

GRAHAM Well, thank you very much. I'm looking forward to this conversation.

JON Excellent. OK, I'm going to read your bio for everyone.

Senator Bob Graham is the former two-term governor of Florida and served for 18 years in the United States Senate. This, combined with 12 years in the Florida legislature, for a total of 38 years of public service. As governor and Senator, Bob Graham was a centrist committed to bringing his colleagues together behind programs that serve the broadest public interest. He was recognized by the people of Florida when he received an 83 percent approval ranking as he concluded eight years as Governor. Bob Graham retired from public service in January 2005, following his Presidential campaign in 2003. He has written four books, including a nonfiction book *Intelligence Matters*, a novel *Keys to the Kingdom*, drawing on his experiences as chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, and *America the Owner's Manual: A Guide to Effective Citizenship*, written while he was a senior fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Since leaving the Senate in 2005, Graham has been chair of the Congressional Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction, a member of the Congressional Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, and co-chair of the Presidential Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Florida and Harvard Law School, he established the Center for Public Service at the University of Florida to enhance civic engagement and prepare the next generation of public and civic leaders. Graham and the former Adele Khoury have been married for 55 years. Congratulations. They have four daughters and the oldest of which, Gwen Graham, was elected to the U.S. Congress in 2014. Senator Graham has 11 grandchildren.

Congratulations on that, as well. And on that subject, I'd just like to say I recently became an uncle to my little niece Maya who was born on March 11th. So, welcome to the world, Maya.

GRAHAM Congratulations!

JON Thank you very much.

OK, so I'm going to get into the questions. What was the day of 9/11 like for you?

GRAHAM With Porter Goss and Senator Jon Kyl, I had just returned from a trip visiting a number of places identified by the CIA as being hot spots for terrorism. The last of those was Pakistan where we were hosted by the Pakistani central intelligence, which is referred to as ISI. The head of ISI was a General Ahmed. He was particularly gracious. We extended an invitation to him to reciprocate, should he be in Washington. It turned out that he was in Washington on September the 11th 2001. We were having breakfast with Porter Goss, Chair of the House Intelligence Committee's office, talking about motivations behind Al-Qaeda when we got the first notification of an airplane hitting one of the World Trade Centers. A few minutes later, a second airplane hitting the other World Trade Center tower. At that point we knew that it wasn't just coincidental accidents. And, for the first time in many decades, the U.S. Capitol was cleared, and we all sought refuge while the rest of September the 11th was playing out.

JON That's very interesting and it's a little funny to me because I've kind of known your story for several years now on the day of 9/11, but it's very interesting to hear it from your perspective.

What was the first thing that you questioned about the attacks?

GRAHAM Well, I guess the first question was what we were talking about when the attacks were occurring, which was: "What is it that motivates Al-Qaeda to the level and violence of its activities?" General Ahmed, who had had a long experience with Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, said that most people live in three phases of life. They have memories of the past, dreams of a future, but their primary concentration is on what's happening today. In the case of Al-Qaeda, the past and the present are irrelevant. The only thing that counts is the future. And, therefore, they are unhinged from the kinds of mores and cultural considerations that operate for most human beings. September the 11th was a tragic example of that philosophy.

JON Right.

I have a quote from an article entitled "Further Delay in U.S. Congressional Investigation into September 11th Attacks" from WSWS.org and it's dated March 6, 2002, and the quote is: "Graham and Goss rebuts calls for an inquiry in the weeks immediately following September 11. Siding with White House suggestions that Congressional hearings into the greatest security failure in U.S. history would detract from the efforts to prevent future terrorist attacks and conduct a war in Afghanistan."

Is this true? Because I could not find any references to substantiate that claim.

GRAHAM Yes, we did not want to take any actions with our inquiry that would have increased the vulnerability of the United States to a second or third attack. The White House requested, therefore, that we defer the initiation of our inquiry until they felt that the potential of a further attack had passed. We agreed to that and used that period in the fall of 2001, to prepare for the inquiry which would begin early in 2002.

JON Now, from what I understand, both Bush and Cheney asked Tom Daschle not to investigate the attacks at all. So, you're saying that in early 2002, when you started—when did the Congressional inquiry start? I'm sorry.

GRAHAM I believe our first hearings were held in February of 2002.

JON OK. So, you're saying that in February 2002, the White House gave the go ahead?

GRAHAM No, we weren't under the direction of the White House, but the White House had made a request that in light of the potential of further attacks and that the people who were involved in trying to ferret that possibility out and respond, if in fact it occurred, were some of the same people that we would want to be involved in our inquiry and that they felt that there could be a conflict having the inquiry going on during that immediate post-9/11 period.

We felt that was a reasonable request. We also recognized that we were going to need some time to put together our staff, begin securing documents, identifying future witnesses. And that the inquiry would not be adversely affected by delaying it until about 2002.

JON OK. I have always found it odd, and several other people have always found it odd, that the administration did not want the Congress to investigate the attacks. If anybody—

GRAHAM On that, the issue of the White House asking Tom Daschle not to initiate the inquiry, I am not aware that that, in fact, occurred, but I can say that Tom Daschle and the other Congressional leaders were very supportive of our inquiry and gave us full assistance throughout.

JON OK, just so everybody knows there's a video of Tom Daschle saying as such on my YouTube channel which is Gold9472.

OK, the next question. Obviously, you are familiar with the story about Randy Glass—I've heard you talk about it before—giving your office a warning in the months prior to 9/11. Could you please tell us about this?

GRAHAM Frankly, I am not aware as of March 2015, about the Randy Glass issue. If it were, in fact, been brought to my attention at the time, apparently, it wasn't considered to be a significant part of our inquiry responsibility.

JON OK, it's just one of those things that people have always questioned and so I wanted to get your point of view on the subject.

OK. Now, could you tell us what the 28-redacted pages of the Joint Congressional Inquiry are?

GRAHAM No, because they are classified and therefore (Laughs) we are limited in discussion. What's been publicly said, and I would concur, those—that chapter refers primarily to the issue of who financed 9/11. And it points a very strong finger of suspicion at Saudi Arabia.

JON OK, I'm sorry, I didn't mean for you to tell us what's in it. I just wanted you to tell everybody what they are.

Just so everybody knows, the Joint Congressional Inquiry report was released with 28-redacted pages and, as Senator Graham has just pointed out, some of the information within those pages talks about Saudi support, Saudi Government support I guess, for the hijackers and—

GRAHAM Actually, I might say, that issue goes to one of the remaining areas of lack of consensus and that is, did the 19 hijackers operate alone? Or, did they have support from some external source? The official position of the United States executive, including the intelligence community and the FBI, the White House, is that they acted alone. It is the position of the leadership of both the Congressional inquiry and the 9/11 citizen's commission that it was highly implausible that the 19 hijackers, given their lack of linguistic familiarity and the fact that most of them had never been to the United States before they came for the purpose of 9/11, that they could have carried out such a complex plot over a long period of time, maintaining

their anonymity, being able to practice to the point that they carried out the plot with such devastating effect.

JON From what I've heard, there are more than one country, or there is more than one country listed, within the 28-redacted pages. Can you at least confirm that much or no?

GRAHAM No.

JON OK. My next question, and I have heard you say that the claims regarding then head of the Pakistani ISI, Lieutenant General Mahmud Ahmed, ordering Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh to wire transfer \$100,000 to Mohammed Atta, are unsubstantiated. Many people—

GRAHAM I can say that our inquiry did not reach that conclusion.

JON OK, so you're saying that your inquiry looked into those allegations? Or, no?

GRAHAM They were part of our general inquiry. I'm not saying that we conclusively said that it didn't happen, but we did say we could not, based on the information that we were able to develop, state that Ahmed had been involved in some relationship with the Taliban and Al-Qaeda.

JON Many people were hoping that this would be referenced in the 28-redacted pages, and it sounds like based on what you've said, it's not. As someone who has looked into this issue a lot, I can say that it seems like, based on all the available information that's out there, the likelihood that it did happen—it seems more likely that it did happen than didn't. I can't prove it, unfortunately, but it's one of those things that has been neglected. I have never heard anyone in Government explain why these allegations are incorrect. And the 9/11 Report did not address them, but there was a document found within the—from the 9/11 Commission that said something to the effect that the Pakistani ISI did not send money to Mohammed Atta, but before that sentence and after that sentence there are many redactions and their names are not even mentioned.

So, it's just one of those things. I know the families were very interested in that and so forth.

During the Joint Congressional Inquiry there was a leak about NSA intercepts. Can you tell us about this incident?

GRAHAM I'm not certain what intercepts are being referenced.

JON I think the intercepts were: "Tomorrow is zero hour" and "the match begins tomorrow." They were supposedly intercepted, I think, a day or two before 9/11 and weren't intercepted until a day or two—or translated until a day or two just after 9/11.

GRAHAM The NSA collects, no doubt, thousands of intercepts daily. And there was some evidence that the traffic increased in the days immediately before 9/11. But collecting an intercept that refers to some undefined event that may occur in the near future is not by any means conclusive evidence. What we—our goal, frankly, was to stay on the core issues. There were a lot of interesting, intriguing subplots, but we tried to avoid following those to the detriment of our ability to answer the basic questions.

JON Right. Well, there was an incident where there was a leak. I believe it is in June of 2002, and I believe that it was found that it was Richard Shelby that actually leaked this. And I thought I read a quote from you from 2007, saying that it was an attempt by Dick Cheney and the White House to undermine the inquiry to, I think maybe you said, to shut it down or try and shut it down, or something to that effect.

GRAHAM When you said that "it was," what is the "it" in that sentence?

JON The leak. There was a leak in June of 2002, from the Joint Congressional Inquiry of two NSA intercepts and it was found—

GRAHAM There was no question Vice President Cheney was closely monitoring what we were doing and was not happy that we were having the inquiry at all. And he did at one point over an issue similar to the one you have just discussed—I'm not certain if it was precisely that—indicate that his disapproval of what was going on and that if that continued, that the administration might stop its assistance to the inquiry. We did not change our actions or our plan of inquiry. The administration, frankly, was off and on in terms of its level of support. There were some areas where it was forthcoming. There were other areas where it was very closed. And the fact that the 28 pages were censured is an example of that non-cooperation.

JON Another example would be the FBI trying to prevent or preventing Abdussattar Shaikh from testifying before the Joint Congressional Inquiry. Correct?

