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

CASE NO. CTC 01-00101-MMANO

POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

STATE OF FLORIDA

vs.

JESSE PRINCE SPN 02157727

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DEPONENT:

MR. HOWARD CROSBY

:

DATE:

May 15, 2001

TIME:

11:50 p.m. - 12:45 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

A. 12 Going on 20 years. 13 Q. And are you in a particular division or 14 assignment? 15 Patrol. Α. 16 Q. Have you ever been a detective? 17 Α. Yes. 18 ٥. What years, approximately? Α. About seven years. I was taken out of investigations about nine months ago. 21 Q. Okay. So you were a detective, then, from 22 nine months ago back for about seven years? About, yeah. 23 Α. 24 Q. All right. And was it in vice narcotics?

PAGE 4 And have you had any previous law enforcement experience? A. No. ٥. Was there a time when you were contacted concerning an investigation involving a citizen named Jesse Prince?

A. Yes. And who contacted you? ٥.

It was originally Officer Desjardins'. I Α. mean, I was in the narcotics, so he made the contact to me.

Q. And what did he say?

That he had a private investigator, Raftery, Α. that was doing an investigation and had information for me.

Q. And did you meet with this man named Raftery?

Α. Yes.

Yes.

Α.

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Q. And was it at the police department?

Yes.

And feel free to look at your report. I've already been given a copy. Do you remember the date that you met with Raftery?

No. Α.

Do you remember, roughly, the substance of the conversation that he had with you?

Did Raftery contact you on numerous occasions ٥. to find out the status of the investigation?

Α. Yes.

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Q. You're smiling. Are we talking about almost daily or every other day?

A. He contacted me frequently, yes.

And what would you tell him?

Well, for a while there, I didn't do Α. anything, because I was too busy and I just kept telling him that I was too busy and I would get to this one. Because I was working out of a task force for the county. So I had that to do and this came up, so I was -- it was put on the back burner for a while. And then when I did meet with Barry, who was

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the other investigator, that's when we set up to meet Jesse Prince.

Q. Before we get into that, did Raftery tell you in any way that The Church of Scientology was behind the investigation or had hired him to conduct this investigation?

A. He worked for The Church of Scientology, yes.

Q. So it was his boss, then, that had instituted the investigation?

I assumed so. Yes, most likely. Α.

All right. And did that raise any flags to Q. you?

In what respect?

That I really didn't want to work for them or have anything to do with their case. But if I'm being given that someone is doing drugs, then I have to investigate it. So either way, I was kind of stuck.

Okay. Did Mr. Raftery tell you things concerning Mr. Prince's alleged drug activities that turned out to be unsubstantiated? For example, that he was selling cocaine or dealing heavy narcotics or anything like that?

A. That was brought up, and I never found anything to be done like that. But I only met Prince

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on two separate occasions, and that was enough.

What types of things did Raftery tell you ٥. about Mr. Prince?

That he was more into the drug trade and Α. about the selling and using of cocaine and marijuana.

And did he lead you to believe that this investigation would somehow result in an arrest of dealing in drugs or; in particular, hard drugs like

Yes. I thought it was going to go further. Okay. Were you, at any time, told that this Α. ٥. case had nothing more to do with than relatively small marijuana plants growing in a house?

A. No. I figured that one out myself when I got there.

Q. That's at the end?

Α. Right.

Did you ever express a reluctance towards Mr. ٥. Gaston about continuing an investigation that did not look like it was heading the way, initially, you were told it was going to head?

A. I wasn't going to stay on the investigation much longer. When I saw the marijuana plants, then I had a cultivation charge, and I figured that was probably going to be all -- all that I'm going to get

lately.

Q. And he also expressed it to you back then?

Α. Why did this investigation continue, then? Q. Once I met with the CI and I got in the Α.

house, he smoked the pot in front of me and he showed me the plant on the back porch, I couldn't just stop. And I went ahead and just went with the cultivation

Okay. Q.

I think there probably would have been more Α. problems if I did stop it.

Okay. Was there ever any discussion between ٥. you and Gaston about Gaston trying to get Mr. Prince to sell marijuana within a thousand feet of a church or school or anything like that? Does that sound familiar?

A. No, no. A thousand feet within a school was, I think, from somebody else. Because after the charges were made, I was called and, you know, it was suggested that these charges be brought up too.

Q. I don't understand?

Once Prince was arrested, that was the first Α. time I heard about this "within a thousand feet of a school." I was called by, I believe it was, Raftery

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anyway. Were you --

Α. But Gaston was not -- he was not real thrilled about continuing an investigation either.

Q. Tell me about, now, you're dealings with Gaston. Approximately, when did you meet him and what did he inform you?

Now, I probably talked to him before this date on the telephone, but I have documented on 4/7 that I met with the informant, Gaston, and discussed Jesse Prince. He stated that he met with Jesse, became his friend and that he was seen dealing in cannabis and snorting cocaine.
Q. This is what Mr. Gaston told you?

Right. Α.

Q. Did you ever substantiate that that was true?

No, he never dealt or did cocaine in front of Α.

Did you ever discuss anything in an undercover capacity with Mr. Prince that led you to believe that he snorted cocaine?

Α. No.

How about sold marijuana?

If he had marijuana, he probably would have Α. sold it to me. But when asked, he only had, I think, PAGE 12 -

who said that -- I don't know if it was coming from his bosses or from him -- you know, why don't I look into the other charge of within a thousand feet of a school. That's the first time I heard about that.

Q. Okay. Do you know that that even happened?

No. I told him no. I'll do my own Α. investigation.

Q. It certainly did not happen during any investigation you were conducting?

A. No. He was charged with the one count. MRS. WARDELL: Wait. I'm confused. Is his house within a thousand feet of a school or something? Is that whey they were --THE DEPONENT: Yes. It was a Montessori

school. And I said, "A marijuana plant on the back porch, I'm not going to go there."

MRS. WARDELL: So they were talking about more charges with regards --

THE DEPONENT: They wanted more charges. MRS. WARDELL: -- to the actual marijuana

that was made?

THE DEPONENT: This is after the arrest that that was brought up. I never heard of that before. MRS. WARDELL: It wasn't some other date,

some other time? It was this stuff?

a joint or two in his house. But that's as far as that went.

Q. Did you ever discuss with Mr. Gaston his involvement with Scientology?

Α. Yeah.

What did he tell you? Q.

Α. He said he does not want to have anything to do with them, but he's being paid by Raftery to do

Did he know from the very beginning that Scientology had hired him as a private investigator to make this case against Prince?

A. I can't say. Probably. Probably. I don't know about Scientology but -- I mean, maybe not from the very beginning, because Raftery probably hired him.

But was there a time in your investigation where Gaston knew --

Α. Oh, yes.

Q. -- who his boss was, and that is Scientology?

Right, yes. Α.

And then did he become somewhat disenchanted with that? Did he say that he wished he didn't get involved in this?

Yes. He expressed that several times, even

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THE DEPONENT: Right.

BY MR. de VLAMING:

Q. Okay. But Raftery wanted more charges brought against Mr. Prince once he was arrested?

Α. That was the thousand feet within the school, yes.

And you told him you'll conduct your own investigation?

Α. Yeah. That and child abuse charges.

And did Raftery bring that up, too? Q.

Oh, yeah. Α.

Did he tell you that The Church of

Scientology wanted as many charges brought as possible?

Α. No, he didn't say that.

Q. Is that what he intimated with you --

Α. No.

-- that he wanted more charges brought? Q.

That he want -- he suggested it. But he didn't come out and say, "Scientology wanted that." Q.

But he suggested there were more charges there and that you could bring them and load up on them?

Α. Right.

All right. Did you ever ask Raftery why The

was in government work, he told me. All right. Let's go ahead and talk about how the investigation started, then. Was an introduction made by you? Well, before we go into that, what did Gaston tell you before you came into the investigation? What 10 had he done so far with Mr. Prince? 11 A. That he had met with him, then became friends with him. Jesse is a friendly person and he became friends with him. I don't recall where they met, but he was probably -- I think it was out at a lounge or 14 15 something. And that's when he told me about observing the smoking and selling of narcotics, and that he was invited over to Jesse's house, I believe, for a party. And he said, "Well, can I bring one of my friends from 18 up north?" Which would have been you? Q. 21 Yes. And he agreed to come on over. Α. 22 Did Mr. Gaston tell you that he had smoked marijuana with Mr. Prince before law enforcement 24 became involved? That he had smoked it?

