

RE: JEREMIAH HURLEY
HOMICIDE - 10/28/91

Oct. 31, 1991, 10:95 p.m.
Homicide Unit, South Boston

Conducting this interview is Sgt. Det. Timothy Callahan, Boston Police Homicide Unit. Present is P. O. Frederick Paley, Boston Police Homicide Unit.

STATEMENT OF JOHN C. BOWEN

Q. Today is October 30th, 1991, Thursday. It is 10:05 p.m.

(?) 31st.

Q. 31st, excuse me. October 31st, 1991. It is 10:05 p.m. Present in the office is Frederick Paley,

P-A-L-E-Y, Tim Callahan, and John C. Bowen, B-O-W-E-N, of 9 Millpond Drive, M-I-L-L-P-O-N-D, North Billerica, 01362, Social Security number 021-68-6415, home phone number 508-663-3376. John is a Freshman at the University of Mass., Dartmouth. He lives at house 3, box 230, North Dartmouth, Mass., 02747, with a phone number of 508-979-8363. John, everything I just said is that correct?

A. That's correct.

Q. Okay. And this evening sometime around 6:00 p.m. were you at a bus stop in New Bedford?

A. I was in a bus terminal in New Bedford.

Q. And while you were waiting for a bus did you have an occasion to meet someone?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. And do you know the individual who you met?

A. His name is Thomas Shay.

Q. Okay. And could you tell me how you met him?

A. I was standing outside because the bus terminal

closes at 6:00, so they kicked us all out, and briefly after I was standing outside he came up and was standing next to me waiting for the same bus I was. He approached me and began talking small talk about the bus and then he asked me about the incident in Roslindale. He said, you know, he asked me if I heard anything about it, the bombings. I told him I hadn't heard much because we don't get newspapers daily down at school. So he went on to elaborate what happened with the bomb being placed under a man's car and two officers, one being injured, the other being killed when they came to investigate the incident. Then he took out the newspapers out of his bag. He had newspaper clippings in a manila envelope. He showed me some of the articles and then showed me an article that had his picture in it, which surprised me because he didn't introduce himself as the son of this man.

Q. Okay. And at some point in time did you find out the person who owned the car was this man's father?

A. Yes, he told me that the bomb was placed under his father's car.

Q. Okay. And did he also relate to you that he had dinner with someone?

A. He told me that he had dinner with a news person from Channel 7 News, I think his name was Byron.

Q. Do you know his last name?

A. I don't remember.

Q. Could it be Byron Pitts?

A. That's what it was.

Q. And who told you that?

A. Thomas told me that.

Q. Okay. And did Mr. Pitts suggest anything to Mr. Shay?

A. He suggested, apparently, soon after the incident that he should probably get out of town for a few days just to let things blow over until he could come back to be questioned. So he went down to New Bedford where he knew a security guard at the university that I attend.

Q. And do you know the name of that security guard?

A. Russ Bonano was the security guard's name?

Q. And how do you know that's the security guard?

A. He told me when I said to him, "I'm going home for the weekend. I go to school at U. Mass., Dartmouth."

He said that was a coincidence because that's why he was down there, he was visiting a friend to stay out of the way for a few days and he told me his friend was security guard at the school.

Q. And how did you come up with the name Bonano?

A. He said to me, "That's funny. Because I was staying with a friend Russ Bonano, who's a security guard down at the school at the Cedar Dell

Apartments.", and I recognized the name from hearing it around campus as being a security guard.

Q. Okay. Did he mention his father at all?

A. He did. He talked about the fact that his father was now in some kind of state of shock because of the incident including the officers being blown up.

Q. Okay. And did he suggest in anyway the status of the father?

A. He said that his father had been in the National Guard. I'm not sure if he said past or present. But he mentioned it in passing.

Q. Okay. And did he say that this incident has caused frustration with his father?

A. He said that he was in some kind of shock about it after the bombing. But he didn't make any connection with the National Guard, if that's what you're asking.

Q. Okay. And did he anticipate anything upon the arrival in Boston?

A. He was telling me on the bus trip that he anticipated the press being at the bus terminal and then when he got home supposedly they were going to be officers at the house according to his mother whom he had talked to the day before.

Q. And did he say where his mother lived?

A. He didn't mention, no.

Q. Okay. And did he say why the press was going to

be there?

A. Mainly to question him, especially, assuming. I assumed that it was because his father was in shock that they were questioning him. I didn't make the connection right away that he may have been involved in what, you know in whatever way possible, until he later told me that the person who planted the bomb may have been after him, because they had the same name he and his father.

Q. Okay. And did he ever suggest to you that he owed anyone money?

A. Later on in the conversation I asked him why, only being nineteen, anyone would want to be after his life and he said, "Well, I'm not really sure." He said, "But it could have something to do with the fact that I owe someone fifty grand." That's about all he said. He didn't tell me why.

