IN THE COUNTY COURT FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA Criminal Division E

----x CASE NO. CTC 01-00101-MMANO

: POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

STATE OF FLORIDA

vs.

JESSE Prince SPN 02157727

DEPONENT: MR. BARRY GASTON

DATE: May 15, 2001

TIME: 3:10 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Criminal Justice Center

14250 49th Street North

Room 1100

Clearwater, FL 33762

REPORTER: Crissy Cladakis

Stenographic Reporter

Notary Public

State of Florida at Large

D & D REPORTING SERVICE 915 Chestnut Street Clearwater, FL 33756 (727) 468-2002

BARRY GASTON, WAS CALLED AND AFTER BEING DULY SWORN WAS EXAMINED AND TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS: 3 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. de VLAMING: State your name, please. Q. Barry Gaston, Senior. Mr. Senior -- Mr. Gaston, before we begin, Α. Q. 10 have you been made aware that the Court has issued a ruling to abrogate or set aside or waive the private investigative privilege in this case? 12 13 Α. I am. 14 Q. What do you do for a living? I'm a private investigator. 15 And where are your offices? 116 Q. 17 My office in is Lake Wales. Α. And what's the address of your office? Q. 18 A. The address, the physical address, is 708Delmar Street, Lake Wales, Florida. Area code -- Zip Code, 33853. 0. And what's the phone number over there? 23 A. Area code 863, 678-1235. Q. And do you have any past law enforcement experience?

the work? Α. Q. Tell me when you -- did you ultimately meet with Mr. Fabrizio? 5 Α. T did ٥. And where did you meet? In Clearwater. Α. So you came over there for the -- came over here for the purpose of interviewing and finding out 10 what the job was about? 11 Α. Yes. In relation to the investigation, when was Q. 13 that initial, first meeting? 14 Α. It was early February. 15 Q. Where did you meet in Clearwater? I believe $\overline{i}t$ was at Perkins Restaurant. 16 Α. 17 Q. Was he alone? 18 A. No. He was with Jim Ley. 19 Q. L-e-y? A. Yes. 21 Who was Jim Ley? Q. 22 Α. He was another private investigator that was 23 considered to be working. 24 ٥. What do you mean "considered to be working"? He didn't stick with us long. Ά.

PAGE 4 _ 4 A. I have 14 years past law enforcement experience. Q. Doing what? Α. As a police officer, I spent nine years, approximately. And I worked for the Sheriff's Office in Polk County as a correctional officer for four-and-a-half years, almost five. Q. And how long have you been in the private investigative business? For three years, almost. Α. Q. And is that your primary source of income? Α. Yes. And do you have any other investigators ٥. 14 working for you on staff? 15 Α. No. Okay. You either man the phones yourself or your family does it or what have you, or do you have 17 someone who answers your phone? 118 A. My wife assists.
Q. Mr. Gaston, did the phone ring about a year or so ago in connection with being involved in what 19 21 has, ultimately, become the State of Florida versus 23 Jesse Prince? A. Yes. Q. And who contacted you, initially?

PAGE 7 Oh, he was going to work the job with you, ٥. you mean? A. Yes. He was going to help with surveillance. But he didn't pan out? He didn't stay?
Well, he didn't -- he was released within the Α. first week of the investigation. Q. Why? I have no idea. They didn't elaborate with A. 9 me. 10 But you were told, ultimately, you would be working alone, then? 12 Joe Fabrizio was still considered to be my Α. 13 employer at the time. 14 Q. And was Mr. Ley an African American? 15 No. Α. 16 What was explained to you what you were going 0. 17 to do once you got into Clearwater? What were your 18 duties going to be? 19 A. Once I got in and we discussed the case, we 20 discussed that there was an individual or -- some --21 some individuals that were to be watched and to be 22 monitored, their activities. And the consensus was on 23 a possibility of immoral activities and the possibility of illegal activities. Did they tell you what they suspected? Q.

MR. JOHNSON: I can tell you this regarding

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your salary?

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until --

MR. de VLAMING: Okay. Well, let's get the answer first, and then we'll find out if it was a lawyer that did it. MR. de VLAMING: Q. Did you become aware that The Church of Scientology was the entity that was hiring you? MR. JOHNSON: Objection, because that's the substance of what we're objecting to. So you can ask, were you, in fact, told. And the answer is yes or no. And then, what was the substance. And that's what's objectionable, is the substance of the conversation. MR. de VLAMING: All right. MR. JOHNSON: You're asking for the cart before the horse. MR. De VLAMING:

MR. JOHNSON: No. I was not involved

to the extent that he was told that by someone from my

firm or someone working closely with my firm.

MR. de VLAMING: No, he wasn't involved.

MRS. WARDELL: Why is he objecting to it? MRS. KOBRIN: And I'm going to object, also,

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Were you ever told that The Church of Q. Scientology was the entity that was paying your salary?

beyond the scope of this particular case. To that extent and since the Judge, so far, has upheld his rulings, stayed consistent with it, if there's something relating to the possession of drugs, I would allow the witness to answer. I think it's beyond the scope if there were other illegal activities beyond drug work. MR. de VLAMING: Okay. I want to know what you were told to Q. do. So why don't you tell us what you were told to MR. JOHNSON: I'm instructing you just to answer as it relates to drug work. MR. de VLAMING: Q. Yeah, as it relates to Jesse Prince during this time period. A. At this time period, there was no drug concern. Well, then what were your activities to 0. involve concerning Jesse Prince? Α. Surveillance. To see if there were any illegal activities or immoral activities going on and report back to somebody?

_ PAGE 12 . MR. JOHNSON: I'm --MR. De VLAMING: It would be either yes or no. MR. JOHNSON: I'm not objecting to were you ever told who was paying your salary. Ultimately, that's fine. And then who was -- who were you told, and that -- if it came from me, then I object on my attorney-client privilege. And I assume Mrs. Kobrin is objecting if --MRS. KOBRIN: As work product.
MR. JOHNSON: -- if it came from Fabrizio or 10 11 from her, since she's already identified Fabrizio as 13 working for her. MRS. KOBRIN: And I'm also going to object that it states facts that are not in evidence. MRS. WARDELL: How about: Did it ever come 16 to your attention that Scientology may be involved with this? 19 MR. de VLAMING: I'll take that. MR. JOHNSON: Again, my objections are the same. If it came from me --21 22 MRS. WARDELL: Well, first of all, did it ever come to your attention that Scientology may be 24 involved? MR. JOHNSON: If I -- again, I object. And

Yes, to report back to Joe Fabrizio. PAGE 10 _ Okay. So if during your surveillance you saw any immoral or illegal activities, you would report back to Joe Fabrizio? Α. Yes. 5 Q. Did Mr. Fabrizio tell you who he was working 6 for? Α. 8 Do you know who he was working for? ٥. Do I or did I? Α. Well, did you? ٥. 11 Α. No. Q. Do you? Α. I do now. Who? 14 Q. MR. JOHNSON: Again, if that comes from me, 15 it's attorney-client privilege, that knowledge, and 17 you can refuse to answer on that basis. MR. de VLAMING: l 18 19 Q. During the course of your investigation before -- at any time before the arrest of Jesse

Prince, did you realize that The Church of Scientology

MRS. WARDELL: Well, so long as you didn't

was behind this investigation or in any way paying

learn that from an attorney, from your attorney.

PAGE 13 _ 13 ask him not to answer. MRS. WARDELL: Well, that's a yes or no. And then if he did --MR. JOHNSON: Right. That's the substance of the conversation -- that's the substance of the telling. That's what you can't say. You can ask, were you ever told --MRS. WARDELL: Well, that's --MR. JOHNSON: -- where the source of the 10 money was -- of your funding was, and that's a yes or a no. 12 BY MR. de VLAMING: All right. Were you ever told the entity behind the hiring of you and paying your salary? Were 15 you ever told, yes or no? 16 Will you repeat that? Α. Yes. Were you ever told who was paying your salary? Who was the actual client? We understand Fabrizio was the private investigator. But who the 20

actually client was, just -- you don't have to say who it was, but yes or no you were told?

MR. JOHNSON: Do you mean client or source of funds? Those are terms of art. MR. De VLAMING: Let's try source of funds.

Let's try that one.

17 Joe Fabrizio. And what did the photograph depict? Just a Q. face or a whole body? 3 Α. Just his facial image. And was he with his family or was he by Q. 6 himself? Α. Just him as an individual. Did you keep the photograph or just look at it? Did you keep the photograph with you so you could 10 match it up or did you look at it and give it back? A. No, I just looked at it. I didn't keep it with me. Q. Did Fabrizio take it back? Does he have it? 13 14 Α. Does he have the photograph? It was a flyer, a page sheet about the size of a subpoena's document. 15 And he may have a copy of it. I don't know. 17 Q. Do you know what -- was it a photograph taken for a certain purpose? 18 A. For me to identify him. 20 0. But I mean, was it, like, a family 21 photograph? 22 A. No, no. 23 Did the flyer have any writing on it or was ٥. it just a picture? Α. _I don't remember. I remember the photograph

PAGE 17 ___

PAGE 15 Okay. Would you have that back at your office? 2 3 Α. 4 Is he a private investigator here in the Q. Clearwater area? A. Largo -- Tarpon Springs. Okay. So I take it, it was Mr. Fabrizio who Q. was giving you the scope of your employment? 9 Correct. Α. 10 0. And was he the one that had mentioned the name "Jesse Prince"? 11 12 A. Yes. And did he say that that's the person who 13 14 you're going to surveil to determine if there's any immoral or illegal activities? A. Yes. 17 Did he tell you how you were going to go 18 about surveilling Mr. Prince? A. Yes. 19 And what did he tell you? Q. Α. He told me locations that he is knowledgable of that Mr. Prince frequents; high-crime areas, high-drug areas. And he wanted me to be in those areas to see if and when he shows up and to conduct surveillance from that point of him.

