

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chuck Banks  
Mac Dodson

FROM: Bob Govar *Bob*

DATE: March 29, 1990

RE: Saline County Investigation

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The purpose of this memorandum is to supplement my previous memorandum of February 13, 1990, with regard to the Saline County investigation. We continue our assault on drug trafficking and official public corruption in Saline County through continuing investigation, witness interviews and undercover drug investigations. Since my February 13, 1990, memo we have interviewed a number of other witnesses and have continued with drug operations and arrests in Saline County. As far as witnesses are concerned we have interviewed the following witnesses: (1) Tony Mullins; (2) Finnis Criswell; (3) Jerry Easom; (4) Johnny L. Green; (5) Teresa Sturch; and (6) Amy Murphy. As far as undercover drug investigations and arrests we have executed federal search warrants in Saline County at the residence of William Edward Ross, William Edward Ross, III and William Edward Ross' son-in-law. As a result of these search warrants we have seized evidence indicating the continuing existence of indoor marijuana growing operations in Saline and Perry Counties headed by William Edward Ross and his son. We intend to present an indictment in the April session of the grand jury charging the Rosses and Ross' son-in-law with conspiracy to manufacture marijuana based on evidence seized showing the existence of an indoor marijuana growing operation. As a part of the evidence seized we uncovered order forms from a place known as the Seedbank in the Netherlands which specializes in furnishing catalogs in seeds for the growing of exotic forms of marijuana. It should be noted that we have previously indicted William Edward Ross for manufacturing marijuana as a result of his May 6, 1988 arrest by the Saline County Sheriff's Office. That particular case was initially filed in State Court in Saline County and was nol prossed without explanation by then Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Richard Garrett. We have also effected an undercover investigation and the execution of a search warrant at the Little Rock residence of Paul Criswell. Criswell is the son of Finnis Criswell, a long time friend and associate of Saline County drug dealer James Callaway. As will become more apparent below, we hope to be able to leverage Paul Criswell into providing us information relevant to the Saline County investigation.

The identities of additional witnesses who have been interviewed and a summary of their statements to this office and investigators is as follows:

Tony Mullins is the half-brother of James Davis Callaway. We currently have James Callaway under federal indictment for furnishing a sawed-off shotgun in a crime of violence, the crime being an armed robbery of a Lonoke County crap game during which Richard Winters was shot to death. A previous witness in this investigation, Carl Samples, provided us details of the planning and execution of that robbery. According to Samples, James Callaway planned the robbery and obtained the weapons which were used by the assailants during the course of the robbery. Samples told us that a sawed-off shotgun used in the robbery was purchased from a man by the name of Vanderberg by James Callaway while Samples and another individual, Tony Mullins, were present. According to Samples, Mullins was also a participant in the planning and execution of the robbery. Mullins has corroborated the details concerning the planning and execution of the robbery previously provided by Carl Samples. In addition, Mullins has given us other information concerning Callaway's involvement in the distribution of cocaine. Mullins has told us, for example, that Callaway asked him on a number of occasions if he would be interested in selling cocaine in Saline County for Callaway. As far as the robbery itself, Mullins has told us, as did Carl Samples, that James Callaway planned the robbery at his house, that he obtained the weapons that were used in the robbery and that he had engaged in a number of other criminal activities including burglaries, armed robberies and other acts of violence. Mullins' statement concerning the planning and preparation for the robbery by James Callaway was corroborated by his wife, Sherry Mullins, who was present at James Callaway's house the night the robbery was actually planned. Mullins told myself and investigators that a week or two after the robbery he overheard a conversation between James Callaway and Sylvania Peaks, the man who was running the crap game in Lonoke County, that the Sheriff of Lonoke County was not going to let any federal or state agency get involved in the investigation and that the Sheriff in Lonoke County was going to control the matter. The reference to the Sheriff of Lonoke County was apparently a reference to J. O. Isaacs, the current Sheriff of Lonoke County, Arkansas. Mullins also stated that during the course of the conversation between Sylvania Peaks and James Callaway, Peaks made reference to the fact that the Sheriff was paid a percentage of the game so that the game would not be raided by the Lonoke County Sheriff's Office. The information concerning the Sheriff of Lonoke County could possibly explain the Sheriff's reluctance to turn over his investigative file concerning the robbery of the crap game and his constant complaints concerning the federal Drug Task Force involvement in

the investigation.

