

1 Doctor Catherine Williams
2 about your offense. You're asked to talk about yourself,
3 your family, sometimes about if you're in a drug group,
4 which he didn't have a substance or alcohol problem, none
5 of that, but just about your daily life or anything in
6 particular. Just in particular, mostly about your instant
7 offense.

8 He doesn't talk about that. He doesn't talk
9 about what he did might be wrong or where his delusional
10 beliefs might be faulty and at times when people have
11 challenged that, he has become angry.

12 It's hard for him to take somebody else's
13 prospective. If I said that doesn't make sense that you
14 could be in KGB and CIA at the the same time, it would be
15 difficult from what I'm told.

16 Remember, I'm not a group leader.

17 Q You haven't had this discussion with him, is
18 that correct?

19 A No, I have not.

20 MS. RISOLI: I have no further questions.

21 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. CONFLITTI:

23 Q Doctor, you haven't had a lot of face-to-face
24 contact with Mr. Ford since that report back in July,
25 right?

1 Doctor Catherine Williams

2 A No.

3 Q As a member of his treatment team do you engage
4 in team meetings with all the other members of the team on
5 a periodic basis?

6 A Yes.

7 Q How often?

8 A Every weekday.

9 Q When is his most recent treatment plan?

10 A March.

11 Q Who wrote that?

12 A I did.

13 Q All right. Thank you.

14 MR. ARCIDIACONO: No more questions, Judge.

15 THE COURT: Ms. Risoli.

16 MR. ARCIDIACONO: Just a couple of
17 questions.

18 EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. ARCIDIACONO:

20 Q Doctor, in your opinion to a reasonable degree
21 of psychological certainty based on your reading of the
22 records and your conversations with Mr. Ford and your
23 consultation with your other colleagues who worked on this
24 case has Mr. Ford's mental condition changed significantly
25 in the ten or eleven years he's been here?

2 A I would have to say not that we can determine
3 because he hasn't told us enough. He hasn't spoken about
4 anything. If I had to guess, I would say --

5 THE COURT: I don't want you to guess try to
6 answer the question.

7 Q Based on your observations?

8 A No.

9 Q He has not changed?

10 A No.

11 Q In your opinion does he accept the fact he has a
12 mental illness?

13 A No.

14 MR. ARCIDIACONO: No further questions.

15 Thank you.

16 RECROSS EXAMINATION

17 BY MS. RISOLI:

18 Q If you say he has not changed in over twelve
19 years, what do you mean by not changing? If he said that,
20 he didn't belong to the CIA or the KGB that would be
21 changing in your opinion?

22 A That's a good question.

23 Q All right.

24 Thank you. Could you try to answer that? It's
25 just your opinion?

A That's a good question. It's hard to answer. It would depend on how it came about. I would love to see Mr. Ford go.

To tell you the truth from my prospective and from my knowledge of Mr. Ford's history his dangerousness lies in his knowing that there is nothing wrong with what he did, leaving here thinking he could do something like that again, but this time who knows what would happen.

Q That is true. Nobody really knows, is that correct?

A Yes.

MS. RISOLI: I have nothing further.

MR. CONFLITTI: Nothing else.

MR. ARCIDIACONO: Nothing. Thank you, Your Honor.

EXAMINATION

BY THE COURT:

Q Just so we're in the same isle here, there have been no incidents since his admission with regard to threats, with regard to violence or anything like that?

A No.

Q Of course, it's almost impossible to get radioactive material while he's in the hospital?

A That's right, as far as I know.

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Q Your main concerns seem to be, first of all, he has no insight into his mental illness, correct?

A Correct.

Q Not only does he lack insight, he doesn't believe he's mentally ill?

A That's my understanding.

Q Which is pretty much two different things?

A Yes.

Q He suffers from delusions and those delusions have not changed during all the time that he's been institutionalized, correct?

A As far as I can tell.

Q All right.

Your other concern is that he participates in treatment, but he does not, in other words, he walks down the hall and goes into the room, but he doesn't engage in treatment, because obviously treatment is being able to speak about your mental illness and to talk about it. That's the treatment, not just sitting in the room staring at the ceiling?

A He attends, but he doesn't participate.

Q You stated that the risks presented at the time of hospitalization have not been mitigated, correct?

A Correct.

Q Because in your reading of the record and in your opinion nothing has changed since the first day he walked into the hospital, is that pretty much what you stated?

A You notice you make a good point. I can't say nothing has changed, but I can say that.

