

OPERATION LORIS
TRANSCRIPTION

Date:

Time:

Venue:

Legend: O'Connell (D/S/SGT Shane O'CONNELL)
 F (F)

Transcription:

(Track 1 Hrs 00 Min 00 Sec 00)

(background noise)

(Track 1 Hrs 00 Min 09 Sec 43)

O'Connell: "Hello. 427. Okay."

(Track 1 Hrs 00 Min 11 Sec 24)

O'Connell: "So ...(inaudible)... come in and."

F: "Oh."

O'Connell: "Into the room ...(inaudible)..."

F: "Nice flashy room but it's tiny isn't it?"

O'Connell: "It is pretty small."

F: "I'm, um, I'm disgusted to read Shane that, um, I'm disgusted to read here that, um, ^{Hobson}...(inaudible)... that they applied for 25 grand for him and paid him 10 grand, and they're out here to make money from drug dealing as well. I can't believe that. I never got, I haven't got a dollar from what I've been doing. If he is worth 10 grand, I can tell you I'm worth. No I'm not talking about this statement either, I'm worth about 300 grand. This is disgraceful."

secret bodgie phone. Um, and I was thinking about that yesterday, some conversations I've had with him on ... (inaudible) ..."

O'Connell: "Mm, mm."

F: "Um, there would be no reason, Shane, why any Victorian police would have a wire on my phone, there's no way they could. But I can't account for the AFP and I don't know whether you can find out something that ... (inaudible) ... can account for or not because with, um, the fact that I've got to give evidence or may have to give evidence against Tony, I wouldn't, I wouldn't put it passed them to be ... (inaudible) ..."

O'Connell: "Yeah."

F: "... a wire or anything. So, um, I don't know whether that's, Sandy White said just to raise that with you."

O'Connell: [REDACTED]

F: "Um, I don't know whether."

O'Connell: "Are you, are you comfortable with what Sandy White set up here with the [REDACTED] with you and ..."

F: "Yeah."

O'Connell: "... and doing it that way?"

F: "Yeah well we just. The other thing that changed was what they used to do was they used to, there used to be a number that I would ring that was [REDACTED] and then like a couple of times, um, they failed to [REDACTED] or whatever happened, happened. And just then in terms of [REDACTED] there was a link between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] When the, when, it all wasn't really an issue until the, remember last year that, um, the biggest ever importation in the world?"

O'Connell: "Oh yeah that's the, um ..."

F: "The pills."

O'Connell: "... containers yeah."

F: "Well ... (inaudible) ... for me no one would have known about that."

F: "Um, rather than just that was it disappear, um."

O'Connell: "Oh no, no, no I."

F: "I think there are."

O'Connell: "I agree."

F: "There are relationships."

O'Connell: "I haven't got, I haven't got a blacked out van waiting out in Collins Street to take you somewhere."

F: "Yeah good. Um, I think there are relationships that will never be like this and, just as an example, Tony HARGREAVES is probably worth 20, 20 percent, 15 percent of my income. Now the relationship with him is dead and finished. The minute he ^{is}... (inaudible)... that question ... (inaudible)... especially the part where I say I'll just talk to him and we'll just take cash on the side, um."

32.45

O'Connell: "Which is really crazy isn't it really? I mean there's ^{not too many of us around} nothing ... (inaudible)... ^{surround} at some point in time having done some form of ^{cash} ~~easing~~." ^{cash}

F: "That's, that's right. Except that I take it from people but I just wear it because ... (inaudible)... like you can run to the police one day and say, she did this, she did that."

O'Connell: "Yeah, yeah."

F: "But there it is."

O'Connell: "Yeah."

F: "Um, but like say just as an example, if that relationship is finished and dead in the water and there are a few solicitors ... (inaudible)... which he's got a lot of influence."

OVER

O'Connell: "Yeah."

F: "So, um, fortunately the big crooks he doesn't have any influence over. But, um, where the big crooks are concerned, um, I've had, um, an enormous difficulty in the last few years of which, um, just as an example 'cause ^{Sandy White} said you needed to know what the ... (inaudible)... Um, say ^{Mr Thomas} ... (inaudible)... for example, now before he became a witness for Purana, um, obviously I spent a lot of time with him, um, I worked on him so the police were able

to know in advance what he could say and the sorts of things that he would be able to give evidence about. Then he, um, decided to become a witness, um, Gavan RYAN, opened up to Gavan RYAN, and ...(inaudible)... process, um, he becomes a witness and he makes, um, a statement which he refused to sign before I proof read it which unfortunately that never came out and I don't think it ever will but um."

O'Connell: "Mm, mm."

F: "But he, but he was holding back because he, I knew he could put GATTO in and ...(inaudible)... and PII and ...(inaudible)... PII but um."

O'Connell: "Oh PII and."

F: "Yeah."

O'Connell: "PII and."

F: "Yep."

O'Connell: "Those sorts of ones."

