

INTERVIEW WITH VINCE CARRAHER (VC) AND ARCEL MAGEE (AM)
Ralph Duke Appeal
File No.: 9345/35393

VC: This is Vince Carraher. Today is the 15th of July, 1998 and I am with Mr. Arcel Magee. Would you spell your first and last name, sir?

AM: a-r-c-e-l-l, m-a-g-e-e.

VC: All right and what is your age sir?

AM: 30.

VC: And what is your home address?

AM: [REDACTED], Maplewood, Minnesota.

VC: Now, you've agreed to meet with me and allow me to take a recorded statement from you. Is that correct?

AM: Yeah it is.

VC: And, what I will do, I'll have it transcribed and I'll have a copy made for you and a copy for our records. And, this has to do with an appeal and this will take quite a while to process, as I explained to you. Do you understand that?

AM: Yeah.

VC: Okay. And, then, after it's transcribed, I'll bring it back for your signature and then I'll notarize it. It will be in the form of an affidavit. Is that comfortable for you?

AM: Yeah.

VC: Okay. Now, I don't want to infringe on your privacy and what not, but could I take a - just a little bit of history on -- did you grow up in Minneapolis or St. Paul?

AM: St. Paul.

VC: Okay. Can you tell me where you went to high school?

AM: I went to junior high _____ (Inaudible). I went to high school at Central and Highland.

VC: Okay. Now, during those years, did you meet some young people, specifically, Mr. Loren Duke, Marcel Duke and Lamont Duke?

AM: Yeah, I went to school with Loren and Marcel and I knew Lamont as their cousin. I think he went to school with my sister.

VC: Okay, good. So, you knew those people going way back. Now, did you know they had a relative, Ralph Duke?

AM: Yes.

VC: Okay. Did you -- now Ralph Duke would be a little older than you, is that correct?

AM: Yeah. My mother's age, he went to school with my mom.

VC: Okay. So you wouldn't be necessarily socializing with him, going out with him, etc.?

AM: No.

VC: Okay. Now, did you also know a man by the name of Scott Tredwell.

AM: Yeah, he went to school with us (inaudible)....

VC: He was also in your neighborhood and went to school with you?

AM: Yes.

VC: Yeah, okay. Now, Loren and Lamont Duke, and some other young men, about nine years ago, were involved in a situation that was the sting, by federal agents. Were you involved in that at all?

AM: Oh, no.

VC: Okay. Did you hear about that?

AM: Yeah, everybody heard about it.

VC: Everybody heard about it. That was also big news in the paper and television?

AM: Yeah, and on the streets.

VC: Okay. Now, Mr. Scott Tredwell was involved, is that correct?

AM: Ah, yes. yes.

VC: Okay. Now, did he ever talk to you about that?

AM: Um, a couple times briefly. I was going through my own case at that time, so I was trying to, you know, staying excluded from people, but we're kind of friends from back in the days and he mentioned a few times that he was involved in a case and that you know, he was trying to get out of it any kind of way he can.

VC: Okay, was this before the trial or during the trial? The Duke trial that is?

AM: Before.

VC: Before the trial.

AM: Yeah. After a while during the trial, I wasn't talking to him anymore, when I realized that he was going through with what he was saying. I thought he was just talking at first, cause I didn't know the ins and outs of trial until later on.

VC: Yeah. You had seen him at a ...

AM: Over at his mother's house on Selby.

VC: Okay, you, at the time, you weren't in jail or prison?

AM: No, no.

VC: Okay, but you, you had something pending yourself?

AM: Yes I did.

VC: Okay. Did he ever tell you that Mr. Ralph Duke was not involved in any way in that sting operation?

AM: He said that he knew he didn't have anything to do with it, but, that's what the government wanted him to say, so that's, you know, that's how he was going to get up out of it. Something about him getting caught at the airport, with some money from Scott.

VC: Okay.

AM: That's how he got involved.

VC: And that's how he got involved.

AM: Yeah.

VC: Had he put up some money in this sting situation or was his situation unrelated?

AM: I think it was unrelated.

VC: Okay. But he was the -- arrested and...?

AM: Yeah, he was real close friends with Marcel.

VC: He was a close friend of Marcel? All right. So, he told you that he was going to get information about Ralph Duke?

AM: Yes.

VC: Did you know that that was false information?