PAGE 18. 18 and the face. Color or black and white? Q. Α. Color. Okay. After the amount of surveillance time that you put in, you finally were able to, you know, locate him or see him. Where was that location? The first time I ever saw him was at Wilson's Lounge in Clearwater. It may be Largo. I'm not sure. It was on -- is it Belcher? 10 Q. Missouri maybe? Missouri Avenue or Belcher? 11 Belcher. Q. Okay. 13 And --Α. Let me interrupt you. 14 Q. 15 Were you told that that's one of the places that he and his fiancee go to? Α. I was told that he has been seen there. 18 Who told you that? ٥. 19 A. Joe Fabrizio. Did you ever receive any information from a 21 fellow by the name of Brian Raftery? 22 Yes. Α. 23 ٥. And did he tell you anything about Jesse 24 Prince, as it related to this investigation?

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Q. Were you to work in conjunction with another private investigator so that you could get some leads as to where Prince might be?

A. Not I.

Q. Well, how were you going to determine where he was so you could surveil him in these areas?

A. I went to the locations that were given to me on many days prior to ever even seeing him.

Q. Were there times that you sat in surveillance and never saw Mr. Prince?

A. Many times.

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Q. How many surveillances would you say you sat on before you were able to see Mr. Prince?

A. At first, it was approximately five days to four days a week for approximately three, maybe even four weeks, even more, maybe. That was broken down to just trying weekends.

Q. So on how many days would you say that you put in before you were able to see Mr. Prince and conduct your first surveillance?

A. I'd estimate 25 to 30.

 $\mathbb{Q}.$ Were you shown a photograph of Jesse Prince so that you could identify him?

A. Yes.

Who showed you the photograph?

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He spoke to me briefly. And he said that he wanted us to make sure that everything was done by the book; that if we made contact with Jesse Prince by visual and if we could do surveillance on him, he wanted us to just watch him. He was standing there with Joe Fabrizio, myself and Jim Ley. And he told us that — and we also told him that we wouldn't do anything unethical or illegal in this investigation.

Raftery said, "I wouldn't have it any other way." And he said if it got to the point where

Well, the investigation began. I saw him.

Raftery said, "I wouldn't have it any other way." And he said if it got to the point where anything illegal was occurring, that we would contact law enforcement. Because I was not going to risk my license getting involved unless law enforcement was going to be getting involved somewhere down that line, and he agreed. And that's what he wanted. That's what he told me.

Q. Did he ever provide information concerning Mr. Prince's whereabouts during the course of the investigation?

A. Not to me.

Q. You don't recall taking any calls from Mr. Raftery --

A. I never took calls from Mr. Raftery during the course of the investigation. It was -- it was Mr. Fabrizio who would get those calls in the beginning.

I asked him where we were on the case.

And what did he say?

what was he doing? A. He was with his girlfriend, Dee. And they were towards the back -- they walked to the back of the bar. They sat alone and started necking.
Q. And what did you do? Did you surveil them? Out of the corner of my eye. And anything illegal going on? Q. Nothing. Α. Anything immoral going on? Q. 10 Α. No. Did you end up meeting Mr. Prince that night? 11 Q. 12 Α. On the way out the door, he stopped and spoke 13 to me, shook my hand and introduced himself. Q. Was he friendly towards you? Very. Α. 16 ٥. Were you standing by a bar or by the pool table or what? 18 I was watching the Florida Gators play Α. 19 basketball. It was a championship game. I remember. Q. And you were positioned somewhat near the door that he had to walk by or what have you? 21 22 23 Yes. Α. Q. And did you great him as well? 24 Oh, yes.

Did you exchange names? Α. 25 Q.

PAGE 23 L

_ PAGE 21 . At different times that I talked to him -there was a time when he would tell me that there was -- he has to go -- he has to make contact, again, in order to verify -- his supervisor would give him 3 instruction on certain things that he could and could not do and what he could do. We're talking about after the arrest, now, Q. right? 8 q Α. Oh, after the arrest. Forgive me. 10 After the arrest. Α. After the arrest, he would update me on -wait a minute. After the arrest, I had very little 13 contact with Howard Crosby. I tried, but Howard Crosby was on vacation sometimes. Other times, he was injured and was on light duty. He was transferring his position from what he was working to, I think, a 17 sergeant on the patrol unit. He was very difficult for me to reach. Q. So you don't recall talking to Detective Crosby after the arrest to find out the status of the 21 prosecution? A. I did, but not immediately. Later on, I spoke to him. I'm trying to think of whether he called me after the arrest was made or I called him. 24 I'm not sure. But one of us called each other after

PAGE 24 Α. Yes. What name did you use? Q. Rinzy Trinidad. Q. Okay. Who was Rinzy Trinidad? Α. It was me. 6 Does that have -- is that a fake name? Q. Q. Did you ever use that name in the past? Α. No. 10 Did you ever use it as an undercover name Q. 11 when you were a cop? 12 Α. No. 13 Q. Did you make it up for this case? 14 Α. Yes. 15 Did someone give you the name? ٥. 16 I made it up. Α. 17 Okay. And did the conversation or the ٥. 18 greeting last any appreciable length of time or was it 19 very short? 20 A. It was pretty much brief; shook hands, 21 introduced, good to meet you, in and out. He didn't say where he lived? You didn't say 22 Q. 23 where you lived? A. No. Q. You just gave each other's names and said,

the arrest was made.

Q. Did someone ask you to call to find that out?

(Subpoena delivery interruption.)

(At this time there was a discussion off the record.)

BY MR. de VLAMING:

Q. Did anyone ask you to call Detective Crosby after the arrest to find out the status of the prosecution?

A. Brian may have asked me -- Brian Raftery may have asked me. It was -- it's so foggy to me. It was a long time ago. Brian may have asked me to call and check and see the status of the case and to let him know. But I do know that I would call him, from time to time, to ask him the status, because I didn't know.

Q. Did you ever get annoyed, after the case resulted in an arrest, by the number of calls you were getting by people who wanted to find out the status of the case, even though your job had been completed?

A. No.

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Q. Never got annoyed with those calls?

A. I don't remember getting a lot of those calls.

Q. Okay. So the first time you saw Mr. Prince, then, was in Wilson's Lounge on Belcher Road. And

hey, how are you doing, my name is this? A. Yes, sir. Okay. How much time went by before you saw him a second time? Α. I guess it was -- I don't think it was much more than a week. Q. Where did you meet him the second time? Α. The same location. Did anybody tell you he would be there on the 10 date that you met him on the second time? A. No. Ο. In other words, you just took a chance of being there and he came in? 14 Yes. Α. Were there any unsuccessful times that you went before that? 16 17 Α. Yes. 18

Q. And he didn't show up?
A. Yes.
Q. About -A. Several -- many of those.

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Q. But, I mean, from the time that you met him, the first time, until the second time, were there times in between where you went and didn't see him?

A. Possibly. I don't recall. But my -- I went

It was a day some time in, I believe, April.

Jesse and Dee were outside smoking marijuana in a car.

was on a weekend, and they were smoking marijuana with

And they were -- this time it was the tan-colored

Buick. And there were several young people there.

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frame on this Wilson's Liquor incident where they were in the car and you smelled marijuana and the urine-type of a smell. Do you remember about when that was? Α. I think that was towards the middle of the month. Q. Α. April. And you had met him only one time before that Q. time, and that's the time you greeted each other? A. I had -- I had possibly met him twice before then, been with him twice before then. Q. Okay. MR. de VLAMING: Do you want to follow up? MRS. WARDELL: Yeah. BY MRS. WARDELL: Q. Where were you when you were able to observe Standing in the parking lot. Α. Okay. And you had mentioned that you asked Q. Dee where they were going before they went out? A. Yes. Tell us about how you had formed a relationship well enough that you could ask this random person where she was going, and she felt like PAGE 30

them. And there came a point in time when Jesse and Dee got into the car with a group of young people, about three other young people, and drove completely around the building and then came back around to the front later on. I was still at the lounge. And I asked Dee, "Where you guys were going?" And she said, "We just have some business to take care of." When they came back, they stayed in the parking lot. They were smoking marijuana. Dee had a pipe. And my experience -- my experience, the smell I smelled was of a urine-type of smell and that indicated, to me, crack. Q. And where did you smell that? A. Coming from the car. Did you smell any marijuana coming from the Q. car? Oh, it was billowing with marijuana smoke. Α. ٥. But you could smell urine through the marijuana smoke? A. Yes. When you walk up to the car and speak to people, you can tell the difference between marijuana and crack. And so I couldn't identify exactly what Jesse had, but he was leaning down onto a piece of paper.

she could give you the answer. A. Jesse and Dee drank a lot of alcohol. They drank a lot of alcohol through the whole time that every day that I saw them, they were partially or total intoxicated prior to even pulling out any marijuana. Dee was easier to talk to about details than Jesse was. I was -- I had truly no intentions of holding any conversation with either one of them from the 10 beginning of the investigation. But they made it so that I had to keep my cover; and therefore, 12 involvement was necessary. So at that point, I made a point to get as much information as I could about the 13 two of them. 15 She was talkative to me a lot. There was a 16 time when she talked to me and Jesse told her to keep her mouth shut. 18 Q. So had you actually been to their house prior 19 to this event at Wilson's that you were talking about? 20 A. Not yet. Q. Not yet. But basically, you had chummed up in the bar and you were talking like, hey, where are 23 you going now, and she said, I've got some business, I'll be back? Α.