_ PAGE 16 _ 16 Yes. ٥. No. No, he didn't tell me that he smoked Α. marijuana. Would he --Q. That Gaston smoked marijuana or Prince? Gaston, with Prince, smoked marijuana before ٥. you came into the picture? A. He had told me that he had seen Prince smoke marijuana. 10 Õ. Okay. But did he indicate that he smoked it 11 as well? Α. ٥. Would he be allowed to do that at that point 13 14 in time? 15 Α. Smoke marijuana? 16 Q. Right. 17 Α. No. 18 That would lawful for him to do it, at that point in time, before you came into the picture? 19 20 Right. 21 So the only thing about drugs is that Gaston told you that he had seen Prince smoke marijuana; is 23 that correct? 24 Α. Yes. Q. And then he said to Prince, "I got a friend.

chair -- I mean, a couch and a chair, table and a computer. He was playing on the computer, working on Q. And you and Mr. Gaston went into that room? 5 Α. Yeah. We were introduced and sat there and just made small talk for a while. 6 Q. Did you talk at all about Mr. Prince's work 8 as it related to the Lisa McPherson Trust and what he was pulling up on the computer and so forth? 10 A. I believe that was talked about, about the Scientologists and McPherson. And I didn't, you know, 11 12 go into any depth of that conversation but that was 13 part of it, now that you said that. Was he showing you on the computer a little 14 bit about how he was bringing up web sites to look 15 into The Church of Scientology? 16 17 A. No. I don't remember that. He might have been. I don't remember being shown anything on the 18 19 computer. 20 Q. Where did he say his job was? 21 You know, I don't think he ever told me what Α. 22 his job was. 23 Q. Well, did he say he worked for the Lisa McPherson Trust? A. I can't recall.

PAGE 19 Q. Okay. What did you understand his work to 2 3 be? Like a -- you know, I'm not sure what his job was. 5 Q. Was he like a watch dog for The Church of 6 Scientology and exposing things about its practices and so forth? Did he ever mention that? 8 A. Yes. And so did Gaston. Q. And what do you mean "so did Gaston"? Gaston mentioned that that's what Prince did or --11 Α. Right. 12 Q. Oh, okay. What happened inside the computer room? 14 After we were introduced, Jesse went and got Α. some beers for us to drink and then he asked if we wanted some smoke and they pulled out some -- a little 17 bit of marijuana and made a cigarette and passed it around to us. Q. Now, who is "they"? Deneen -- in the room, once it was closed off 20 Α. 21 because he had kids in the house, there was Deneen, 22 myself, Jesse and Barry. 23 Q. And who rolled the cigarette? 24 A. Deneen. And did she light it?

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PAGE 21 21 in the cigarette. It could have been laced with anything, so suck on those things. How do you simulate it? Q. I need to go into that? Α. Well, I mean, does it look like you are Q. smoking? Yeah, absolutely. Α. And then it looks like you're exhaling the 8 ٥. Q smoke? 10 Α. No, because, usually, it's passed off pretty quick. 11 People don't pay that close attention to you. Q. Okay. Well, did you see, at any time, Gaston appear to be either smoking or simulating? 13 14 Yes. He had put it up to his mouth and Α. 15 appeared to be simulating, yes. Q. And how many cigarettes were smoked? Α. One. There were four people there. 18 Q. But, I mean, there wasn't a second one made? 19 Α. No. 20 Was there any alcohol consumed? Q. 21 Yes.

I read that in the report. Was there any further discussion concerning the marijuana plants 3 that you had? A. Q. Was it the first or second visit where Jesse made a statement that he had pulled some out and threw them out? 8 Second. Q. Second visit. Okay. So there was no further 10 discussions concerning the marijuana plants, the first 11 time, other than they were growing in the lanai aspect part of the pool? 13 Correct. Was there anything about how they were 14 Q. 15 tendered to, anything like that discussed; whether they were fertilized, whether they were replanted? 16 A. They said mostly they grow by themselves, just keep them watered and sunlight. I mean, the kids were there in the pool so we didn't -- you know, I 17 19 didn't go into any great detail about them. It wasn't like they were talking loud enough for the kids to 20 21 22 hear. They were just pointing at them and just 23 talking to me, so we left the pool area. 24 Were there other plants in the lanai area

other than marijuana plants?

__ PAGE 22 _ 22 bottle. But, I mean, it wasn't --٥. That was it. Α. 4 You didn't drink two or three or four cans, ٥. or anything like that --A. No, unh-unh. Q. -- or bottles? 8 Α. Do you know how much of -- was there only one Q. 10 beer per person, to your knowledge? Α. Yes. 12 Did you bring any alcohol or any food on 13 that particular occasion? 14 A. I don't think it was that occasion. I think it was the next one. 15 So you didn't bring anything on the first 16 Q. 17 occasion? 18 I don't believe so. I believe it was the second time we brought a bottle of wine, maybe some 19 20 nuts, macadamia nuts.

Was it rum? I don't know what the bottle

Were there any discussions concerning -- this

was. It was either rum or wine. I didn't drink it.

is back to the first time now -- marijuana or drugs or

What type of alcohol?

Do you know how much?

I probably took a couple of sips of the beer

Α.

Q.

Α.

Q.

Beer.

Q. And some rum?

Α.

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PAGE 25. 25 Oh, yeah. Other household-type, potted plants? Q. Α. Q. And where these marijuana plants among those 5 plants or were they separate? 6 Α. They were in their own pots. Right. But, I mean, were they among some of 8 the other pots there? A. Oh, yeah. Yes. I mean, there were potted plants everywhere. She had plants everywhere on that pool deck. 11 12 Did they look like they were getting ready to be replanted in the yard or did they look like pots that were there, you know, growing on the pool deck? 14 Do you understand my question? A. No, but I'll answer it anyway. They were 17 just on the potted plant -- I mean, in pots on the pool deck. They could have been replanted, I quess, 19 once they get bigger and grow out of the pot. 20 Q. How long would you say you were there the 21 first time? 22 Α. I arrived at 3:15, and we left at 4:58. 23 Q. An hour-and-a-half then, roughly? 24 Yes, sir. And when you left, did you exchange

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pleasantries and say hope to see you again or what have you?

- Α. Yeah. He even walked us to the car.
- Was Jesse friendly during that trip? Q.
- Α. Verv.

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- Q. What was Raftery doing and saying during that first visit with Mr. Prince? Was he trying to get Mr. Prince to say anything or make admissions or admit to dealing in drugs? Was he doing anything like that?
 - Α. Raftery?
 - Q. I'm sorry. Gaston.
- The first trip I had told him, let's just Α. introduce and see how far that goes; especially, me being white and being a friend. Because Barry is black. And I said, "Let's just see how it goes because we're going inside someone's home." I just wanted to make sure that goes okay. So there was some talk, but it didn't go into any detail like, you know, trying to make a ground-breaking case there.
- When you left the first time, where did you think this investigation was going to go based upon talking with Jesse, seeing his home, his family and so forth?
 - Α. Right there. Cultivation.
 - In other words, you saw the plant and figured

It might have been, like, a cursory search. I didn't go in the house for the search.

Were you there? Q.

I was still undercover. Α.

Q. Oh, okay.

So I wasn't -- I didn't go inside there. Α. You didn't go to the house at this time, for ٥.

the search warrant?

- I drove the jump-out van to the house, but I Α. stayed in the van. I had nothing to do with the search warrant.
 - You weren't seen? Q.

Right. Α.

- Q. Let's go back to the second visit now. Gaston's back in town and he says, "Let's go back." And what was the game plan on the second visit?
- A. Just to re-contact him and see if we could get anything else, make sure that the plants were still there. Just, you know, another visit.
 Q. So you go to the house. Tell me what
- happened on that visit.
- A. I believe one of his children met us at the door. Yeah. A child -- one of the children answered the door, and Jesse walked up to us and invited us inside. We went into the living room, sat on the

_ PAGE 27 _

that that's probably the most that Largo P.D. was going to get out of this case?

- A. Yeah. I mean, maybe some other plant material or, you know, some pot in a bag, but nothing else.
- ٥. How much time went by before the second meeting?
 - Α. Wow. I went back on 8/6/2000.
 - Why did it take so long?
 - I just had other things to do. Α.
- Q. Did this become a little lower priority based upon that first meeting?
 - Oh, yes, yes. Α.
- Based upon the first meeting, did you think that you had somebody that was a dealer in hard drugs? Was there anything that led you to believe that he was a dealer of cocaine?
- A. Not that I saw. You know, they -- from what I understand, Raftery had him on surveillance, this whole time, almost 24 hours a day.
 - Okay. Q.
 - Α. From what I saw, no.
- Did Raftery ever give you any type of surveillance tapes or anything like that?
 - No. I don't think they made tapes.

PAGE 30

couch. I observed Deneen watering her plants in the pool area. I asked Jesse if I could go out and talk to her and say hi to her. He said go ahead and that he would meet us out there. We both went out there. A few moments later, Jesse came out and he came back by the pool and talked to me.

Q. Was there any discussion about the marijuana plants at that time?

A. No. I didn't -- No, I never brought it up, about marijuana plants. I didn't want to get him rowelled at all or get him suspicious about me.

Q. Did you see any marijuana plants in the lanai at that time?

One pot. Α.

Just one on the second visit? Q.

Α. One pot. Q. Oh, okay.

