

53.

Co read a lot of people their rights, but --

C Well --

P Mr. Compton I--

Co I've got a little problem ---

P Well, essentially you're _____ because it was my feeling that there could have been situations where agents may have been directed to run dope across or bring it across, and I want them -- whoever we interviewed to be aware that -- if -- if they did it knowingly and intentionally, I wouldn't hesitate to pursue those too. In other words, I'm not granting -- I don't have the authority to grant anybody any immunity --

Co Right --

P And I want to be completely fair. You know you have a right to talk to your lawyer. You know if you cant afford one, you can petition the court to appoint one for you. If you decide to answer questions now without a lawyer, you still have the right to stop answering any time or at any time, you can ask to talk to a lawyer. Now, do you understand those, Mr. Compton?

Co Yes, I do.

P And do you still wish to talk to Mr. Clark and myself?

Co Yes I do.

P All right. Now, basically as I understand it, Mr. Compton, we've -- I've tried to break these allegations down into two categories. One of basic illegalities. Violation of law. In your opinion, or in the opinion of any other individuals who've been interrogated by us. And then there's going to be opinion as to mis-management or -- or lack of judgment, things like that. First and foremost, I'd like to hit on the things that -- illegalities, criminal violations, if any. I'd like for you to be as specific as you can. Try to give me -- delineate whether you have direct knowledge or only hearsay and if it's ~~hearsay~~ hearsay, who ~~would~~ we could contact to follow up on the allegation. And there may very well be a situation where you'll want to not disclose your source. And if you -- that's the situation, I'd want you to indicate that. As to illegalities of DEA or BNDD or whoever, what allegations, if any, do you have in that first category?

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Co All right. How far back ~~is~~ do you wanta ~~to~~ go?

P Far back as you want to go.

Co Well, I think, I'll go back -- my part -- and -- ah

P Can you talk just a little bit ~~louder~~ louder, Jack---

Co ~~Go back for my part to 1967 in New Orleans.~~ We had a situation where we caught a man with a load of narcotics. He was a local New Orleans violator named Marvin Sutton. He had just about a quarter kilo. That was all ^{wrapped up} capped up at least 2,000 gelatin capsules of heroin. He wouldn't tell us where he got it. But we fingerprinted the packages and -- and did raise fingerprints. We had nobody to compare them to. Later, in the same month, we caught the same man, the same way, again. This time he lacked 1 capsule having 2,000 -- 1,999 capsules of heroin. He'd been out on bond, so this time, he gave us the name of a man in Baltimore. The man was named Joe Lewis Miles. We were developing a conspiracy case against Miles at the time. And this was before the _____ B _____ and FBA created BNDD.

P That would have been, then, in summer of 1968. There was --

Co _____ April eighth -- 68, and it was before the actual merger but there was rumors of the merger which were denied by higher authorities, but they were still rumors. And also along about this time -- we were a small outfit at that time under 300 people -- 300 agents --

P And who were ~~you~~ you with then, FBA?

Co FBA, correct -- we (muttering) They -- there was a beefing up of the inspection apparatus of FBA which consisted at that time of two inspectors. One work west of the Mississippi and one worked east. Very simple arrangement. But they went into the CIA and pulled out some of their inspectors -- headhunter types. And one of them's name was Tom ~~or~~ Capute. Then went into IRS Inspection ~~and~~ and got a guy named Bob Gold -- in ^{Various} ~~so far as~~ other places, the old FBS ^{started} ~~or~~ beefing ~~up~~ ^{the} inspectors. And at the same time they were leaning on me very hard to get an arrest warrant for Miles. Which, to me, indicated I knew by this time that Miles had been working in New York. From their accusations against Miles, I surmised that he is -- was of interest to these inspectors. But

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Co we weren't ready to pull the plug, so to speak. So, the U. S. Attorney, after talking to us ~~at~~ down there at that time -- name was -- his Assistant Jack C. Aluna and Louis LeCure was the U. S. Attorney. They agreed with us we shouldn't arrest and they declined prosecution at that time. Well, our people wouldn't accept that. We arrested him. And we arranged to arrest him in New Orleans. We got the defendant, loaned him quite a bit of money to _____ come down. / ^{Anyway} ^{flim flam} ~~It was a~~ ~~deal~~ but we got him into New Orleans and arrested. And on hand at the arrest was Andrew Tortaglino who's been before the Jackson Committee I think every day they've been in session just about, and my boss Frank Pappas. Well. We were talking to the man and he started making allegations about narcotic agents. That were actually peddling narcotics. And, so I debriefed this man. I took all the information that he had to offer about all these agents. And he agreed to make buys. He was said he was buying actually handling narcotics for these agents, so we set up buys. He moved to New Orleans and set down in an Apartment and I recorded his conversations with his permission, to these agents. And we started making buys. Well, there was a _____ in one thing. That was to embarrass B _____. We were making cases on B _____ agents. However, they were former narcotic agents but ~~xxxxxxx~~ had defected, and gone over--

P That was in HEW?

