

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
GAINESVILLE DIVISION

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Docket No. GCR 94-01009

Plaintiff,

Gainesville, Florida

May 2, 2000

9:00 a.m.

vs.

JOHN KNOCK and  
ALBERT MADRID

Defendants.

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TRANSCRIPT OF OPENING STATEMENT  
WHEN HEARD BEFORE THE HONORABLE SENIOR UNITED STATES  
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE MAURICE M. PAUL, AND A JURY.

APPEARANCES:

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-AND-

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1 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Hankinson.

2 MR. HANKINSON: Good afternoon. As I said -- the  
3 judge introduced us at the beginning of the trial. Let me go  
4 back and do that since people sometimes aren't too focused at  
5 that time. I'm Jimmy Hankinson. I'm an Assistant United  
6 States Attorney, and I will be representing the government in  
7 this case along with Robert Davies who is another Assistant  
8 United States Attorney that will be taking turns on the  
9 witnesses.

10 Our case agents are Mike Lee with the Drug  
11 Enforcement Administration, and Carl Lilly, also with the Drug  
12 Enforcement Administration.

13 That will be the prosecution team that will be  
14 presenting this case, hopefully presenting it in a logical  
15 fashion so you can follow what goes on.

16 I know as you came in here and started into the jury  
17 selection, you probably had some questions. It would be pretty  
18 typical for jurors coming in to have some questions in your  
19 mind about what is going on. I think probably when you came  
20 in, you are sitting there thinking: Who are these defendants?  
21 What did they do? What is this case about? The kind of  
22 typical things that you were probably thinking of as you come  
23 in to begin this trial, and probably also hoping you don't get  
24 picked.

25 But, you know, we kind of grab people off the street

1 and require a lot of them. But we find that jurors generally  
2 will take that and do their duty and listen and do their best.  
3 And we do appreciate that.

4 This opening statement is designed to answer some of  
5 those questions. We have found that you can better follow the  
6 presentation of the evidence and understand what is going on if  
7 we give you a little bit of introduction to what to expect.

8 Let me quickly say that it is not a substitute for  
9 the evidence. You will hear the evidence from the witness  
10 stand, sworn testimony, or from evidence that is actually put  
11 into evidence. It's simply intended to help you understand  
12 what you later hear.

13 We are also going to talk about the law a little bit.  
14 Again, what the lawyers say about the law is not a substitute  
15 for what the judge is going to give you, mainly at the end of  
16 the case. He'll probably give you some instructions as we go  
17 along on certain specific things, but mainly at the end he will  
18 give you your instructions.

19 And ultimately whatever the judge says the law is in  
20 this case, that is what as a jury you're left with. But we do  
21 find that talking about it a little bit helps.

22 Let me tell you a little bit about how I'm going to  
23 make this presentation to you. First I'm going to give you  
24 just kind of a nutshell version of the answers to those  
25 questions I posed that most jurors have when they come in;

1 those three questions I posed.

2 And then I'm going to talk a little bit about some of  
3 the more important legal provisions that you are going to come  
4 into contact with in this case. And then I'm going to tell you  
5 something about the facts of the case.

6 Now, let me be quick to tell you I'm not going to try  
7 to summarize all of the facts that you are going to hear over  
8 the next few weeks here in this courtroom. First, I suspect  
9 that you would probably lose me long before I finish. And it's  
10 not necessarily going to be that helpful to you. But I'm going  
11 to summarize to you some of the highlights.

12 Let me talk about just the nutshell answers, just a  
13 little blurb, then we are going to talk more about how we are  
14 going to prove it. Who are these people, John Knock and Albert  
15 Madrid? You are going to learn from the evidence during the  
16 course of this case that John Knock was one of the biggest  
17 marijuana hashish smugglers in the world until he was arrested  
18 in this case. That is who John Knock is.

19 You will find from the evidence presented that Albert  
20 Madrid was his close lieutenant, close assistant, and even  
21 though in a subservient role in this case, a major drug  
22 smuggler in his own right. That is who John Knock and Albert  
23 Madrid are, based on the evidence that they are going to do.

24 What did they do? Well, that is not real hard to  
25 figure based on my introduction. They smuggled tons and tons

1 of marijuana and hashish, mainly into the United States and  
2 Canada, but also you will hear testimony, I suspect, of  
3 smuggles into Holland, the Netherlands and Australia over a  
4 long period of time. We are talking about tons and tons.

5 And what is this case about, the third question I  
6 posed? Again, probably pretty obvious. It is about lots of  
7 drugs and lots of money.

8 If I could pull -- just to kind of give you a little  
9 sense for what we are talking about and we'll come back to this  
10 chart and talk about it a little later.

11 But you will see that we start out with a series of  
12 drug smuggles that these people were involved in through the  
13 years. Let's scroll on down through the -- each of them  
14 involving tons and tons of marijuana into the U.S., Canada, as  
15 I said, Australia, and the Netherlands, culminating with the  
16 last load that was actually smuggled in that we know about in  
17 the fall of 1993.

18 We've totaled those figures out. And let me say  
19 something about those figures. The witnesses will differ  
20 somewhat on what those figures are. When you are talking about  
21 20 tons of marijuana or 20 tons of hashish, there isn't going  
22 to be absolute consistency among them as to exactly how big  
23 these loads are. But, the point is, we are not talking about  
24 street level dealers.

25 We are not talking about pound dealers. We are not

1 talking about hundred pound dealers, we are talking about  
2 people smuggling shiploads of marijuana and hashish to put on  
3 the streets of the United States, Canada and places in the rest  
4 of the world.

5 And we've come up with a figure of roughly how much  
6 money was generated in a gross sense for those various  
7 smuggles. And, yes, it says two billion. It is not million.  
8 Two billion dollars. We are talking about lots and lots of  
9 drugs and lots and lots of money.

10 I throw that to you to see what we are talking about  
11 is quite significant, and therefore I ask you to look at this  
12 and listen to what we have to say. Let me tell you a little  
13 bit about the law that is going to be involved in this case.  
14 It is a complicated case factually. But legally it's really  
15 quite simple. There are three charges against Mr. Madrid and  
16 Mr. Knock, same charges as to each one. We call them counts.  
17 That means separate charges in the indictment, the charging  
18 document against those people. The first count is a conspiracy  
19 to possess with intent to distribute marijuana.

20 The second count is conspiracy to import marijuana.  
21 And the third count is a conspiracy to money launder. Those  
22 are the three charges against those defendants. And they will  
23 encompass all of those various loads that I have showed to you  
24 over a long period of time, almost a ten-year period of time.  
25 But it's those three basic charges will be what has to be

1 proven.

2           You probably noted they are all conspiracy charges.  
3 Now, I don't know how much contact you've had or discussion  
4 you've had about what a conspiracy charge is. Probably none.

5           But basically what the judge will tell you is that a  
6 conspiracy is simply an agreement to carry out criminal  
7 activity. The conspiracy is the agreement. In other words, if  
8 you -- you can view it as a partnership in crime.

