

STATE OF NEW YORK EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

DIVISION OF PAROLE

MINUTES OF PAROLE BOARD HEARING

REAPPEARANCE

KATHY BOUDIN DIN 84G0171 NYSID ** REDACTED **

INSTITUTION: BEDFORD HILLS C.F.
DATE: AUGUST, 2003
BEFORE: COMMISSIONER BOUEY
COMMISSIONER MANLEY

HEARING REPORTER: JOSEPH D'AMBROSIO

BOUDIN, KATHY

84G0171

BY COMMISSIONER MANLEY

Q Hello.

A Hello.

Q Have a seat. You're Kathy Boudin?

A Yes.

Q I'm Commissioner Manley, with me is Commissioner Bouey.

COMM. BOUEY: Good afternoon.

INMATE: Good afternoon.

BY COMM. MANLEY

Q Miss Boudin, this is your reappearance before the Parole Board, right?

A Yes.

Q You received a De Novo, you did an Article 78 and received a De Novo case, right?

A Yes.

Q And so now we're here, and you also saw the Parole Board in May of this year?

A Yes.

Q In actuality it's your third appearance.

A Yes. It feels like my third.

COMM. BOUEY: Just for the record, your initial was August of 2001, right, your initial appearance?

INMATE: August 2001.

BOUDIN, KATHY

84G0171

**COMM. BOUEY: And your De
Novo was May of this year?**

INMATE: Yes.

**COMM. BOUEY: And now your
initial.**

**INMATE: Yes, I'm now a
reappearance.**

**COMM. BOUEY: Excuse me, now
you're a reappearance.**

INMATE: Yes.

BY COMM. MANLEY

Q Okay.

COMM. BOUEY: Thank you.

BY COMM. MANLEY

**Q You're here for Murder 2nd Degree., You got 20 to Life, you
pled guilty, and Robbery 1st Degree, 12 ½ to 25 running
concurrent; is that right?**

A Yes.

**Q And we just want to be clear that the Murder 2 was for the
murder of the Brinks guard?**

A Yes, it was.

**Q Okay. Your codefendant, Samuel Brown, got 75 to Life, all of
them got 75 to Life. We don't know what Burns got, is that
right, you don't know?**

A No.

COMM. BOUEY: Donald Weems

got 101 to Life.

BY COMM. MANLEY

Q AKA Kublbal Goon Kuwase. I'm going to read the initial report of what happened, okay? And then you'll have an opportunity to change or say what's different or what happened to specifics, all right?

A Yes.

Q On October 20, 1981, a Brinks Corporation armored truck was making routine currency pick-ups from various Rockland County, New York banks. The driver was James Kelly and the guards were Peter Paige and Joseph Trombino. Four stops netted a total of \$1,598,000 when the crime occurred. At 3:45 p.m., the armored car was in a parked position, when both guards exited to make a currency pick-up in the Nanuet mall. The driver remained in the vehicle. Codefendant Donald Weems was waiting at a bus stop approximately 100 feet from the Brinks truck, while a red Chevrolet van pulled up beside it, and three men exited. Codefendant Samuel Brown went into the mall entrance by a bank of telephones, while the other men took positions at the front and rear of the Brinks truck. Brinks guard Peter Paige, with his gun drawn, but pointing toward the ground, took a position by the wall outside the

door, while guard Trombino brought the currency sacks out on a hand truck. Brinks driver Kelly pushed the buzzer, which opened the door, and Trombino loaded one currency sack on the truck. As he was loading the second sack, the shooting started. Brinks guard Paige was shot and killed immediately, and Brinks guard Trombino was shot in the arm while trying to secure the rear door of the truck. Brinks driver Kelly suffered minor injuries when the front window of the truck -- front window of the truck was blown in by two shotgun blasts. While one armed perpetrator kept the crowd at bay, the other two loaded six currency sacks, containing \$1,598,000 into the red Chevy van. The van was joined by a tan Honda with two women inside, and both vehicles were driven out of the mall parking lot together.

The Clarkstown Police Department was notified of the robbery. It was subsequently reported that the red Chevrolet van had been abandoned in Nanuet, and that the perpetrators switched to a U-Haul truck, which was accompanied by the tan Honda. Three police cars from the Clarkstown Police Department were in pursuit of both vehicles. Car number 382 pulled behind the U-haul. Car 384 was approximately 40 feet from the U-Haul, and car 383 was in an Exxon gas station across the road. Police officer Brian Lennon blocked the entrance to the New York State Thruway with his police vehicle, and pointed a

shotgun at the front of the U-Haul, at which point the U-Haul stopped.

Clarkstown Police Sergeant Edward O'Grady, and detective Arthur Keenan, approached the U-Haul, as Kathy Boudin exited the passenger side door of the cab of the truck and walked slowly away with her hands up, looking scared. An olive complexioned male also exited the cab of the truck, from the driver's side door. Detective Keenan checked the cab of the truck from both the driver side door and passenger side door. Detective Keenan found nothing in the cab, and then tried to check the rear of the truck, but was unable to open the rear overhead door. At this point Sergeant O'Grady exclaimed, "I don't think it's them," and ordered Officer Lennon to put his shotgun back in the car. Now, just a question, what happened right then, he said, "I don't think it's them," did anything else happen at that point where you --

A I was --

Q You had your hands up in the air.

A I had my hands up. Really, and the next thing I knew is they were shooting.

Q Okay. I'll go on then.

A All right.

Q "Detective Keenan attempted to open the rear door of the truck by pulling on the outside cable, and then walked toward

Sergeant O'Grady and Officer Brown, while stating to the driver, "I want that back door open." Detective Keenan then heard a noise, turned around, saw a black male wearing a ski mask, standing at the passenger side rear of the U-Haul truck, spraying bullets at him from a short barreled rifle.

Detective Keenan pulled his revolver and dove to the ground, seeking cover. He felt a bullet pass between his legs, and fired six rounds at the black male. Detective Keenan observed another black male run toward police car number 384. At that point, Police Officer Brown was lying on the ground, having already been shot. Sergeant O'Grady was taking cover behind the passenger side door of car 384. He had fired all six rounds from his revolver and was crouching and reloading. The black male that had been firing at Detective Keenan ran behind the passenger side of car 384 and sprayed Sergeant O'Grady with automatic rifle fire.