GRAHAM Yes, that was the man who in San Diego, who had at one in the same time been a paid agent of the FBI with the mission of monitoring particularly Saudi students in the southern California area to determine if any of them were engaged in any plot that might lead to future terrorism. While he had that assignment, he also opened his home to tenants, primarily young Saudi males, and two of his tenants ended up being two of the hijackers. So, he had the anomalous situation of a paid FBI agent, being the landlord of two of the future hijackers. We very much wanted to talk to that man. We thought he had a peculiar access to the hijackers and information on the actions of the FBI. But the FBI went to great lengths, including refusing to serve a subpoena, which it alone could serve because at that point the man was in protective custody, and they were the only entity who knew of where he was and could provide access to it. That was a low point of our inquiry.

JON Right. Why do you think the Bush and Obama administrations would have an interest in protecting elements within Saudi Arabia?

GRAHAM That is another of the unanswered questions of 9/11. Why has the United States Government gone to such lengths to cover up the involvement with Saudi Arabia? You can speculate that it may have to do with the special relationship that has existed between the United States and Saudi Arabia since World War II, which Saudi Arabia has committed to provide us a reliable source of petroleum and we have committed to provide them a defense umbrella.

It may have to do with the volatile situation in the Middle East in which Saudi Arabia at least has presented itself as being a reliable U.S. ally. In the Bush administration, it may have had ties to the long relationship between the House of Saud and the Bush family.

Which are—or what other rationale there may have been for the cover up it has, in my opinion, denied the American people the full truth of one of the most horrific events in modern American history, has denied justice to the families who suffered grievous losses during 9/11, and has adversely affected our national security by giving to Saudi Arabia the not unreasonable conclusion that Saudi Arabia is immune from any sanction for its actions and, therefore, can continue to do the things that it has been

doing, which are continuing to support Al-Qaeda and to be a significant factor in the formation and resources made available to ISIS.

JON Well, from what I've read, and I think I've read an article from you that actually mentioned that Bandar is mentioned within the 28-redacted pages. There's an allegation that the wife of Prince Bandar gave money to two of the hijackers. As we all know, the Bush family has very close ties to Prince Bandar (Right), that could be a reason.

GRAHAM That is—that's not a 28-page issue. That has been made public. What transpired is there was a Saudi agent who had been assigned to Southern California. His name was Bayoumi. His job was to monitor Saudi students to assure that they were not plotting some activities adverse to the interests of the Royal Family.

When two of the hijackers came to San Diego, at Bayoumi's request, Bayoumi's income suddenly went up, and one of the sources of that increase in his income were payments that were being made from a charity administered by the wife of the Saudi ambassador to the United States, Prince Bandar, allegedly for assistance to Saudis who had a medical problem, or for some other reason were in distress and needed assistance. Money that, supposedly, was going for that purpose, suddenly ended up in the bank account of Bayoumi's wife with the implication that Bayoumi and his wife had become the conduit for funds to those two hijackers while they were living in San Diego.

JON So, you're saying that the Bandar issue is not within the 28-redacted pages.

GRAHAM I can't say the—I—I can just say that the instance that you cited relative to Bandar's wife and the payments that ended up under the control of Bayoumi's wife. That is, that is a known set of facts. In fact, it's included in my book *Intelligence Matters*.

JON Right, I remember. Now, isn't it true that a lot of people in this country benefit from Saudi Arabian money?

GRAHAM Well, I don't—

JON Like, for instance, there was a recent sale of \$63 billion worth of weapons to Saudi Arabia. And the Bush family as an example.

GRAHAM All right, I mean, the answer to your question is Saudi Arabia is a very wealthy country and has many dealings with the United States Government under that commitment that we made back during the presidency of Franklin Roosevelt. We made commitments to provide them with security against external attack. So, that's not a new departure.

The situation that I referred to relates specifically to support for two of the 19 hijackers, which came through a charity administered by Mrs. Bandar to Mrs. Bayoumi and then with the inference that she was a pass-through to get the money to the two hijackers.

JON OK, this is a general question. In my opinion, covering up for anyone involved in the murder of 2,976 people is a crime and people should be held accountable for it. Do you agree with that assessment?

GRAHAM Well, I happen to be a lawyer, but a non-practicing lawyer. I would suggest you might ask that question of the current or incoming attorney general. That would be at that level that a decision as to the criminal culpability of people who have covered up. Whether they are criminally responsible or not, I'll leave to others, but I will state, based on what I know, that they have dis-served the United States by denying us, the American people, the ability to understand and, therefore, fully participate in decisions evolving out of 9/11. They have denied the families of those almost 3,000 Americans who were killed on September 11 the ability to receive any compensation from co-conspirators, and the American national security has been weakened by the failure to let the American people and the world know what Saudi Arabia did around 9/11 and subsequent to 9/11.

JON Well, one of the reasons that people are fighting for the release of the 28-redacted pages is so that the families can use them in a court of law. Now, one of the problems with that, and I'm going to get into that, there's a problem with that and I'm going to get into that after the next question.

What is your opinion on how individuals like FBI agent Robert Wright were blocked from doing investigations into Saudi Arabia prior to 9/11? And this seems to have been a theme within the different alphabet agencies.

GRAHAM Yeah, the attention recently has been on the 28 pages. They are very dramatic, tangible, and now, some 13 years which they have been withheld is a particularly egregious act, but the 28 pages are by no means the totality of the instances in which Saudi Arabia acts have been covered up by U.S.

officials. And, so the situation that you cite, I will have to say I'm not intimately familiar with that, but that would be another example of the U.S. deference to Saudi Arabia to the disadvantage of the American people.

JON Well, just so everyone knows, FBI Agent Robert Wright started an investigation in the 90s and he called it Vulgar Betrayal. He investigated people like Yasin al Qadi, who says that he is a friend of Dick Cheney's, but whatever. Anyway, he was blocked and shut down from doing his job. And that happened a lot throughout the 90s. Like, George Tenet was very good friends with Prince Bandar, and George Tenet would have meetings with Prince Bandar that his subordinates weren't aware of. They didn't know what they talked about. And, in fact, they were told to kind of back off of the Saudis with regard to investigating terrorism, and so on and so forth. So, there was a common theme. It happened prior to 9/11 and it also happened after 9/11. This covering up for Saudi Arabia.

GRAHAM If I could just give another instance (Sure!), which is fairly recently. Three of the hijackers did their basic flight training near Sarasota Florida. There were allegations by, among others, the people in the neighborhood and people who were involved in the security for this community that those three hijackers, including Atta incidentally, had a continuing and close relationship with a prominent Saudi family living in the Sarasota community.

A few days before 9/11, the Saudi family left their Sarasota home in what was referred to as urgent conditions, i.e. new car in the front parking lot, food on the table, clothes in the washer, and returned to Saudi Arabia. Again, the inference is that someone tipped them off as to what was about to happen. The FBI has gone to extreme lengths to conceal what they should have learned about the relationship between the hijackers and the prominent family. The FBI initially said they had no information about that case.

During a Freedom of Information Act hearing before a federal judge they finally, months later, admitted that they had over 80,000 pages of materials relating to the Sarasota investigation, which the judge demanded be brought to his office, and for the last several months he has been reviewing those pages to make a determination as to which deserve to be released to the American people.

JON Now, just so everybody knows the *Florida Bulldog*, I believe, is the one that's leading the charge for this FOIA request, correct?

GRAHAM A very outstanding investigative journalist, Dan Christiansen, has—he wrote the first story around the time of the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 and has been dogged—no pun intended—in his efforts since that time.

JON Right. That's a very important story. I highly recommend that people go to the *Florida Bulldog*, which was previously known as the *Broward Bulldog*. And go read the stories of Dan Christensen about this issue.

Now, it has been reported that when Bush came into office one of the first things he did was to tell the different alphabet agencies to "back off" the Saudis and the Bin Ladens. That under the Bill Clinton administration it was "slow go," but under Bush it was "no go." In your opinion, do you think this could have contributed to the success of the 9/11 attacks?

GRAHAM Well, if that was—if that's true, and if that directive resulted in less than aggressive pursuit of the many leads that, had they been followed, would have resulted in blowing up a plot before the plot blew up America, it would be a very serious charge.

JON Well, I remember that FBI agent John O'Neill was complaining a lot about the obstructionism. He called it the Saudi obstructionism under the Bush administration. And, unfortunately, he resigned from the FBI, went to work as security for the World Trade Center, and died on 9/11.

GRAHAM I mean there's no question that the Bush administration covered up for the Saudis (Right), whether the President himself or someone on his behalf told the alphabet—intelligence community agencies that they should go lax on the Saudis, I don't know, but their actions were certainly consistent with such a directive.

JON OK. Now, we spoke about how the families want the 28-redacted pages released so they can use them in a court of law. The next question is going to be information intensive. So, let me just read the question.

The 9/11 Commission essentially absolved the Government of Saudi Arabia and individuals like Princess Haifa with regard to the 9/11 attacks. They said they looked into the allegations of the 28-redacted pages and found that they were lacking. What is your opinion of this?

GRAHAM That's a question that you should be asking of someone who was a part of the Citizens 9/11 Commission. Their wording of that statement about the Saudis was very artful parsing of phrases and then, apparently, in a footnote they—the 9/11 Commission—somewhat reversed itself and said nothing else that said elsewhere should be interpreted as giving Saudi Arabia absolution from responsibility for 9/11. (Well, okay—) So, that has somewhat muddied the issue. And my position has been let's let the 28 pages be released and then we will have a real debate about whether the evidence that supports what is in those 28 pages is conclusive.

The interesting thing to me is that our final report was well over 800 pages, so the 28 pages were just a relatively small part of the whole. And there's been, to my knowledge, no questions raised that the balance of the report that has been made public was less than a full, impartial professional investigation and well-formed conclusions. So, why would the 28 pages which—I don't think the 28 pages were withheld because somebody thought that they were not fully substantiated. I think they were withheld because somebody—then and now—doesn't want those facts to be made broadly available.

JON OK, now, what I'm going to do—and the reason that it's a problem is because the Saudis are pointing to the 9/11 Commission in defense of what's supposedly in the 28 redacted pages. Now, there is a sentence within the 9/11 Report that does absolve the Government of Saudi Arabia and there was also a monograph that was released on terrorist financing and there's a quote in that monograph and it says.

"Despite persistent public speculation there is no evidence that the hijackers who initially settled in San Diego, Mihdhar and Hazmi, received funding from Saudi citizens, Omar al Bayoumi and Osama Bassnan, or that Saudi Princess Haifa al Faisal provided funds to the hijackers either directly or indirectly."

Now, would—do you have a response to that or—

GRAHAM Well, we found to the contrary. We found that there was the passage of funds that were allegedly for charitable purposes to Mrs. Bayoumi without any pretense of it being for a charitable purpose. But heavy inference that it was given the timing of the sudden increase in Mrs. Bayoumi's monthly

income that it was not for her purposes, that it was to assist the hijackers. There also was the case of Mr. Bayoumi, who was an employee of a Saudi company in a position that was referred to as a ghost, i.e. he was on the payroll, but he never showed up for work. And in the same bus that the two hijackers came to San Diego, Bayoumi's allowances that he received as part of his compensation increased by approximately eight times. Again, raising the inference that he was a conduit of these additional funds to support the hijackers in San Diego.

