
"-- I'm not sure that the Supreme Court expected the type of adversarial
proceeding that it got."
Do you recall that, sir?
A

Q
Well, that's a separate philosophical issue. I happen to believe that the federal government should have an independent -- that the federal government shouldn't be conducting the inquiry into wrongful convictions either, but at least with the federal government we had someone who was one step removed.

Yes.

All right. If I could, then, ask that document

213342 be put on the screen, and actually page 2 of that document. Actually, $I$ probably should begin with the front page to identify it. Sir, this is a memorandum from yourself to your client Mr. Milgaard, this is regarding the Supreme Court hearing, and Commission Counsel did cover this with you, this is subsequent to a meeting with Federal and Provincial Justice officials and perhaps others as well. If we could turn to page 2 of the document, thank you. One of the topic areas that you did identify to Mr. Milgaard or did convey information about is, were the meetings in Ottawa, and if I could -- I'll begin reading here: "It is the view of the Department of Justice --"

And $I$ presume you meant Federal Justice and once we read through this $I$ think you'll agree with me that's what your reference was:
"It is the view of the Department of Justice that the proceeding should be "adverse" in nature, meaning that there will be two sides to the argument. This is not surprising since one of the basic principals of the criminal justice system is that truth somehow is more
likely to emerge as the result of the testing of witnesses through the adversarial process. Consequently, Saskatchewan will be taking the view that your conviction was safe.

It would appear that the role of the Department of Justice will essentially be neutral, bearing in mind that it is they who sought an opinion." And you'll see the reference at the bottom to the Department of Justice, that's what causes me to believe that you were referring to the Federal Department in the first instance. Would you agree with that, sir?

Yes, yes.
And would it be fair to say that you did have an indication at that time, despite the fact that your memory might have failed you when giving evidence, that there was an indication that, of the roles that would be played and that was discussed prior to the reference; would you agree with that?

A
Yes, there's no question, and $I$ have refreshed my memory since testifying last week and $I$ think that's pretty clear, yes.

Q

A
$Q$

A

Certainly.
Where I was confused actually was the Department of Justice actually intervened at one point and Justice Sopinka -- I was mixing metaphors and I understand the roles now, yes.

Fair enough, and this is a point that I just wished to clarify, Mr. Asper. And would you agree with me that given your version of events, and that's all I'm relying on at this point, it appears as though that the federal government, the adversarial approach taken by Saskatchewan was as a result of a suggestion by the federal government?

Looks to be, yes.
All right. And might I also, I wonder if you would agree with me, sir, that you appear to be all right with that process just in the letter that, and your reasoning being that if you've got two opposing sides, you might get to somewhere in the middle? I'm not sure $I$ agreed with it, but $I$ can certainly understand it. I'm not sure $I$ say that $I$ agree with it, $I$ certainly acknowledge it, and explain it. I don't know that $I$ agree with it though.

Perhaps it's more fairly characterized that you
understand why the process was undertaken in that fashion.

A

Q

047265, I don't know how familiar you are, Mr. Asper, with this document, it's dated September 12th, 1973 addressed to Mr. Breckenridge and this is the offer of his employment with the Department of the Attorney General. You are familiar with that, sir?

A

Q
A
Q Can you advise, sir, when you became aware of the timing of Mr. Breckenridge's employment with the Attorney General's office?

A
$Q$

A
$Q$  All right, fair enough, sir. 060923. Before you do that, please, there appears to be a Globe and Mail article from November 17th, 1992, Mr. Asper, that's just a few months subsequent to the press conference in which Mr. Wolch and Mrs. Milgaard and Mr. David Milgaard participated. If we could -- the paragraph, if that could be called out, beginning here:
"An independent inquiry by The Globe and Mail suggests that the source of the allegations -- a former records clerk who says he saw Mr. Romanow and senior Crown officials meeting to discuss the Milgaard and Fisher cases in tandem -was not in the department at the relevant time."

Would you agree with me, sir, it appears as though The Globe and Mail at least has had, well, very little difficulty in determining that Mr. Breckenridge wasn't employed with the department at that time?

It would appear so, yes.

All right. The services of a private investigator were engaged we've seen, Mr. Bob Perry. We see, we understand that he has, after being engaged by your firm, he spoke with Mr. Breckenridge once on his own and then once with Mrs. Milgaard being present; is that correct?

That's what I gather, yes.
Mr. Asper, you were still around at that time we understand because the report was returned to your attention, is that correct, you have a memory of being there at that time?

A
$Q$
That's correct, $I$ believe $I$ was physically in the firm. I don't recall ever seeing that report though.

Okay. My question, though, based on that, given that he was requested to speak with

Mr. Breckenridge, wouldn't it have made sense to do, in addition to what was done, two things, the first of which being to ask him or to --

Mr. Breckenridge that is -- to provide some confirmation of when he worked at the department, would that not have been a prudent thing to do? I would think so, yes.

And secondly, sir, would you agree with me that it also would have been extremely prudent, given the statement that Mr. Breckenridge provided in which he named other people, he identified other people who were working with him, would it not have been prudent to speak with those people, that is, to ask Mr. Perry to endeavour to speak with those people to get a statement?

That would certainly have been something he could have done, sure.

All right. 047271 , and this is likely not a document that you are familiar with, this is part of Mr. Breckenridge's application to the Department of Justice, provincial, for his employment. He's was in high school, sir, in June of 1972. Would you agree with me that your date of your high school graduation at least, or the time you are in high school is not something we easily forget? Most of us -- let me put it this way, sir. Most of us could recall, if asked, when did you graduate from high school, it's not
something we would be counting on our fingers to discern; would you agree with me?

A

Q

A
Q
A

Q

A
$Q$
Yes, I would agree with you.
All right. And $I$ would just like to point out as
well, sir, and I should ask you, were you aware of
Mr. Breckenridge being in high school in '72 when
he claimed to be employed with the department?
No.
All right.
No.
And I just would like to bring out that portion as
well, he's listing his employment history, which
certainly wasn't extensive at that time, and
you'll see for a month in 1971, again when he
claimed to be employed, he was working in Toronto.
Were you aware of that, sir?
No.
Thank you. 159537, Mr. Asper, I'm asking be
brought -- the document that is being brought up
is the March 21 st letter by Mr. Breckenridge to
Mr. Wolch, and this is the document that sort of
gets things rolling, if $I$ can put it that way, and
if you would kindly bear with me, I would like to
just go through some of the contents of this
document, and, of course, as we all know,

Mr. Breckenridge said he was privy to information about certain things that he passed along and this is ostensibly having to do with the cover-up, and I just wanted to look at this document with, through an eye of, or eyes of common sense, if we could, and ask for your comment on it, and in the area that's been brought up:
"I remember delivering both cases --" That is, both the Fisher and Milgaard cases, "-- to Serge at the same time. The general feeling in the Dept. at the time was that these were to --"

And I think he's misspelled that, or just a typographical error,
-- these were to high profile cases that the N.D.P. could appear to get political mileage from as part of there law and order platform."

Mr. Asper, Mr. Breckenridge, his whole point in contacting you was to say lookit, this Fisher information has been suppressed. Is that not incongruous with what he's saying here, these were high profile cases, the government wanted to get mileage from them, that's entirely contrary it seems to me, and I'm asking whether or not you
agree with his view, that the government was trying to suppress the information.

A
Q
for example, where too many people knew about it and it gets exposed, so I'm not sure that wisdom always prevails in a cover-up, but if you are asking if it makes sense? It doesn't make sense as to me.

Would you agree with me that it's not wise to include a whole bunch of people in a cover-up situation?

Sometimes there's a lot of people involved by necessity. I'm not saying that's the case here, but, you know, I'm just saying in the general sense, and Watergate is a pretty good example of that. The sponsorship scandal is a pretty good example of that.

If we continue:
"They figured that since they were the gov't nobody would ever question the findings of their court system. Since then, like now, their only objective was to govern at any cost."

Is this starting to sound like a controversy theory to you created by Mr. Breckenridge?

Oh, I wouldn't say the only objective was to govern at any cost in and of itself.

Perhaps I'm looking more at the statement before
that, sir.
Yes. As $I$ look at it now, it's a bit smelly, yes.
Thank you for that honest answer, sir. If we could turn to the next page, then, and the first paragraph:
"Today, I would suggest that there is a cover up by the present administration to hide the sins of the Blakeney regime."

And here he includes more people.
"I would also suggest that the main motivation is political as opposed to legal. With people like Ned Shillington, Louise Simard and Serge Kujawa all part of both the present and past regimes they have too much to lose..."

And presumably the only reason that they would have anything to lose is if they were part of his alleged cover-up; would you agree with that? Yes.

And can you see how he's widening, there's sort of a wide swath, a wider swath that's being cut in this conspiracy theory; would you agree with that?

A Yes.

Q $\square$ And further down:
"All of these people have deep rooted beliefs that the system is more important than any individual rights and they will now do everything they can to change the law to eliminate those rights."

Does that sound suspiciously reminiscent of something that Mr. Kujawa said publicly?

I'm not going to get Mr. Wilson jumping up and down here.

I'm sure he won't.
In fact, as $I$ read it now, the last three or four words, "change the law to eliminate those rights," you know, I can just tell you, I know that that's contrary to certainly the thinking of Blakeney and Romanow and the other major politicians at the time who were in fact actively engaged in the Victoria constitutional discussions that would have patriated a Charter of Rights.

Thank you, sir. And could we go back, does this sound to you perhaps like the comment that Mr. Kujawa had made publicly?

Oh, in the first part, yes.
Yes.

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If you are asking as $I$ read it now, the only thing missing, frankly, for a certain file that $I$ would put it in are, you know, capital letters.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: As you read it
now -- I'm sorry, your question was?
MS. KROGAN-STEVELY: My point being,
Mr. Commissioner, that if one analyses this
letter, and I'm going to use Mr. Asper's term, it's smelly, if one looks at it through the eyes of common sense right now, and the same could have been the case in 1991 and two when this came to light.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: I wonder if you
could just repeat the question.
MS. KROGAN-STEVELY: Absolutely. Thank
you, Mr. Commissioner.
Do you want me to --
BY MS. KROGAN-STEVELY:
No, I'll say the question again. Looking at this
now, because $I$ appreciate you have no recall of
doing the analysis in 1992, pardon me, when this
was received, looking at this now through the eyes
of common sense, does it make much sense to you?

A
Very briefly, 004012 , it's dated -- it's a
statement by Mr. Breckenridge dated May $22 n d$,
1992, and as I understand the way the events

Again, he just seems to be expanding the conspiracy theory; would you agree with that?

It looks like it, yes.
Very briefly, 004012 , it's dated -- it's a statement by Mr. Breckenridge dated May 22 nd, 1992, and as I understand the way the events

unfolded, Mr. Asper, is that Mr. Perry went to speak with him and then requested a further statement and $I$ understand this is the product of that request. If we could turn to the second page of that, and again I'm just seeking your comment on the internal soundness of this, of this statement, if that could be called out, please: "Also there was a paper shredder kept in the ministers office that was used quite extensively in cases of very sensitive material that would do damage to the gov't, in such cases, I was told that the gov't would claim ignorance of this matter thereby escaping any political heat."

Sound like the conspiracy theory is growing, Mr. Asper?

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Looks to be, yes.
Okay. I think, if you could go up a bit more, please, beginning there. Thank you. I probably put the line in the wrong spot.
"From the correspondence we were filing our section was convinced that there was error made in the Milgaard case and this was brought to ..."

Serge's:
"... attention."
Now, Mr. Asper, it appears as though part of his conclusion is based on materials that were presumably being filed on both the, well either/or both of the Milgaard, the David Milgaard and the Larry Fisher files; would you agree with that?

I don't, well, $I$ don't read necessarily that there's information being filed on the -- by -I'm not sure $I$ understand your question, could you repeat it again? It looks like they're getting some correspondence that relates to the Milgaard case.

Q
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$Q$
"From correspondence we were filing ..."
Right.
"... our section was convinced there was
an error made in the Milgaard case ..."?
Right.
So they're getting, they're --
Something.
He purports to be informed by information that is going onto the files?

Right.
Do you agree with that?

A Right.
Q
Now, when you received disclosure from the province in 1990, or just prior -- 1991, it would have been December 1991, just prior to the reference; and you did receive that from the province, is that correct?

Yes, yes.
When you looked at the files, did you see any such correspondence that might remotely relate to what he is referring to?

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-- but $I$ won't, if you are prepared to agree with that statement?

Yes. Yes, --
Okay.

A -- no question.

Q
The last document is the document that begins 162465. And Mr. Asper, this is going to be the draft press release, this was the cover letter that attached, the next page, please, is your letter to Mrs. Milgaard, and the next page of course is the draft news release, and Commission Counsel did go through that with you? that:

> "In addition to the letter-writing campaign, the investigation into wrong doing by the Government of Saskatchewan has continued in earnest." Do you have a memory of what you meant by that, what investigation you refer to?

A

Q No, I don't, I -- that may be the Robinson investigation, I don't know. It may have been some people associated with Mrs. Milgaard who were doing -- continuing to do research. There was a whole group of people that were assisting at the time.

All right.

> "The core group of volunteers in the

Winnipeg support group have continued the analysis of government files ..." Can you tell me, sir, what government files members of the public might be viewing?

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$Q$

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Q I'm assuming that this would relate to some of the disclosure from the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court hearing.

And this disclosure provided by Saskatchewan Justice was provided to members of the public? No, I would -- as I say, there was a core group of people who were working with the firm to continue the research associated with the case.

And were they volunteer persons or were they being -- were they employed by the firm?

I believe they were volunteers.
So they were members of the public, then, as opposed to anyone, you know, perhaps a lawyer in your firm or -- if $I$ could make that distinction? No, they were non -- there were non-lawyers working on the research, yes.

Okay. And finally:
"Investigators have been retained and these matters are being pursued with great vigour."

Mr. Asper, insofar as you knew, there were

A


interviews conducted by Mr. Perry; where is the rest of the vigour? imprecise be?

Well I, now having said that:
"... being pursued with great vigour.", if you want to focus on that, I can tell you that the attitude of Mrs. Milgaard, and certainly Mr. Wolch, was to continue to keep the pressure on this Government of Saskatchewan to call an inquiry, and they were doing -- and they were looking into every avenue that they could to bring that pressure. So, if that's the 'vigour' that you are referring to, that's what we were
doing. I wasn't involved with it, but that's what they were doing.

No, I think the 'vigour' referred to the investigator, sir, based on that document? Well, no, it says:
" Investigators have been retained and
these matters ...",
which I assume refers to the previous paragraph:
"... are being pursued with great
vigour.",
and I -- and they were.
Oh, well, sir, oh, then we have a difference on the structure of that sentence. I took it to mean, sir, that the investigators were pursuing it with great vigour, but $I$ could be in error on that.

A
"Investigators have been retained and
these matters ...",
"and these matters" can't really refer to
"investigators have been retained", because then
it means that it -- retaining investigators "are being pursued with great vigour", it has to refer to the previous paragraph, and that's what they were trying to do. They were trying to put pressure on the Government of Saskatchewan to get
an inquiry.
Q
Even though the information might not have been precise? I'm using your --

Well, and they were trying to, I assume, to get other information.

All right. By the time this press conference occurred, Mr. Asper -- this was September of 1992 -- Mr. Perry has concerns -- and again I'm basing it on the review of the documentation -- he has concerns about Mr. Breckenridge's credibility -- and stop me if you disagree with any of these points -- Mr. Breckenridge's letter and statement might not -- well, is kind of 'smelly', -Yes.
-- and thank you for that term; persons named by Mr. Breckenridge, and those included Patricia Styles, David Wollbaum, there was no follow-up with them; fair enough?

Yes.
And, finally, his employment status wasn't checked?

Right.
Is that fair?
Right.
So on that basis, sir, can you comment on the
wisdom, then, or the propriety of holding a press conference to advance Mr. Breckenridge's allegations in light of these problems?

Well, $I$ wouldn't have done it.
You would have done it?
I would not have done it.
You would not have done it? All right, that's fair. And given -- and my last, this is my very last comment -- given that you were seeking, if $I$ can put it this way, the assistance of the public at large, Canadians, to get involved and to support Mr. Milgaard in his plea to be released or to be declared -- the innocence declaration, can you tell me about how responsible it is then, on that basis, given the objective, to be providing them with information that might not be accurate? How responsible is that?

It's irresponsible and can backfire, and you can see the -- if you go back to the Globe and Mail column or article that, the news article that you cited to me, you know, $I$ can give you an example, I can -- if you want to pull it up $I$ can show you how that could have played in a completely different way and been horrendously damaging. That's fine, sir, you did answer my question. And

I appreciate you answering my questions, thank you.

BY MR. WOLCH:

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Mr. Asper, $I$ am Mr. Wolch for David Milgaard.
I knew you when you were younger.
Hmm. I was your age.
I want to follow up on some of
the last questions, because $I$ want to take you back to the time, because $I$ think you are looking back at things now, perhaps, and not feeling what was going on back then.

The Supreme Court hearing, that was set very quickly, was it not?

Yes.
In fact, we were swamped with information that we hadn't had before, with all sorts of issues to cover, witnesses to cross-examine, case to put together, it was -- and this was all over Christmas -- while divesting ourselves of other commitments?

Yes.
It was really a short leash?
Yes.
And was it not also brought to your attention --
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Excuse me,

Mr. Wolch, there's --
MR. LORAN: Mr. Commissioner, Pat Loran for the Saskatoon Police Service.

The concern $I$ have is Mr. Wolch
appears to be giving evidence in his
cross-examination. He's here as counsel and not as a witness, and I just -- there's nothing particularly concerning about the area he's touching on but, generally speaking, I think that's an area we have to be concerned about.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Thank you, sir. Please continue, Mr. Wolch?

MR. WOLCH: My last question was?
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: The Supreme Court hearing was set very quickly and we were pressed.

MR. WOLCH: But I said something about "you", whether "you" --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Yeah, just be cautious now. I'm sure there will be other objections of that nature if you seem to be testifying indirectly through the witness, if you know what $I$ mean.

MR. WOLCH: Yes. I wonder if the reporter could read pack the last question, I've lost my train of thought, if it's possible?

BY THE COURT REPORTER:
"Q It was really a short leash?
"A Yes.
"Q And was it not also brought to your attention --"

BY MR. WOLCH:

Q
Yes. It was brought to your attention that the time in the Supreme Court was exceptionally precious?

Yes, the Chief Justice made it abundantly clear that this was going to be an expeditious hearing.

And you -- and it was clear you had to choose your evidence carefully, to go with the more important, as opposed to the less?

There was no question about that.
That is, some witnesses here, perhaps even
yourself, have -- will have been on the stand
longer than the entire hearing was?
Yes.
Time was really precious?
Yes.
And it was also made clear that it wasn't a Royal Commission, and even if misconduct was proved, it didn't necessarily go to the guilt or innocence? That's correct.

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If disclosure was not given, unless the disclosure had importance in its own right, it didn't matter, it had to have substance, and even if it had substance, that's what was important, not the fact that it wasn't given?

I think that's correct, yes.
And that The Court would, under no circumstance, made an adverse finding against Larry Fisher?

That's absolutely correct, yes.
And this was the third Supreme Court reference in history; correct?

Yes.
The first was Mr. Coffin, who got executed, and there are still many who think he was innocent?

Yes.
There was, the second was Steven Truscott, which was turned down eight to one with the Saskatchewan judge being the one, and that matter is currently under review with the current -- the previous Minister of Justice feeling that it was a likely miscarriage of justice?

That's correct. It's a unique process.
Yes. So there had never been a successful one in that Court?

Yes, you are -- yes, that's correct.

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And was there a time, do you recall, where you raised the fact that you thought there might have been police misconduct and you were chastised for raising it, or do you recall?

Yes, I believe when the infamous Mackie document was disclosed I may have spoken with the media, and the Chief Justice chastised me for doing that.

You were told that the police conduct wasn't an issue?

That's right.
So when the Supreme Court judgement came out, and was interpreted to be a clearance of the police, that was quite disturbing to you?

It was very disturbing to me, yes.
It wasn't even investigated?
That's correct.
Right?
That's correct.
And, as far as the fairness of the trial, the taker of the Nichol John statement wasn't even called?

Yes.
How Nichol John's statement effected the Milgaard conviction wasn't even canvassed?

That's correct.

Q
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It just simply wasn't an issue there?
That's correct. Or more disturbingly, frankly, to me, the non-disclosure of credible evidence that directly contradicted it.

Yes. There was a comment in the judgement about the disclosure practices of the time, but were the disclosure practices of the time ever addressed? No.

Insofar as the parties were concerned, the Department of Justice was represented by two lawyers of whom $I$ have the highest respect, but in your opinion were they impartial in terms of what side they were on?