Co Yeah, they were in HEW. But the first guy we bought off of was a Deputy Director B _____ in Baltimore named Charlie _____. So he delivered narcotics in his car and everything and in the meantime the inspectors finally came down after a period of time and they took control of Miles. So my -- my active participation with Miles ended except I'd run into him every now and then on the street and he would just tell me what they were doing, about buying off all these agents. And they finally made some arrests and -- except for one man. Now, before we get -- get too far in -- one of the active ~~participants~~ participants -- one of the major violators was an agent named Frank Salvage. Frank Salvage was Charlie Saragusa's nephew. Charlie Saragusa was a former Deputy Commissioner of FBM who was then the head of the Illinois Crime Commission. All that was said

right of the blue, this super star resigned. No explanation. Just resigned. And he was never pursued any further. But he had been setting up hi-jackings of _____ in New York, they were actually god damned hippie _____, robberies, just plain out armed robbery. And further they were taking seizures of narcotics and they had ten pounds. They'd give the ten pounds to this Miles. He would cut it. He'd break off half of it and cut it back to make back what he was supposed to have and then turn in a weaker seizure. Then Miles would turn to distributing the rest of the narcotics. That wasn't coming fast enough so Salvarne had an Italian connection. He was buying dope just like any dope peddler would go buy. And that way all the agents were getting their rakeoff at the time. Another guy named Frankie Waters, you may remember from the French Connection thing. Well, Frankie -- they didn't arrest Frankie for a long time. Just before the statute ran, they arrested him. Shortly after that, Joe Lewis Miles got seriously ^{dead} ~~injured~~ in New Orleans, and I don't think anybody has even bothered to look very damned far in that case. I know there's been no prosecution. But during this period of time that all this was going on in New Orleans, Miles was selling narcotics. My informants were telling me he was selling narcotics. I called Tony Galino and company and told them the guy was selling narcotics and they said leave him alone. This was ~~from~~ ^{from} good information. So, they came down on one occasion and busted his pad, with him in it, he took off. I understand a kilo of heroin which never surfaced anywhere and there never was a charge. He did it twice. And my informants were starting to get the message. They started thinking that I was taking payoffs from Miles because they could make him and wanted to make him. But they wouldn't touch him. ~~So, well, Miles is dead and besides nothing has ever been done about it.~~ That's the whole god damned thing. Then, I was transferred down - New Orleans ~~to Mexico City.~~ And ~~down there,~~ I really got an eye full. They actually participated in the torture -- every-- anybody it didn't make a shit who it was-- what kind of citizen it was. ~~They would actually participate~~ in the torture of these god damned people. I got caught up in a god damn ~~a~~ gun fight down there myself and killed 5 men. Now this kind of

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CO stuff we were running into constantly, all the time. They had a habit running dope into the United States. Past Customs. I know it but I of course worked for _____. Never have liked it. They asked me (mumbling) _____ out of South America and I can't remember exact location where it went, John, but I know the agent's name -- his name was Strickler, Jerry Strickler. And they flew it out of South America and that shit actually went on the street. There -- it was explained to me they were trying to enhance the credibility of the undercover agent. But there were never any arrests -- to my knowledge -- the shit did go on the street. Another time they tried an experiment -- putting colored or dyed narcotics on the street. Now I'm talking about quantity. I'm not talking about an ounce or two -- I'm talking about a whole lot of ~~xx~~ stuff. But they had _____ running Narcotics. And I had a -- developed an informant who was in the Mexican Judicial Police -- and he --

P. When did you go down to Mexico?

Co I went down in July of 1970.

P And how long were you there?

