



VINNIE: Today is October 2, 2000, and this is Vincent Carraher and I'm meeting with Mr. David Yoeman and I am recording this. Am I recording this with your permission, sir?

DAVID: Yes, you are.

VINNIE: All right, sir, can you tell me your age?

DAVID: I'm 33.

VINNIE: Would you give me your address, sir?

DAVID: I live with my mother at [REDACTED] in St. Paul.

VINNIE: Iglehart?

DAVID: Right.

VINNIE: Okay, and I have your phone number. Now, as I explained to you off the tape, this has to do with Mr. Ralph Duke who is currently incarcerated at Oxford Prison. Was he at any time a friend of yours?

DAVID: Uh, I knew Ralph's name. I think if I knew somebody's name I \_\_\_\_\_ consider him a friend, but honestly, I wouldn't say he was. He's much older than me. We never hung out anywhere, so if you kind of take those two things into consideration I wouldn't say he's a friend.

VINNIE: Now, uh, do you remember way back in '89 a number of young men were arrested and Ralph Duke was also arrested. It was a sting operation. Did you remember hearing about that or did you know about that?

DAVID: I didn't know about it until after I got involved in it. Meaning once I was incarcerated, being indicted into their--into that conspiracy I guess, that's when I learned about the whole ordeal.

VINNIE: You had nothing to do with that operation?

DAVID: Nothing at all. I guess it was somebody, the Dukes or whoever was trying to buy some drugs from an undercover police officer. I guess a reverse sting. I didn't know nothing about it. I didn't have no money involved in it. I guess that's how it all kind of came together. A bunch of people put some money together and went to buy some drugs from them and basically that's how the conspiracy was. To be honest with you, from what I've learned now, the majority of the people or a handful of the people or three people that actually put money involved in it didn't even go to jail. It was a bunch of people who were basically associates of theirs kind of got ringed together.

VINNIE: Okay, did you subsequently hear from various people that Mr. Ralph Duke did not put up any money and was not orchestrating this deal?

DAVID: From the time I got involved in it, being in the county jail, I was always--it was always brought up that he was basically getting fucked because--I wouldn't say he was getting fucked, he basically--from what his reputation was from the past is what got him involved in this. It was basically maybe his son and his son's friends who put some money together to buy these drugs and I guess from his dad's reputation they think that his dad's got big money so they figured his dad gave him that money. But

truthfully, it was probably a bunch of guys who added up some money and put it together. -Whether the money belonged to him, I would say I really don't know, but from what I've heard, no.

VINNIE: Okay, did you know some of those young guys that were arrested on that deal?

DAVID: Yeah, I knew quite a few of them.

VINNIE: Okay, were they neighborhood . . .

DAVID: Yeah, we went to high school together, probably played--shit, played in the same sandbox I guess.

VINNIE: Would you care to name any? I have--I have all these names.

DAVID: Right. The ones that are involved in the indictment. The ones who all went to jail \_\_\_\_\_.

VINNIE: Right. So you were arrested on an unrelated thing totally, is that correct?

DAVID: Right. I was arrested for selling three ounces of cocaine to a guy I went to high school with. When I sold those ounces I got arrested. I was in the county jail before I know it I was switched over to a federal building, I was put in a pool pit with the Duke case. That case was already--those people had already been arrested for about a month now and then I get arrested on a different occasion selling three ounces of cocaine, and the next thing I know that's kind of like out the window

and now I'm involved in a conspiracy with the Dukes, which I totally knew nothing about. -

VINNIE: Okay, so they wanted to include you in this case against Ralph Duke and the rest of--Monte Duke and Loren Duke and Hutchin?

DAVID: Well I was told by the DEA, basically we're just putting you guys--this is their exact words--we're putting everybody in this pot and we're going to stir it up and see what we come up with.

VINNIE: Okay.

DAVID: I mean I was the last person involved in that indictment because the indictment was already--people were already arrested for like 30 days before that. I happened to get arrested, you can see in those indictments, my last--my name was added on it like basically like at the last minute typed in. Oh yeah, and like David Yoeman. Might as well throw him in there. Let's see what comes up. He's from the same neighborhood.

VINNIE: Did they want you to testify then against Ralph Duke?

DAVID: Yeah, they did. My attorney basically come in--to be honest with you, the person--the people who benefitted from this were the attorneys and basically the prosecutors. My attorney basically opened up some files in front of me, I was very naive to the whole thing, he opened up the files to me--basically opened up a book saying hey, these guys are going to testify about this,

closed it up. You know, I'm sitting there dumbfounded. I don't know what the hell is going on, and he said they're going to say this and that, uh, so if you don't testify you're going to get at least 10 years. Shit, I testified and still got 10 years.

VINNIE: So you were told that all these guys that were involved in that sting operation were going to testify against you for their own benefit.

DAVID: My attorney, Craig \_\_\_\_\_, told me that I was going to be testified--Loren Duke, Marcel Duke, and a guy named Scott Tredwell. Those three people were going to testify against me that I had bought drugs from them on two different occasions, and that exactly all I did was on two different occasions. And I basically told my attorney, well my attorney told me, you know, those--they're all family members. They're going to testify against Duke saying this stuff, you think they're not going to testify against you? And I said well, shit, they'll testify against their own uncle or whatever, I know damn well they'll testify against me.

VINNIE: Okay, so that encouraged you to cooperate then?

DAVID: Right. I didn't want to do ten years. My attorney told me that if I testify against Plukey I would get five years. I testified against Plukey and got what I would have got if I didn't testify from what he told me. I still got 10 damn years.

VINNIE: Okay, so your testimony is in the transcript. Did you embellish or exaggerate what you testified against Ralph Duke?