I actually think that $I$ can rely on Justice Sopinka's intervention, which $I$ do recall, it was quite a flash point during the proceedings. I believe Mr. Fainstein was questioning one of the witnesses, and Mr. Justice Sopinka interrupted the proceedings and chastised the federal Department of Justice for being so overtly partisan, and it did surprise me at the aggressive nature of the feds.

Well, Mr. Fainstein cross-examined David Milgaard? Yes.

Which, perhaps, is something you wouldn't expect
from the unbiased, or a party just marshalling things?

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Well, there was some fast and loose with semantics, I would call it. It was questioning, not cross-examination, in the eyes of the Department of Justice federal.

And did you take that to be just a continuation of the attitude of Williams and Campbell and the entire department, and Corbett?

Oh, absolutely, yes.
It was quite clear, was it not, in your view, that there was an alignment between Saskatchewan Justice, the Federal Justice, and counsel for Mr. Fisher, all there to uphold the conviction?

There is no question that's what my impression was.

So, at the end of the day, the decision of the Supreme Court did free David Milgaard?

Yes.
He was released from custody, and at that time you
had counsel for Fisher saying his client was exonerated, and you had counsel for the police saying they had been cleared, and counsel for the Government of Saskatchewan saying they're all fine too; everybody is fine?

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So the authority who spoke on behalf of the government, even after the Supreme Court hearing, said he believed that Milgaard was guilty even
though he wouldn't prosecute, and do you recall
the reason?

A

Do you recall him, or at least the government, saying "the witnesses aren't available"?

Yes I do.

But of course --

As the reason for not being able to prosecute?
Yes.
Yes, yes. I found that ridiculous.
They're even available here, all these years
later, --
Yes.
-- for the most part?
Yes.
So it appeared that he was not telling the country the truth?

That was my impression, yes.
And he was doing what no Minister of Justice should ever do, and that is offer a personal opinion on the guilt of a person who has not been convicted of a crime?

I agree.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: And how was he doing that, sir?

BY MR. WOLCH:
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He said Milgaard was guilty.
He said -- he said -- he came out and publicly
declared his --
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Q
Do you know what information Mitchell had to offer an opinion that David was guilty?

The real concerns at that time, based on the Supreme Court decision in part that said the information was available in October of 1970, was that there had been some form of coverup?

A
No I don't.
Do you know if he ever attended the Supreme Court hearings?

I don't believe he did, no.
So, if the government had its way and the police had its way, the situation today would be David would be walking around with a cloud over his head, and the killer would be free, and the murder never solved?

I, you know, I -- Mr. Wolch, in -- as I think about this over the years $I$ find that really shocking, especially the part about Fisher walking free, but that's what the state of affairs was at the time.

And the fact of the matter is Joyce Milgaard and yourself, and people associated with the entire case, were not prepared to let it fall down and die, so to speak?

That's true, although $I$ was out of gas, personally.

That's right.

Correct? And let me go back a step, because previous counsel has asked you about disclosure and how you should have gone here for disclosure or there for disclosure and things like that; are you aware that there was significant important disclosure not even provided at the Supreme Court level? And I'm talking about the RCMP investigation into the -- into what turned out to be Larry Fisher.

Yes. I'm aware of, I believe, a report signed by Inspector Riddell dated March 20th, '69. There was Riddell, there was Rasmussen, there was a whole bunch --

And Rasmussen and Edmondson were the operatives. Yes. Would that not have been extremely important in the Supreme Court?

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: So your answer was you were not aware of that?

I was not aware of that. I became aware of that after this Inquiry began, sir.

BY MR. WOLCH:
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Do you know why Saskatchewan managed to provide it here, but not to Mr. Tallis, and not to us at the Supreme Court?

A No, I don't know why.

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Q

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$Q$

Would that have been, in your view, important for the Supreme Court to hear?

Yes.
It would have added tremendous credibility to the assertion, the correct assertion, that Larry Fisher was the killer?

Well, and also, I think Inspector Riddell was the one who took the statements, the original statements from Ron Wilson, and so you've got the same person who seems to be -- believe Wilson in the sense that he is also now overseeing a separate path of investigation.

So, when you are being asked questions here by various counsel "why didn't you come and ask for this and ask for that", they didn't even provide it at the --

Well --
-- Supreme Court level.
Well, Mr. Wolch -- and I'm sure I'm going to get into this with the counsel for Mr. Caldwell -- the scope of non-disclosure -- and I appreciate that the Supreme Court spoke on it -- as I look back on it, just stuns me.

There was significant non-disclosure at the Supreme Court level?

A I'm learning that.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: How are you
learning that, that, sir?
Well I'm going back and refreshing my memory of the, of what the evidence was at the Supreme Court, and then to find out that there was this other RCMP report --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Oh.
A -- just sort of adds another layer to it.
BY MR. WOLCH:
So we turn, now, to that time after the Supreme Court where you see what's going on, and you can see the real killer going free, David being smeared, and then along comes Breckenridge who appears to be a testament to Saskatchewan Government's hiring practices, he comes along --

MS. KROGAN-STEVELY: I hope Mr. Wolch wasn't pointing at me when he says that?

MR. WOLCH: No, you're a good hire. I wasn't, no. Mr. Hodson maybe.

BY MR. WOLCH:
Q
In any event, he comes along and the focus seems to be, here, "let's jump on Breckenridge" when, really, the complaint was, was it not, all this happened, how did it happen, let's have an
inquiry, Breckenridge is one more reason to look in, if he's not valid, dismiss him?

Yes, that's, I think that's the general approach. It wasn't just Breckenridge in isolation, it was "please explain how Mr. Karst went to Winnipeg for both Milgaard and Fisher and couldn't put the two together, how Mr. Kujawa couldn't put the two files together even though he helped on the Milgaard prosecution, how Mr. Caldwell got letters about Fisher", all that was the real allegation, with Breckenridge just being an addition?

Yes. There is no question.
The desire was to open it up and have somebody with half an impartial brain say "here's the real killer"?

MR. BOYCHUK: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman. I
think Mr. Loran raised the issue, and we have been fairly patient, $I$ think we're -- we have been listening to Mr. Wolch give evidence for the last 10 or 15 minutes now.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Thanks.
MR. BOYCHUK: And all I'm hearing Mr. Asper do is confirm everything he says.

MR. SOROCHAN: Mr. Commissioner, can I have that mike left live, because $I$ can't hear what
his objections are.
MR. BOYCHUK: It was just that Mr. Wolch was giving evidence and Mr. Asper was --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Is the mike working?

MS. KNOX: I'm not sure. Yes, it's working.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Yes. It's one of those mikes that you should keep close to your mouth when you speak, so can you hear it now back there, Mr. Sorochan? Say something, please.

MR. SOROCHAN: I'll speak up if I can't hear it, but $I$ can hear it now.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Yeah, okay.
MS. KNOX: Mr. Commissioner, I rise, and it will reflect on this same point that Mr. Boychuk makes, but it's an additional point, and it may be that $I$ am not hearing right and it may be that in his listing or in his chronology of events Mr. Wolch misstated himself, but he, I thought he said about letters that Mr. Caldwell got about Mr. Fisher, and there's no evidence in the record anywhere -- if I'm hearing him right, and -- that there were ever any letters sent to Mr. Caldwell about Mr. Fisher. There was one telephone
request he received that generated a letter from Chief Corey back to Mr. Kujawa, but there was never any correspondence to Mr. Caldwell about Mr. Fisher, if I'm recalling correctly.

MR. WOLCH: There's a letter that says, I think, on instructions from Mr. Caldwell, so he obviously had some involvement.

MS. KNOX: Yeah, and the evidence was that Mr. Caldwell received a call saying is there anything in your office about Fisher, he checked, he didn't, he phoned the deputy chief or somebody over at the police department, said I've got a call, if you have any information on a person by the name of Larry Fisher, send it to Mr. Kujawa, but certainly no correspondence on his file or anywhere.

MR. WOLCH: That was what was on my mind when $I$ raised that.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Yes. Now deal with the objections if you wish to.

MR. WOLCH: I'm asking the witness questions, he's answering the questions. If he can't answer them on his own behalf, he'll say So.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Yes, I think
that's the key. Mr. Wolch can hardly avoid asking questions which are in the knowledge of both he and the witness if they are relevant questions and have been raised in evidence before. However, it is incumbent upon both him and the witness to make sure that the witness' replies stem from his own knowledge and not from any suggestion of Mr. Wolch.

MR. WOLCH: Absolutely.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Right.
BY MR. WOLCH:
What I'm saying is at that time in your mind and Mrs. Milgaard's mind in particular was a feeling of frustration and a feeling that something had to
be done to get this matter re-opened?
Yes, I think that's fair. We were -- I was -- I think we were all very, very frustrated at the outcome of the Supreme Court hearing and we were insistent that somebody do something to get to the bottom of what happened.

And possibly determine that Fisher was guilty?
Absolutely.
Or at least there was a case against him?
Absolutely.
You were of the view he could be prosecuted; were
you not?
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$Q$

And $I$ don't know, are you aware of, $I$ don't know the timing of it, but Ms. Campbell wrote a book around then $I$ think. Are you aware of that? I'm not sure of the date, I really don't know.
Yeah. And as a result, there was somewhat of an inquiry into what occurred?

I understand that, yes.

Okay. If you didn't look at it, there's no point in my asking you questions. Were you able to come to grips as to why you and a number of others, including media, could look at this case and say we know Fisher did it and the case against David is nothing to the authorities, from the Provincial Minister of Justice to the Federal Minister of Justice all saying basically either he was guilty or we're not sure, or all these damning comments. Do you have any idea or can you help us as to why people, supposedly all looking at it coming from reasonable positions, can be so diverse on something like that that to you seem so obvious? Well, $I$ think what we saw, as I've said before, I think in a nation forum that we now have a word for, is tunnel vision. What we saw from the authorities was an absolute commitment to an outcome that had occurred irrespective of the propriety of that outcome, because the consequences of departing from that outcome require the admission of fallibility and mistakes and we all too often see in the case of wrongful convictions where the state and its actors are
unwilling, absolutely unwilling to do that, and I just don't understand it, but $I$ think that's what happened.

Now, having said that, $I$ will
also tell you that $I$ believe that the flawed process that we felt we had to engage in made it more difficult because of all the publicity for the people who were involved to step up and take responsibility. Now, that may be illusory because if you step up and take responsibility, there's going to be lots of publicity anyway, but it may have been an inhibiting factor.

MR. WOLCH: Mr. Commissioner, I'm happy to keep going. It's a natural place for a break, but $I$ don't mind continuing. I'm in your hands. COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Oh, you can go until 10:30 if you like.

BY MR. WOLCH:
I want to turn a bit to some of the questions that Mr. Wilson asked you, and I recall he told you or mentioned the story about some sheep and a train going by. Do you recall that?

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Yes.
That the sheep goes by --
The train goes by.

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BY MR. WOLCH:
too profo

What I'm saying is one has to look a little closer and use their heads to figure something out.

A
The train goes by and the other side of the sheep is shorn on one side, but you can't presume it's shorn on the other side. Do you remember that? Yes.

Now, that might be a very glossy way of looking at something, sort of a black and white kind of thing, but would you agree with me that those sheep would have to stay still for weeks to have that happen, they couldn't move around? Well, actually, Mr. Wolch, there's a more simple explanation, is how many times have you seen a half shorn sheep.

Well, that's part of it, and also, they also have to face the same direction and for weeks they have to stay firmly planted on the ground, they can't even move around and face the other way?

I could have been far more argumentative.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: See what you've started, Mr. Wilson.

MR. WILSON: Obviously the example was far Yes.

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Right?
Yes.
And you can go a little further than just closing your eyes?

Yes.
Mr. Wilson on several occasions talked to you about your experience?

Yes.
And how much you knew and whatever, and that also comes into play earlier when you mentioned you had certain views of how to approach the Department of Justice and others in the firm had different? Yes. Correct?

Yes.
The fact of the matter is, you had considerable guidance in the firm?

Yes, absolutely.
Even though you were relatively young and even though you had been to the Court of Appeal, you had done jury trials, you had available in the office, for example, helping you on this would have been the current director of constitutional law for the Province of Manitoba?

A Yes.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Mr. Wolch, this gets to be a point of some importance and $I$ think I would feel better if you asked him what resources were available to him in the firm rather than listing them yourself and asking him to agree. Would you do that, please? BY MR. WOLCH:
$Q$

A Well, look, I mean, we had what I considered to be a great team of top-flight lawyers, so Heather Leonoff, who $I$ believe is now the director of constitutional law for the Province of Manitoba, was clearly involved with our top level advisory group; John Scurfield, who is now a justice of the Court of Queen's Bench in Manitoba, was also quite involved; Sheldon Pinx, who $I$ believe is a former president of the Criminal Defence Lawyers Association of Canada - -

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Would that be
$\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{I}-\mathrm{N}-\mathrm{X}$ or $\mathrm{P}-\mathrm{Y}$ ?

Yes, sir, $P-I-N-X \quad-\quad$ was actively involved. Tim Killeen who is $I$ think a former president of the Law Society of Manitoba was activity involved, I think Robert Tapper assisted as well, and a legion
of everyone else, all the juniors and everyone at my level in the firm. You know, everybody was busy, but certainly this was a case that was very topical.

I'm not sure, but did the current chief judge of the Provincial Court help you at all?

He did actually. He was a Crown attorney at the time and was of some assistance.

So you had considerable people to -I was not out on my own. Right.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: You haven't mentioned Mr. Wolch.

MR. WOLCH: He's not supposed to mention me.

A
His arm came out of the office plenty.
BY MR. WOLCH:
So you had the, for example, the -- you thought that the first application to the minister should put in virtually everything?

I did.
Q
Correct?
A
Yes.
But the conventional wisdom was don't?
You guys did a Garrett Wilson on me.

Q
A

Well, what I'm saying is --
Yes, $I$ had a view and it went through Ms. Leonoff,
it went through yourself, it went through, I believe, Mr. Killeen, and more experienced people made the decision.

In order to get the attention, it had to be something new --

Yes.
-- right, to re-argue the case? They will say you are re-arguing the case, it has been heard; right?

Do you want to have this debate again?
They are going to come back and say you've argued it before?

This is the debate that we had.
Right. And the hope was you put in the new and they come back and ask you for the rest?

Right.
Simple as that?
Right, and I think I've described that to Mr.
Hodson, the hope was we could find some new and it would open the door.

And then they come to you asking for stuff and then they can take credit for showing how bad the case is?

Well, that's -- that was the theory.

Q Yeah, that's what was hoped to happen?

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Yeah, that s what was hoped to happen?
That was the theory, yes.
But if you put it all in at once, the new gets buried in the old, that was the theory, right or wrong?

Right, that was the prevailing view, yes.
But getting back to Mr. Wilson's question, it wasn't like you were just fresh out of law school left on your own devices, you did tons of work, but you had all sorts of people helping you? Without a doubt, yes.

And this was all being done for nothing? Yes.

Better your time than somebody else's. Thanks.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: If you are through
damning your former associate by faint praise, we'll take our break.
(Adjourned at 10:30 p.m.)
(Reconvened at 10:47 a.m.)

BY MR. WOLCH:
Mr. Asper, there have been a number of questions directed at you and at other witnesses bringing in the word conspiracy theory and the word conspiracy and the word cover-up has been used. In order for
there to be a cover-up, how many people are required?

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Yeah. For example, I'm not going to go through it all, but you had Detective Karst who may or may not have deliberately not brought information to others' attention or made a connection, you have other people that may or may not have put it together either, some may be deliberate, some may mert Mr. Wilson or Mr. Hodson, it could be a very small number of people in this case, if it happened. have a big meeting and say we're going to cover up or we're going to do this or that?

I think I said that in response to questions from
Or -- it doesn't require people to sit down and
not be deliberate?

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BY MR. WOLCH:
Notice of Appeal, sorry, Notice of Appeal and transcript. And in the Fisher case he did not have any police files?

I think that's what he said, yes.
Now, you as the young lawyer looking at that,
MR. HODSON: Notice of Appeal.
MR. WOLCH: Sorry?
MR. HODSON: Notice of Appeal.
would you expect that to be the case back then?

A
Q
A No.

That is, I'm suggesting --
No, I would have thought that if Mr. Kujawa was prosecuting Mr. Fisher's guilty plea, that he would have police files on Mr. Fisher's conduct or certainly police files for prosecutor -- not necessarily all the files, but the prosecution part of the police files, and potentially more regarding the Milgaard appeal.

Well, you would expect him to have Nichol John's statement?

For the appeal I'm not sure.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: What are we talking about here now, Fisher guilty pleas or -BY MR. WOLCH:

I'm sorry, for the Milgaard case. When he's doing the Milgaard appeal, you would expect him to have the police reports?

I'm not sure $I$ can say that, Mr. Wolch.
All right. If Nichol John's statement was an issue, would you not expect him to have that and the surrounding circumstances?

I would do it probably, but $I$ can't say --
You are a junior. Would you expect the senior,

A
highly reputable, hard working lawyer to have that material?

Not necessarily.
You were asked by Mr. Wilson several times why you wouldn't just hop in your car, drive down to Regina, walk in, see $M r$. Kujawa and say here it is, help me out; correct?

Yes.
And having looked at the entire case, what do you think would have happened if you walked in and saw Mr. Kujawa and said here's Debbie Hall, here's Dr. Ferris, what would you expect to have happened if you did that?

I don't want to sound facetious, but I suspect Mr.
Kujawa would have probably put his lengthy arm around me and given me a father and son like chat about how the criminal justice system works and tell me about the integrity of the conviction.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Having seen the entire case, $I$ think that was the question, but it seems to me the more apt question is what would you have expected then, back in 1991, when you got working on it, or 1990 .

What would I have expected them?
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Uh-huh, yeah,
we're interested in why you didn't go to see him, at least somebody was interested, so it really doesn't matter what you think might have been his reaction, it's your state of mind at the time. No, that is what $I$ think his reaction would have been at the time.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Okay.
BY MR. WOLCH:
I just want to draw your attention, for example, to document 033005. This is a memo from Murray Brown, the director of appeals, and a person you know, to the Deputy Minister of Justice, and if I can just highlight, and this is July of '97 after the DNA, where it says:
"Apparently, Serge's view is that you can get experts to say anything you want and this is just another case of that. Sy thinks he has Serge under control for the time being and will stay in touch with him to ensure he remembers to keep his mouth shut."

What I'm pointing out to you is this is after the DNA and all the evidence that went before it, so what I'm suggesting is that this was his attitude after DNA and all the circumstances that you
really wouldn't expect, back in the early days, a Debbie Hall and Ferris would have had very much of an impression?

A
I suspect that's correct, but, you know, I just go back to -- frankly, I guess it was the underlying rationale, but as you well know, my view was that our remedy lay with the Federal Department of Justice, period, end of discussion.

Yeah, and they would be able to get disclosure better than you could or anybody else?

A
$Q$

A
That was --
They would have the access to it?
That was the hope, yes, and as I've said, it puts the actors from Saskatchewan, and it creates a conflict of interest, in a potentially very difficult position.

We heard a fair bit about reputation and good reputations, $I$ think you said you had the highest regard for the Winnipeg police and the Saskatoon police and it may be that $I$ share your view. Yes.

But that doesn't mean that mistakes don't happen? That's correct.

And you said you had the highest regard for the, for example, for the Winnipeg police you were
asked?
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think, that was the Betty Osborne case; right?
Yes.
Right?
Yes.
Those are all examples where police misconduct was found to be occurring?

Yes, and I think I've also indicated I provided one of the early opinions on the Driscoll case
which, for Mr. Wilson's edification I guess, involves perhaps the most senior prosecutor in Manitoba at the time and currently.

There's not only Driscoll, there's Sophonow?
And Sophonow.
And there soon will be Unger?
Yes.
And those are all cases in Winnipeg?
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And you can still hold the police department in high regard as we do?

A
Absolutely.
But people do bad things?
And the department of prosecutions and the Department of Justice. My view, and I've said it, is that openness and honesty in these wrongful conviction cases on everybody's part, including -and particularly police and prosecution, fosters a positive view of administration of justice rather than the opposite, which is too often the feeling, that if you admit a mistake, people will have less respect for the system.

Q
There are thousands and thousands of police officers and prosecutors, all of whom deserve kudos for how they carry on their jobs?

A

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$Q$
Yes.
There are some that don't?
But the people who make a mistake who own up to it are worthy of forgiveness and so they can join the first class of people you talked about.

What I'm saying is that just to say somebody has a good reputation is not an answer to specific -specifics of possible wrongdoing?

Not at all.
The final area that $I$ wish to pursue with you is the one touching on your current status, I guess it is, as a media baron, whatever that means. I think you fairly pointed out that when this case was evolving, you weren't connected really with the media; would that be fair?