Officer Lennon then fired two shotgun shots at the person by the U-Haul truck. Someone then jumped into the cab of the U-Haul, which was idling, and rammed the police car. Officer Lennon saw a black male driving and fired two shots into the cab of the U-Haul, then drew his revolver and fired two additional shots into the cab.

The shooting stopped, and officers at the scene gave first aide to Sergeant O'Grady and Officer Brown. An off-duty correction

officer had taken Ms. Boudin into custody nearby on an overhead bridge on the New York State Thruway.

Detective Keenan checked the cab of the U-Haul and saw what appeared to be a sawed off shotgun on the front seat. Ski goggles, a banana ammunition clip, and \$798,000 were found in the back of the U-Haul.” Did you have a sawed off shotgun on the front seat?

A No.

Q You’re saying that wasn’t there?

A It wasn’t there when I was there.

Q When you were there. Okay. “Codefendant Judith Clark was driving the tan Honda. Two other perpetrators commandeered two other vehicles, which were used to flee the scene of the shootout. One vehicle was abandoned, and the suspects fled the area in the tan Honda and a white Oldsmobile. The tan Honda subsequently crashed into a wall and the occupants, Miss Clark and David Gilbert, were placed under arrest.

Codefendant Samuel Brown was taken into custody to Nyack Hospital. A firearm was found in the Honda and \$800,000 was recovered from the trunk. Miss Clark had a clip of ammunition for the firearm.

Codefendant Donald Weems was arrested on January 20, 1982, in an apartment in the Bronx, New York, by agents of the FBI and detectives from New York City Police Department. Upon

his arrest, several weapons were found at the location, including a 9 millimeter handgun and a shotgun. Mr. Weems' palm print was found on the tag of one of the currency sacks. Brinks guard Peter Paige, police officer Waverly Brown, and Sergeant Edward O'Grady died as a result of their wounds. Detective Keenan was superficially wounded, and Brinks guard Joseph Trombino was wounded in his arm. Okay. That's what the record states. Is there anything else, anything that you would like to change or you would say is different from what happened there?

A No.

Q Okay. Let me -- I have some questions about what happened and I know you've gone through this before, and there's a lot of information here, but we'd like to hear it from you. It makes it obvious, otherwise we wouldn't have interviews like we do, we would just do it based on the record. Do you see what I mean? So, tell us in your own words how you got involved in this?

A It was very horrible to listen to that description of it.

Q Yeah.

A It was horrible and it was a terrible crime, and when I sit here, there are things I want to say that I feel ashamed that I was a part of the crime in which so much suffering happened and even if no suffering had happened it was illegal to even try to

do something like that. I knew from the moment I was arrested or the night, the first night in jail, that although there was an idea that this robbery would be a help to help the community, that my presence there was a lot of reflection of my own personal problem. And it was my weaknesses, not just problems, but my weaknesses, and that I rationalized it. I thought about it as this is a way to deal with the problems of poverty, the cutbacks in the programs that were happening then, that it was a way to show power, but in reality I feel that I was there to prove my own -- to prove to myself that I was somebody that was committed. For a long time I had been living underground, but what does that mean, it meant that I was living with different names, different --

Q Before you go there.

A Yes.

Q You were affiliated with the SDS at some point or you --

A In the early '60's, in the late '60's.

Q The reason I'm going there, because you mentioned going underground, so you have to explain how you go back there, and then what happened. Was there a bomb that blew up in the house or your father's townhouse, was it?

A No, it was --

Q Was it a townhouse?

A Yeah, but it didn't have anything to do with my family.

Q Okay. Start from there.

A Okay. In the early '60's, mid-'60's after I left college, I became part of the civil rights movement and I moved to Cleveland, Ohio. And it was my first time living in conditions of poverty, and also, I had come from a family where I had assumed that whatever I did with my life in some way it was going to help society. It's just how -- it's the values that you grow up believing. I was going to be a doctor for a long time. My first 10 to 12 years, half way through college I was going to be a doctor and as the civil rights movement started I felt like being a doctor seemed distant from really working with people to have equality. So I switched and I thought, well, hey, maybe I'll do something like be a lawyer and help with the movement. That was happening. And then I ended up going to work with the project community organizing community activity in Cleveland. Originally I was working with people that would come up from West Virginia, from the mines, when the mines closed. And then I started working with women that were on Welfare, and part of what happened to me was I felt my own background had given me certain opportunities to have the kind of education and I felt that the people I was meeting had so many odds against them, it was everything from race to class to just expectations -- I felt really, I felt guilty about it. And I felt I wanted to become part of the

movement that would create more equality for people. And it became the main thing that I wanted to do. But, as the years went on, as the '60's went on, I was somebody who grew up with the assumption of peace, I guess, I believed that it was changing, things were changing and I didn't believe the violence was right, I thought that it was wrong. And then as the violence got more, or more intense during the '60's and people started getting killed and assassinated, it threw me into a situation of confusion, I guess, is the best thing to say. I felt that peaceful protests seemed to be not working. And I also had my own personal issues that were happening at the same time. And I didn't come from a situation where my life was in a situation where I didn't come from the same either poverty or a lot of problems and when I sit and listen to women talk about their lives here, in so many ways they had so many more challenges than I did. But, I had my own problems, my own weaknesses and some of it, I think I had tremendous sense of self-doubt in myself. And when I tried to figure out where it came from, I spent a lot of years working on that in here.

Q How long did you go underground, what happened that forced you to go underground?

A I chose that, because --

Q What happened for you to choose to go underground, wasn't there --

A There was -- I was active doing educational work against the war in New York and I had been sick for a couple of months, I had mononucleosis. I was at my parent's house and I was doing, basically, working with kids that were all on campuses and teaching them their rights and doing education work around the war. And I was staying overnight at this house, it was like a movement house. It was a place where people were having discussions, talking about the work that they were doing. And I was taking a shower the next morning and the house collapses around me, essentially. And I subsequently learned that people had been actually making a bomb in the basement of that house. And people were killed. The people that were killed were not people that I knew that, well, one I knew better than the others, but at that point I chose to go underground, because I thought it was a sign of commitment to furthering the protests, I guess is the best way to say it. And it also meant -- it was to show I was really committed. I think the two things coincided, partly I was expressing my own feelings of, well, these people died and sacrificed their lives, and if I'm going to be something that should express my commitment, I should do something that really does that, so...