PAGE 28 And it could have indicated a couple of things to me, but I didn't see exactly what was there. But I do 3 know that they were smoking marijuana. And I did recognize the scent of -- what I recognized as crack. Õ. Do you know who was smoking crack? It looked to me like Dee was. A. And how many people were in the car? There were three people in the back and two Α. in the front. 10 Q. Did you ever get a close look at the pipe? A. It was very dark. I didn't get a very good look at the pipe. So you can't swear whether it was a crack 13 Q. 14 pipe or a marijuana pipe? All I know is it was a pipe. Α. Okay. Q. 16 17 A. And it was lit. 18 Q. Were you invited into the car at all? 19 No. The car was full. Α. Did you ever smoke marijuana with Jesse 20 Q. Prince? (At this time there was a discussion 23 off the record.) MR. de VLAMING: While we're on the subject, give me a time Q.

PAGE 31. What made you follow them outside? A. I saw a whole lot of the young people getting in the car with them. They were all white. They were all, probably, in their early 20's, maybe a little bit younger. And my curiosity was, "What are these young people going to do with these old people?" How did you keep from tipping them off, if Q. you will? Why did they think you were following them 8 out? 10 A. Because I led them to believe that I was going to be interested in hanging with them, too, outside. We were talking consistently.

Q. So they knew -- it wasn't like you were watching them secretly; they knew you were there? 14 Yes. Oh, yes.
Okay. That's the part I didn't quite 15 A. 16 ٥. 17 understand. 18 A. Oh, yes. We had been talking to each other

Q. So you were pretty close to the car?
A. I was as close as this desk is, this table
s.
Q. And you had mentioned that they drove arour

all along prior to them going to the car.

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Q. And you had mentioned that they drove around, I thought you said, to the back. Where were you during that?

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drugs before this particular night where you watched them get in the car and you could smell the marijuana? 3 I don't think so, no. Α. 4 So to you, they were a stranger, did not talk about drugs, and you were standing closer than you and I in this room to them smoking drugs? 6 That's correct. 8 Okay. g I wasn't a stranger to them at the time. Α. They didn't think I was a stranger. 10 Q. But you didn't talk drugs with them? 11 12 A. 13 Q. Didn't smoke drugs with them at that time? 14 Α. No. Did you smoke drugs or marijuana with them 15 Q. after that time? 17 Α. Yes. 18 Q. With Mr. Prince? 19 Yes. Α. 20 Q. And with his fiancee? 22 23 Q. And what location? MR. JOHNSON: Would you define what you mean by "smoke marijuana"? MR. de VLAMING:

PAGE 36 And how did he produce the marijuana? His girlfriend, Dee, went to the back -- to the bedroom and brought out a black, metallic can. It could have been a cigar box or a candy box and it had a design on top of it. And she brought it out and opened it. And she rolled the marijuana and lit it gave it to Jesse and lit it for him. And then they passed it around. Q. So this is just the three of you? 10 Α. Uh-huh. Dee, Jesse and you, correct? That's right. Yes, sir. Q. 12 Α. All right. And did you possess the 0. marijuana? When they handed it to me, yes. Ā. 16 Q. And did you bring it to your mouth? 17 A. Yes. And did you inhale? 18 19 Only -- I simulated as much as I could. I A. simulated as much as I could. And when you're being 20 21 directly watched, you try to make it look as real as possible. I'm sure I breathed some in. I have no doubt about that. The room was full of marijuana in the air. I'm sure I breathed some. I had to. Did you get a buzz? Q.

PAGE 34 _ 34 Did you ever smoke marijuana? MR. JOHNSON: Well, you're talking about related to this case or any time? 3 MR. de VLAMING: I'm laying a predicate. MR. JOHNSON: Well, that would be for 404(B), if someone ever smoked marijuana. If you're relating 6 it, specifically, to this case, I'm asking you, for a very specific purpose, what you mean by "smoke marijuana." Do you mean simulate smoke, it actually hits your lungs, you know, what, intentionally bringing it into your lungs, from, you know, what? MR. de VLAMING: You mean a "Clinton"? MR. JOHNSON: I don't know what you mean. I'm asking you to define it. BY Mr. de VLAMING: 0. Was marijuana ever offered to you by 17 Mr. Prince or his girlfriend? 18 Α. Yes. 19 Q. Where was it offered to you? 20 At his house. Α. 21 Q. What room? 22 The living room. Α. 23 In the living room? One time in the living room. There were other times.

PAGE 37 _ 37 I was -- no. Not then. Were you drinking any alcohol? A. No. I drank a -- I drank a beer when I was at Wilson's. And they brought out a beer there. I wasn't intoxicated and I wasn't high. I was still very much under control. Q. Do you remember what month this was that that 8 first time in the living room took place? Α. April. Do you remember when the law enforcement people were first becoming involved in the case? When were they alerted? A. Possibly -- it could have been a week. It could have been a little longer than a week after 14 that. From the first time you smoked it until that next week, did you use marijuana or have another type of incident again with Mr. Prince? 19 A. Not that I remember. 20 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{MR}}\xspace$. JOHNSON: Are you talking with himself or 21 with law enforcement? 22 THE DEPONENT: Mr. Prince. 23 BY MR. de VLAMING: Q. This is before law enforcement became involved. So what you're saying is before law

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enforcement became involved, the only time that you possessed or simulated or smoked a little bit of marijuana was the April incident about a week before law enforcement was notified, roughly?

A. You know, I'm not sure. It was a long time ago. I'm not sure. It may have been another time. I'm not sure.

Q. Did you ever smoke marijuana or simulate smoking marijuana with Jesse Prince any place other than his house?

A. Yes. Q. Where?

Α. There was a time that he took me to -- I think the place was called Beez or $\operatorname{--}$ it was a lounge in Clearwater that he took me to. He had some friends with him. And I believe that was in -- I was headed towards the end of the investigation. It could have been late June or July. And we first had dinner at, I think, a place called Joe's Crab House, or something like that, or Crabby Joe's or Crabby Bill's, something like that. We ate dinner there, and when we got into the car, his friend lit a joint, lit a marijuana stick, and passed it around to everybody in the car.

Do you know what that man's name was? Α.

It was woman.

PAGE 39.

A woman. Do you know what her name is?

Teresa.

And at that point in time, were you working with Crosby yet or were you not working with Crosby? Α. Yes.

You were working with Crosby then? Q.

Α. Yes. Q. And where --

Crosby had already made contact at that house A. by then.

Did Crosby ever give you any instructions Q. that you were not to use drugs while you were conducting any confidential, informant activities?

A. I don't remember that.

So you're in the parking lot. And Teresa, is she the one that lights up the joint?

Not in the parking lot. In the car. Α.

Okay. I assumed the car was in the parking lot. You're driving, you mean?

Driving. Oh, okay.

Α.

Jesse's driving. ٥.

And it gets passed around. Did you possess it yourself?

Yes. Α.

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Q. And did you smoke it?

A. I put my mouth to it, too. I didn't -- I didn't -- this time I didn't even really -- it was dark outside. I didn't even try to inhale it. I just brought it to me when nobody was looking. I even had it away from my lips. I remember this night very well. And then I gave it to the next person.

Q. Did you ever tell Crosby that?

Α. About that night?

Yeah. Particularly, about this marijuana ٥. being passed around.

That night, you're speaking of? A.

Q. Yes, sir.

A. I don't know. I don't think so. I told -- he knows about incidences at that location. But that night particularly, I believe that was the same night that I was supposed to get with him. I called him. He was out of town. He had another detail that he had to work in St. Pete. He was working a drug sweep. I was supposed to work with him that night. I was in town to work, and he was supposed to get together with me and come over. He never made it. He called me late and said he couldn't do it.

Q. What was he going to do if he came over?

Investigate, as far as I know.

Investigate what?

Investigate what my -- my allegations of drug Α. use and drug possession.

Did you ever tell Detective Crosby about any of the times that you simulated smoking marijuana outside of Crosby's presence?

