

Memorandum



Subject

James Harding

Date

April 1, 1992

To

39 Eastbourne File

From

Frank A. Libby, Jr.
Assistant U.S. Attorney

James Harding appeared at our offices today for a pre-arranged interview to assist in transcribing the tape recording of the Harding/Donna Shea/Al Trenkler conversation held outside ARCOM's Weymouth offices in November, 1991. Harding appeared fidgety and nervous and when we began to discuss playing the tape Harding indicated he had recalled further information which he wished to give to us before we played the tape. This information breaks down as follows:

1. During his previous visits with us, Harding underwent extensive questioning about the four separate occasions on which he has spoken with Trenkler, the first such occasion being the tape recorded conversation in the alleyway outside ARRCOM. Harding now tells us that there are three or more passages which he purposely "blanked out" because, as he puts it, certain other names were mentioned which he did not want disclosed. Each of the blanked out passages dealt with the same subject, *i.e.*, the identity of the individual and the circumstances involved in supplying the flash simulator for the 1986 bombing incident. Essentially, Harding tells us that Trenkler initially claimed that he got the simulator from Donna Shea; Donna immediately denied that and began to forcefully refresh Al's memory that Al got the simulator "over at Mary Ann's (Donna Shea's sister) house" and more particularly from Mary Ann's boyfriend, David Noonan. According to Harding, Donna recalled for Al's benefit that Noonan's father had apparently lent money to the owners of the Capeway Fish Market and they had stiffed repayment. In response, Al suggested that "maybe I got (the simulator) from "Pegleg". Donna replied "you didn't get it from Pegleg; he's a leg breaker".

2. Harding goes on to say that at some point during the tape -- which was not blanked out -- Al says that the explosive used in the October 19, 1991 bombing was "according to the grape vine, suppose to be an M-80."

3. Harding also offers the following: During Harding's second meeting with Trenkler, in Donna Shea's bedroom and approximately one week following the alleyway conversation, Harding spent approximately 30 minutes attempting to convince Trenkler to "get serious counsel." After approximately 30 minutes (into this 45 minute meeting), Harding asked, essentially, "Cut the shit, Al, what really happened?" At this point, Al became teary-eyed and simply shook his head while staring at the floor. At some point thereafter, Harding said that he advised Al to "cut a deal, but wait until you get indicted." Al made a response to this.

4. During Harding's fourth and final meeting with Trenkler, in the foyer of the Backbay Fleet Bank and while waiting for Cates to get out of work, Harding suggested to Trenkler that "it's going to be difficult to prove this case if there are only two of you involved." Following that, Harding said that he told Trenkler, essentially "if something were to happen to Shay, they wouldn't have a case." Harding then went on to suggest "there are over a million fags in San Francisco. If Shay were to take off to San Francisco, they would never be able to find him, even with the help of a television show.

5. Harding went on to say that he "heard from the grape vine" (which he first refused to identify and then claimed failure of memory) that Shay, Sr. was "mob connected" and that "the guys that Shay, Sr. is suing" -- the Dedham Service Center - is said to be a front for drug dealing.

End of Memorandum

cc: Paul Kelly