I mean, it was -- I didn't get real close to Α. it. He had talked to me and pointed it out, and I had gotten close enough to it where I could see it, but the other ones were not there. And the one that was, probably a couple of feet high, was really bushy. It looked like several plants coming out, and that was all I saw.

You saw only one plant? Q.

PAGE 28.

- But you were led to believe that something bigger was going to come of this case when you first got involved?
 - A. When I first got involved, yes.
- Who generated the second meeting; you, Q. Raftery or Gaston?
- It was probably Gaston. Well, I told -- I'm available, let's -- because I wanted to get this whole thing over with, so it was probably Gaston.
 - Q. Did Gaston --
- I don't think Raftery ever made -- no, Raftery never made contact. I mean, from what it sounds, Gaston does not live around here, but you know that. So he just came into town to do this and then go back home.
- Q. Did either Raftery or Gaston ever tell you that if you were to get a warrant and search Jesse Prince's house, you would probably find some hard drugs or some more evidence?
- A. No. I don't remember him saying that, because I would have told him that my warrant is going to be for the back porch.
- Q. While we're on that subject, was there any part of the house that was searched? I thought the house was searched.

PAGE 31.

One pot.

One pot. How many pots were in that plant -or how many plants were in that pot?

A. It looked like, to me, several of them. Now, because it was bushy, you know -- it was a pretty good size, about a foot high. I didn't get close enough to where you could separate them and see how many were actually coming out, but it looked like several of them. There were no other pots of plants.

Q. But not marijuana?

Α. Right.

Okay. Q.

- That was the only one. As opposed to when I Α. was previously there, there were other ones.
 - Q. I think I understand now.
- He's down to one pot now. Α.
- 17 Q. And before -- the first time you were there, 18 there were how many?
 - Several of them. Α.
 - Q. Three, four, five?
 - Α. Three, yeah. I think, three or four.
 - Q.
 - There were different ones. Α.
 - Q. In separate pots?
 - Right.

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32 Q. Now, was it on the second occasion where there was some comment made about discarding marijuana or throwing out plants?

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And who made that and where were you when it Q. was made?

Α. He told me to come on over to him. I walked over. It was in the southwest area of the screened-in encloser, and he showed me the pot plant. I told him that they looked healthy. He stated that he just pulled, approximately, 15 plants out of several -- out several months ago. And that these, and he's showing me, began to grow again.

Q. Did he know how they -- did he indicate how they were growing, who had planted them or that he had planted them? Did he know how they got there?

A. He told me that he was just going to let them grow. In fact, he told me that he was just going to let them grow and they needed more sun. He was going to put them out into the sun, to get more sun from that screened-in encloser. He says that it doesn't take much to grow the plants as long as you just keep them in the sun. He didn't say that they just magically appeared. He knew the plant was there.

Q. Right.

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You know what saying?

Yeah. But did he know how the plant got there? Did he say that he had planted the seeds or that he had --

Α. No. He just told me that he had other ones that he had pulled.

Q. And these grew up --

Α. Right.

Q. These grew in their place after he pulled the other ones out?

Α. Yes.

Did he say what he did with the other ones? Did he throw them out?

Α. No. I didn't -- I didn't want to get into that with him.

Q. Okay. You're familiar with marijuana?

Α. Oh, yeah.

What do you have to do to a marijuana plant that is growing with a root system in order to smoke it? In other words, can you pluck it and smoke it?

Α. Dry it out, then you can.

How long does it

Α. I mean, you just can't pull it off of the plant and light it up.

Why not?

PAGE 34 Because you have to dry it out. You have to

Q. Well, why, if it's green? How long does it take to dry out?

Α. I don't know. I mean, I've never physically done that.

Q. Is there a certain age or size of a plant that needs to be adult before it can be, you know, smoked for it's cannabis quality?

A. I don't know what certain -- if there is a certain age for it.

You don't know? Q.

No, sir.

Did you ever see any dried marijuana plants or plants that had been laid out --

Α. No, I didn't.

-- to be cured? Q.

I didn't see any dry ones. Α.

Okay. Did you ever see any marijuana plants inside the residence? By "inside the residence," not the lanai now, inside the house itself.

A. No, no.

Where was Gaston when this conversation took place concerning the marijuana plants being pulled

Α. He was there.

But he was standing near you? Q.

Yes. Α.

And what else did you do on that occasion? ٥. Did you ask to buy any marijuana on that occasion? A. We had asked if he had any for our trip. And

he said, no, that he did not have any. That he probably -- in fact, he said that he doesn't have any in -- no. He said he didn't have any at all.

Q. You had indicated that you were going to the Keys or something like that, on a trip?

Α. Yes.

Q. So when you left that time, was there ever any indication that there were any hard drugs being used or sold --

Α. No.

Q. -- by Mr. Prince?

Α. None.

Q. So when you left on that occasion, did you make a decision that that's the most time you're going to put into this case, other than to ultimately get the marijuana plant that you saw in there?

Α. Yes.

All right. Have you ever gone to somebody's house where marijuana was growing in their backyard

PAGE 36.

and it was not planted there? In other words, kind of growing wild?

MRS. WARDELL: How would he know? How would the witness know if that was --

BY MR. de VLAMING:

Well, you know, like an older couple called and said, I think there's something growing in our backyard or something. And you go check it out and you see it and pull it. It's lewin in --

No, I've never been there.

Okay. Q.

Of all the houses we've been to, they say, it Α. must have just popped up. But no, no older couple telling us that marijuana plants are popping.

Q. Singular plants?

Α.

Q. Okay. When you left the house that day, then, was it your intention then to get the warrant and to come back and make the arrest?

Α.

Yes, sir.

And it was your understanding that when you came back, unless you found anything else pursuant to your search warrant, that you were there to get that marijuana plant that was in the singular pot?

A. Right.

PAGE 37.

Q. In other words, whatever marijuana was in that pot?

A. Right.

Q. Whatever number of stalks was in that pot? Uh-huh.

That's right. You weren't there when -- did you ultimately see the plant?

A. No. Bruno, Officer Bruno, was the one that processed all of that.

He took it into custody? In other words, 0.

took it from a residence? Α. Yeah. I believe he -- and he's the one that

submitted it all.

Have you, on other occasions, gotten search Q. warrants to search houses for singular plants?

Α. No.

Q. Did you ever take a statement from Jesse after his arrest or did you not see him again?

A. No. I didn't see him.

Okay. What was your relationship, then, with Q. Gaston after the arrest was made? Was it, see ya, have a nice life, you'll remain a CI as far as you were concerned, or did you tell him that there might be a time that he would have to come back and talk about his involvement?

dry the leaves out.

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38 I didn't think he would have to come back. He called me when he was upset when you sent your people out to get him at the restaurant, and he thought -- and I don't know why he would even be included in this investigation. I didn't even think it was going to go this far. But even if it was to go to trial, I told him, I said, "I doubt very seriously that you would even be involved in this." He says, "Fine." Because he doesn't want to be involved. To me, I saw the plants and that's what I thought was -would be good enough for the state. Did Gaston ever ask you about the status of the investigation after the arrest --Α. No. -- or was it just Raftery?

Yeah. He just -- the only time he talked to Α. me after that was when Jesse Prince approached him.

Q. With the PIs, my PIs?

Yeah. Α.

Have you talked to Mr. Gaston of late? Q.

Yeah, yesterday.

Q. What was that about?

He had called and basically said, "I can't Α. believe it's still going through all of this,

especially it just being a misdemeanor charge."

PAGE 39

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Did he indicate that he was going to be here today?

Α.

Okay. Good. Was there anymore background information given to you by either Gaston or Raftery?

Α. Gaston never really gave me any background, no. Gaston was just a private investigator in wherever he lives and he was called in because, like you said, he's black and he can become friends with Jesse, you know. I mean, Raftery has probably a bunch of white guys looking for him. So that's why he was called in. He says, "I'm just here to become his friend and introduce you." He tried to stay out as much as possible. Raftery was the one that called and checked on the status and all of that.

Well, how did Gaston, when he first became Q. involved in this investigation, before he went to Jesse's house, how did he know that this was going to bear fruit? In other words, that he was going to find drugs and, ultimately, introduce you?

A. I don't know. He probably didn't, you know. But they were paying him to come down here and investigate.

And part of that investigation was to meet him and kind of work his way into a friendship and

PAGE 40

then ultimately get invited back to his home?

A. Well, yeah. I don't know about the home part, but become his friend and see where it can go from there.

Q. Was he also chosen because of him being outside of the geographical area as well as his race?

A. I don't know about that.

It was primarily, you think, because of his race, then?

Α. Right. I wouldn't know -- I wouldn't even go that far.

Q. Do you know what Gaston's schtick was? In other words, who was he to Prince in front of you? I know he was Trinidad. But I mean, what was he?

A. I don't know what his story was. He told me but, you know, the only thing I was saying was about what my story was and that we were from up north. I was his friend from up north coming down here.