9           Congress has seen fit to make special laws that are  
10 involved when more than one person is involved in criminal  
11 activity. And Congress made the determination that crimes that  
12 involve groups of people had the potential to be more serious  
13 and dangerous to us than crimes committed by simply an  
14 individual. So they came up with the conspiracy charges. And  
15 that is what is going to be involved in this case.

16           There is some important things to note about a  
17 conspiracy. First, it doesn't have to succeed. The agreement  
18 to do the criminal activity is the crime. Now, you've seen  
19 already this -- this organization succeeded in, you know, in  
20 great -- had great success. But that really doesn't matter.  
21 If they had never smuggled a pound, if there was the agreement  
22 to do so, that would be the crime.

23           There doesn't have to be any formal agreement. Now,  
24 we are talking about criminals. We are not talking about  
25 General Motors or, you know, your purchase of a house. It

1 isn't generally set out on paper. It's not generally in a real  
2 formal sense. A lot of times those agreements just kind of  
3 come to be: Hey, would you like to get involved in smuggling a  
4 load of marijuana into the country? Would you like to get  
5 involved in distributing? And that is the kind of agreement  
6 that we'll be involved with.

7 Another important aspect of the conspiracy, and it's  
8 particularly important in a huge conspiracy like we are  
9 involved in here, is that the conspirators don't have to know  
10 all of the rest of the people involved in the conspiracy.

11 There are many people involved in this conspiracy.  
12 And, frankly, the nature of the drug dealer is to try to keep  
13 as few people knowing about them as possible.

14 So the fact that John Knock may not be known to the  
15 little man at the other end buying the marijuana, they are all  
16 still part of that conspiracy. And that doesn't matter that  
17 they may not be known directly to each other.

18 Another important aspect of it is that the person may  
19 be guilty of the conspiracy if they only participated on one  
20 occasion. It may be a huge conspiracy. And they only helped  
21 once. That is not the facts that you are going to hear about  
22 in this case, but legally that would be sufficient if they  
23 helped one time knowing that they were helping this huge  
24 organization, then they would be guilty of the conspiracy.

25 The essence of the conspiracy is that the



1 co-conspirators are responsible for the actions of the other  
2 persons involved in their conspiracy, their fellow  
3 conspirators, even though they may not even specifically know  
4 that they are doing it, if they have joined into this agreement  
5 with knowledge of what is going on.

6           So, you know, that sounds like a lot of legal talk.  
7 Maybe to put it in more concrete terms: If the person out on  
8 the West Coast agrees to help bring in a shipload of marijuana,  
9 obviously that person knows that somewhere that marijuana is  
10 going to be sold, and they are not doing it for fun. They are  
11 doing it to make money.

12           And all of those people down the line that are  
13 helping in the distribution of that money, of that marijuana,  
14 and making that money are all part of the conspiracy, and they  
15 are all responsible for each other.

16           The judge at the end will tell you that there are  
17 elements of those crimes. The elements are what the government  
18 must prove beyond a reasonable doubt for the charge to be found  
19 guilty by you.

20           The elements are pretty simple. There are two  
21 elements to a conspiracy: That two or more persons came to a  
22 mutual understanding to do something illegal. In other words,  
23 two or more persons agreed to do something illegal, and that  
24 the -- the defendant under consideration, in this instance,  
25 Knock or Madrid, willfully agreed to join in.

1           That is what a conspiracy is. In other words, two or  
2 more people agreed to do something illegal. And the defendants  
3 here -- individually or collectively -- agreed to participate.  
4 That is what a conspiracy charge is.

5           In this instance what they are agreeing to  
6 participate in are the three things that I talked about. One,  
7 that they were going to possess with intent to distribute  
8 marijuana, which is the first count.

9           That they agreed to be involved in the importation of  
10 marijuana, the second count. They agreed to be involved in  
11 laundering money. And the laundering of money in this essence  
12 is the movement of money from the United States out of the  
13 United States in order to keep the drug business going.

14           And I think you will hear about millions and millions  
15 of dollars that were being taken from the United States to  
16 outside the United States to keep this drug business going.

17           We talked about people being responsible for what  
18 their co-conspirators do, what the other people in the group  
19 do, and that comes into play in a couple of instances that are  
20 important.

21           One, it comes into play -- the judge at the end of  
22 the case will probably tell you something about a term called  
23 venue. In other words, where is the case properly presented to  
24 a jury? You have to have venue. And he will tell you that  
25 this is one instance where the Government's burden is only a

1 preponderance of the evidence.

2 In other words, we have to show that it's more likely  
3 than not. But all it requires is that somebody in this  
4 conspiracy has done some act in this district that was intended  
5 to help the conspiracy. It doesn't have to have helped it, but  
6 it had to have been intended to help. So someone did it.

7 It doesn't matter that those defendants have never  
8 been to the Northern District of Florida before. If somebody  
9 in their group, somebody in this conspiracy, did some act in  
10 this district that was intended to facilitate this conspiracy.

11 Another important feature of the conspiracy is what  
12 we've talked about, a withdrawal. A person's responsibility --  
13 they set this conspiracy in motion -- doesn't end just because  
14 they quit being actively involved. Just walking away doesn't  
15 cease their responsibility. If the organization is continuing  
16 to be active, to escape responsibility for what their  
17 conspirators are doing, they must take some action to make the  
18 conspiracy stop. So just quitting doesn't get them out of it.

19 And one last thing. And this is a real simple thing.  
20 But, somebody suggested you might be confused. We talked about  
21 marijuana and hashish. You will hear from the witness stand  
22 hashish is just a concentrated form of marijuana. It is all  
23 marijuana under the law. Hashish is just a condensed down  
24 version of marijuana.

25 The charging document, the indictment, will talk

1 about marijuana. But when we are talking about marijuana in  
2 the indictment, it's referring to marijuana and hashish. They  
3 are all marijuana under the law.

4 Those are probably the legal things that we need to  
5 talk about. Let me talk a little bit about what the factual  
6 presentation is going to be during the course of this case.

7 The -- let me first tell you how -- the types of  
8 evidence that we are going to hear. You are going to hear  
9 three types of evidence, and this is kind of generalized but  
10 maybe it will help you to think about it in this way.

11 You are going to hear from some accomplices,  
12 co-conspirators, people involved in the criminal activity.  
13 That is going to be one type of proof you are going to hear.

14 And then you are also going to hear what the police  
15 have done. The police investigative work, what they have done  
16 to try to prove that, you know, what those co-conspirators say  
17 is true. And then you are going to be presented with some  
18 documentary type evidence, you know, things that are generated  
19 in the normal course of business.

20 You know, bank records, credit card records, phone  
21 records, those kind of things. So you're going to hear really  
22 three different kinds of proof. You're going to have  
23 accomplices, you are going to hear what the police discovered,  
24 and you are going to hear -- then you are going to see the  
25 evidence that is generated from the business records and so

1     forth.

2             Let me talk just a little bit. Let's talk about this  
3 organization. Let's show this. If there is anyone that can't  
4 see that screen, raise your hand and let me know that.