A. I don't know. I may or may not have. I didn't see the relevance of telling him something that he wasn't going to have firsthand information about. It wasn't going to help him with the case.

Detective Crosby's whole deal was, everything that he has to put down on a warrant, he has to have firsthand information about. Information from me, seeing or saying that this happened or me being there, that wasn't going to give him something he could put on his report and say that definitely happened.

But you're a prior law enforcement officer, right?

Α. That's correct.

Don't you think that it would hurt the credibility of a confidential informant if that confidential informant is possessing drugs or bringing marijuana up to his lips and looking like he's smoking marijuana? I mean, wouldn't you want to know that if you were a cop?

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A. As an undercover police officer formerly, myself, I've been in situations where you have no As an undercover police officer formerly, choice but to do the same thing, and you have to be around it. You have to be there with them when they're doing it. You have to -- if you're not, suspicion is going to be raised, you know, and then the investigation is toileted.

Was there a time when you passed marijuana Q. around in the presence of Detective Crosby?

Α. Yes.

٥. And was that in the computer room of Jesse's house?

Α.

Tell me about your recollection of that. Before you do, was there any game plan between you and Detective Crosby about what was going to take place in the house when you met with Jesse, about how he was going to be introduced?

I was going to introduce --MR. JOHNSON: Is that how you define "game plan"?

MR. de VLAMING: Yeah, you know, game plan. That's the best way I can do it. You know --MRS. WARDELL: What your story was. MR. de VLAMING: Yeah, what your story --

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thank you. What your story was.

Detective Crosby and I talked about who he would be to me. And that would be an old friend from my old neighborhood in Philadelphia, a high school buddy, who always stayed in touch. He was going to be a free-spirit type rich kid, do whatever he wants to do, don't really have a specific job. And that's what I told Jesse and his girlfriend that my friend was.

It washed. BY MR. de VLAMING:

Okay. What did you hope to do inside the house? Did you and Detective Crosby talk about, maybe, being able to buy drugs or get them to traffic in drugs or what? What was the plan?

A. The immediate plan -- first of all, I wanted to -- I wanted to be away from him. Me, I wanted to be done with the investigation. Particularly, because the drugs -- I don't do drugs. I don't even drink. And I wanted to bring law enforcement in so that this can end. Law enforcement is the only way that I can -- I have a duty to contact law enforcement, I feel, when drugs are being introduced. And they were introduced.

So therefore, Mr. Raftery introduced Howard. Howard comes to me and says, listen, if what you're

saying is true, that they're cultivating marijuana inside -- on their property, then the only way that I can charge him with anything would be to have firsthand knowledge. So I had to bring him in.

Q. To see the plant?

Α. To see the plants. Several plants.

So his purpose, then, was to come in so he could see these plants that were growing so he can get a warrant and come back and arrest him? Was that the game plan?

A. Well, when you say "game plan," you're speaking about the -- something that was planned from beginning to end. But we didn't have, particularly, a game plan. He wanted to view what I was saying was

Did you tell Detective Crosby that you thought he could buy drugs from Jesse Prince?

A. I wondered. Because Dee told me that she was a distributor. That was at one of the days -- one of the nights at Wilson's Lounge. She -- that was the time when he said, "would you just be quiet" to her.
Q. So you didn't know by bringing Crosby in

where it would lead?

Α. Not exactly.

Do you remember having a discussion, inside

the computer room, about Jesse's computer and about The Church of Scientology and the Lisa McPherson Trust information that he gains from the computer?

Α. His girlfriend did. She said he was an attorney for -- and fighting to help release certain people who were locked into The Church of Scientology. And he didn't, never, say very much about it. He never said very much about it. And I didn't go on any fishing expeditions.

But you don't remember him explaining things Q. to you in the computer room, in front of Detective Crosby, about what he does on the computer and about what he posts about information concerning The Church of Scientology? That doesn't sound familiar?

A. No. I don't remember that.

Q.

I remember he was trying to fix his computer. His computer was having problems. He was having problems booting up or -- or he was on it for a long time trying to fix a problem he had with it. I don't

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The girl at the concert? Q. Was there a girl at the concert?

The girl I met at the concert. But she Α. wasn't my date.

You're confusing me. Q.

I met a girl at the concert. Α.

Oh, inside the concert?

Yes.

Q. Oh, all right. What about her?

She wasn't my date. I just met her, and we Α. just hung out. I used her to pretend that I had somebody to hang out with. I got to know her. She had something in common with me. We were both from Philadelphia, and we talked all night until Jesse and Dee were ready to go home. She gave me her phone number. When Jesse and Dee left, I threw it away. And I came back to them with a story that we got along real well and we're dating.

Q. Oh, all right.

MRS. WARDELL: Wait. I'm confused. You met for the first time at the concert --

THE DEPONENT: Yes.

MRS. WARDELL: -- or you knew her ahead of time and told her to meet you there?

THE DEPONENT: I met her for the first time

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A, No. No, never.

Did he mention anything about what he did for Ο. a living?

What do you remember happening inside that computer room?

recall him saying anything about posting information

PAGE 48.

at the concert. MRS. WARDELL: And they just happened to see you meet this girl?

THE DEPONENT: Well, me and Jesse were talking about how beautiful her figure was.

MRS. WARDELL: And so you walked over and you kind of picked her up at the concert?

THE DEPONENT: Yes. MRS. WARDELL: Okay.

MR. de VLAMING:

Q. Well, did she spend the night with the -- not sleep over. But I mean, did she spend the evening with you, Jesse and Dee, this girl?

No.

All right. What kind of concert was it?

It was a festival of some sort.

It was an open-air one?

Α. Yes.

What's this girl's name? Do you know? ٥.

I don't remember. Α.

Q. Did she come over, though, and join you or did you go over to her area?

Α. We were in the same area, standing in the same close area. We were standing in the same area.

Q. Oh.

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pertaining to The Church of Scientology.

Q. Okay.

He once told me that he was trying to go and -- he was going to go to California and try to get a quy out of the church over in California. And he was going to take a trip over there for that purpose.

Is that the extent of his discussion concerning his work?

A. There were times when he told me he would be picketing downtown Clearwater. To be honest with you, I didn't do much fishing about that. That was not my intent. I didn't listen to very much of that. He would -- they would talk about it from time to time, people following him and stuff like that. He would ask me -- she would tell me -- she would mainly say so. Jesse didn't talk too much. Dee did.

Q. Okay.

Α. Jesse was just fun loving, wanted to get drunk and get high.

Did you ever go to a concert with Jesse? Q.

Α. Yes.

Q. And who went to the concert?

He, his girlfriend, Dee, and myself.

٥. Did you ever have a date when you were in this town?

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She was ahead of us, about, maybe, two rows ahead of us.

Q. But everybody's standing watching the concert?

Α. Yes

No blankets there or anything like that? Not that I saw. Some people may have had Α.

them, but we were standing. But you never saw that girl again after that night?

Α.

٥. Did you tell Jesse and Dee that you were married or single?

I told them I was single. Α.

0. Are you married or single?

I'm married.

Q. Okay. Do you know what you billed for these services in this investigation?

Α. Hourly or totally?

Q. Total.

Α. I believe my 1099 was \$7,000, somewhere around there.

Q. What is your hourly rate?

\$50 an hour. Α.

And do you charge a per diem too; in other

PAGE 51 Q. Well, tell me what your recollection was, and tell me what was going on at the time. Jesse showed me the marijuana plants he

called his "pet plants" in pots around the pool, several of them, pretty large ones. And he told me that he had a whole lot more in the backyard when he first moved in, and he pulled them out because they were pretty -- they were scared that they'd be noticed. And the pet plants, he kept inside the pool area.

0. So he mentioned to you that he had pulled out ones that were planted in the yard itself, not in pots, and threw them out?

A. He told me that he pulled out some that were growing in the yard. I don't believe he said that any particular -- said nothing about planting them or -he said they were growing in the yard. And there was a lot growing in the yard when he got there, he said. And he said he kept some in pots, and he did. He had some in pots around the pool.

Q. So what he told you was, when he moved into the house, there were already plants growing in the yard?

That's what he said.

Q. Do you know how long he had been in that PAGE 52 house? Α. No.

Were you led to believe that it was a relatively short period of time, you know, within six months or so or what were you --Yes. Α.

In other words, that he was new to the house?

He was new to the house, yes. He was new to Α. the neighborhood.

Okay. Q.

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According to him.

And the marijuana plants that had already been growing there, he's pulling them out and he kept some, supposedly, smaller ones and called them "pet plants"?

Α. The ones that were the pet plants were not small.

Q. But I mean smaller than the ones that he pulled out?

Α. He didn't describe the size. He just -- he did say that there were some pretty big ones in the yard.

That's what I thought you said.

Yes. He said there were some pretty big ones in the yard, and he did say that he got rid of them

PAGE 53 _ because they were too visible and he didn't want -- he was afraid people would notice them. And they were dangerous for being back there, so he got them out of there. Did you ever bring any gifts to Mr. Prince's Q. house?

A. A couple of times. What type of gifts did you bring?

I would bring him Puerto Rican rum. Twice, I think I did. And I brought him a gift at the end of the investigation.