Q He's gotten older. He has been on medication longer?

A Yes.

Q As to his behavior, delusions, thinking, his opinion with regard to mental illness, any of those things, have any of those things changed?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q What has changed? You said you can't say nothing has changed. What has changed?

A He's gotten older.

Q Thank goodness for that. The alternative would mean we wouldn't be here today. Anything else?

A No.

Q Nothing else you can think of?

A Not that I know of.

Q All right.

THE COURT: Any other questions?

MR. ARCIDIACONO: No questions.

MR. CONFLITTI: No questions.

MS. RISOLI: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You're sure this time?

MR. ARCIDIACONO: I'm sure.

THE COURT: Ms. Risoli, no questions.

MS. RISOLI: No questions.

THE COURT: Thank you, Doctor. You may step down.

(Witness excused.)

THE COURT: Mr. Conflitti.

MR. CONFLITTI: The hospital rests.

MR. ARCIDIACONO: The People rest.

MS. RISOLI: I'm going to call John Ford to the stand.

J O H N F O R D, was called as a witness and having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

(Whereupon at this time, the witness stated the full name is John Ford.)

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. RISOLI:

Q Good afternoon, Mr. Ford.

You heard the Doctor's testimony today, right?

A Yes.

1 John Ford

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2 Q How old are you?

3 A Sixty-three.

4 Q All right.

5 And let's go through the Doctor's concerns,
6 right.

7 Basically we all know you're the best patient
8 there is. In fact, haven't you won awards?
9

10 A Yes, I have.

11 Q What awards have you won in Mid-Hudson?

12 A I've won kindness, random acts of kindness award
13 and, also, another award that is conferred by the treatment
14 team.

15 Q All right.

16 What I have in my possession, I have four random
17 acts of kindness awards, is that fair to say?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And I see another award here for encouraging
20 others to support a non-violent environment?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Could you tell us what that's about?

23 A Well, it's an award that's given out every four
24 months by the treatment team and it's given in recognition
25 of non-violent conduct and exemplary acts of kindness.

Q What ward do you reside on?

A 45-46.

Q What does that ward represent out of all? How does it compare to the other wards?

A It's a special ward. It's an early discharge ward.

Q All right.

A You have to be a very good patient in order to be a member of the ward.

Q All right.

So, basically, it's a privilege to be on that ward, is that fair to say?

A Yes.

Q All right.

And what are your activities every day? Give us a day in the life of Mid-Hudson, your day?

A Well, we wake up at 7:00 in the morning. We're given a half hour to get dressed and brush our teeth. Then we go to breakfast at 7:30.

We're finished by about 8:00 o'clock. We go back to the ward. We have meds at 8:15. That's usually over by about 9:00 o'clock.

Then we have an hour or so before we begin our regular activities of going to groups and gym or library.

Q All right.

When you go to the groups, you heard the Doctor, they seem to be concerned you're not engaging in discussions. What do you do? What groups do you have first?

A Well, I have one at 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon with Mr. Miller, the social worker. I participate in that. Very rarely do I see Doctor Williams come in.

Q That was the woman who just testified, is that correct?

A Yes. So, I will discuss things with Mr. Miller pertaining to my situation and there are other patients in there and they discuss their cases, but you have patients there who are convicted of murder, rape, other charges.

I don't find anything in common with these people. So I don't intrude into the discussion.

Q Do you discuss about your own situation?

A Yes.

Q How often do you have this group?

A Once a week.

Q And then what other groups do you participate in?

A Well, Thursday nights I have one with Nancy Greavy (phonetic). She's our nurse. I forget the name of

it, but it's a very sociable group.

We discuss any topic underneath the sun. I find I get a lot out of it. She's a very social person.

Q You could speak about current events, your situation, whatever one feels like speaking about?

A Yes.

Q Are there any other groups you participate in?

A On Friday we have groups, Friday morning in the cat building. I go over to one group, which is usually run by the nurse and she is usually -- she will usually show a film or we have a brief discussion and I try to participate, but some of the topics are not relative.

Q But you do participate in discussion when you feel the topics are relevant to you, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Let's talk about your medication. You've always been compliant with medication, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q So the Doctor is saying there is one more thing they might want to try. They feel, like, they're not making much progress.

You have been in Mid-Hudson for over twelve years. That would be Clozaril, is that correct?

A Yes, that's correct.

Q Has anybody spoken to you about this?

A . My preceding psychiatrist, Doctor May, who is no longer in the facility, wanted to put me on Clozaril.

