

VC: All right [let me see if this is picking up our voice -- yes, this is recording properly]. Now, Mr. Ralph Duke, who is currently incarcerated, was tried and convicted on this sting operation. The allegations - against Mr. Ralph Duke was that - that he orchestrated this entire matter and put up money to make a purchase of drugs. Is this true?

AT: NO, it is not. My recollection, no.

VC: All right, now, prior to this sting operation, had you seen Mr. Ralph Duke or talked to him?

AT: No, I had not. Not in two weeks.

VC: In two weeks, prior to this, you had no conversations with Mr. Duke?

AT: No.

VC: All right. Before that two week period, did you have any conversation with Mr. Ralph Duke?

AT: Not about any drugs.

VC: Okay, so any conversation you had did not pertain to drugs -- so, you're saying that he was not part of this operation?

AT: None.

VC: Okay. Now, you were ultimately dragged into this situation. Did you contribute any money to make this purchase?

AT: Not a dollar. Not a cent.

VC: Not a cent. Okay. Did you ultimately learn who put up some money?

AT: From comments and hearsay from the street, yes.

VC: Would that have been after the sting operation you learned who put up the money?

AT: Yes.

VC: Okay. Prior to you learning who contributed the funds to make this drug purchase, did you have any knowledge that the drug purchase was going to be made?

AT: Yes.

VC: Okay. Can you tell me how you acquired that knowledge?

AT: Uh, running around with Loren, he met with some people that were forming together to buy some drugs.

VC: Okay, and then later on, you learned who some of these people were?

AT: Correct.

VC: Okay. Now, this sting operation occurred at a hotel in Minneapolis?

AT: That's correct.

VC: Do you remember which hotel?

AT: I believe at the time it was the Hilton.

VC: Uh, would that be downtown or...?

AT: Uh, actually it's off of 35W and uh, I don't actually know the cross street to that.

VC: Okay. Now, you went along for the ride, so to speak?

AT: Pretty much. I never left the vehicle that I came in.

VC: Okay. Uh, how did you happen to go along, even though you had not put up any money and you were not a part of - of this purchase?

AT: Uh, I was very good friends with Loren. Kind of his protector, as you would say. I was paged and asked to come to the house -- when I got to the house, I was told that we were going to go and do something real quick. It was never stated that we were going to buy drugs. We were going to do something real quick and uh, asked to drive to the hotel.

VC: Okay. This would have been Loren's house?

AT: That is correct. [REDACTED] (?)

VC: Okay, and would that have been the latter part of the day?

AT: Around 11:00.

VC: In the evening?

AT: Yes.

VC: Were there other people at Loren's house?

AT: Yes.

VC: Okay, did you ever see anyone count out money or put money in a bag or anything of that nature?

AT: No, I did not.

VC: Okay. Can you tell me who was present at his house?

AT: Uh, Lamont Nunn.

VC: Lamont Nunn.

AT: Uh, Larry Hutchinson.

VC: Larry Hutchinson.

AT: And Loren Duke.

VC: Loren Duke.

AT: And myself.

VC: And yourself, okay, Where was Ramone Hutchinson?

AT: I have no idea.

VC: Okay. How about a fellow by the name of Kim Willis?

AT: I have no idea.

VC: Did you know him?

AT: Yes I did.

VC: Okay. Was Danny Givens around?

AT: No, he was not.

VC: Okay. Virgil Tollfree?

AT: No he was not.

VC: Okay. So, at any rate, you were not told what you were going to be doing, other than you were going to be driving somewhere.

AT: That is correct.

VC: Okay. Do you remember - did you drive your car?

AT: No, I did not.

VC: You drove ...?

AT: A brown nova - that was confiscated from Loren Duke.

VC: -- We were interrupted by a telephone call -- TO RESUME NOW, So, there was an arrest made at this hotel?

AT: Yes.

VC: Okay, and you also were arrested?

AT: That is correct.

VC: Uh, did you ever have a weapon on you or threaten anybody?

AT: No, I did not and No I did not.

VC: Okay. All right. And, uh, so you were arrested and you were taken off to a jail, somewhere?

AT: Yes, the Minneapolis ADC - Adult Detention Center.

VC: All right, and how long did you remain there?

AT: Uh, the rest of that night.

VC: Okay. Did you - did someone attempt to interview you at the jail - police official?