JON Well, let me explain—are you familiar with the author Phil Shenon?

GRAHAM Yes, I know, I mean, I know of Mr. Shenon.

JON He wrote a book and in that book he said that Philip Zelikow, who is the Executive Director of the 9/11 Commission who, essentially, had more sway than any of the 9/11 Commissioners as far as who would be questioned, what questions would be asked, and so on and so forth. He blocked half of the Saudi investigative requests during the time of the 9/11 Commission. He fired Dana Lesemann (RIP) who worked on the Joint Congressional Inquiry and helped to author the 28-redacted pages, when she tried to go through a back channel to gain access to those 28-redacted pages, because Philip Zelikow was making it difficult for her to get to them.

Late in the 9/11 Commission, Philip Zelikow and Dietrich Snell took part in a "late night editing session" to remove Saudi support for the hijackers from the 9/11 Report and relegated them to footnotes in the back of the book against the wishes of the staffers who worked on this. Do you have anything to say about that?

GRAHAM I have read that. Mr. Gold, I'm trying to respond to questions from what I know and indicate when I am just a reader of what third parties have said. What I know is written in the book *Intelligence Matters* and in the novel *Keys to the Kingdom*. I have no inside knowledge of what happened in the Citizens 9/11 Commission and have a high regard for the members of that commission. We just, apparently, came to a significantly different conclusion as to the financial support that Saudi Arabia provided before and immediately during the 9/11 tragedy.

JON OK. Many people believe that the likes of Philip Zelikow and Dietrich Snell should be held accountable for things that they did during the time of the 9/11 Commission. So that's why I brought that up.

There was a family member who wanted me to ask you this question. Are there any valid reasons anymore like protecting sources and methods to keep the 28-redacted pages redacted?

GRAHAM No. And there were no valid reasons at the time they were initially redacted. Both Senator Richard Shelby, Republican of Alabama, and myself, Democrat from Florida, who had been directly involved in the preparation of the 28 pages, said publicly at the time that we did not believe there was any reason that those pages should have been withheld. And what was true in the summer of 2003, when it was announced that they were going to be withheld, continues to be true in the spring of 2015.

JON Well, then they should be released as far as I'm concerned. And, just so you know, with regard to the 9/11 Commission, the National Archives has only released about 35 percent of the documents from the 9/11 Commission and a lot of the documents that they have released are greatly redacted. So, we're still fighting for that information as well.

GRAHAM: And that surprises me because I have been told, and I have not independently confirmed this, that the 9/11 Commission, the citizens commission, that its materials have all gone to the archives, have been digitized, and are available on the Internet. This is the first time I had heard that that was not the case.

JON No, that's not the case. And, as a matter of fact, Prince Bandar—there's something called a memoranda for the record and it's basically a description of the interviews that took place for different witnesses during the time of the 9/11 Commission. Prince Bandar's memoranda for the record is still classified. And there are many instances like that.

Now, my feelings have always been that an individual—

GRAHAM Let me—now that you phrased it the way you did, I would—I'm not surprised that there are parts of the 9/11 Commission, which are in the National Archives, that have continued to be classified, but I believe the totality of what they accumulated is in the National Archives, some of which is classified. The rest is available to the public. The report of the Congressional inquiry has not been delivered to the National Archives and is being held by the Senate as the custodian of those documents.

JON Well, okay. From what I understand, several of the documents have yet to be released. I can't name what those specific documents are, but I know that there are some that still need to be released.

Now, one thing I forgot to mention, when Bush and Cheney testified before the 9/11 Commission—not under oath, with no transcripts, and all that stuff—according to John Lehman, he said that during their meeting with Bush and Cheney he asked George Bush, specifically, about the allegations of Princess Haifa and Bush "dodged the questions." [Laughs] Do you have anything to say about that?

GRAHAM No, again, I'm—I feel pretty confident and obligated to say what I know the truth to be or and indicate when I think I know what the truth is, but I'm not going to get involved in commenting on matters of which I have no personal knowledge.

JON Okay. My last question—actually, there are two more questions. My feelings have always been that individuals responsible for 9/11 need to be held accountable. Not everyone that believes in a certain ideology, religion, or everyone from a particular country—there's actually a term for doing that, and it's called collective punishment. And it's a war crime and it's against the Geneva Conventions. Do you agree with that assessment? Or, do you think that the U.S. should do something like go to war with Saudi Arabia?

GRAHAM No, I don't think we should go to war with Saudi Arabia, but I think we should demand some appropriate recognition by Saudi Arabia of what, in fact, it did and compensation to Americans who suffered as a result of the Saudi acts.

There's some interesting parallels here. The Lockerbie case of, I guess, the late 1980s, where Libya was alleged to have been involved in the bombing that resulted in the murder of the passengers and crew on that Pan Am flight. Eventually, after denying responsibility, finally accepted it and made compensation.

Going all the way back to the Civil War, the British who had indicated they were going to be neutral, but in fact assisted the Confederacy in building naval ships after the war at the insistence of the U.S. Government, accepted responsibility and, again, paid compensation.

So, there are precedents when a foreign Government is a co-conspirator in actions against the United States and its people. Saudi Arabia should similarly be challenged to accept its responsibility and compensate.

JON I do agree wholeheartedly with what you said. I also believe that the United States needs to take responsibility for their actions over the years as far as enabling and/or collaborating with the Saudis.

Is there anything--

GRAHAM That's again, I mean, I think the place where that responsibility should lay is with the American people in the political process. If they believe that there were individuals who acted disingenuously to the detriment of the American people, they should be punished politically. Now, because this has gone on so long, many of the people who had—the American people had full information might have been the subjects of that punishment, have left the scene and no longer are susceptible to things like being voted out of office, or being impeached, or other sanctions that would be available. That's just another part of the lack of justice that has come from this cover-up of Saudi involvement.

JON Right, I agree. And, you know, unfortunately, with regard to 9/11 there are a number of different cover-ups and there needs to be—there's been a great lack of accountability in Government. And as we've learned over the last 14 years, a Government that is not accountable is a very dangerous Government.

GRAHAM And that's what our wise forefathers recognized from their experience with King George III and, therefore, our Government was set up with checks and balances so that, ideally, no one individual or branch of Government could become oppressive. We've seen some breakdowns in that system. In the case of 9/11 and specifically the U.S. Saudi involvement in 9/11.

JON Is there anything that you would like to promote at this time, like JASTA and so forth?

GRAHAM Yes. The families of the victims of 9/11 have been attempting for several years to seek justice in the federal courts through litigation, which would essentially name the Saudi Government and various Saudi entities as being co-conspirators. They have been dismissed under this doctrine of sovereign immunity that says you cannot sue the head of another state. The federal

courts have now re-interpreted that doctrine in the context of 9/11 and have said that it is inept in applicable or at least does not represent the blanket shield that it has been thus far.

So, the litigants are back at it. Their case would be more easily heard and disposed of if the Congress were to bring greater clarity to the rules relating to citizen's suits against foreign Governments, alleged involvement in terrorism. The U.S. Senate passed such a bill at the end of the last session. I believe they passed it unanimously. But it did not, was not taken up in the House, so the whole process is now starting again in this Congress, and I hope that before the end of 2016, that the Congress will have found this to be an area in which there can be bipartisan agreement. Let's make it fair and equitable for Americans who have been injured by the complicity of foreign Governments and terrorist action to get some recompense for their grievous losses.

JON Right, absolutely. Also, H.Res.14, now, it's called. We need to promote that, which is—could you explain that to us?

GRAHAM Is that the resolution asking the President to release the 28 pages?

JON Correct.

GRAHAM Yes. Several members of the House—I think now it's up to 20 or 30—have come together in a bipartisan spirit behind their resolution to request the President to release the 28 pages. I'm hopeful that that resolution will pass and pass expeditiously. Again, I see no reason why this shouldn't be the basis of strong bipartisan agreement and bring this thing directly before the President, who is the person who can make the decision to let the American people see what their Government and other Governments did during the period before 9/11 and what has transpired since then, and the effort to keep to keep that information away from the American people.

JON Right. The H.Res 14—

GRAHAM —if I could, to your audience, that they could directly participate in this by writing a letter, or sending an e-mail, or placing a call to their Congressmen and Senators in support of the Congressional expression of its opinion that the President should release this information to the public.

JON Well, Obama told two family members, Kristen Breitweiser and Bill Doyle, that he would release these pages and they haven't heard from them. So, hopefully—

GRAHAM Well, I was just going to say there are a number of arrows pointed at this target of release, this Congressional action is one, the President has asked the head of the intelligence community, General Clapper, to do a review of the 28 pages and recommend whether he thinks they should be released. There's a separate administrative process underway as it relates to the materials coming out of the Sarasota case.

So, there are a number of initiatives which have the potential of breaking this log jam and allowing the American people to better understand what happened and what their Government has done in their name.

JON Absolutely. I would just like to promote 28pages.org, which has a number of helpful tools to send letters to your Representatives with regard to H.Res. 14 and so forth.

Senator Graham, I want to thank you very much for your time today. It's been a privilege to talk with you.

GRAHAM Well, Mr. Gold, we've not had the opportunity to meet, but I know you have a reputation of being a very serious scholar and student of 9/11 events and, particularly, this issue of a Government cover-up, and the questions that you've asked today indicate that that reputation is well deserved. So, I appreciate the chance to have participated in this discussion with you.

JON Well, thank you very much, sir. And I hope you have a pleasant rest of the day in Florida and enjoy all those grandchildren that you got.

GRAHAM [Laughs] Thank you. Thank you very much. I will.

JON All right, sir. Have a good day.

GRAHAM Okay, good-bye, same to you.

JON Bye, bye.

We were **LIED** to about 9/11

With your host Jon Gold

This week
Jon talks to...



The
Soapbox
People's Network

Ray McGovern

Chapter/Episode 24 – Ray McGovern – March 24, 2015

Jon Gold (JON)

Ray McGovern (RAY)

JON Hi, everyone, and welcome to my show called, "We Were Lied to About 9/11." I am your host Jon Gold and this show is part of the Soapbox People's Network.

This week, we're going to talk about some of the different indications that our Government was WELL AWARE that the attacks were coming.

Hi, this is Jon and I'm here with Ray McGovern. Ray, how are you doing today?

RAY I'm doing fine, Jon. How are you?

JON I'm doing well. Okay. What I'm going to do is I'm going to read your bio for everyone. This is kind of lengthy, so bare with me.