Co I was there until July 2nd of 1971, until I come to Customs. In fact I had intended to and had been offered a job in private industry but I wanted to stay with the government if I could and I applied to come to Customs and was ~~xx~~ accepted. But -- ah -- anyway, I was going to get the hell out of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs. Whatever it took, I wasn't going to stay.

P Let me -- let me just ask you this. As to the deal in -- informant out of New Orleans. Any specific guys that are still drug agents that you say were dealing in those --

Co That were ~~made~~ named by him?

P Right. That -- you indicated some one individual there --

Co (Frank Salvage?)

P ended up and then shortly thereafter the informant was dead --

Co No, that's Frankie Waters.

P Right. Were any of those--

Co No, Frankie's not an agent anymore.

P Ok.

Co They had enough on him to get him out, but they should have /

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Co prosecuted him. I mean, they had that kind of case on him. But they didn't.

P Right.

Co But of course he's dead now --(end of tape)

TAPE 9

Co Well, this -- ~~um~~ Judicial Policeman I mentioned. He was in this gun fight and he was shot up pretty bad -- him and I -- he and I got to be pretty good friends. He had been -- like all of them down there -- ~~um~~ ^{taking payoffs from traffickers} and he furnished me a list of names of the officials that were getting a portion of the payoff. It ranged all the way from the Mexican President back down to the ~~ah~~ ^{apparatus} well, all throughout the ~~apparatus~~ in the Federal Judicial Police which is in the Attorney General's Office. But -- ah -- he made mention of a guy named Joe ~~Backa~~ ^{Backa}. Joe Backa has got a high position. I think he is Assistant Regional Director in New Orleans now. At that time he was in San Diego. Customs has a file on Joe ~~Backa~~ ^{Backa}. They had a wiretap in Mexico with the Mexicans. They picked up Docker talking to the Hernandez brothers. And I don't remember which Hernandez in particular. But they were cutting a dope deal. They knew who ~~Backa~~ ^{Backa} was and Backa, of course, knew who they were. But the Mexican agent also said that Backa was getting ~~um~~ known payoffs but he was also dealing drugs. I don't know. I do know that we arrested Backa's nephew dealing dope; he's from Albuquerque and you know New Mexico Justice. If you're familiar with it, Backa's uncle is also the U. S. Marshal up there. Anyway, nothing happened. He was cut loose on a technicality, whether it be right or wrong, he was cut loose. But Backa took an active -- Joe Backa took an active part in that trying to get that nephew off. Well, that ~~man's~~ in New Orleans now, and I hear from a source down there that I really don't want a name -- he's an agent down there -- that the guy's a runner, up to his ass. So -- Gentlemen, I don't really where I -- where else to start. There's so god damned much. Certainly it -- it was known and encouraged that we go into Mexico, make cases and if we had to, smuggle it -- smuggle the stuff back. That -- that's -- that was known from the very top, you know. They didn't care.

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Co Of course, Customs made issue of it a hell of a lot, but you know. It just didn't work too good, because at that time Ingersoll was in very solid with the Attorney General, who was John Mitchell at that time. But, I set in on some meetings where this was discussed. That they had nothing to worry about. This came out of Ingersoll's mouth.

P ~~When you say smuggling -- smuggling it back, permitting the suspects to smuggle it back or --~~

Co ~~Either permitting them to smuggle it back and carry it to a destination or arranging it to be crossed, to be given to an informant, who would, in turn, deliver it.] This was a -- done in a lot of different ways but it was done pretty damned often. And it's happening in my area down there now which is not in -- well, part of its in your District but the biggest part of it is in the Southern District. They have run loads, they've tried to run loads. Some of them we caught, some of them not. But we do have information that they're doing it. That they're doing it regularly. They have been withholding information concerning smuggling from us consistently. Even if the stuff gets in the street, they wouldn't give it to us. Now, you can call it what you like but when you get specific information that there's going to be a load crossing, you can't get it. You ought to see that somebody does. But -- ah -- that's neither here nor there.~~

P ~~What we're talking about here, Jack. The role of B=DAC, FBN, BNDD, Customs, -- DEA, Customs syndrome of not providing information --~~

Co ~~No cooperation, that's right.~~

P Ok.

Co That's part of --

P ~~We're not talking about them actually permitting the stuff to go through but we're not saying that there's any agents down there letting the stuff go through. I mean, I want the record to be clear on that.~~

Co ~~Not letting it go through that it can be --~~

P ~~Without the intent of eventually arresting them?~~

Co Or -- yeah! --

P Right

Co As far as I know that's -- that's -- I don't know of anybody

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Co smuggling for the purpose of voluntary gain for their part.