DAVID: I don't think I--I didn't exaggerate. If you read my transcript, it basically says that I had bought drugs-- well actually, I'm the one who went and picked up the drugs, me and a friend of mine like I stated in the transcripts, but my friend's since deceased. I used the money to go buy some drugs from Loren and Plukey who happened to be together. I happened to be driving down the street and I seen Loren. I said do you guys have any, you know, this stuff or whatever. Duke happened to be with him. Plukey. And then we went to the garage and we did a deal.

VINNIE: Okay, so it was Loren that did the deal then?

DAVID: Well, to be honest with you, uh, Loren was there. At that time, I would assume that because Plukey has such a name that all this shit surrounded him, but actually yeah, Loren was the one who actually did the deal. That's who I talked with.

VINNIE: Okay, so to be technical and to be accurate, it was actually Loren that did the business with you.

DAVID: If you want to be technical about it, I would have to say yes. By assumption I would say, you know, something different. But if you want to go by pencil and paper, real technical, yes, it was him.

VINNIE: Okay, fine. Did the government, as far as you knew, did the government know that Ralph Duke did not put up any money in this deal?

DAVID: I don't know what the government knows. I know the gov-- I would say the government knew damn well what the truth was, but hell, why not say Plukey Duke. We can make a big name and make this big Minnesota drug bust. You know, everybody knows Plukey by driving nice cars so we'll say we got the biggest dope dealer, and if that was the case, they didn't have to take us all at that time, us young kids, and make an example out of. Basically, they wanted to fuck him and they fucked everybody else to fuck him.

VINNIE: Okay, did you subsequently learn that all these young guys testified against Ralph and they testified falsely?

DAVID: I don't know about--I don't know what they actually said.

VINNIE: Uh, were you pressured and coerced and threatened to testify by government agents or the prosecutors?

DAVID: Well, I would think that--my attorney basically told me if I didn't testify I was going to get 10 years, and he basically told me what happened. He kind of read the story to me and that sounded about right so that's what I said. One of them DA's, I forgot his name, but he said that if, you know, if I didn't testify I can go to jail. My girlfriend was pregnant at the time and she knew I was selling drugs so she could go to jail.



VINNIE: So they even threatened to put your girlfriend in jail?

DAVID: Yeah, they threatened to put my girlfriend in jail, threatened to give me 10 years, and shit, the threats came true. I still testified like I said and I ended up doing over 10 years. My girlfriend was never involved, but hell, she knew what I was doing. I mean I didn't know nothing about the laws and all that.

VINNIE: Okay, let me make sure I \_\_\_\_\_. Uh, these threats that came your way, were they from an agent? Would you recognize the name Carey, or there was another agent, I believe he had a Polish name?

DAVID: I know there was two of them. One of them was kind of an aggressive type, I think it was long hair and kind of balding at the top. He basically just, you know, said this is what time it is, this is what happened. You, uh, you know, you say this you do--well, basically, this is what happened or you're going to jail for a long time. You're going to go to jail and your wife or your girlfriend's got a baby in her stomach, yeah, we can indict her or--it was so long ago but I know he was basically saying if I didn't testify I was going to do at least 10 years and they could indict my girlfriend, my mother, and all that other type of stuff.

VINNIE: They even mentioned your mother, huh?

DAVID: Yeah, they pretty much just said everybody could go to jail because of me.

VINNIE: Were you living with your mother at that . . .

DAVID: Yes, I was.

VINNIE: Okay, so your mother would have been vulnerable. Uh, all right, so pretty much they wrote the script and you followed it because of all these threats, is that correct?

DAVID: And I, you know, I just deal with what my attorneys said I got to do. He even got \$40,000 for it. He probably showed up to court once. He promised me I wouldn't get over 60 months and I ended up getting 151. He took \$40,000 from me. While I was in prison I even filed against him but that never worked. That never came about to anything.

VINNIE: Okay, is there anything else you feel is important you could shed light on this?

DAVID: Uh, just from what I know. Plukey Duke was hearsay, you know, from his reputation. He was a hustler back in the days but just this case, this conspiracy itself . . .

VINNIE: Yeah, this specific case.

DAVID: This specific case, no, he didn't. That was not his money. That was his son's whole doing. Plukey had nothing to do with it.

VINNIE: Plukey had nothing to do with it. Was that also--well you learned that in jail when you were thrown in with these guys a month later? These guys talk about that?

DAVID: Well, I was thrown in--yeah, once I got put in jail it was stated that, you know, uh, his son had gathered up some money from various people in the neighborhood and they went to go buy these drugs. Plukey was basically at home, and from what I heard, you know this is just hearsay again, and actually it came out of his mouth and his son's because I was in the pool pit with just us three at one time, and, you know, his son basically went around borrowing money from different people. His dad was pissed off at him. I'm sitting in the middle of both of them trying to be the conductor. I'm trying to get them two from not, you know, beating up on each other.

VINNIE: Okay, good. Well, I think that about covers it. I'll have this transcribed and I can bring it back to you for your signature and a copy for you.

DAVID: Well, I don't need a copy.

VINNIE: Yeah, well, all right, but I can bring it back for your signature, is that okay?

DAVID: I have no problem with it.

VINNIE: Okay, should I just call you when it's ready and we can meet?

DAVID: Just call me, we'll hook up, we'll sign the papers.

VINNIE: Okay, so once again, today is, did I say the 2nd?

DAVID: I think it is.

VINNIE: Yeah, 2nd of October. It's noon. Would you state your name again, sir?

DAVID: David Yoeman.

VINNIE: Okay, thank you very much.