F: "Yep. He was ...(inaudible)... the suspect in six murders, you know, six that they want pinned on him, um, and, ah. So anyway Mr Tho makes his statement but he doesn't include GATTO and he holds back on Faruk GORMAN and that sort of stuff. Yes he does his plea, gets his sentence and then he's still talking to me, um, but he's got no mates except for a couple of people from Purana and his family and me. And there's all sorts of problems with that contact, Shane, because the prison system's got him, um, he can't go visit most people. I mean I was visiting him in a prison where the very people that he was responsible for having charges laid against them and there was all sorts of problems with that. But worked through them all and then he finally came clean and said, I finally convinced him, albeit that he was already sentenced, that he may have already talked to the police about arrests."

O'Connell: "Yeah."

F: "But then he makes these other statements about and and blah, blah, blah. And that then puts me in a very, another messy situation because people like Faruk GORMAN who I was working on at the time, I know from. Like Mr Thor was telling me that GORMAN can be pinched at

F: "But there's nothing, there's nothing like that lurking around, um, however there will be, um, there'll obviously be surveillance logs that I would be part of, um, and a lot of, a lot of stuff is in relation to people that are either namely I've spoken to here or might come out, um, Carl ...(inaudible)...
 Mr Cooper um, HODSON, HODSON, um, AMED.
 I here's, um, I don't know how, how do you keep it under control or prevent that stuff from having ...(inaudible)..."

O'Connell: "Surveillance logs?"

F: "No, no, no say like when I've been talking to Sandy White or one of Sandy White-C people, about pick a topic, say Mr Thor for example. Well I don't know how they, you know, say they're stored electronically and you search it under it alphabetically. I don't know there might be 35 hours worth of conversations about him, how do you prevent that stuff from ...(inaudible)... handed over? And the next thing is how do you prevent it from being handed over, and I know you've got to know it exists first and ...(inaudible)... might not be accurate enough so that might not be a problem. Or just ...(inaudible)... might be directed to you don't know ...(inaudible)... hand it over. But worst case scenario ...(inaudible)... confidential affidavit, how do you do that without a barrister or a prosecutor having to be informed which ...(inaudible)... to happen."

O'Connell: "Yeah. I think it's something that we have to plan for the worst and hope for the best a bit, um, suffice to say that that can and will be in consultation with you and, um, you know, I'll be setting this up so that the any subpoenas come through me."

F: "Yeah."

O'Connell: "So I'll have that."

F: "You won't have that, you wouldn't ...(inaudible)..."

O'Connell: "No but, um, again, again I'll have, I'll be setting up a senior level contact across, across the road at, ah, here, across the road at the OPI and the ACC."

F: "Yep."

O'Connell: "And I'll be on, I'll be constantly onto them proactively so to speak if any subpoenas no, any subpoenas no. And I won't be relying on them to be contacting me and say oh I've got a subpoena."

saying, I need legal advice on this, um, then I think most judges are inclined to let the witness seek it um."

F: "...(inaudible)..."

O'Connell: "Oh no, oh no but, ah, um, what's the, what's that saying?"

(Track 1 Hrs 01 Min 51 Sec 00)

F: "Yeah ...(inaudible)... themselves where I am, Shane, don't remind me of that."

O'Connell: "That's right so, um, I think regardless of your profession, if you were to say that, ah, you know, um, that, you know. And again might even, the judge might be more inclined to give you a break, because if you're saying in your profession with your experience I need some advice, independent legal advice on this, then he has to start, he or she has to start thinking that, um, that that's justified in the circumstances."

F: "Well if you're, if you're, um, if you've got a greater understanding of the bigger picture about what the crown case is ..."

O'Connell: "Mm, mm."

F: "... for this murder, I don't I mean I've got limited ...(inaudible)... reasonably intelligent guesses about some things. If you're DALE and you need, you need, my assumption is, he needs to just ...(inaudible)... to be acquitted. He's got, he might have other problems, but at the end of the day ...(inaudible)... drug trafficking murderer and blah, blah and there are a few other people in that category but ...(inaudible)... with me. Um, I don't, I don't how he's going to address the problem of me. If you think about it logically, he's, what can he say? That, he'll try to say that our relationship was one in which privilege advice."

O'Connell: "Yep."

F: "And to that end he's, a very interesting tactical decision from his point of view because he's got to say that we had a special relationship. Now unfortunately here he was blind drunk and me picking him up doesn't necessarily equate to a professional relationship. But to try and say that it's privileged he's going to argue that that was the basis of our relationship, he's not going to say that it was some smutty or at times smutty, him desperately trying to sleep with me, um, pissed out of his mind sleeze bag stuff. Um, or trying to

O'Connell:

"Yeah."

F:

"Just snowballed, um, in a massive way and then things fell into my lap. Um, all of a sudden there were people telling me about murders ...(inaudible)... and abductions. Um, labs, pill presses, drug importations, ...(inaudible)... to pervert, you name it. And it just, what I thought was going to finish in a certain period of time just went on and on and on. When a number of families kind of, you know, from celebrated all the MOKBELs were locked up and all of a sudden Mick started ringing me and that was like, well, how can we ignore, um, my instructions kind of changed to stop asking those people questions to stop trying to find things out just didn't work. And even doing that, Shane, they're still, um, the information I was getting was still sufficiently valuable for, for the ...(inaudible)... to keep going the way it's gone."

