

Boston Police Homicide Unit
(Investigative report)

CC # 11-191390

File title	Investigator(s)	Page
JEREMIAH HURLEY	DET. PETER O'MALLEY DETS THOMAS & FOGERTY	1 of 3
Incident location	Responding D.A.	Method
39 EASTBOURNE ST. HYDE PARK, MASS.		BOMBING
Report re:	Case #	Date
INTERVIEW WITH: JOHN ALAN CATES	105 OF 1991	10-28-91

ON 11-05-91, DET. WILLIAM FOGERTY, DET. DENNIS HARRIS, AND SGT. DET. TIMOTHY J. MURRAY CONDUCTED AN INTERVIEW OF JOHN ALAN CATES IN MR. CATES' BASEMENT APARTMENT LOCATED AT 133 ATLANTIC STREET, IN NORTH QUINCY.

MR. CATES IS A WHITE MALE, WHO PROFFERED THE DATE OF BIRTH OF 7-16-62, A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OF 454397203, AND A HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER OF 471-8754. MR. CATES TOLD US THAT HE WAS ORIGINALLY FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS.

MR. CATES INFORMED US THAT HE IS EMPLOYED BY FLEET BANK AND HE WAS VERY OBVIOUS IN HIS DISPLEASURE WHEN HE FURTHER EXPRESSED TO US THAT, DUE TO BANK RESTRUCTURING, HE HAS RECENTLY BEEN DEMOTED FROM A SUPERVISORY POSITION TO THE POSITION OF BEING "JUST A BANK TELLER."

MR. CATES INFORMED US THAT HE LIVES IN THE BASEMENT APARTMENT LOCATED AT 133 ATLANTIC STREET, NORTH QUINCY, AND THAT AL TRENKLER ONLY "STAYS" THERE. MR. CATES WAS ASKED, "DURING A SEVEN DAY WEEK, HOW MANY DAYS OUT OF THE SEVEN DOES AL TRENKLER STAY WITH YOU?". TO WHICH HE RESPONDED, "SEVEN OUT OF SEVEN", "I PAY THE RENT HERE, AND I LET HIM STAY HERE." MR. CATES FURTHER STATED THAT HE HAS KNOWN AL TRENKLER FOR APPROXIMATELY A YEAR AND A HALF TO TWO YEARS AND THAT AL TRENKLER HAS "STAYED" WITH HIM STEADILY FOR APPROXIMATELY THE LAST EIGHT MONTHS.

MR. CATES FURTHER TOLD US THAT AL TRENKLER IS BOTH INTERESTED AND SKILLED IN ELECTRONICS AND MICROWAVES. MR. CATES ALSO STATED THAT TRENKLER SOMETIMES BRINGS SOME WORK HOME WITH HIM BUT THAT HE (TRENKLER) KEEPS HIS TOOLS IN THE GARAGE AT HIS PARENTS HOUSE IN MILTON. MR. CATES STATED THAT TRENKLER WORKS WITH A PERSON NAMED BROWN AND THAT MR. BROWN HAD LEFT THE TRIPLE BEAM BALANCE, WHICH WAS DISCOVERED IN A CLOSET ON THE FLOOR WRAPPED IN A JACKET, IN HIS APARTMENT. quote upon seeing the triple beam balance discovered: "BROWN LEFT THAT HERE, IT'S STOLEN FROM NORTH QUINCY HIGH SCHOOL, I TOLD HIM TO GET IT OUT OF

CATES ALSO TOLD US THAT HE DOES NOT OWN A MOTOR VEHICLE AND THAT AL TRENKLER'S MOTOR VEHICLE JUST BROKE DOWN WITHIN THE PAST DAY OR TWO.

MR. CATES FURTHER STATED THAT HE KNOWS THOMAS SHAY JR. AND THAT HE FIRST MET "TOM" IN THE BLUE HILLS. HE RELATED TO US THAT HE DID NOT LIKE OR TRUST "TOM" BECAUSE "TOM" SEEMED TO LIE A LOT AND HE SEEMED VERY MERCENARY. quote: "HE TOLD ME ALL THESE THINGS THAT HE HAS DONE AND NO-ONE COULD HAVE DONE ALL THOSE THINGS BY HIS AGE." HE FURTHER STATED THAT HE HAS SEEN "TOM" TWO OR THREE OTHER TIMES AROUND BOSTON BUT THAT "TOM" HAS NEVER BEEN TO HIS APARTMENT OR CALLED HIS APARTMENT.

MR. CATES FURTHER STATED THAT AL TRENKLER KNOWS "TOM" AND THAT MR. CATES REALIZED THIS ONE DAY WHEN CATES AND TRENKLER WERE RIDING AROUND IN TRENKLER'S CAR AND THEY SPIED "TOM" IN BOSTON. AFTER SEEING "TOM", THEY BRIEFLY DISCUSSED "TOM". THE CONTENT OF THIS CONVERSATION WAS THAT THEY BOTH KNEW "TOM" AND THAT MR. CATES DID NOT PARTICULARLY LIKE "TOM". AL TRENKLER RELATED TO MR. CATES THAT HE HAS MET WITH "TOM" A FEW TIMES.