Finnis Leroy Criswell has been interviewed in connection with the Saline County investigation during the latter part of February and the early part of March, 1990. Criswell stated that he would not provide any information concerning this matter until he had received a letter from the United States Attorney's Office providing him with use immunity. In the interviews that subsequently followed Finnis Criswell told investigators that he has worked for James Callaway for a number of years, up until recently when Callaway fired him. Criswell stated that he is aware that Callaway planned a number of robberies of trailers where the trailers were taken to Callaway's house, repainted and sold to private individuals or at auctions. Criswell stated that he personally participated in at least seven such episodes where trailers were stolen and turned over to Callaway. Criswell also stated that he has heard Callaway talk about cocaine and kilos of cocaine on a number of occasions with various people including Richard Sampley, Richard Garrett and Dan Harmon. Although Criswell personally denies ever being involved in drug dealing with Callaway, he strongly suspects that Callaway was dealing with other people since he talked about drugs so often. It should be noted that when Finnis Criswell appeared in my office he was virtually to the point of tears and appeared to have something on his mind which was really bothering him. When I asked Mr. Criswell why he was to the point of tears and was so visibly shaken he stated that he was afraid of what would happen to him since he had participated in the theft of a set of tires. In my opinion, and in the opinion of the investigators that were present, Finnis Criswell was not demonstrating such an emotional reaction based on fear of what might happen to him resulting from the theft of a set of automobile tires. In my opinion Mr. Criswell knows a great deal more than he is telling and that information will become apparent in the information below.

Jerry Arnold Easom is a 30 year old white male who resides at [REDACTED] Bryant, Arkansas. His home telephone number is [REDACTED] and his office number is [REDACTED]. He is currently employed as an investigator in the Saline Count Sheriff's Office. On March 5, 1990, I interviewed Investigator Easom in connection with the Saline County investigation. He related the following information. In 1985 Investigator Easom was a Detective Sgt. in charge of the Criminal Investigation Division for the Saline County Sheriff's Office. James Callaway was running a car lot at that time known as "Callaway's Used Cars" in Bryant, Arkansas. The car lot was located at the intersection of Highway 5 and Highway 183. Investigator Easom told me that he was quite familiar with James Callaway at the time since he (Easom) had had to respond to a number of calls at James Callaway's residence in Bryant

concerning domestic disputes. Easom told me that on one occasion he was at Callaway's car lot where Callaway was providing him with information concerning an individual named Sonnie Small. Callaway alleged that Sonnie Small had stolen a car from him. During the course of relating this information James Callaway told Investigator Easom that he had a problem. Callaway told Investigator Easom that he, Callaway, had been robbed at a gambling game in Lonoke County, Arkansas. Callaway asked Easom how much he would charge to break the legs of the individuals who had robbed Callaway. Investigator Easom told me that he decided to play along with Callaway and so he told Callaway that he could probably break the legs of the first individual and possibly the second individual but probably would have to kill the third one. In fact, according to Investigator Easom he told Callaway that he would probably have to kill all three individuals before it was over with. Callaway told Investigator Easom that he did not care if all three had to be killed. According to Investigator Easom Callaway offered to pay Investigator Easom the sum of \$1,500 a piece to kill the three individuals who had robbed him. Callaway identified these three individuals as Richard Samply, Danny Gault and Michael Gault. According to Investigator Easom he told Callaway that he would have to think about it. Investigator Easom went straight back to the Sheriff's Office and told then Sheriff James Steed about the situation. Investigator Easom told me that he wanted to initiate an investigation concerning conspiracy to commit capital murder against James Callaway. He wanted the Sheriff to give him permission to get a wire and to go back and discuss the details of the killings with Callaway so that he could record the conversation. Sheriff Steed told Investigator Easom to stay away from Callaway and not to do anything else on the matter unless the Sheriff told him to do so. According to Investigator Easom he never heard from the Sheriff on the subject again. Investigator Easom told me that he tried to bring this matter up while testifying before the Saline County Special Grand Jury that was investigating the deaths of Kevin Ives and Don Henry but Special Prosecuting Attorney Dan Harmon cut him off and told him that the grand jury was investigating other matters and that his statements concerning that matter was not relevant to the grand jury's investigation. Investigator Easom also reported to me that on March 2, 1990, he, Chief Deputy Sheriff Johnny L. Green and State Parole Officer Jim Lovett had gone to visit Finnis Criswell. Investigator Easom told me that at approximately 12:50 a.m. Finnis Criswell told him that after the deaths of Don Henry and Kevin Ives that he and James Callaway had been drinking together and James Callaway told Criswell that he, Callaway, did not intend for the two boys to die, that it wasn't supposed to go that far. According to Investigator Easom Finnis Criswell stated in the presence of Investigator Easom, Chief Deputy Sheriff Green and State Parole Officer Lovett that he would not repeat that statement or explain what he meant by

that. Chief Deputy Johnny L. Green and State Parole Officer Jim Lovett have corroborated Investigator Easom's report of what Finnis Criswell stated.