Q And how does going underground do that?

A The way it did it for me was a way of saying I'm not going to be somebody that's going to pursue a regular middle class life. I'm not going to be somebody that's -- that was of a time when the issues of equality and the war in Vietnam are the main things that are happening. I don't want to be a white person that was just going to say, okay, I'm going to take advantage of the privileges that I grew up with, which just to go to graduate school, I felt wasn't enough, I felt that it wasn't an adequate sign of commitment. And for me to show my commitment, become overwhelmingly poor, part of it, I think was that I had needs for myself, my own ego to say, I'm a great person, so I'm committed. I wish I could say it was just normal principles, but I feel I was very driven to prove myself, but at the time, I was in a lot of confusion about what I was going to do with my own life, how I was going to be so under -- I was changing my name, I'm not going to have a house, I'm not going to college, I'm not going to pursue basically a background which I was saying at the time was one of privilege. I don't see it the same way now. I see it very differently now.

Q So, how do you earn a living, how did you survive?

A Waitressed, clean houses, sales lady. And I felt that in doing that I was simply -- in doing that I was expressing in a way, if I had been Catholic, maybe I would have thought of poverty, but

it was like saying I'm not going to pursue the life I could have had.

Q So, you did this for 11 years?

A Basically.

Q Were you doing any demonstration? You were involved with demonstrations during that time, right?

A I was during the first period of that time, I was involved in a larger community, I guess you'd have to say which involved -- I did a lot of educational work in that time. Other people built bombs during that time, and I thought that it was all right to do that, because I felt that it was a way to protest. I don't feel that way now. I feel that it's wrong. At that time, I thought that as long as nobody got hurt, as the idea was to do property damage, that was all right. And I don't feel that way now, because I feel like people could have gotten hurt, and that it's wrong.

Q So, how did you get involved with this particular crime?

A After the middle of the '60's, after the middle of the '70's the community that I had been a part of fell apart entirely. I think part of it was the war was over and it was a different period of history. And I had that option to go to Chicago and face the charges of demonstration that I had been part of, and get probation like most people.

COMM. BOUEY: Let me understand something. When you say the community-- that you felt the community that you were involved with fell apart, are you talking about the Weathermen underground --

INMATE: Talking about the Weathermen underground, yes.

BY COMM. MANLEY

Q They were in existence from 1978 --

A '78 --- '75.

Q So, they just fell apart?

A At the end of the period, it was like an end of a period of history, and there were a lot of political decisions and splits and people, it was like the conditions had changed that led it to come into existence.

Q Okay.

A Because the war was over and there wasn't -- it wasn't the same kind of protest movement in this country after that. And so people --

COMM. BOUEY: And so at that point did you feel stronger or even or have even greater passion about what led you to get involved in this kind of movement to begin with or had they mellowed or minimized to a certain extent because of all the things that had taken place during that time where you were at --

INMATE: Yeah, and --

COMM. BOUEY: You were coming out, no?

INMATE: I want to say where I was at, I feel embarrassed to say that, but it felt, it's the truth, that I was having panic attacks about the fact that I didn't know what I was going to do with my life and who I was going to be and the issue of what was really happening in society that I was supposed to be caring about was actually not the main thing that I was -- that was on my mind.

COMM. BOUEY: So, you decided to what then?

INMATE: I decided to stay living a life that was with a changed name and changed identity, because it made me feel that I was remaining committed.

COMM. BOUEY: So, you did that for how many years after '75, '76?

INMATE: I did that until I was arrested.

COMM. BOUEY: Until you were actually arrested?

INMATE: Yes.

COMM. BOUEY: So, as a matter of fact, you were living as a fugitive for that period of time.

INMATE: I was living that way.

It's just that I wasn't being looked for very hard. And the only charge against me were demonstrations in Chicago, but it became my identity. I said to myself every day, I am an important person, because I am not just going to rejoin middle class society. And it was, I don't know what to say, it was unreal. It was not -- I wasn't an important person. And I was doing nothing on a day to day level that actually related to the things that I really cared about.

COMM. BOUEY: Or even more importantly that there were things that you could have done that --

INMATE: Yeah.

COMM. BOUEY: - to help the individuals that you say you were concerned about or to address some of the social ills that were in existence in this country during that time that would have been noble and would have fed, you know, your ego.

INMATE: Yeah.

COMM. BOUEY: And would have been real -- most things you could have done especially given your education, your privilege, your standing in the community, the access and opportunities that you had, many of varied individuals you were trying to desperately help did

not have that and you were put in an even greater position to be able to help them and to bring about significant social change.

INMATE: You're absolutely right, so that's when I have to look back and say why did I stay, what was going on that made me stay, because it didn't make no sense. It made no sense whatsoever. And I spent the last 22 years here, really --

BY COMM. MANLEY

Q Pondering?

A Pondering that and trying to understand it. I think that I had an image of myself as being the most committed simply by staying in that way of living. To have then gone back and become a teacher, taught, taught ESL or become a lawyer or work with communities around housing and all of that seemed to me to be average --- normal, but by staying in my situation I gave myself the sense that I was better.

COMM. BOUEY: Looking back retrospectively, keeping in mind what you just said, and I emphasize looking back retrospectively, because I'm considering where you claim your mind was at the time, do you feel that you allowed yourself to easily get involved with this group, the Black Liberation Army, to participate in what you claim you thought was going to be a robbery, because up

until that point in time you as this mundane privileged, middle classed white person had not done anything of any great significance or any great importance to validate your commitment to the cause, and that being involved as something as significant as this, although I understand that you say you didn't partial out the potential consequences for what could have happened and what did happen, that this was your chance to make your mark in the movement.

INMATE: Yes, I do think that's right, and I feel, like you said, it's better than I could say it, I'm sort of speechless, because I feel that you just said that, I feel that that was what happened year after year was that I became in a sense more and more desperate, that the sense of self that I was proclaiming to be, I'm a great committed person, that's about changing this country had no reality.