Q. What was that?

I brought him a drink -- a bottle of something. I'm not sure what it was anymore. And I brought him some macadamia nuts. And I think that was

Did you ever drink any of the alcohol with him that you brought?

A. Sure.

In other words, the rum, for example? Q.

Uh-huh. Α.

What would you drink it with?

23 A. 24

Q. Do you know whether you and Detective Crosby were drinking any alcohol at the time that the

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marijuana was passed around?

It may have been a beer. It may have been a beer. I know that Detective Crosby didn't drink all of his, and I didn't drink all of mine either. We would drink beer with them, all of them. I would drink beer almost every time I went to his house.

Did you ever bring it yourself or did --

Beer? No, they had it. Α.

They had the beer? Q.

Α. Yeah.

All right. And you think you brought, maybe, three bottles of liquor, total?

Α. I think so.

And then some nuts or something?

Yes. Α.

Who brought the marijuana out on the time Q. that you and Detective Crosby had it exposed to you?

Α. His girlfriend.

Dee? Q.

A. Yes.

Do you remember where she brought it from? The same location, the bedroom. It was in an Α. end -- a little dresser that sits on the end of the bed. It's a few -- if you walk into the bedroom, the

bed extends from the back wall straight to the door

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that you walk into. To the right side of that would be a dresser drawer, end desk or end table, whatever you call it. And she would get it out of that -- one of those two drawers.

Q. On the time that you were with Detective Crosby, did you see her get it out of one of those drawers?

A. No. Not at that time.

How do you know she got it from that location on that -- at that time?

Not necessarily on that date did I see her A. get it from there, but from prior knowledge, I know that she would get it from there.

Q. So from prior knowledge, you saw her get it from that location?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you ever tell Detective Crosby where her stash was?

I think so. Α.

Q. Meaning the end table?

Α. Yes.

You told him that she kept it in the end ٥.

Α. I told him that she kept it in a -- she brought it out -- brought a can from the bedroom, a

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it look as real as possible. And how about you, on that occasion? I tried to simulate it as much as possible. And like I said, you asked me the same question

before, I would bring it to my mouth and pretend to smoke. But you've still got the smoke in the room and you're going to be breathing it.

Q. But you tried to simulate it on that

PAGE 57. A. I tried to simulate it each time. But if they're looking at you, you're going to have to make sure that the fire lights up a little bit. So you're going to have to pretend to blow or bring it into your mouth at least. Isn't there a way to bring it into your

mouth?

Α. Without taking it down your lungs? Q. Yeah.

Α. Yes.

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Q. Right.

That's simulation. Α.

Right. So the light lights up because you're Q. bringing it in, and then you're blowing it out of your mouth without going in the lungs?

That's right.
Okay. And what you're saying is, you don't ٥. know whether or not you got some in your lungs because it can't be done perfect?

A. Mr. de Vlaming, come on. You know I got some in my lungs. I'm in a room full of people. I'm not going to hold my breath that long.

Okay. Was there an agreement between you and Detective Crosby that your identity was going to try

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to be kept confidential?

A. Yes, sir.

And you were going to be given a confidential, informant number?

A. I was.

And why did you want your identity kept confidential?

Because I was an investigator for one thing, and I did not want to be arrested for something that had to do with an investigation. I wanted to be considered an informant. An informant goes into a location alongside an undercover officer, and they give them information.

At this point on, I did not want to be just a private investigator. Because it's my duty to work as an informant, at this point in time, and to give information to law enforcement.

Q. Did Fabrizio ever give you any kind of instructions about making sure your identity was kept confidential?

A. My identity was being kept confidential from the time that I began the investigation. That's why I used a false name.

Q. But your employer --

That was my intention.

Q. But your employer, did they tell you to do everything you can to keep your identity confidential?

A. I don't remember him saying that, no. I

Q. Was there a time -- I think at Martin Restaurant, is that the name of it?

-- where you were asked to come there ostensibly for a job offer that turned out to be a

And someone called you to say that they were interested in hiring you to do some work at a restaurant, surveillance type of work, and that's the

And when you got there, what happened? Α. When I got there, I met with Ray Emmons and Jim Patterson, sitting at the table.

And they introduced themselves?

Oh, Emmons introduced himself. Mr. Patterson, he just sat there and seemed like he was going to be the client. And to my knowledge, I thought he was going to be the client.

Did you sit down at this point or not?

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Α. Yes. And did one of the fellows excuse themselves Q. and come back with Jesse?

Mr. Emmons did. Α.

٥. And when he came back with Jesse, what did you say? Were you surprised to see him?

Α. Very.

Q. Did you stand up or stay seated?

I stood up.

Q. Did you greet Mr. Prince?

Α. Shook his hand.

٥. Do you remember what you said when you first saw him?

Α.

Q. Did you ask about his family and how Dee was doing?

How Dee was doing? Α.

Or his family?

No. I asked him about the children. During Α. -- that was some far -- further into the conversation. Okay.

A. Because the first thing I asked him was, okay, now, tell me what this is about.

Q. Did you kind of figure out, when you saw

Jesse, that it was not about what you thought it was?

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A. When I first saw Jesse, I was about to pull my gun from my back pocket, but I said I better just start thinking. Maybe I need to find out what they're doing, what they want.

So your first reaction was that you were being set up?

A. Yeah.

Okay. And when Jessie greeted you with a Q. smile and he shook hands, did you realize, then, that no one was there to hurt you?

A. I was very leery.

How did the conversation start?

Mr. Emmons asked Jesse to sit down, and Jesse sat down to my right. Ray Emmons was to my left. Jim Patterson was sitting almost right in front of me. They had already ordered food. I only ordered something to drink, ice tea, I think. They offered me food, but I just ordered ice tea.

Mr. Emmons said, I guess now you realize that this is -- I think he said -- not what you think --

not what you thought it was.

And at that point, I said, yes, that's correct. I said, that's right. I said, now, why don't you tell me what this is about? And to my knowledge, my recollection, I remember him saying that

And I said, okay. And I said, so then what

Kind of annoys you when you get set up?

are you doing here and why would you bring him here?

You know, I'm still pretty mad about that. And --

Q. So you don't recall making the comment during that dinner -- lunch conversation about Jesse saying that there were marijuana plants growing on the property and he threw some out? You don't remember that coming out of that discussion? A. I don't -- I'm not saying that it didn't. But I don't remember it. Q. Did you ever tell Jesse that there were times

during the investigation that you wanted to call them?

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Well, what annoys me is the unethical way that Mr. Emmons brings a defendant to what is

considered to be a legal informant -- you know, to my backyard. You know, right to my -- two blocks away from my house. This is a man that's going to jail because of my testimony. And as far as -- I mean, I've before a cop for 14 -- I've been in law enforcement for 14 years. I know what that means. And I know Mr. Emmons has been a law enforcement officer too. He knows what that means, too. And --

Q. Did you ask them whether they were followed?
A. Yes. I said, so were you followed? I said, you brought him right over here to my backyard, so were you followed to me?

I'm thinking, man, they're trying to make me look bad.

Q. Well, didn't you -- you wanted to know whether they were followed. And didn't you end up telling them that The Church of Scientology is following Jesse constantly?

No. Α.

Q. Daily?

They told me that. That's what they told me. Α.

٥. But yet, you asked them if they were followed?

A. They told me that Jesse is being followed all the time. I said, so were you followed here?

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Call him? Α.

Q. Yeah, tip him off, tell him that he's being set up, anything like that?

A. No. I would have never done that.

Was there a time that you wanted out of that ٥. investigation?

Α. Yes. Why? Q.

I wanted it to end. I wanted it to be over with. I got sick and tired of the marijuana and the drinking. I don't drink and I don't smoke. That is just not my life.

Q. Did you make a statement during that conversation there in the Martin Restaurant that you knew Jesse was not cultivating marijuana?

A. Never. I knew he was. He showed it to me. He told me what he was doing. He showed me how he dried it out and ground it up. He showed me how he kept it in low light.

Q. Was Crosby there when that was done?

Α. Yes.

And where did he show that to you and Detective Crosby? What room were you in?

A. I believe he kept the dried-out stuff in his bathroom that was adjacent to his bedroom.

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said, so were you followed here? He said, no, we made sure we weren't followed.

Was the name "Church of Scientology" Q. mentioned at all during the conversation between you and these three men?

A. Mr. Emmons brought the name Church of Scientology up.

Did he ask whether they were the ones behind Q. hiring you?

Α. Yes, he did.

What did you say?

I told him no. Α.

Q. You told him no? Α. Yes.

Q. You answered the question?

Α. I said no.

Okay. And who did you tell him did hire you? Q. Α. I didn't tell them.

Q. Did they mentioned the name "Raftery"?

I don't remember if they mentioned his name I don't recall -- I don't think I heard that. Α. or not.

Q. Did they talk at all about the case itself, the marijuana case?

No. They were trying to leave it up to me to

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Q. But did he -- and then he showed it to you and Crosby or did he just tell you about it?

Okay. Were there any rolling papers ever Q. laying around the house or were they always away?