5             We are trying to find a configuration that works for  
6 all of the jurors and the lawyers so that everybody can see.  
7 This is kind of a schematic or organizational chart of the  
8 Duboc organization.

9             As I said, it's not General Motors. Kind of the  
10 nature of the beast that drug dealers, they are going to do  
11 their own thing to a certain extent. But generally in this  
12 organization, there was a recognized chain of command.

13            Now, like I say, it's loose. There is -- drug  
14 dealers, they are criminals. They are not necessarily the ones  
15 that are going to be working eight to five and doing the things  
16 that normal people would do. But they do have somewhat of a  
17 chain of command.

18            You are going to hear -- we'll start on this  
19 organization -- that the two people at the top of this  
20 organization, John Knock, Claude Duboc. I think you will hear  
21 from the testimony Mr. Knock was generally involved in the  
22 logistical arrangements in the coordination of the case.

23            Then on the other hand, Mr. Duboc, Claude Duboc, was  
24 more or less the money man who arranged the laundering of the  
25 money, the millions and millions of dollars. And you will hear

1 that Mr. Duboc was caught long before John Knock, a couple of  
2 years before him. And, you know, just to show that, you know,  
3 I am talking about a billion dollars, you are saying: Oh, that  
4 is -- that can't be.

5           You will hear testimony that to date we have 50  
6 million dollars in the bank that was seized from Claude Duboc,  
7 50 million dollars. That was put in the bank. That is in the  
8 Treasury of -- the U.S. Treasury, money that was taken from  
9 Claude Duboc.

10           There is another eighteen million dollars sitting in  
11 a bank in Austria. That is money that was generated by this  
12 organization. Now, whether it was all Claude Duboc's money or  
13 he was given money of other people in the organization, we are  
14 not sure. You'll see pictures of a house on the Mediterranean  
15 in France looking out over the Mediterranean, multi-million  
16 dollar palaces, that's the kind of things generated with the  
17 millions and millions of dollars those drug dealers consumed.

18           You will also hear in a more limited fashion, you  
19 know, money that we'll trace to Mr. Knock. But, you know, be  
20 sure, and I'll tell you up front, we haven't found all of  
21 Mr. Knock's money. We haven't found the kind of money that we  
22 found of Claude Duboc's. But these were the two people that  
23 ran that organization for about a 15-year period of time that  
24 we are talking about.

25           Now, when you get underneath that it changes from

1 year to year and load to load to some extent. But there are  
2 some people that are consistently involved. One of the major  
3 people you are going to hear a lot about is a fellow named  
4 Richard Buxton. Richard Buxton is one of the distributors of  
5 the marijuana.

6 You will hear Mr. Buxton is a fugitive. But he was  
7 one of the main distributors of this marijuana. And he had a  
8 group of people largely working for him, and those are the  
9 people listed under him.

10 Ken Cowles was kind of the lieutenant to Richard  
11 Buxton. John Bredin who worked for Cowles and Georgio Farina,  
12 each of those three people will come in here and will testify  
13 to you about their involvement with the distribution of this  
14 marijuana and hashish that they were receiving at Buxton's  
15 direction from the Knock-Duboc organization.

16 Well, of course, you will hear about the defendant --  
17 other co-defendants in this case, Albert Madrid. And I think  
18 you will hear from the testimony presented, as I said, that  
19 Mr. Madrid is largely a lieutenant to John Knock, helped in the  
20 logistical operation of the organization, and he was assisted  
21 by a couple of people, Lorrie Burden, John Hansen who helped in  
22 the offloads.

23 When we are talking about offloads, that just simply  
24 means the moving of the marijuana and the hashish from  
25 ocean-going ships to ships or smaller boats to be taken on to

1 land so it can be distributed.

2 So you will hear about those individuals. And you  
3 will hear that Madrid and Burden, along with Cowles, are  
4 arrested together with about six tons of marijuana in the  
5 summer of 1992.

6 And you will hear testimony and you will hear about a  
7 person named Julie Roberts. At one point she was Julie Beatte  
8 Roberts. But, Julie Roberts, you will hear testimony from her  
9 and you will hear that she was involved in organizing offloads  
10 and also to some extent organizing distribution of marijuana  
11 and hashish on a couple of occasions.

12 She is first involved in 1987 through her current  
13 husband at the time, a fellow named Gary Vance. And she comes  
14 back involved in it again in '91, '92, and '93, and is finally  
15 arrested or turned herself in in February of '96. And she will  
16 tell about her dealings with Knock-Duboc and her work for the  
17 organization.

18 You will also hear about a fellow named Marshall Way  
19 who was a distributor of the marijuana and hashish after it  
20 came largely into the United States. And he was distributing  
21 to a couple of different places. One of the persons he's  
22 distributing to is a fellow named David Kaplan. You will hear  
23 that that marijuana and hashish, some hashish, mainly  
24 marijuana, was going largely to the New York area.

25 And Kaplan was assisted by a couple of other people



1 that you will hear about in the course of this case, a fellow  
2 named Howard Rosin, Paul Parnells, Robert Singer, other persons  
3 involved in the organization.

4           You will also hear about a fellow named Robert Berger  
5 who is now deceased who was the captain of the boat that  
6 brought the marijuana from offshore to the oceangoing ship on  
7 to shore who worked with Julie Roberts in a couple of these  
8 importations.

9           A couple of other people that will be involved in  
10 that kind of chain of command that aren't up there is the  
11 guide, Tom Vance, and his brother, Dan Vance. Their father was  
12 Gary Vance, married to Julie Roberts. They got involved just  
13 as kids assisting in the distribution of this marijuana.

14           You will also hear some testimony about some people  
15 named the Nelsons; Douglas and Dallas Nelson. Their name is  
16 not up -- they were involved, they were truckers moving the  
17 marijuana around.

18           All right. Let's go over to the right-hand side of  
19 the chart here. And when we get over here, we are talking more  
20 about the money. Now, Roger Darmon is basically Claude Duboc's  
21 number one lieutenant. Darmon is still a fugitive, was  
22 indicted in this case with Knock and Duboc and is still a  
23 fugitive.

24           Darmon is a boat captain. So on occasion he does  
25 ship -- or skipper the boats on the ocean, but he is also very

1 involved in the distribution of the money. Because, as you can  
2 imagine, one of the -- really, you know, it's almost hard to  
3 imagine. But one of the real problems in a drug organization  
4 is what to do with all of the cash they get.

5 It is a real logistical nightmare. Now, that is --  
6 as we sit here, you think: Well, that is the kind of a  
7 nightmare that, you know, perhaps would be nice to have. But  
8 that is a problem of these drug organizations is how to deal  
9 with the cash.

10 And so what they have to set up is a whole system of  
11 how to deal with the cash. And that is kind of where Duboc got  
12 real involved and Roger Darmon. And they had people that would  
13 actually pick up the money. And they would carry it to the  
14 offshore banks where they were depositing this cash so it could  
15 be put into a banking system, so that it can be turned into  
16 checks, in some way it can be used. In some way, I mean  
17 obviously they can't just go in every place carrying hundred  
18 dollar bills and spending the money in that way.