P Ok

Co Q But -- ah -- I don't--ah, you know, like I say, non-cooperation is not ~~good~~ doing anybody any good --

P Right.

Co And I don't care who they work for. I'm very much -- this -- can you shut that thing off a minute --
(tape stops)

Co Let's see, now this occurred some time -- 1971 in the Yucatan Peninsula. We were working a case -- at that time it was jointly with Customs, but the man I worked for at the time ~~insisted~~ insisted that Customs leave the country. They hadn't the authority to do that under the White Papers, so they forced Customs to leave. And we carried it forward. Now, --

P At that time now, you were with --

Co I was with BNDD.

P Ok.

Co So, the Customs agents left and went back -- they were out of Miami -- they went back. And we made, what I consider a premature arrest, of this defendant -- ah -- ~~but anyway, he was by himself~~ and we didn't know where the rest of the people were. They extracted the information out of him the hard way. ~~They third degree~~ the Mexicans did this, now, on their own.

P Were there any U. S. agents involved in it?

Co I was the only one there. I saw it --

P You observed it?

Co ~~I~~ observed it --

P Ok.

Co But, they had gotten their orders out of Mexico City -- the Mexican Attorney General ~~was~~ who, at the time, Sanchez Vargas. Ok. As a result of that beating, they gave us -- he told where there was a camp set up on a lake right outside of Chicamauga in the state of . And they had brand new house trailers there, a brand new truck, a brand new car, brand new motorboat and motor, just completely everything. And they wanted that stuff brought back to ~~Merida~~ Merida, Yucatan. At U.S. expense. So I called

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Co -- it was of no value to us. There was no narcotics involved or a damned thing. ~~They~~ They were Americans - car-the lienholder was GMC or GMAC on the vehicles and I forget now who was the lienholder on the house trailers. So, I was ordered to arrange for the stuff to be moved into Merida, Yucatan. It's a pretty damned long distance, and paid for --- U.S. funds. And this stuff was ultimately brought into Mexico City -- that was at Mexican expense and it was distributed among ~~Drx~~ Rodriguez, who was the Deputy Attorney General, who ~~and~~ we contacted in that office for all of our ~~stuff~~ stuff, in Sanchez's office, and the lienholders were making inquiries with our office, because one of the defendant~~s~~ that they had beat up on -- I made friends with him -- and he said that he would testify in a Customs case. And I called Customs in Miami to see if they were interested in it. They indicated that they were, so I talked the administrative people into releasing ~~him~~ him which was -- you know, ~~he was already in~~ he was already in prison -- but he did. But before he would release him, he wanted him -- the way he termed it -- he wanted him spanked. Well, spanked meant they beat the living shit out of him with their rifle butts -- soldiers did, just to get his attention, then they had a formal deportation at the foot of the -- went out to the airplane and off he went~~s~~ to Miami. But, I suppose he told the lienholders where this stuff was. Anyway, then the man lied. The man, ^{Arpio} ~~Joe RxxRxx~~, he was the Regional Director at the time. He lied -- to the lienholder. And -- which he was in the habit of doing. He never told the truth very often. He also falsified nearly every report that came out of there concerning progress. We were making a few cases. Some of them were actually made by us -- and I consider silent cases, but the biggest part of them were fabrications that came out of -- it made it ~~look~~ look pretty god damned good but it was bull, pure bull.

P Where is Arpio now?

Co Boston. He's ~~gotten~~ gotten put in some sort of limbo now. I had a great deal of trouble with him. I _____ to you, I'm certainly not a fan of his. I don't know too many people that are, but I'm certainly not one of them. I refused to write these reports. I

