

This is Vince Carraher. Today is September 3, 1998, and I am with Mr. Marcel Duke.

VC: Would you state your name, age and address?

MD: Marcel, M-A-R-C-E-L, Duke, D-U-K-E; [REDACTED], St. Paul, MN. 55104; my age 32.

VC: Your phone, sir?

MD: [REDACTED]-[REDACTED].

VC: Okay. Let's make sure it's recording.

VC: Now, are you related to Mr. Ralph Duke, known as Pluky Duke?

MD: Yes.

VC: What is that relationship?

MD: He's my father's brother.

VC: And your father's name is?

MD: Claude Duke.

VC: Okay. Now, reflecting back to 1988 and 1989, Mr. Ralph "Pluky" Duke was arrested and also your brother and a number of other young men were arrested. Can you tell me anything about that arrest?

MD: I actually was never arrested. I was just held, detained and then let go.

VC: Okay. This had to do with a drug case, where a sting was set up?

MD: Yes.

VC: Okay. Now, regarding that particular case, can you tell me who put up the money to make the purchase of drugs in the sting operation?

MD: I didn't know much about the deal, but I did know that Lamont was organizing the whole deal.

VC: Okay. Then a number of young men made contributions for this purchase?

MD: Yes.

VC: Okay. Now, did Ralph Duke, known as Pluky Duke, did he put up money for this particular purchase?

MD: No. As far as I knew it was just us younger guys going in on a separate situation and my uncle had nothing to do with it.

VC: So your uncle Ralph Duke had nothing to do with this?

MD: As far as I know.

VC: Okay. Now did you, yourself, make a monetary contribution?

MD: Yes.

VC: Okay. Now, there was a fella named Scott Tredwell, he had made a statement that he purchased drug from Ralph Duke on about four different occasions, do you know anything about that?

MD: No.

VC: Okay.

MD: As far as I knew, he really didn't even know my uncle.

VC: Okay. So did he ever say he got drugs?

MD: No, he was my best friend, so I knew him well. We lived together.

VC: You lived together?

MD: Yeah.

VC: So he was never doing any kind of business with Ralph "Pluky" Duke?

MD: Nope.

VC: Okay.

MD: Not as far as I know.

VC: Okay. Would you have known, having lived with him?

MD: Yeah.

VC: Okay. Do you know who he was doing business with? You don't have to name the person.

MD: Do I know who he was giving it to or getting it from?

VC: Well either/or, both.

MD: Yeah.

VC: And it wasn't Mr. Ralph Duke?

MD: No.

VC: Okay. Did Mr. Scott Tredwell rip off Lamont Duke? Take some money from him....

MD: Not as far as I know.

VC: You don't know anything about that?

MD: No. I know he owed a lot of people.

VC: He owed a lot of people money?

MD: Yeah. Oh, yeah he did. He did, he got me and Lamont and disappeared for about two months.

VC: He disappeared for about two months?

MD: Yeap. That's right, yeah he did.

VC: Okay. Do you know if he was arrested out of state?

MD: From what I understand, yes.

VC: Did he become a Government agent?

MD: After the arrest, yeah. The dirt he was doing by his self.

VC: Okay. Did he testify or did he set up people you knew?

MD: No, he tried to set me up, from what I understand.

VC: Okay.

MD: But nothing came of that.

VC: Okay. Now, you were arrested in that sting operation?

MD: No.

VC: Okay. Did the agents or prosecutor ever want to interview you or talk to you?

MD: Yes.

VC: Okay. But never charge you with anything?

MD: Yes.

VC: Oh, they did charge you with something?

MD: Yes.

VC: Oh, okay.

MD: Aiding and abetting.

VC: Aiding and abetting. Okay, did you have to give any statements or testimony about Ralph Duke?

MD: Yes.

VC: Okay. Can you recall? Do you have an independent recollection of what they wanted to know and what you told them?

MD: They wanted to know about the deal, the bust and the other drug transactions that I either witnessed or was involved in. And of course of my..drug...you know.

VC: Okay. Were you able to provide them with anything that they wanted?

MD: They didn't use me and threw me to the wolves, so..

VC: They didn't use you?

MD: No. They said I was a liar.

VC: They said you were a liar?

MD: Yeah.

VC: Okay. By throwing you to the wolves, what did they, what happened?

MD: They tore my deal up.

VC: Oh, you had, had a negotiation..

MD: Yes, a probation deal.

VC: And they, so they uh...

MD: I was found not to be truthful, so they went back to the courts and revoked my deal and revoked my (inaudible).

VC: Okay. Were you incarcerated..

MD: Yeah.

VC: How long?

MD: Two days.

VC: Were you ultimately required to serve time in prison?

MD: Yeah.

VC: How long.

MD: Three years.

VC: Okay. Marcel, had you been interviewed by prosecutor name Hopeman?

MD: Yes.

VC: Yes?

MD: Yes.

VC: Could you sit a little closer. Do you believe that Mr. Hopeman understood that the money, to purchase drugs in the sting operation, did not come from Ralph "Pluky" Duke?

MD: Yes.

VC: The FED's, they interviewed all these young people that were arrested, then implicated, correct?

MD: Correct.

VC: And many of these people put the blame on Ralph Duke, is that correct?

MD: Yeah, because that's what they wanted to hear.

VC: That's what the Government wanted to hear?

MD: Yeah.

VC: Okay. These people, these young people, were they coerced, intimidated into saying what the FED's wanted to hear?

MD: Well, when they tell you it's either 20 years or you can go home tonight, all you got to do is say that Pluky Duke had something to do with it, when your 18 or 19 years old, that's a easy call.

VC: So that's the reason that they blamed it on Ralph Duke because they were....

MD: I would imagine so, yes.

VC: Okay. So was there ever a "Duke Gang" an organized crime gang?

MD: No, hell no.

VC: No, definitely not?

MD: No.

VC: Okay.

MD: That's the first I've heard of that.

VC: This is the first you've ever heard of that?

MD: Yes.

VC: Okay. Is there anything else you would like to mention? Have you heard from Scott Tredwell, by the way?

MD: No.

VC: Okay. Would you trust him?

MD: No.

VC: No. Alright. Did you know a fellah by the name of Billups?

MD: No.

VC: Anything else?

MD: That's about it.

VC: Alright. So you have agreed to meet with me. Have I made any promises, threats or inducements to meet with you?

MD: No. I'm here on my own (inaudible)

VC: Your here on your own, alright. Would you state your name again, sir?

MD: Marcel Dupre Duke.

VC: Alright, sir. That concludes this. I will have it transcribed and make a copy for your records.

MD: Okay.

VC: Thanks.

Alfred Date

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 27<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1998.

Corie Sandvig  
Notary Public