A. Well, they'd make them available whenever they wanted them. I don't know where they kept those. They may have kept them in the same thing. I don't know for sure.

In regards to Wilson's Liquor Store, does the name Joe mean anything? Did you meet a fellow named Joe? Did you have a friend named Joe? Were you hanging out with somebody you introduced as Joe?

MRS. WARDELL: Do you have a description?

No one went into the liquor store, no. I don't remember -- I didn't hang out with anybody. There was a girl that, every now and then, would show up. But her name wasn't Joe, and she wasn't part of my investigation. And there would be an investigative

A. Well, he showed it. 10 Q. But they weren't laying around? 11 No, not that I recall. 13 14 15 A. A guy named Joe? 17 Q. Yes. 18 Α. No. 19 THE DEPONENT: No, no. 20 21

Α. Who did you call? Howard Crosby. Α. Is that the first call? Q. I called Brian Raftery, too. Okay. And who did you talk to first? 0. That's a hard one. That's a tough one. I Α. may have called Brian. I don't know. I think I 10 11 called Brian first. What was his reaction? 12 Q. A. No, wait a minute. Wait a minute. I called Howard first and I couldn't reach him. Then I called 13 -- I went to call Howard and let him know that I was being -- I felt like it was witness tampering. And I ${\rm didn}^{\dagger}t$ reach him. He wasn't there. He wasn't available. So then I called Brian Raftery, and I told him what had happened. Q. What was his reaction? A. He says, oh, my God. He said, you know that's against the law. You're a confidential informant, he said, but not anymore. 21 23 24 Was he surprised they found your identity? Q. No. What he was surprised was -- well, he PAGE 72 did asked me, he said -- he asked me, who told them who you were?

Did you make a phone call after the meeting?

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Did you call anybody?

Yes.

Sometimes people don't. I've got to show the best face I can. I'm Α. 3 not going to let them know that I'm upset, intimidated 4 5 or even scared. 0. How long were you in the restaurant? Probably between 45 minutes, maybe as much as 6 Α. an hour. Q. And some of them had lunch? 9 Α. Yeah. 10 Q. Ordered lunch? Patterson and Emmons had lunch. 11 12 Q. Were you ever yelled at during the course of 13 the conversation? Unh-unh. 14 Α. 15 Q. That's a no? Α. No. 17 Q. Was it a fairly busy restaurant? I mean, was it a restaurant that had a lot of people? A. Yes. Q. Did you feel that you could have left if you wanted to leave? Α. Yes. 23 Did you stay out of courtesy? Did you stay because you were curious or did you stay because if you could help, you were willing to help?

I said, I don't know. I said, I'm still trying to find Howard. I want to ask him, did they give any information to anybody, you know. That was my next thing to do was call Howard again. And he said, well, let me know. And I would. Q. Would you say you had more contact with Fabrizio or with Raftery? 10 A. Fabrizio. And would you give him the reports of what 11 you were learning and the status of the investigation?
MR. JOHNSON: You can answer that. 13 I was debriefed every day after an 15 investigation. BY MR. de VLAMING: Q. By whom? 18 A. By Fabrizio. Did you ever make any written reports? Q. MR. JOHNSON: You can answer. 20 21 Yes. BY MR. De VLAMING: 23 And where are those written reports? Q. A. I posses them. ٥. They're at your office?

PAGE 70 . No. At first, I stayed because I wanted to know how in the world and why he would bring him to me in my own backyard. My first thought was to just get up and walk out. That was my first thought was to --my first thought -- no. My first thought was to pull a gun out of my back pocket because I didn't know what I was getting ready to get into, just put it in my hand. And my second thought was to get up and leave, just leave. But then I thought, you know, let me find out what they're up to, what do they want, are they intimidating me, are they trying to crowd me, do they -- what do they want? Why in the world would they be here, you know? And then that was it. That's what I

waited for. Q. Did you ever tell anybody at the table that you were sick and tired of either The Church of Scientology or their investigators calling you up after Jesse was arrested?

Α. No.

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constant calls to find out about the status of the case and that you weren't being paid any more money and that you were tired about the phone calls?

Never said anything like that about the No.

And do they chronicle the work that you did in this case? A. Very well. ٥. And do they mention the surveillance that you performed, what you saw Jesse Prince do, both innocuous and potentially incriminating? Yes. Both. And if you learned nothing, did you write a report and say, I went here, there and there and saw 10 nothing, never saw Jesse Prince? Would you say that, 11 12 too? 13 14 So your reports, then, were chronicled every 15 day, whether you found something or not, concerning this investigation? 17 Α. Yes. 18 Q. Are they accurate, to your knowledge? 19 Yes.

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MR. de VLAMING: Do you want to get them or do you want me to get them? MRS. WARDELL: Well, do they cover from February to the arrest?

THE DEPONENT: Yes, ma'am. MRS. WARDELL: Do you have an objection to 74

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providing them to me? 2 MRS. KOBRIN: I have a work-product objection. It may not be on every one of them. I don't know for sure, but there's certainly a 3 5 work-product objection as to, at least, some of them 6 and possibly, all of them. MR. JOHNSON: My understanding, from 8 conversations with members of the firm, is they were going to object to all of the reports but/for the 10 final report, which -- of the meeting, you know, in 11 Lake Wales. MRS. WARDELL: Well, unfortunately, the case 12 13 14

law I have says that if he testifies to any reports they he made with regards to what he did during his surveillance, they are fair game. I understand that there may be some things --

MR. JOHNSON: I'm not making the objection. MRS. WARDELL: -- that are redacted.
MR. JOHNSON: I'm just telling you from other

members of the firm --MRS. WARDELL: Well, I think they need to, at least, come to me and let me attempt to, maybe, redact them and take them to a judge or something, but... MR. de VLAMING:

Well, let me ask you this: Do they have all

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and look them over and see, you know, what -- just
     clarify our position and then I can let you both know,
     you know. And we'll do that rapidly.
               MR. de VLAMING: Okay.
               MR. JOHNSON: I mean, trial's the 23rd.
MRS. KOBRIN: Yeah. I know. I'm not going
     to delay it. I mean, it'll all get done rapidly.

MR. JOHNSON: I mean, if it's to the extent
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     that the Judge needs to review a copy today, I brought
     a clean copy. There was a slight, slight possibility
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     you would not ask the question, which was your last
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     question. So --
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               MRS. WARDELL: Well, it would have been mine.
               MR. JOHNSON: -- we'll read them. There was
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     a slight possibility.
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               MRS. WARDELL: One way or the another, it was
               MR. JOHNSON: Well, you know, I don't hold
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     all privileges in this case and can't raise all the
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     privileges.
               MRS. KOBRIN: Let me just cite a case that
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MRS. KOBRIN: I'm not unwilling to go back

you can look at that deals with this subject, which is Dorego versus State, 243 South Second, 171 Second DCA, 1971.

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of what you did or do they have so and so told me this, so and so instructed me to do this? Do you understand what I'm saying? Do the reports just say what you saw and did or does it have what other people are telling you?

MR. JOHNSON: Do you mind me answering? MR. de VLAMING: No, not at all.

MR. JOHNSON: If the law is that because he's testifying, he has to turn over his reports, which I was told they wanted to object to, there will be very little redaction.

MR. de VLAMING: Yeah. That's what I would think.

MRS. WARDELL: In other words, does it say, met with Fabrizio today and Fabrizio told me A, B and C versus I went to Wilson's today and I saw Jesse

Prince do A, B and C? See the difference?
MR. JOHNSON: As Mr. Raftery has told you, the information was given on Mr. Prince's whereabouts, and that was relayed. Those weren't direct instruction from the attorneys. Those were things like, here's where he is, we're guessing where he might be and this witness would station himself.

MR. de VLAMING: No, that's not work product. I wouldn't think that's work product.

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MRS. KOBRIN: Do you have it?
MRS. WARDELL: No. I have North Corporation v. Willis at 729, Fo.2d, 508 (April '99).

MR. JOHNSON: If -- unless Helena has an extremely strong objection, I brought extra copies of the meeting with the three investigators where this witness got exposed.

MRS. KOBRIN: And that has already been given to the police, right?

MR. JOHNSON: My understanding is, yes. I mean, I don't know that it was ever given to the State.

THE DEPONENT: It was not, I don't think, because I asked them too.

MR. JOHNSON: I have copies of that, if someone wants to review that, to ask any further questions since I think that will be available.

Helena, do you have any work-product privilege objections?

MRS. KOBRIN: If it was already given to the police, I don't have any objection.

MR. JOHNSON: Would you prefer to see his notes of that final meeting?

MRS. KOBRIN: Are you talking to me or to -- MR. JOHNSON: I'm talking to Denis.

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MR. JOHNSON: No. There will be very little --

MR. de VLAMING: Well, how do we do this? Let's kind of make an agreement and we'll file a motion here. Either we can get it to the Judge and he can decide the redacting or start with Lydia. Whatever you want to do. But I've got to try this case in eight days. I've got to take another deposition of Fabrizio before that.

MR. JOHNSON: I have a clean copy of the

MRS. WARDELL: It seems like -- I think you can trust me to look at it, and whatever I think should be redacted, maybe, I should share with the Judge. And say, this is what I think should be redacted, do you -- Judge, do you think there is more?