Co had been writing progress -- what we call progress reports for years, in region, in New Orleans and when I came to Mexico City. I came there because I had headquarters experience and could write these reports -- but I wouldn't falsify. So I ~~had~~ heard -- that was the start of my troubles. Then, he fabricated some stories to Customs about _____ Rodrigues as to Customs entering the country. And ~~apparently he bribed _____ by getting him trips to the United States and various other things to say exactly what he wanted him to say.~~ And I know this personally, I was there. I know. I'm not guessing. At that time, I was sitting in on all of these things, and I know exactly what was going on. But anyway this was (unintelligible portion)

which was all wrong so when the corporation counsel came down there, or Operation Co-operation, they couldn't -- nobody could contact, officially contact the Mexican Government. It had to go through Ar _____. But anyway -- it was staged situation, by the way, so they didn't get the true picture either as to what was really happening down there. It wasn't near the amount of stuff getting out of there --- getting seized that was being reported. So -- let's see -- (tape stopped). _____ the same situation that occurred in Yucatan occurred also in ~~EMKX~~ Cuernavaca. We down there into a little colony, mainly inhabited by Americans. And I can't give you names -- they -- they're gone -- as far as -- I can't remember. ~~But this was 70 or 71. And again we seized a marijuana press --- it --- was two of them -- one small and one pretty damned big --~~

C Marijuana press?

Co Yes. No marijuana -- a lot of empty sacks there. They'd been apparently bailing a lot of marijuana there, but nothing -- nothing was seen. Let me answer that. (tape stopped) We were in Cuernavaca and we found the marijuana presses and empty marijuana sacks. It was actually -- if I recall -- three separate houses in this little compound occupied by Americans. And they had some pretty nice ~~stuff~~ stuff -- hi fi's, ~~stereos~~ stereos and that type of stuff. And they -- ~~they're/~~ ^{in the habit of} stealing everything -- just right across the board -- just whatever they wanted, they'd just take it.

C By they, you mean the Mexican Federale Police?

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Co Yeah, right. And so ~~we~~ ^{they} had stacked up a pretty tidy amount of, you know, personal property of these people and wanted it hauled in. And again that was hauled in at U.S. expense and when it got in Mexico City, it was parceled out to the various Mexican officers that wanted it. But I made a -- complaint about it to -- Arpio. I told him that even if we weren't taking anything ourselves. We were there and it looked like hell for an American agent. It was getting bad with it getting back in the sub-culture that American agents were involved in all this stuff and so I wrote a report and he demanded that I tear it up. ~~That he would write a report that the Mexicans were now honest and had straightened all their ~~correctional~~ correctional problems up and I wouldn't do it.~~ (answers telephone; tape stopped) I wouldn't destroy it -- (tape ends.)

TAPE 10

P Indicated to him that he could tear it up, but you weren't?

Co I would not tear it up, that's right. But he wanted it, not necessarily torn up, but toned down, you know. And I was indicating that it was widespread. And he wanted it -- ~~xxxxxx~~ portrayed as an isolated incident. And I told him that every time we went out with these people, that this happened. And, for god's sake, we set up a lot of people down there that the Mexican's went in ~~on that there was no narcotics seized but god damned it, they'd take whatever they had anyway.~~ Just ~~xxxxxx~~ based on our allegations these ~~we~~ guys were crooked. They'd still take the money. Or whatever they had. I seen them take the damned jewelry and stuff and give them a knot on their head for -- for crying about it. I seen this happen many, many times. And I'm telling you that this was known -- it's still going on. It's known. But I felt that we were responsible, in a way, for this ourselves. So I continued -- everytime we went out. But I was -- I couldn't put it in the report itself. I had to put what we called administrative page on the report and that had distribution only in headquarters in Washington and our office so there was only two copies. So I don't know that any of those reports ever got to where they're supposed to get. But I'm not the only one that can