19 And working for Roger Darmon, one of the main money  
20 couriers that we have talked about is a lady named Sonia Vacca,  
21 one of the main couriers. And she would take -- and she had a  
22 team of people working for her. She would pick up suitcases  
23 containing millions of dollars. And initially they were taking  
24 the money to Luxembourg in Europe. But later started taking  
25 the money mainly to Singapore where Duboc had arranged for bank

1 accounts for this money to be put into.

2 So there are a number of money couriers involved with  
3 Sonia Vacca. It doesn't serve any useful purpose to list them  
4 all, but you will hear from Sonia Vacca, one of the money  
5 couriers. She was arrested in San Francisco with a lawyer  
6 named Matthew Martenyi who will be one of the witnesses in this  
7 case.

8 So that is kind of an idea of, you know, the  
9 organization that we are talking about. As I said, I mean, we  
10 are talking about tons and tons of marijuana. And those people  
11 aren't all going to agree on exactly when this load took place  
12 and exactly how much was distributed, or how much was imported.

13 But, I think you will hear from these witnesses  
14 consistently. They'll tell you that John Knock, Claude Duboc  
15 were the leaders of this organization. That Albert Madrid was  
16 an important lieutenant involved in this.

17 What you are going to have to decide where there is  
18 some discrepancy in the witnesses is: Is it just normal that,  
19 you know, someone doesn't necessarily remember eight years ago  
20 exactly what happened, or are they intentionally lying to you?  
21 And that is, as a jury, what you are going to have to decide.

22 All right. I said that there would be three methods  
23 of proof. And, again, I'm not going to go over it all. But I  
24 told you the first thing that we are going to have are the  
25 accomplices.

1           Now, I'm aware that when you have someone come in  
2 here and testify to you, and their source of information is  
3 their involvement as a drug dealer, you know, that is a little  
4 controversial.

5           You know, you don't really like to hear from people  
6 like that. They are generally not very likable. They are drug  
7 dealers. That is what they are. That is why they are a  
8 witness. And, of course, as the judge is going to tell you,  
9 you want to think about with caution what they are telling you.

10           But what I asked you, and what I think all of you  
11 agreed in voir dire, is that you will listen to those people.  
12 You will compare it with the other testimony that is presented,  
13 the other types of evidence you are going to be presented with,  
14 and decide for yourself whether to believe them or not. That  
15 is your job, and that is what you're asked to do.

16           And in doing that, you want to consider what is their  
17 motive? What are their biases? I mean, with every witness you  
18 want to think about why do they have a bias here? Do they have  
19 some motive here to lie to us?

20           This case is a little unusual with -- with the  
21 accomplices that are going to be testifying in that many of  
22 those people, you know -- and I didn't sit down and count how  
23 many there were -- probably ten or twelve accomplice-type  
24 people were involved, many of them were prosecuted or made  
25 agreements with some other district.

1           We never -- this, the Northern District of Florida  
2 never had anything to do with the agreement reached with them.  
3 And I think you will find that many of them, whatever agreement  
4 was made has been executed, is done, and whatever was going to  
5 happen to these people is over with.

6           Some of them, frankly, we would like to think had it  
7 happened, that the prosecution happened in the Northern  
8 District of Florida, maybe they would have been prosecuted a  
9 little bit differently.

10          Some of them got some great breaks. You are going to  
11 hear Julie Roberts, who is a major player in this case, was  
12 prosecuted in San Francisco, and walked away from it with  
13 probation and six months of house arrest.

14          You know, we like to think that perhaps had that been  
15 done in the Northern District of Florida, maybe there would be  
16 a little stronger result in that. But that is the situation.  
17 But what you are going to have to decide is not whether you  
18 like what happened to them or don't like what happened to them,  
19 it's whether they have a motive to lie because of that.

20          I submit to you, you are going to find out that it's  
21 over and done with. And most of those people don't have any  
22 real motive to lie.

23          Also, a little unusual in this instance, because you  
24 are going to find, and I think that you are going to see that a  
25 lot of those people, for one reason or another, would like to

1 help John Knock.

2 Now, is this because they like him or feel loyal to  
3 him or because he has millions of dollars out there? We don't  
4 really know. But you are going to see some people that are  
5 more -- would like to help him. And I'm hoping they are going  
6 to come in here and they are going to tell the truth, and it's  
7 going to explain it to you.

8 But you need to, when you are listening to someone,  
9 you -- I mean, you are going to hear them and give them -- as  
10 an example, Sonia Vacca, when she was first arrested back in  
11 the fall of '93, and then when she started talking to us early  
12 in January of '94, first she lied about John Knock. She left  
13 him totally out. The first day when she talked to us, she told  
14 about Claude Duboc. She told about a lot of the rest of those  
15 people, but she didn't talk about John Knock.

16 Now, the next day she came back she admitted, yes,  
17 John Knock is Claude Duboc's partner. Well: Why did you lie  
18 to us? Well, because he was a friend of mine. He has been a  
19 friend for years and years, and I didn't want to talk about  
20 him. And I think that you are going to hear that from a number  
21 of the witnesses here.

22 You are going to have to listen to them and decide  
23 for yourself. However, let me say with these caveats, I'm  
24 saying these are the bad things about, you know, a lot of those  
25 witnesses, things you need to think about and listen to them.

1 I think you will find that they can give you  
2 invaluable insight into the workings of this international drug  
3 organization, because frankly they are the ones that know --  
4 they are the only ones who know who was doing what.

5 Now, I say there are other methods of proof. We are  
6 going to help you with what the police did and what the other  
7 evidence is, but to some extent those probably are the ones  
8 that can tell us what went on inside.

9 Let me talk a little bit about how this case got  
10 started in this district. In the summer of 1993, a fellow  
11 named C. J. Brown came to this district. He had been  
12 previously indicted and was a fugitive in this district. And  
13 he came into this district and turned himself in to Agent  
14 Lilly. And he told us -- the prosecutors that were involved at  
15 that time and Agent Lilly -- that he had been enlisted to help  
16 a group bring a huge load of marijuana into the United States,  
17 and that this was ongoing.

18 Now, C. J. Brown did this because he felt like he  
19 could help get himself out of trouble to some extent by telling  
20 about this organization, but, you know, that is his motive.

21 So he tells about this ongoing deal. That is in the  
22 formative discussion in terms of this 60 tons of hashish and  
23 marijuana into the United States.

24 Agent Lilly gets involved and Agent Lilly begins to  
25 meet undercover with these people and discuss this plan for the

1 offload. And what you will hear, and it will fit in with some  
2 of the other testimony that you are going to hear, that in that  
3 point in time, in 1993, Knock and Duboc had a problem.

4           They had a problem because they didn't have their  
5 offload crew. Remember, I talked about Albert Madrid and  
6 Lorrie Burden and Ken Cowles getting arrested in the summer of  
7 '92. Their offload crew had been busted and were under  
8 scrutiny and so they were hunting for an offload crew.