AT: Not at the ADC, we were transported to the federal building, downtown Minneapolis, on 4th and Marquette, I believe, and taken into a room - um, where, Ralph Duke and Ramone Hutchinson, Larry Hutchinson, Lamont Nunn and Loren Duke and myself - uh, we were taken out one by one for bathroom trips - they detoured us to a side office and was asked that uh, if I wanted to give any information or testify at this point.

VC: Okay, and what was your response?

AT: No, I did not.

VC: Okay. What was Ralph Duke doing there in the jail? You did not - you said he was not involved and he wasn't with you people the night of the bust, was he?

AT: No, he was not.

VC: Okay, do you know what he was doing at that?

AT: I have no idea.

VC: Okay. Did he talk to you about anything?

AT: No, he did not.

VC: Okay. So, at any rate, it was after the bust and after you were let out of jail that you learned who made contributions, monetary contributions to make this purchase?

AT: Yes, gossip off the street, that is correct.

VC: Okay, at any time, did anyone say Ralph Duke put up the money?

AT: No.

VC: Okay, so you're convinced he was no part of this?

AT: I know for a fact he was not a part of this.

VC: Okay. And, that is the - based on what?

AT: Me being there the week prior to and the week after or up to the time of trial. There was never said or mentioned to me by anyone, street or otherwise, that he had any part of this, until I learned that people were going to start testifying against him and lying on him - to get out of their beat.

VC: Okay. And you would have been in a position to know because you were close friend with Loren?

AT: Loren, Lamont and the rest of the participants.

VC: Okay. Would you consider yourself kind of a follower?

AT: Definitely.

VC: I don't mean that in a negative way.

AT: It's okay - I would definitely (inaudible)

VC: All right. So, after the fact - you know, once you were out of jail and once Loren Duke was out of jail, who was named as contributing funds to make the drug purchase?

AT: Uh, Lamont, Kim, ^{Larry} Mary, Ramone, Virgil, Danny.

VC: Virgil Tollfree? Brother's

AT: Yes.

VC: Danny Givens?

AT: Yeah.

VC: Okay.

AT: And some other names, that I - sure I could come across in the long run, but I don't remember, so I'm not going to say, but uh, Ralph was definitely not one of them.

VC: All right. Now, when you were in Eau Claire, were you separated in the jail from others?

AT: We were all in the same cell block, which was five cells in themselves, we were locked individually, but we were all in the same cell block, so I could see and talk to basically everybody in there.

VC: Okay, and uh, what was your conversation about concerning how to handle this predicament you were in?

AT: Everybody was still kind of scarred. You know, so there was really no, no plan of what anyone was gonna do, uh, some of the guys went individually and talked to each other, whispered to each other, sometimes we all talked together and just, we always came up to the conclusion we don't know what we're going to do, hopefully our attorneys would be able to get us out of there.

VC: Okay. And then, you were released before some of the others?

AT: That is correct.

VC: Anyone else released with you?

AT: Uh, Larry Hutchinson was released with me.

VC: Okay, and when you were released, did you get in touch with a lawyer?

AT: Immediately.

VC: And who was that lawyer?

AT: Charles Hawkins.

VC: Okay. So once again, even before this arrest at the hotel, Ralph Duke's name never came up about anything?

AT: Never, never, never, never.

VC: Okay. Now, when Loren Duke was released, he was in Eau Claire also, correct?

AT: Correct.

VC: Did he get a hold of you?

AT: Immediately.

VC: He did.

AT: Yes he did.

VC: Okay. Did he say what he was going to do in an effort to defend himself?

AT: Yes he did. I - I arrived at his home. I was still shaken, of course, I was - afraid. I didn't know what I was going to do. I asked him what we were going to do. He told me, just - you know - stay calm. Be quiet, don't say anything and uh, he'll get us both out of this. That he was going to testify against Plukey.

VC: So, he said he was going to testify against Ralph "Plukey" Duke?

AT: That is - that is correct.

VC: Did he say he was going to blame everything on him?

AT: That is correct.

VC: Okay. But, that was not true, was it?

AT: No, it was not.

VC: Did he give you his reasons for wanting to do that?

AT: Uh, said that if we don't do that, there's no way that we're going to get out of this. That they're not after us, they were after him and when I asked who's they? He said everybody, chuckled and went in the house.