I told him I didn't want it because it's a very caustic medication. There are a lot of bad side effects.

He agreed with me. He said that he didn't want to put me on it after hearing my objections, because he said I'm recovering from two types of cancer and Clozaril has a tendency to lower your white blood cell count.

He said it would be detrimental to my treatment to take the medication.

Q All right.

You heard the Doctor -- and when was that?
Do you remember when Doctor May spoke to you about that if you can remember?

A I think it was about last summer.

Q All right.

The Doctor also testified to you having no insight into your mental illness. Are you mentally ill, Mr. Ford?

A I believe I'm not. I think it's a misdiagnosis.

Q What do you believe your problem is? Why are you at Mid-Hudson?

A Well, it's a long story.

Q Let's try to make it as short as possible. Just highlight a couple of points. We know everybody knows how you got there.

A Yes.

Q What led up to that behavior?

A Well, in 1995 I had a visit from an old friend of mine in the CIA in the northeastern sector division for covert operations came to my house and warned me my UFO research had antagonized local officials and that I should be very careful what I did publicly in the future.

Later that year, I had the chance to meet Mr. Joseph Mascello (phonetic) at a friend's house and took up -- he took up a liking to me, but I just tolerated him.

He borrowed my pick-up truck one night to transport his girlfriend's belongings up to the residence in Port Jefferson Station.

Q Let's try to fast forward a little bit.

A He was severely beaten by four men while he was driving my truck. When he came to my house, he showed me signs of bruises, lacerations, etcetera, and he told me that the beating was meant for me.

He was Israeli intelligence. He was sent by the mossad to make contact with me, to offer me protection against assassination attempts by the local politicians in

1 John Ford

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2 Suffolk County.

3 Q You didn't know this man that well?

4 A No, he said to me -- he said -- I asked him for
5 proof. I asked him for documentation, if he had any. He
6 said he didn't have any. He said normally mossad agents
7 don't carry documentation.

8 He said I know you have done work for the
9 Central Intelligence Agency for a number of years. He said
10 I know you know a number of officials in the agency. Oh,
11 read off these officials names.

12 Q People who you knew?

13 A Yes. Now this is above top secret information.
14 You don't get this by reading a newspaper. This is
15 information that's held in the strictest security. Yet he
16 knew it.

17 Q All right.

18 At the time were you working as a court officer?

19 A No, I had a severe accident at work and I had to
20 retire.

21 Q What kind of accident?

22 A I was ordered to lift a heavy package. I had a
23 history of back problems and when I went to lift it, I blew
24 the three discs and herniated them.

25 Q Do you still have pain from it?

1 John Ford

2 A Yes, I do.

3 Q After all of that how did the instant offense
4 come about that led to an arrest?

5 A Well, the mossad had been protecting me for
6 about four months. There were at least five assassination
7 attempts defeated.

8 Mascelli (phonetic) learned that I was getting
9 radon to check out geiger counters that I brought for the
10 organization.

11 He brought over the night before a gentleman by
12 the name of Kevin Kutch (phonetic) who he said was one of
13 the Israeli agents that had been working with him.

14 Q This is Mr. Mascelli (phonetic) brought him
15 over?

16 A Yes, I got into a conversation with him. We
17 started to joke about the politicians. We went to joke
18 about the radium.

19 I think Kutch (phonetic) said to me -- he said
20 why don't you give this to the politicians and get rid of
21 them. We all laughed.

22 The following night Mr. Kutch (phonetic) was
23 supposed to come and pick up the radium because one of our
24 members, Mr. Preston Nichols, was coming to recalibrate the
25 geiger counters for us.

1 John Ford

2 Q The geiger counters were for protection,
3 detecting metal?

4 A No, radiation.

5 Q From the UFO's?

6 A From the UFO's.

7 We had an investigation picked up radiation at
8 landing sites and crash sites for UFO's.

9 Q Where was that?

10 A South Haven Park.

11 Q In Long Island?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Did you live in Long Island?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Did all of these other people live in Long
16 Island?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Is this, like, a group that believes in UFO's,
19 is that correct?

20 A Yes, we have a membership of about 150, 180
21 members.

22 Q Do you still have any contact with these people?
23 A Yes, I do.

24 Q The members of this group?

25 A Yes.

Q How do you contact them?

A By letter or by phone call.

Q All right.

Do you still believe in UFO's?

A Yes, I do.

Q All right.