That's correct. My experience at that point was purely on the technical and operations side.

That is, you know, those media outlets that took up the cause such as the Winnipeg Free Press, The Globe and Mail, Toronto Star -- I'm probably missing some.

CBC.
CBC. That was a big miss.
CTV.
CTV. If anything, if you -- they would either be
negatively drawn to you if they knew you were going to be involved in what you are involved now, they are not -- they are your competitors?

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negatively drawn to you if they knew you were

That's true.
And --
People at Global were furious with me because they were deliberately, $I$ deliberately did not want to put them under any pressure.

And $I$ want to talk a little bit about media because it's not very often we have this
opportunity. It seems -- I think the suggestion has been made that it's easy to use the media and, with respect, $I$ think that's absolutely not true. I agree with you, and I've said in my evidence it is a huge risk.

More than a risk, if you come with a story, you are not going to get front page.

That's right, you can simply be rejected.
I mean, for example, if a Larry Fisher today decided to mount a campaign, what's there to do, come to a reporter and say give me front page? You have to have something to bring. That's correct.

And the media aren't going to go investigating unless there's a story there?

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$Q$

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A
Well, okay, but to be fair the difference is -and, you know, I mean Mr. Wilson showed us the Minister's decision in the Thatcher application. You can employ, as a tactic, the attempt to try to get the media interested, or not, and in our case we made a decision. We didn't have to, and this case could have never been covered, which in my opinion was not serving the best interests of our client, and $I$ think that was your view as well. Without the media it would appear the 690 never would have gone ahead?

BY MR. WOLCH:
Well, it's not like it's solely up to the accused or his counsel, if the media get the story from whatever source they're gonna do it. If there is somebody in jail right now who is wrongly convicted -- and $I$ could name several -- if the media catches onto it they're gonna publish it? Well $I$-- you can give -- you can use the example, 60 Minutes for example, the American investigative journalism program has, $I$ believe, done programs on at least one that $I$ can recall, $I$ believe it was a robbery case in the United States, where the person who was wrongly convicted contacted a producer and they did a story and actually broke
the whole case open. I mean it's a journalistic decision.

Because part of the problem is that most people who profess to be wrongly convicted, and some are, have no resources?

That is true.
And the media will go out and investigate, get information, and perhaps even break the case open?

That's what happened with our case. It's not a very clean way to do it, but that's, that's what happened.

Right. And, just turning that around a little bit, I'm gonna say to you and suggest to you, that it is somewhat hypocritical for the authorities to come down on the media when they spot a wrongful conviction given how much the authorities use the media to their own benefit?

A

Well, when somebody is arrested it's trumpeted all over the paper?

A
Well, look, $I$ mean don't -- you don't even need to
resort to hypothetical examples. Look at David
Milgaard's preliminary inquiry, look at the
reporting of David Milgaard's preliminary inquiry.

The new law regarding the ban on publications had been adopted, just had not been proclaimed, and the theory behind the law obviously was that publication of the evidence at a preliminary inquiry might taint the jury pool. Parliament had spoken on it, but the ban was not levied during David's preliminary inquiry, notwithstanding the fact that it was law, or about to be proclaimed as law. In fact, $I$ think it became law in the middle of the preliminary inquiry. So you've got a series of headlines through the preliminary inquiry in a fairly small community, fairly sensational headlines, talking about all of the evidence at the preliminary inquiry.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: But, Mr. Asper, I think the question turned on what the questioner really saw as hypocrisy. He is suggesting to you that the authorities actively sought the coverage; do you know that to be the case? Oh, I see. Oh, I see. Oh, I'm not suggesting they did during the preliminary inquiry. But yes, it's true, generally. Absolutely, when there is a major arrest, --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Well --
$A \quad--\quad i t ' s$ called a "perp walk".

> COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: It's called a which?

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Perp walk. When the authorities catch somebody they very often make sure that the media get lots of camera access to the suspect as the person is in handcuffs and being paraded from a vehicle to a building.

BY MR. WOLCH:
Well that was the Hughes Inquiry, was it not, that was the inquiry into the arrest of a lawyer when the police advised the media that they were coming to his office, "have your cameramen there"? Yes.

And most police forces -- and you will know this better than $I$-- have media spokespersons? Yes.

That, actually, their full-time job is to -- I think, or close to full-time job -- is to advise the media on behalf of the press?

Yes.
And the --
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: But Mr. Wolch, you have to ask why they're doing that, is that because they want to or because they feel that they have to manage the requests that are coming
in from the media for coverage all the time. MR. WOLCH: I go back -COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: In any case, it's not something that we have any evidence that happened here.

BY MR. WOLCH:
$Q$
No, but what $I$ am saying is that you go with that, and the Crown attorneys have spokespeople, at least $I$ see them in Vancouver all the time?

Yes.

And so they're all media conscious; agree? There is no question about that. I work with the, with various law societies and judicial councils to deal with that issue.

But what I'm getting at is why there is suddenly such a, "oh my goodness, the accused is proclaiming innocence", why is there so much -Well, look, I --
-- backlash on that when the prosecution many times, or the authorities, have somebody convicted in the media before they even come close to the courtroom?

A
I will tell you that, in my opinion, the state, which of course never goes to jail, gets pretty much a free run against accused persons, whether
it's the police or the prosecution, and I don't think it's surprising that the state doesn't like it when the accused person achieves parity or superiority in combatting and rebutting what the state is saying about him or her. I don't think the state likes that.

And if you want to get into a philosophical discussion, I don't like the state, I think the state can be a bully.

Well, $I$ think you're getting -- what $I$ am saying to you is this; there's all this discussion about use of media in this case to get the accused's story out that he is wrongly convicted, people can judge for themselves, here are the facts, and you have all this backlash about, "oh you shouldn't be doing that", or whatever, when obviously it achieved a noble purpose. And there is no talk about printing so and so was arrested for molestation, so and so was arrested for this, putting the name all over the paper and having a press conference or, in Winnipeg, having a Ticketgate press conference?

A

A Well, you've got me in a conflict of interest. Okay.

I mean my business is I like that kind of stuff.

Q Yeah.
A Okay? That's my business interest.
Q Yes.
A
I will tell you, though, that, just in the Milgaard case, I think that it hypocrisy to assert that the media was somehow improperly used, and my view is that the root of that claim may well be not sort of the broad philosophical role of the media, but the fact that we were able, as $I$ said, to achieve parity or superiority in advancing David's case and getting to the bottom of it, and getting to the bottom of this case was not very comfortable for some people, and $I$ include myself in that by the way.

Mr. Asper, $I$ believe that concludes my questions, and $I$ just wanted to thank you for all the years you spent not only undoing a terrible miscarriage, but assisting in bringing the right killer to justice. Thank you.

A Thank you.
MR. HODSON: Mr. Commissioner, you had
indicated, $I$ think, the next order would be Knox, Boychuk and Loran, and $I$ think amongst the three of them I am advised that they organized their examination to minimize overlap, so that Boychuk
would go first, followed by Pat Loran, followed by Ms. Knox. So, if you're okay with that, I've been asked to raise that, that they would --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: So Mr. Boychuk, then Loran, and then Knox?

MR. HODSON: Yeah, on behalf of Ed Karst, Mr. Loran on behalf of the city police, and then Ms. Knox on behalf of Mr. Caldwell.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: All right. Okay. BY MR. BOYCHUK:

Morning, Mr. Asper.
Morning.
For the record, my name is Chris Boychuk, and I represent Eddie Karst. And I want to start off firstly with some of the things that Mr. Wolch raised with you.

Firstly, you made a statement that you felt that some of the actors, at least after the Supreme Court decision, took the view that there was a victory or were gloating? I think $I$ heard you right there, is that --

And, can you tell me, did you ever read anything that suggested that my client was -- somehow thought that the Supreme Court decision was some
sort of ultimate vindication or that he was gloating?

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$Q$
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$Q$
Give me a moment. I believe I saw it in the transcript where he referred to the Supreme Court as sort of vindicating his conduct.

And I'll get into that.
If that's better?
Okay, I didn't mean, well stay away from
'vindication' then. In terms of gloating, let's just stick with gloating, that he was in any way gloating about the decision?

I don't recall seeing that Mr. Karst was gloating. Okay. And, in fact, would I be fair to say that, of a number of the actors involved, Mr. Karst was at least one person that was fairly communicative with the media?

Oh yes.
There were a number of interviews, he was talking to the CBC, Mr. Roberts and Appleby from The Globe and Mail, Mr. Fuller from the StarPhoenix, and in particular the gentleman that you had a connection with, Dan Lett; is that right?

Well, yes.
And you were aware that $M r$. Lett, for example, had an extensive, or a lengthy interview with Mr.

Karst --

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$Q$

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I think at one point, yes.
-- at one point? And that was sometime in August of 1991 I believe?

I don't recall specifically.
Maybe if we could pull up 039366 . And $I$ don't
know if this refreshes your memory, it's a
transcript of an interview between Mr. Lett and
Mr. Karst of 21 August, 1999?
I don't know if I've ever seen this, but --
I don't know if you've seen the transcript. I
think there was some indication in the tapes that you may have had a discussion with Mr. Lett and he
informed you that he had had a sit-down with
Mr. Karst?
Oh, I'm sure he did.
Okay. And for example, if we could go to page 398 of that, $I$ believe. And just in terms of dealing with your client, if we could just pull up this piece, they're talking about Mr. Milgaard having served his time. And Mr. Karst makes this comment:
"Well, like $I$ said a long time ago, as
far as $I$ was concerned he has paid his
dues to society and if there's ever a
chance for a rehabilitation, I mean
he's, he's due to try it. And you know,
then I've seen so many crimes are just
as bad as that or worse, for a - you
know, and adults murder somebody and,
you know, they end up with six or seven
years and they're out in four or five -
and there is no justice sometimes in
what's happening but ..."
And Mr. Karst at that time, before the Supreme
Court reference, is suggest that Mr. Milgaard
should be let out of jail; do you agree with me
that's his position there?

And do you doubt that Mr. Karst had an honest belief, at that time, in Mr. Milgaard's guilt, that he expresses that, no doubt, in the interview?

A He expresses no doubt about his belief in Milgaard's guilt.

Right. Now if $I$ can go to page 408 of that, and
at the bottom you will see Mr. Lett and Mr. Karst are -- if $I$ can just -- are discussing a possibility of having the conviction and the trial and conviction of Mr. Milgaard be subject to some form of review?

A
Q
A
Q
Right.
Do you see that?
Yes.
And you see Mr. Karst, if we -- he starts at the bottom:
"As I say, I have no objection ...",
if we can go to the next page:
"... to it."
And:
"I would welcome it."
So Mr. Karst himself at that time, although he took the position that Mr. Milgaard -- that he was open to some form of review to see if something happened that may have led to a wrongful conviction; do you agree with me there? That's what he is saying, yes.

Okay. And let's just touch on the -- Mr. Wolch talked about the proceedings at the Supreme Court, and I think you said that you felt that your recollection, at least, was that the Chief Justice
had fairly significantly limited the scope of the inquiry that was gonna happen at the Supreme Court?

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That's my recollection, yes.

Okay. But you attended the Supreme Court yourself, you were in person throughout the hearing?

Yes.
And do you recall that one of the witnesses that was called was Mr. Karst?

Yes.
And that he was subjected to a fairly lengthy or a complete cross-examination by Mr . Wolch; remember that?

Not specifically.
So you don't remember the specifics?
No.
But, for example, do you recall -- we talked a little bit about the Mackie summary -- do you recall that Mr. Wolch, during his
cross-examination of Mr. Karst, that's when the Mackie summary was brought into the Supreme Court?

Yeah, I, you know, I don't -- I did not have any recollection of it. I've been reading some of the transcripts from the Inquiry that do refresh some
of my recollection, but --
Okay. And I, I'll just put it to you this way, I've recently reviewed Mr. Wolch's cross-examination of Mr. Karst at the Supreme Court, and at the risk of having Mr. Wolch stand up and say I'm giving evidence now, it seems to me from the transcript that Mr. Wolch, in his usual thorough way, discussed with Mr. Karst basically all aspects of his involvement in the investigation, including his interviews with Cadrain, Wilson, and John, his contact with those three, the statements he took from those individuals, the Mackie summary, and his dealings with Larry Fisher in Winnipeg; does that sound that that's fair?

Sounds like a good scope of cross.
Right. And so, although you say that there was no -- and maybe I'm mis -- I'm misquoting you -- that there wasn't really a thorough examination of police conduct, there was, would you agree with me there was a fairly thorough examination, largely through Mr. Wolch's cross-examination, of Mr. Karst's conduct at the Supreme Court?

A
$Q$
I think that's fair, yes.
And that in terms of their findings, $I$ know that
you disagree with the scope of their findings, would it be fair to say that, at least with respect to Mr. Karst, that the Supreme Court felt that he was not guilty of any misconduct? The Supreme Court felt that, yes.

Okay. Now another thing that Mr. Wolch raised was, as an example of coverup, he gave an example that, potentially, information, it doesn't take very many people, one person doesn't disclose something to someone else and that can constitute coverup?

A

Q

Do you have any information, for example, that -we know that Mr. Fisher, those statements went up, he was prosecuted, he pled guilty, so do you have any information that Mr. Karst withheld that information from anybody that should have received it, at least within the system, whether at the police station or at the prosecutorial -- in the prosecutor's office?

I don't have any information that he actively
withheld it, no.
Okay. Thank you. And I'll tell you, Mr. Asper, I'm hoping I do half as well as Mr. Wolch with notes as he did without notes this morning, and you'll be happy to know my client has told me if I go too long he's going to pull the hook on me, so to speak. The way you got the hood from Mr.

Asper -- or from Mr. Wolch, I may get the hook here.

Mr. Karst and I may have more in common than you can imagine.

Okay. And I want to start off, this is not in any kind of chronological order, but with respect to some of the evidence that you've given here today, or not today but during the course of the Inquiry, and if $I$ could have transcript page 27,274, please? And this is a, this is your examination-in-chief by Mr. Hodson on the $20 t h$ of April, and Mr. Hodson puts the question to you -and I'll just have this question and answer brought up, please -- and Mr. Hodson puts to you: "Q Are you suggesting that Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Karst knew that the real killer was at large?"

And your response, and $I$ 'm just going to read
this in for the record:
"A No, I think that -- I don't think --" Excuse me, I'll back up.
"A No, I think that $--I$ don't think -- my suggestion is that if you put aside the question of whether there was a coverup or whether there was some evil motive, you might be able to say to Mr. Karst or Mr. Caldwell and to the original actors in this system, "you know what, maybe a mistake occurred". I don't believe that those people -- I think it's ... the true killer out on the street, but that's what happened, because certain things were missed." No, you missed a line, it's: "... I think it's possible that those people actually didn't want the true killer out on the street, but that's what happened, because certain things were missed."

Oh okay, sorry, $I$ missed that and that's fair comment. And then, going on, you talk about talking to the people. And am I -- I don't disagree with you, and nobody disagrees with you
that the killer was on the street and that an innocent man was in jail, but in terms of we're talking about conspiracy and coverup, which is a deliberate, a deliberate attempt to keep -- put an innocent man in jail and cover up the fact that a killer is out on the street; isn't that right?

Yes.

That's what you were talking about?

Yes.

And then on the next page, at 27,275 , and Mr. Hodson asks you for some clarification and he's, of your answer, and he says:
"Q You talk about saying, and you referred to Mr. Karst and Mr. Caldwell, about them not wanting to have the real killer out there, and is what you are saying is that you don't think that they would have -- are you saying that they wouldn't have deliberately convicted an innocent person so that the real killer is out there?"

And your answer is:
"A I think that's, I think that's probably fair to say."

A That's correct. Central Booking - Call Irene @ 1-800-667-6777 or go to www.compucourt.tv

Q And that's your position today?

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Q

A

Q

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$Q$

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Q
A it can lead all over the place, and it can lead to deliberate action that may be well-intentioned
but, nevertheless, results in the wrong result. Okay. And when I speak of 'deliberate' I'm speaking deliberate in the sense that there is a knowledge that the person -- or you think it's likely he's innocent and you still try to get the conviction.

Well, I'm concerned, I will tell you that I am concerned. And I can't be definitive, because you've got on the one hand $I$ think a good-faith belief that you want to get the right person, you want to get the true perpetrator, but on the other hand there is a whole bunch of stuff that says the person you are going after may not be the right perp, may not be the true perpetrator, but you don't -- but you ignore that. And so $I$ want to give everybody the benefit of the doubt, and I've come to this Inquiry giving everybody the benefit of the doubt, and I'll leave it at that.

Okay. In terms of giving the benefit of the doubt, though, isn't it true, though, that you and others in your group didn't, when you went to the media you didn't present it, at least when you started going to the media after you made the first application it wasn't presented that it was a mistake, it was presented that it was -- that
there was a frame-up or a coverup; isn't that how you presented it though?

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$Q$

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I'm not sure that we -- I don't think we started
that way. It certainly evolved, it evolved to
something more sinister, yes.

Okay. And, in terms of your expectation, one of the things you said during the course of the Inquiry, that your hope was that everybody would sit down, get around a table, and that in that context we could deal with it as a mistake; correct? That was --

Yes, yes.
And that at least there was a recognition that the justice system, whether it's police officers or Crown prosecutors, they're human beings?

Absolutely.
And therefore they're not infallible?
Absolutely.
And that -- and wrongful convictions happen without someone intentionally going out to frame someone and then cover up; isn't that right?

Yes.
Do you agree with that?
Yes.
And I think if $I$, if we just go back to, you
expressed that at page 27,272 of the transcript, and if $I$ just look at the bottom, and this is just --

A
I want to, you know, just on that subject -- and I don't mean to -- I'm a student of wrongful convictions, and in the course of studying it I came across something that Ms. Knox said, because she had a similar -- she had a situation of her own, and $I$ want to -- and I'll give you an example of exactly what you said, the difference of something she said in a different inquiry versus what has happened here, okay? If I can, Ms. Knox started, at the Inquiry into Greg Parsons in Newfoundland said, she went on the record and started her evidence by saying:
"I want to go on the record to state that $I$ accept that Greg Parsons was wrongly convicted of this offence, that he is innocent of causing the death of his mother. I would grant that I was part of the process in the system that led to his wrongful conviction. I apologize to you, Mr. Parsons, to his family, and to all others who were affected by this tragic outcome."

That is the spirit that you've just described that $I$ think needs to pervade this process. Fair enough. And, for example, my client, Mr. Karst, we talked about how he was open to the media. In fact we hear, we heard a considerable amount of, some evidence from Dr. Boyd and Dr. Rossmo that he was prepared to sit down with people and look at the case, and in terms of Dr. Boyd and Dr. Rossmo, he was one of the people that did give them a considerable amount of time to look at what he did in the case, what he thought of the overall case; fair to say? And that shows an open mind, that maybe, eh, he's, he's prepared to consider that maybe he made a mistake?

I don't recall. My recollection of Mr. Karst's interaction was that he had a willingness to interact but that he was, he was defending, and defending the -- you know, his belief that Milgaard was guilty.

Q Right. And $I$ hope you admit that people can have an honest disagreement on things like this? Yes.

Okay. And for example, you talked about potentially having a meeting, you've seen how open Mr. Karst was, Mr. Karst tells me he had no
problem with you people trying to free Mr. Milgaard and that he had no problem with you people being critical of him if you felt he made some mistakes or errors in the course of the investigation, but there is a big difference between that and saying to him, "You deliberately set out to get an innocent man convicted, you deliberately covered up the fact that the real killer was out there". Do you understand the distinction there?

A

Q

A Well, okay, but $I$ want to go back to -- and let's go back to that, the period of time. Uh-huh?

In fact, let's go back to 1969-1970, as David Milgaard is packaged up and shipped off and he is convicted and sent to prison. If you look at -and $I$, you know, and we all have a better sense of what all the evidence was and what all the statements were, and $I$ certainly now have a better sense of the separate divisions within the department of who was doing what and it was possible that the left hand didn't know what the right hand was doing, nevertheless, I'm sorry, but I take the view that -- and I think Mr. Karst has testified he had doubts about these witnesses, the
core witnesses that ultimately convicted Milgaard, Wilson and Nichol John and Cadrain, he had his own doubts. When you couple those doubts with the presence of this possible other perpetrator that was floating around in the minds of investigators at the time, and you layer that with information that was, that Mr. Karst may not have known -- and I accept that he may not have known that -- that evidence that directly, credible evidence that directly refuted what was coming from the mouths of John and Wilson, and not disclosed, I don't know what to think, Mr. -- I just don't know what to think.

Well, I -- you are going to have to give me some specifics here.