I'm just about through.

Did Raftery tell you anything more,

backgroundwise, about Jesse Prince?

He probably did, but I didn't really write anything down or take it to heart. From day one, I -when they told me who these people were that were involved and what's going on, I just wanted to get rid

of this case as quick as possible. You know, a California detective called me about Jesse Prince being arrested.

Why would somebody from California call? Ο. Α. He got me. He got the arrest affidavit and

everything on his desk Monday morning.

Q. Of this case?

Uh-huh. And he called me up and said that he just found out about Jesse Prince and the case. I said, "How do you know?" I believe a warrant was served on Friday night -- Friday or Saturday. I don know what the day was. It was 8/11. Whatever 8/11 is, but it was over the weekend. And when he came to work that morning, he got a whole pamphlet all on Jesse.

Q. About the arrest?

Α. Yeah.

Q. Why did he call you?

Α. Basically, to wish me luck and to -- that he's been dealing with Scientologists for a long time, and that it was just going to be a pain in the rear with these people.

MRS. WARDELL: I'm sorry. Detective of law enforcement or a private investigator called?

THE DEPONENT: No. Detective of law

PAGE 42

enforcement. MRS. WARDELL: And is this back in time or is this just something recent?

THE DEPONENT: This was the Monday after the search warrant.

> MRS. WARDELL: Way back then? MR. de VLAMING: After the arrest.

THE DEPONENT: Right.

MRS. WARDELL: Okay.

BY MR. de VLAMING:

Q. Do you know how he got the arrest information so fast?

A. No. Booking advisory copies he had? Q.

So something faxed to him from --Probably. Well, it was in a packet on his

Α. desk. I mean, it might have come through, but somebody put it in a packet for him.

Q. Right.

Α. But he got everything.

Did he share any -- other than to wish you luck, did he share any information about Mr. Prince or about The Church of Scientology, either one?

He knew Mr. Prince in testifying -- in talking against the Scientologists. So $\tilde{\mathbf{I}}$ don't know if there's a case going on up there or not.

PAGE 43.

But basically, it was a good luck/warning about getting involved in all of this?

Exactly. Α.

Okay. Q.

MR. de VLAMING: Do you want to ask him questions?

MRS. WARDELL: Yes.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MRS. WARDELL:

Q. Did you get the impression that there was some ongoing case in California that Mr. Prince was either a witness or a party to --

A. I think --

-- that concerned this investigator? Q.

Α. He had told me that there was a case of somebody being killed out there and, maybe, Prince knew about it or -- being electrocuted or something. He probably talked to him about that. He didn't go into any great detail, but there was some type of death case that he had been working on and he was the

Scientology detective out there, basically.
Q. Against Scientology or for Scientology? Q.

Α. No, against.

Against Scientology? Q.

Right.

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PAGE 46.

PAGE 48

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Q. So did you get the impression that since he was against Scientology, that somebody wanted him to know, hey, look, even the Scientologists are now getting Jesse arrested or -
A. Right, exactly.
Q. In other words, look what lengths they'll go to -
A. Exactly.
O. -- now to have Jesse arrested?

Q. -- now to have Jesse arrested?
So you got the impression that it was a pro-Jesse supporter that sent the information up there?

A. Well, yeah. I mean, he was in law enforcement. I don't think he really, honestly, cared about anybody. But he was just saying, you know, that Jesse was -- he knows that Jesse was against Scientology. Because I asked him, "How did you get all of my paperwork so quick? I can't even get it that quick." And he said, "The Scientologists come by all of the time and give him stuff and call him, check his trash and everything." And so he warned me.

Q. Did you get an indication that a pro-Scientology person forwarded the information or a pro-Jesse Prince person forwarded the information?

A. Pro-Jesse Prince.

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recognize as being there when you were at the home?
     These pictures, for the record, were taken by the
     defense on August 14th, 2000, which would have been
     three or four days after the warrant, many days after
     you were in there the first time.
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              Does any of this look familiar or does it
     look like things have been moved around?
 8
             I mean, that looks like, probably, his
         Α.
 9
     backvard.
10
              The lanai ones?
         Q.
11
         Α.
              You're talking about the pool area, right?
              Yeah.
         Q.
13
              Yeah. I mean, it was full of plants, the
         Α.
14
     pool area.
15
              Are you able to say today that any of these
         Q.
16
     pots were there when you were there?
17
         Α.
              No, no.
18
         Q.
              Okay.
              THE DEPONENT: You took these photos?
19
              MR. de VLAMING: My PI did.
20
21
              MRS. WARDELL: All right. Did you have
22
     anything else?
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                      REDIRECT EXAMINATION
24
     BY MR. de VLAMING:
             Do you know who planted the marijuana?
         Q.
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Q. A Jesse Prince person forwarded the information?
A. No. I'm sorry. Pro-Scientologist.

Q. Forwarded the information?

A. Right.

Q. And you were asked about how many other times you've gotten a warrant for a single marijuana plant. At the time you applied for the warrant, you believed or you had personal knowledge that this wasn't a single-marijuana-plant case, there were multiple plants out there?

A. Right. When I looked at it, it looked like there were several plants in there. Now, when Bruno and them pulled it out, it may have come from one stalk.

Q. I'm talking about on August 6th, when you were at the home, there was more than one plant that you saw? I think you said four to five plants, correct?

A. My first visit there, yes.

Q. So when you got the warrant, it was more than one plant; it just happened to be one at the time the warrant was executed? Am I confusing you?

A. Yeah. When I -- my first visit there, there were several pots of plants.

48 Planted? 2 Q. Yeah. You know, put the seeds or --3 A. And do you know the name of the person who 5 called you from California? No. I can try to find it. Α. I'd be interested. Q. 8 I believe it was the Sheriff's Department of Α. San Diego or something like that. Do you think you might be able to find it, Q. 11 though, if you had to? 12 Yeah. When I go to work today, I'll root 13 through. MR. de VLAMING: Thank you. Anything else? 14 15 MRS. WARDELL: Unh-unh. 16 MR. de VLAMING: Read? 17 THE DEPONENT: Yeah. 18 (At this time the deposition in the 19 above-captioned matter was concluded at 20 12:45 p.m.) 21 22

Q. Right. The second time, there was the one pot with, what looked like to me, several plants coming out of a Q. Okav. Α. The other plants were gone. So I felt that I was going for three, four, five plants in one pot warrant. Q. Right. 10 Α. That's when I said, I didn't do that before. 11 I have not done that. So some time between 6:00 and 11:00 some were ٥. pulled up? 13 14 Α. 15 MRS. WARDELL: Do you have those pictures, 16 Denis? 17 MR. de VLAMING: Yes. 18 BY MRS. WARDELL: 19 Can you -- I know it's been a while. MR. de VLAMING: Do you want this on the 20 21 record -- until you're ready to show -- or not? 22 BY MRS. WARDELL: Well, the question was going to be: Can you 23 look at these pictures of inside the lanai and tell me

whether any of these pots were the ones that you

PAGE 49 _ 49 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF PINELLAS) I, CRISSY CLADAKIS, Court Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing deposition; and that the 6 transcript is a true record of the testimony given by 8 the witness. I further certify that I am not a relative, 10 employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' 11 12 attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am 13 I financially interested in the action. 14 I, the undersigned authority, certify that 15 HOWARD CROSBY personally appeared before me and was 16 duly sworn. WITNESS my hand and official seal this $17 \, \mathrm{th}$ 17 18 day of May, 2001. 19 20 21 Crissy Cladakis 22 Notary Public - State of Florida 23 My Commission No. CC 736558 24 Expires: April 23, 2002

İ	READING AND SIGNING OF DEPOSITION
	TO BE ATTACHED TO THE DEPOSITION OF HOWARD CROSBY TAKEN ON MAY 15, 2001, IN THE MATTER OF STATE OF FLORIDA VS. JESSE PRINCE BY CRISSY CLADAKIS
1	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
	LINE & PAGE NO. CHANGE OR CORRECTION AND REASON

PAGE 51

HOWARD CROSBY

___ SHEET 10 PAGE 50 ___

DEPONENT'S CERTIFICATE

Date

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:	

HOWARD CROSBY

MAY 15, 2001

11:00 [1] 46:12 12:45 [1] 48:20 14th [1] 47:3 15 [2] 14:10 32:11 17th [1] 49:17

20 [1] 3:12 2000 [1] 47:3 2001 [1] 49:18 2002 [1] 49:24 23 [1] 49:24 24 [1] 27:20