AM: I mean I knew it because he was so sad, you know, he was doing whatever he could to get up out of his case, pretty much everybody in the street knows that Ralph wasn't - I mean, at the time, I think Ralph was smoking himself, I mean he was using - but, I think everybody knew that he didn't have anything to do with it and you know, Scott, was just trying to get in on the ride?

VC: Yeah, so he was trying to avoid going to prison?

AM: Yeah.

VC: Yeah, okay. Do you know if he also gave some information or testimony against Lamont Duke?

AM: Uh, Scott? I'm not sure about that one? But, uh.

VC: Okay. Okay. Now, was there any kind of a Duke gang or Duke organization?

AM: Nah, there was just - I mean, there was a family. You know what I mean, there was a lot of nephews, a lot of brothers and, you know, and uh, most of them didn't even really hang out that much, they didn't get along much even the brothers, Lamonte and Marcel were brothers, they didn't even hang out that much. Nah, I think that's just something they kind of blew up to, you know, get the hoopla in the media going, but, I mean, they were arguing a lot and against each other and all kind of stuff so

VC: Okay, so they always didn't get a long, the family?

AM: Nah, nah.

VC: Okay, now, did Scott Tredwell, in anyway, know, who put up the money so these young guys, you know, could make a purchase in that sting situation?

AM: I'm pretty sure, as close as he is to Marcel, he knew, I mean, he was saying that he really, Plukey didn't know what was going on, but, you know, like I was saying, then he could get hisself off.

VC: Yeah, okay. So you talked to Tredwell on more than one occasion?

AM: Yeah, a couple, see I talked to him couple times - see I talked to him in person, then, there was a young lady, I think

he was in - one of them for sure was in Portland -- and I talked to him on the phone, uh, on a couple occasions, there was a young lady named Tina, out there dancing or stripping or something, she was there when I talked to him on the phone.

VC: Uh, huh. Okay. Now, Tredwell testified in court on the sting case, is that correct?

AM: Yes.

VC: Did you follow his testimony or did you hear what he said?

AM: I - I - I tried to, I went to court one day and they asked me to leave. I don't know if that's because - and that's when I knew - I don't know if that's because he told them, you know, I was there and I may know, whatever, but, uh, they asked me to leave, so I kind of followed it by word in the street, what was being said in the papers and so on.

VC: Yeah. Do you know from others, what he said about Mr. Ralph Duke on the witness stand?

AM: Um, if I remember correctly he was trying to say that he was the head of the family and he organized the buy and so on.

VC: Yeah. But you knew that that was not true?

AM: Yeah - he knew it wasn't true.

VC: He knew it wasn't true, but yet he went ahead and gave false testimony?

AM: Yeah.

VC: Is there any - aside from Mr. Marcel's group, are there any other people that know first hand that Scott Tredwell gave false testimony. You mentioned this woman.

AM: Uh, yeah, Tina. I can't remember Tina's -- Tina Bolock, I think was his girlfriend, but uh, pretty much, his girlfriend insisted that he knew.

VC: Is she in this community?

AM: Yeah. I think she's in St. Paul. I think they are originally from Waterloo, Iowa.

VC: Okay.

AM: That's what I think, cause I think she had left out of town when everyone realized that he was a snitch.

VC: Okay, did Scott Tredwell become an informant for the government? In other words, did he go to work for the government?

AM: Yeah.

VC: He had?

AM: Yeah.

VC: Is that common knowledge?

AM: Yeah, that's street knowledge.

VC: That's street knowledge in the community?

AM: Yeah.

VC: So he doesn't work this area, then for the government?

AM: No.

VC: He's too well known?

AM: Yeah.

VC: Okay. Do you know where he may be now?

AM: Uh, I think he was working in the Portland area.

VC: Working the Portland area. Do you know if he gets paid?

AM: From what I understand. I mean, the phone conversation he had he said he got money, ain't got nothing to do with Duke.

VC: Okay, that was on the phone, he told you about that?

AM: Yeah.

VC: How long ago was that -- to the best of your recollection?

AM: I want to say, 1989, 90, I can't remember exactly, but it's almost 8 years ago we talked.

VC: So as soon as he was arrested, he was offered ...

AM: ... a deal.

VC: A deal. And then, the government in a sense, they put him on the payroll to work cases he said. Okay, all right. Is he a violent guy?

AM: Not really.

VC: Okay. How old would he be about?

AM: Uh, my age, 30, 31.

VC: 30 or 31, okay. Did he ever mention the Hutchinson brothers? Did he testify against them?