COMM. BOUEY: This would give you an opportunity to put something real to it.

INMATE: Yes. And even worse is that because it had no reality, I was -- my sense of self got more and more lost. Essentially, I had different names and I was living in a fantasy.

COMM. BOUEY: Is that also why a woman who was, I think you were, what, 37, 38 years old at the time of this crime took place --

INMATE: Yes --

COMM. BOUEY: Could put out of her mind the possibility, the great possibility or, let me just say, the great likelihood, I'll even take it to that level, that during the commission of a robbery, that weapons were going to be involved and then when weapons are involved, there's a great chance that people are either going to be hurt or lives could possibly be lost?

INMATE: I was able to put it out of my mind, because I was so desperate to be able to do something useful, and yet I was also about to make a major change in my life, which was, I had this process of knowing that the life was essentially destroying me as a person and finally made the decision that I was going to turn myself in to the authorities in Chicago and resume a normal life.

COMM. BOUEY: So, you decided -

INMATE: I decided that.

COMM. BOUEY: Prior to this?

INMATE: Yes, ** REDACTED ** I was dealing with knowing, after this 12 years that I was going to make the life was -- this life was destroying me and in a sense -- first, I had a child and I think that was my first step towards saying that I want to lead a normal life. Then I had him and having him and beginning to look for a daycare center

for him it pushed me more to saying, I want to lead a normal life. This is not making sense.

COMM. BOUEY: There was still that other piece that, obviously, was pulling you, because you also thought, I read in the record, that you took your son to the babysitter --

INMATE: Yes.

COMM. BOUEY: Fully intended to participate in this crime --

INMATE: And come back and picked him up.

COMM. BOUEY: -- and figure at the end of the day, you're simply going to go back to the babysitter and pick your baby up as if you had gone to work and done, you know, a normal 9 to 5?

INMATE: Yeah.

COMM. BOUEY: So, if that wasn't an example of distorted thinking, I don't know what was.

INMATE: Really, distorted, totally split thinking and because I had not been around guns, was not involved in it, I saw myself as not even involved in the robbery in a certain way, because I didn't have a relationship to it. I saw myself as waiting in a parking lot, essentially, to pick people up.

BY COMM. MANLEY

Q How was the connection between you and the Black Liberation Army?

A The group of people that were doing it, I don't know, I don't really know what the Black Liberation Army is, or --

Q Did you approach them or they approached you? I heard they approached you?

A No, I was in contact with David, who was my son's father, and we had two separate apartments, and sometimes we stayed together, sometimes we didn't. And they called him, and he asked me if I would go out and meet with him. He said his name was Bob and do something which would be, hopefully, not dangerous, and so when I was presented with the idea of waiting in a parking lot and people are going to do a robbery --

COMM. BOUEY: You didn't see that as dangerous?

INMATE: No, not at all.

COMM. BOUEY: You believed that at 30-something years old --

INMATE: Yeah.

COMM. BOUEY: An educated woman from a privileged background who had all of those things that you described, picking people up from a bank robbery is not being dangerous?

INMATE: Yeah, and I think again,
it shows how completely disturbed I was.

BY COMM. MANLEY

Q Yes. And prior to this your only record was --

A Demonstration.

Q Sentence of one year supervision for the stink bomb in '68.
And then you had a warrant outstanding for civil disturbance
in Chicago, right, in '69?

A Right. I was in demonstrations, and those have all been
dismissed at this point.

Q Okay.

A Yeah, I have never -- I had a romantic distorted notion of what
it was to fight to change things. It glorified it, yet, if anything
was borrowed in a romantic way from another country, this is
what it would be like, and I was able to create, in my mind,
that waiting in the truck --

Q No weapons?

A No.

Q You had no weapons?

A No, I never been around guns. No, I was able -- I think my
distance from everything allowed me to imagine it was -- it
was magical thinking. It was magical thinking.

COMM. BOUEY: I wonder how
much was magical thinking and how much of it was

unconscious distortion and how much of it was a very brilliant, I don't know, bifurcated participation on all this on your own part, in that you were smart enough to hang out on the periphery, so you associated with organizations that were clearly violent, you know, you associated with organizations that did things that hurt individuals, in spite of the fact that you speak very passionately about wanting to help disenfranchised people and help with the movement, the civil rights movement as it were, that that was taking place in the country at the time, but you were smart enough to get involved in a peripheral sense, such that maybe you'd rub elbows or maybe you'd rub shoulders to a certain extent with individuals that were involved in this stuff, but never got to the extent where you actually got dirty, never to the point where you were mixing and mingling with all the really horrible stuff that was happening. I wonder how much of that distorted thinking and how much of that was a part of your own ego and what was going on with you and what you described the issues that you were dealing with at that time?

INMATE: I think I was scared, not courageous, in that sense, I think that's true.

BY COMM. MANLEY

Q Okay.

BOUDIN, KATHY

84G0171

A And I had a lot of fears of violence. I feel like it was so odd to talk about things that happened so long ago and there's nothing that I want to say in justification, because I don't feel there is anything justified about what I did. I feel like it's completely wrong and I was, if anything, willfully blinded when I grew up. ** REDACTED ** And after that --

COMM. BOUEY: I thought you said ** REDACTED **

INMATE: Yeah, ** REDACTED **

COMM. BOUEY: That's what I --

INMATE: ** REDACTED ** And after that I developed a lot of fears about violence and, I don't know, I had a lot of phobias, I guess. And part of me was always afraid of violence, and part of me felt that it was --

COMM. BOUEY: Enticing, exciting?

INMATE: I don't know, but I certainly, when I was growing up in the '60's, it was like my generation was part of a divide between my generation and my parent's generation where, well, do you feel it's right for people to fight or do you feel that, no, people should just do peaceful protests and in part, in a way, go beyond my parents and say, that I feel that is legitimate, but it was debated, and it was a matter of debate, so I came down on the side of the

part that says sometimes peaceful protests are not enough, and I feel that I was wrong. I don't think there is anything, I don't think it's right, I feel that part of what I've learned since I've been in prison, there's other discussions, but I feel that the hard part is the peaceful work of dealing with the problems are the only way to deal with the pain and the problems that are around us.