O'Connell:

"Mm."

(Track 1 Hrs 02 Min 00 Sec 22)

F:

"But I do and when I said to this, like I said to ^{Sandy White} I don't, I don't want you thinking I'm blaming them for when I say the stress that I'm under, um, it is likely because of I call it my second voluntary job. But it's not their fault because I was the one who chose to do it, nobody had a crystal ball to know it would end up as ...(inaudible)... and it's more than ...(inaudible)... or the stress, um, it's just that's the way it's turned out. And, um, what I have said to them is I don't, they've always said at the end, you know, the way it works is you ...(inaudible)... you get something."

O'Connell:

"Yep."

F:

"But it's a matter for ...(inaudible)... whenever that might be. All I said is, um, I don't think ...(inaudible)... want anything. But what I do think is fair is if you raise the cost of how much it's costing in doctors bills. Because that's not my fault that, um, I ...(inaudible)... someone relating to the stress that I'm under. Why should I be footing that bill? It's not, I haven't been the cause of it. I mean I might have chosen to do it in the first place, but no one knew that it would end up like this. And I'm not, anyway nothing's happened about that but I just want you to know ..."

O'Connell:

"What, what?"

F:

"... that that's where I'm coming from."

previously, the details of the last contact I had with him prior to the Albert Park thing."

O'Connell: "Yep."

F: "Um, obviously ^{Sandy White-C} got the details of that contact when it was and what I got told. Because any contact I've had with anyone who's been sanctioned by them."

(Track 1 Hrs 02 Min 06 Sec 02)

O'Connell: "Oh okay."

F: "Um, Shane I have not seen. You know, like when, for example, when they were, um, contacted. Every time he's contacted me in the last, since the 15th of September '05."

O'Connell: "Yeah."

F: "Every contact I've had with anybody ^{Sandy Whil} knows about. There's nobody he doesn't."

O'Connell: "Okay."

F: "Anyone."

O'Connell: "Yep."

F: "And DALE fell into the category of, look he might be useful maybe we'll get you to do something with him. So the instructions were keep up, rather than to tell him to fuck off and die, keep up some level of ..."

O'Connell: "Yep."

F: "... contact. So there's probably been, ah, three or four occasions where I've seen him. I think three occasions I've seen him and however many occasions where he's rung me, ^{Sandy Whi} can give you those details of all of that."

O'Connell: "Okay yep. Mostly social stuff?"

(Track 1 Hrs 02 Min 07 Sec 00)

F: "All social. No, no, no nothing, no professional, um, no, no, no. As in like the things that would become a ... (inaudible) ... privilege no."

O'Connell: "No I'm just thinking about, it's one of those things where, um, if he, I suppose if I ask him he gives it to me it's then a

O'Connell:

"Well as, you know, they're unpredictable I suppose, um, they're very unpredictable and it might be just a case of, um, them making assumptions and acting on the spur of the moment and, um, you know stuff that we, we can't or may not ...(inaudible)... to get in front of so we have to plan for that worst case. We have to plan that we're in a position here to put something in place that will allow us to monitor that situation for a few months to see what happens and then reassess down the track. Ah, I don't try, it's a massive inconvenience I can appreciate that ah."

F:

"Does that mean that I wouldn't be able to have, um, contact with any of these people Shane? Because part of the, part of the capacity by which I've been able to, um, help myself ...(inaudible)... a better position my, um, just say and I've got the experience of this happening. When, um, when ^{Mr Cooper} got arrested, um, I had worked on ^{Mr Cooper} day and night literally for a month or two. Because when I started talking to ^{Sandy White} I said, do you want to unravel MOKBEL? This is the way to do it. I'm not telling anyone how to do their jobs, but I know these people intricately, I know who's, who and who sits where. Obviously ...(inaudible)... debriefing so everyone understands who where everyone fits in, who's running ...(inaudible)... blah, blah. So the key to this is ^{Mr Cooper} and I'll tell you how you can get in. So months and months of working on ^{Mr Cooper} locating labs, um, sufficient resources, and obviously, Shane, there's a period of time where I have to earn the trust with ^{Sandy White} and Co because they would have thought, and no doubt they did admit it, where's this coming from? Um, and obviously as time goes on, um, I get, um, allowed to know certain things and, ah, and they can tell that I'm not saying anything, um, about to anybody about the fact that they're being looked at, investigated, phones off, whatever. Anyway, months and months go on, um, decision's made to arrest ^{Mr Cooper} um, and to allow him, ah, first person that contacts me that's fine and then he, I told you we went through that, um, agreement where he says, look I'll cooperate, I'll set people up, um, I'll be a witness but I'm not going to do it without you. That was a bit unfortunate that I had to be involved in the whole thing. But I had to stay hidden for three days between that arrest date, his arrest date, and the arrest of everyone else, from the 22nd of April to Anzac Day. I just had to stay off the radar hidden couldn't answer the phone because I had to avoid any of the MOKBEL's calling me, um, or anyone else, ah, who might be enquiring about ^{Mr Cooper} having been arrested. That now is the reason why they want to kill me because the fact that I didn't pick up