AM: I think - I mean, pretty much anyone they had, you know, anyone that he could use to get off, a way out, then he was testifying - and I think he did testify against Larry and Ramone.

VC: Okay. Do you know if he knew Mr. Ralph Duke?

AM: Who?

VC: Tredwell.

AM: He knew him through his nephews, and that's about it, but it ain't - he never hung with him, I'd see Ralph around and he ain't never hang with em, he hung with his nephews.

VC: Okay. So, he didn't personally do any business with him? Buy cars? Nothing?

AM: Uh, uh - nothing like that.

VC: Okay. There was quite an age difference.

AM: Yeah. There was an age difference and a group difference.

VC: And a group difference?

AM: Yeah, there was the younger hot rod guys who Loren and them with the sports cars and all that - then Plukey and them were older, you know.

VC: Yeah. Older guys, yeah, okay. Do you happen to know a David Yomans?

AM: Yeah, I went to school with him.

VC: Did you? Now, he apparently made some accusations against Mr. Ralph Duke. Was David Yoman's a young guy too?

AM: Yeah. He's about the same age as us.

VC: Okay. Would he have had any reason to associate with Mr. Ralph Duke?

AM: Uh, uh. Just the nephews.

VC: Okay, just the nephews.

AM: Yeah, Marcel and all of us went to school.

VC: Okay. I can tell you there was an accusation I believe by Yomans, that he wanted some drugs from Ralph Duke, behind Loren Duke's residence in an alley in St. Paul. Does that make any sense to you?

AM: Around 89?

VC: Yeah, somewhere around there. But he wouldn't - would they have done any kind of business together?

AM: Uh, I would assume that - that if David was trying to get any drugs, he would have found a guy that was from Loren.

VC: From Loren?

AM: Yeah.

VC: Okay. All right. And, all of that was quite some time back. We're talking 89, 88.

AM: Yeah.

VC: Okay. Good. Is there anything else you can add. -- Oh, one more question. Do you know who put up the money in the sting?

AM: Not first hand, but uh, I'm pretty sure that they were Lamonte's crowd.

VC: The younger people.

AM: Yeah.

VC: Yeah. Okay. I came across a name, Givens. Did you know him?

AM: Um, yeah.

VC: Okay. And then there was a person by the name of Glass. Do you know if they were involved in that sting?

AM: Uh, I know they hung out with them, so, I mean, if they wasn't on the case, but I know they were you know socially it was Loren and Marcel and all them boys.

VC: Okay, so once again, on at least two occasions you spoke with Tredwell?

AM: Yeah.

VC: All right. And that would have been 89 in person?

AM: Yeah.

VC: And uh, do you remember if that was more than two occasions?

AM: I don't exactly know - recall, two in person.

VC: And then a third was a phone conversation. Had he called you for some reason?

AM: I had - a young lady was calling me.

VC: Was she a friend of yours?

AM: Yeah.

VC: How long after the case was that?

AM: That was um, that was shortly before I went in and I went in the February of 90.

VC: February 90?

AM: Yeah.

VC: Yeah. So, three times, you spoke to him about this sting operation and Mr. Ralph Duke's name came up and - did he admit Ralph Duke had nothing to do with it?

AM: Yeah, he pretty much said that, you know, he was doing what he had to do to keep his ass out of jail, no matter, you know, what he had to do.

VC: So his motive - motivation was to avoid prison.

AM: I think it was avoiding prison at first, but then after that it was just kind of a grudge and he was getting paid.

VC: He was getting paid, he was making a living. Did he ever tell you how much money they would give him?

AM: Nah, but I - back in the (inaudible) _____, you know, then I heard he was driving a cadillac.

VC: Okay. So, to the best of your knowledge, Tredwell is still working as an undercover informant for the United States Government.

AM: Yes.

VC: Okay. Anything else you can think of?
AM: That's about it.
VC: Good. Once again, you realize I am recording.
AM: Yes.
VC: Have I made any promises or inducements or threats to you for you to grant this interview?
AM: No.
VC: Has anyone else made any promises, threats or inducements?
AM: No.
VC: Do you have anything to gain by speaking with me?
AM: Hell no.
VC: Okay. And I'm gonna have this transcribed, put in affidavit form. Copy for your records, and then I'll return and ask you to sign. Is that satisfactory?
AM: Yes.
VC: Okay, once again, will you state your name?
AM: Arcell Magee.
VC: All right, I want to thank you very much.

END OF INTERVIEW


Arcell Magee

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 29 day of July, 1998.


Notary Public