Ray McGovern leads the "Speaking Truth to Power" section of Tell the Word, an expression of the ecumenical Church of the Saviour in inner-city

Washington. A former co-director of the Servant Leadership School (1998-2004), he has been teaching there for 15 years.

Ray came from his native New York to Washington in the early Sixties as an Army infantry/intelligence officer and then served as a CIA analyst from the administration of John F. Kennedy to that of George H. W. Bush. Ray's duties included chairing National Intelligence Estimates and preparing the President's Daily Brief, which he briefed one-on-one to President Ronald Reagan's most senior national security advisers from 1981 to 1985.

In January 2003, Ray helped create Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS) to expose the way intelligence was being falsified to "justify" war on Iraq. On the afternoon of the day (Feb. 5, 2003) Secretary of State Colin Powell misled the UN Security Council on Iraq, VIPS sent a blunt memorandum to President George W. Bush, in which VIPS gave Powell a C minus for content. They ended the memo with this:

"No one has a corner on the truth; nor do we harbor illusions that our analysis is irrefutable or undeniable [as Powell had claimed]. But after watching Secretary Powell today, we are convinced that you would be well served if you widened the discussion beyond ... the circle of those advisers clearly bent on a war for which we see no compelling reason and from which we believe the unintended consequences are likely to be catastrophic."

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Jay Rockefeller, after a five-year study by his committee, described the intelligence used to "justify" war on Iraq as "unsubstantiated, contradicted, or even non-existent." In other words, it was not mistaken; it was fraudulent.

As an act of conscience, on March 2, 2006 Ray returned the Intelligence Commendation Medallion given him at retirement for "especially meritorious service," explaining, "I do not want to be associated, however remotely, with an agency engaged in torture." He returned it to Rep. Peter Hoekstra (R, Michigan), then-Chairman of the House Intelligence Committee.

Hoekstra added to the Intelligence Authorization Act for FY'07 (HR5020) a provision enabling the Government to strip intelligence veterans of their Government pensions. HR5020 passed the full House, but Congress opted instead for a continuing resolution. Thus, Ray was spared from having to

go back to driving part-time for Red Top Cab.

On the early afternoon of May 4, 2006, in Atlanta, Ray confronted Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld on live TV with pointed questions like: "Why did you lie to get us into a war that was not necessary and that has caused these kinds of casualties?" (JON: Wow, I've never read that before. It was an honor to quote you on that, laughs)

The impromptu, four-minute mini-debate that followed is still receiving hits on YouTube - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1FTmuhyaw> Accused by TV pundits that evening of "following the Secretary of Defense all the way down to Atlanta," Ray explained that he had gotten to Atlanta first - to receive, that same evening, the ACLU's National Civil Liberties Award (won the previous year by Coretta Scott King).

Ray's opinion pieces have appeared in many leading newspapers here and abroad. His Web site writings are usually posted first on consortiumnews.com as well as here on raymcgovern.com, and they are usually then cross-posted widely on other Web sites.

Ray still serves on the Steering Group of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity; VIPS' 26 corporate issuances are posted on warisacrime.org/vips.

He has debated twice at the Oxford Forum, most recently in Jan. 2013, when he chose to take a lighter tone in trying to explain why it is still possible to dream the American dream. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w79XPllwdvY>

Ray has appeared on The NewsHour, C-Span's Washington Journal, CNN, Aljazeera, RT, PressTV and numerous other TV & radio programs and documentaries. (His favorite gig was debating former CIA Director James Woolsey on Charlie Rose on Aug. 20, 2004) Ray has also addressed a wide variety of audiences in the U.S. and abroad.

He studied theology and philosophy (as well as his major, Russian) at Fordham University, from which he holds two degrees. He also holds a Certificate in Theological Studies from Georgetown University and is a graduate of Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program.

A Catholic, Ray has been worshipping for over a decade with the

ecumenical Church of the Saviour. He has been invited to lecture at various interfaith and ecumenical events around the U.S., and has preached at a number of Christian churches and Jewish synagogues.

Ray is particularly fond of the "substitute teaching" he has been invited to do at universities and colleges. At Georgetown University, though, he quickly wore out his welcome when he stood silently with his back turned toward then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. He was seized and badly beaten while Secretary Clinton spoke eloquently about the need for freedom of expression—in Iran.

So, that's Ray's bio. I remember all of that stuff and cheering you on and hoping you were OKAY when you were beaten up and all of that stuff. I have a little personal story to tell about Ray.

On September 11, 2004, in Washington D.C. Pacifica Radio held what was called the 9/11 People's Commission and at that commission, I was fortunate enough to get the first question, and I directed it towards Ray. And my question had to do with the CIA's involvement in the drug trade. I talked a little bit about peak oil or the idea of peak oil, and then I finally asked Ray what would the motivations be for the administration, the Bush administration, to "allow" the attacks to happen? And what Ray said to me, stayed with me for years. It was a clever acronym, a clever formula, that seemed to be right but dead on. And what he said to me was he had an acronym for oil. "O" for oil, "I" for the protection of Israel and "L" for the logistical placement of bases in that region for future use. And Ray has been extremely influential to me over the years. He's a hero of mine and it's an honor to have him on the show today.

So, are you ready to get started?

RAY All set.

JON All right. Excellent. The first question is what was the day of 9/11 like for you?

RAY Well, I was in my office working away there and across the hall there was a woman with a radio on very loud. And about 9 o'clock I went into to her office and said, "You know, I'm trying to concentrate. Will you turn that thing down?" [Laughs] That's the way I learned what was going on.

So, what I did is what I normally do when something horrible is happening and I can't do anything about it at the time. I went back and finished my work and went home. After all the other people in Washington had evacuated and got home in good shape and then started to think about the implications of what had just happened. So, in a shorthand that's what I remember of 9/11.

JON Now, what was the first thing that you questioned about the 9/11 attacks?

RAY Well, I was—

JON You know, besides—what would happen from that point?

RAY Well, as the days went on it was very clear that President Bush, given the opportunity to choose between two courses of action, one in the best traditions of our country, and the other appealing to the worst instincts of all humans. He chose revenge. His Dad, a week later, said that his son George had read the Bible through completely twice, twice what George H.W. Bush said. Well, I don't know. I think he missed a lot of it, actually, or maybe he speed read through or maybe he was doing something else while he was supposed to be reading the Bible. But, it doesn't say vengeance is mine says Bush and Cheney. It says vengeance is mine says the Lord. Bush and Cheney decided to use this in the most—well, the adjectives and adverbs are coming to my mind but they're not good for taping on radio. And the most unsavory way that George Bush and Dick Cheney lead the country to believe that this was a hostile attack from an entity upon which we needed to make war. This is the first time in history that I have heard of a war against a concept namely terrorism and not a country or movement or something like that. So, long story short, I began to fear that the worst would happen. And, indeed, I didn't know the half of it.

JON Well, it's interesting that you talk about the concept of terrorism, having a war against that. When the FBI sets up people through entrapment to create terrorists and then stop their own plots or when the United States collaborates with Al-Qaeda linked groups in countries like Libya and wherever else, I often ask myself how can we have a war on terror if we're supporting terrorists here or creating terrorists there? So that's interesting.

RAY Well Jon, you have to realize that there are good terrorists and there are bad terrorists—we're only against the bad terrorists, so. (Laughs) When I was asked, well, it's a little aside, but it's very relevant. The head of the

operations department of the CIA was invited to give a major lecture at my alma mater Fordham. And he was [Laughs]—he came in and he said: "Hi Ray, I'm going to mention you together with Bill Casey and John Brennan who are both alumni."

I said: "Please, please. [Laughs] Thank you very much but don't mention me in the same sentence as those two guys, Mike." (Laughs) His name was Mike Sulik and he's a decent, nice guy, but in charge of all the terrorism—the good-guy terrorism, the torture and kidnapping, the black sites. So, he's up there, and to make a long story short, he's being lionized by everybody including the Republican Club that invited him. And then an innocent question came from a graduate student—and it seemed innocent at the time so the people who were vetting the questions let it through—and they said: Well, here's a question from a graduate student.

"Dr. Sulik, how do you define terrorism?" And, I'll tell you, I was sitting in the fourth row—you know the proverbial deer who's caught in the headlights? (Laughs) Quite embarrassing and he said: "Well, Ray McGovern is here and he worked in analysis, so maybe he can answer that question." (Right) I said, "thank you Jesus, thank you!" So, I walked up to the podium, and I said "Well, you have to understand, there are good terrorists, there are bad terrorists. The good ones are the ones doing terrorism in places like Nicaragua or wherever we want to overthrow Governments or push drugs, or whatever. Those are the good ones. The bad ones are the ones that take exception to you're invading their country, setting up regimes that oppress them, and those are the bad terrorists. So, just kind of realize that it's not really simple. There are good terrorists and bad ones." [Laughter]

So, I ended up with the question. I said: Well, Mike—his name was Mike Sulik. I said: "Mike, how do you justify—how do you square the concept of the sanctity of life? Which we Catholics are really good at for like the first nine months. But then, kind of don't pay much attention to young boys and then when they become old boys, we send them off to war. How do you justify the sanctity of life with killing a whole bunch of people who don't look like us?"

The head of the student council says: "Dr. Sulik, you don't have to answer that, you don't have to answer that." I said: "Come on, he's a big boy! He should know the answer to that." But, Dr. Sulik hid in the shadows until the next softball question was given.

So, all I'm saying here is that, state-sponsored terror—think drones. Think drones that have killed thousands of people, including of course, innocent people. And in a sort of "clean" way where then you don't have to imprison them. Then you don't have to take them to Guantanamo. Think all those kinds of things, torture, imprisonment, and black prisons and, the whole schmear—kidnapping. That's terrorism done by us, so it's good terrorism. We don't call it terrorism. The only terrorism happens when we kill civilians in Afghanistan let's say, and their extended family, all 30 of them, show up at the next Al-Qaeda recruiting station and pledge to do jihad to get vengeance on those who killed their relatives, so.

It's, you know, it's almost—it's not funny. It's not funny at all.

JON No, it's not.

RAY But that's the real explanation of terrorism—the War on Terrorism.

JON Do you remember the many statements made by officials in the days, months, and years after 9/11, indicating that there were no warnings or indications that an attack like 9/11 was coming?

RAY Well, those are lies. There were many warnings. The President himself was warned on the 6th of August that Al-Qaeda was determined to strike within the U.S. Condoleezza Rice lied about that. George Bush, George W. Bush, was said to have dismissed the PDB. That's to the President's daily brief briefer that morning by saying: "Yeah, all right, now you've covered your ass. Right. OKAY." And then he went off fishing, I think, or he went off to see some baseball game, or something. On August 6, 2001—so what's that? That's about five weeks before 9/11. There was that.