VC: Okay. Did - did you learn that he has been coerced by federal prosecutors and government investigators?

AT: From what I understand, they also did the same to me.

VC: They did the same to you?

AT: That is correct.

VC: Okay. Was there - were there threats?

AT: Uh, yeah. I believe that they were threats. I was told by my attorney that a plea was being set up for me by John Hopeman and the government and that I need to accept that with no questions, or I would be prosecuted to the fullest. No matter in which way form or otherwise that I was not to testify in

favor of anyone in our case, guilty or innocent and that I was to take the plea and do my time.

VC: Okay. And how much time were you required to do?

AT: 38 months.

VC: 38 months, okay. Did --

AT: No, it was 38 months but not all of it incarceration. I did 16 months incarceration.

VC: Okay. Now, did you ever personally speak with Mr. Hopeman, Denise Reilly, or any of their representatives?

AT: No I have not, or No I did not.

VC: Okay, so that went through your attorney, Mr. Chuck Hawkins?

AT: That is correct.

VC: Okay. And you, interpret what Mr. Hawkins told you to be threats by the prosecutors?

AT: That is correct.

VC: Okay. Let me put this on hold for a second. Excuse me for jumping around here, but going back to the arrest at the hotel, the money was in a duffle bag, or what kind of a bag?

AT: A duffle bag. In a separate vehicle that I - I arrived in a car and that was in a separate vehicle.

VC: All right, who was in that other vehicle?

AT: Loren Duke.

VC: Okay, now, was that money ever taken out of the vehicle?

AT; No it was not.

VC: Did the person who set up the sting, or anybody present any drugs to you or to the other people?

AT: No, not at all.

VC: So, no money changed hands, no money was shown, no drugs changed hands and no drugs were shown?

AT: No.

VC: Okay. All right. And, once again, you had not put up any money and then later on, you learned who did put up money, for the purchase. Now, there was a government informant involved by the name of Chambers. Do you know the name?

AT: No, I do not.

VC: Okay, you don't know this person?

AT: Only by sight during that week while the deal was set up. I never was introduced to him.

VC: Okay. Who was it that Chambers was kind of dealing with or speaking with?

AT: Lamont.

VC: With Lamont. Okay. All right, again, you were not present at Loren's house when any money was counted out and placed in a duffel bag, is that correct?

AT: That is correct.

VC: Okay. All right, is there anything else you feel is important concerning this matter?

AT: Other than the fact that - definitely I know for a fact, that Ralph Duke was not involved. Um, I think it was just unjust and got caught up in a whole bunch of childish lies.

VC: Okay, so you think that all these people that testified and gave statements, they did that

AT: Because they were little kids and they were frightened. They were threatened by the prosecution.

VC: And therefore, this would have lightened their load, so to speak?

AT: For sure.

VC: Okay. All right, let me ask you one more thing. You knew a lot of these people and you knew Mr. Ralph Duke, Was there any kind of an organization, known as the Duke Organization or the Duke Gang, headed by Ralph Plukey Duke?

AT: No. That's ridiculous.

VC: That's ridiculous?

AT: Truly ridiculous. There was no such thing. And that meant I could say that they were totally against each other all the time, always fighting and arguing amongst.

VC: What, the family?

AT: Yeah - so there was no Duke Organization ran by Ralph Duke, at all.

VC: Okay. Anything else you would like to say?

AT: Nope.

VC: All right, Now, I have recorded this with your permission, correct?

AT: That is correct.

VC: Have I made any promises, threats or inducements for this recorded statement?

AT: No, you have not.

VC: Okay, I will have this transcribed and I will bring this back for your reviewal and ask you to sign it. Would that be satisfactory?

AT: Yes it would.

VC: And, I will also have a copy for your records. I would like to put this in affidavit form. Is that satisfactory with you?

AT: Yes it is.

VC: All right, thank you very much. Would you repeat your name again?

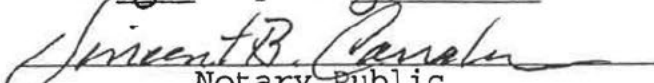
AT: Anthony - David - Turner.

VC: Thank you very much.

Dated: SEP. 8, 1998


Anthony David Turner

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 8 day of SEP, 1998.


Notary Public