Well was --
Because, for example let's go back to every witness in a criminal case, especially when you look at these people. You referred to them as 'unsavoury', for example. It's pretty rare that a police officer in a major crime is, apart from the victim, when you are dealing with someone who is related or involved with the suspect they tend to be unsavoury people; isn't that right?

A Not necessarily.

But often?
Oh, yes.
You called these people 'unsavoury'?
Oh, yes, I did.
And for example, to be fair, it was a crowd that Mr. Milgaard himself was running with; right?

No question, yes.
And, any time you interview a witness, there is always issues with credibility; would you agree?

Well I --
You are always alive to those issues as an
investigator?
Yes. And what $I$ am saying is when you get -- when
you have these --
Why don't we just say you agree with me, but we'll
just say "do you agree with me there", and I'll
just walk you through --
That credibility is an issue?
Right?
Yes.
And that, when you run across things that might give you doubts, that you track them down, for example?

A
Yes.
For example, Mr. Karst, you say you had doubts.

Let's start with Mr. Cadrain, for example,
Mr. Cadrain came into the police station, we know that now?

A

Q
A
Q

A
$Q$

A

Q

A
$Q$

A
Q

Right.
You agree there?
Right.
The story about the blood on the pants was not planted by Mr. Karst or anybody else at the Saskatoon Police Service; correct?

It appears so, yes.
Because we know he came in with that story?
Right.
He told his parents that story, you know that?
Right.
You know from the interviews that Mr. Henderson did that he told his brother Dennis Cadrain that story and possibly his sister Celine and that they advised him to go to the police?

Right.
So, for example, one of the allegations against
Mr. Karst, and we can go to the media, and the way
you dealt with it in terms of Mr. Cadrain being
tortured, for example -- now, of course Mr. Karst denies that, but he put Mr. Cadrain under some fairly close questioning; agreed?

A

Apparently, yes.
And wouldn't you expect that from a police officer when someone walks in off the street and gives you evidence that potentially implicates someone else in a murder, particularly Mr. -- your client? Yes.

And that's what you would want him to do?
Yes.
Isn't that right?
Yes.

And, for example -- and there's no doubt that Mr. Cadrain was questioned a number of times on that and at the end of the day, with that intense questioning, he never did change his version, with respect to the blood on the pants, from the time he walked in in 1969 to the day he died, he maintained he saw blood on Mr. Milgaard's pants? That's correct.

Rightly or wrongly?
That's correct.
And that through the years, for example, Mr. Carlyle-Gordge questioned him, you would have had that information when you got the file from Mrs. Milgaard?

Yup.

Q

A
Q

A
Q

A

Q

A
$Q$

A

Q

A
$Q$

He didn't move off of that?
Yup.
When he was requested by Mr. Henderson and all the stuff came out on the, on how aggressively he was questioned, he never moved off it then? Right.

And when he went to the Supreme Court he didn't move off it; right?

Right.
So at some point the police officer has to make an assessment, we've pushed this guy and he still says it happened?

Right.
We've tested his credibility. We may have other issues, there were issues about whether he had smoked dope the night before, whether he had been questioned in Regina, and they checked those out; isn't that right? Fair to say?

I think so, yes.
Okay. So in terms of Mr. Cadrain, do you have a problem that Mr . Karst felt that that, on that issue he resolved the credibility issue, he believed Mr. Cadrain?

I think that's fair, yeah.
Okay.

Yeah.
And I just, before $I$ leave this whole area -I still haven't been able to respond though to your question about the deliberateness.

I thought we had an answer there, but -Well, Mr. Karst was far more involved in the investigation.

Oh, I plan to go into --
Okay.
-- you with that.
Okay. As long as we can get to it.
Yeah. But even today, like, I want to get back, one of the other things you said, in terms of these allegations of cover-up and conspiracy you are quite, $I$ think, fair in saying, and, you know, there's a number of examples where you were of the position that at best you had suspicions, but no evidence, if $I$ quote you correctly from the transcript?

A That's true.
Q Now --
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: That was with respect to Fisher's guilt, viability as a suspect?

BY MR. BOYCHUK:

No, I think it was in response to a general
question regarding whether -- Mr. Hodson put to him, for example, because around the time of the Supreme Court reference the allegations of cover-up and a frame-up were coming fast and furious from Centurion and from Mrs. Milgaard. Right.

Fair enough?
And that's what it refers to, Mr. Commissioner. COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Okay, thank you.

BY MR. BOYCHUK:

And $I$ can refer you to the transcript pages, 27172, we might as well pull it up just as one example I think you said, and it's a question from

Mr. Hodson about:
"Q Did you ever express the view publicly or state in the media that you believed or alleged that there was a cover-up or a framing?"

And your answer is:
"A I don't think $I$ ever did, and I'm still not convinced of that to this day."

Correct?

A
That's right.
Okay, fair enough. Now -- but it's fair to say,
and I'm just, and if you think I'm unfairly
summarizing your evidence, please let me know, but
once you got into the process, you were
disappointed with the way the Federal Department of Justice was dealing with the application; is that fair to say?

A

Q

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Q

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Q

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Q

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Q
A
$Q$
you acknowledged really it's a free for all? It was a free for all.

I think you called it a circus too at one point in time?

It got to that point too.
Yeah, but $I$ want to focus a little bit on the time period before the application was made to the Supreme Court in December of 1988, and Mr. Wolch touched on it a little bit, he said although you were a junior in the office at the time, you had a fair bit of assistance from people like Mr. Wolch, experienced criminal defence counsel, but -- so I want to go back to that time. Before -- because there wasn't much in the way of dealings with the Federal Department of Justice in the period of time when the file came into the Wolch office in January of 1986.

That's right.
To the time the application was filed.
Right.
So I want to talk a little bit about what you were doing in that time period that might have, and how you could have done some things differently that may not have led to the war, if $I$ can be fair. One of the things you did, March of 1986 you
joined the firm as an articling student; right?

A
Q

A

Q

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Q
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Q

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Q Right. Mr. Wolch, the hook came out and you were involved in the file?

Right.
And so you are fully engaged by the Milgaards hoping to prove his innocence, but also primarily you said to get this application on and hopefully get him either a new trial or get him out of jail, that was the, that was what you were doing? Yes.

That was your primary focus?
Yes.
And as I look at it, there was about three full years that expired from the time that the file came into the Wolch office to the time that the application was filed; fair enough, almost exactly three years? I think it came in in mid January, ' 86.

That's right, that's right.
And you were getting advice from senior counsel. Did, for example, because we were dealing with a conviction, and $I$ understand from your evidence you were aware Mr. Tallis was the defence counsel for Mr. Milgaard at the trial, that previously

Mrs. Milgaard had hired Tony Merchant, for one, to do the same thing in '82, '83; correct?

A
$Q$
A
Q

But at some point you would have been aware that not only did Mr. Carlyle-Gordge conduct some interviews of people like Albert Cadrain, $I$ think, and Leonard Cadrain, but that he also had a tape of a lengthy interview that he had with the
prosecutor Mr. Caldwell; fair? You were aware of that sometime in the process?

A

Q
Yeah.
And that also that Mr . Caldwell had given to Mr . Carlyle-Gordge basically unfettered access to his prosecution file, you were aware of that sometime early in 1986?

Yes, yes.
And with this advice you were getting, did not one of the lawyers in your firm say, look, we're investigating, we're trying to find grounds to get Mr. Milgaard freed on this section 617 application, that it's a good idea maybe to talk, go back to the original defence counsel, see if we can get his file and speak to him about what happened at the trial and how the evidence was handled, did you get that suggestion from him?

A

Q
Right, but something new can be a new piece of evidence; correct?

A
2 There may have been that discussion. I just remember the overriding mantra was what's new, what's new, something new, something new, something new.

Yes.
It can be a recantation from an existing witness?

A Right.

Q

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Q
都 If that's in the file, that's in the file. That's in the file. I'll just pull that up. Because you had Mrs. Milgaard's material. Let's go to 162821 -- or 162821, yeah, please.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: The question was you would have seen that Merchant interviewed Tallis in January?

MR. BOYCHUK: Yeah, he would have.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Uh-huh.

BY MR. BOYCHUK:

Q

A

Q
$Q$

And $I$ don't want -- and $I$ don't know if you've ever seen this note before at all, Mr. Asper. I don't recall seeing it, no.

Okay. I can tell you that through the evidence that has been given before, this is Mr. Merchant's notes of his meeting with Mr. Tallis back on November 29, 1982, and I just want to run through it because $I$ think some of the information that's there would have been important. For example, he starts off of course questioning, and $I$ know that the notes won't be complete, but one of the issues they obviously talked about is, if you look right at the top here, the issue of whether David should testify at the trial; fair enough?

Right.
It looks like?
Right.
And one of the concerns you had, for example, with Mr. Tallis, is that he didn't call David Milgaard
at the trial?
I don't recall that being a concern -That wasn't an issue? -- of mine. Okay.

I don't recall that being a concern of mine. Okay. Another issue, and you can disagree with me, was the issue of where the notebook ended up, for example, that's discussed there too? Right.

And in terms of whether Mr. Milgaard got out of the car, that's discussed; right?

Right.
And that the testimony from Nichol John that Mr . Milgaard was away from the car, which is an issue that was a major issue for you people where you said Mr. Wilson and Miss John lied when they said that, --

Right.
-- Mr. Tallis here is saying that David confirmed that he was away from the car?

Right.
And then he confirmed that he changed his clothes at Mr. Cadrain's; right?

Yes.

Q
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$Q$

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Q

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Q
If we go to the next page, he also said, at the
top there regarding the testimony, and I think
you'll agree with me this refers to Mr. Melnyk and
Mr. Lapchuk, that Mr. Milgaard is admitting to
Mr. Tallis back -- or did in 1969, that yeah, it could have happened?

Could have happened, yes, could have happened.
But you always took the, you took the -- am f fair
to say with respect to Mr. Melnyk and Lapchuk, it
has been fairly consistent, you and Mr. Wolch in
particular have claimed that they lied and
continue to lie to this day?
Right.
Even though your client says it could have happened?

A
Okay, there's a distinction here between the
admissions of Melnyk and Lapchuk, and I'm not sure why this is so difficult, the admission that Melnyk and Lapchuk claim occurred versus what is either said there or what Debbie Hall describes. Okay.

All of which is different by the way. Melnyk and Lapchuk are inconsistent.

Fair enough, but actually you filed an affidavit of Bob Harris at the Supreme Court yourself? Right.

Out of your office?
Right.
His version is a little different and you brought that forward?

Right.
But he still said that Mr. Milgaard, his
recollection was that he climbed up on the pillow, made the stabbing motion and said words to "I killed her, $I$ stabbed her", to that effect?

Right.
$Q$
And I don't want to get off track here, my view has always been those are distinctions without a difference. I can see where you disagree with Mr.

Lapchuk and Mr. Melnyk on the interpretation they put on the incident.

A

Q

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Q

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Q
A

And the conduct, I mean, if someone has just admitted to committing a murder and reenacting it, it's a little unusual, $I$ would think, for them to continue to carry on.

Oh, fair enough, I have -- I'm not taking issue with the reasons that you say that their interpretation may be wrong. Right.

But do we have agreement, generally speaking, that what happened in that room, we've got Ute Frank's testimony, we've got Deborah Hall's testimony, another one of your witnesses, who in many ways, and $I$ don't want to repeat it here, what she said was maybe even stronger than what Mr. Melnyk said?

Let me -- I guess my problem with this is that before this evidence even arose, if you completely excise this evidence, $I$ would suggest that it was well within the capacity of the authorities to know that it was ludicrous for David to admit to committing the murder because he hadn't committed it, which makes this whole episode insane.

I don't want to get into --
David didn't, David Milgaard can't reenact --

Q -- what he -- Mr. Asper --
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Just a minute.
BY MR. BOYCHUK:

Q

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Q

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Q

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Q

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$Q$
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$Q$
A

Just back up. We're here today, we all know that David is innocent.

Right.
I'm not arguing for his guilt here, do not get me wrong.
okay.
Because my point is here, is that at some point, and you even said you got a little bit paranoid? Yes.

For example?
Yes.
And some of the things we're identifying here from
Mr. Merchant's note are things that you accused people of lying about through the years; fair enough?

I'm not sure which.
Well, let's talk about the compact.
Right.
Let's talk about --
Who did $I$ accuse of lying about that?
You --
You just said I lied, $I$ accused someone of lying.

Tell me who.
Q
Let's stop there.
Tell me who.
Let's go the Milgaard group then --
No, no, wait a minute.
-- accused people of lying.
Wait a minute, wait a minute. You accused me, you said that $I$ accused people of lying about the compact. Who? When? Where?

Nichol John and Ron Wilson.
Your concern --

And you're saying you never did make that accusation?

You are concerned that $I$ said that Wilson and John were wrong about the compact?

Yeah. I'll tell you what, I'll back up. Let's
say it was a position that the group took, that
these people lied about being apart from the car particularly, the compact being thrown out of the car; isn't that fair to say?

At varying times.
I think we've heard it?
I think that's fair to say, at varying times --
I'll tell you what, $I$ 'm doing the thing that happened before that you objected to.

MR. SOROCHAN: Mr. Commissioner, can we just have the witness and counsel talking one at a time? Who knows what the transcript is going to look like, but $I$ find it difficult to follow, and Mr. Asper is entitled to answer questions that are put to him without being talked over by counsel.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Well, he's being allowed to answer questions put to him so long as he's responsive to the question.

MR. SOROCHAN: Well, then you can rule they're not responsive, but --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Well, I'm trying to. I asked Mr. Asper to allow the questioner to repeat his question, to put him back on the line he wanted him to be on.

MR. SOROCHAN: With respect, Mr. Commissioner, a very pointed question was put to Mr. Asper, he started to answer it and then counsel started talking over him. He should be allowed to answer.

MR. BOYCHUK: If I did that, I apologize certainly, and to some extent $I$ have. I will say in response to Mr. Sorochan, there are a number of times where Mr. Asper has, I think, gone off
my question and I've let him answer because I think it's fair we want to get everything out here, $I$ want to hear your point of view, sir, okay.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: I think what precipitated this was Mr. Asper disputed your suggestion that he had accused Melnyk and Lapchuk of lying. Your counter to that was, well, if not you, the Milgaard group has done that in the past and then things kind of deteriorated.

So, Mr. Asper, is that your position, that you personally did never make, never made such an accusation?

No. Actually, Mr. Commissioner, I think we were focusing on the compact.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Well, we moved to the compact.

A

A Right.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: But one thing at a time.

I believe that Melnyk and Lapchuk either did not speak the truth or embellished what happened, that is my position. As for the compact, it may have been the case that $I$ said and had suggested that John and Wilson had lied about that and had not
spoken the truth about that, it may have been my position that there was no compact, I give you that.

BY MR. BOYCHUK:

Okay. And I apologize, in some instances I'm summarizing what the group did and I'll try to distinguish when I'm picking up what the group did and so you can understand that it might be an allegation made by Mrs. Milgaard or Mr. Henderson or Mr. Wolch as opposed to you personally. All right.

And the confusion results from the way $I$ drew the, asked the question. But would it be fair to say when you talked about things like the paranoia that set in, that it might have been helpful to you and that paranoia might have not set in in terms of, if you had got this information, say, from Mr. Tallis back in 1986? I'm not sure about that, I'm just not sure about that. We were dealing with a client who -- well, we were dealing with two different versions of a client; one, Mrs. Milgaard who, you know, had no faith in the system whatsoever, and we had another part of the client who was in prison saying I didn't do it and I'm innocent, get me out of here,
so I'm not sure that -- I'm not sure it would have been any different.

Well, and to move to a more concrete example of maybe some of the things that might not have happened that were unfortunate, and I'm sure Ms. Knox will be taking you up on this of course, is that you would have learned early on from Mr. Tallis that not only did he get the Ron Wilson statement, the first Ron Wilson statement, which you accused Mr. Caldwell of not providing, but that he also had all the other statements relatively early on in the prosecution from Mr. Caldwell; fair enough?

Well, I will accept responsibility, but I'm looking forward to talking about the other non-disclosure.

Oh, I appreciate that.
And I think as I've said, I think as I've explained, the newspaper -But let's just go back to my question. No, the newspaper report that you referred to which relates to the non-disclosure, as I say, I think is a good illustration of the risk of the media, because $I$ think my recollection was it conjoined two things and came out looking bad and

I don't think I intended it that way.
Well, I think --
It came out that way and I've accepted responsibility for it and I've apologized for it, but I don't think I intended it that way.

Well, I don't want to get into an argument about your intention, I think we can let the words in the newspaper article speak for themselves, but on that point, though, that takes me to another thing.

One of the things you did know
is of course that Mr. Carlyle-Gordge, a journalist
working with Mrs. Milgaard, got complete access to
the prosecution file, that's something you are
aware of early on?
A file. I'm not sure $I$ could say it was the complete prosecution file. He certainly had lots of access.

Okay. And that, for example, having that file in 1986 would have been of great assistance to you in the bringing of the application?

I'm not sure it would have.
Okay.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Is that your
feeling in retrospect or did you think that at
the time, sir?

No. At the time, as $I$ say, there was this mantra, something new, something new.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Uh-huh.

BY MR. BOYCHUK:

But, for example, some of the things you might have found were, and we don't have to go through, those items that you picked out that might have been helpful that weren't disclosed by Mr.

Caldwell, $I$ think inadvertently, which is
acknowledged, for example, the Merriman evidence,
the couple across the street; fair enough?

I don't know when $I$ learned about that, $I$ have a
feeling it might not have been until the Supreme

Court. I'm certain it wasn't until the Supreme

Court.
$Q$
Of course my point is that there's a possibility had, say, Mr. Wolch said, hey, they got access to the prosecution file, why don't we get access to it; fair enough?

Possibly, yes.
Okay. And the other thing is -- we're moving on to another area, Mr. Commissioner. Would you like
to take the noon break now?

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: We could.
(Adjourned at 11:56 a.m.)
(Reconvened at 1:32 p.m.)

BY MR. BOYCHUK:
Good afternoon, Mr. Commissioner and Mr. Asper. One of the things we left off
with, we had a bit of a discussion about the
compact, and if $I$ could ask you to -- and I guess
this is the unfortunate thing about having the
noon-hour break, lawyers can do some work. If you
can pull up document 301675 , please. There it is.
And $I$ understand that this is an affidavit that
you prepared, Mr. Asper, for Mr. Milgaard, and if
you look at the bottom of the page you can see
your name down there at the bottom?
A
Right.
And if we could go to -- and this was for use, I
think, in the Supreme Court reference that you --
that would -- that you made application for;
correct?
A
Q
A
$Q$
Umm, well it looked -- it was sworn in '86.
Right.
So that was long before the reference.
Long -- but wasn't it prepared in anticipation
that it would be filed with the reference, because
it says up top "an application" --

A

Q

A

Q

A

Q

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Q

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Q

A

With the application? Sorry, right.
Yeah.
Yeah, okay, I understand, yes.
Sorry, I asked the question poorly.
Right.
And if we could go to page 680 of that, please.
And I just wanted to, because we had a bit of a
discussion about the compact, if you could just
look at that paragraph 18 there. This is Mr.
Milgaard stating:
"That $I$ deny throwing a woman's compact out of the car in between Saskatoon and Rose Town or anywhere else."

That's, that appeared in the affidavit, correct?
Right.
And then just under that, paragraph 19, he further denies the -- he states:
"That $I$ deny ever re-enacting the crime in a hotel room in Regina in May, 1969 or anywhere else at any other time."

That's in the affidavit too?
Yes.
And if we could just go to the next page, 681, and
that's you, your signature there, --
Yes.

Q -- commissioning the affidavit? .

A
Q

Yes.
And I'm not raising this, because $I$ know this was 20 years ago, sir, and $I$-- just to bring and put on the record that there was a fairly express denial of the fact that the compact was thrown out the window, and $I$ certainly don't fault you for not remembering who or where it came from 20 years later.

The other thing that $I$ wanted to raise with you, though -- and this will be my last question, $I$ promise, on the re-enactment -- is
that we did discuss that, at times, Mr. Milgaard would deny it to you, or $I$ heard -- I should say it was something that came out in your earlier evidence with Mr. Hodson -- that sometimes he would say he couldn't deny it but that, if he did do it, it was a joke; that was basically his position?

Yes.
And am I fair to say that your position with respect to Mr. Melnyk is that, whatever the conduct was, it wasn't meant to be a re-enactment; fair enough?

I guess I could shave a little bit on what the
conduct was, but essentially yes, I think you've captured it.

Fair enough. And one thing $I$ did look at at noon hour was Mr. Melnyk's trial testimony. As I read the testimony, he was never asked how he characterized the conduct, he was just simply asked to describe the conduct; is that fair?