You heard the Doctor say that belief system triggers certain risks factors the hospital seems to be concerned about and that's why you're not moving forward?

A I think she's got it all wrong. I believed in UFO's since I was a child. I certainly didn't engage in any violent behavior growing up, planning the assassination of politicians as part of my belief.

Q You say you were joking around with these men about the -- maybe with the radioactive material, you were joking amongst yourselves, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Does that mean -- do you, as the Doctor testified, you thought your underlying offense why you got arrested was a joke? Do you think hurting someone is a joke?

A Well, there was no criminal intent. It was done in a joking manner. We were laughing. We were making up possible situations how to administer the stuff.

We thought it was pretty funny, but it was Mr. Mascelli's idea to joke about this stuff. He wanted to scare Mr. Kutch (phonetic) who he said he was going to bury the stuff and get rid of it.

He wanted to scare Kutch (phonetic) because he was taking the stuff that night.

Q When in your whole career as a court officer in your beliefs of UFO's and your stay at Mid-Hudson have you ever engaged in any violent behavior?

A No, I'm not a violent person by name.

Q All right.

If you were to be brought to or discharged and moved to a nonsecure hospital, would you still take your medications?

A Yes.

Q Why would you take your medications if you think you're not mentally ill?

A Because if you don't take your medications, they turn around and will get a force order from the Court and forcibly administer your medications to you.

Q Not always, but, yes, most of the time.

A Most of the time. I just don't feel, like, I want to be a party to that.

Q But do you feel the medications help you in any

way with your mood or to keep your head clear?

A No, they have me on Abilify which Doctor May put me on and I notice no difference between that and the Risperdal that I had been taking before.

Q Do you know what Abilify is for?

A It's an antipsychotic as far as I can tell.

Q What other medication do you take? I don't mean for your medical. I mean for your psychiatric.

A I believe that's the only medication I take.

Q All right.

Right, you take Vistoril?

A That's to help me sleep, because Abilify is an insomniac. It keeps me up at night.

Q Okay, Mr. Ford. Well, the idea is if you were to say you were mentally ill, you might be let out of the hospital. You're not willing to do that, is that correct?

A That's correct.

Q Why is that? Why won't you just say what they want?

A Because my arrest and everything that preceded it was a frame-up.

They tried to get criminal charges on other members of our organization and I've given you their names. They're willing to come and testify to that.

Q I have no further questions.

MR. CONFLITTI: No questions.

THE COURT: Any questions?

MR. ARCIDIACONO: Very quick.

THE COURT: Okay, go ahead.

The problem is I have to quit at 12:30.

That's an enforced time limit the Court system has.

MR. ARCIDIACONO: I understand. I rather not have to come back after lunch.

EXAMINATION

BY MR. ARCIDIACONO:

Q Mr. Ford, you were a court officer for many years, correct?

A Yes.

Q You received firearms training?

A Yes.

Q Now, at some point during the 1990's you were asked to relinquish your weapon, is that correct?

A That's correct.

Q It was for a week?

A Yes.

Q Why was that?

A Well, my mother had been diagnosed the night

1 John Ford

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2 before with terminal lung cancer and I also found out my
3 sister had been diagnosed as quite possibly having multiple
4 sclerosis and both disclosures hit me very hard.

5 The next morning I was in very terrible
6 emotional state that I was just not fit for duty.

7 Q Based on that, they asked you to relinquish your
8 handgun for a week?

9 A Yes.

10 Q You also own guns?

11 A Yes.

12 Q You own a whole series of rifles.

13 MR. ARCIDIACONO: Judge, again, I want to do
14 this really fast. I have a series of
15 photographs. Maybe we can mark them all as one
16 exhibit.

17 THE COURT: My problem is it's 12:30. I have
18 to break to give the union employees a lunch
19 hour.

20 THE COURT: Mr. Conflitti.

21 I'm sorry about that. Normally I would go
22 to 1:00 o'clock with one problem.

23 MR. ARCIDIACONO: This will take about ten
24 minutes.

25 THE COURT: I can't do it. That's the

problem.

We have to give this an hour.

MR. ARCIDIACONO: I can come back this afternoon.

(Recess taken.)

(After recess, the following ensued.)

MR. ARCIDIACONO: Your Honor, I have a series of photos and whatever Your Honor thinks would be the easiest, we could mark the whole package.

THE COURT: Mark the package. That would be easiest.

MS. RISOLI: I'm objecting to the introduction of the photos.

THE COURT: They're not introduced yet. They're just being marked.

