

INTERVIEW BETWEEN VINCENT CARRAHER (VC) AND JACQUELINE BALLARD (JB)
Re: Ralph Duke Appeal
File No.: 9345/35393

VC: Okay, this is Vince Carraher. Today is July 21, 1998 and I am with Ms. Jacqueline Ballard. Will you spell your last name, ma'am?

JB: B-A-L-L-A-R-D.

VC: Okay, and may I ask your age please?

JB: 39

VC: 39.

JB: Uh, huh.

VC: And your home address?

JB: [REDACTED], St. Paul, Minnesota 55104.

VC: Thank you. And your phone?

JB: 612-[REDACTED]-[REDACTED].

VC: All right, now I'm going to make sure this is recording. Now, Ms. Ballard, at one time did you live in the state of California?

JB: Yes I did.

VC: All right and what city did you live in?

JB: I lived in Los Angeles.

VC: And how long were you living there?

JB: Los Angeles -- a little over a year. In the city of Los Angeles, but I been in, you know the Los Angeles County since I was 11 years old.

VC: Since you were 11?

JB: Yeah.

VC: Were you born here in Minnesota?

JB: Yes I was.

VC: Okay. Are you related to Mr. Ralph Duke?

JB: Yes.

VC: And, how, what - what is the relationship?

JB: He is my uncle.

VC: He is your uncle?

JB: Yes he is.

VC: Okay. Now, he's considerably older than you?

JB: Well, I'll be 40 - he's in his 50's - so I guess not that much older.

VC: All right, well, growing up, did you see much of him?

JB: Oh, yeah, uh, huh. Oh, gosh.

VC: Family events?

JB: Um, mmm. Always took us places, we spent a lot of time.

VC: All right. So, you also have some brothers and sisters?

JB: No, just brothers. No sisters.

VC: Just brothers. Can you tell me the names of your brothers?

JB: Jeff, John, - - Johnny's the oldest, I'm sorry -- Jeff and Joseph.

VC: And Joseph. And, is your father here in the city of St. Paul?

JB: Yes he is.

VC: Can you tell me what he does for a living?

JB: A sheriff's - deputy sheriff, I mean.

VC: He's a deputy sheriff?

JB: Yes.

VC: For Ramsey County?

JB: Ramsey County, yes.

VC: Okay. Do you know where he's assigned?

JB: In Ramsey.

VC: Oh, he travels the county?

JB: Yes. He's right here in Ramsey County.

VC: Okay, fine. Did you ever hear about a break in to his home?

JB: I heard about one a while back ago. But, I - I - I didn't know, he didn't tell me himself that - that's what I heard that it happened, yeah.

VC: Any idea who did the break in, or who was accused of doing the break in?

JB: I have no idea.

VC: Do you know if anything was stolen or taken?

JB: No, I do not. I'm not aware of anything.

VC: Okay, you're not aware of anything?

JB: No. I'm not.

VC: Now, were you in California - oh, 1988-89-90?

JB: Yes I was.

VC: And uh, Mr. Ralph Duke, he lived in uh, where the Twin Cities?

JB: Twin Cities.

VC: Yeah. Would he go to California frequently?

JB: Sometimes, you know, he'd come and visit - I lived up in (inaudible) at that particular time, and um 88 and he returned with my last son and, yeah.

VC: Stop and see you?

JB: Yeah, that's my uncle.

VC: Okay. Did he come out sometimes for business reasons?

JB: Yes, to buy cars.

VC: To buy cars?

JB: Yes.

VC: And then, what would he do with the cars?

JB: Um, drive them back here, so certain individuals who bought them from him.

VC: Could they buy them cheaper or something out there than uh.

JB: Sometimes, you know the prices would be cheaper. He could get good, pretty decent rates. And you know, sometimes it's a lot cheaper to do it that way.

VC: The reason would be, would these be more expensive cars?

JB: Yes they were.

VC: Not like a typical Chevrolet or?

JB: No, not little cars, no. They'd be nicer.

VC: Okay. Now, did he sometimes have ah, some of his nephews or younger people drive the cars back to the midwest?

JB: Yes he did.

VC: Okay. Did Jeff and Joe ever drive cars back?

JB: Yes they had.

VC: Would you know if Jeff and Joe were ever arrested for transporting narcotics from California to Minnesota?

JB: No, they have never been.

VC: They have never been. If they had been, would you know about it?

JB: Yes, those are my brothers. We're pretty close, so they would tell me.

VC: Okay. And, were they hired to transport these cars? Or did they do it as a favor.

JB: They just did it as a favor, it wasn't no hired - it's their uncle, we're family and we do things for each other.

VC: Okay. Were these young fellows paid expenses for transporting these vehicles?

JB: As far as the gas, the eating, the hotels if they needed to spend the night somewhere, any, you know, extra, if the tire blew or anything like that -- that's about it.

VC: Okay. But, there was never any talk or suspicion of transporting narcotics?

JB: No, not at all.

VC: Okay. Now, there's been - was there ever such a thing as the Duke Gang?

JB: No, there was not. I've never heard of that. Never.

VC: Okay, and you know all your relatives?

JB: Yes I do.

VC: Okay.

JB: Pretty close with basically all of them also, even though, if we lived in different states, you know the closeness was still there.

VC: Yeah. And there was never any - you said there was never any group gang.

JB: No.

VC: Did anybody ever accuse the family of having some kind of an organized criminal gang?

JB: No. Not at all.

VC: Okay. And uh, people in the family, did they work, have jobs?

JB: Yes. Yes they did.

VC: Okay. Did you know whether or not your brother Joe, moved back here and lived with your uncle Ralph Duke for a while?

JB: Yes he did.

VC: Can you tell me why did he do that?