Co that can testify to this -- that they did this. And they did it often. And, like I say, we were responsible for ~~setting this up.~~ ^{setting this up.} ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxx~~. There had been occasions where these people were -- more ~~or less suckered into Mexico --~~ ~~into the hands of these~~ ~~Mexicans.~~ ~~It got real tight.~~ We felt like we couldn't get the dope that _____. And sometimes there was some innocent people involved. That didn't have a god damned thing to do with -- with the dope deal, they just happened to be in the damned party but they had to go too. One specific ~~xxxxxxx~~ incident involved ~~xxxx~~ ^{two} damned well crooks. One of them was fugitive here in the Western District, out of El Paso, named Robert ~~xxxx~~ Bowles (or Bowes) and the other one was -- had been under investigation several times named George Smith. Well, I worked undercover on the case. They delivered ah a scuba tank ~~xxxx~~ full of cocaine to me in Mexico. But they flew up in a plane that could only be piloted by certain type pilots. Now this was one of these turbo-jet aircraft that Smith had bought. These guys ~~xxxxxx~~ weren't involved in the deal. In fact they had been excluded from any conver-- I think --- I've never saw -- I didn't see them or talk to them, ~~no~~ ^{in the whole} negotiation, there wasn't any indication that they were in any way involved. But they ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{wanted} the plane. So we went out to the airport in Mexico City, with the cocaine, with the crooks. And they found in the house cocaine -- a little more. Now I saw them take the cocaine out of the scuba tank, put it in the burp bag that they had taken off the ~~xxxxxxx~~ airplane. ~~It~~ ^{We} had a little Easter egg ~~xxxxx~~ ^{hunt}. They seized the plane. Now they can seize the pilots, right? So they went back to the hotel and grabbed these two poor bastards up out of bed and they ~~xxxxxx~~ went to jail. I mean, I didn't want to be a party to that kind of crap. ~~And that was~~ ~~was the last case I ever made for BNDD.~~ I went -- it happendd I forget now the exact date -- it was -- ended on a Friday and like that Monday, I went in and told them I had had it. That I wouldn't pull of any more. But I was a ~~good~~ ^{group} supervisor down there and on paper, the number 2 man for all Latin America. You cannot believe the stuff that I saw come across my desk. Or the stuff that the agents would come in and report to me, which I would in turn report

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Co -- nothing would be done. It never got out what was going on down there. I think that if the truth were known, that the investigation they're doing on CIA would pale by comparison. I mean it. It's -- it's rotten. It's been going on down there for some time. Anyway, you want specifics and (unintelligible).

P ~~Let me just clarify this, Jack. In other words, these allegations regards actions in Mexico in the years 71, 70, 71, when you were stationed down there. Primarily those actions were at least ram-rodged by the Mexican officials, although there were cases in which BNDD was working in and sort of took no actions to sever their ties with the Mexican Federales after they happened.~~

Co No, ~~xxxxx~~ they never did.

P Ok.

Co On one occasion at the Linconberry prison in Mexico City. We had arrested three Italians. They had just gotten visas into the United & States and there was some indication they might have narcotics. We'd been surveilling them for some time. One of them was wanted by Interpol, out of Italy for a murder. And, you know, anyway, when they left Mexico City, we stopped them outside of Mexico City on the toll bridge and brought them back in to -- it's a kind of a overnight cell that they a lot of times keep people for months in, but it's called La. It's not Linconberry prison but it's a kind of hold-over, temporary type detention. One of these men's name was DeStefano, now his grandfather was pretty famous as an opera singer, and -- in Italy. And in questioning the guy, the Mexicans started getting a little rough with him, and one of the American agents jumped in and started battering hell out of the guy too. Well, they were -- the guy was making quite a lot of racket, you know, hurting. They never gave him a chance to answer a question, they just were really giving him hell, stomping him, kicking him. The guy was hurting pretty bad. So this agent took a pair of socks out of the guy's suitcase and crammed them in his mouth, you know, where he couldn't scream and he couldn't answer the questions either, which they were asking. And, ah -- really giving him a going over. I finally walked up and told him/~~he~~ ^{he better} lay off. If the Mexicans wanted to do it,

Co you know, we're in their country, we couldn't. But, we were only interested in searching their car, which we never did. We never got a chance to search it. In other words, we were ~~xxxx~~ inside but we never got a chance to put it up on a grease rack to see if there were any narcotics there. I think there was. But ~~it~~ was a situation where if the Mexicans said no, we had to accept the no because I think they thought there were narcotics in it too. But, we'll never know. But, ~~always~~ the narcotics that we ~~have~~ ~~anything to do with~~ seizing, would always get back in the street. We never witnessed destruction of heroin or cocaine. We never saw that. The marijuana -- one case, one particular case, I was the undercover agent on a ton of manicured grass, and I know exactly what was there, including one huge cardboard box that was ~~xxxx~~ seed ready to be ~~xxxx~~ planted. This box of seed weighed 15 kilos. When we had the ceremonial burning, I was particularly looking for that box of seed which wasn't there. A little bit more than half of what we'd been ~~xxxx~~ originally seized was there. So, that's the things I know personally. I know -- we seized about 40 kilos of cocaine and the informant who made the case there for us said there was a 15,000 some odd dollars that -- that one of the South Americans had when he was arrested. Well, we weren't allowed to participate. We told the Mexicans where it was and they wouldn't let us participate. We wanted for -- any intelligence we could get, you know, papers the guy might have, phone numbers, anything we could get. They couldn't find the guy, you know. He got away. Found a suitcase that had 3 or 4 hundred dollars in it. So, we'd found out later what happened. They took the money off the guy. This was a guy named Rene SanMaria and very notorious, but -- ah -- but we would write these things up and in this particular case I wasn't allowed to write this up. This guy named Roberto Marino wrote it up. He was also the one that beat this guy DeStefano. And was ~~xxxx~~ man ^{Arpio's} _{Arpio} that would do whatever ~~xxxx~~ told him to do. And so none of Marino's reports came to me. Everybody else's did but not Marino's. I was a grade 13 and he was a 12. But that's the way things are.