MS. RISOLI: I'm objecting to them.

THE COURT: I have no idea what they are or why they're here.

(Whereupon at this time, photographs were marked for identification as Suffolk County's Exhibit A as of this date.)

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. ARCIDIACONO:

Q Mr. Ford, we were talking before lunch about the fact you received arms training as a court officer, correct?

A Yes.

Q And you also own some weapons yourself?

A Yes.

Q I'd like you to take a look at the first 2 photos there. The first one depicts pistols, is that correct?

A These are not mine.

Q How about the next photo?

A I recognize some of them. They're all thrown together into a lump. I can't make out some of them.

Q For the record, how many rifles do you own or did you know at the time of the arrest?

A I own thirty rifles and shotguns.

Q And you had ammunition for each of those thirty rifles and shotguns?

A Yes, I did.

Q Mr. Ford, there are some other pictures there. I'm wondering if you could go through them, one at a time, and tell us what they are.

A One, what this is -- that's not my property. I

1 John Ford

2 don't know what this is. I don't know what this is. I
3 don't know what this is. I don't know what this is. I
4 don't know what this is. I don't know.

5 Q None of this stuff looks familiar?

6 A No, it doesn't, sir.

7 Q Well, now, you did tell the Court that or
8 actually you told the doctors that you had some geiger
9 counters, correct?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Are those geiger counters depicted in any of
12 those photographs?

13 A I haven't gone through all of them.

14 Q All right.

15 A No, they're not.

16 Q The geiger counters you had are not depicted in
17 the photos?

18 A No, they're not.

19 Q You say you had thirty rifles and shotguns?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Did you have any handguns?

22 A I owned thirteen handguns.

23 Q You had licenses for all of them?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Carry?

1 John Ford

2 A Yes.

3 Q You had ammunition for them as well?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Now, you were a member of an organization, the
6 Long Island -- maybe you could help me out?

7 A UFO Networking, Incorporated.

8 Q How many members of the organization?

9 A Between 200, 180. I didn't tabulate exactly how
10 many members we had. We had a lot of people join in '95
11 and '94.

12 Q You also had a website?

13 A No, we didn't.

14 Q There was no website then?

15 A No.

16 Q There is now?

17 A I wasn't aware of it.

18 Q Are you aware of it now?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Are you involved in that website?

21 A No, I don't know how to run a computer and I
22 don't have access to computers.

23 Q Now, your organization, at some point you
24 acquired some equipment to do UFO studies?

25 A Which equipment?

Q Geiger counters.

A Yes.

Q How many geiger counters did you have?

A Three.

Q And these had to be calibrated?

A They were military surplus and they hadn't been recalibrated in a number of years. So, some of the readings I was getting were way off.

So, I asked our science consultant to recalibrate them. He said he would come over the night of my arrest and do it.

Q You obtained some radioactive plugs so that you could calibrate these geiger counters?

A Yes.

Q How did you obtain these radioactive plugs?

A My friend Mr. Ed Zabo had it. He got it from his job at Grummans. He told me it was low grade radium they were using for testing purposes.

I went over and picked it up and I asked him how dangerous it was and he said it's not dangerous at all.

Q You kept it in your garage?

A No, in my cab in my truck.

Q Was it in any kind of special container?

A A lead proof container.

1 John Ford

2 Q Because it was radioactive?

3 A Yes.

4 Q You knew it was illegal to have radioactive
5 material?

6 A No, I didn't.

7 Q Your organization did some investigations and
8 believed there had been some sort of alien landing in South
9 Haven Park?

10 A Not alien landing, a crash. It wasn't only in
11 South Haven Park. It was a much larger case than we
12 initially assumed it to be.

13 Q Let's just take the South Haven Park. South
14 Haven Park is a county park?

15 A Yes.

16 Q In Suffolk County, New York?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Just north of the Sunrise Highway and just west
19 of the William Floyd Parkway?

20 A Yes.

21 Q It's a rather large park?

22 A Yes.

23 Q When was this alien crash determined to have
24 happened?

25 A November 24, 1992.

Q Now some time in the summer or the spring of 1995, there was some very serious fires in Suffolk County, is that right?

A That is correct.

Q And to what do you attribute those fires?

A Well, at first I was under the impression that it was just spontaneous combustion, like, the news media had said.

Q Let me stop you right there. These fires were rather large?

A Yes, it almost burned down the Town of West Hampton.

Q It made national news. It was a very serious incident?

A Yes.

Q What do you attribute the fires to?