On March 12, 1990, I interviewed a witness in my office by the name of Teresa Marie Sturch. Ms. Sturch is a 19 year old white female with a date of birth of July 9, 1990. She currently resides at [REDACTED] Apartments, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205. Her home telephone number is [REDACTED]. She is currently unemployed but has worked previously for the Mexico Chiquito Restaurant in Little Rock. Ms. Sturch stated that her roommate, Tracy Hayes, 20 year old white female, can verify much of what she had to say. During the interview Teresa Sturch told me that she had worked at Mexico Chiquito in Little Rock with a female named Cindy Rice. She told me that Cindy Rice used to live with Paul Criswell. She stated that Cindy Rice is currently living with Robert Bratton or Stratton, who lives right around the corner from Paul Criswell. She stated that Cindy Rice's telephone number is [REDACTED]. Teresa Sturch stated that she met 24 year old Paul Criswell through a friend known as Jerry Lynn Odom, commonly referred to as "JJ". Sturch stated that she started dating Paul Criswell about the last week in January of 1990. She stated that she broke up with him around March 5, 1990, after they had an argument on the telephone. She stated that Paul Criswell had last talked to her by telephone on March 12, 1990, when Paul Criswell called her and asked her if she had "narced on him". According to Teresa Sturch Frank Duncan, a 23 year old white male ran cocaine for Paul Criswell and made collections for him as well. Teresa Sturch stated that about three weeks ago Paul Criswell was talking to her at the game room where he lived in Little Rock, Arkansas, with another older white male by the name of Blain. She stated that no one else was present during this conversation. During the conversation Paul Criswell told her that Paul Criswell's father, Finnis Criswell, Paul Criswell's younger brother, Steve Allen Criswell and James Callaway were involved in the deaths of the boys on the train tracks in Saline County. Paul Criswell told Teresa Sturch that the boys had tried to steal dope from Callaway and had gotten caught. Criswell told her that the boys were beaten up. According to Teresa Sturch this conversation occurred shortly after Valentine's Day, 1990. Teresa Sturch stated that this information upset her and so she later discussed it with her friends and even later her parents. Teresa Sturch's parents reside in Heber Springs, Arkansas, and they contacted the Cleburne County Sheriff who, in turn, contacted Saline County Sheriff Larry Davis. Teresa Sturch told me that she gave a tape-recorded statement to the investigators in this matter Wednesday, March 7, 1990, at the Cleburne County Sheriff's Office. A statement is currently being transcribed and is supposed to be provided to the United States Attorney's Office by Saline County

Sheriff Larry Davis. Teresa Sturch also stated that her roommate, Tracy Hayes, has been interviewed concerning this matter by the Cleburne County Sheriff's Office. Teresa Sturch also told me that an individual named Jeff, last name unknown, had served time in jail. Jeff had a girlfriend named Daniella who he had been dating for about three years. According to Sturch, Jeff would clean up the game room for Paul on occasion. Teresa Sturch stated that Jeff sold cocaine and made deliveries of cocaine for Paul Criswell. According to Teresa Sturch this individual known only as Jeff also has information about the deaths of the boys in Saline County. According to Teresa Sturch Daniella's telephone number is [REDACTED]. Teresa Sturch related that Paul Criswell had, at one time, as many as five runners and three of them had beepers. She identified these individuals as: (1) Daren Hill; (2) Frank Duncan; (3) Robert Stratton or Bratton; and (4) Katie Brightop. Teresa Sturch related that Katie Brightop's parents have the last name "Bush" and they live on Stardust Road in Little Rock. She stated that their telephone number is 565-5630. According to Teresa Sturch Katie Brightop sets up cocaine deals for Paul Criswell and delivers Paul Criswell's cocaine. Katie Brightop's mother allegedly works in some capacity at Southwest Hospital. Teresa Sturch stated that Paul Criswell gets his cocaine from a black male named Jerry and from a white male named Steve, subsequently identified as Steve Stone. According to Teresa Sturch Paul Criswell gave cocaine to her roommate, Tracy Hayes, on at least five different occasions. Tracy Hayes did not have to pay for this cocaine. Teresa Sturch also related that Criswell had given cocaine to Teresa Sturch's brothers, Brian Sturch and Ben Duncan, Jr. Brian Sturch has seen Criswell breaking up large amounts of cocaine. Teresa Sturch told me that her brothers would be willing to give statements concerning what they had seen with regard to the cocaine dealings of Paul Criswell.