3:15 [2] 17:11 25:22

4/7 [1] 9:9 4/7/2000 [1] 17:11 4:58 [1] 25:22

6:00 [1] 46:12 6th [1] 45:16

736558 [1] 49:23

8/11 [2] 41:12.12 8/6/2000 [1] 27:8

able [2] 47:15 48:10 above-captioned [1] 48:19 absolutely [1] 21:7 abuse [1] 13:9 accept [1] 5:5 action [2] 49:12,13 activities [1] 7:20 actual [1] 12:20 actually [1] 31:8 admissions [1] 26:8 admit [1] 26:8 adult [1] 34:8 advisory [1] 42:13 affidavit [1] 41:5 afternoon [1] 3:8 age [2] 34:7,11 ago [3] 3:20,22 32:12 agreed [1] 15:21 aĥead [3] 11:8 15:5 30:3 alcohol [3] 21:20,22 22:12 alleged [1] 7:20 allow [1] 20:17 allowed [2] 16:13 20:16 almost [2] 6:15 27:20 already [1] 4:21 among [2] 25:4,7 another [2] 5:7 29:19 answer [1] 25:16 answered [2] 17:13 29:23 Anybody [2] 20:6 44:15 anyway [2] 9:1 25:16 appear [1] 21:13 appeared [3] 21:15 32:24 49:15 applied [1] 45:8 approached [1] 38:17 approximately [4] 3:18 9:6 14:12

9 arrived [2] 17:12 25:22 aspect [1] 24:11 assignment [1] 3:14 assumed [1] 7:10 attention [1] 21:11 attorney [2] 49:10,12 August [2] 45:16 47:3 authority [1] 49:14 authorized [1] 49:5 available [1] 28:8

back [23] 3:22 6:24 11:2.7 12:15 22:25 23:10,11,12 27:8 28:15,22 29:14.15.15 30:5 36:19.22 37:24 38:1 40:1 42:2,6 background [2] 39:4,6 backgroundwise [1] 40:21 backyard [3] 35:25 36:8 47:9 bag [1] 27:4 Barry [3] 6:25 19:22 26:14 based [3] 26:21 27:11,14 basically [4] 38:23 41:19 43:1,21 bear [1] 39:19 became [5] 9:12 15:11,12,24 39: become [5] 10:22 27:11 39:9,12 becoming [4] 5:8,25 20:23 23:4 Beer [3] 21:23.25 22:10 beers [1] 19:15 began [1] 32:13 beginning [2] 10:10,15 behind [1] 7:4 believe [17] 8:6 9:21 11:25 15:3.17 **17**:17,19 **18**:10 **22**:18,18 **27**:16 **28**: 1 29:22 37:12 38:24 41:10 48:8 believed [1] 45:8 between [2] 11:13 46:12 bi-packs [1] 23:23 bigger [2] 25:19 28:2 bit [2] 18:15 19:17 black [4] 5:1 17:13 26:15 39:9 Booking [1] 42:13 boss [3] 5:19 7:8 10:20 bosses [1] 12:2 Both [2] 23:17 30:4 bottle [3] 22:1,19,22 bottles [1] 22:7 bring [6] 13:10,22 15:18 17:1 22: 12,16 bringing [1] 18:15

brought [8] 7:24 11:21 12:23 13:4.

13,18 22:19 30:9

bunch [1] 39:10

burner [1] 6:24

busy [2] 6:20,21

cared [1] 44:14

buy [1] 35:5

Bruno [3] 37:8,8 45:13

bushy [2] 30:22 31:5

California [4] 41:2,4 43:11 48:5 call [6] 14:18,22 17:24 41:4,18 44: 20 CALLED [14] 3:2 11:20.25 14:9 36: 6 **38**:2,23 **39**:8,12,14 **41**:2,8,24 **48**: calls [1] 14:13 came [10] 6:9,23 15:9 16:7,19 28: 14 30:5,5 36:22 41:13 cannabis [2] 9:13 34:9 cans [1] 22:4 capacity [3] 5:17 9:20 17:8 car [1] 26:3 care [1] 23:21

case [19] 5:20,23 6:3 7:16 8:12 10:

12 14:9 26:19 27:2 28:2 35:21 41: 1,7,9 42:25 43:11,15,20 45:10 CC [1] 49:23 certain [3] 34:7,10,11 certainly [1] 12:8 CERTIFICATE [1] 49:1 certify [3] 49:4,9,14 chair [2] 18:1,1 charge [4] 8:24 11:9 12:3 38:25 charged [1] 12:10 charges [10] 11:20,21 12:18,19 13: 3,9,13,18,21 14:19 check [3] 5:4 36:8 44:20 checked [1] 39:15 child [2] 13:9 29:23 children [2] 29:22,23 chosen [1] 40:5 Church [8] 7:4,7 11:15 13:12 14:1 18:16 19:5 42:22 CI [2] 11:5 37:22 cigarette [3] 19:17,23 21:1 cigarettes [1] 21:16 citizen [1] 4:5 CLADAKIS [2] 49:4,21 close [4] 21:11 30:18,20 31:6 closed [1] 19:20 cocaine [7] 7:22 8:5,9 9:13,17,21 27:17 come [11] 13:20 15:21 28:2 32:7 36:19 37:24 38:1 39:22 42:16 44: 19 45:14 coming [5] 12:1 30:23 31:8 40:18 46:3 comment [1] 32:2 Commission [1] 49:23 computer [8] 17:24.25 18:2.2.9.14. 19 19:12 concerned [2] 37:23 43:14 concerning [8] 4:5 7:20 14:9 22: 24 23:14 24:2,10 34:24 concluded [1] 48:19 conduct [3] 7:5 13:7 14:1 conducting [1] 12:9 confused 11 12:11 confusing [1] 45:23 connected [1] 49:12 consumed [1] 21:20 contact [5] 4:10 5:12,22 6:12 28: 12 contacted [3] 4:4,8 6:17 continue [1] 11:4 continuing [2] 8:19 9:4 conversation [4] 4:25 6:5 18:12 34:23 copies [1] 42:13 copy [1] 4:21 correct [3] 16:23 24:13 45:19 couch [2] 18:1 30:1 couches [1] 17:25 couldn't [1] 11:7 counsel [2] 49:10,12 count [1] 12:10

county [2] 6:23 49:3 couple [7] 14:14,15 21:25 23:16 30:22 36:6,13 Court [1] 49:4 CRISSY [2] 49:4,21 CROSBY [3] 3:1,8 49:15 CROSS-EXAMINATION [1] 43:8 cultivation [3] 8:24 11:8 26:24 cured [1] 34:17 cursory [1] 29:1 custody [1] 37:10

daily [1] 6:16 date [5] 4:21 9:9 12:24 17:4,10 day [6] 6:16 27:20 36:17 40:23 41:

12 49:18 days [2] 47:4,4 de [12] 3:6 13:2 36:5 42:7.10 43:5 46:17,20 47:20,24 48:14,16 dealer [2] 27:15,17 dealing [7] 5:2 7:22 8:8 9:12 23:1 26:9 41:20 dealings (1) 9:5 dealt [1] 9:17 death [1] 43:20 decision [1] 35:20 deck [3] 25:11,14,18 defense [1] 47:3 Deneen [8] 17:14 19:20,21,24 20:5 23:19,23 30:1 Denis [1] 46:16 Department [3] 3:11 4:18 48:8 **DEPONENT** [9] 12:14,19,22 13:1 41:25 42:4.8 47:19 48:17 deposition [2] 48:18 49:6 depth [1] 18:12 Desjardins' [1] 4:9 desk [2] 41:6 42:16 detail [3] 24:20 26:18 43:19 detective [6] 3:16,21 41:2,23,25 43:21 Diego [1] 48:9 different [2] 23:16 31:23 discarding [1] 32:2 discuss (2) 9:19 10:3 discussed [4] 9:10 20:19,22 24: discussion [3] 11:13 24:2 30:7 discussions [2] 22:24 24:10 disenchanted [1] 10:22 division [1] 3:13 documented [1] 9:9 dog [1] 19:5 doing [6] 4:14 5:20 7:17 20:25 26: done [5] 7:25 14:17 15:10 34:6 46: door [3] 17:14 29:23.24 doubt [1] 38:7 down [5] 6:9 31:16 39:22 40:18,23 dried [1] 34:14 drink [3] 19:15 22:4,23 drove [1] 29:9 drug [2] 7:20 8:4 drugs [13] 5:2,12,17 7:17 8:8,8 16: 21 22:25 26:9 27:15 28:19 35:14 39:20 Dry [5] 33:21 34:1,2,4,18 DULY [2] 3:2 49:16 during [3] 12:8 26:4,6

either [8] 7:18 9:4 21:13 22:23 28: 16 39:5 42:22 43:12 electrocuted [1] 43:17 employee [2] 49:10,11 encloser [3] 23:10 32:9.21 end [1] 8:16 enforcement [5] 4:1 15:23 41:24 42:1 44:14 enough [5] 8:1 24:21 30:20 31:6 38:11 especially [2] 26:13 38:25 estimate [1] 14:8 even [10] 10:25 12:5 26:3 38:4,5,6, 8 40:10 44:3,18 everything (5) 5:10 14:6 41:6 42: 19 44:21 everywhere [2] 25:10,10 evidence [1] 28:19 Exactly [3] 43:3 44:5,8 **EXAMINATION** [2] 3:5 47:23 EXAMINED [1] 3:2