A We developed information there had been a UFO crash outside of Riverhead the day the forest fires had occurred.

We had two of our members Gotti and Dotty Tripp who were hypnotherapists call me and tell me their receptionist, their girl by the name of Patty McDonald, had contact with a man by the name of Steven Ferrara, who lives in Riverhead, and he had witnessed the crash and discovered

1 John Ford

2 the crash.

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3 He had been debriefed by the FBI and Air Force.
4 She told us this and we immediately began to do an
5 investigation into what happened. We approached Mr.
6 Ferrara and he refused to cooperate.

7 Q You, personally, led this investigation?

8 A Yes, we talked to some residents in the area.
9 We didn't get any information out of them. So, we had
10 classified the investigation as doubtful, because we
11 couldn't get any verification. Mr. Ferrara took it upon
12 his own prerogative to refuse to cooperate, because maybe
13 he didn't see anything. It was one of those cases that was
14 a dead end.

15 Q What did this have to do with the fires?

16 A Well, when Mascelli (phonetic) contacted me, he
17 told me that the reason that elements within the Suffolk
18 County wanted me dead was because the forest fires had been
19 deliberately set first by the federal government to cover
20 the crash of the UFO.

21 Q This was the crash in South Haven Park?

22 A No, outside of Riverhead.

23 Q All right.

24 A And it is one of the techniques used by the
25 government when they recover one of these crafts to set

1 John Ford

2 forest fires to cover.

3 Things started to form in place. I said to
4 Mr. Mascelli (phonetic) I said what evidence do you have.
5 He said you will get access to a top secret CIA report
6 about the forest fires and the crash retrieval. We have
7 it. We will give it to you.

8 Q Did you ever receive that report?

9 A Well, in April of that year 1996 I went early in
10 the morning into the diamond district with Mascelli
11 (phonetic).

12 We had a meeting with the head of the eastern
13 seabord mossad. It was a gentleman by the name of -- I
14 don't know if it's his real name or not, but he identified
15 himself as Hiram Goldstein, the general in charge of all
16 mossad activities in the northeastern United States.

17 Q Let me just cut you off there. How many people
18 did you meet with?

19 A There were two agents guarding the room and
20 three supervisors.

21 Q As a result of that meeting is that when you
22 concluded that the fires were set?

23 A They showed me the CIA report. In it, it listed
24 Mr. Gazzola (phonetic), John Powell and Fred Towle as being
25 the people who took advantage of the national security

1 John Ford

2 situation and set the fires in populated areas so they
3 could destroy the pine barrens and make a fast cash over on
4 the sale of the damaged properties

5 Q Just so the record is clear, John Powell is a
6 political leader in Suffolk County?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Mr. Gazzola (phonetic) was a political leader in
9 Suffolk County?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Mr. Towle (phonetic) was a county legislator?

12 A Used to be.

13 Q Your organization concluded those three
14 politicians had used this fire to their advantage so they
15 could make money, is that right, and a fire was set by the
16 federal government?

17 A Well, the initial fires were set around the
18 crash site set by the federal government, but from what the
19 Israeli told me, the County Executive ordered forest
20 service to set the forest fires further south of the crash
21 site so that the crash retrieval would be covered.

22 As I said, three politicians took advantage of
23 the situation.

24 Q As you sit here today, is that still your
25 understanding of what happened?

1 John Ford

2 A Yes.

3 Q Mr. Ford, based on your research, how many alien
4 crashes have been in Suffolk County occurred in Suffolk
5 County since about 1987?

6 A Well, we had crashes as far back as 1982.

7 Q How many?

8 A At least two in 1980's and three in 1990's.

9 Q One of those was at South Haven, one was in
10 Riverhead and where was the third one?

11 A In South Haven there was a second crash May 23,
12 1993.

13 Q Just so that I'm clear and the record is clear,
14 Mr. Ford, when was the crash that was closest in time to
15 the fire? Was that the one in Riverhead?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And was it that crash site that the federal
18 government was trying to extract remains?

19 A Yes.

20 Q That was the reason for the fire?

21 A Yes.

22 Q All right.

23 As we sit here today, that's still your belief
24 as to what occurred?

25 A Yes, considering the evidence we had a

1 John Ford

2 accumulated. Yes, that reinforces my belief.