BY COMM. MANLEY

Q So, you know, unless Commissioner Bouey has other questions, I was just going to say, to complete the scenario, that what happened after the war, you know, we're at the scene where the shooting has taken place, people are wounded, you're with your hands in the air and at some point you flee, right?

A Before, I didn't see anybody.

Q You didn't see anybody?

A I heard metal crash and it must have been the back of the truck crashing up, and I heard shouting.

Q Okay.

A And I was terrified. I was panicked, partly started with having a shotgun pointed at my head and then having guns at me and I just panicked.

Q And you fled?

A Yeah.

BOUDIN, KATHY

84G0171

Q And who caught you?

A An officer on the New York State Thruway.

Q On the Thruway?

A Yes.

Q All right.

COMM. MANLEY: Do you have any more questions about the robbery?

COMM. BOUEY: I want to go back to the sawed off shotgun being found on the front seat. You said that as far as you knew there were no weapons in the front part of that U-Haul?

INMATE: No, I wouldn't have -- I never had a gun in my life, and I wouldn't have had a gun, and David didn't have a gun.

COMM. BOUEY: So, you're unable to explain to us, why is it that when the detective checked the cab of the U-Haul, he saw what appeared to be a sawed off shotgun?

INMATE: No, I think the record shows that after I was already out and after the shooting had started, somebody jumped into the U-Haul.

COMM. BOUEY: That's where the gun came from?

INMATE: Yeah, I think that's what they assumed, because I know there was never -- there was never an accusation that I --

COMM. BOUEY: About you having a weapon?

INMATE: No. I would have gone back to your point, I would have been terrified to have one.

COMM. BOUEY: Okay. All right.

BY COMM. MANLEY

Q Just at the point where you decided you wanted to come out and you thought you might want to live a normal life with babysitters and all that, what do you think you would do, what was your aspirations then, do you have any idea?

A **** REDACTED ****. And I think probably a teacher or maybe, I don't know, if I had gone to law school, I probably would not have been somebody who even went into the court, but did community education, you know, use the ability to work with people, that's really what I'm best at doing. And what I like to do, I would say community education in some form, whether as a teacher or lawyer or something.

Q You got a less of a sentence than everybody else, considerably less than everybody else. And you pled guilty. Why do you feel that is? I mean, some obvious reasons are there for that,

but there was a plea involved, there was some negotiations involved, right?

A Yeah, that was as soon as I was arrested --

Q Yeah.

A ---because I already was in so much conflict about my life not making sense, as soon as I was arrested it was as if I was -- I don't want to really use the word brainwashed, but I was free and away from the way of thinking that had trapped me for so many years. And I looked at what we had done as a terrible thing. I mean, I felt I was horrified that I had grown up wanting to be a doctor and here I am and three people are dead, and I'm responsible for this. And I just said, I don't want to be. I don't' want to be. I don't want to in any way defend what I was just part of.

Q Did the others plead guilty, do you know?

A No.

Q They took it to trial?

A Yes, -- they didn't really take it to trial. They did what was called -- they said they didn't believe in the court's right to judge them, and that's what led to the cases being severed, initially, which preceded the plea, that they wanted to do a political trial in which they, basically, put the system on trial, and at that point, I felt at that point--- I felt that whatever problems there were with the system, there were more

problems with what I had been part of, and I knew I needed, and I wanted to plead guilty, because I was guilty.

COMM. BOUEY: Just to take you back to something for a minute, excuse me.

COMM. MANLEY: Sure.

COMM. BOUEY: Can you explain to us what you understood your role in this crime was going to be again?

INMATE: My role was going to be a white person in a truck that would move safely unidentified in the neighborhood.

COMM. MANLEY: With the loot.

COMM. BOUEY: With the people as well.

COMM. MANLEY: With the people as well.

INMATE: With people jumping in the back of the truck. I had no idea if they had money or not.

COMM. BOUEY: Well, they were robbing a bank.

INMATE: Yeah, but I didn't have any idea whether there were other cars, other vehicles taking money. I didn't know that.

BOUDIN, KATHY

84G0171

COMM. BOUEY: I'm just trying to be clear as to what your understanding is --

INMATE: Yes.

COMM. BOUEY: As to your participation in all this was going to be. So, to go over this again, that you were going to be a white woman that was going to be --

INMATE: A passenger.

COMM. BOUEY: A passenger in a van?

INMATE: Yes.

COMM. BOUEY: And this van would be people who had participated in the robbery?

INMATE: Yes.

COMM. BOUEY: And perhaps whatever loot they were able to get as a result of the robbery?

INMATE: Yes.

COMM. BOUEY: And where did you think the van was going to be taking them to?

INMATE: I had no idea. I knew that David knew, David was told where to drive the truck.

COMM. BOUEY: So, you had no idea when you agreed to do this where you were going to be going?

BOUDIN, KATHY

84G0171

INMATE: No.

COMM. BOUEY: As a passenger in
the van?

INMATE: No, no.

COMM. BOUEY: You never said,
well --

INMATE: And I didn't say what is
the money for. I thought as a white person involved in
supporting a struggle, that was essentially a Black struggle
that it was wrong for me to know anything.

COMM. BOUEY: Why?

INMATE: Because that's the
highest level of --

COMM. BOUEY: Commitment?

INMATE: Commitment.

COMM. BOUEY: So, you didn't
ask them?

INMATE: Yes.

COMM. BOUEY: They called, you
received the call --

INMATE: Exactly.

COMM. BOUEY: This is my final --
my day, my time?

INMATE: Yes.

COMM. BOUEY: I'll go.

INMATE: You seem to have it.

COMM. BOUEY: And I'm deliberately being dramatic, because that's kind of how it sounds.

INMATE: That's it.

COMM. BOUEY: And I'll ask no questions, I'll just do whatever is asked of me?

INMATE: Well --

COMM. BOUEY: Take me, I'm yours.

INMATE: I'm not going to do whatever -- I was willing to do that role, that I felt was safe.

COMM. BOUEY: Well, you were willing to do that role and not know where you were going, I mean, you potentially put your own life in jeopardy or in danger.

INMATE: I clearly did put my life in jeopardy. I was terrified.

COMM. BOUEY: Yeah.

INMATE: Yes, because I had an ideology, I had a framework that said, essentially, white people, because of having privileges, are essentially bad.