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Co He was willing to do it. It's --

C Arpio is still in the employ of DEA?

Co Yeah, Yeah. (tape turned off.) Six months with DEA.

P ~~Ok, you were here for a period beginning when, in El Paso?~~

Co ~~July 2nd 71 to November 4, 73~~ about that. Almost two years I was with Customs. But -- ah -- during this period of time, we run into a you know a different situation with three DEA agents that were here -- ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{Jesse} Bautista, Oscar Lecombe, and Joaquin Legaretta ~~4~~ -- no four -- and John Mattingly. Now, I don't Bautista was able to ever control these three other guys.

C Was Bautista nominally in charge?

Co Yeah, he was in charge. But Jesse was -- ah -- you know, ~~xxxx~~ he's getting to the point now he's ready to retire and -- and I think if he didn't have a house full of kids he probably would have already. But Jesse's -- ah -- he -- I'd say he's easily conned, you ~~da~~ know.

~~I know that these three could con -- con-an- eskimo into buying an ice box. But they ran pretty xxxxx pretty wild in El Paso. They were -- did mostly -- pretty much what they wanted to. Especially over in Mexico but -- one particular instance -- I can't remember the guy's name. He was a sorry bastard that said something to Oscar Lecombe -- he was off duty. He was over at -- I believe it was at Portafina. A joint right across from the-xxxxxxx restaurant right across from the roadway in Juarez. I think it was the Portafina. But -- ah -- all ^{of} /three/ ~~of~~ these guys, now told me this, I had no reason to doubt it. And I've heard it from other sources since.~~

~~But, somebody said something to Lecombe and Lecombe called Legaretta and ^{Mattingly} ~~Mattingly~~ and they came over there with baseball bats. And waded into the guys over at Portafina and beat the hell out of them with baseball bats. And, of course, nothing was ever done about that.~~

C Who were they attacking or fighting with?

Co It was some guy that had said something to Lecombe. I mean -- it was -- he's a ^{crook} ~~cook~~ over there. It was some words exchanged over there

68.

Co and -- so, Lecomb took it on himself to call the rest of them over there and they waded in with baseball bats. And, you know, came on back. But a lot of people knew that they were -- I ~~know~~ -- knew that they were with BNDD at that time. -- that were BNDD agents. And -- ah -- Lecomb was working undercover one time at -- we were at the -- ah -- Holiday Inn - airport. Dealing with some young kids, hippies, and one of them's name was Mark Files and I can't remember the other two guys. They were -- the guy didn't -- he was supposed have some LSD to sell. Well, Lecomb wanted this to be -- you know -- a lot. So, he finally got the guy to get a ~~big~~ bunch of corn starch to come up with 29 pounds of LSD, which is just -- trace of LSD. But it took -- we killed a lot time -- we were out there on a case, besides being a screwed up way of doing business, - waiting for the son-of-a-bitch to go cut this god damned stuff with corn starch. And I don't know _____ but I do ~~know~~ know about this 29 pounds because I was out there. I was on surveillance during the whole time. And heard part of the conversation. I know that -- that's fact. ~~But he according to an agent that reported it to me, that -- ah -- Lecomb would, your know, buy dope and cut off part of it, you know, as payment to the guy that brought it in.~~ And, I know from my own experience (tape ends)

TAPE 11

R Co --violation of BNDD regulations but _____ a violation of law to do that.

C ~~Do you have any personal knowledge, Jack, of any instances where Lecomb actually did that?~~

Co That I actually saw him, no. But there was an agent present when he did that.

C Do you know who it was?

Co Yeah, Herb Hales?

C Herb Hales?

Co Yes. He actually saw it.

C Approximately when did this occur?

Co Jesus Christ --

C What year, do you know?