Sheet 1

32:11

47:11,14

April [1] 49:24

area [7] 24:23,24 30:2 32:8 40:6

around [4] 19:18 20:2 28:13 47:7

arrest [12] 8:7 12:22 14:13,14 36:

19 37:18.21 38:13 41:5,16 42:7,11

arrested [5] 11:23 13:4 41:3 44:4.

example [1] 7:21 exchange [1] 25:25 executed [1] 45:23 exhaling [1] 21:8 experience [1] 4:2 Expires [1] 49:24 exposing [1] 19:6 express [1] 8:18 expressed [2] 10:25 11:2

face [2] 5:5 23:4 fact [2] 32:18 35:8 familiar [3] 11:17 33:16 47:6 family [1] 26:22 far [6] 10:1 15:10 26:13 37:22 38:6 40:11 fast [1] 42:12 faxed [1] 42:14 feel [1] 4:20 feet [7] 11:15,18,24 12:3,12 13:5 30:22 fellow [1] 5:16 felt [1] 46:6 female [1] 17:13 fertilized [1] 24:16 few [1] 30:5 figured [3] 8:14,24 26:25 filed [2] 14:19,20 financially [1] 49:13 find [6] 6:13 14:18 28:18 39:19 48: 6.10 Fine [1] 38:9 first [22] 11:23 12:4 17:10 22:16,25 23:1,5 24:5,10 25:21 26:7,12,20 27:12,14 28:2,4 31:17 39:16 45: 20,24 47:5 five [3] 31:20 45:18 46:7 flags [1] 7:11 FLORIDA [2] 49:2,22 FOLLOWS [1] 3:3 food [1] 22:12 foot [1] 31:6 force [1] 6:22 foregoing [1] 49:6 formal [1] 14:18 forth [3] 18:9 19:7 26:23 forwarded [4] 44:23,24 45:1,4 found [3] 7:24 36:22 41:9 four [7] 21:17 22:4 31:20,21 45:18 46:7 47:4 free [1] 4:20 frequently [1] 6:17 Friday [2] 41:11,11 friend [7] 5:8 9:12 16:25 26:14 39: 13 40:3,18 friendly [2] 15:12 26:4 friends [6] 5:25 15:11,13,18 23:4 39:9 friendship [1] 39:25 front [3] 9:17 11:6 40:13 fruit [1] 39:19 full [1] 47:13 further [5] 6:5 8:10 24:2,9 49:9

game [1] 29:16 Gaston [36] 8:19 9:3,6,10,14 10:3, 18 11:14,14 15:8,22 16:5,6,21 18: 4 19:8,9,9 20:10,20 21:12 26:11 28:6,7,9,10,13,16 34:23 37:21 38: 12,20 39:5,6,7,16 Gaston's [2] 29:15 40:12 gave [1] 39:6 generated [1] 28:5 geographical [1] 40:6 getting [3] 25:12 43:2 44:4 give [2] 27:23 44:20 given [4] 4:21 7:17 39:5 49:7

giving [1] 5:19 got [15] 8:14 11:5 16:25 19:14 28:3, 4 32:16 33:2 41:5,5,14 42:11,19 44:10 45:21 gotten [3] 30:20 37:14 45:7 government [1] 15:4 great [2] 24:20 43:19 green [1] 34:3 grew [2] 33:7.9 ground [1] 20:24 ground-breaking [1] 26:19 grow [7] 23:22 24:17 25:19 32:13, 18,19,22 growing [8] 8:13 24:11 25:14 32: 15 **33:**19 **35:**25 **36:**2,7 quess [1] 25:18 guys [1] 39:11

hand [1] 49:17 happen [1] 12:8 happened [5] 12:5 17:12 19:12 29: 21 45:22 hard [4] 8:8 27:15 28:18 35:14 head [1] 8:21 heading [1] 8:20 healthy [2] 23:20 32:10 hear [2] 14:7 24:22 heard [3] 11:24 12:4,23 heart [1] 40:23 heavy [1] 7:22 hi [1] 30:3 high [2] 30:22 31:6 hired [4] 5:3 7:5 10:11,15 home [10] 17:2,5,8 26:16,22 28:15 40:1,2 45:17 47:1 honestly [1] 44:14 hope [1] 26:1 hour-and-a-half [1] 25:23 hours [1] 27:20 house [19] 8:13 10:1 11:6 12:12 15:17 17:23 19:21 23:12 28:18,24, 25 **29:**2,7,9,20 **34:**21 **35:**25 **36:**17 39:18 household-type [1] 25:2

houses [2] 36:12 37:15

HOWARD [3] 3:1,8 49:15

identified [1] 17:14 impression [3] 43:10 44:1,10 included [1] 38:5 including [1] 14:11 indicate [4] 5:11 16:10 32:14 39:1 indicated [1] 35:10 indication [2] 35:14 44:22 inform [1] 9:7 informant [1] 9:10 informants [1] 20:17 information [9] 4:14 39:5 42:11, 21 44:11,23,24 45:2,4 inhaling [1] 20:14 initially [1] 8:20 inside [10] 17:15,22 19:12 26:16 29:6,25 34:20,20,21 46:24 instituted [1] 7:8 intention [1] 36:18 interested [3] 14:20 48:7 49:13 intimated [1] 13:16 introduce [3] 26:13 39:13,20 introduced [5] 6:10 17:15 18:5 19: 14 23:19 introducing [1] 6:2 introduction [1] 15:6 investigate 3 5:3 7:18 39:23 investigation [23] 4:5,14 6:13 7:5. 6,9 8:7,19,22 9:4 10:17 11:4 12:7,

9 **13**:8 **14**:2 **15**:6,9 **26**:21 **38**:5,13

39:17,24

investigations [1] 3:20 investigator [11] 4:13 5:7,8,24 6: 10 7:1 10:11 20:24 39:7 41:24 43: investigators [3] 5:19,20,22 invited [4] 15:17 17:15 29:24 40:1 involved [10] 5:17 10:24 15:24 28: 3,4 38:8,9 39:17 40:25 43:2 involvement [2] 10:4 37:25 involving [2] 4:5 5:23 itself [1] 34:21

Jesse [30] 4:6 5:2.16 7:2 9:11.11 15:12 19:14.22 20:5 23:20 24:5 **26**:4,22 **28**:17 **29**:24 **30**:2,5 **37**:17 38:17 39:10 40:21 41:2,9,15 44:4, 9,16,16 45:1 Jesse's [2] 15:17 39:18 job [3] 18:20,22 19:3 oint [1] 10:1 jump-out [1] 29:9

keep [3] 23:19 24:18 32:22 kept [1] 6:20 Keys [1] 35:11 kids [4] 19:21 23:18 24:18,21 killed [1] 43:16 kind [4] 7:18 20:18 36:1 39:25 knowledge [2] 22:10 45:9 knows [1] 44:16

laced [1] 21:1 laid [1] 34:15 lanai [6] 24:11,24 30:12 34:21 46: 24 47:10 Largo [3] 3:9,10 27:1 late [1] 38:20 lately [1] 11:1 later [1] 30:5 law [5] 4:1 15:23 41:23,25 44:13 lawful [1] 16:18 lead [1] 8:6 leaves [1] 34:2 led [3] 9:20 27:16 28:1 left [7] 24:23 25:22,25 26:20 35:13. 19 36:17 lengths [1] 44:6 lewin [1] 36:9 life [1] 37:22

light [2] 19:25 33:24 likely [1] 7:10 Lisa [2] 18:8,23 Listen [1] 20:20 little [3] 18:14 19:16 27:11 live [1] 28:13 lives [1] 39:8 living [2] 14:25 29:25 load [1] 13:22 iong [7] 3:10 25:20 27:9 32:22 33: 22 34:3 41:20 longer [1] 8:23 look [12] 4:20 8:20 12:2 18:15 21:5 25:12,13 44:3,6 46:24 47:6,7 looked [7] 30:23 31:4,8 32:10 45: 12,12 46:3 looking [1] 39:11 looks [2] 21:8 47:8