COMM. BOUEY: So, this was a chance for you to do two things, not only assuage the guilt you had been feeling for so many years being white and privileged by helping this organization, but also you were in a position where you could use your whiteness as it were as a decoy, is that not right, is that not one of the reasons you were deliberately chosen or asked to fulfill this particular role, because a white woman and a passenger in a van was less likely to attract attention from police than a person of color?

INMATE: Yes. I think the idea was, in my mind, I was a white --

(Whereupon reporter had to change paper.)

COMM. BOUEY: You said in your mind you were a white person in a truck.

INMATE: And a robbery was being done by black people and the truck would not be seen, would not be noticed, and that I would drive through the neighborhood on the thruway to wherever it was going, unnoticed.

COMM. BOUEY: Because not only with a white person in a truck, but a white woman in the truck and the likelihood of a white woman committing such a crime like that was slim.

INMATE: Yes.

COMM. BOUEY: At least back then. Things have changed.

INMATE: Yes, yes.

COMM. BOUEY: Since that time, but --

INMATE: I had -- part of what I had done during the years that I was waitressing and trying to figure out, trying to give meaning to my life was I did a lot of reading about the Civil War period and the abolitionists of government, and I thought about, a lot about the white woman at the time in history that had helped in the underground railway. So I took into myself the idea that that's what I'm doing, I'm like that, but it was distorted and I was --

COMM. BOUEY: You should write a book, or write something.

INMATE: It was a complete distorted disturbed view, and you can have political discussions about it, but in reality I was a disturbed person that was living a life that made no sense. So, yes, I saw myself on that day like the white women during the Civil War and that abolitionist government. I don't know who is a runaway slave, you know, they don't know who was a runaway slave, I don't know who jumped into the truck, they moved from one house to another house, I don't know, it's not for me to -- in

fact, it shows that I'm willing to, in a sense, relinquish both the power as a white person. I have not asked questions, it was a sick -- it was a completely sick, it was sick.

COMM. BOUEY: And jeopardizes your baby while you're out there --

INMATE: Yeah, it was. Moving myself --

COMM. BOUEY: Yeah.

INMATE: And it was part of why I was able to say to myself -- and part of why I was able to say to myself oh, this is completely safe, because I was planning to go right back home and pick up my son.

COMM. BOUEY: Okay. Thank you.

BY COMM. MANLEY

Q We have voluminous material that has come in, and obviously, we have read almost everything, I think every letter of pro-release here, against your release, and we've read the sentencing minutes. I think, if I can, I'll quote what it says. It says, "When we negotiated and bargained for the imposition of minimum period, I did that fully recognizing parole authorities would release Ms. Boudin at the expiration of that period." Who said that?

A Judge Ritter.

Q How did you feel when you weren't released at your first Parole Board? Did you expect to be released?

A Many people that have had violent crimes have not been released on their first board, so that in a sense, I didn't necessarily expect to be released. I hoped I would be, but I can't say that I expected it.

Q Okay. let's talk about what you've been doing with your time over the last two years and then we can go beyond that, because I think to do you justice, you've done a lot in prison. But, let's start with what have you been doing in the last two years?

A In the last two years I've been working as an aide in the hospital, in the new program that was called Palliative Care Program. I believe it's been set up in different regional medical units in the system, and it was set up here a year ago, year and a half ago.

Q That was for terminally ill people, they did a rehab sort of thing?

A Yes, yes.

Q Okay.

A And I do different things there. I mean, I do everything from sitting with people who are dying and help make some sense out of life. So I work with women who were high risk pregnancies and did like a nine week prenatal class with them.

We developed what we called a woman's corner where we -- anybody up there that wanted to participate, and a lot of people did, some people that were terminally ill, people that were just experiencing a broken leg or really severe asthma, where we would talk about everything from pregnancy, delivery, hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, or body parts, basically, it was a woman's group, which there was a combination of information.

Q You helped put that together?

A Yes, I did.

Q Okay. And then the AIDS organization, did you help do that?

A Yes. This work that I've been doing in the hospital is in a way related to the AIDS work, but what part I've learned since I've been in prison, is I don't see myself as helping people, and I don't see myself as having to be great and that I share the problems with people here. And I've been able to use whatever strength I have, but it's been a very collaborative experience working with people. When AIDS came here and people were dying, it was like 20% of the women coming into the prison. It was very high. It was like as high as Africa like, it was incredible. And in the late '80's, people just starting dying, and nobody knew why. And it started to have a name and everybody was afraid and we made a proposal to the superintendent about trying to do something in this community. And it was enormous community effort, and I

feel really honored that I had the experience of being part of it. It made a big difference here.

Q What are you most proud of in terms of what you've accomplished here?

A I don't know. I think that the parenting work for me, it so relates to -- directly to the crime, I feel that I left other families without fathers to raise them, and I left my own son without parents to raise him. And so the parenting work that I've done, really, it's an attempt to atone for that to the best that one can, even though that can't be done. So, the classes that I have facilitated and worked with that are classes where people asked how could I have left my child --

Q Did you fully design the program?

A Yes, I did. Yes. And I think that the parenting, from a distance class which are designed with another woman, it starts off with why did I become a mother. And what did I think my responsibilities were going to be and how did I end up now leaving my children. And then from that people begin to ask the question, not just how did it end up that I left my own child, but how did it end up that I was doing something that hurt other people. So, exploring parenting issues has related to the exploring of everything that brought people to prison and then we created a team program, because the mother said, you know, these support groups are great for us,

what can we do for our own kids. And I think that was -- that's one of the things that I feel best about.

Q The teen program?

A The teen program, because we created the teen support groups, and hopefully, it will support them in terms of not having to end up in prison.

Q I understand that you've also taught workshops in the Family Court and in Foster Care, and things like that.

A Yes. That was the first work I did when I came here was doing that kind of work.

Q And while you've been in prison you've acquired a Masters Degree?

A Yes, I did.

Q And that's Vermont College?

A It was in Norwich, it's an independent study program.

Q Vermont College, not in Vermont.

A I think it is in Vermont, I don't know.

Q All right. Maybe it is.

A It is, yes, it used to be part of Goddard College, then I think it switched to Norwich University.