MR. JOHNSON: Lydia, I have no objections. I have just been talking with, you know, Helena's law firm and Helena, and they're going to object for whatever rights they can. I don't know that I can give you -- I got mine through attorney-client privilege. I don't think that I can give it to you if they're telling me they're going to assert a privilege. I have recently found that out and so I, you know --

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MR. de VLAMING: Oh, yes. THE DEPONENT: The day of that meeting, I jotted those notes down. I typed them out. BY MR. de VLAMING:

- Q. Okay. After the meeting was over, then, you went out and made some notes and then typed them up?
- Immediately. Α. Mr. Gaston, did you ever see Jesse Prince sell marijuana?

Α. No, sir.

Did you ever see him sell any drugs?

Not that I can tell, sir. Α.

Okay. Was there a time on the second meeting with Detective Crosby where he was asked if he would give you all drugs so you could take them to Key West? Α. Yes, sir.

What was that conversation about? Was it just before you were leaving?

Yes, sir. Α.

And what did you ask Mr. Prince? I asked him if he had anything I could take

with me to the Keys. And he said he was pretty low on what he had. He said all of his friends smoked it all up. I said, well, if you've got anything, I'll buy it off of you, anything, you know, anything at all.

MR. de VLAMING: No, go ahead. CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MRS. WARDELL: I want to get a little bit of a time frame Q. 5 here. 6 Α. So follow along with me and then object when Q. 8 necessary, okay? A. Yes. 10 You were at Wilson's Bar and you come into ٥. contact with Mr. Prince and his girlfriend, correct? 11 12 Α. That's correct. 13 That's the first place you, physically, see Q. him? 14 15 Α. 16 Q. How many times did you see him prior to the 17 car incident? 18 Α. I believe it was twice before. Prior to the car incident, were you invited 19 20 back to his house but chose not to go? 21 Α. Yes. 22 Q. Would that have taken place at Wilson's Bar? 23 Α. And of these contacts prior to the car, how 24 long do you think you would have interacted with

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Q. And both of those times, did you see marijuana plants growing at the residence? Yes. Α. Q. And where were the plants? In the pool area, just past the living room Α. beyond the double-glass doors. Q. All right. For now, I want to talk about 9 those two visits. And we'll call them visit one and visit two, and if the answer is the same for both, 10 11 that's fine. In either of those visits, did Mr. Prince or 12 his girlfriend tend to the plants, if you will? 13 Α. Yes. Q. 15 How so? 16 A. She would be watering them. Where was Mr. Prince when she would water the 17 Q. 18 plants? 19 Α, He would be standing next to me watching them 20 and talking about them. 21 How close were you all? Were you out on the Q. 22 lanai when this happened? 23 Α. Yes, out on the deck of the pool. 24 Q. Were the plants ever fertilized in your presence?

82 Mr. Prince and/or his girlfriend? Can you repeat that? 3 In other words, when you saw them at Wilson's, was it a 30-minute session? Did you see him 5 -- did y'all hang out for a couple of hours? 6 Oh, yes. A couple of hours at least. Okay. And there were no visits to his home before the car incident, correct?

A. I believe that to be correct. 8 10 After the car incident, when is the next time 11 you saw Mr. Prince? Possibly at his home. 12 Α. 13 Q. Weeks later, days later? 14 A. Days later. 15 Q. And how did you get to be invited to his 16 home? 17 That night they invited me, once again, when 18 they were in the car. 19 Q. At the car incident, they invited you? 20 Yeah. 21 Q. But did you go that night? 22 Α. No, not that I remember. 23 Did they tell you where to come and you just showed up or did you run into them again and get invited?

PAGE 85. I never saw that. Q. Well, I don't know what you do to maintain a marijuana plant, but you mentioned low light? MR. JOHNSON: It's self-serving. BY MRS. WARDELL: Q. What are some other things you can do to maintain a marijuana plant? A. Well, that wasn't the maintaining. That was for drying them out. 10 Q. The low light is for drying them out? That's what she said. A. Oh, okay. What, does a marijuana plant need bright light to grow or sunlight or what? A. It was in the sunlight with the rest of the 14 plants around the deck. It was treated like all of 15 16 the other plants. 17 Q. What was treated like other plants? She had a lot of plants. 18 Α. 19 Q. Oh, okay. She had a lot of plants around the deck of 20 A. the pool, a lot of them. Q. So while watering a geranium, she would water 23 the marijuana? 24 Α. Yeah. ٥. Got it. Did you ever see them actually dry

6 visits at the house, where did you run into Mr. Prince? At Wilson's, possibly.
Okay. Were drugs introduced at Wilson's at 8 A. 9 Q. any time other than the car incident? 10 I don't think so. 11 Α. And was the concert before or after Crosby? 13 After. 14 Q. And were drugs referenced to or --15 Α. Please, please, one moment. The concert, I believe, it was before the final visit with Crosby. 17 Q. Okay. Because there was quite a time lapse between visit one with Crosby and visit two with 19 Crosby. 20 Well, there was a time when Brian told Fabrizio and Fabrizio said to me, do not visit, do not 21 22 23 go by there, do not go near him until Crosby has gotten involved, you know, and was he able to get back 24 involved again. Because he had to get surgery on his I think that's what it was, surgery on his

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got something different -THE DEPONENT: It may have been a little bit past that. Somewhere around that time frame, though. MRS. WARDELL: Q. But regardless, Crabby Bill's was after that first -- somewhere in that middle visit? A. Yes. And I would like to think that it was towards the end. Q. Was it after the concert? Somewhere close to it. And were there -- go back to the concert. April 7th was Crosby's first visit. Were there drugs talked about, referenced or introduced at the concert? A. I'm sorry? Where there drugs talked about, produced or Q. referenced at the concert? A. No. Nobody smoked anything? Q. A. I don't remember. I don't remember them smoking. They may have. I'd have to -- I'd have to refer, because, see, almost every time they got in the PAGE 91

PAGE 88 _ knee. And he would be out for a little while, and we weren't allowed to touch the situation until it got to be closer. And I was adamant. I was saying, listen, if I don't make some sort of contact, they're going to wonder what's going on. Q. Right.

You know. The absence is -- you know, and I was absent for quite some time before I made contact with them again.

Q. And how did this contact occur?

Contact occurred when I was told -- I told Crosby that I would be able to go in the area at a certain day and he thought that he would be able to make it that same day too. And I was there and he was going to meet me at Wilson's Lounge, as I was going to be meeting him there with Jesse and Dee. And he never showed. We did, but he didn't.

Q. Okay. Α. I met them at their house, and we went over to Wilson's.

This would be after Crosby's first visit to 0. the house, correct?

A. That's correct.

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And you believe the concert to have been after Crosby's visit to the home?

car and I got in the car with them, they lit up a joint.

Q. Well, did y'all ride to the concert together? Yes -- no. No, as a matter of fact. That's why we didn't smoke together. Because I drove my car to follow them because I told them that I would probably like to meet somebody there and leave with that person.

Q. So you don't know whether they did it in their car?

A. Right.

And nobody was passing around outside 0. marijuana?

Α. Right. I didn't want to be stuck with that again, because I didn't have Crosby with me.

Q. Now, at Crabby Bill's, was that another one that you had hoped Crosby could attend, but he didn't? You mentioned earlier --

A. That was just a contact. I think it was contact.

Q. But marijuana was passed around in the car when you left, right?

Α. Yes.

Were these executives that Mr. Prince was with?

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A. Well, he'd invite me over and over. And eventually, you're going to keep getting invitations and they're going to get suspicious of why you don't

PAGE 95

time frames.

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And when was this time frame? I believe that was around -- that was the time we went to -- to the restaurant and then went down to the club that same night.

Two friends of his -- two friends of his

That's the Crabby Bill's night? Q.

Α. Uh-huh.

girlfriend's visited.

Q. So the woman that --They were there.

Tell me about that.

-- lit the joint was the person from Q.

Tennessee?

Α.

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Yes. Α.

These were business executives?

A. No. No, they're not. They were people who worked for businesses -- pretty big companies in Tennessee.

Q. All right.

A. But they're not executives. I think one is a secretary and the other one's -- one is a -- I'm not sure, exactly, what the other one does. But they both work for very large companies, very large corporations.

Any other visits you can recall with Mr. Q. Prince?

Α. Not without my notes. There were a few more.

You think there were more, but you just can't Q.

stop by. So contact was to maintain -- to maintain contact and to maintain the investigation, to keep substance in it.

MR. JOHNSON: The notes are broken down in

Lydia, I can't ask questions. But do you

mind me just giving you background to help? A lot of what he's doing, he's working off the top of his head

because he doesn't have the notes in front of him. He was asked by Denis, how many times did you go out

there before you had contact, and he said 20, 25, I'm

quessing. It was 11 before contact, 18 before he saw

any criminal activity. Different times where he's out there, you know. These were approximations, and I

you know, filling in the missing holes. Mr. Gaston

needs to fill them in or we need to come back later

after he's had the opportunity to read the reports.