luck/warning [1] 43:1

loud [1] 24:21

lounge [1] 15:14

luck [2] 41:19 42:21

lower [1] 27:11

macadamia [1] 22:20 made [15] 4:10 11:20 12:21 15:7

18:6 19:17 21:18 24:6 27:25 28: 11,12 32:2,5,6 37:21 magically [1] 32:24 male [1] 5:1 man [2] 4:16 6:2 many [11] 13:13 14:12 17:5,7 21: 16 **31**:2,3,7,18 **45**:6 **47**:4 marijuana [43] **5:**10 **8:**5,13,23 9: 23,24 11:15 12:15,20 15:23 16:3,5, 6.9.15.22 19:17 22:25 23:14.15.17 24:2,10,25 25:4 30:7,10,12 31:10 32:2 33:16,18 34:14,19,24 35:5,22, 25 36:14.24 37:1 45:7 47:25 material [1] 27:4 matter [1] 48:19 McPherson [3] 18:8,11,24 mean [27] 4:10 6:1 10:14 14:5,11 15:2 18:1 19:9 20:25 21:5,18 22:2 24:18 25:7,9,17 27:3 28:12 30:18 33:23 34:5 39:10 40:14 42:16 44: 13 47:8,13 meet [6] 4:16 6:25 7:1 9:6 30:4 39: 24 meeting [5] 6:9 27:7,12,14 28:5 mention [1] 19:7 mentioned [1] 19:10 met [8] 4:22 7:25 9:10,11 11:5 15: 11,13 29:22 might [6] 14:3 18:17 29:1 37:23 42: 16 48:10 misdemeanor [1] 38:25 Mitch [4] 17:17,19,20,21 moments [1] 30:5 Monday [2] 41:6 42:4 Montessori [1] 12:14 months [3] 3:20,22 32:12 morning [2] 41:6,14 most [3] 7:10 27:1 35:20 mostly [2] 23:22 24:17 mouth [2] 20:13 21:14 moved [1] 47:7 much [7] 8:23 21:24 22:9 23:21 27: 6 32:22 39:14

myself [2] 8:14 19:22

multiple [1] 45:10

must [1] 36:13

name [4] 3:7 5:1 17:16 48:4 named [3] 4:5,16 5:16 narcotics [6] 3:24 4:10 7:22 15:16 20:25 23:24 nature [1] 5:13 near [2] 23:11 35:2 need [1] 21:4 needed [1] 32:19 needs [1] 34:8 never [8] 7:24 9:17 12:23 28:12 30: 9 34:5 36:10 39:6 next [1] 22:15 nice [1] 37:22 night [1] 41:11 nine [2] 3:20,22 None [2] 17:6 35:18 nor [2] 49:11,12 normally [1] 20:15 north [5] 15:19 17:20,21 40:17,18 Notary [1] 49:22 nothing [3] 8:12 27:4 29:10 number [2] 14:8 37:4 Numerous [2] 6:7.12 nuts [2] 22:20,20

observed [1] 30:1 observing [2] 5:7 15:15 occasion [9] 22:13,14,17 23:1,6 32:1 35:4.5.19 occasions [3] 6:12 8:1 37:14

occupation [1] 3:7 Officer [3] 4:9 20:23 37:8 official [1] 49:17 Okay [34] 3:21 7:19 8:11 11:10,13 **12**:5 **13**:3 **15**:2 **16**:10 **17**:7,10,18 19:1,12 20:10 21:12 23:3 24:9 26: 17 **27**:21 **29**:5 **30**:17 **31**:12,22 **33**: 16 34:19 36:11,17 37:20 39:4 42: 9 43:4 46:5 47:18 older [2] 36:6,13 Once [9] 11:5,23 13:4 14:3,5,15 17: 9 19:20 25:19 one [32] 5:21 6:3,22 8:14 12:10 15: 18 **21**:17,18 **22**:9,15 **29**:22,23 **30**: 14,15,16,21,25 31:1,2,13,16 37:8, 12 **39**:14 **40**:23 **42**:22 **45**:14,17,22, 22 46:2.7 ones [9] 30:21 31:14,23 33:5,10,12 34:18 46:25 47:10 ongoing [1] 43:11 only [9] 7:25 9:25 14:8 16:21 22:9 30:25 31:13 38:16 40:16 opposed [1] 31:13 order [1] 33:19 originally [1] 4:9 other [36] 5:8,19,20,21 6:10,16 7:1 12:3,24,25 24:11,24,25 25:2,8 26: 25 27:3,10 30:21 31:9,14 33:5,10, 12,20 35:21 36:1 37:1,10,14 39:19 40:13 42:20 44:6 45:6 46:6 out [43] 3:19 5:4 6:13,22 7:21 8:14 13:20 14:18 15:14 19:16 23:15 24: 6,7 25:19 27:2 30:2,4,4,5,19,23 31: 8 **32**:3,11,11,20 **33**:10,13,21 **34**:1. 2,4,15,25 36:8 38:3 39:13 41:9 43: 16.21 45:11,14 46:3 outside [1] 40:6 over [9] 14:17 15:17,21 17:1,2 28: 9 32:7.8 41:13 own [4] 12:6 13:7 23:22 25:6

P.D [1] 27:1 p.m [1] 48:20 packet [2] 42:15.17 paid [1] 10:8 pain [1] 41:21 pamphlet [1] 41:14 paperwork [1] 44:18 part [5] 18:13 24:12 28:24 39:24 particular [3] 3:13 8:8 22:13 parties [1] 49:10 parties' [1] 49:11 party [2] 15:17 43:12 passed [3] 19:17 20:2 21:10 past [1] 23:24 Patrol [1] 3:15 pay [1] 21:11 paying [1] 39:22 People [5] 21:11,17 38:3 40:24 41: per [1] 22:10 person [7] 14:11 15:12 22:10 44: 23,24 45:1 48:4 personal [1] 45:9 personally [1] 49:15 Phillips [1] 17:14 photos [1] 47:19 physically [1] 34:5 Pl [2] 15:2 47:20 picture [2] 16:7,19 pictures [3] 46:15,24 47:2 PINELLAS [1] 49:3 PIs [2] 38:18.18

26:25 27:3 30:25 31:2 32:9.24 33: 2,18,24 34:7 35:22 36:24 37:7 45: 7,17,22 planted [6] 32:15,16 33:3 36:1 47: 25 48:1 planter [1] 23:16 planters [1] 23:17 plants [42] 8:13,23 23:5,14,17,20 **24**:2,10,24,25 **25**:2,4,5,10,10 **29**: 18 30:1,8,10,12,23 31:3,9 32:3,11, 22 34:14,15,19,24 36:14,15 37:15 **38**:10 **45**:11,13,18,25 **46**:3,6,7 **47**: playing [1] 18:2 pleasantries [1] 26:1 pluck [1] 33:20 point [2] 16:13,19 pointed [2] 23:15 30:19 pointing [1] 24:22 Police [4] 3:9,11 4:18 20:23 pool [12] 23:11,18 24:12,19,23 25: 11,14,18 30:2,6 47:11,14 popped [1] 36:13 popping [1] 36:14 porch [4] 11:7 12:16 23:10 28:22 possible [3] 13:14 39:14 41:1 pot [16] 11:6 25:19 27:4 30:14,16 31:1,2,3,16 32:9 36:24 37:2,4 46: 2.4.7 pots [10] 25:6,8,13,17 31:2,9,24 45: 25 46:25 47:16 potted [3] 25:2,9,17 practices [1] 19:6 pretty [2] 21:10 31:5 previous [1] 4:1 previously [1] 31:14 primarily [1] 40:8 Prince [43] 4:6 5:2,12,16,23,23,25 6:11 7:2,25 8:3 9:11,20 10:12 11: 14,23 13:4 14:2 15:10,23 16:5,6,8, 22,25 **17**:1 **19**:10 **23**:13 **26**:7,8 **35**: 17 38:17 40:13,21 41:2,9 42:21,23 43:11,16 44:24,25 45:1 Prince's [3] 7:20 18:7 28:18 prior [1] 20:23 priority [1] 27:11 private [5] 4:13 10:11 20:24 39:7 pro-Jesse [3] 44:11,24,25 Pro-Scientologist [1] 45:3 pro-Scientology [1] 44:23 probably [25] 8:25 9:8,24 10:13,13, 15 11:11 14:3,4,10,21 15:14 21:25 **27**:1 **28**:7,9,18 **30**:22 **35**:8 **39**:10, 21 40:22 42:15 43:18 47:8 problems [1] 11:12 processed [1] 37:9 Public [1] 49:22 pull [2] 33:23 36:9 pulled [8] 19:16 24:6 32:11 33:6,9 34:24 45:14 46:13 pulling [1] 18:9 pursuant [1] 36:22 put [7] 6:24 20:13 21:14 32:20 35: 21 42:17 48:2

quality [1] 34:9 question [2] 25:15 46:23 questions [1] 43:6 quick 4 21:11 41:1 44:18,19