Q Okay. I also understand that you did some work with Bank Street College, it's in Manhattan, Bank Street College?

A When I was working with the children's center, the women who are the care givers of the kids that visit in the visiting

room, when I worked with Bank Street it was designing a training program for the women who are inmates who are taking care of the kids, and Bank Street now does a certified program with the care givers, and I helped design that with them.

Q Okay. And I understand this prison has a college program that you helped bring in, is that true?

A That's true. I heard people for a while, I heard people mention Mercy -- it was Mercy, now it's Marymount.

Q Marymount College?

A Yes.

Q And I had no idea that it was associated with you in some way, but what we have, a lot of women we have seen have gone through Marymount College and have gotten some benefits from it. How did you do that?

A Again, it was like very much like the AIDS situation and like the teens situation, and it's so different from what my years were like before I was arrested. I'm living in a community and we have problems, we have issues and so part of it is how do we best fully constructively, in the system, work to deal with those issues. And I feel that it worked.

Q How did you get them to contribute money, because it's a privately funded --

A Well, then again, we went to the superintendent, a group of us, and said we know college was eliminated and throughout the country, when PELL and TAP grants were eliminated, and we felt that there was enough support from people in the New York area to know that education is critical for people changing the direction of their lives. It is, I think it's the most important thing, recidivism rate for people who have college education is like 3 % from the prison, and it's a critical thing, and so we said to the superintendent, could we -- would you think about the idea of bringing college back, but privately funded. And he said, he thought if it could be done, it would be good to try. So, a group of people came together, civilians, the superintendent, inmate community, and we worked for a year and a half and networked, basically, with people outside, and the help of Marymount College at the time that agreed to offer the degree and her name was Regina Pulugy and she also went around to other colleges and brought them in to meet with us. And we created a new motto which was a consortium model where different colleges were done, got professors and then the funding raising would go to hire the staff, to actually run the program here, and it worked.

Q How do you fund raise?

A Well, I don't fund raise, but the superintendent would bring people in to meet with inmates and in a way they're their best advocates.

Q I see.

A And then people would grant, you know, civilians involved will grants and we spoke about what does it mean to have college, you know, it gives the possibility of changing the direction of life.

Q You completed the ART, right?

A Yes, I have.

Q And is there any other programs, any other things that you were involved in that you think we should know about that you think is important?

A A program of living in prison. I feel like I landed in a reality in which I grew to accept that I didn't have to be great and I didn't have to feel terrible. I could be normal with other people here and work, you know, in a very cooperative way with administration to actually solve real problems. And it allowed me to look back and say that the years that I thought I was the greatest and in reality was feeling terrible, that that wasn't the solution.

Q What you're doing to solve problems is great, I think this is wonderful, but doesn't that give you a status that you were trying to sort of shed in a way?

A No, I don't think so.

Q People know what you did, although that you're perhaps the catalyst for a number of these programs, it's --

A There's a lot of talented women here.

Q Okay.

A And different women have different talents in different ways, and I have the benefit of working with so many women that have talents that I would never have and that's part of what's been so, I guess, that's part of how I've grown, is understanding I have certain abilities in that and other people have abilities in the way to actually work on problems and that's to work together to deal with them, and I feel like I'm 60, it's just different, my life is -- I'm entering the last part of my life.

Q Right.

A And I know that I feel the -- the remorse that I feel has been a source of hope, because I guess I feel like it's been something I've been able to learn from.

Q You have no tickets since 1989. I'm reading from the report. And in the 22 years you've been in prison, what do you have, two Tier IIs?

A Something like that, yes. Long time ago.

Q Well, it shows certain degree of skill to even accomplish that in a prison setting. But, what do you -- I read certain things,

but, you know, things often, things changes when you come in front of us and it changes when they're sitting in that seat in terms of what they want to do in their lives. You have job offers to work in a law firm, research firm, I read you want to get your PhD. What do you want to accomplish?

A I'd like to think that I would have an opportunity outside to work in a community, in an institution, maybe a school, maybe it would be a Social Service agency and take the lessons, both the negative lessons of what I did, the crime that I did, that brought me here and the positive lessons of the experiences that I've had here, in a different way of working and a different way of solving things and go home and be able to do that inside of a community based institution at home. I think that's my best work, my best way of using my own strengths is really in small groups, whether it's a classroom or a parenting class, I would like to -- I feel the particular fact that I was in on a crime in which violence devastated a community, it devastated families, it killed people, if I could work with kids, youths, even though they would see me as probably very old, but if I could work with them and talk about alternatives.

Q I think that's a way of capturing that, isn't it?

A My age?

Q No, I'm talking about crime, that's exciting to you, but you have an opportunity to weave in the lessons of that.

A I definitely would. I feel that the crime is always going to be with me, always.

Q You've written articles, published --

A Academic.

Q Academic stuff?

Q Yeah. I was part of a writing group here, that was a wonderful experience. We all, all of us, basically, explored the crimes that brought us here. And I had written something about my remorse, my regret about that.

Q Your kind of case is so difficult, because you've accomplished so much in prison. I think you've really made -- I don't have to ask you what the changes are, you've answered that through many of our questions, and at the same time we have lives that are lost. And, the fact that has impacted on families and other people, so it's a very difficult decision. But, we'll try our best to make a good one.

COMM. MANLEY: But,

Commissioner, you have some questions?

COMM. BOUEY: I have another

question that comes to mind. One could interpret, Ms.

Boudin, all of the work that you've done since you've been

here at Bedford, albeit significant in terms of having a positive

impact on the lives of the women that you've come in contact with as a means of keeping you facing, actually facing the suffering that you caused, so you need to help me understand the distinction between the emotional satisfaction that you're getting, that it seems you're getting from the work you've been involved in over these many years, and some of the issues that you talked about that you were dealing with when you were associated with some of those violent groups, because I see some similarities, I see the notoriety that you've achieved as a result of the work you've done as fulfilling some of those desires and needs that you had before to be seen as someone who was committed to the cause and dedicated, and in many instances, some of these women you're dealing with now come from the same kind of background, from the same social existence as the people that you were concerned about working with, many, many years ago. So, help me to understand what is so different?