And, there were things that went on during that August period that have been veiled or have been kept from the American people.

During the 9/11 Commission proceedings, when George Tenet, the head of the CIA, was put on the—sworn under oath—in his testimony, his sworn testimony—who was it? The Congressman from Indiana. He said: "Director Tenet, how many times did you speak with the President during August?" He said: "I didn't speak to him at all." And the member of the 9/11 Commission, previous Congress person, said...

JON Timothy Roemer, I believe you're talking about.

RAY Yes, it was Tim Roemer, yeah. He says: "Well, now, are telling me that you didn't by telephone, you didn't talk to the President at all during the month of August?" And Tenet said: "No, sir, not all. I mean, he was on vacation there in Crawford and, you know, I took a little bit of annual leave too. It was August." Well, guess what? Tenet was lying through his teeth. He flew down to see the President in Crawford—not once, as most people kind of know, but twice during August—and then he briefed him in Washington again on the last day of August, the 31st.

Now, after the TV cameras went home and the 9/11 Commission shut down for the day, Bill Harlow who happens to be Tenet's sort of propagandist, he called the commission staff and goes: "Oh, I'm sorry, my boss Tenet misspoke." And, even then, Harlow only admitted to that first visit to Crawford and Bush, which ironically, Tenet writes up in his memoirs: "Oh, it was just fantastic. The President was so cordial. He drove me around in his jeep, and there were flotsam and jetsam there that I've never seen in Queens. It was just great." That was August 17th. Now, guess what? He went back again on August 24th. Now, how did he explain August 17th? Well, he said: "I wanted to follow up on that warning that we'd given the President on the 6th in the President's daily brief about Al-Qaeda determined to strike in the U.S. I just wanted to make sure he knew that." Well, why did he go on the 24th? Why does nobody else know that he went on the 24th? How did I find out he went on the 24th?

Well, as usual, I scour the media and the blogs and it wasn't that I came upon this myself, but someone else pointed out that there was a White House press release quoting President Bush to the effect that Tenet had been there on the 24th as well.

Now, it's really funny that under sworn testimony before the 9/11 Commission that Tenet could have forgotten that first visit, which he bragged about so much in his memoir, but then the second—well, how do you explain the second? Well, the second came right after they found out that Moussaoui—now, he was the terrorist, he was the hijacker, presumed hijacker, that was training to fly big Boeings, and not terribly concerned about learning to takeoff or to land, actually, just to steer them. [Laughs] Was that suspicious? Yeah, it was so suspicious that the people at the training center very discreetly told the FBI office there in Minneapolis.

And, finally, they wrapped up Moussaoui on charges unrelated because the only charges they had were Al-Qaeda.

Okay, now, why do I mention that? Well, because on the 23rd of August—so, one day before Tenet hustled back down to Crawford—Tenet was given an alarming briefing focusing on Moussaoui who had been in court. Okay? And the title of the briefing was "Islamic extremists learn to fly." Tenet was told that Moussaoui was trained to fly a 747 and had paid for the training in cash.

Now [Laughs], what did he do? Well, now, he checked out to see if Moussaoui was connected with any terrorist groups and that the word came in: "Yep, he had ties with those groups there in Chechnya. He was a terrorist pure and simple." Now, what happened. Well, Tenet went down, told Bush about this, presumably—I don't have any proof that he did, but here he goes and stayed there on a secret flight, right? So, what happened? You know—what's that?

JON I was going to say that, according to the official sources or whatever he did not tell Bush about Moussaoui, but we don't know that.

RAY Well, yeah, I guess that's why I said that I don't have any specific information as to why he went down to Crawford. But what we know—and this is good enough for an intelligence analyst, and once one, always one, I suppose—what we know is that he'd been there on the 17th. He was following up on that PDB briefing. And why would he go back a week later on a secret mission he never mentioned. Why would he go back the day after he learned that Moussaoui (Right) was tied to terrorism?

So, I think that's a good inference that he went when he heard the information that Moussaoui was tied to terrorism. And this was important because then they could have wrapped him up. But the FBI decided not to wrap him up, and so Moussaoui's laptop, Moussaoui's effects, were not permitted to be investigated before 9/11—we're talking just two weeks, three weeks before 9/11.

So, there's that, and then there's the whole business about those two hijackers out there in San Diego. (Right) al-Hazmi and al-Mihdhar. Now, you got into that a little bit with Senator Graham, and I have lots to say about Senator Graham and his behavior during this whole thing. But let's

just suffice it to say that al-Hazmi and al-Mihdhar were being prepared to fly Flight 77 into the Pentagon.

Now, the President of the United States—this time, Barack Obama got up a year ago, and in defending the Dragnet-type surveillance, the blanket surveillance of all of us, all our telephone calls and stuff—he intimated that if we had this broad coverage of all our telephone calls and all, then maybe we would have been able to find out the telephone number in San Diego which was calling, which had called the Al-Qaeda central in Yemen and we might have been able to track down the terrorists. OKAY, well, guess what? That's a lie. (Yep) That's a bald-faced lie. If you talk to the NSA people as I have—Bill Binney, for example, senior scientist there for 35 years, he says: "Ray, if they only had the number—Ray, do you know about caller ID?" I said: "Yeah, I know." Binney: "That's as simple as it is, Ray, they had that, they had the number." And when Bush talks about—I'm sorry, Bush, same difference really—when Obama talks about that one telephone call between San Diego and the Al-Qaeda safe house there, that's the switchboard, he's lying. (Right) There were at least six calls. We know that because the chief of the Counterterrorism Center has said that. Binney: "And guess what, Ray? We didn't only have the metadata, we had the content."

So, why did NSA not report that? That remains a big mystery, but we ought to get that General Michael Hayden, who's such a favorite on Fox News, we ought to get him on the stand and say: "Why is it you didn't report those things? Why is it that you had information for war?" And the NSA people told me they had not only pinpointed all the Al-Qaeda networks and so forth, but they had this information before 9/11 and did not report it.

JON

Well, one of the guests that I've had on was NSA whistleblower Thomas Drake and he confirmed to me that the NSA did have the identity of the phone number from the San Diego hijackers, which means they knew they were in America and did not tell the FBI. And the 9/11 Commission barely investigated the NSA. And, so, we have no idea what was in those calls. We have no idea, basically, what information the NSA had specifically. I know that Thomas Drake testified before the Joint Congressional Inquiry into 9/11, but apparently, the transcripts or whatever were destroyed. The only thing that's remaining is the fact that he testified. But he was the one who brought in the "smoking guns" to the inquiry to let them know and all of those records have been destroyed apparently.

RAY

Yeah, and so what does that say about your distinguished guest Senator Graham? What does that say about his grumbling attitude toward the executive branch? What does this say about his acquiescence in this fraud, in this cover up, and his continuing cowardice in not releasing what was in those 28 pages. What does it say about the fact that he chose to write his novel. Isn't that neat? You write a novel which parallels what really happened. Give me a break. Graham is just as responsible for our not knowing about what went down on 9/11 as anybody, and for him to be kind of sidestepping all your questions and saying: "Well, what's really hard, Cheney didn't want this to succeed." Graham should have quit on the spot. Instead, what Graham did, it was really reprehensible.

Here, let me let me show you. Let me read from something I wrote at the time. I was out in San Diego, by some coincidence, and I was listening to the end of the Joint Congressional Committee which investigated 9/11. Their final report—well, this was interesting, the chair of that committee was clearly frustrated as hell. Her name was Eleanor Hill. OKAY. She's a pretty good person. And she began the session by saying: "Now, I want everyone to realize that we talked into the night with the White House and with the CIA and we were unable to include in this report anything, any information having to do with what the President of the United States was told prior to 9/11." The White House forbade that from being in the final report.

So, the report was ipso facto—incomplete, because it contains lots of stuff but nothing on what the President was told before 9/11. Now that's a proof positive to me. If you've got a partisan person here who'll do the bidding of the White House, and that's precisely why Porter Goss, the co-chair of this committee, was eventually nominated to become the director of central intelligence, the head of the CIA. So, what I'm saying here is that what Graham presided over was a fraud on the American people. And he dished it off to the Congressional but not the Congressional, but the 9/11 Commission which was fraud number two, witness the fact that the co-chairs of that commission, former Governor Kean from New Jersey and Lee Hamilton the token Democrat who is trotted out for such investigations, wrote a book four years after the 9/11 Commission Report in which they said and I quote: "We were set up to fail. We were not given enough information, not given enough time. We were not given enough access to sensitive information. We were not given enough money. And, so, we were set up to fail." Now, isn't that nice. Isn't that just dandy.

JON Do you know what people say, debunkers or whatever, say to that argument? They say that they never actually admitted that they failed. They just said that they were set up to fail. [Laughs]

RAY [Laughs] OKAY. All right. Well, you get the idea. What I'm saying is that the Congress, rather than acting like a co-equal, actually, the first and unequal branches of our Government representing the people as they do, are acting in such a slavish, subservient deferential way to the executive. Definitely afraid that that the President might accuse them of being soft on "terrorism"—and the bad terrorism we're talking about now, the bad terrorism, OKAY? Or that they would be launched, they would be degraded, or criticized in other ways.

You have Dick Durbin for example. Now, he's not the worst of the Senators, but he tells this story about all he knew before 9/11 he knew something was going down. Well, he had been briefed. That's why he could never. He could never—well, actually, it wasn't 9/11 I'm talking about now, it's the weapons of mass destruction, okay? So, strike that.

Dick Durbin said: "Yeah, I was briefed. I asked George Tenet and all those—you could tell and yeah, I said but when you look at it at home and they tell you it's all secret, then when you come out of the room, you can't tell anybody, and so I voted against the war, but I couldn't tell anybody that it was a crock."

And the same with Bob Graham. For God's sake, he was chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, and he voted against the war but he didn't tell any other Senators. Why? Because it's secret. Give me a break. That's not acting. I say co-equal branch of Government. And, if I sound a little angry, well you can pardon me because I'm Irish, and also because I think there's just cause for anger here and people like Bob Graham should not be treated with kid gloves.

JON Well, I tried not to. I tried to play nice because, honey versus vinegar and all that stuff. And, you're right, you're absolutely right. But I tried to cut him some slack only because he is trying to help the families do something that they really wanted, which is get those 28 redacted pages released so as to use in the courtroom. So, I agree with everything you've said. I just, I cut him some slack only because he's helping them.