I think that's true, yes.
And in terms of Mr. Melnyk, we've heard evidence that in terms of how he got to the trial, they did not come forward to the police, they were put on -- they -- they were put on by Mr. Wilson, put the police on to Mr. Melnyk and Lapchuk?

I think that --
Were you aware of that?
Yes, I think that's true.
And that they were subpoenaed to testify at the trial?

Yes.
Fair enough. Now one of the things you said this morning was, and in your earlier testimony, is that you felt you had to find something new -Yes.
-- in order to bring the application forward to the Minister under Section 617, as it was?

A
$Q$

A
$Q$

A

Q

A

Q

A
$Q$
A
Q


And whatever other information that Mrs. Milgaard might have provided to you from the earlier lawyers' files and the interviews with Peter

Yes.

Carlyle-Gordge, for example?
Right.
Okay. And one of these things, this idea that you needed something new -- and I'll show you a document, if you can bring up 010143 . And this is, and $I$ appreciate this is not something you would -- you may have not seen, I don't know if you're familiar with this, do you recognize this? It's a letter from Mr. Merchant. I may have seen it. I don't recall it.

Yes. And in the second paragraph he's writing to David Milgaard in terms of what they need to do for him, and he says, and I quote:
"More than ever, I believe that unless we can persuade some witness to recant their story, then very little can be done. Obviously, the most crucial evidence came from Nichol John, from Wilson, and Codraine, and recanting from one of the other people would at least start us in the proper process."

Fair enough?
Yes.
And that was sort of an idea, in terms of new evidence, that you were thinking of pursuing; is
that fair?

A
Q

A

Q

A

Q
A
Q

A
Q

Well, that was not me writing that.
Okay. I --
But this, yes, that --
With the concept, I should say?
Yes.
Okay.
Yes.
And, similarly, there was a -- I'll put up a --
I'll ask you to put up 162433, please. And this
is a letter to Mr. Wolch from Peter
Carlyle-Gordge, $I$-- dated 28 April, 1986 , and $I$
-- were you familiar with this; do you remember
seeing this letter?
I probably did.
And I'd just pull up the one line, there, and he says:

> "The key to the case is to get one of the three young Crown witnesses -Cadrain, Wilson or Nicol John -- to talk and admit they were leaned on to change their testimony. Fifth Estate has been trying to do exactly that -- without success ..."

And that, was that something, that concept, that
you were thinking of pursuing in 1986 then?
Well I think I testified, and my recollection is that we discussed it, and $I$-- my recollection is that we came to the view that these people, because of what had happened since the trial and since -- with Mrs. Milgaard's interaction with them, and Mr. Merchant, that they may have been tainted or, you know, turned off from talking to us.

Okay.
That's my recollection.
And can you tell me what happened between 1986 and 1990 that made you change your mind with respect to those three witnesses?

Umm, well --
Or the group's mind, so to speak, as a strategy? Well $I$ guess we had gotten the Ferris and the Deborah Hall information, we hadn't received what we thought was the proper attention from the department, federal Department of Justice, and set out to do what we thought they should have done. Okay. And but in terms of the delay, $I$ know that's why in 1990 that you decided, I just want to make sure why you waited the four years before you went out and tried to contact these three
people to see what they would say now?
Well, look, I -- as I've also testified, I think
in 19 -- when we filed the original application in
1988 we -- I certainly thought that this would be almost step one for what would be a reinvestigation of the case.

Okay. In terms of that, though, how did you convey that expectation to the Department of Justice?

Well, as $I$ say, the first step we had to do was to try to open the door, which was, we thought, to provide something new, and if we could find something new then, you know, the discussion would occur as to what else needed to be looked at, and as I've said, it would be a collaborative process. That occurred, $I$ would say, mostly in, $I$ would think in telephone conversations with senior Justice officials.

And would you be involved in those, or would those be between Mr. Wolch, for example, and someone at Justice?

A
I may have been in some of those conversations, but primarily Mr. Wolch.

Okay, well, maybe I'll leave that area for Mr. Frayer. One of the things that you indicated,
though, is, in terms of not doing anything let's say from '86 to the time that the application is, that you thought, because of the contacts that Mrs. Milgaard had made, that the witnesses might have been tainted? I'm not sure what you meant by that, if you could --

Yes. Well I think you've also got to remember, I was away for a year during this period -Right.
-- and my recollection is the feeling was that Mrs. Milgaard's attempts to contact these witnesses and Mr. Carlyle-Gordge and Mr. Merchant and others, including media, may have scared them off, basically.

Right, but I think I -- I have a recollection that that was followed up with an unfortunate confrontation, $I$ think, with her and Mrs. Milgaard and --

Q

Okay. Well one of the things I will just bring to your attention is that Mrs. Milgaard is doing the question here and she asks the question to Nichol John specifically with respect to police conduct, and she says:
"Did the police ever suggest to you at
any time that well you know you were
there, you were involved with it, you
could, you know, you could be charged
with this ...", with this ...",
basically asking -- and $I$ won't put you through reading the whole thing -- but whether the police had done anything to plant the evidence in Ms. John's mind. And her answer is:
"My impression of my to to do with the police was that they treated me good, O.K.? That ah they no. I don't think they ever believed that $I$ had anything to do with it."

So would part of the reason you wouldn't be going to them is that at that time, at least with respect to the dealings with the police, Ms. John was taking the position that she was well
treated, or "treated me good", so to speak, that's what she says?

I don't recall that being the reason. It may have
been, but $I$ don't recall that being the reason.
You don't recall?

No, I -- no.
Okay. And, similarly, were you also aware that Mrs. Milgaard was successful in doing a -- in conducting an interview with Ron Wilson sometime in 1980-'81; were you aware of that?

Is that the one with the Kool-Aid?
Umm, could be.

A

Q

A

Q

A

Q

Yeah, there was one.

Could be. I think it is.

Yeah, $I$ became aware of it, but $I$ don't know when.

Okay. If we could have doc. ID 046761 . And this is the, it's not dated, but this is the transcript of conversation between Mrs. Milgaard and Mr. Wilson sometime in '88, and if we can go to 775, please. And just at the very bottom, again this -- Mrs. Milgaard puts to Mr. Wilson the idea that maybe the police had something to do with his testimony, and she says -- she questions him: "Did the police ever offer to, to uhm, make a deal with you if you co-operated?"

And Mr. Wilson's answer is:
"Nope."

Do you see that there?

And then at page 777, please. And again on the police, she says:
"Okay, now they never threatened you or told you what to say or anything like that?",
and Mr. Wilson answers:
"Nope."

Right.
Okay. And in terms of that, again, is that maybe a reason why you didn't think it would be worthwhile following up with either Wilson or Nichol John in '86, or you just don't recall? I don't recall. I don't know why we didn't. Okay. And likewise with Mr. Cadrain, I won't go through the transcript, there's a -- there's transcripts with Mr. Peter Carlyle-Gordge, he did talk to Mr. Cadrain. Whatever else Mr. Cadrain was saying, he was standing firm by his, his statement that he saw blood on David Milgaard's pants?

Right.
And you were aware of that too?
Right.
And --
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: And do you have the doc. number, just for --

MR. BOYCHUK: Actually, I don't, I just pulled it out of my binder.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: All right.
MR. BOYCHUK: Isn't there a tape between
Mr. Peter Carlyle-Gordge and Shorty Cadrain?
MR. HODSON: Yeah, there is, $I$ will obtain
that and provide it to you.
MS. KNOX: I can actually provide it, if it helps.

MR. HODSON: 048447 is the conversation between Albert Cadrain and Peter Carlyle-Gordge and unknown male at Dalmeny.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: And he is
suggesting this as an example where the subject of mistreatment was -- arose, or simply that he stuck to his story about blood?

MR. BOYCHUK: Well Mr. -- I specifically said, with Mr. Cadrain, he had issues with the police treatment but there was never -- it was never his position, and it wasn't in his statement, that the statement that he saw blood on David Milgaard came as a result of any police conduct.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: All right. Thank you.

MR. BOYCHUK: That's the point.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Uh-huh.
BY MR. BOYCHUK:
Q
And at least in 1990 though, Mr. Milgaard -- or Mr. Asper, you will agree that the thought was to go and re-interview those three witnesses; fair
enough?

A
Q

A

Q

A

Q
A
Q

A

Yes.
And that with the specific intent of trying to get them to recant their evidence?

I don't know that we were trying to -- we wanted them to recant, certainly.

Okay. And part of that strategy, if $I$ might call it that, was to offer them a reason for recanting, which was that somehow the police had either coerced or threatened them or planted the evidence with them; isn't that fair to say?

Yes. The enormity of the recantation, we felt, might require an exit --

And --
-- an exit strategy for each individual.
And I don't, I don't intend to walk through those transcript portions of the discussions that you had with Mrs. Milgaard and Mr. Henderson again on that, but clearly part of the strategy also, I think we saw from your earlier evidence and from the transcripts, was to -- for $M r$. Henderson to go out there, tell these people that the -- that Mr. Fisher was the murderer and was or is likely to confess in the near future; fair enough? I think that's what we talked about, yes.

Q

A

Q

A
$Q$

A
Q

A
Q

A
$Q$

Right, and that if they did so, that they would be facing problems possibly with perjury charges and things like that?

I think that's what we said, yes.
Yeah, and that's -- and essentially, I don't want to walk through the -- I could -- that's
essentially the approach that Mr. Henderson took, I think we saw from --

Yes, it was.
Okay. And with respect to Mr. Cadrain, we'll go back to Mr. Cadrain, of the three witnesses, Wilson, John and Cadrain, John was not prepared to talk to Mr. Henderson; is that -- that's correct? That's correct.

So you didn't get any information or recantation from Nichol John?

Correct.
And in terms of Ms. John, whether it was -- we've heard from her at this Inquiry and, consistent with her statement to Mrs. Milgaard back in 1980-'81, she still maintains that the police treated her fairly well; did you read that or see that?

I haven't read her evidence at the Inquiry, no. Okay. You haven't heard otherwise, it's fair to
say?
No.
And with respect to Mr. Wilson -- or Mr. Cadrain, rather, Mr. Cadrain, oddly enough, was the one that, in a sense, did think that he had been treated poorly by the police?

Right.
The difficulty with Mr. Cadrain though, I guess from your point of view, is that regardless of his view of how the police treated him he always maintained that he saw blood on Mr. Milgaard's pants?

Right.
And that that was information, those were statements he made before he got to the Saskatoon Police Service, --

Right, sorry.
-- to his family and --
Yes, correct.
And just running through it, again $I$ think $I$ may have touched on this this morning, but part of the reason that the police were close questioning Mr. Cadrain was because he was implicating your client; fair enough?

Correct.

Q

A
Q

A

Q

A
Q

A
Q
$\square$
Ye
. And if we can go to page 605, please -- or I'm sorry, 606, sorry. And I'm just focusing on the bottom half there, you can see Mr. Henderson is consistent with the approach that we just discussed, was setting out for Mr. Cadrain the idea that Mr. -- there is a strong case for Mr. Fisher's guilt and that, you will agree with me, that a confession would be coming, fair enough? A summary of the paragraph rather than my reading it.

Mr. Henderson, he is telling you what happened. He says:

> "After spending a lot of time with both brothers, I would have to agree with Dennis that Albert is not likely to see the situation any other way - even in the face of a confession from the real killer. For Albert to recant his testimony would be for Albert to lie." Fair enough? That's what --

That's correct.
-- Mr. Henderson reported back to you?
That's correct.
Now when you got this information from Mr.
Henderson, and you also got a statement from Mr.
Cadrain -- and $I$ apologize, $I$ just don't have it handy, Doug, if you could get that number? Sorry.

MR. HODSON: The statement?
MR. BOYCHUK: The statement of Albert
Cadrain.
A
To Henderson, aren't you referring?
MR. BOYCHUK: To Paul Henderson, I think it's 24 June.

MR. GIBSON: It's 000229 .

BY MR. BOYCHUK:
$Q$

A
$Q$

A

Q

A
Q

And I don't need to go through the statement, I don't believe. What I'm interested in is how you dealt with the statement in the context of the 690 process now, and would $I$ be fair to say that where the statement went first was to the media, through Mr. Lett?

I think that's --
Or about the same time?
I think contemporaneously, yes.
Yeah. And if $I$ could have you pull up 039118?
And $I$ think you've seen this, this is an article in the Winnipeg Free Press written by Dan Lett on 26 June, 1990, and I note, I keep in mind what you told us about headlines and who chooses them, although the word "tortured" was used, but it was a word that Mr. Cadrain used; correct?

Right.
And $I$ think we've heard a fair bit of evidence that you had a fairly, $I$ won't say unique, but a relationship with Mr. Lett in terms of he was somebody that you were somewhat, say, preferentially feeding information to on the file as compared to other media outlets; that was the,
at least --


A
$Q$

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A
$Q$

A

Q
A
$Q$

A

Q
$Q$
primarily providing him with that background? Which background?

You know, in terms of what your view was arising out of Mr. Cadrain's statement that he was mistreated by the police?

You know, the only, the only thing $I$ recall specifically coming out of this was the visions. Was what?

Was the visions.
Okay.
I'm not sure that there was any background because
Dan Lett, you have to remember, knew the
transcripts almost better than the rest of us,
knew the -- knew what the witness had said.
But in any event, from your point of view, the slant of the article would be positive?

Umm, yes, I think so. Yes, that's fair to say. Okay. So we've been through, out of the three witnesses you didn't get a recantation from Nichol John; you didn't get a recantation from Mr. Cadrain, but you got some sort of allegation with respect to the police; with respect to Mr. Wilson, though, you did get a statement, Mr. Henderson was able to obtain a statement of 4 June, 1990, I believe. And I apologize again, I removed some of
these documents from my binder, Mr. Commissioner, and maybe someone could get it.

MR. HODSON: The Wilson statement?
MR. BOYCHUK: Yeah.

MR. HODSON: June 4.
MR. BOYCHUK: Yeah. Do you have the number?

MR. HODSON: No. I'll get it.
BY MR. BOYCHUK:
$Q$
And what $I$ want to do is, then, follow Mr.
Wilson's progress after that point. And we spent the last day, two days listening to Drs. Boyd and Rossmo?

Yes.
Q
And you are familiar with those two gentlemen?
A
Yes.
And they are both criminologists?
A

Q
And at the time Dr. Boyd was a, I think he was
teaching in British Columbia, he was a professor, and Mr. Rossmo, or now Dr. Rossmo, was a Ph.D. candidate of Dr. Boyd's; correct?

Correct.
And can $I$ ask you, I'm not sure, were you
approached by Dr. Boyd and Mr. Rossmo or did you
approach them to do their study of the Milgaard case?

A
$Q$

A
Q
A
Q

A

Q

A
$Q$

My recollection is they approached us.
Okay. But in any event you, in a sense, welcomed their set of professional eyes to take a look at the evidence that you had gathered?

Yes.
Fair enough?
Yes.
And whatever other evidence was out there that dealt with the trial and conviction of Mr. Milgaard?

Correct.
And that the hope is that would assist you in your 690 application with the minister?

Yes.
And I think, I don't know that there's much controversy here, but $I$ think a lot of the material that they relied on in preparing the report eventually, that we heard so much about over the last couple of days, came through your office?

I believe that's true, yes.
And of course they did their own research in terms of conducting interviews of people; fair enough?

A Yes.
And one of the people that they did interview was Ron Wilson?

I don't recall that, but yes.
Okay. But you recall reviewing the report, it was something that you were putting forward in the Supreme Court application?

Yes.
And in terms of Mr. Wilson, there was a transcript generated of his interview which took place on 7 October, 1991, and that's at document number 154640, if I could have that pulled up, please, and that's a transcript of the interview $I$ was referring you to, and if you could go page 660, please, and the part of the transcript $I$ want to draw your attention to is right here, and I'm just, $I$ 'm sorry if $I$ forgot your answer, did you see this transcript as part of the report or do you think you might have?

I haven't seen that report since it was published, so $I$ don't know.

So 15 years, so you don't know whether you got this particular --

That's correct, I don't remember.
-- transcript or not. Now, the question that NB,
whom I'm assuming is Neil Boyd, puts to Mr. Wilson:
"How do you feel about how the police dealt with you before the trial? Ed Karst, for example."

And Mr. Wilson's response is:
"I was talking to Ken earlier today.
They all treated me nice. What I tried to get across to Williams, which I never could, was that, like when you are watching TV ...you've got this bad cop that wants to beat this out of you and stuff...it doesn't happen that way.

Like I had... later on in my dealings, bad cops. But these guys were nice. I think, now that $I$ look back on it... being nice gets them further ahead than being nasty to you."

Do you recall at least getting that information from Drs. Boyd and Rossmo back then, that --

I didn't say I remember, but I obviously got the information.

Q
And the follow-up question from Dr. Boyd is:
"So there wasn't anything about the way
in which they conducted the questioning
that..."
And Wilson answers:
"I mean, they were questioning me like I was a suspect also and that part always scared me."

That's what Mr. Wilson said?

Right. But that being scared is a lot different, a young person in the presence of police often will be nervous or scared, but that's a lot different than being threatened, coerced or having evidence planted; do you agree with me, or do you
say there's not much distinction there?
Well, $I$ think there's, $I$ think if you look back at Mr. Karst's cross-examination, it wasn't simply a young person in the presence of police officers, there was a long list of factors that doesn't necessarily include yelling and typical TV style interrogation techniques, but I'll accept what you are saying.

Right. For example, in terms of the interviews, other than the other police officers, you have Mr. Wilson there, you have Mr. Karst there, fair enough, you don't know what went on during the interrogation?

That's correct.
And just following up on that, if $I$ could have transcript page 7211, and $I$ just want to -- again, we're -- and $I$ won't take you all the way through his Inquiry testimony, suffice it to say $I$ think $I$ fairly summarize it by saying he didn't think he was mistreated by police in any way, but I'll just highlight a couple of these, there's a question here, this is Mr. Hodson doing the examination, or Mr. Fox, sorry, and he says:
"Q Okay. Having said that, as I understand it, you felt as though you were treated

He answers:
"A Yes."

And then if you could just shrink back to the page there, and he asks him specifically with respect to being afraid, he says, the question is:
"Q You weren't scared of Mr. Karst or Officer Short?"

And the answer is:
"A No.
Q And I take it as well, from your recollection, Officers Karst and Short didn't mistreat you in any way?

A No.

Q There were no threats?

A No.

Q They didn't put any words in your mouth?

A No."

That's the exchange that took place at this Inquiry.

A
Well, I'm afraid -- I accept that's what Mr. Wilson said. I'm afraid at this point $I$ don't really accept anything Mr. Wilson says about anything.

Q
A
$Q$

A

Q
A
$Q$

Okay, fair enough, but in terms of --
Whether it's good or bad, for whoever, whatever side.

But would you agree with me now, given what Mr. Wilson has said, both to Drs. Boyd and Rossmo, who are an independent set of eyes, they are not police officers -- for example, Mr. Hodson in the course of this Inquiry -- that, for example, there's strong evidence here that Mr. Karst wasn't involved in any way in improperly getting information out of Mr. Wilson.

In terms of his physical interrogation, I think that's correct.

Okay.
I think that's correct, you know. I've said to you, you and $I$ could probably debate a long time about the nature, the information that was obtained and its context in the rest of the investigation maybe another day. Fair enough. And the one thing I do, we did spend a fair bit of time looking at the report of Drs. Boyd and Rossmo, is the conclusion they came to themselves, that Mr. Wilson was not mistreated by police or that evidence was coerced out of him or that there was any, there wasn't any police
misconduct in terms of obtaining Mr. Wilson's evidence?

A
Well, $I$ just -- again, $I$ take the position that if you've got --

I'm going to give you a chance --
I'm answering.
I'm going to give you a chance, but in terms of the report itself, you recognized that was their conclusion; fair enough?

I understand that was their conclusion, but my own view is, and you've asked me, is you've got kids who say nothing happened, that's where it starts, and you wind up with kids who inculpate David, and we know that that's false now because he didn't commit the murder, so something happened along the way. I accept, and I've read more than I thought I could ever read from this Inquiry, that -- and again, I've had the benefit of actually learning from Ms. Knox in her own inquiry about this notion of being a consumer of information, whether you are a prosecutor or a police officer, and I accept that Wilson may feel that he wasn't brought along, but he changed his story, he conformed his story, he became aware of information that only somebody who had been provided with information could know,
and that implicated and supported a theory that David Milgaard committed the murder. I don't know how that happened, but it did, and as I've said to you, I'm not going to advocate one way or the other as to what happened to make that occur. Okay. And I don't want to duel with you either because $I$ certainly take issue with the argument that he conformed his story, for example, and I'll just give you a quick example, and you are familiar with it because you referred to it in your own evidence about what Mr. Tallis said and how he had been walked through. This is what Mr. Wilson said in the first get-go, no mention of the break-in for example, no mention of the compact, no mention of being apart, those kinds of things weren't in the first statement; fair enough? I think that's true, yes.