race [2] 40:6,9 Raftery [32] 4:13,16,22 5:11,15,18 **6**:1.6.12 **7**:3,19 **8**:2 **10**:8,15 **11**:25 13:3,10,25 14:9 26:6,10 27:19.23 **28**:6,11,12,16 **38**:15 **39**:5,10,14 **40**: raise [1] 7:11 re-contact [1] 29:17 read [2] 24:1 48:16 ready [2] 25:12 46:21 real [2] 9:3 30:18 really [6] 7:15 14:7 30:22 39:6 40: 22 44:14 rear [1] 41:21 recall [2] 15:13 18:25 recent [1] 42:3 recognize [1] 47:1 record [3] 46:21 47:2 49:7 **REDIRECT** [1] 47:23 regards [1] 12:18 related [1] 18:8 relationship [1] 37:20 relative [2] 49:9.11 relatively [1] 8:12 reluctance [1] 8:18 remain [1] 37:22 remember [6] 4:21,24 17:4 18:17, 18 28:20 replanted [3] 24:16 25:13,18 report [3] 4:20 24:1 49:6 **REPORTER** [2] 49:1,4 residence [3] 34:20,20 37:11 respect [1] 7:14 restaurant [1] 38:3 result (1) 8:7 rid [1] 40:25 rolled [1] 19:23 room [6] 17:24,25 18:4 19:13,20 29:25 root [2] 33:19 48:12 roughly [2] 4:24 25:23 rowelled [1] 30:11 rules [1] 20:24

rum [3] 22:21,22,23

San [1] 48:9 sat [2] 18:5 29:25 Saturday [1] 41:11 saw [10] 8:23 23:8 26:25 27:18,22 30:24,25 35:22 38:10 45:18 saying [6] 23:23 26:6 28:20 33:1 40:16 44:15 says [5] 17:1 29:15 32:21 38:8 39: school [7] 11:16,18,25 12:4,12,15 13:5 schtick [1] 40:12 Scientologists [7] 5:3 15:1 18:11 41:20 42:24 44:3,19 Scientology [18] 7:4,7 10:4,11,14, 20 13:13.20 14:1 18:16 19:6 42: 22 43:21,22,22,24 44:2,17 screened-in [3] 23:10 32:8,21 seal [1] 49:17 search [9] 28:17 29:1,2,8,11 36:23 37:14.15 42:5 searched [2] 28:24,25 second [12] 21:18 22:19 24:5,8,9 27:6 28:5 29:14,16 30:15 32:1 46: see [21] 20:11,14 21:12 23:4,5 26:1 13.15 29:17 30:12,20 31:7 34:14, 18,19 **36**:9 **37**:7,18,19,21 **40**:3 seeds [2] 33:3 48:2 seeing [1] 26:22 seen [5] 5:9 9:12 16:8,22 29:12 sell [1] 11:15 selling [3] 7:22 8:5 15:16 sent [2] 38:2 44:11 separate [4] 8:1 25:5 31:7,24 Sergeant [1] 3:8

seriously [1] 38:7

served [1] 41:11

set [1] 7:1 seven [2] 3:19,22 several [10] 10:25 30:23 31:4,8,19 32:11,12 45:13,25 46:3 share [2] 42:20.21 Sheriff's [1] 48:8 shift [1] 3:8 show [1] 46:21 showed [2] 11:6 32:9 showing [3] 18:14 23:25 32:12 shown [1] 18:18 simulate [1] 21:3 simulated [1] 20:9 simulating [2] 21:13,15 since [1] 44:1 single [1] 45:7 single-marijuana-plant [1] 45: Singular [3] 36:15,24 37:15 sips [1] 21:25 sir [3] 25:24 34:13 36:20 sites [1] 18:15 size [2] 31:6 34:7 small [4] 8:12 17:25 18:6 23:15 **smiling** [1] **6**:15 smoke [9] 16:8,15,22 19:16 20:8, 20 21:9 33:19.20 smoked [10] 11:6 15:22,25 16:2,5, 6,10 20:4 21:16 34:9 smoking [5] 5:10 15:16 21:6,13 23:3 snorted [1] 9:21 **snorting** [1] 9:13 sold [3] 9:23.25 35:15 somebody [6] 11:19 27:15 41:4 42:17 43:16 44:2 somebody's [1] 35:24 somehow [1] 8:7 someone [1] 7:17 someone's [1] 26:16 somewhat [1] 10:22 sorry [3] 26:11 41:23 45:3 sound [1] 11:16 sounds [2] 14:21 28:13 southwest [1] 32:8 spoke [2] 14:10,10 stalk [1] 45:15 stalks [1] 37:4 standing [1] 35:2 started [2] 14:4 15:6 State [4] 3:7 38:11 49:2,22 stated [2] 9:11 32:10 statement [2] 24:6 37:17 status [3] 6:13 38:12 39:15 stay [2] 8:22 39:13 stayed [1] 29:10 stenographically [1] 49:5 still [3] 29:4,19 38:24 stop [2] 11:7,12 story [2] 40:15,17 stuck [1] 7:18 stuff [5] 5:9 12:25 20:18,21 44:20 subject [1] 28:23 **submitted** [1] 37:13 substance [1] 4:24 substantiate [1] 9:16 suck [1] 21:2 suggested [3] 11:21 13:19,21 sun [4] 32:19,20,20,23 sunlight [1] 24:18 supporter [1] 44:11

place [2] 33:9 34:24

plant [20] 11:7 12:15 23:15 25:17

plan [1] 29:16

surveillance [2] 27:19,24

suspicious [1] 30:11

swimming [1] 23:18

system [1] 33:19

SWORN [2] 3:2 49:16

table [1] 18:1 talked [7] 9:8 18:10 30:6,19 38:16, 20 43:18 tapes [2] 27:24,25 task [1] 6:22 telephone [1] 9:9 tendered [1] 24:15 TESTIFIED [1] 3:3 testifying [1] 42:23 testimony [1] 49:7 themselves [1] 24:17 there's [5] 14:16 17:25 23:21 36:7 42:25 they'll [1] 44:6 though [1] 48:11 thousand [6] 11:15,18,24 12:3,12 three [6] 22:4 31:20,21,21 46:7 47: threw [1] 24:6 thrilled [1] 9:4 throw [1] 33:13 throwing [1] 32:3 today [3] 39:2 47:15 48:12 took [6] 5:18 21:25 34:23 37:10,11 47:19 touch [1] 20:12 touched [1] 20:13 tour [1] 23:11 towards [1] 8:18 town [2] 28:14 29:15 trade [1] 8:4 transcript [1] 49:7 trash [1] 44:21 trial [1] 38:7 tried [1] 39:13 Trinidad [1] 40:14 trip [4] 26:4,12 35:6,11 true [2] 9:16 49:7 Trust [2] 18:8,24 try [1] 48:6 trying [3] 11:14 26:7,19 turned [2] 7:21 14:4 twice [2] 17:9,9

П

two [3] 8:1 10:1 22:4

types [1] 8:2

type [3] 21:22 27:23 43:19

ultimately [4] 35:21 37:7 39:20 40: undercover [3] 9:20 17:8 29:4 undersigned [1] 49:14 understand [5] 11:22 19:1 25:15 27:19 31:15 understanding [1] 36:21 unh-unh [3] 22:6 23:2 48:15 unless [1] 36:22 unsubstantiated [1] 7:21 until [1] 46:21 up [25] 6:23 7:1,24 11:21 12:23 13: 10,22 **15**:19 **17**:20,21 **18**:9,15 **20**: 13 21:14 29:24 30:9 33:7,24 36: 13 40:17,18 41:8 42:25 44:11 46: 13 upset [1] 38:2 using [1] 8:5

value [1] 5:5 van [2] 29:9,10 vice [1] 3:24 views [1] 14:6 visit [10] 24:5,9 26:7 29:14,16,19, 21 30:15 45:20,24 VLAMING [12] 3:6 13:2 36:5 42:7, 10 43:5 46:17,20 47:20,24 48:14, 16

W

Wait [1] 12:11 walked [3] 26:3 29:24 32:7 wanted [11] 12:19 13:3,13,18,20 14:1 19:16 26:17 28:8 40:25 44:2 WARDELL [16] 12:11,17,20,24 36: 3 41:23 42:2,6,9 43:7,9 46:15,18, 22 47:21 48:15 warned [1] 44:21 warrant [14] 28:17,21 29:8,11 36: 18.23 41:10 42:5 45:7.8.21.23 46: 8 47:4 warrants [1] 37:15 watch [1] 19:5 watered [1] 24:18 watering [1] 30:1 way [6] 5:18 7:4,18 8:20 39:25 42: web [1] 18:15 weekend [1] 41:13 whatever [3] 37:1,4 41:12 wherever [1] 39:8 whether [3] 24:15,16 46:25 whey [1] 12:13 white [2] 26:14 39:11 whole [4] 20:22 27:20 28:8 41:14 wild [1] 36:2 wine [2] 22:19.23 wish [2] 41:19 42:20 wished [1] 10:23 within [6] 11:15,18,24 12:3,12 13: witness [4] 36:4 43:12 49:8,17 words [8] 26:25 33:20 36:1 37:1. 10 39:19 40:13 44:6 work [7] 7:15 15:4 18:7 19:1 39:25 41:14 48:12 worked [2] 7:7 18:23 working [4] 6:22 14:5 18:2 43:20 works 🗓 15:1 Wow [1] 27:8 write [1] 40:22

ya [1] 37:21 yard [1] 25:13 years [4] 3:12,18,19,22 yesterday [1] 38:21