RAY This is not by any means a criticism of the way you interviewed him. You had to do it that way. All I'm saying is that, you know, maybe he should try and do penance or something for his misfeasance, I guess, rather than malfeasance in this case—his gutless performance let's say. He and Porter Goss knew better. When you asked him about Cheney: "Yeah, Cheney didn't like what we were doing." Cheney threatened not to allow any administration officials to testify before the Joint Commission. That's what Cheney did. Cheney sent the FBI in to investigate and subject Senators and representatives to lie detector tests because of that leak that you mentioned about Senator Shelby. That was Cheney. And they all shuddered in their boots. Oh, okay. That investigation did not get off the ground for three months because there was a big brouhaha about who the executive director was. Finally, they found somebody and the whole thing lasted about two more months. And Eleanor Hill, tried as she may, she couldn't get to first base. How many public hearings were there? One? The last one where Eleanor Hill, to her credit, got up and said: "Look, what you're going to get here, you should be aware of, no information, not even publicly available information that's in the Washington Post, New York Times. Nothing is allowed to be said in this report to indicate what the President was told or not told before 9/11." Well, if I were Bob Graham, I would be very ashamed to sign off on a report like that.

JON Yeah, I agree with you. And, I'd just like to mention that the Jersey Girls love Eleanor Hill, and they wanted her to be a part of the 9/11 Commission, but that never happened.

With regard to the August 6 Presidential daily briefing I have a couple of things to say. First off, there was a report by Kurt Eichenwald in the New York Times on September 10, 2012, and he says—he apparently gained access to some of the Presidential daily briefings that came prior to the August 6 PDB. He didn't gain access to all of them. He read a couple of excerpts. They're not made public for anybody. But he said: "The August 6 document, for all of the controversy it provoked, it is not nearly as shocking as the briefs that came before it."

And, let's talk about what was in the August 6th PDB really quick. It said: "FBI information since that time indicates patterns of suspicious activity in this country consistent with preparations for hijackings or other types of attacks including recent surveillance of federal buildings in New York."

So, if it was even worse than that, you know, we don't know, because unfortunately, Bush was briefed 40 times on Al-Qaeda-related issues. He had 40 Presidential daily briefs. And we have no idea what they said. And, unfortunately, during the 9/11 Commission, only four people were allowed access to certain PDBs. And that was Thomas Kean, Lee Hamilton, Philip Zelikow, and Jamie Gorelick.

And, at the time, the family members—I have a quote from them, a statement that they released at the time, and they said: "All ten commissioners should have full unfettered and unrestricted access to all evidence including, but not limited to, all Presidential daily briefings and all working notes related to those Presidential daily briefings that may be related to the attacks on 9/11. [...] As it now stands, a limited number of commissioners will have restricted access to a limited number of PDB documents. This will prevent a full uncovering of the truth and is unacceptable."

And that was from a statement that they released on November 13, 2003. Now, when it was announced that Zelikow was going to be a part of the people to read these Presidential daily briefs, Kristen Breitweiser said: "How much more of Zelikow do we have to take?"

So, as to what they knew, to me, they had two options after 9/11. They could have denied everything, denied any knowledge whatsoever, or they could have taken responsibility and said "yes, we had some indications, and some warnings that came in, but we screwed up." And as we saw from the Richard Clarke testimony, when he apologized to the families, how much they loved that, it seems like that would have been a better PR route, but because of the fact that they denied any knowledge whatsoever, and acted like this was a surprise attack, tells me that they knew a hell of a lot more than has been led on.

RAY Well, they certainly did. Now, whether they took it seriously or not despite the credible reports that George Tenet the head of the CIA, and its chief lieutenants had their hair on fire in briefing Condoleezza Rice and Bush. You see, when you have people who are really toadies, people who like George Tenet came up through the Congressional staffer ranks where you really try to make everybody happy and you don't say anything or not knock any noses out of joint. That's the exact wrong kinds of people to have in that situation.

So, let's say George Tenet and his lieutenants, the anti-terrorist people who have, you know, 87 indications that Al-Qaeda is going to attack us in the United States. They go to Condoleezza Rice and they say: "Hey, you know, this is really bad. Our hair is on fire. We've got to get this stopped." And Condoleezza Rice, in her great wisdom says: "The President's not interested in this. How many times do I have to tell you? Ashcroft has cut the budget for counterterrorism. We don't, you know, this is Bill Clinton. This is, you know, the previous regime here for Pete's sake, you know. I know you left that big folder on my desk when I came in, but I'm not ready yet. I'll tell you what, let's—I'll try to arrange—yeah, let me see if I can arrange a meeting or say, let's try September 4th. Maybe September 4th, okay, come back then and we'll talk about it then?" That's exactly what happened, OKAY?

So, sure, Tenet and those guys knew more. But the way Tenet explains it—now, bear in mind—Tenet is a guy that hitched a ride down with the PDB briefer in the morning to get face time with George W. Bush so that George W. Bush would keep him on, okay? So, he's seeing him five mornings a week. And what Tenet said when he was asked: "Well, why didn't you stop with Condoleezza Rice? Why didn't you just tell the President?" Do you know what he said? "Well, that's not my place." He did that—16 intelligence agencies at the time and it's not his place.

Well, I think he called the President and the President said: "Look George, I told you, I don't want to—you know, you come here asking all the time—I don't want to hear it." So, there was a lot of—oh, what's the word? Hubris, arrogance. We know better. These guys, you can't take them seriously. And that is, that has a very, very, well, kind of throws a wet blanket on people like George Tenet, people like Michael Hayden over there at NSA, people like Bob Mueller at FBI. They put the word out: "Look, the President isn't very interested. We find it really interesting, but you know." So, what happens?

Well, they had the telephone number of these guys in San Diego. They also know that they're there and the CIA knows that they're there for a couple of years before they tell the FBI. When do they tell the FBI? On September 4, 2001, at that meeting, one week before 9/11.

Why did they hide that information? Well, Richard Clarke has spoken to that on a very obscure radio station out there in Denver, Colorado—got no treatment, got no publicity in the mainstream media. But what he said was

that there were 50 people at CIA who knew about Hazmi and Mihdhar out there in San Diego and never told the FBI about them, okay? Until September the 4th. OKAY. Now, Clark is asked by these two young very, very good reporters. Well, why do you suppose that was? And Clarke says: "Well, it can't be a glitch because, you know, all that stuff came to me. All the terror—I'd come in early in the morning and the first hour or so I'd read —George Tenet shared everything with me . . . except this." And they said: "Well, why would he not give you that?" And Clarke said: "I've been thinking about that for three years now." The only explanation seems to me is this, that the CIA was embarrassingly short of sources in Al-Qaeda, or even close to Al-Qaeda—when I say short they had zero. Oops, here's two live bodies—Mihndar and Hazmi. Oh, man! If we can turn 'em, then they become our agents. And we go to the President and say: "Hey, now we got two live ones. They're working for us now. We're going to find out all kinds of things about Al-Qaeda."

Now, Clarke says that's the only thing that makes any sense. Why does this work out this way? Because once the CIA told the FBI about these two guys in San Diego, guess what? The CIA loses control over those people and over any operations. In other words, once you tell the FBI and these guys are in the United States of America, it's the FBI's action and CIA doesn't have the ability to turn these guys—you know, it's sort of a term of the trade that means to recruit them to be double agents or whatever. That's the only explanation that the Clarke could come up with and it's the only one that makes any sense to me. These people are not above that.

So, why was it that the two hijackers from San Diego were able to crash into the Pentagon? Well, we know now, but not many Americans know and that's the problem.

JON

I have a couple of questions about that because, obviously the CIA is not allowed to operate on American soil. Those two hijackers in San Diego apparently had connections to the Saudi Government as well. And, George Tenet had a great relationship with Prince Bandar. Were they monitoring these people? Did they have wiretaps on these people while they were in the United States? Because I would think that if you're going to flip somebody, you would want to know everything there is to know about them so as to be able to use that information. So, I'm wondering, did they ever wiretap a conversation about 9/11 or something to that effect. I don't know. It's all speculative.

RAY Well, if they didn't, it would have been because of the political problem here. Now, they're in San Diego, that's part of the United States, okay? The FBI is supposed to have the action, and the FBI is sort of on to it because one of the guys working for them is the landlord of these two guys. Graham mentioned that and, not only that, but you have Prince Bandar, the ambassador from Saudi Arabia to Washington. His wife is paying these guys. Now, when was that done? I'm not sure, but if the CIA wanted to monitor their conversations or to really do intrusive surveillance on them, they had not only the Saudis, not only the hijackers themselves, but the FBI itself to contend with. In other words, they had to be really discreet here or else the FBI might realize that these guys—who they were and how they got into the country and all that business.

It's an insidious—it's a—what's the word—despicable example of bureaucratic rivalries and they existed between the FBI and the CIA from the very foundation—the very creation of the CIA and they have still not healed except to cover up one for the other.

JON Now, with regard to the Richard Clarke interview, the individuals that did that were Ray Nowosielski and John Duffy, also the makers of the film 9/11: Press For Truth. One of the things that Ray Nowosielski said that was interesting is that—you mentioned that there were 50 people that were aware of this information. And it just so happens that Alec Station, the Bin Laden unit, was pretty much made up of 50 people. And one of the instances that really just seemed so criminal to me is that there were two FBI agents assigned to Alec Station—Doug Miller and Mark Rossini. And, I believe, that Doug Miller—it might have been one or the other—but I'd say, Doug Miller found out that one of the hijackers had a visa to the United States. So, he goes to somebody by the name of Michael Anne Casey to find out if they can send a draft to the FBI to notify them of this. And under orders from Tom Wilshire, Michael Anne Casey tells him no, you can't do that. And hours later in the day, Michael Anne Casey sends out a cable within the CIA overseas saying that the FBI was notified.

And that just seems so criminal to me. We talk about accountability and the lack of accountability. Tom Wilshire, Michael Anne Casey, these are people that need to be held accountable as far as I'm concerned.

RAY Well, they're the same people who were moved up under George Tenet and John McLaughlin. The same operations part that did the torture, the kidnapping, the black prisons. So, one shouldn't be surprised. Once you

corrupt the whole operational arm of an agency, these are the kinds of people that move up and do whatever you tell them to do, including lie to the field. Now, why did they lie to the field? Because, you take the CIA station in London, well, they work side by side with the FBI representatives there. And so if the FBI is going to ask the CIA: "Have you shared this? Of course, yeah, here's the cable." Of course, they didn't.

Now, you mentioned Rossini—to his credit he had a very tearful confession about what went down, how he didn't have the guts to violate orders, orders to withhold information about the two hijackers in San Diego and he just feels terrible about putting the orders—he was following orders, as we know how that happens. Ahead of his patriotic duty, you tell the truth, because had those people been wrapped up, or even had the FBI allowed Moussaoui's computer to be searched, or even if the FBI had allowed the capture of Moussaoui to be publicized, the whole thing might have been aborted, because once you get one guy that's compromised, you have no assurance that the operation can go forward.