3 MR. ARCIDIACONO: I have no further
4 questions.

5 MR. CONFLITTI: No questions.

6 MS. RISOLI: I have a couple.

7 THE COURT: Go ahead.

8 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MS. RISOLI:

10 Q Mr. Ford, so you said you had about 30 handguns,
11 is that correct?

12 A Thirty rifle shotguns and thirteen handguns.

13 Q All those guns -- you had a license for all
14 those guns?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay, and why did you have a license for all
17 those guns?

18 A Because the law requires it.

19 Q All right.

20 So are you a man that follows rules, Mr. Ford?

21 A Yes, I do.

22 Q So if you were let out -- if you believe
23 that you are not mentally ill, you believe that the
24 medication may help you, may not help you, may be related,
25 may not be related, but if you were told or if you had a

1 John Ford

2 treatment team that told you or you were let out to the
3 community with conditions, would you follow the rules?

4 A Yes.

5 MR. CONFLITTI: Objection; beyond the scope.

6 THE COURT: He can answer. His answer is
7 yes.

8 Q All right.

9 You would follow the rules in Mid-Hudson, Mr.
10 Ford?

11 A Yes.

12 Q All right.

13 If you were told you could not use the internet
14 or you could not contact these people in these
15 organizations, would you follow those rules?

16 A If it was imposed upon me, yes.

17 MS. RISOLI: No further questions.

18 MR. CONFLITTI: No questions.

19 MR. ARCIDIACONO: Nothing else.

20 THE COURT: Thank you. You may step down.

21 (Witness excused.)

22 THE COURT: Ms. Risoli, any other witnesses?

23 MS. RISOLI: Not at this time.

24 THE COURT: Anything else to add?

25 MS. RISOLI: Do you want me to do a little

summation?

THE COURT: As little or as large as you want.

MS. RISOLI: All right.

Mr. Ford's been housed pretty much for twelve years. He's followed all the treatment. He's been cooperative.

His belief system may not been something the doctors agree upon, that might trigger, if he was not supervised in the community, if he was not in a least restrictive alternative or non-secure facility, he might, if he was just left to his own devices, maybe go back to 1992. I don't have a clue. I don't think they do.

He does have a history. If we're going to look at past history such as the crime, we have to look at the past history of his time in Mid-Hudson Psychiatric Center, which he had absolutely no problems whatsoever at all, not even one iota of evidence that he didn't follow the rules.

Therefore, I say this is not the least restrictive alternative. I don't believe the state has proved by clear and convincing

evidence that Mr. Ford is dangerously mentally ill.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. ARCIDIACONO: If I may, Judge, first of all Ms. Risoli is wrong. The standard is fair preponderance of the evidence and to the clear and convincing evidence.

MS. RISOLI: I stand to be corrected.

MR. ARCIDIACONO: We've certainly maintained that burden of proof.

Judge, I know Your Honor is familiar with the matter of George L., the Court of Appeals case.

That case I think applies very directly to our situation here, because that talks about potentiality or makes a defendant have or when you determine that the defendant has a dangerous mental disorder, that case goes into great detail about the fact that, just because a patient is following the rules at a secure facility, does not make him not dangerous.

You can still be dangerous because of the potential you represent. I think the example the Court used in that case was nitroglycerin

sitting on a table. Just because it wasn't exploding at that moment didn't mean it was not dangerous.

By that logic you would have to assume someone who was in straight jacket and surrounded by guards was not dangerous.

So the Court's point was that you have to look to other factors. The factors in Mr. Ford's case are that he's been in the hospital now something, like, twelve years and there's been no improvement at all in his condition.

His condition today is roughly what it was twelve years ago. He has no insight into the fact he has a mental illness.

There is no insight. In fact, because of his mental illness that he had thought about these politicians, he resented these politicians. Obviously, there is an element of paranoia here.

The Doctor testified he has an active mental illness, active delusions. The fact he's taking his medication and he shows up at group therapy doesn't really address the issue, which is that he's still actively mentally ill.

Based on everything presented we're going to ask you to sign the retention order

MR. CONFLITTI: One sentence or two, the only expert testimony in the case from Doctor Williams suggests that Mr. Ford hasn't mitigated his risk at all to the extent Doctor Williams can tell from the level it was when he was admitted to Mid-Hudson in the year 2000.

THE COURT: All right.

Based upon the testimony here, Doctor Williams testified his treatment psychologist since October 2010, her testimony was that Mr. Ford was pretty much following all the rules of the facility.

He wasn't acting out, was not dangerous. He was not involved in any violence, whether it's threats or acts, was taking his medication. He was going to the counseling sessions, but was not engaging in them. He would sit there and not engage. He wouldn't talk about his particular problems.