INMATE: I think I've grown up caring about issues of social justice and equality, and I guess I feel like I have a constructive way to do that instead of destructive way. But, I don't think my personal needs are the same as they were 30 years ago, 20 years ago. Part of it is it was in the years that I was needing to be a great person and save the world, the gap between what I was doing on a day to

day level and what was going on, and in my mind was so great that I was desperate at the time, and in here I don't feel desperate. I feel that I'm living my life on a day to day level and when there's an issue that comes up or when there is something that I'm studying that I'm interested in, then I try to work on it and do something about it, but I don't feel the need to prove myself in the way that I used to.

BY COMM. MANLEY

Q Okay.

A And I have a lot of time in here where I'm alone and I'm in my cell and I'm reading and I'm learning and I write poetry and my first step in facing the suffering, because it was there, there was suffering leaving my son, and that was what was closest at the time, and I centered my life and my focus on him. And I think family, friends, it's like there's one life and my life, even though I've done good things in here, it's not the totality of who I am. In fact, the 20 years I was in here, the 19 years I was in here before I went to Parole Board I didn't have anything directly to do with the outside world. I wasn't, in my mind, I didn't want to write for the outside world except to be in academic things. I was trying to just live a life in here, and that's what I did. I wasn't a person that was a high profile person on the outside. I didn't live my life like that. Now I'm going to the Board, I become a high profile person, but it

wasn't how I lived my life for 20 years. There are people in here that wrote in the media and wrote their book and did their thing, that wasn't what I wanted. It's not what I did. But, I think in terms of facing suffering, it's a process, it's hard to face the suffering when you're responsible for people's death. I first got myself on my feet in here, but then after I felt a little time had gone by, I wanted to face it. I wanted to read the newspapers and know what I was responsible for. I wanted to meet people who had suffered because of what I had done, but you're not allowed in New York State to contact them. I had the fortunate experience of meeting one of the women that was the victim of the crime.

Q Yeah.

A And it was really important when it happened, it was completely coincidental. She was involved in doing AIDS work, because her brother was a hemophiliac, and she came here as a volunteer. And I didn't know who she was.

Q When did she recognize that you were the person that --

A She must have -- she knew, because we had just started to work on the program and --

Q She recognized you right away?

A She knew my name.

Q She knew your name?

A Yeah. I think people said to her, well, you know, Kathy is involved in doing this work here and we had just started, we had not even created AC, we went to the superintendent --

Q I think she also wrote you a letter?

A She did.

Q On your behalf.

A Right. And she ended up no longer being allowed to volunteer here. Once the superintendent knew who she was, and I didn't know who she was at the time, and then just through the whole experience of her having met -- of me having met her and people on the outside running into her, she ultimately came and visited me. And I was able to sit and listen to her describe that day and what happened, and that she had a gun stuck in her head, her car was commandeered, and she was a witness, she was a witness for the prosecution. She was their key witness, because she had watched everything happen. And she was proud that she had put me away into prison. And the experience of meeting with her was the beginning of my hearing her on a personal level of what it was like to be in a robbery and what it meant. And what it meant when I said, oh, it's okay to do a robbery, you know. Since then I have wanted to meet with people. I wanted to meet with the families of the victims. I've done -- I would welcome if they

BOUDIN, KATHY

84G0171

wanted to hear from me, but I know that I already intruded on their lives and I don't have a right to do that again.

COMM. BOUEY: Many, many of those people hate you.

INMATE: And they hate me and I know that they hate and I understand their rage to the degree that I can, and I know they'll never forgive me, I understand that.

BY COMM. MANLEY

Q You're going to live with **** REDACTED **** ?

A Yes.

Q There's a letter of assurance that they'll put you up. What's your relationship with them?

A I met them when I was in college 40 years ago.

Q What college did you go to?

A I went to Bryn-Mawr (sic) College and they were there about -- they're two years older than me and they were in college and I met them and they were doctors in Cleveland and they were doing medical school in Cleveland when I went there, so, I've known them since about 1961.

Q Okay.

COMM. MANLEY: Commissioner, any questions?

COMM. BOUEY: I have nothing further. Thank you.

BY COMM. MANLEY

Q We're going to consider your case and get back to you with a decision. As I said before, it's a difficult one, because you've done so much time, so we have to weigh that against the crime that you're accused of and being a participant in the deaths of individuals. Is there anything else that you want to say that we have not talked about that you think is interesting or that you think that may help us to make a more informed decision?

A No. I said this at my last Board, but I'll just say it again, that there's people good and well intentioned people who think that I would take some consolation from the fact that I didn't personally kill anybody, but I don't feel that way. I feel that I am responsible, because I felt the robbery was a right thing to do and because I was involved in the escape and I feel it makes me responsible for everything that happened from it. Also about a month ago, I got -- I was on an outside trip. I have not really been out of the prison, I've only been out twice in the 20 years I've been here. And this time, we went into a doctor's office in a town and I got to see people on the streets, and I got to see stores and people on cell phones, and I tried to imagine a robbery happening there, you know, and I was

looking at a mother wheeling her baby down the street in a baby carriage, and I tried to imagine what it was like the morning that Peter Paige left and said good bye to his wife, and then he's just doing his job and a robbery happens and he's killed. And that was the last conversation they had. And the same with Waverly Brown and Sergeant O'Grady. And I just felt that I will always live with that responsibility. And also that this 22 years, and I feel that remorse has also given me hope that I don't have to be frozen in that past, that by feeling the remorse that I feel it allowed me to change and that I have a dream of being able to go home and take the really hard lesson and be able to work at home and do things and just be a normal hard working person.

Q Thank you.

A Thank you.

COMM. BOUEY: That's it. Thank you.

DECISION

Open date 10/1/03 OE.

Special conditions: I will seek, obtain and maintain employment and/or academic vocational program.

Commissioner Bouey concurs.

SGP

CERTIFICATION

**I, JOSEPH R. D'AMBROSIO, HEARING REPORTER, DO
HEREBY CERTIFY THESE MINUTES TO BE A TRUE AND
ACCURATE TRANSCRIPT OF THE TESTIMONY TO THE BEST
OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.**

SIGNATURE: /S/ JOSEPH R. D'AMBROSIO

DATE: AUGUST 21, 2003