Q. What was your initial reason from dropping by Mr. Prince's house the first time?

MRS. WARDELL: I mean, I appreciate what

MR. JOHNSON: Yeah. We need the reports.
MRS. WARDELL: -- perhaps you shouldn't be,

Q. Did you know they were going to be home or were you taking a chance?

A. I took a chance.

just want you to understand.

you're doing, but --

BY MRS. WARDELL:

And back to the car incident at Wilson's. Did they offer you drugs at the car?

Α. Yes.

And how did you handle that?

I would tell them, no, I can't do it right Α. now, I'm getting ready to take a drug test for a job.

How many times do you think you --

I said that for quite a few times until I --I told them when school lets out in the summer, you know, because I'm looking for a job in the schoolsystem and everything, and they were going to --school lets out in the summer. That was it. Couldn't do it. Couldn't hold that -- that wouldn't hold water

anymore. Q. Were you ever given a direction by Mr. Raftery that once you saw drugs, you were to back off and not go back without law enforcement?

A. That occurred. I think the first time, that didn't occur. What did occur was the thought that we

PAGE 94 _

remember them now?

Possibly. A.

Q. Do they include marijuana?

A. Yes. Q.

Okay.

MR. de VLAMING: Would your reports say that? In other words, if you did simulate marijuana, would you say it in the report?

THE DEPONENT: Yes. Well, I would --

possibly. I think I did?

MR. de VLAMING: Okay.

BY MRS. WARDELL:

Q. Did you make a habit of going home each and every night and documenting what you all did when it was fresh in your mind?

A. I would go to my room and put it in my laptop.

Q. And do it?

Ā. Yes.

Daily, though, or nightly? Q.

Every single day, every time.

Q. You didn't wait until the end of the week and summarize a week's work?

A. Immediately, first thing I'd do.

Okay.

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had to make contact with law enforcement. But the second time, I was told to not make contact with him again after that, because we have to get law enforcement in. And he introduced me to Mr. Crosby.

Q. Okay. So my question --

Raftery did. Α.

My question is: After being given that directive, did you make contact with Mr. Prince?

A. No, not until we made contact with Detective Crosby.

Q. Right, okay. That would be the April 7th date Crosby is there. But then you did go back subsequent times without Crosby?

A. In between that, you mean?

٥. Uh-huh.

I think once.

Q.

Well, the concert, the dinner, the --Well, I'm not sure when those dates were. There was a time when I was supposed to make contact with Crosby and he couldn't -- I was left hanging. He didn't show up. That happened twice. I was in the area and I was talking to Crosby on the telephone and he was telling me, yeah, I'll be there, I'll be there, I may be late, but I'll be there. I'm making contact with Jesse and Dee and expecting to meet with him, and

truth and when it comes out, one way or the other, and their attorney's, you know, are sitting there looking and wanting to probably throw them out the window. And I don't blame them. And I'm not saying that you're that kind of guy. But in my mind -- and I've done everything exactly the way it should have been done. I don't lie on deposition. I don't lie on report. I don't lie under oath. And I'm not going to be disloyal to my clients. So, you know, I'm not going to leave anybody hanging. But I'm sorry, sir, I think he's left you hanging.
Q. Were you ever given a directive to enter 13 Mr. Prince's residence and plant some marijuana? A. I'm sorry? One more time. 16 Q. Were you ever given a directive as part of your assignment to enter Mr. Prince's residence and plant some marijuana? A. Plant marijuana? 20 Q. Uh-huh. 21 Never. 22 Q. Did you participate in any way, whether Mr. 23 Prince was there or not, in putting marijuana plants 24 in pots? A.

PAGE 99 _ RE-CROSS EXAMINATION BY MRS. WARDELL: I want to know, when you made the statement

earlier in the depo that you looked at Jesse at the meeting, the lunch meeting, and you said "do they know what I know" and you said you thought, in your mind, that you knew de Vlaming was on the case, and you're like, I wonder if he knows what really is going on. What are you talking about?

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A. I'm thinking that there's no way in the world that he's going to have an investigation going on and have his attorney investigate this if he told him the whole truth.

Q. That's my question to you: What is the whole truth? What is it that you think -- what is it that is out there that hasn't been said that causes you to wonder?

Α. I feel that -- well, everything that I'm saying is true. Everything that is in my reports, everything that I have told the officer, everything that the officer has seen is true and factual. If he's going to take his attorney through this circus and then be found -- the truth be found, he's wasted time for everybody and money. And that's why I asked him that. I asked him that, you bought two

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PAGE 101 _

Are you aware of anybody, whether it be Mr. Fabrizio, Mr. Raftery or whoever else may be behind your hire, being involved in planting marijuana plants in Mr. Prince's --A. Absolutely not. They didn't have to. He

already had them in pots. There was even a time when he said that the alarm went off when they were out of town and the police were there, and they were afraid that they would notice the plants. They didn't even notice the plants. The police came and visited their house, and the dog set the alarm off while they were

And they were afraid, so they got rid of a plant. They got rid of the plants during that time period. I don't know what they did with them. They said that they had buried them. They said that they had put them away and they hid them. And they're back. They got them back again the day me and Mr. Crosby had gone over there again. And we saw that.

Q. With regards to the ones that were in the

backyard that he told he had pulled up, did he specifically lead you to believe that they were there preexisting when he moved in or --

A. He led us to believe that he took them from the backyard, planted them in pots inside the pool

investigators to my backyard risking -- risking a charge and all this and you don't think the truth is going to be found. Have you told them everything.

That's what I'm thinking. And then he's got -- he's got friends that he may end up dragging down with him. Those thoughts were in my mind. Q. Is there anything more to the "everything"

than what was discussed today? Are there some more serious drug allegations out there that, for whatever reasons, you haven't told us about?

A. No.

Q. Is there more serious drug use?

No, just a lot of it. Just a lot of it Α. and --

Q. Can you put a number on the times you saw Mr. Prince smoke marijuana?

A. Let's see. Anywhere between eight and twelve.

Q. And of those, how many times did you participate?

A. Maybe six to eight. You know, when that question was -- when I asked him that question, in my mind, I've dealt with cases where people have withheld things from their attorney. And in the end, their attorney finds out and they tell them, finally, the

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area and raised them from there.

Q. I'm talking about how they got to the backyard in the first place. Did he lead you to believe --

Oh, no. He led me to believe that they were A. there before they got there.
Q. In other words, the former owner left them?

Yes.

And he -- carpe diem? Q.

Yes.

MR. de VLAMING: And what? MRS. WARDELL: Seized the day. THE DEPONENT: Took them over. MR. de VLAMING: Oh, didn't hear it. MRS. WARDELL: Okay. Anything else? MR. De VLAMING: No. No further questions. Put him down for a read. (At this time the deposition in the above-captioned matter was concluded at 5:00 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

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I, CRISSY CLADAKIS, Court Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing deposition; and that the transcript is a true record of the testimony given by MR. JOHNSON.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

I, the undersigned authority, certify that BARRY GASTON personally appeared before me and was duly sworn.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 17th day of May, 2001.

Crissy Cladakis Notary Public - State of Florida My Commission No. CC 736558 Expires: April 23, 2002

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ERRATA SHEET READING AND SIGNING OF DEPOSITION

TO BE ATTACHED TO THE DEPOSITION OF BARRY GASTON TAKEN ON MAY 15, 2001, IN THE MATTER OF STATE OF FLORIDA VS. JESSE PRINCE BY CRISSY CLADAKIS

TO THE DEPONENT: IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, THIS IS ATTACHED FOR YOUR INSPECTION AND SIGNATURE. ANY CHANGES IN THE DEPOSITION IN FORM OR SUBSTANCE WHICH YOU CARE TO MAKE ARE TO BE MADE ON THIS SHEET WITH YOUR REASON THEREFORE.

DO NOT WRITE ON THE DEPOSITION ITSELF RETURN THIS FORM AND THE ORIGINAL SIGNATURE PAGE WITHIN 14 DAYS TO D & D REPORTING SERVICE.

FOR THE STATE:

Lydia Wardell, Esquire

FOR MR. Prince:

Denis de Vlaming, Esquire

FOR MR. RAFTERY:

Paul Duval Johnson, Esquire Helena K. Kobrin, Esquire

FOR MOXON & KOBRIN:

LINE &	PAGE	NO.	CHANGE	OR	CORRECTION	AND	REASON
ARRY ASTON	-		 :		Date		

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DEPONENT'S CERTIFICATE

I have read the foregoing transcript of my oral deposition taken on the date and at the location indicated on the title page of the deposition, and I certify that said transcript is true and correct, with the provisions that any errors appearing therein have been corrected by me by listing on a separate sheet as to page number, line and content of said error(s), and further indicating the language to be substituted.

I also understand that upon completion of the reading, signing and correcting of the transcript, I am to return this original signature page, my list of corrections and said file copy provided for my inspection to the person or company listed on the pre-addressed envelope provided to me.

I further understand that if I do not carry out the instructions stated above within thirty days from the date I receive the transcript, I automatically waive my right to read and Scientology the deposition.

DATE:	 NAME:	

BARRY GASTON

MAY 15, 2001

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