The original criminal offense here was conspiracy and a number of other matters. You know, I'm not an Appeals Court, so whether the

State had sufficient evidence to convict him of that particular offense, I don't know whether the case had been appealed, whether there was a ruling from the Appeals Court. I don't know. I really can't go into that, what happened at that alleged meeting with these other people and with those radioactive substances.

The diagnosis apparently presently is schizoaffective disorder. Doctor Williams testified to the following: That he has "no insight into his mental illness." He suffers from delusions and those delusions have not changed one iota since his initial admission twelve years ago.

She said he does not engage in treatment. Apart from having no insight into his mental illness, he does not believe he is mentally ill, which is, as far as I'm concerned, more serious than that.

She testified most importantly that the risk presented at the time of this hospitalization has not been mitigated.

Look, the fact that he believes in UFO's and they have crashed, he has a lot of company with

regard to that belief. There are millions of people who believe that. There are t.v. shows dedicated to that. There are people who believe they have photographs of UFO's.

Can anybody in this room say they don't exist? Probably not. Who knows if they exist?

The fact that he believes in UFO's really is not despositive. The fact that he believes there are politicians that are corrupt and are not doing things in the best interest of the people and are lining their own pockets, again, watch the news every night and you'll see some. So, that's, you know, that's not necessarily delusional in and of itself.

However, the entire scenario here from the day that he was arrested and just prior to that to today's date, none of it, not one single sentence has changed, none of it.

He doesn't believe he is mentally ill. He doesn't believe what happened back in 96 or 97 when this occurred was illegal. He doesn't believe he did anything illegal.

He believes the FBI, CIA are involved, the mossad from Israel are involved in this, which

is all part of the original delusion that occurred.

The fact he possessed thirty long guns and thirteen handguns concerns me. He possessed them legally, but when you add all of that together here and, again, couple it with the fact that not one single thing has changed, not one insight into his mental illness that caused him to be here has changed, not one single admission that -- you know what I think -- probably what I did back then, even though maybe I didn't really intend it to be that way, but I could see how it could be construed that way, that doesn't appear in any of these records.

It's as if it was 1996 or 1997 since one of the reports talks about those particular years, it's as if it was twelve years ago when he first engaged in this type of behavior. Nothing has changed. That's what concerns me.

The mere fact he believes in UFO's and all the other stuff doesn't mean he has to be in a secure facility.

Maybe when you step back and look at the entire breath of this situation it's troubling.

[It's|Its] troubling.

Again, I cannot look into and investigate the facts of his conviction, what the evidence was, whether I think it was sufficient or not, none of that is before me now. I'm not an Appeals Court.

The picture that's presented from Mr. Ford is that nothing has changed. As far as he will go is that those things that happened some twelve years ago, whenever he took this plea, it was just a joke. That's as far as he'll go with it. That's disconcerting to me.

So, the Court finds that on the evidence presented at this hearing that:

A. He is mentally ill. There is no question about that.

I believe he still constitutes a physical danger to others, not so much himself necessarily, but certainly to others based upon this delusional belief system and based upon the fact that he will not even consider the fact that he is in fact mentally ill.

So, I believe that he does currently suffer from a dangerous mental disorder as defined in

Criminal Procedure Law 330.20.

Based on the foregoing I order that the Commissioner of Mental Health is authorized to continue the custody of this defendant for a period not to exceed 24 months from the expiration of the period prescribed in the prior retention order.

The last question I have to ask is this: If the mental health system is keeping him in secure treatment and they have seen nothing change in twelve years, have they run out of things to try?

I mean does somebody just sit there and vegetate for years on end? It seems to me you can't just throw your hands up and say nothing we tried worked. So let's bring another retention petition.

I don't see that in twelve years any effort has been made to really find out how they can get into his belief system and figure out what he needs to be able to function outside a secure facility. It's not happening here.

I assume two years from now you'll come back and say we don't know what's wrong with him and

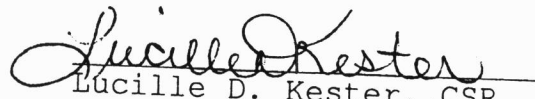
it will be 14 years.

It's time the mental system has to use a little brain power and hard work and find out what's wrong with Mr. Ford.

All right, I'll sign the order.

* * *

CERTIFIED TO BE a true and correct transcript of the within proceedings.


Lucille D. Kester, CSR
Senior Court Reporter