And that evidence came out later through questioning, and some of that evidence, by your client's own admission, was accurate; fair enough?

It would appear to be, yes.
Okay. And then, for example, and I'll just give you an example because we heard, we had the benefit of hearing Mr. Milgaard on Monday afternoon and one of the things he said that $I$
found surprising that made me sit up was he said that when he was at the Danchuks', he has a recollection of looking, asking her for a bandage and, for example, the immediate thing that popped into my head is that might be an innocent explanation as to Mr. Cadrain and Mr. Wilson testifying that they saw blood on Mr. Milgaard. Do you follow?

I can't believe we're still getting new facts in this case.

Yeah.

Stop it, stop it.

Fair enough, but I'm saying in some of these cases there might be an innocent explanation, that might be one of them?

There's no question.

Fair enough. But can $I$ honestly summarize your evidence, going back now, the statements you said the other day, that really all you can say is that you have some inkling or suspicion that there might be some sort of wrongdoing but you can't say definitively that there's any hard evidence for; is that fair?

That's true.

Okay. And one of the things I wanted to close on,
and, for example, another example, there's a couple of things $I$ touched on that were significant events, for example, what happened in the Supreme Court, Mr. Wilson's statement to Mr. Boyd, or Drs. Boyd and Rossmo, things that you don't have a recall of some 20 years later; fair enough?

Right.
And so can you accept that a one-time interview for Detective Karst on a file he wasn't involved in, that he may have honestly not remembered meeting Mr. Fisher in Winnipeg in 1970 ?

I accept that.
Okay. And I'm not going to ask you -- I'm going to ask you, in terms of Mr. Karst, I talked about how the allegations against him started coming out in the media about the time that the Cadrain, Wilson statements, that he might have been involved in a frame-up in terms of coercing evidence came up?

Right.
From the Milgaard group?
Right.
Not necessarily yourself. Also, the allegation of a cover-up; fair enough? One of the things I
thought that you said was quite fair was to Mr. Wilson, that at the end of the day the Commissioner is here to determine these issues. For example, if Mr. -- if the finding is that Mr. Karst wasn't involved in a cover-up or a frame-up, and that's his finding, would you say that you would apologize to Mr. Karst for those kinds of allegations that were made against him?

I find it difficult that the people who get David Milgaard out of prison are the ones apologizing here, I find it very bizarre, I find that very strange.

I'll tell you what --
Let me ask you a question, has Mr. Karst -I get to ask the questions.

No, you raise questions.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Just a minute, both of you, please.

BY MR. BOYCHUK:

Q
But I'm only asking you to give --
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Mr. Boychuk, it is obvious from this uproar that the witness isn't about to apologize to anybody. Leave it at that. MR. BOYCHUK: Okay.

A
No, Mr. Commissioner, that's not fair, because I
have said all along, to the extent that things happened during the course of getting David out of prison through the course of this application, to the extent that things were said and done that were incorrect and that $I$ did on my part --

MR. BOYCHUK: Fair enough.
-- and that were wrong, I apologize for it.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: I realize that, sir. I'm was thinking about Karst. I shouldn't have said anything.

A

A
And to the extent that applies to Mr. Karst, I apologize.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: All right.
I just find it bizarre that we're the ones doing the apologizing.

BY MR. BOYCHUK:
Q
Well, $I$ will say, that's all $I$ wanted from you, sir, and $I$ want to say to you that there is, from my client's point of view, in terms of asking him or looking at his conduct, he has no problem in terms of looking at the conduct and pointing out if you have fair criticisms or a mistake, the exception was that he may have somehow been dishonest in the doing of his job, that's all, Mr. Asper. Do you understand?

A
Well, that's not my understanding of what your client has said.

MR. BOYCHUK: Fair enough. Anyway, thank you, Mr. Asper, I appreciate your time.

## BY MR. LORAN:

Good afternoon, Mr. Asper.
Good afternoon.
Pat Loran on behalf of the Saskatoon Police Service. I'm going to be asking you some questions today about a number of things, including the evidence that led to David Milgaard's conviction in 1970 for a crime he did not commit.

I want to be clear from the outset that we're of the position that it's a tragedy any time somebody spends 23 years in prison for a crime they didn't commit. I think that the police, prosecutors, Provincial and Federal Departments of Justice would all agree with that. One of the reasons we're here today, however, is that you've taken the position what happened to David Milgaard was something more than a failure of the justice system and it's that individual actors from police, prosecutors or Provincial or Federal Departments of Justice
engaged in wrongdoing either individually or in concert and those are some of the issues $I$ want to address.

I think you answered this earlier in Mr. Boychuk's, he probably asked the question more eloquently than $I$ can, but perhaps I'll ask for a confirmation. Do you believe it's possible for our legal system to convict an innocent man without individual wrongdoing on the part of either police or the Crown?

A
$Q$

My position is that from reading as much of the evidence as I've been able to read, the Saskatoon

Police Department undertook a good faith
investigation into the murder of Gail Miller that led them down a possible two paths; one was the rapist that had been working in the area, and the other, according to the information, fell into their lap in the form of Albert Cadrain. I don't know a lot about what happened on the Larry Fisher side of the investigation, but what $I$ have gleaned was that on the David Milgaard side of the investigation a whole number of officers were involved. It appears to me that not all officers were always informed as to what other officers were doing and that a wealth of information, and $I$ think Mr. Karst even said that there wasn't sort of a reader, somebody quarterbacking all of the police information as it was coming in, a wealth of all this information at some point landed at some, let's call it a choke point, either at Mr . Caldwell's desk or someone's desk before then, and that that's where, in my view, it broke down, that nobody was able to distill and look at the entirety of the information to evaluate, for example, Merriman versus Nichol John saying a car was stuck where Merriman was looking, so that $I$ don't know where the breakdown occurred, but $I$ do
say that up until the point that that breakdown occurred, it was a regular, normal, good-faith investigation and $I$ have no doubt that the Saskatoon police wanted to get the right person. Thank you for that. You talked about a breakdown. Is it possible for a breakdown to occur, in other words, the right result, the right conclusion doesn't come out of it, is it possible for that breakdown to occur without anybody intending to have the breakdown occur?

A
Is that what you are saying?
Yes.
Thanks. I'm going to ask to have document number 000263 pulled up, please. This is the report the Saskatchewan Police Commission prepared, I guess we'll have to go to the next page, it was -- we don't have a date on it here until I suppose the end of the document, but it was prepared in response to allegations that there was some wrongdoing in terms of police files relating to Larry Fisher that couldn't be found by the Saskatoon police. Are you familiar with this report?

A Yes.

Q

A
$Q$

A

Q
A

Okay. The question $I$ have for you is are you aware of any new facts which were not made available to our Chief Justice at the time he prepared this report?

No.
Do you know what prompted the preparation of this report?

Well, as I've said, I felt pretty confident that I would not -- I mean, I think what prompted the report was a comment or a report that $I$ may have responded to in The Globe and Mail, I can't remember what the sequence was, sort of raising the alarm bell that these files had gone missing. I feel very confident that $I$ would not have done that unless somebody that $I$ had been dealing with told me that, but that's what prompted it as far as I know.

Okay. And it's fair to say that at that time you were engaged in your, as you've termed it, war of liberation?

A Yes.

Okay.
And $I$ would say in a hair-trigger state of mind and chasing down Mr. Fisher's information and very nervous.

And this report, is it fair to say that it resulted from allegations which originated from you or your office or generally?

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$Q$
And even Mr. Breckenridge would be satisfied because it's not an NDP government. Now, would you agree that the allegations which prompted it are that police coerced witnesses, police hid evidence, Crown prosecutors failed to make disclosure and that a number of parties, including police, Crown, Roy Romanow, all knew that Larry

Fisher was the guy who really committed the Gail Miller murder?

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$Q$

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$Q$
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$Q$
It
David's been out of prison for over 10 years now and the DNA evidence has conclusively established his innocence?

A
$Q$
I think that's the general pattern, yes.
Now, you indicated you were engaged in a war of
liberation?

Yes.
Is it fair to say that to some extent during that period of time, from 1986 through to about '92, it became your raison d'être?

Personally?
Yes.
No. I think that it became a single focus for me I think sometime in about 1991, I had to stop the rest of my practice. Until then $I$ was trying to build my own practice and $I$ was trying to make a living.

Maybe then raison d'être is putting it a little too high. Would it be a very important issue for you at the time?

It was extremely important to me, yes.

Yes.
I think you probably recognize that a number of
the parties who have standing here take exception with some of the tactics you employed in that war of liberation. Would you say that that's accurate?

A
The media tactic?
The means -- yeah. You wouldn't be adopting those
tactics any longer?

Vis-a-vis this case or a different case?
Yeah, vis-a-vis this matter now that David is out. No.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Why would he need to now that David is out? I don't understand the question.

MR. LORAN: That's the point, My Lord. COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: It is?

MR. LORAN: Now, aside from -- sorry, that's the point $I$ was trying to make, My Lord. COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: The point that
interests me, though, is whether his view of the propriety of adopting such tactics has changed. Would you do the same thing in similar circumstances?

I might do things a little differently, but if $I$ was faced with the same facts, the same process? COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Uh-huh.

Yes, I would do it over again. I might do some things differently, but essentially $I$ would not -I would not do it differently.

BY MR. LORAN:
Okay. What sort of things would you do a little differently?

A
Oh, it's clear, I would be much tighter with the flow of information, much crisper. Probably instead of sort of ad hoc, off-the-cuff commentary that was going on, $I$ would probably use more issuing of statements and controlled messaging. For example, not making yourself available for interviews, but issuing a release, something like that; is that what you are saying?

Anything else?
In terms of the entire application process? I'm not sure what you are asking. What would I do
differently in terms of the whole application?
I guess I'm responding to your comment that there are some things you would do differently and I'm just wondering what those things are.

Oh. Well, I do have some recent experience and I think that some of the issues that have been raised in terms of the communication with previous counsel; in other words, look, I think what I would have done, what $I$ would do differently is to have come to the Department of Justice with substantially more than we did and $I$ think we've made reference to a lot of it today.

Okay.
Now, if we were met with the same reaction from the Department of Justice, I don't think my tactics would change. Execution of the tactics might be different, but $I$ think the duty of counsel, the duty of a lawyer, if you've got someone you think is innocent, calls for action. Is there anything else that you'd add to that list of things you would do differently, tighter information, control, maybe approaching Justice; anything else to add to the list?

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Well I thought his answer related to the content of the application
and not approaches to Justice officials?
MR. LORAN: Oh, sorry, yeah.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Is that true?

A

BY MR. LORAN:
Q

A
Yes.

Commissioner.

I think that's true, I've misstated it, Mr.

I, well, I'm not sure other things that we would
have done differently were feasible. I mean,
obviously we would have loved to have had the
resources to retain professional investigators
from the get-go, there's another example. We
would have preferred to --

Have a wealthier client; is that the suggestion?

Well, that's -- but that's the problem with
wrongful conviction cases is you don't get that.
Yeah. Yeah. My last question on this issue, referring back to document 066949, aside from the DNA evidence which conclusively links Larry Fisher to the Gail Miller murder are you aware of any new
evidence which was not available to the RCMP at
the time they prepared this report?

I don't think so.

The next issue $I$ have is with regard to Albert
Cadrain, and Mr. Boychuk has covered a lot of this
so $I$ think we can move through it fairly quickly, I think it was your evidence that you thought the police did have a duty to follow up on the Albert Cadrain statement. When he showed up in March of 19 -- March 2nd, I think it was, of 1969 , and said "my friend David Milgaard showed up at my home on the morning of the murder, shortly after the murder occurred, and he had blood on his pants and his shirt", the police had an obligation to check into his statement to determine whether it was credible or not?

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$Q$

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Q -
persistent in their questioning, it in fact operated to the benefit of the accused in this case, didn't it?

A
It did to the extent that, you know, the police officers followed it up. But I guess my, and I may misstate the evidence, and if $I$ do chop me off, but my understanding is that through the process of questioning the police officers themselves started to wonder about Cadrain, and I'm not sure that that later appeared in their assessment of the case, and certainly not -- it wasn't something that, other than cross-examining on the statement, that Mr. Tallis was able to avail himself of. Now $I$ may be wrong, that may have come later, so --

Okay. So, but the question is doesn't it operate to the benefit of the accused if the police are appropriately skeptical about inculpatory evidence and --

Yes.
-- question the witness to make sure that that evidence is reliable?

I think Mr. Boychuk covered this but I'll just ask the question. In terms of Albert Cadrain's
evidence specifically, you can't say that the Saskatoon Police did anything improper to make him change his evidence because it never changed, would that be fair?

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$Q$

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$Q$
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I think that's fair, yes.
This morning, Mr. Asper, in your examination by Mr. Wolch you referred to a document, or $I$ think it was one document that was not disclosed at the Supreme Court reference, which was prepared by the RCMP ?

Correct.

Can you tell us what document that is? I --
Yes, $I$ can.
Okay.
I believe it's 065399.
Okay. Can I ask to have that called up. And I don't think we saw the document this morning, did we?

I don't think so.
And where is the reference to Larry Fisher in this document that you --

Well if you --
-- were talking about?
Well if you looked at paragraph 10, --
Okay.

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$Q$

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$Q$

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Q

I think if we -- actually I'm gonna, just by way of explanation I'm going to ask to call up another document for a moment, 250609 . And $I$ guess we'll have to turn to page 2 of this document. If we
Well it says in the first paragraph that Chief Kettles requested assistance. Oh, maybe it was -maybe that led to the meeting with Woods and Edmondson and Rasmussen.
Umm, chief of the Saskatoon Police?

- If we
look at paragraph 1 it appears that there was a request from Saskatoon City Police to get help from the RCMP; can you agree with that?

A
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A

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A
$Q$
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$Q$

A
$Q$

A
$Q$

A
Right.

And that $I$ believe the date, $I$ believe the date on this document was -- I thought this was a March document, it says May 21 st, but --

And it's stamped May 27 I think.
All right.
The document $I$ referred you to, sir, is the March document, --

I see.
-- it's March 28th, it's received March 28th, dated March $20 t h$.

Right, all right. Well let's go back, then, to 065399 . Now $I$ think in paragraph 1, if you review that, it suggests that the chief contacted the RCMP and asked for assistance?

Right.
And that this summarizes, the balance of the report summarizes the results of the investigation to that point?

I think so.
Would that be fair analysis?
I think that's fair.

And, at that point, there were no suspects?
That's what paragraph 3 says, yes.
Yeah, all right. Now I'd like to turn to 250609 , then.

I guess you have to interpret paragraph 10 as not being a suspect, but $I$-- they have clearly looked at the rapist who was operating in the area, they're just not far enough along it seems.

Yeah.
And $I$ don't know at what point you become a suspect or not, but they were certainly thinking about it.

And at paragraph 2 of this document it would appear that -- I'm not sure of his rank, Inspector Riddell perhaps --

Yes.
-- is indicating that the RCMP will be withdrawing from further support in terms of the investigation; is that fair?

Yes.
And if we go over to the next page it looks like paragraphs 5 and 6 summarize the results of the meeting that the RCMP held together with Saskatoon City Police; would you say that's fair? I'm not sure which meeting we're referring to, but
it looks like they're writing it in first person, so they --

All right. I guess perhaps we should go back to the previous page.

See, paragraph 4 describes that they come to the conclusion that Milgaard is the prime suspect.

Okay. Let's look at paragraph 3 of 610. It would
appear that there was a meeting on May 16 th?
Right.
Would you agree with that?
Right.
Okay. And that it would appear it was a joint meeting, RCMP and Saskatoon City Police, -Right.
-- does that seem reasonable? And then, if we go over to paragraphs 5 and 6 on the following page, it looks like David Milgaard's on the radar screen at this point and they're following him up as the prime suspect in this investigation; would you agree with that?

Yes.
And it looks like the Saskatoon City Police are going to follow up by questioning Ronald Wilson and Nichol John further?

A
Correct.

And there's already a plan in place to bring in a polygraph expert?

A

Q

A

Q

A
Q
Okay. I'll come back to this perhaps a little bit later in terms of some evidence from the, one of the other documents with regard to what apparently took place at that meeting.

I want to refer your attention now to document number 006799 . This is a document consisting of five pages, the first four pages are all numbered; and have you seen this document, are you familiar with it?

A
Q

Yes. I mean it's -- well I -- it's not necessarily based on the evidence, there's -there's hypothesis in here.

Absolutely. It's theorizing?

Okay. Now would you characterize this page as theorizing, putting together potential scenarios which would explain all of the evidence that's been collected to date?

A
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$Q$


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$Q$

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Q
"All were out of funds and may have gone driving with a view to getting money." Well part of that:
"All were out of funds ...",
is based upon the statements that they have taken
Yes it is.
The following line, again speculation, fair enough?
"On his travels he seems to have no problem finding any particular address to obtain drugs or other things he wants."; that's editorialization?
already; would you agree with that?
I think so, yes.
Yeah:
"... may have gone driving with a view
to getting money.",
that's speculation at that point because they don't know, at that point $I$ don't think they had got the statements yet that they had considered trying to steal a purse or anything like that? Yes.

Would you agree?
Yes, yes.
Okay.
It relates to the next one.
Yeah. So, again, that's speculation:
"On seeing ... (Miller) she was
approached on pretence of getting directions with a view to stealing her purse."

Yes.
And in fact that's not blind speculation, is it?
By that point they already knew, there was evidence which had been collected, including Gail Miller's wallet and a couple of cards which were found somewhere between where her body was found
and the Cadrain household?
A
$Q$
A

Q
A
And at this point the police officers -- and this is what $I$ said to you before about left hand and right hand. I'm not, and what $I$ am going to say to you is not accusatory in any way, but while this hypothesis is being constructed you know full well that there is a raft of other information that's been obtained from the neighbourhood where they're about to put Milgaard that would, or should, guide their hypothesis and their theory, and it apparently didn't. I mean this is my concern.

I mean you can take me through this point by point, and $I$ agree it's all theory, some of it is based on the evidence, but it exists independent of everything else that the police had is my concern.

I guess $I$ won't debate the issue with you. I'm gonna ask to call up
document number 066949 at 066958 . It reads:
"The RCMP investigation indicates this summary ...",
and $I$ believe they are referring to the document that we were looking at a moment ago:
"... was prepared during a meeting of the investigators, and a member of the RCMP, after Cadrain had made his statements to police. This summary appears to be an attempt to put together all of the known information from the investigation and a theory of how the murder occurred."

Would you agree that the first four pages represent a summary of information collected to date, and the fifth appears to include a theory of how the murder occurred?

A

Q
A
Q Okay. And that -- I'm going to ask to scroll down, perhaps over to the next page, I'm gonna read to you a conclusion:
"It is more an indication of good police work than it is coercion of witnesses." I take it that $I$ am not gonna get you to agree with that?

A

Q
A

Q
,

A
$Q$

What, you are getting me to agree with what, that,
that the statements obtained on the basis of the Mackie summary --

Well, wait a minute, no, no.
What is the question?
I think that this -- this is a conclusion drawn in
this report saying that the Mackie summary, I believe, is:
"... more an indication of good police work than it is coercion of witnesses."

I --
Will you agree with that?
No. No.
Okay.
MR. SOROCHAN: Mr. Commissioner, Mr. Asper, both with the last questioner and this one, has said on several times that he has reference he wants to make to matters that were not put but included in documents, and people keep saying they're gonna come back to him on it and then they don't, and this report is being put to the
witness as -- to ask if he agrees that it's -with the conclusion in it. Just before that he had said, well, he had some concerns about things that were left out of the summary. It's implicit in the RCMP report that they think it's an accurate summary.

I submit that, to fully answer
the questions, Mr. Asper should be permitted to do what he was promised to be allowed to do, and that is to list, or tell, testify as to matters he believes were left out.

MR. LORAN: I don't remember giving Mr. Asper that undertaking.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: I don't
remember -- no, I don't think he asked to provide that information, if he -- I took it it related to the Fisher, the rapes and so on.

MR. SOROCHAN: It's actually the last --

A

A

- that Saskatoon Police had as a result of the canvass of the neighbourhood --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Okay.
A
-- that was not included in the summary and that
could have affected the theorizing that then went on among the investigators. And as $I$ said, $I$ thought $I$ was being quite, $I$ conceded quite clearly that that's not necessarily sinister, it may be part of the left hand not knowing what the right hand was doing, but it could have been of enormous value to the investigators sitting in that meeting trying to come up with the theory of what happened if they knew a whole bunch of other facts that they may not be aware of, and that we now know about.