Q. And did he suggest to you that he was ever involved in drugs?

A. No, he clearly stated that he wasn't involved in any criminal activity, that he wasn't into drugs, that he had done a little bit of gambling before.

Q. Okay. And how much did he say he owed, did he say?

A. He said the total came up to about fifty thousand dollars. It wasn't all one loan apparently. Whoever this person was had loaned him money in the past.

Q. And did he ever state why he wanted to talk to the press?

A. He wanted to clear up. He wanted to draw out this man who had threatened, you know, his father's life and who ultimately killed this officer. Because he wanted the violence to stop, especially where his father had been, you know, the affect that it had on his father and the affect that, obviously, it would have on the officers' wives and families.

Q. Okay. And did he say, mention anyone, who might be after him?

A. He mentioned this person who he owed the money to. He didn't give me a name. But then he was talking about other alternatives. Because, apparently, he had just been racking his brain the past few days to think who might be after the family, either he or his father. And he suggested that the only other person that may have been was someone he called Luie, who lives on Washington Street, who his father had had some kind of altercation with him earlier. He didn't really specify.

Q. Okay. And could you tell me as to the condition that Mr. Shay was in? Was he excited or tell me what his disposition was from the time you met him and during the time that you traveled to Boston together?

A. He was friendly when I first met him, personable. Came up, you know, approached me and talked to me right away. Not uncommonly, because I would have done the same. But I was in an unfamiliar setting

so I didn't feel like talking to anyone. But he was personable. He brought out the newspapers not proud or almost boastful, but just to show me that he had been in the paper. In fact he was showing me his license, you know, to prove in case I didn't believe that that was his picture. Then throughout the bus ride when we were talking about the entire incident and his father related, eh, he grew a little more worried, he was nervous. He was upset for his father and for the officers, and he was worried because he was just a little bit nervous facing all that press when he got off the bus.

Q. Okay. Did he ever tell you any of his educational background?

A. Eh, when he told me where he was from in the area. I went to school in Arlington and he told me that he lived in Quincy. So I asked him, I said, "Did you go to Quincy High? Because I know a few people from that area." And all he said about his background was, "No, I went to Milton High." So that's about all I know about his schooling.

Q. Okay. Did he ever mention a car or transportation on how he got out there?

A. No, he didn't mention it.

Q. Okay. Is there anything that I haven't asked you that you think might be important?

A. Eh, I don't know if what I told you earlier about

the fake planted bomb has any relation?

Q. Oh, yes, would you tell me about another discussion about a bomb that he was talking about?

A. Well, it was in the same discussion. He didn't really specify what time. I assumed it was close to this past Monday's incident.

Q. Did you get the impression it was before, during, or after?

A. It seemed that it may have after because it was within relation. But this one happened to be, you know, just a fake, just a scare. But it could have been before and he was just talking about it in conversation. Because he just, you know, not babbling, but he just kept talking. So he really didn't specify when it was though.

Q. And what did he say?

A. He said that a few blocks away from the house his father lived in with the car and the bomb he said there was another bomb scare and ultimately it was just a jack-in-the-box. But he was describing how it was like the box was within many other boxes, larger boxes, and how the Bomb Squad had to cut through each box individually and how they had to evacuate the area surrounding towns, Brookline, Jamaica Plain. He didn't specify what town the bomb was in. I'm not sure what the surrounding towns are in that area. But he did mention that they had to cut through each

individual box and he talked to about when they finally got down to the smallest box there were wires that had to be cut and then when they finally cut through the last box they heard a ticking slower and slower and as it slowed down a jack-in-the-box popped out.

Q. Okay. And, John, is there anything else that you can think of?

A. I don't think so. He mentioned to me that he had a mother and a few sisters, ten or twelve sisters, when I asked him about the rest of his family. Because previously all he had mentioned was his father. So, you know, I asked him about the rest of his family. I don't remember any other relative information.

Q. Fred, do you have any questions?

A. No, no questions.

Q. Is there anything else that you can think of that I haven't asked you?

A. Nothing comes to mind. I don't believe so.

Q. Okay. And you came here freely? In other words you were never harassed?

A. Yeah, I was in the bus terminal. I hung around more out of curiosity than anything else to see what exactly what went on. I listened to him make the statements to the press. And then as he was finishing a couple of officers approached him, asked him to come outside and talk where it wasn't

so crowded with the press, and he said, "If you want your friend can come along to.", and I said, "Sure, why not." Cause, you know, I had been with him and he said originally, "Yeah, I'll show you where the red line is when you get off the bus." So I was more or less going along to see how to get home and then I decided to go with the officers to answer any questions.

Q. Okay. We haven't coerced you, or threatened you, or anything of that nature?

A. No. No, no.

Q. All right. And you're here freely of your own free will?

A. Yes, I am.

Q. Okay. I want to take this time to thank you very much for your cooperation?

A. You're very welcome. I'm glad I could help.

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