9           And what they were attempting to do was arrange an  
10 offload crew. And as I said, Agent Lilly met undercover with  
11 those people. He met with Matthew Martenyi, one of the  
12 witnesses I told you about. He talked with Sonia Vacca on the  
13 phone. He met with another fellow, a fellow named Nicholas  
14 Grenhagen, and dealt with those people and met with Grenhagen  
15 and Martenyi right here in Gainesville, Florida, and discussed  
16 arrangements to bring in this huge load of marijuana.

17           And basically what the -- Martenyi and Vacca and  
18 through them Duboc thought that they were doing was hiring  
19 Agent Lilly to provide an offload crew to deliver the goods,  
20 the drugs, into the United States and Canada.

21           Now, as things happened, the load in October of '93,  
22 those people had to be arrested because some other events had  
23 fixed it so we could not proceed with the drug smuggle. In  
24 October of '93 Vacca, Martenyi and Grenhagen were arrested.

25           You will hear testimony that Mr. Knock delivered or



1 arranged for the delivery of checks from Singapore, a large  
2 number -- large amount of checks from Singapore to pay for  
3 Martenyi and Vacca's lawyers. I don't think -- the lawyer's a  
4 little vague on how much exactly it was, but somewhere in the  
5 neighborhood of three to four hundred thousand dollars.  
6 Mr. Knock arranged to be paid the lawyers of Vacca and Martenyi  
7 in the prosecution.

8           Despite the fact that Knock is funding the defense in  
9 January of '94, Sonia Vacca decides to plead guilty and tell  
10 the government what she has been involved in. And she does  
11 that. And that is when we first find out about this huge  
12 organization.

13           In March of '94, based on the testimony from Vacca  
14 and some of the others, indictments are returned against Knock  
15 and Duboc. And in March of '94, Duboc is arrested in  
16 Hong-Kong.

17           Now, let's go back to the load chart a little bit.  
18 From this we are able to go back and piece together that over a  
19 long period of time, the -- this organization had -- remember  
20 as I said, had been bringing loads into the country.

21           Now, there are some of those that we know a lot more  
22 about than others. And that is where I said we were going to  
23 get into the police work in this case. The first one that we  
24 know about or that is a -- not the first one we know about, but  
25 one that law enforcement was able to seize, and there were

1 three loads that were seized, at least partially in May of  
2 1988, and that is the bottom one here, a load into San  
3 Francisco was seized with -- a huge load into San Francisco --  
4 multi tons of hashish and marijuana was seized by law  
5 enforcement.

6 I think we actually have the hashish and the  
7 marijuana listed there on the amounts. But it was 43 tons of  
8 hashish, 14 tons of marijuana seized in the San Francisco area.  
9 A load arranged by Knock and Duboc brought in on a tugboat or  
10 brought in by a tugboat pulling a barge captained by a guy  
11 named Calvin Robinson.

12 Now, I mean, again, you probably are sitting there  
13 thinking: Golly, you know, tons and tons and tons. That is  
14 fantasy land. We'll show you the marijuana, at least the  
15 pictures. We are not going to bring tons of it into the  
16 courtroom, but we'll show you the tons of marijuana and hashish  
17 that were seized in 1988 aboard the INTREPID VENTURE, that is  
18 the name of the tugboat that was pulling this into San  
19 Francisco Harbor.

20 The police sat up there and watched it be brought in.  
21 So you will hear a fair amount about that. And you will hear  
22 that Albert Madrid and John Knock were both actively involved  
23 in this load.

24 The next one that you will hear that law enforcement  
25 actually seized is in the summer of 1992, the hashish load that

1 went into Vancouver, British Columbia.

2 Now, it was actually bigger than this. But law  
3 enforcement did seize six tons of that hashish. And present  
4 when the hashish was seized was this defendant, Madrid. Albert  
5 Madrid, Ken Cowles, and Lorrie Burden were arrested there at  
6 the warehouse with the drugs.

7 You will find from the testimony that there are tally  
8 sheets, what we call tally sheets, just recordkeeping of the  
9 drugs that would show that there had actually been a lot more  
10 than the six tons originally, but a large portion of it has  
11 been distributed. So that will be the second seizure.

12 And you will hear that after this -- let's go to the  
13 next -- the next one that was seized was the -- was in the  
14 summer of 1993.

15 You will find out this load went into Seattle,  
16 Washington, on July 4th of 1993. It was actually not seized  
17 until October of that year when approximately 11 tons of  
18 marijuana was seized in the San Francisco area. Eventually  
19 there was also close to three million dollars cash money, some  
20 of that being in Canadian currency, seized in connection with  
21 that.

22 Now, by the summer of '93, the load into Seattle, you  
23 will hear testimony from the witnesses, as far as they know,  
24 they didn't know that John Knock was actively involved in  
25 bringing that load into the country. But, you will hear

1 testimony that after Duboc is -- gets on the run in March of  
2 '94, that Knock gets back involved trying to collect the money  
3 for the load, and he gets involved with Mr. Madrid, he gets  
4 involved with Julie Roberts, and is helping to try to collect  
5 the millions of dollars from that load.

6 Now, let's talk about some other significant police  
7 activity. And I probably am running out of your memory cells  
8 at this point, so let me run through a couple of those things  
9 just to -- some other important events.

10 In April of '91, you are going to hear that RCMP was  
11 doing surveillance on some of these guys. You will hear that  
12 there is surveillance where John Hansen is seen with Madrid,  
13 and Hansen is also seen with Roger Darmon. Because of that an  
14 April of '91 load is postponed until the fall of '91.

15 You will also hear that in March of '94, Agent Lilly  
16 and other agents with DEA searched John Knock's house in  
17 Hawaii. Seized in that search warrant were many incriminating  
18 things. I won't try to list them, but to give you a little  
19 taste of some of the things, there was equipment in there for  
20 sending coded message, electronic equipment, very sophisticated  
21 electronic equipment for sending coded messages. There were  
22 brochures on bug detectors, there is a book on how to use mail  
23 drops.

24 And then there are also letters in there,  
25 incriminating letters that will be presented to you. The next

1 event was March 25th of '94 as Duboc was arrested in Hong-Kong.  
2 Now, at that point he is traveling under a phony Irish passport  
3 in the name of Anthony Larkin, which this Larkin that -- you  
4 are going to hear, that is the name that he was using during  
5 the undercover operation with Agent Lilly.

6 And then you are going to hear that in May of '94,  
7 the RCMP, known as the Mounties, Royal Canadian Mounted Police,  
8 did searches of a number of the houses that had been used by  
9 the drug organization in Vancouver.

10 In one of the houses they found things with John  
11 Knock's name on it. They also found other things in the name  
12 of Patrick Osborne, which I believe you will hear testimony was  
13 an alias used by Mr. Knock.

14 You will also hear from experts that Knock and  
15 Madrid's fingerprints were in that stash house. An RCMP expert  
16 will come and testify to you about that. Now, let me alert  
17 you: He is going to have to come in a little early just  
18 because of scheduling problems.

19 So some of these are going to be taken a little bit  
20 out of order. I don't think that will be a problem for you to  
21 follow. Again, there was electronic equipment in this house  
22 identical to what was in Knock's house in Hawaii for sending  
23 the secret coded messages.