MR. LORAN: Yeah, I think you gave that evidence when $I$ was talking to you earlier.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Hmm.
Well, and there is a lot of it. Would you like me to recite it?

BY MR. LORAN:
No, I haven't asked for that, -Okay.
-- but it would appear your counsel has. Well, you have it.

I don't believe I did ask for it.
You have it, you have it, you all have it on record.

I want to turn, now, to Nichol John. We agree
that she was in the car?

A
$Q$

A

Q

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Q
A

Q

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Q

A
Q

Who was in the car?
Nichol John?
Yes.
Okay. You can understand police coming to the conclusion that her evidence would be important?

Which evidence?
As to what happened on the morning in question?
In terms of witnessing Milgaard commit the murder?
No, if --
I don't -- like there is a whole bunch of pieces.
Okay. Albert Cadrain comes to the police and says
"David Milgaard showed up at my house shortly
after the murder and he had blood on his pants",
so the police say, "well we should investigate
further", and $I$ think you agreed that that seemed to make sense?

Yes.
And I guess I'm suggesting to you, wouldn't it
make sense that the next thing you do is you
interview the three individuals who were in the
car, Ronald Wilson, Nichol John, and David
Milgaard?
Makes sense to me.
So it makes sense for the investigation to also
include a statement from her?
A
$Q$都

Okay. Now the only issue I have with regard to Nichol John is the suggestion you have made that her evidence was coerced from her as a result of her being locked up in the cells until she told the story that everybody wanted to hear. Is it fair to say that characterizing what happened in that fashion played very well in the media, that it was quite a sensational kind of a revelation, Witness locked up in jail over night?

Well, she was.
She was, she was in the jail over night, but can we agree that -Was she --
-- that played very well in the media?
Yes.
Okay. It grabbed headlines, and that was one of your objectives at that point, is that fair? Probably, yes.

If, however, the witness said "I don't want to go to a hotel, I'd like to stay here", there are no other prisoners in the women's quarters and she stays there at her request, it doesn't lead to the conclusion of coercion; does it? for --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: After the break, okay, Mr. Loran?

MR. LORAN: Thank you, My Lord. (Adjourned at 2:58 p.m.) (Reconvened at 3:17 p.m.)

BY MR. LORAN:
Mr. Asper, before $I$ move on to the serological evidence, there's one issue perhaps I'll -somebody brought to my attention at the break. Can I ask for document 336360 to be brought up. Sorry, scroll down, please, down here. Do you recall, this is a transcript prepared of a conversation taped between yourself and Joyce Milgaard. Do you recall having a telephone conversation with her?

A
$Q$
If those were the facts, that's true. Okay.

Mind you by this point, you know, it's -- given the kind of witnesses you were dealing with, I wouldn't even venture a guess what was in their minds.

Okay. I'm gonna turn to the serological evidence

Q

Over six years, yes.
Okay. Do you recall having a telephone
conversation with her about Neil Boyd's
conversation with Ron Wilson?

A
$Q$

I'm not -- what are you referring to with Mr. Boychuk?

BY MR. LORAN:
I believe that you had previously indicated you couldn't recall whether you had ever seen the
Q
Apparently I had, yes. Thanks.

COMMISSIONER MaCCALLUM: That was a conversation, which one?
No specifically, no.
Are you prepared to acknowledge that it did take place?

Sure.
Okay. Scroll over to the next page, please. Can we agree that you got a transcript of that conversation between Neil Boyd and Ron Wilson? Yes, that appears to be the case. Okay. Just an illustration of the unreliability of memory, I think Mr. Boychuk questioned you about whether or not that had happened and you were unable to say you had ever seen a transcript of that conversation. Would you agree in light of this that you had?
conversation, which one?
-

Page 28562
transcript of a conversation between Mr. Boyd and Mr. Wilson.

A
$Q$
I see, yes.
And it would appear from this telephone conversation, would it not, that you have seen a copy?

It would appear so, yes.
Thanks. Turning now to the serological evidence --

A
It's bizarre, $I$ have to say, in a wrongful conviction inquiry where, when we're talking about the fallibility of memory of me as a witness as opposed to the wrongful conviction itself. I know that's an editorial comment, but you raised it. Okay.

As opposed to Wilson or John or people who put David in jail. I find it a little odd, sorry.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: It's not your memory that they are trying to condemn, sir, it's the reference to the, something that happened, a conversation that took place, and it would be the substance of that conversation which is relevant to our Inquiry.

A
Well, I know, but Mr. Loran referred to the fallibility of memory, but let's move on $I$ guess.

BY MR. LORAN:
Q

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Q

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Q

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$Q$
A
$Q$

A crime.
Is it your position that the serological evidence which was produced at trial had no probative value?

Yes. That's one interpretation.
Now, there's more than one reason for that isn't there?

For it not having probative value?
Yes.
Yes.
And what's your understanding of the reasons?
As at trial or raised subsequently, because
there's the whole issue that was raised
subsequently about, you know, whether the
integrity of the sample was sufficient to warrant
introduction as evidence.
Maybe I'll ask you to start chronologically, let's
start with at trial.
Well, at trial the sample failed to link David to
the crime unless it had, according to the
information that was presented at the trial,
unless it had blood in it as such as opposed to the antigens, and there was no evidence of blood as such and therefore it didn't link David to the

And there were other reasons why the serological evidence had no probative value as well weren't there?

A
Q

A

Q

A
Q

Now, did you know that there was a human pubic hair in the semen samples that were presented at trial, that there were several human pubic hairs?

A It's probable.

Is it fair to say that --

A
$Q$

Once they received the results of that expert analysis, is it fair to say that it was also important for them to advise the Crown of the results they had received and the fact that they had collected the sample?

A
It's probable $I$ would have read a report, let's put it that way.

Okay. And is it fair that you didn't, to say that you didn't pass this information along to the experts you retained who came to the conclusion it was dog urine, or could very possibly be dog urine?

I don't know whether $I$ did or $I$ didn't.
I'll leave that then. In terms of the collection of these two samples, when the police came across these samples, can we agree that it was important they be taken into police custody and analysed and not simply discarded?

The semen samples in the snow?
Yes.
Yes.
And it was correct, the right thing to do was to turn it over to experts for analysis?

Yes.

And the Crown in turn can use that to make full disclosure to the defence?

A
$Q$

A
Q

A
Q

A I'm not sure what the answer is to that, I don't think Mr. Tallis leads the evidence, Mr. Caldwell does. Now, I understand there may have been an agreement between the two, and $I$ understand $M r$. Caldwell may have thought that he was assisting Mr. Tallis with what would have been exculpatory evidence, $I$ understand the context.

Okay. All right. So you do understand he's being accommodating, it's just like the evidence of the Danchuks, it's exculpatory, but Mr. Caldwell puts it in, it gives Mr. Tallis a chance to cross with regard to it?

A
Q suggesting that $I$ asked them to do that, to characterize it as dog urine.

No, no.
When we got the result, yes, no question.

And you'll agree that when you gave them the information, they didn't know that there were human pubic hair in it?

A Right.

Now, when we turn to Mr. Milgaard's affidavit filed in support of the Supreme Court application, there's really no indication of vacillation with regard to his evidence, he merely says it didn't happen doesn't he?

Right.
And you had drafted that affidavit for him and you took the affidavit from him?

A
$Q$ That's correct.

Since Mr. Boychuk covered this I'm going to try and shorten things up a little. Just to be clear,

I think I understood you to give this answer to Mr. Boychuk, but in terms of what Lapchuk and Melnyk said they saw David Milgaard do in the motel room, essentially they are describing the same words being said approximately and the same motions, it's a matter of what they thought he was attempting to convey by saying those words and making those motions. Is that the difference between what Deborah Hall had to say and what Melnyk and Lapchuk had to say?

A

Q

Well, my recollection is that Melnyk and Lapchuk were inconsistent between the two of them and Debbie Hall was inconsistent as between Melnyk and Lapchuk, but in essence, $I$ would say you are probably correct.

Okay. Now, Deborah Hall, if she was unavailable and couldn't be found at the time, say she was in Vancouver at the time of the trial, then it's understandable her evidence wouldn't have been called at the trial; is that fair?

That's -- yes.
When this file came to your office, I think it was early 1986; is that correct?

Yes.
I think it was your evidence to Mr. Hodson earlier
on that you sat down with the file and basically ploughed through the whole file and Mrs. Milgaard brought in boxes and you wound up having to go through it all; is that correct?

A

Q
A
Q

A

Q
A
Q

A
$Q$

Yeah. I believe it was transcripts was the first wave.

And then other documents came in as well?
Yes, correct.
And it was your evidence $I$ think that after taking kind of a preliminary look at the evidence, you were convinced of David Milgaard's innocence, you didn't see how the Crown theory could fit?

I wouldn't say it was a preliminary view, Mr.
Loran. I studied this thing up and down for months, including visiting the site, walking it through myself.

Okay.
It wasn't a preliminary view.
How long would it be before you came to the conclusion that David Milgaard had been wrongfully convicted?

I can't give you a specific time frame. It would be probably several months.

Okay. Under a year?
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Mr. Loran, I don't
want to quibble with language, but you framed your first question in terms of a conviction, a belief of innocence, and the second one was a belief in wrongful convictions, so wrongful conviction is --

MR. LORAN: Fair enough, Mr. Commissioner, there's a distinction there and I should be careful.

BY MR. LORAN:
Q
I think it's fair to say, Mr. Asper, that you believed David Milgaard to be innocent; is that correct?

A
$Q$
At some point $I$ came to that view. It would be later than the first threshold I would say. And from that point forward you weren't troubled by doubts of did or didn't he, you were convinced?

A Oh, I was second guessing myself constantly. Okay.

I mean, look, I was very concerned, I believed that David was innocent, but $I$ would be not totally truthful if $I$ wasn't telling you that given the magnitude of what we've got, what we had gotten into, that $I$ better be really sure. That's fair.

A
,

Q

A

That's a fair answer, thank you. But in terms of the efforts you were putting forward, is it fair to say that you were hired, your firm was hired for the purpose of proving David Milgaard's innocence or perhaps a lesser -- certainly to get him released from jail and the brass ring, if you will, would have been to have a declaration that David Milgaard was innocent?

No. I think that the Milgaard family consistently wanted us to find a path to innocence. I certainly appeared with David on parole hearings and applications for parole, I begged him to govern himself accordingly, as the Parole Board often said in its reports, to try and get him out, I would have preferred that he were out of prison. As I've said in my evidence, notwithstanding that we were dissatisfied with the decision in 1992, I considered that to be a success, but the Milgaard family consistently wanted innocence.

Okay. So success would have been measured by David's release, it was that much better -Complete exoneration.
-- when you reached the point when you proved his innocence? Yes.
$Q$
And, I mean, I applaud your efforts, you certainly worked hard, that's apparent, that you worked hard on David Milgaard's behalf. Now, it's fair to say, I think, that one way of attacking the Crown's theory in terms of the case is to provide an alternative suspect who could also have committed the Gail Miller murder, that's one way of attacking the Crown's case; is that correct? That's correct, yes.

And that's the one that was ultimately successful here in terms of establishing David Milgaard's innocence?

That's correct.
And if in -- if a possibility such as this presented itself to you in any way, you would have tracked that down, you would have pursued that possibility because it would have led you to your ultimate goal?

I believe so, yes.
And that's what you did?
Yes.
I'm going to just ask for a couple of documents to be pulled up, 039527, this is a newspaper article just prior to the Gail Miller murder, and 039068 , and this is following the Gail Miller murder.

A Yes.
Q

A

Q
A
$Q$

A
And as $I$ understand it, this newspaper article that's here was part of the file that you got when the file came to you?

I don't think I said that definitely. What I said was that I'm haunted by the possibility that it was.

Okay.
I'm not sure when it -- I think that's what I said. I just don't recall seeing it. I mean, I do recall seeing it, $I$ just don't recall when. I'm going to draw your attention to page 25284 of the transcript, down at the bottom here, I think what Mr. Hodson asks you is:
"Q And again, is this something, I think you said when you went back and looked at your file it would have been something you -- is this something you would have got back in 1986, in the set of documents you received?

A Yes."
I can't be that definitive.
MR. WOLCH: Mr. Commissioner, if I may, just on that point, that document has handwriting on the side of it, that is, the newspaper
clipping. I expect, although I'm not certain, that that will be the handwriting of Bob Bruce I think, $I$ don't know if Mr. Hodson has talked to him or not, and if that be the case, $I$ don't believe Mr. Bruce became involved until after Larry Fisher was identified, that he can testify to, but I'm not sure of that. COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: All right, thanks. MR. HODSON: I think in fairness, the article that was referred to in that handwriting, I think I arbitrarily selected one version of that article and whether that -- there's other versions in our database that don't have the handwriting. I can tell you I've talked to Mr. Bruce, $I$ don't expect him to testify, but there's a whole bunch of other versions of that article in the database, so --

Sir, I thought I testified that $I$ couldn't recall seeing it, but that having seen it in preparing to testify, it kind of sickened me.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Mmhmm.
BY MR. LORAN:
Q You do make that comment further along in the transcript. The first question is was it part of the ' 86 package and then further down $I$ think you
say essentially what you are relating now. I think if you --

A

Q
I just -- then, you know, I just don't feel comfortable being as definitive as $I$ was there. It may have been there, but -- if it was, that's what bothers me.

I'm going to ask to have document number 333013 called up and this is a conversation between Peter Carlyle-Gordge and Albert Cadrain and $I$ don't have, I'm sorry, I don't have the exact date, but I'm guessing we're somewhere back in the early '80s, prior to your involvement on the file of course. Mr. Carlyle-Gordge was apparently gone to England by the time you were involved in '86. So it's Peter Carlyle-Gordge talking to Albert Cadrain asking about Larry Fisher, he says:
"I'm still doing some research and trying to trace anybody who was involved back in '69. One of the names that I've come across is uh, he was interviewed by police, is a Larry Fisher." "... and he's given the same address as yours. Do you know where he is now?" Albert says he doesn't have any idea. Can we
scroll down. Peter Carlyle-Gordge asks if he was a lodger or something, then he says a border:
"Yeah, he was a, didn't even know the guy, like he lived down in the basement with his wife and kid, I guess."

So Peter Carlyle-Gordge goes on to talk about them interviewing him, wondered if you had anything to add, Albert says they interviewed quite a few people, and then Albert goes on to say:
"... I guess he was just a suspect hey."
Peter asks:
"I'm wondering if you had any memories of that time, and after..."

And it's Albert's answer after that that really caught my attention:
"I wouldn't know, I wouldn't have nothing to do with the guy, he's a, a real uh, gangster type."

And then over to the next page:
"Is he?"
"Oh, yeah, from what $I$ hear, from what $I$ hear, hey."
"You mean, you mean like, a criminal?"
"Yeah."
"Oh, really."
"Yeah, I suppose uh, I guess they caught him years later, or, $I$ don't know how much longer, later, in uh, rapes and shit like that, hey?"

And he goes on to talk about him being a real weirdo. Was this transcript of the Peter

Carlyle-Gordge conversation part of your file?
I can't recall. I don't recall seeing it. I may have, but $I$ don't recall.

Now, Mr. Asper, I appreciate that this is, you said it's difficult for you, you were working very hard to try and free David Milgaard, but what you've got is evidence on the file which relates to Larry Fisher and him being a rapist and being in the Cadrain household and there's this police theory as evidenced by the newspaper clipping, and like $I$ say, $I$ 'm not being critical of you in any way, I know you were trying your level best, but you didn't make the connection between the two and I guess my point is, isn't it perhaps unreasonable to expect police, where you've got a number of different individuals working on different files, to have made the connection between the Larry Fisher conviction for rape and the Gail Miller
murder?
A
I suspected this question was going to come and I find it astonishing, $I$ really -- Mr. Loran, I find
it astonishing to suggest or equate or to place moral equivalency or legal equivalency -I'm not talking about moral or legal equivalency at all, Mr. Asper.

Well, you've just suggested --
No, no --
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Just let him
finish the question, Mr. Asper. Yes?
MR. LORAN: Pardon?
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Go ahead and say what you were about to say.

BY MR. LORAN:
What I'm asking is it's got nothing to do with moral, I'm just saying isn't it understandable that maybe the people investigating this file didn't make the connection?

Okay, that's right, and what you've done is you've said, okay, assuming all these facts to be true and assuming that $I$ 'm in possession of the information that you provided, which is an assumption because $I$ can't recall, assuming that to be the case, isn't it reasonable because I
missed it that they missed it at the time of the original investigation, right?

Yeah.
And I don't agree, I'm sorry. I'm not a professional police officer, I haven't been to see Mr. Fisher, I haven't been involved with the Milgaard investigation directly, I haven't been the RCMP task force that's obviously met with the Saskatoon police and discussed the possibility and the details of the rapes and attempted rapes that had occurred with (V5)---, (V2)----- and (V1)that appear in the prosecution file, I was at a complete disadvantage compared to the police. It's totally, totally inappropriate to suggest that $I$ was in the same position as the police officers at the time.

In fact, you had -- you are one individual who had all of this material before you?

Pardon me?
You are one individual whose got charge of the file, and $I$ appreciate you are saying you don't know whether it was on your file or not, I suspect we can establish that subsequent to this.

Okay.
But if it was on your file, the fact is you didn't
make the connection either, and I'm not being, like $I$ said, $I \prime m$ not being at all critical, $I$ know you were trying your level best.

A
But, Mr. Loran, there's a chart that we submitted as part of our argument for the Supreme Court and I'm sure that you've seen it in these proceedings. The police officers in Saskatoon at the time had the information that was available that came into the chart that ultimately walked David Milgaard out of prison. I didn't have that, I didn't have that information. The only difference I had was from -- the only difference you say $I$ had was Larry Fisher's name. They had Larry Fisher's name in October, 1970. Why didn't they do something about it? Why did -- why didn't the Saskatoon police say, because you say if I've got the information why don't $I$ do something about it, why didn't they say hey.

I'm not saying why didn't you do something about it, Mr. Asper, quit trying to recharacterize the question, $I$ 'm saying isn't it understandable that the police missed this connection?

A
$Q$
And I say no. I say no.
It's not fair to try and pretend that I'm asking you a question I'm not.

A
$Q$
A

I'm not here to answer questions.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Just a minute.
Counsel and witness, I have the point, I understand both of your positions, and the witness is saying that the Saskatoon police had the information about the rapes and we know that they interviewed a man who turned out to be the
But $I$ don't agree with your -- I don't agree that it's --

You don't agree --
I don't agree that it's fair that the police missed it. What I believe happened, and I've said to you that $I$ don't believe it's necessarily for nefarious or wrong-headed reasons. There's a syndrome that comes over in wrongful conviction cases that occurred, in my opinion, in this case. The police had this fellow, they had him in their sights at the time of investigation.

The Winnipeg police in 1970 you mean?
Saskatoon police. Saskatoon police --
Did the Saskatoon police arrest Fisher; is that your understanding?

Saskatoon police were aware of three, and more, incidents of rape and sexual assault; were they not? I'm --
rapist, but they didn't have anything to connect him with either the rapes or the murder at the time, so Mr. Asper simply is saying that it's not fair to compare his investigative opportunities in 1986 with those of the police in 1969 and '70. Mr. Loran says, well, yes, but he shouldn't fault the police for having missed it in 1969 and '70, so there we are, $I$ understand the situation. MR. LORAN: Thank you, Mr. Commissioner.

A Thank you.
BY MR. LORAN:
In relation to the missing files, I'm going to ask to have document number 000263 pulled up, please. Can I turn to page 11 of this report? Were you aware, Mr. Asper, that -- actually, I'm going to -- just here.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: What was this, Mr. Loran, $I$ missed it?

MR. LORAN: This document is the Robert Laing report --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: The Laing report? Okay.

MR. LORAN: -- of the Saskatchewan Police Commission --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: All right, yes.

MR. LORAN: -- with regard to the missing files.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Yes.
BY MR. LORAN:
All right. And this talks about the investigator who attended in Winnipeg with the inspector in charge of morality to interview Fisher in October of 1970, he only finds out that Fisher had pled guilty to the offences as well as six other offences during a social occasion, the investigator was very surprised and somewhat angry he'd never been advised of the fact that the file had been concluded. This investigator states that at the time, somewhere between '76 and '79, he went to central records to retrieve the file on one of the occurrence numbers -- oh, and the other three files as well, he couldn't locate them at that time.

Were you aware that this was a conclusion reached by the Saskatchewan Police Commission in its report?

I would have been at the time, I'm sure. Can I ask that we turn to page 16 then.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: And the report was what date, please?

