

WH = LT. HYDE
JP = LT. PALERMO

MARCH 4, 2003
IA Interview

WH Within that time periods yeah

JP Yeah because what I try to do is, is I try to touch as much bases as like sometimes I go eastside and meet with like I said Delta's working now JW had a sandwich with him over at Sea Harvest talked to me "how's it going" shoot the shit with him and things like that, try to touch bases with the Sergeants.

WH Ok what's the context or basic context of any conversations you had with these people Jody?

JP Just chitchat you know? If you referring to like you're trying to get at business wise I mean a lot of these conversations people know that I've been involved in different things. A lot of these conversations, how'd you do with so and so, I try to explain the best I can. If they ask me what's going on I try to explain the best way, they know, they've heard rumors they heard stuff, all kind of stuff like that so and a lot of people say to me in fact when you get out and driving around you've always got some people bitching about stuff that's normal, that's just normal. That, I've been doing this for 20 years I've never been a place where people haven't pissed and moaned about things and whatever and you know you talk about whatever. I mean we're not talking about, I've never well put it this way, I don't like to use the never word because never always comes back to bite you in the rear end you know? There's never and always is kind of like a you know, but I cannot remember for the life of me if ever talking to an outsider other than somebody within corporate knowledge I guess of what we're talking about and we, there were never any conversations with anyone uh other than people who would say "Jody I heard so and so is this the truth?" or whatever you know. Another outsider, hey how's it going, fine the world's great and that type of thing, that just doesn't happen.

WH Well have you openly criticized the Personnel Review Board?

JP In a manner, yes. Not openly I don't mean like standing there yelling a bunch of people they're a bunch of jerks or something like that, no if somebody said to me what happened I had an appeal I lost, in fact uh for instance Jeannie, I had seen Jeannie, I saw Jeannie yesterday...

WH Let's clarify this Capt Absher.

JP Ok I'm sorry Capt Absher

WH That's fine

JP And what she wrote, what she said is right on the money it's exactly, "hey Jeannie I want to thank you for your veracity, ok thank you" ok exactly the part they didn't understand about something about she cut me off what it was is I was

asking her about the email again because there's some discrepancy, it wasn't nothing I don't, it wasn't adversary or I wasn't trying to whine or nothing I said that we had gone through this thing where I had emailed at one time I was I don't know how long it's been, it's been a while ago. I was emailing Randy Burned directly and she said I want you to copy me also. So I did I copied her, and something happened I can't remember what it is now but I wanted to make sure that I wanted to make sure I could keep emailing her and I said and I remember asking, "well if there's nothing to email about should I email you saying there's nothing, it's kind of redundant to me" I mean I'm sorry there's nothing to write therefore if anything significant that isn't, I don't need to call anybody or wake them up I'll just send something the Major and copy Jeannie Absher, and that what I was referring to. It was very cordial and in fact there was, I believe there was a night I said listen "I've got this some sort of flu or something like that and I'm hanging in the best I can" she said "you look like crap" or something like that and I started laughing I just looked terrible my voice, I lost my voice I was very raspy I couldn't hardly speak. She said, "if you have to go home, go home". So I waited like I said I think it was it could have been that night or the next night whatever I waited until it was like things died down I felt as if I could handle the rest from the house if push came to shove and I went home.

WH So in your criticism of the Personnel Review Board did you in fact state that it was a farce or a joke, or a "fucking joke" I think was one of the comments in the thing.

JP Let me tell you what I believed and what I still believe and how people perceive this is their way of doing this. What I said was originally we had, my attorney and I, had asked for Leonard Davis to be taken off the Board. I feel then and I feel now that Leonard Davis has never been in my court and he's not gonna be in my court and that's straight out, that's how I feel, that's why we asked for him to be gone. If, the board when I got papers said there's a seven-member board, well that particular day there was a four-member board that's all that showed up they basically got very out of form. So now we're looking at four people ok, before even walking in I'm not feeling comfortable with Leonard, the other thing I asked through my attorney that Nancye Jones not prosecute this for other things that happened in the past and the fact that her husband was involved in this as a witness and on and on. Ok I knew going in, I never said, I never ever said that I didn't disobey an order that was not the point yes I disobeyed I told everybody that I disobeyed it but the reason that I disobeyed it is because it was an unreasonable order. And the reason it was an unreasonable order because Major Burned had been drinking and I didn't feel like the way he treated me that night on the phone ok again with the yelling and screaming and then the threatening which he later, we can get to that whenever you want to get to that, but the point is I've been referring to that, first thing happened is Leonard said he'd reclude himself or some, whatever word he used or to swap on himself, this fellow gets up and goes "well you know Leonard we really value this and that and your in depth knowledge of the department" I mean here we go now we're, here we go again

that's what I was referring to. So if that's a criticism then I was unhappy about that yes.

WH Uh

JP I'm sorry one other thing, and Nancye it's the same thing I'd gone through, Nancye brought another attorney from the county I think Eckert or somebody came in and it was agreed that well she should go ahead and do it. So they basically blew off the fact that we felt that it was somewhat prejudicial well it was prejudicial going in my estimation, that's my opinion. So yes I spoke to that, that's correct and I still feel that way.

WH Ok and you've told these other deputies, when asked?

JP Right and now, and the point would be is the manner by which they perceive, now in other words I'm not gonna, if I get up and said well this thing you know, this is the point I'm trying to make, I'm honest about what I'm saying and what I'm doing ok? But I have after reading some of the responses and possibility the way you know they could have been lead a little bit too. You're human we've all been investigation wise if you've kinda lead them into something they could say something that would sound detrimental to me, in my perception so that's why I'm trying to do a dance here I'm just trying to explain why I'm trying to explain it.

WH Ok do you recall any of the places that you might have been when speaking of the Personnel Review Board? Talking to these other deputies or employees? I mean...

JP Well I don't know exactly where they would be but I could tell you where we, but I could tell you how I normally meet people. If I came to the west side to have dinner, sometime ago to the Leather Leaf it's a tiny little restaurant up in...

WH Pierson

JP ...and at that time there'd be like three of us in there, no patrons ok?

WH Uh, hmm

JP On the west side also of Perkins a private booth, no one around it'd be just us. If I were down in Orange City the same thing, Perkins down there, all of these places in fact a lot of times I'd meet say uh some people after they'd been out partying that night or something like that they'd come back into town and go down in Seminole, excuse me, and I'd have breakfast with somebody and a lot of times other deputies would come in. It would be maybe a whole circle table of us you know just isolated you know there's nothing that would be perceived in the public's eye again and nothing to that the outside world other than ourselves and