24 They did a search on another stash house there where  
25 they had a secret compartment. And they had rollers in there

1 for moving the drugs. And then they did a search on a third  
2 stash house there where they found the fingerprints of Ken  
3 Cowles and Albert Madrid together, night vision glasses, motion  
4 detectors, those kind of things that you would expect to find  
5 from sophisticated drug dealers.

6 In February of '96, Roberts, Julie Roberts turned  
7 herself in and began cooperating and took part in some  
8 undercover meetings and provided information on Knock, Madrid,  
9 and the Nelsons.

10 Based on her information, on April 17th of 1996, this  
11 defendant was arrested in France in conjunction with work of  
12 the DEA where Mr. Lee was present. At that point, Mr. Knock  
13 was traveling under a false Irish passport in the name of  
14 Charles Melia. I believe you will hear from French police  
15 officers that over a fairly extended period of time Mr. Knock  
16 continued to insist that he was this person named Charles Melia  
17 on his phony passport.

18 Then you will hear that in May of '96, Mr. Madrid was  
19 arrested in Mexico, again based on information provided by  
20 Julie Roberts. And then in June of '96, you will hear about a  
21 seizure of money that was made in Southern California when  
22 Julie Roberts met with a lady named Carol Nelson. Law  
23 enforcement seized \$900,000 Canadian when Ms. Nelson came and  
24 met with Ms. Roberts, ostensibly to change this drug money, the  
25 Canadian drug money, into U.S. money. And the money was

1 seized.

2           So that will be some of the police activity that we  
3 are talking about. The last area of proof we will talk about,  
4 I know that I'm running out of time, and let me just run  
5 through this real quickly. You will hear that we've been  
6 unable to establish any gainful employment for either of those  
7 defendants. And we will present in evidence tax returns  
8 showing essentially they've claimed to have made almost nothing  
9 through the years.

10           But, in contrast to that, you will hear testimony  
11 that Mr. Knock on one occasion or over a period of time, over  
12 one period, invested over two million dollars for a development  
13 in California, that he paid about 6 -- roughly \$600,000 for  
14 three lots in Hawaii that he bought through a foreign  
15 corporation a house in Hawaii, that -- for two million dollars.  
16 That he owned a sailboat, that he traveled all over the world.

17           And that would be in conjunction with hearing that  
18 there was no legitimate source of income, and he was not  
19 claiming any income. We are going to present some other  
20 routine type business records that will help you track them  
21 around the world as to various of those loads.

22           But, basically I've run out of time here, and I think  
23 we've dumped all we can on you. Factually it's a complicated  
24 case. You are going to have to pay careful attention. I can  
25 tell from your attention here that you will work at it.

1 I think that you will probably find it interesting.  
2 I know that you've kind of gotten the shock treatment today.  
3 Here you are. But I think as you settle in, and as you listen,  
4 I think you will find it interesting. You will probably find  
5 it maddening. It will probably make you mad that those kind of  
6 people are out there making millions and millions of dollars  
7 that, you know, at the expense of our society. But that is  
8 what you're going to hear about.

9 I ask you to pay close attention. I believe at the  
10 end of this case you will find, based on the evidence  
11 presented, that these defendants are guilty of the charges as  
12 presented. Thank you.

13 THE COURT: Mr. Kennedy.

14 MR. KENNEDY: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 May it please the Court.

16 Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, good afternoon. I  
17 won't keep you very long. You have been blessedly patient with  
18 us here this day, and I want to get you out.

19 But, boy, did you hear what the government had to  
20 say? It sounds overwhelming. My goodness. And that is the  
21 reason we have trials. Because what the government says  
22 doesn't mean that is what happened.

23 One of the ironies of this case is going to be that  
24 the drug laws here in the United States, and remember His Honor  
25 told you it doesn't matter whether we like it, we are obligated



1 to apply it, we are all involved in law enforcement here.

2 We've taken an oath to apply the law His Honor gives  
3 us. I'm bound to follow the law. My colleagues at the  
4 government table are. So this is about law enforcement and  
5 enforcing these laws.

6 But what is interesting about this case is it is  
7 really going to prove to you that the law -- the drug laws of  
8 the United States work. Because, what you have here is not one  
9 huge massive conspiracy, which is the Government's burden --  
10 that is what they said they are going to prove to you. I  
11 suggest to you that the evidence will not fulfill that promise  
12 by the government.

13 In fact, the evidence is going to show several  
14 conspiracies, multiple conspiracies, separate conspiracies.  
15 Not just one, but several. And the most interesting one is one  
16 that we will be referring to as the Canada-only conspiracy.  
17 Why a Canada-only conspiracy? The evidence is going to show  
18 that John Knock refused to participate in any criminality with  
19 reference to the United States.

20 And the evidence is going to show why. Because, if  
21 you import marijuana or hashish into the United States, you can  
22 face life in prison. If you import hashish into Canada, you  
23 can face five or six years in jail, which is exactly what  
24 happened to Mr. Madrid when he was arrested in the summer of  
25 '92 for importing hashish into Canada.

1           Why Canada only? To avoid the United States' drug  
2 laws. That is one of the ironies. So you will see that there  
3 was a very concerted effort, I'm saying to you, that my client,  
4 John Knock, this evidence will show, has a lot of unfinished  
5 business with reference to Canada. The allegations that the  
6 Canadian authorities can rightfully make against him, that is a  
7 separate problem. That is not here.

8           Because those charges are all conspiracy to possess  
9 with the intent to distribute marijuana and hashish in the  
10 United States. Conspiracy to import marijuana and hashish into  
11 the United States.

12           Conspiracy to take money that is made,  
13 illegally-gotten money made in the United States, and take that  
14 money out of the United States for purposes of laundering.

15           But the evidence is going to show with reference to  
16 Mr. Knock, and your job is to overcome the bias that you might  
17 have about someone who is breaking foreign laws, because we are  
18 here to enforce American law not Canadian law.

19           So if you think that just because John Knock is  
20 guilty of breaking Canada's laws, he is necessarily guilty of  
21 breaking American laws, most respectfully, ladies and  
22 gentlemen, you are wrong. But you are not going to take the  
23 law from me, you are going to take the law from His Honor as he  
24 lays it out. So importing hashish into Canada is not a United  
25 States crime. It is not part of a United States conspiracy.

1           Taking Canadian dollars out of Canada and putting  
2           them in banks is not a violation of U.S. law. And let me tell  
3           you how the Canada conspiracy worked. It began in the '80s.  
4           And the grand finale, remember those words, the grand finale,  
5           was in the summer of 1992.

6           One of the reasons you will be hearing that referred  
7           to as the grand finale is because the evidence is going to show  
8           that the hashish that was being smuggled into Canada in the  
9           summer of '92 had markings on the packaging surrounding the  
10          hashish that was stamped: grand finale. Because that was to  
11          be the end. It turned out that that was the end of it for most  
12          of it.