MR. LORAN: Umm, that report, My Lord, is dated November $29 t h, 1991$.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: '91?
MR. LORAN: Yes.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Thank you. And when were you aware of this, Mr. Asper? I'm sure $I$ would have been aware of it at the time of its release.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: All right.
BY MR. LORAN:
At page 16 it indicates that lack of knowledge on the part of the investigators involved of the Fisher convictions accounts for the fact that the victims were not notified, and further, in the following paragraph it concludes that the handing of the pleas in the City of Regina was made for routine administrative decisions and it wasn't a decision made by the Saskatoon City Police department. Were you aware of these conclusions? I believe so, yes.

And at the top of page 17 it indicates that Larry Fisher was never in the custody of the Saskatoon City Police; were you aware of that?

As I say, I -- I must have been, but I -- I'm --
And in fairness, Mr. Justice -- Mr. Laing, as he
was at that time, was somewhat critical of record-keeping procedures generally, and what he said is that those had been substantially improved since 1969 when the Gail Miller murder occurred, and there were regulations in place with regard to record keeping, that sort of thing?

Okay.
He finishes his report that way. Now I think you indicated in your evidence earlier that you had a man on the inside, so to speak, in the form of Tom Vanin; --

A
Q Yes.
-- is that correct? And he was, I think if I heard correctly, he was the only man on the inside you had?

Yes.
Okay. We've heard him characterized in -- on other occasions here as a disillusioned but fairly senior member of the Saskatoon Police Service.

Now Mr. Vanin's evidence suggests that he was unable to find files when he went looking for them and, as $I$ understand it, he did so at your request; is that correct?

That's probably true.
Now he found some documents but he couldn't find
complete files, that's --

A
Q

A
Q
A
Q
A
$Q$
A
Q
A

Q
$A$
$Q$
$A$
$Q$

I would assume that's true.
Yeah. Now he, Mr. Vanin, can I ask you to confirm
that Mr. Vanin didn't tell you anything different
than he told the Commission in that regard?
I have not read his evidence.
Okay. Did he tell you that he found files --
I --
-- at any occasion in the past?
I, as I say, I have to assume that at some point Mr. Vanin told me that there was something in the repository, wherever that was, and then there wasn't something there, and that we -- and that we rang the alarm bell.

You are assuming that --
Yes.
-- or do you recall that?
I'm assuming that. I don't recall the dealings with Vanin at all.

Okay. So, to the extent your evidence differs from Mr. Vanin's, we have to choose between the two of them?

Yes, you do.
Can I ask that we call up document number 039314.
Now can I ask to have that enlarged? Thank you.
"Asper has said he has heard that only Fisher's files are missing, and that there has been no large-scale loss of older police files in Saskatoon."

Can you tell us who you heard that from?
As I say, I have to assume that would be Vanin.
And, again, it's just an assumption?
Yes.
Okay. Because it's, that's directly contradicted by the same Laing report, which indicates that a number of older files are missing.

Oh, I understand that, yes.
"He has his own sources who say the files were in the computer system before Milgaard requested a retrial Aug. 16
..."
Now it couldn't possibly have been anyone but Vanin who was your source on that?

A

Q
As I say, I'm assuming, because $I$ don't recall
anybody else providing -- feeding me information.
I'm going to ask to have document number 016079
called up. This letter is dated August 14 th, 1991, and the letter is from your office, says:
"When we first made our application the suggestion that Larry Fisher was the
perpetrator was not the main thrust and we were at that time advised by your Department that there were no police reports available on past offences of Mr. Fisher."

Now I think your evidence to Mr. Hodson was that you must have, therefore, heard from your source between August 14 th and August 30 th; is that correct?

A

Q

A
$Q$
Okay. Can I ask to have document number 163101 called up, please. Do you recognize this document, Mr. Asper?

A
$Q$

A
$Q$
A Yes.
Q -- just asking you to confirm the accuracy of the letter at this point.

A
Well, let me just look through it. Well, yes, I
accept the letter.
You sent the letter to Hersh, you -Of course, of course.

Okay, thank you. And is it fair to say that Chief Penkala offered to try and be of assistance if you wanted help?

I would say we had a very polite conversation, and he sent me his business card and a copy of the Court of Appeal decision, it was a cordial conversation but not much more.

But he did offer to help, and why did he send the business card if he wasn't offering to provide further help if you requested it?

I -- well, maybe he did, I -- I'll accept what I wrote there.
$Q$
Okay. And did you avail yourself of that opportunity by making a request to him?

A

For files?
A
$Q$
I don't think so.
Did you ever, and $I$ think you spoke to this issue when Ms. Krogan was examining you this morning,
but did you ever make any requests indirectly through Saskatchewan Justice?

A

Q

A

Q

Don't think so.
And she asked you this but I'm going to ask it again because I've got a couple of other questions; why not?

Well, as I say, I -- the decision had been made that we were going to pursue our remedy through the federal Department of Justice, and that's the way we were proceeding.

And $I$ think one of the things you said is that you -- probably, in hindsight, one of the things you would try to do is give more to Justice, get as much as you could collected and try to give Justice more if you had it to do over again, and would it be fair to say that one way, one possible way of getting there, so that you can reach that critical point where Justice gets interested, Federal Justice gets interested and starts to help, is to try and collect documents from whatever source you can, perhaps the provincial Department of Justice? I think that, in a very general sense, is true. I think you'd have to play a little bit with the personalities you are dealing with and get a sense
of whether that's even remotely feasible or not, but look, if you can get credible and official documentation why wouldn't you.

Okay. And why wouldn't it be credible? What would --

What?
Why would you have questions with regard to the credibility of the documentation if you made a request?

A

Q

A

We've evolved, look, we've all evolved, prosecutorial agencies, police agencies, applicants for 690 have all evolved. There is a better exchange of documents now, Federal Justice has evolved, the system is working a heck of a lot
better.
I'm going to ask -- now you will be pleased to know I'm on my last folder. How are we doing for time here, $I$ don't have a watch?

MS. McLEAN: Five after.
BY MR. LORAN:
Okay. The transcript page is 26,884 , and I'm going to ask to go back to the previous page to find the document that's being discussed there, I guess we'll have to go to the page prior to that. The page number is 050419 , I'm afraid $I$ don't have the document number here. This appears to be a conversation between --

COMMISSIONER MaCCALLUM: Can $I$ have the doc. number, please, Mr. Loran?

MR. LORAN: I'm sorry, Mr. Commissioner, I don't have the document number.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Well, I think we can --

MS. BOSWELL (Document Manager): 050419.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Thank you very much.

MR. LORAN: Now I'm going to ask to turn over to the next page, here, the page following.

MS. BOSWELL (Document Manager): That's the Central Booking - Call Irene @ 1-800-667-6777 or go to www.compucourt.tv
end.

MR. LORAN: NO, I'm sorry, this is the page.

BY MR. LORAN:

Now this is a conversation between Dennis Cadrain and Paul Henderson, they're talking about a strategy to get Albert Cadrain to change his evidence, the comment Paul Henderson makes is that:
"But he's going to, we think, down the line, ah', because the R.C.M.P. is convinced that he's the person. Now, when he does, what that means is, that all the witnesses against David Milgaard suddenly become liars. Now here is Albert's chance to beat them to the punch."

And they are talking about Larry Fisher as the alternate suspect --

Right.
Q -- it would appear?
A
Right.

Q
Now turning now to the transcript at 26,884 from this morning's (sic) evidence, that transcript quotes the previous paragraph, or quotes the
paragraph which follows in the previous document:
"Come forth and say, the bastards made me do to. And $I$ feel badly about it and I want to clear my conscience and help this guy that I've been worried about, heartsick about all these years. He was my pal, the pricks made me do it." COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: This is Henderson again?

MR. LORAN: Yeah, they're once again quoting from Henderson in the conversation. BY MR. LORAN:

Q
Now Mr. Hodson says to you:
"Again, is that the type of strategy then or questioning technique that had been discussed amongst the collective group as a method to give these witnesses an out on a recantation?" And your answer is:
"A In a general sense, yes."
By that I assume you were a party to those discussions?

A

Q
I would assume so, yes.
And now $I$ understand your position to be that this was war, the gloves were off, and the only
limitation $I$ think that you expressed so far in terms of tactics was the Rules of Professional Conduct, you felt yourself bound by those?

A
Q

A

A That's correct.

Is it fair to characterize the approach that's being discussed in this conversation as sort of a carrot and stick approach, "we'll say, we'll make the threat that he's going to be exposed as a liar, and we'll offer him a chance to be the hero by being the first to recant"?

Yes, I -- yes, that's part of it. I think that I,
I do recall discussions about the psychology of witnesses who have lied and the angst and the heavy weight that may be upon their conscience, and how to release it, so $I$ guess that's part of the same thing.

In Albert's case it didn't work because, and I think it's Paul Henderson himself as we saw earlier, came to the conclusion that in Albert's case it would have been a lie to recant; is that fair?

Yes.
Okay.
I mean we obtained other evidence, I mean other information, but yes.

Document number 336443 . Now here's where $I$ was planning to have the tape played, and I guess I'm wondering how I go about having that happen?

MS. BOSWELL (Document Manager): The whole tape?

MR. LORAN: I have a portion of the tape I would like to see played.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: What is this, please?

MR. LORAN: This is tape 49 of the recently-released documents.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Yes?
MR. SOROCHAN: Mr. Commissioner, I
understood that parties were to be restricted in their cross-examination to matters that touched upon their particular clients. We seem to be going quite far afield here, and now we're gonna have a tape played that's been transcribed. Mr. Asper has already told the Commission he has no independent recollection, other than in the transcripts, of what's in there. Other than to take us to the half-past 4 , what can possibly be the purpose of listening to a tape, and $I$ would ask that counsel be restricted to the areas that touch upon their clients.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Well I think Mr. Loran knows that. Would you respond to the objection, please?

MR. LORAN: Well I believe that the allegation, one of the allegations is that the Saskatoon Police conducted improper interviews of witnesses, and I'm trying to call evidence with regard to what the appropriate standard for interviewing witnesses was.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: You mean in the terms of them being suggestive and so forth?

MR. LORAN: Yes, Mr. Commissioner.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Yes?
MR. HODSON: Just on a technical basis, we do have the tape, it's an hour and 30 minutes, it's obviously on there. If it needs to be played, it's a question of finding it on the tape and can play it, and so $I$ don't know how long an excerpt Mr. Loran wants?

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Mr. Loran, I
wonder if you could do this for me, just point out the salient portions, as you see them, of the transcription, and then if $I$ think it's of sufficient relevance and importance I'll --

MR. LORAN: They're in fact --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: -- get the tape and listen to it, because it may be a matter of some difficulty to do it on the spot like this.

MR. LORAN: Fair enough. Perhaps -- I have the documents, I've actually got $I$ think three excerpts here, and they're just a couple of pages of transcript each, --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Okay.
MR. LORAN: -- and my proposal was to have all three played. Perhaps what $I$ can do is have them copied, they -- I indicate a start and end location for each of those three excerpts.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Well I want to make sure that, if I'm gonna listen to them, everybody has opportunity to do the same, of course.

MR. HODSON: If, subject to Mr. Sorochan's objection -- and I'm not sure how you are dealing with that -- if the tapes are part -- are to be played I can suggest that we could have them for tomorrow morning, those excerpts, again subject to those --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Well I haven't agreed, yet, that they can be. It depends upon their relevance.

MR. SOROCHAN: I haven't heard any explanation for what is to be added by the playing of the tapes rather than the transcript?

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Yes, they've been transcribed, what's missing? Is there anything missing in the transcript?

MR. LORAN: I have not heard the tapes, My Lord, and $I$ believe that sometimes it's possible, when listening to an actual conversation, to determine more from the perspective of the inflection of voice --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Well sometimes the tone of questioning, for example, can be a strident or importunate, or whatever, however you wish to describe it, which doesn't turn up on the printed page. But before embarking on an endeavour like this $I$ would expect you to have a reason and not just a possibility. What you are seeking to do now is kind of a fishing expedition, and a very expensive one at that.

MR. LORAN: Okay.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: You can listen to them yourself, and if you are still of the conviction that they should be heard then you can apply again in the morning to me, please. In the
meantime just give us the references which interest you out of this document here.

MR. LORAN: The first reference, Mr. Commissioner, is at page 336443 , from just about half-way down the page, over to the bottom of page 336444 .

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Okay. I think we have seen this before anyway, I --

MR. LORAN: The second is on tape 92.

COMMISSIONER MaCCALLUM: Page what?
MR. LORAN: Tape 92 , and the page number --
MR. HODSON: What's the doc. ID?
MR. LORAN: Tape 92, and the doc. ID would be 336592 , from page 336639 through to page 336641 .

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Okay.
MR. LORAN: And on 336639 it's starting about two-thirds of the way down the page, there, where a new conversation begins.

And the last excerpt starts
more or less at the top of page -- I'll give the doc. ID number first, which is 336785 , it's tape 102, and the excerpt is from page 336793 through to the end of page 336794.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Okay.

MR. LORAN: And perhaps $I$ can go through the transcript at this point, then.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Well, $I$ wonder if, if it might be better use of time if the witness -- have you seen this before?

A

A

A

A

A ahead.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: All right, go
ahead.
If you can enlarge it a little bit, that would be helpful.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: So the first one
COMMISSIONER MaCCALLUM: You want to do it now?

Sure.
I could very quickly read it, $I$ can scan it right now, Mr. Commissioner. much reading it may be quicker to have him read it over night and then --

MR. LORAN: Yes, Mr. Commissioner. now, Mr. Commissioner.
we'll turn to is 336443 .
MR. LORAN: Thank you, My Lord.
MS. MCLEAN: That's not the document.
MR. HODSON: 336443 .
MR. LORAN: The document number is 336391 , and it's at page 336443, that's the first of the documents $I$ was hoping to examine on.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Okay. If you'll just read that, and then you can put your questions to him on that first one, you said there were three areas.
(Witness reading) I'm familiar with this.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Okay.
BY MR. LORAN:
Perhaps $I$ can draw your attention on the first page to:
"Well the whole thing is tainted by Centurion, if Centurion is the taint, then the whole thing is tainted."

Yes.
What -- can we agree that you were a party to this conversation and that it took place?

Yes.
What were you referring to when you said the whole thing is tainted by Centurion?

A
$Q$
A

Q

A
Q

A
$Q$都

Down at the bottom here, we can start there.
MR. SOROCHAN: Surely My Friend isn't going to be asking -- $I$ keep worrying about tripping on these wires as $I$ come running up here. Can we get one of these hand-held mikes so $I$ can yell from the back?
Surely My Friend isn't going to
be asking about a conversation between Mrs. Milgaard and her daughter. This whole line of questioning, in my respectful submission, has, it's shown to be of little or no relevance to any issue before the Inquiry and has nothing to do with the Saskatoon Police Department and there's no basis for questioning Mr. Asper upon a conversation between two other parties.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: What is the basis, Mr. Loran, please?

MR. LORAN: It appears that they discuss advice given to them.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Yes.
MR. LORAN: At the bottom, I guess it is, of 640, they talk about the advice David Asper has given with regard to what Cal Tallis said.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: That's relevant.
A Can we enlarge this a little bit? BY MR. LORAN:

I think to get the full flavour of it, one has to read the page before as well, down there. Okay, yes, I'm familiar with the exchange, or $I$ accept that the exchange occurred and I've scanned it.

So is it fair to say that Tallis by now, someone
had spoken to Mr. Tallis?

A
Q

A
Q

Right.
And he talked about what David had told him and it included things which contradicted the material in the affidavit?

Right.
Now, over to the bottom of page 640 it says:
"David Asper is going to have him down at the office, apparently ... down to have lunch with him at noon ... David Asper says there's no way we can tell him what Cal Tallis has said, but I said to him, well you know David, on more than one occasion, David has told me, that um, ah not about the compact, he's never said that to me, about he's often said about the re-enactment that he could have done it. You know, it's quite possible, he said $I$ don't know but I, I could have, but I don't remember..."

I guess my question for you is what Joyce
Milgaard says to you in this conversation, is it true, or what she says that you told her, is that true?

A

0

A

It's possible. I'm sorry, what's the date on this again?

If one looks at the front, and of course I'm just relying on somebody else's interpretation of the date there, the first page of the document says January, 1992.

Yeah, I suspected that. We were concerned about affecting David's evidence. Well, my recollection is one of two things, either we were concerned about affecting David's evidence because we were not telling him a whole bunch of things about what we had gotten through the discovery process because we wanted him to recall as precisely as possible. The other issue we had, and I can't remember whether $I$ had been fired at this point by him, he was very insistent about what Mr. Tallis said, and $I$ don't recall if there is the conversation that she's referring to, Mrs. Milgaard is referring to, but $I$ thought it would be -- I was trying to manage being fired about what Mr. Tallis might be saying at the Supreme Court.

Q Over onto the top of page 641:
"... when $I$ talked to him and got him to do that Affidavit I said if you don't
know, don't put anything you don't know, and he put that."

I take it this is talking about David Milgaard or is that talking about you?

A
$Q$
Okay.
So --
MS. McLEAN: Excuse me. Since my client was a party to that conversation, the David who put it in the affidavit is David Milgaard, her son.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Thank you.
BY MR. LORAN:
And the following passage specifically refers to David Asper:
"So I said well, the point is that's
just gonna show that he's as confused as
he is. And as I explained to David
Asper, I said I used to be a
pathological liar and David was and is,
to quite a degree a liar."
Did you have a conversation to that effect with Joyce Milgaard?

A
No. This is a conversation where Joyce is saying to Susan that she, Joyce, "used to be a pathological liar and that David was and is, to
quite a degree a liar"?
"As I explained to David Asper, I said
I used to be a pathological liar and David was and is, to quite a degree a liar."

Did Joyce Milgaard ever have a conversation with you where she talked about David Milgaard and said:
"I used to be a pathological liar and David Milgaard was and is, to quite a degree a liar"?

A

Q

A
Again we have new facts. Stop it.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: This is the third of the --

MR. LORAN: Yes, it is, My Lord. We're at 336793 , part of document number 336785 .

COMMISSIONER MaCCALLUM: 755 I think you said, or $I$ must have heard you wrong. So the doc. ID is 33678 --

MR. LORAN: The doc. ID is 785, My Lord.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: 785?

MR. LORAN: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: All right.
MR. LORAN: And we're at page 336793. Do you recall --

A
I need it enlarged, please.
BY MR. LORAN:
$Q$

A
$Q$

A
Q

A
$Q$

Do you recall having a telephone conversation with Joyce Milgaard to this effect?

I believe this is the conversation I'm talking about, two Winnipeg police detectives that we might use as questioners.

Yes. The date given at the beginning, on the first page of the document, is May 17th, 1990. Would that be about the date when this conversation took place?

I couldn't even guess. I don't know.
Do you acknowledge that you were a party to this conversation?

Yes, I recall discussing this matter.
Now, at the very bottom of the page you say:
"And they can play the game any way --"
And Joyce Milgaard says:
"It has to be played?"
And you finish saying the same words:
"And they can play the game any way --
it has to be played."

A Yes.
Q
When you put that together with what follows, I'm looking now at the following page up in the corner:
"Even if what they're getting is a lie, they'll get it."

It sounds, when you put these together, like you are saying that you don't care if it's a lie. Well, $I$ think you go to the next thing that $I$ say:
"Well listen, umm, we don't know that it's a lie, first of all."

And, I mean, I can recall generally these conversations and $I$ want to be clear that the use of the statements, you know, we were not necessarily looking for statements for truth, but potentially for other uses. If a witness lies or gives us information that contradicts earlier information, then maybe the purpose is to establish credibility or lack of credibility, so, I mean, we were exploring a complete wide range of options with the statements.

Okay. Now, further down the page, right there,
Mrs. Milgaard responds by saying:
"I don't think we make any -- mileage for ourselves by lying."

And then she adds:
"Or taking lies."
A
Q

A
She had clearly misunderstood me because the next notation $I$ say:
"No, no, I'm saying if we get a
statement from these people --"

She says:
"Uh-huh."
"-- we don't know whether they are
telling the truth or not."
I mean, that's the problem we had, Mr. Loran, through this entire case, we had no idea where the truth lay.

MR. LORAN: I don't know where we're at for time, but --

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Out of it.
MR. LORAN: I can simplify things in terms
of my request. I think the only passage that $I$
would like to hear a tape of is at 336793. If we could limit the playing of the actual tape to
these passages, 336793 and 336794 , I would certainly be satisfied with that.

COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: All right, and I want you to listen to them first though and make sure that we're not wasting our time.

MR. LORAN: Thank you, My Lord.
COMMISSIONER MacCALLUM: Nine o'clock.
(Adjourned at 4:34 p.m.)

OFFICIAL QUEEN'S BENCH COURT REPORTERS' CERTIFICATE:
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 my knowledge, skill, and ability.

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