So, there are a whole bunch of things that weren't done that could have nipped the thing in the bud, and that raises legitimate questions as to why they weren't done. Whether it was—and what we know now, whether it's the result of covering up misfeasance, malfeasance, crimes, or whether it's covering up actual knowledge and involvement of exactly what was going down, that in my view is something that really needs to be sorted out. That has to begin with an acknowledgment that we were sold a bill of goods by the 9/11 Commission, that Kean and Hamilton should be put in jail for presiding over this charade. And that an independent investigation needs to be laid into operation and that's going to be up to us and the families, and I don't know how we do this, but tougher things have been undertaken and tougher things have been done, and that's exactly what we owe to the families, what we owe to the country, given all the incredible effects of this. After 9/11, everything changed.

JON

Well, we owe it to the world. And with regard to the 9/11 Commission and what you just said about Tom Kean and Lee Hamilton and so forth—Bob McIlvaine, 9/11 Family Member Bob McIlvaine, is going to love what you just said.

Now, with regard to the 9/11 Commission, I have a little quote here. This is from 9/11 Family Member—Jersey Girl—September 11th Advocate, Patty Casazza. In late November. 2007, we had a conference in West Hartford,

Connecticut and she showed up as a surprise. And I was thrilled. I had never met a Jersey Girl and she walked in and I said: "Patty!" and I ran up to her and I gave her a hug. And then I asked her to take a couple of questions on the stage, and one of the things that she told us was.

" . . . We met other whistleblowers on the side of the road in Maryland, you know, to hear what they could tell us. None of them revealed state secrets to us, by the way, ha ha, but they had information and, basically, the Government knew. You know, other than the exact moment, they knew the date and the method of which the attacks were supposed to come."

And she goes on.

"Other than the exact, perhaps, time—you know, because planes don't always go off on time—they knew the date, they knew the method, that it was going to be with airplanes."

And, unfortunately, the 9/11 Commission didn't speak or barely spoke to any whistleblowers, even though there was a line-up of available whistleblowers and they promised the families that each and every one of them would be heard.

Now, wouldn't you have liked to have heard from a whistleblower who knew that kind of information? I certainly would have.

RAY First, let me amend what I said about Kean and Hamilton. I, perhaps, did them a disservice. They should be in prison. But, Zelikow should be right there with them.

JON Oh, my goodness, yes.

RAY Now, you know, the business of—I don't know how much Tom Drake told you, but we did a long memorandum—VIPS Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity. (Yep) Laid it on and the four senior scientists from NSA pretty much drafted it and we put it together. It's dated 7 January last year, 2014. And this is the first time Tom was very frank about what he learned. What he learned, of course, was that the information was available, and that it was not shared outside of NSA, but that chances are the leadership, including General Hayden, knew about it. And, General Hayden used to have these staff meetings and Tom Drake hung around for a while

after 9/11, actually 9/11 was his first day on the job. The others quit because they couldn't countenance the violations of the Fourth Amendment. So, Tom was in on all this and he used to listen to Mike Hayden cackle.

JON Yep.

RAY Hayden: "Ha ha ha! Joint Commission? Ha ha ha! Get out! It's kind of fun to see the FBI and CIA taking all the criticism here and we're just sitting with our feet up, you know?" And Hayden knew, and Tom knew, and most of the people at the very top—not all of them—but most of the people at the very top of NSA knew darn well that NSA had been able to stiff-arm both commissions. Okay? Stiff-arm them, not give them the information. And who helped them on that? Of course, Dick Cheney and others.

So, it's conceivable to me that Dick Cheney—and there are ways for NSA to report just to one person or two, and it's conceivable to me that Dick Cheney was fully apprised of that. His behavior in the bunker [laughs] raises all manner of questions.

And, so, it just cries out for thorough dispassionate objective analysis and investigation. And it's a blunder. It's a kind of a cancer on the body politic that this has not been done. And I'm from New York. My wife's cousin was killed in one of those buildings. (I'm sorry) You know the New Yorkers—what they tried to do, but they need some help from everyone in these United States of America.

JON Now, with regard to what you just said about Dick Cheney, there is a report that Scooter Libby was reading unvetted NSA intercepts and it's unclear, however, whether that was taking place prior to 9/11 or after 9/11. And I've been trying to find out and I can't.

Now, one of the questions that I have, are you aware of the multitude of warnings we received from foreign countries before 9/11?

RAY Sure, yeah. The Russians, the Germans, there are a whole bunch of people that warned. They had their own sources, of course, and somehow or other they were not taken very seriously.

JON Well, I have a couple of them that I'd just like to read for people, just so they have an understanding of what kind of information was coming in.

"In 1999, MI6, the British intelligence agency, gives a secret report to liaison staff at the US embassy in London. The report states that al-Qaeda has plans to use "commercial aircraft" in "unconventional ways," "possibly as flying bombs." - [Sunday Times, 6/9/2002]

"In June 2001, German intelligence warns the CIA, Britain's intelligence agency, and Israel's Mossad that Middle Eastern militants are planning to hijack commercial aircraft to use as weapons to attack "American and Israeli symbols, which stand out." - [Frankfurt, 9/11/2001, WaPo, 9/14/2001]

"On June 4, 2001, three men claiming to be Afghans are overheard discussing hijacking attacks in New York City during this period. On this day, they are taken into custody, questioned, and released some time later. This information is forwarded to US intelligence." - [Fox News, 5/17/2002] - I think it was passed along by Cayman and British investigators.

*"In August 2001—our enemies right now—the people the powers that be declared to be our enemies—*apparently Vladimir Putin or his intelligence people warns the US that suicide pilots are training for attacks on U.S. targets. The head of Russian intelligence Nikolai Patrushev also later states, "We had clearly warned them" on several occasions, but they "did not pay the necessary attention." - [Fox News, 5/17/2002, Agence France Presse, 9/16/2001]

Now, one question that I've always had. Now, everybody says that—and this is all speculative, but it's a question that I have—everybody always says that they did nothing. That they had all this information and that they did nothing.

My question is: If you had all of this information, isn't it conceivable that people in the upper echelons of power could have taken that information and used it and done things that would have caused the "success" of the attacks? Is that a valid question?

RAY Sure, it's a valid question, and so it raises another question about who prevented that from being done? Who gave the word from on high that this should not be taken seriously? "Yeah, thanks very much, you covered your ass," as George Bush is quoted as having said. "And just go about your business. We're not interested in this kind of thing."

Now whether that was from rank amateurishness and not taking these things seriously or whether it was something more sinister. That's what we need to probe.

You know there's one other thing here that most people don't know. But Coleen Rowley, our colleague in Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity, who was the division counsel and special agent out there at the Minneapolis office of the FBI, she and the head of the Red Team for the FAA, a fellow named Bogdan Dzakovic, wrote a piece in The LA Times way back about four years ago, and the reason they wrote it is that the question was—Wikileaks was able to reveal all manner of interesting things, if for example the agents in Minneapolis and the FBI office there, if they got nowhere important with their reporting on Moussaoui, would they have gone to Julian Assange and been able to get their reports published that way? Now, that was one thing.

The other thing was this FAA special agent. Okay, now, he was head of the red team and their job was to penetrate airports and aircraft or airplanes or anything—to see if they could. And nine times out of ten they could. And, so, he was incredibly agitated and frustrated because he could not get anyone to take his warning seriously. All they had to do, after all, was put locks on the doors of the cockpit. Of course, it would take \$195 dollars to do that. The Israelis, they've done it ten years before. Why they didn't take this stuff seriously is another question.

So, the question they asked Bogdan Dzakovic—would you have gone to WikiLeaks to get that word out, and he said I certainly would. It was just so unexplainably difficult to get that word taken seriously and obviously when you can nine out of ten times carry weapons onto aircraft getting through security at airports—granted this was before 9/11, but so much the more important was it. So, you had all manner of people who are being suppressed, who had indications that if something indeed were planned that involved aircraft, it would have been a walk in the park to walk the cake onto the aircraft and, as you know, they only had box cutters. They could have had weapons as far as the Dzakovic is concerned.

Now, what happened to Dzakovic? Well, after he protested too much, he was given the job in the supply room to make sure that the staples were all pointing in the right direction.

JON

Now, was he ever talked to by the 9/11 Commission? Do you know?

- RAY No.
- JON They did not talk to him.
- RAY That's my impression. I'm not completely clear on that. But you can ask him. We're in touch with him.
- JON Okay. Now, are you aware—there's two people I want people to be aware of—are you aware of the story of David Schippers?
- RAY You know, I'm not. I may be if you explain what that's about. But it doesn't ring any bell right off the bat.
- JON Okay, he was the head of the legal team that prosecuted Bill Clinton for the Lewinsky thing. (Mm-hmm) Prior to 9/11 he will claim that "FBI agents in Chicago and Minnesota tell him there is going to be an attack on Lower Manhattan." Schippers will later claim that he will attempt to contact Attorney General John Ashcroft and other politicians about this warning in coming months, but that they will have shown little interest. He also happens to be the attorney that was representing FBI agent Robert Wright who was in charge of an investigation called Vulgar Betrayal, which was looking into Saudi ties to terrorist financing and he was shut down. So, that's the story of David Schippers really fast.
- RAY I know the Robert Wright story. That was criminal. He was on to some really big stuff about Saudi financing of Al-Qaeda. He was in Chicago with the FBI and they just shut him right down.
- As for Ashcroft, I already mentioned, I think, that one of the first things he did coming into office as attorney general or, yeah, I guess, attorney general —well, the FBI do terrorism? Look, let's not do terrorism. Let's do other things. Let's go after drugs. Let's go after—terrorism, not a problem. And so, the budget was actually cut from the FBI budget on counter-terrorism.
- So, yeah, it all fits in with this pattern of, certainly, these people either are not taking the threat seriously, or deliberately not taking the threat seriously because they were told precisely that. Don't worry about this threat.
- How could Cheney get away with this kind of thing? Look what else Cheney got away with, eh?

JON Right. Well, I think there was a story about John Ashcroft being approached by, I think, Tom Pickard about terrorism, and John Ashcroft said something to the effect: "I don't want to hear about it." So— (Yeah)

RAY A bureaucrat that wants to move up or get more promotions, then if somebody said they don't want to hear about it, well, what are you doing to do? Well, you're going to slavishly suppress all this information and not let any of your underlings get it up to your boss who might get upset and then you might not get promoted. It's that bad, it's that bad.

JON Well, okay. Are you familiar with somebody by the name of Niaz Khan?

RAY Again, Jon, it doesn't ring a bell. Can you say a word or two?

JON Okay, that's fine. I'll read very quickly.