13          When the -- when the hash would be taken into British  
14          Columbia for the most part in the early '80s, mid '80s and the  
15          late '80s. And by the way, let me just digress for a moment.  
16          90 percent -- sort of making that figure up -- it's a round up,  
17          but almost 90 percent of the presentation that my colleagues  
18          for the government are going to make here we are not going to  
19          contest or quarrel about or quibble with, because it involves  
20          that Canadian conspiracy that this trial has -- really has  
21          nothing to do about, because that Canadian conspiracy is not a  
22          violation of U.S. law.

23          The things that are going to matter here is how in  
24          heavens name does this come to Gainesville? What happened in  
25          Gainesville? What caused this massive conspiracy which has

1 nothing whatsoever to do with Florida, nothing whatsoever to do  
2 with the United States, to come to Gainesville?

3 That is going to be a very important question,  
4 because that question is going to form your attitudes about the  
5 decision you have to make with reference to venue, because  
6 venue is very important.

7 So we've got hash coming into Canada. We have that  
8 hash being sold in Canada. The money that is made from that  
9 hash is Canadian dollars. And for the early part, for the  
10 middle part, to the latter part of the '80s, excuse me, the  
11 middle part of the '80s, those Canadian dollars are being  
12 transported by couriers out of Canada into Europe and deposited  
13 there in banks in Europe.

14 What is significant about that, and we want you to  
15 watch? That is -- again, that is no U.S. crime. Importation  
16 into Canada, money out of Canada, no impact on the United  
17 States. No entry into the United States, no U.S. crime.

18 The European banking people changed their rules, and  
19 it becomes important because the couriers no longer are  
20 beginning to courier the money out of Canada into Europe, but,  
21 in fact, they are couriering the money out across the Pacific  
22 to southeast Asia, particularly into Singapore and into  
23 Hong-Kong.

24 Canadian dollars going out of Canada for Canadian  
25 hashish, down to Singapore and Hong-Kong. Again, no U.S.

1 involvement. There comes a time, and you will hear evidence of  
2 this, when John Knock and the principles that he was imposing  
3 with reference to being a Canadian-only operation didn't sit  
4 well with other people. It didn't sit with Claude Duboc. So  
5 Claude Duboc began one of the separate conspiracies.

6 And now, as a matter of fact, you are going to hear  
7 testimony that Mr. Duboc says to Sonia Vacca, and indeed to  
8 other people: For heavens sake, don't say anything to  
9 Mr. Knock about this plan of ours to bring some marijuana and  
10 hashish into the United States. Mr. Knock wouldn't approve.  
11 Don't tell him.

12 So when you have a conspiracy as this evidence will  
13 show that has as its lynch pin, that has as its moment of  
14 critical mass this Canada-only concept to deliberately avoid  
15 our extraordinarily harsh and effective drug laws, you have got  
16 to bear that in mind, because the crime is an agreement, that  
17 is, a meeting of the minds.

18 And what did the minds meet on? Canada. Canada  
19 only. Heavens, don't come and break the U.S. laws. Go to jail  
20 for life. Canada three, four. I'm not saying that is right,  
21 I'm not saying that somebody should be crowing about that or be  
22 proud about it, but the evidence is going to show that that is  
23 a fact -- those are the facts.

24 Going back to summer of 1992 for just a moment now.  
25 The evidence is going to show that Mr. Madrid gets arrested,

1 Mr. Cowles get arrested. Again, you are going to see us not  
2 disagree with our colleagues from the government, and that  
3 creates a problem for Mr. Duboc.

4 Because Mr. Duboc in his separate conspiracy wants to  
5 bring marijuana, particularly marijuana as opposed to the  
6 hashish, into the United States.

7 He needs an offload crew to do that. He can't  
8 involve John Knock, he can't involve the people up in Canada.  
9 So he attempts to recruit a new team.

10 And he gives that job to someone who has never done  
11 anything with reference to drugs but has only been a courier,  
12 Canada to Singapore, Canada to Europe, Sonia Vacca. And Sonia  
13 Vacca can be recruited as a courier to courier money, again  
14 Canada to Singapore, with a lawyer named Matthew Martenyi.

15 Matthew Martenyi has a law office out in San  
16 Francisco. That is where Sonia Vacca also lives is San  
17 Francisco. And their plan is to try to figure out if they can  
18 organize, for Mr. Duboc, an offload crew that will bring this  
19 marijuana into somewhere on the West Coast, somewhere up north  
20 on the West Coast, but somewhere into the United States. That  
21 is the specific plan.

22 Well, as you will see, they're amateurs. In  
23 Mr. Martenyi's office there is a gentleman by the name of  
24 Brown, Clifford Brown.

25 Mr. Brown, on behest of Martenyi -- actually he has a

1 prior cocaine conviction down here in Florida. Sonia Vacca  
2 talks to Mr. Brown and says to Mr. Brown: You know, we could  
3 make some money here. We can import for Mr. Larkin, Claude  
4 Duboc, some marijuana into the west coast of California.

5 Matthew Martenyi is interested. He says: Let's look  
6 at this. You will also have to distinguish as the evidence  
7 comes in the difference between an agreement and preparation.

8 Fixing to get ready is not the same as an actual  
9 agreement. So they are preparing to try to organize an  
10 offloading crew. In the process they recruit or talk to C. J.  
11 Brown. C. J. Brown says: I'm interested in that. I'm  
12 interested in that. Tell me more.

13 And they have some conversations. And you will hear  
14 the testimony of Mr. Brown, he'll testify. Ms. Vacca and them  
15 thought -- Mr. Brown decides that he can help himself, because  
16 as I said, he's got this preexisting cocaine problem down here  
17 in Florida. And it involved DEA Agent Carl Lilly who was the  
18 law enforcement officer working against Mr. Brown.

19 So C. J. Brown calls Carl Lilly. Now, Mr. Lilly has  
20 a very interesting problem as the evidence is going to show,  
21 because he is in an office of the Drug Enforcement  
22 Administration, DEA, here in Gainesville. And that office,  
23 because it hasn't had enough work, or because of budgetary  
24 restrictions, or some details that the evidence hopefully will  
25 flesh out for us, that office is going to be shut down unless

1 some activity is begun there, unless some cases are made.

2 So Mr. Lilly is very interested in bringing whatever  
3 he can to Gainesville. Bear in mind this is all a California  
4 operation. So Mr. Lilly meets with Clifford Brown and gets  
5 Clifford Brown to agree: We've got to get them here to  
6 Gainesville somehow. How can we do it? How can we get Matthew  
7 Martenyi or Sonia Vacca or a gentleman by the name of  
8 Grenhagen, how do we get them to Gainesville?

9 Because Carl Lilly is interested in getting the case  
10 into Gainesville, luring them into Gainesville, creating a  
11 venue in Gainesville, manufacturing a case in Gainesville so  
12 that he can save this office. That is what the evidence is  
13 going to show. And sure enough Matthew Martenyi comes -- in  
14 1992 -- comes to Gainesville.

15 And they have a meeting. That meeting is recorded.  
16 You will hear testimony from Mr. Martenyi about it. That --  
17 nobody is going to say that meeting didn't happen. We are  
18 going to hear testimony from Agent Lilly about it. They met  
19 here.