On Tuesday, March 20, 1990, I interviewed a 24 year old white female by the name of Amy Murphy. Amy Murphy has been previously arrested by the Saline County Sheriff's Office for selling two quarter gram quantities of cocaine to an informant who was doing an undercover buy under police surveillance. Murphy related the following information to me on the promise that it would not be used against her to prosecute her. Murphy stated that during the summer of 1989 she was fairly heavily involved in the distribution and sale of cocaine in Saline County. She stated that she met her cocaine source while living at the [REDACTED] Apartments in Bryant, Arkansas. She stated she met a 43 year old white female who was also living at Shadow Oak Apartments whose first name was Sondra, last name unknown, believed to be Smith. She said that Sondra's son, named Russell Smith, had been arrested on a number of occasions by law enforcement authorities for DWI's. According to Murphy, Russell

Smith had been obtaining cocaine from a Mexican in Little Rock by the name of Juan Ponce. It should be noted at this point that I indicted Juan Ponce in November of 1989 for distribution of cocaine and he is currently serving an eight year term in the federal penitentiary. He is a documented cocaine dealer and has been operating in Central Arkansas for the last seven to eight years. During the course of the investigation we documented that Juan Ponce and two other individuals, Raymond Dominguez and Raymond Dominguez's ex-wife, Patricia, were making frequent trips to Miami, Florida, for the purpose of picking up quantities of cocaine and returning to Arkansas where the cocaine was then distributed. According to Murphy, Russell Smith was obtaining cocaine from Juan Ponce and was supposed to be selling it and returning the money. Russell Smith, however, began using cocaine heavily and started screwing up the money. According to Murphy Ponce became upset and sent two individuals who were supposed to kill or beat up Russell Smith. Russell Smith's mother, Sondra, then contacted Ponce and supposedly told him that if he would supply the cocaine to her she could arrange to sell it to various individuals and settle the debt which had been incurred by her son. Murphy stated that during the summer of 1989 she was obtaining as much as three ounces of cocaine a week from Sondra who in turn was getting the cocaine from Juan Ponce. According to Amy Murphy she met Raymond and Pat Dominguez at the apartment of Sondra in Shadow Oak Apartments in Bryant. Amy Murphy also told me that her brother, Daren Murphy, was obtaining his cocaine during the summer of 1989 from the same individual, Sondra. Murphy told me that her brother, Daren Murphy, is no longer in the drug business and is currently holding down a full-time job and is residing in Little Rock. Significantly, Amy Murphy related to me that her biggest cocaine customer during the summer of 1989 was Teresa Harmon, the ex-wife of Benton Attorney Dan Harmon. Amy Murphy told me that Teresa Harmon was hooked so bad on cocaine that she would come to Amy Murphy's house as many as three to four times a day to purchase cocaine. Murphy told me that Teresa Harmon's cocaine habit was so bad that Teresa Harmon would buy \$50 worth of cocaine at a time where she could have saved money by buying an eight ball all at once for \$250. Murphy related to me that she cut Teresa Harmon off when Teresa Harmon began to bring her young son over to Amy Murphy's house to purchase cocaine. Murphy stated that she did not believe it was right for Teresa Harmon to leave the baby asleep in the car while she was purchasing cocaine. Murphy related that when she was arrested Dan Harmon came to her and offered to take her case for \$1,000. Murphy thought that this fee was really low since she was facing a Class Y felony in State Court. She stated that Harmon subsequently withdrew as her attorney since she did not pay him any money. After the interview with Amy Murphy I related the information concerning Sondra and Russell Smith to Detective Sgt. Mike Sylvester of the Little Rock Police Department's

Narcotics Division. Det. Sylvester and the members of the Little Rock Police Department's Narcotics Division were the investigators on the Juan Ponce-Raymond Dominguez cocaine case. It should be noted that Raymond Dominguez has not yet been prosecuted in connection with that case but he has already agreed, through his attorney, Ralph Cloar, to enter a plea of guilty to a felony information charging him with possession with intent to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine. Dominguez has also cooperated by providing a detailed statement of the number of trips he made to Miami, Florida, for the purpose of picking up cocaine for Juan Ponce. Ponce is a Mexican national and upon discharge of his federal prison sentence will be deported to Mexico.



SECTION C

Some clippings of Dan Harmons misdeed's. In these cases either the prosecutor or Circuit Judge Cole chose not to file charges or the witnesses didn't want to testify.

(Circuit Judge Cole never went against his friend Dan Harmon but did not waste any time in issuing a warrant to have Jean Duffey arrested and held without bond for failure to pick up a subpoena.)