JB: In order to get his life together and kind of you know, he was out there for a minute and he wanted to basically get on the straight and narrow.

VC: Okay, he was having some problems in California?

JB: Yes.

VC: Was his uncle Ralph trying to help him?

JB: Absolutely, without a doubt.

VC: Okay. Is that why ...

JB: As he did everybody else.

VC: He helped everybody else?

JB: Yes, see I mean, anytime any of us children were in trouble, we could always call on him.

VC: So, he was trying to help Joe straighten his life out and Joe moved in with him?

JB: Yes.

VC: How old is Joe?

JB: Joe is 32.

VC: Okay, is he living in Minnesota?

JB: No, he's not. He's living in Oregon.

VC: Living in Oregon?

JB: Yes.

VC: Okay. Is he working?

JB: Yes.

VC: Okay, good. Then, you were not here in the State of Minnesota when Ralph Duke and Lamont and Loren and some other people were arrested?

JB: No, I was not.

VC: Okay, and you weren't here in Minnesota when they all went to trial?

JB: No, I was not.

VC: Did your brother tell you anything about that trial?

JB: No - we really didn't get into much of the trial or anything. I really -- don't honestly know the details of the things that went on in the trial.

VC: Okay, so your brother Joe never shared any of that with you?

JB: No.

VC: Yeah, okay. Did he admit to you that his uncle helped him?

JB: Yes. Yes he did.

VC: That his uncle Ralph helped him?

JB: Yes.

VC: Okay.

JB: He - all the love for him - out of this world.

VC: Okay. so, Joseph never talked to you then, about your uncle Ralph's trial and Joseph's own personal testimony.

JB: Not about his own testimony. I mean personal testimony or about the trial. There's one thing he had shared with me as far as they were talking about giving him 30 years.

VC: Giving Joseph 30 years?

JB: Yes.

VC: Okay.

JB: Now, that's what he did - tell me that.

VC: Was that ...

JB: I think during trial.

VC: During trial - did he call you on the phone, or is that how he communicated this with you?

JB: Yes, because I was out in California and that's the only way I would have known.

VC: Was he feeling a lot of pressure?

JB: I think he was. Yes, I think he was cause - he sounded like his voice was kind of stressed out.

VC: Would you know if the government made any threats or promises or inducements for Joseph's testimony?

JB: No, I do not.

VC: You don't know about that?

JB: No, not at all.

VC: Now, he didn't get 30 years did he?

JB: No, he didn't.

VC: What happened?

JB: Four and a half, I think.

VC: Okay. Do you know how much time he served?

JB: Four.

VC: Okay. Was that out in Oregon?

JB: Uh, it started in California and then my mom moved to Oregon, so I think the rest of it was in Oregon, cause (inaudible) got permission from the State of California to go to Oregon.

VC: Yeah. Okay. Now, Jeff wasn't involved in this case?

JB: No, no he wasn't.

VC: And where did you say he's living now?

JB: In Oregon also.

VC: Oh. Would you have a phone number for him or anything?

JB: Uh, huh. It's in my phone book.

VC: I can get it from you later.

JB: Okay.

VC: All right, good. And, you knew nothing about the arrest and conviction of Loren Duke, Lamont Duke, well - and the others?

JB: No, I didn't.

VC: Okay. Is there anything else you well - just one more thing I want to emphasize -- how long was Joe and Jeff transporting in cars from California to Minnesota. I mean, would that have been a couple of years?

JB: If I'm not mistaken, it was a couple of years, a few years at that - if I'm not mistaken.

VC: Okay. And then as you told me, they were never arrested for anything illegal.

JB: Not at all. Not even suspected.

VC: Okay. And you know these guys pretty well, right?

JB: Oh, absolutely, without a doubt.

VC: If they'd a been doing something illegal, would you have known about that?

JB: I think they would have shared that with me. Matter of fact, I know they would have shared that with me.

VC: You know they would have shared that?

JB: Yes, I'm very, very close with them. Very close.

VC: Okay. So then, they were not transporting narcotics back to Minnesota.

JB: No they were not.

VC: And there is no such thing as the Duke gang?

JB: No, there is not.

VC: Okay fine. Now, with your permission, I've recorded this, correct?

JB: Yes.

VC: Have I made any promises, threats or inducements to you?

JB: No, you have not.

VC: Okay. Would you state your full name again?

JB: My names is Jacqueline Ann Ballard.

VC: And I will have this transcribed and I will make a copy for your records.

JB: Okay, thank you.

VC: Thank you ma'am. -- Ms. Ballard, excuse me, I forgot to ask you one more question here. Were you ever asked to testify by an attorney in your uncle Ralph Duke's case?

JB: No I was not. Not at all.

VC: Would you have testified had someone asked you to testify?

JB: Without a doubt.

VC: Okay. And, would your testimony have been pretty much what you have told me today?

JB: Absolutely.

VC: Okay, fine. Uh, I'll add that to this affidavit all right?

JB: Yes.

VC: One final question. Did I ask you if a person by the name of Marvin ever left any money with you?

JB: Yes you did, and I think Marvin Caleb or something like that I forgot his last name, but NO, he had not.

VC: Do you know this individual? Is he a friend?

JB: Not a friend of mine. I've known him in passing, just of his name, but as far as acquaintance and friend - no I do not.

VC: Okay. Do you know anything about his business dealings or what - I don't know -- where he lives or anything like that?

JB: No, just - no, not at all. I have no idea.

VC: Okay and he never left any money specifically, \$13,000 at your home?

JB: No, he did not.

VC: Okay, that's it. Thank you.

JB: You're welcome.

END OF INTERVIEW.

Jacqueline Ballard

Subscribed and sworn to before me.
this ____ day of _____, 1998.

Notary Public