20 There was never a plan, as you will see, to ever  
21 commit a crime in Gainesville. There was never a plan to bring  
22 any marijuana into Gainesville. Never a plan to bring any  
23 money into Gainesville.

24 They were still talking about trying to organize.  
25 Fixing to get ready to have a crew out in California bring in



1 some marijuana for Mr. Larkin, Mr. Duboc into California.

2 And they went forth in those efforts, and you will  
3 see that. But nothing ever happened here. And actually no  
4 crime or even a conspiracy was even accomplished in that  
5 regard, the evidence will show, because for reasons over which  
6 no one had any control, not the government, not Agent Lilly,  
7 Mr. Grenhagen was involved in other criminality. And the other  
8 criminality had nothing to do with the drugs, it had to do with  
9 his effort to try to -- to try to pawn off some phony bombs.  
10 He was a scam artist was Mr. Grenhagen.

11 And he was so close to ripping off some people with  
12 reference to those bombs that the agents had to move in and had  
13 to arrest Mr. Grenhagen.

14 They arrested Mr. Grenhagen. That meant that Sonia  
15 Vacca and Matthew Martenyi out on the west coast would be  
16 mindful of this and find out about this.

17 So they said: We've got to drop the hammer on them.  
18 As well as we've got to go arrest Martenyi and Vacca. And they  
19 did. They brought them down here to trial in Gainesville. And  
20 Mr. Grenhagen ultimately went to trial. Mr. Martenyi pled  
21 guilty, and you will hear them. Sonia Vacca pled guilty.

22 Now, the point of my taking that time, forgive me for  
23 doing it, because I know you must be exhausted already, is to  
24 show you how important it is that we not -- do not just accept  
25 that, you keep an open mind, that you not just accept these

1 statements that this is one monstrous, massive conspiracy.

2 But, in fact, be open to the defense and be open to  
3 those possibilities. You may reject us in the end if you don't  
4 like the proof. That is your right. That is your duty. You  
5 will do what you think is right based upon the evidence and  
6 proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

7 And the proof beyond a reasonable doubt ultimately is  
8 going to show you there is no real connection to Gainesville.  
9 There is no real connection to Florida. These conspiracies  
10 don't look to me beyond a reasonable doubt to be one. In fact,  
11 there are several, several of those conspiracies.

12 There will be no police officers who come in here and  
13 say: John Knock broke the law. People are going to come in  
14 here and try to persuade you that John Knock broke U.S. law as  
15 opposed to Canada law, broke U.S. law.

16 Those are the accomplices. Those are the ones that  
17 Your Honor will tell you, as he earlier said, look at their  
18 testimony carefully, because it is -- it deserves special  
19 scrutiny, it's suspect. And the reason it's suspect is because  
20 they have got so much at stake.

21 If they don't try to make a case against someone  
22 else, the evidence will demonstrate this to you, they can face  
23 life in prison themselves. So they are fighting for their  
24 lives. And when people fight for their lives, pardon me, they  
25 will do desperate things.

1           They will destroy the truth and twist things. They  
2 will connive. So when you are hearing the evidence, and  
3 suddenly John Knock, after systematically doing nothing but  
4 Canadian bad deeds suddenly involves himself in the United  
5 States, you have got to ask yourself: What is the source of  
6 that?

7           Well, that is one of those accomplices. That is one  
8 of those people who is admittedly a criminal, who is trying to  
9 help himself in going to jail for life, who has got a real  
10 reason to lie. And you weigh that, you weigh that in that  
11 context.

12           False passport. John Knock was picked up with it.  
13 He has that. He was picked up with an Irish passport in the  
14 name of Charles Melia. It wasn't his. It was a phony  
15 passport. He was traveling in Europe hiding, as the evidence  
16 will show, from the Canadian authorities, whose laws he had  
17 systematically violated for several years.

18           So in closing, just to wrap this up, the evidence is  
19 going to show not one gigantic conspiracy but several  
20 conspiracies. The Canadian conspiracy, some California  
21 importation conspiracies that do not involve John Knock, and  
22 this attempted conspiracy, this try-to-be a conspiracy here in  
23 Gainesville.

24           And you have got to keep them separate in your own  
25 mind, because that is what the law requires. That is what His

1 Honor will instruct you in talking to you about multiple and  
2 separate conspiracies.

3 And when you have done all of that, and I know you  
4 will do it fairly, and you have -- when you've done all of  
5 that, I believe that you will have a reasonable doubt, a  
6 reasonable doubt about whether or not John Knock ever intended  
7 to break the laws of the United States.

8 He broke the Canadian laws. Whether he ever took  
9 money out of the United States to launder it, and whether he  
10 ever possessed in the United States marijuana with the  
11 intention to distribute it, or whether he ever agreed with  
12 anyone else, this is the key: Did John Knock ever agree, the  
13 agreement -- the meeting of the minds -- with anyone else to  
14 violate our drug laws? He did not. Our drug laws worked in  
15 this case.

16 Thank you for your patience, and I look forward to  
17 the presentation.

18 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Kennedy. Mr. Daar.

19 MR. DAAR: Your Honor, I would like to reserve my  
20 opening to the close of the prosecution's case.

21 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, the attorneys have  
22 the opportunity to reserve opening, which means that they can  
23 wait until the government rests their case before making an  
24 opening statement. That is what Mr. Daar has just indicated  
25 that he wishes to do.

1           That is it for the day. We are going to quit. You  
2 can go about your business. We will start at nine o'clock in  
3 the morning. We will begin with testimony.

4           Remember not to discuss the case among yourselves or  
5 with anyone, nor permit them to discuss it in your presence.

6           Do not read, listen to, or watch any news accounts.  
7 When you come in in the morning, report directly to the jury  
8 room, please. I'll see you all in the morning. Have a good  
9 evening.

10                           (Jury out.)  
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## C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF FLORIDA )  
COUNTY OF ALACHUA )

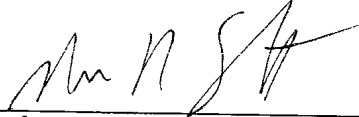
I, Mark N. Stuart, RPR, United States Court Reporter  
in Gainesville, Florida, do hereby certify as follows:

THAT I correctly reported in computer-aided machine  
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and place stated in the caption thereof;

THAT I later reduced my shorthand notes to  
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the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 45, both inclusive,  
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THAT I am neither of kin nor of counsel to any party  
involved in this matter, nor in any manner interested in the  
results thereof.

DATED THIS 15th DAY OF August, 2000.

  
Mark N. Stuart, RPR  
United States Court Reporter

## C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF FLORIDA )

COUNTY OF ALACHUA )

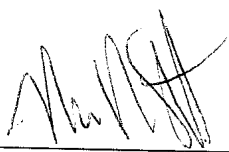
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THAT I am neither of kin nor of counsel to any party  
involved in this matter, nor in any manner interested in the  
results thereof.

DATED THIS 8th DAY OF April, 2000.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark N. Stuart, RPR  
United States Court Reporter