

Telephone conversation with Sgt. Bristerstein

Feb 7, 1985 8¹⁰ am or so

The night before, Wednesday Feb 6, when I arrived home from bowling at approx 9:30pm I found a police business card for Sgt. Bristerstein wedged in my door. On the card was a request I call him between 8-4.

My mother works with Mrs. Bristerstein, so I called her to ask her if she also had been approached or talked to. She said no.

When I called him he began by asking if I had ever been married to an Officer Harry Avreck. I said yes. He then asked if I knew Harry was no longer on the force or suspended I can't remember which. I answered yes. He asked when I last saw him I replied Tuesday night and that I saw him nearly everyday as he has custody of our two children.

He stated the reason he was calling me was that Harry had mentioned that his wife and my ~~my~~ mother worked together. Also that my mother was involved in an embezzlement case. This made me extremely irate which I'm sure I conveyed to the Sgt. He asked me who my mother was. I told him Helen Olson. Then he asked me about the embezzlement adding I didn't need to tell him. I answered that I really had no choice. I did mention I was glad I was in a private office. I proceeded to inform him I was the one who had embezzled funds that my mother had nothing to do with it and no knowledge of what I had done. I also told him I had repaid all

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the funds and resented my mother being in anyway implicated. I also stated she was as innocent that rarely cared what ~~we~~ went on around her. He assured me that what I had to say would go no further than him do to it being an internal affairs investigation and that his wife knew nothing of my mother being accused and that the accusation was unclear anyway.

Then he asked if Harry was involved with taking any club funds I stated I couldn't prove yes or no but as far as I knew Harry only used funds from our personal funds and I also stated I could not remember anyone else who was in the house during that summer. He asked me why I took the funds and I stated we were in financial difficulties, brought on I felt by my husband paying his girlfriends bills. Also that my husband invested heavily in comic books. Then he asked me if Harry had a large collection and I said yes around 10-15 grand. Also that he's collected since he was a kid.

He asked about our finances while married. I told him Harry's worst enemy was an ATM card and that between our mutual miss management of funds we were always behind.

Then he wanted to know about Harry's mental condition while married and observations I'd made recently. I told him "No offense next but I know very few cops who have their marbles all in one bag." He said no offense taken that was what his job was to weed out the bad ones.

I told him Harry was under pressure from what was happening at the department. That he stated he had gathered a lot more evidence than they thought and he would release it to the press if he had too. He asked who could pressure him, I said work and he tends to bend to pressure from workers. He added he gathered that. He asked if Harry had told me anything specific, I said most of what I knew was conjecture from conversations with Harry & Paula. Also from a letter I had typed for them. He asked who the letter was too and what it said. I said 60 minutes and nothing definite only that her husband (Paula's) was going to be fired from SOPD unjustly. Asked for their help in exposing the coverup. That a Lieutenant was involved. No names were given and no dates. He asked if I wrote the letter, I said no. He asked if Harry wrote the letter I said no. Then ~~he~~ he asked if I had copies or carbons from the letter, I said I didn't think so but I would check.

He asked who else was involved. I told him I didn't have any names but knew that Harry was not alone.

He asked if I would testify at a civil service hearing. I was quiet for a while then asked if Harry would be there he said yes. I was quiet again then said if it was ~~absolutely~~ absolutely necessary yes. Also that if I found out that my testimony stopped an investigation into major problems in the department he would have a whole new problem in me. Because I

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had no idea whether Harry was guilty or innocent, but I knew he didn't normally make wild accusations.

He asked me if Harry ever lied to me. I asked him if he ever lied to his wife. He said that's not the question. ~~He~~ said I'm sure he did.

He asked me when I had my kids. I asked if it were true ~~that~~ the police tapped Harry's phones. He never answered. I told him when I have my kids usually. Then he asked me when I thought Harry met with these "other" people. I said possibly Sundays or could be anytime I really didn't care.

I asked if it was ok for Harry to wear his gun in the comic store he said yes. I told him I was concerned about my kids he told me to see an attorney.

He asked if Harry had ever been under investigation before. I told him I didn't know if it really was an investigation but that Harry told me ~~an~~ ~~the~~ SA cop came to the house saying he was investigating Harry in concerns with a prostitute. I never heard anything else about it.

He asked if Harry usually investigated people. I said if he thought there was a reason yes and that Hoobler fired him at Atlas for just that. He asked for details I told him to see Hoobler.

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He told me he was trying to ascertain Harry's mental stability and asked if I was afraid of him. I said no just deeply hurt.

He then advised me not to tell Harry I talked to him. His voice and demeanor were very onerous and scared me a little. He again mentioned he was checking Harry's mental stability.

He asked again if I would check on the letter & call him. I said yes. He asked for my home & work number then asked if he could call me at work. Then he asked if my present husband was home. I said no he was at sea. He said he realized I was very upset and again advised me not to mention any of this to Harry. I told him I would talk to my mother about it, he advised me not to but I said she had a right to know. He said alright but don't talk to Harry about it.

The impression I got from him was that I was in some sort of danger from Harry. When he talked about the embezzlement he advised me Harry was very angry about this.

The next morning I thought I was followed to work & then home again, as well as when I went to pick up my kids. When my husband came home on Saturday he and I discussed the events and agreed ~~not~~ not to talk to Harry about this. He also agreed I should see an attorney. Both which I did.

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The next week - I don't remember which day" - the Sgt. called me at work asking about the letter. I told him I ~~can't~~ couldn't find the letter. He said he hoped I would find it. Then he asked if anything new had developed I said no but I didn't figure ~~it~~ ^{it} would because I didn't want to know.

Also on the Feb 7 conversation when I said I didn't want my testimony interfering. He said Lt Black (first I heard the name) had been under investigation for a long time and steps were being taken for his hearing soon. But that Larry had hindered rather than helped the investigation.