MR. CATES WAS ASKED WHERE HE WAS WHEN THE BOMB WENT OFF AND HE TOLD US THAT HE WAS AT WORK. WE ASKED MR. CATES HOW DID HE LEARN OF THE BOMBING AND HE TOLD US THAT HE HAD HEARD PEOPLE AT WORK TALKING ABOUT IT. WE ASKED MR. CATES WHAT DID AL TRENKLER SAY ABOUT THE BOMBING AND HE REPLIED THAT HE DOES NOT REMEMBER TRENKLER DISCUSSING THE BOMBING. BUT THAT THEY DID TALK ABOUT SEEING "TOM" IN THE MEDIA AND THAT THEY DISCUSSED THAT HE WAS THE SAME PERSON THAT THEY KNEW.

MR. CATES TOLD US THAT HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE BOMBING.

HE TOLD US THAT AL TRENKLER HAS NEVER TALKED WITH HIM ABOUT BOMBS, MAKING BOMBS, OR EXPLOSIVES. HE ALSO TOLD US THAT TRENKLER HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE (TRENKLER) HAS HAD A PROBLEM WITH THE POLICE IN THE PAST AND THAT THIS PROBLEM INVOLVED SETTING A PARK BENCH ON FIRE. HE STATED THAT TRENKLER HAS NEVER TOLD HIM THAT TRENKLER IS FAMILIAR WITH BOMBS OR HAS EVER BEEN INVOLVED WITH BOMBS ETC..

WE ASKED MR. CATES TO TELL US WHERE HE AND AL TRENKLER WERE DURING THE WEEKEND BEFORE THE BOMBING. MR. CATES TOLD US THAT HE DOES NOT HAVE A VIVID OR SPECIFIC MEMORY OF THAT WEEKEND AND DESPITE OUR FREQUENT ATTEMPTS HE ONLY TOLD US THAT HE AND TRENKLER PROBABLY ENGAGED IN THEIR USUAL ROUTINE. HE DESCRIBED THIS USUAL ROUTINE AS SPENDING FRIDAY NIGHT, SATURDAY NIGHT, AND SUNDAY TOGETHER. HE TOLD US THAT THEY USUALLY GO INTO BOSTON AT ONCE DURING A WEEKEND BUT THAT THEY ONLY DRIVE

SPECIFICALLY, HE TOLD US THAT HE AND TRENKLER WOULD USUALLY GO TO THE RAMROD BAR ON BOYLSTON STREET (near the 1200 block) BUT THAT THEY DON'T GO INSIDE AND JUST TALK WITH SOME PEOPLE OUTSIDE OR JUST DRIVE AROUND.

MR. CATES ALSO TOLD US THAT HE AND TRENKLER HAD DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY/PROBABILITY OF THE POLICE PAYING THEM A VISIT. THIS HE CLAIMED WAS DUE TO A PHONE CALL THAT HE RECEIVED FROM A PERSON, WHOSE NAME WAS IN "TOM'S" PHONE BOOK, AND WHO CALLED TO ALERT MR. CATES THAT THE POLICE WERE CONTACTING PEOPLE WHO KNEW "TOM".

MR. CATES ALSO TOLD US THAT HE WAS A WITNESS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH IN A BANK ROBBERY CASE INVOLVING THE BANK WHICH WAS ROBBED AT 30 ROWES WHARF. BOTH THE PAPERWORK IN HIS APARTMENT AND MR. CATES STATEMENTS RELATED THAT THE SUSPECT/DEFENDANT WAS CONVICTED IN THE CASE AND THAT HE RECEIVED A LENGTHY PRISON SENTENCE. THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY IN CHARGE OF THIS PROSECUTION WAS ROSALIND MILLER.

MR. CATES ALSO INFORMED US THAT BOTH HE AND AL TRENKLER ARE GAY. MR. CATES SEEMED BOTH HURT AND DISAPPOINTED WHEN WE FLOATED THE SCENARIO THAT "TOM" HAD BEEN OBSERVED GOING INTO MR. CATES' APARTMENT. MR. CATES RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT IF "TOM" HAD BEEN INSIDE HIS APARTMENT, THEN IT WAS WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT. HE FURTHER STATED THAT AL TRENKLER IS NOT SUPPOSED TO BRING GUESTS TO THE APARTMENT WHEN CATES IS NOT THERE.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE INTERVIEW, WE THANKED MR. CATES FOR SPEAKING WITH US AND WE ASKED HIM TO CALL US IF HE REMEMBERED ANYTHING ELSE. WE PROVIDED MR. CATES WITH A CARD WITH THE HOMICIDE TELEPHONE NUMBERS.

SGT. DET. TIMOTHY J. MURRAY

HOMICIDE UNIT, ID #8907