For three weeks FBI counterterrorism agents in Newark, New Jersey will interview Khan. And this is a year, I think, prior to 9/11. One FBI agent will later recall: "We were incredulous. Flying a plane into a building sounded crazy, but we polygraphed him and he passed." Later in 2004, Khan will say he was only involved in a plot to hijack an airplane not crash it into a building. However, he had earlier clearly talked to the media about flying a plane into a building. And FBI officials had also referred to his case as flying a plane into a building. A former FBI official will say that the FBI agents believe Khan, and aggressively try to follow every lead in the case. But word comes from FBI headquarters saying: "Return him to London and forget about it." He is returned to Britain and handed over to British authorities. However, the British only interviewed him for about two hours and then released him.

Basically, what he did is he came—he was apparently a part of Al-Qaeda and came here to the U.S. with the purpose of hijacking an aircraft, either to crash it into a building or, whatever, and he chickened out and turned himself in.

RAY What year was that?

JON I think it was in 2000—April 2000, I think. I forgot to write that down. It was definitely prior to 9/11.

RAY Mm-hmm, well, here we have the old problem, you know? FBI headquarters doesn't want this thing to go forward. Now, I know enough about the lawyers, including the guy that got a big, big bonus for turning down the Minneapolis office's request to go into Moussaoui's laptop and his other effects. Spike—his last name will occur to me in a second. Now, he's one of these Marines who was a lawyer and he became a big FBI lawyer, and he refused to send forward this request, under FISA, to get into Moussaoui's stuff.

Now, if the head of the FBI at the time, Bob Mueller, who was kind of a toady himself, is told by Ashcroft: "Look, the President isn't interested in this guy. We are going to tell your agents to knock it off, okay?" Now, it's that bad. These guys rose to the top by acting in this manner. They expect it of their subordinates. And it's entirely conceivable to me that this good work done by field agents of the FBI was all in vain simply because the guys at the top didn't want to hear it. OKAY. So, whether that's because they were stupid, and there's ample evidence of that—Ashcroft being a paragon example. Or, whether this is something more sinister, which is equally possible in my view. The evidence needs to come out about what was going on at the very top. Now, we know enough instances where Minneapolis was screwed up, Phoenix was screwed up, the people training to fly aircraft there. Lots of stuff going on in Florida that was screwed up.

So, you wonder whether it was misfeasance or malfeasance, could be a combination of both.

JON One of the things the family members really wanted from the 9/11 Commission was accountability, that if people were incompetent, were criminally negligent, or just acted criminally, that they be held accountable. And we didn't see that after 9/11. Instead people that should have been held accountable, like you said, were rewarded and promoted.

And, you know—oh, I forget what it was going to say, but the accountability. Oh, I know what I was going to say. The great thing about calling for accountability is that it applies to both incompetence and criminality. And, generally, you find out which is which when you hold people accountable. And, we didn't see that.

- RAY They went after the people at the bottom, right? And the people at the bottom said: "Well, wait a second, we're not going to take the rap for this thing." (Exactly) But none of that happened and none of that happened for lesser reasons, whether it's covering up gross incompetence or something really a lot worse—what can be worse than gross incompetence, but there can be.
- That's what we really need to get to the bottom of.
- JON Yep, yes we do. And the last question I have for you, that you kind of already answered. So, I'm just going to use this time now to say that Cindy Sheehan and her sister DeDe Miller told me to say hello to you.
- RAY Oh, great!
- JON My friend Debra wanted me to say hello to you. A lot of people admire you, Ray, and the work that you do. I am one of those people. I hope that you continue doing what you do, because we very much need you.
- RAY Well, thank you.
- JON And I hope you're around for another 50 years.
- RAY [Laughs] I'm not counting on that, but a few more, perhaps.
- And thanks very much for the opportunity to talk about these things.
- JON Is there anything that you would like to promote at this time?
- RAY Well, yeah, I get really upset by the confusion attending the people who are trying to find out what really happened on 9/11. They're all too easily dismissed in our mainstream media and propaganda as "conspiracy theorists" when all they're trying to do is find out what the hell Hamilton and Kean didn't find out because of their what? Incompetence? Because they were told? Because they're toadies? Whatever reason. Now, I have the highest regard, I have the highest respect for people who do it anyway, despite all the criticism, who bear the label conspiracy theorist, because they're just trying to find out what the truth is. God knows that's what we Americans are supposed to be all about. At the same time, you know, it's really difficult for someone who can't spend full time on this like myself.

People say to me: "Now Ray, come on, Ray, don't you believe that Dick Cheney is capable of doing this kind of thing?"

And I say: "Sure I do!" (Laughs) They say: "So, what's the problem?"

I say: "Well, you know, it doesn't matter really what I believe. I don't do faith-based intelligence. I do empirical intelligence." There's lots of dots out there. But whether it was deliberate or whether it was incompetence, I just don't know. And I try to keep up with all the good work you guys are doing, and I still don't know, and that's why—that's precisely why, not just for me, of course, but to the whole world. We got to get to the bottom of this. And hats off to you, Jon, and to your associates for following up.

JON Well, thank you very much Ray. I have a quote that I'd like to read.

"For people to dismiss these questioners as conspiratorial advocates or conspiratorial theorists, that's completely out of line because the questions remain. Because the President, who should be able to answer them, WILL NOT."

Do you know who said that?

RAY No.

JON That was you.

RAY [Laughs] Well, it's absolutely right, then. [Laughs]

JON [Laughs] Well, again, thank you very much for your time today, Ray, and good luck with all your future endeavors.

RAY Okay. Thanks Jon. Bye.

JON All right, take care.

We were **LIED** to about 9/11

With your host Jon Gold

This week
Jon talks to...



The
Soapbox
People's Network



Jonathan Kay

Chapter/Episode 25 – Jonathan Kay – March 30, 2015

Jon Gold (JON)

Jonathan Kay (JONKAY)

JON Hi, everyone, and welcome to my show called, "We Were Lied to About 9/11." I am your host Jon Gold and this show is part of the Soapbox People's Network. This week we're going to speak with someone who disagrees with the so-called "9/11 Truth Movement."

Hi, this is Jon, and I'm here with Jonathan Kay. How are you doing today, Jonathan?

JONKAY Good, thanks.

JON Wonderful. All right, so I'm going to read your bio.

Jonathan Kay is a Canadian journalist. He is the editor-in-chief of *The Walrus* and former comment pages editor, columnist and blogger for the Toronto-based Canadian daily newspaper *National Post*. He is also a book author and editor, a public speaker, and a regular contributor to *Commentary Magazine* and *The New York Post*. His freelance articles have been published in a variety of US publications including *Newsweek*, *The New Yorker*, *Salon.com*, *The New Republic*, *Harper's Magazine*, *the Los*

Angeles Times, The Weekly Standard, The Literary Review of Canada, The National Interest and The New York Times. Books he has written are *The Volunteer: A Canadian's Secret Life in the Mossad*, which was co-written by Michael Ross, and *Among the Truthers*.

All righty, so that is your bio and are you ready to get into the questions?

JONKAY Sure, although I can't promise I will be as informed as some of your other guests on some of the most recent developments. As I mentioned in our correspondence, I haven't kept up with the latest developments since I wrote my last book, so—

I'm happy to proceed, as long as you're okay with me occasionally saying things like "I don't know."

JON Well, it's interesting that you say that you haven't followed it, but I saw that in March of 2014, you had written an article specifically about Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth.

JONKAY Yeah, that was about the head of AE911, Richard Gage, when he came to Toronto. I mean, that was interesting for me to see because I'd interviewed Richard Gage for my book and I'd seen him speak a couple times. So, I did have a special interest in going to see his presentation just to get a sense of how the "9/11 Truth Movement" had developed since I researched and wrote my book.

JON All right, so let's get to the questions. What was the day of 9/11 like for you?

JONKAY For me, I was up in Toronto, and it started like any other work day. I was working at the *National Post* newspaper. I have a specific memory of reading a news alert saying that a small, private plane had flown into the World Trade Center. And, this is not an unprecedented thing. Sometimes you get amateur pilots flying their planes into buildings accidentally, which is what I assumed it was at the time. And then I turned on the TV a little while later, and of course I saw the horrible footage that everybody else was seeing on that day. And started learning about what happened.

JON What, if anything, did you question about the 9/11 attacks?

JONKAY I don't—I guess I was too shocked by what happened to start questioning anything. I guess I knew immediately that there was some terroristic motive because of—if one plane had flown into a building that could lead to some crazy mechanical problem, but two planes—like everybody else I suspected it was a terrorist attack, and so I wasn't surprised when very quickly we learned about the identity of the hijackers and their affiliations.

JON As the person who coined the phrase "9/11 Truther" I defined it by saying that:

"In my mind, a 9/11 Truther is someone who fights alongside the family members seeking truth and accountability for the 9/11 attacks. In my mind, a 9/11 Truther is someone who fights for the sick and dying 9/11 first-responders who need healthcare desperately. In my mind, a 9/11 Truther is someone who does not like how the day of 9/11 is being used to inflict pain and suffering around the world and is trying to stop it. Stop it by using the truth, something we have been denied by our Government regarding the 9/11 attacks. Because of how the phrase has been so tarnished by the corporate media, by people such as yourself, Jamie Kirchick and debunkers, I have changed to calling myself an *Advocate for 9/11 Justice*. I don't consider myself a truther. I actually think that it's the corporate media's and debunkers lazy way of saying "9/11 Truther."

What is your definition for the phrase "9/11 Truther?"

JONKAY Well, in my book I identified the "9/11 Truth Movement," as it was then defined and understood by people like me, as being a subset of conspiracy movements more generally. And I had a section in the book where I defined what I thought of as a conspiracy movement. And I defined it as an intellectual movement where people have a theory of a certain historical event, and when they are greeted with adverse evidence, rather than question the nature of their conspiracy theory, instead what they do is they keep growing the conspiracy—the purported conspiracy until it swallows all the available evidence.

So, in the case of the "9/11 Truth Movement," as it was then called, I noticed that if I were debating someone who was part of the "9/11 Truth Movement," if I introduced any piece of evidence that challenged their view—you know, I talked about court documents, or I talked about the 9/11 Commission, or I talked about media reports—they would immediately adapt their conspiracy and usually enlarge it to swallow up all the evidence

I was suggesting. So, they would suggest that the 9/11 Commission members were all in on it, the Government was all in on it, or the courts are in on it, or the corporate media is in on it—and I identified that in my book as what I perceived as the defining feature of a conspiracy theory, which is that: it cannot be disproved in the minds of those who hold it, because every time you introduce evidence that casts into question, they simply just expand their list of purported conspirators. And the "9/11 Truth Movement" is, in my mind, a textbook study of that because of the nature of their literature and the nature of their theories and the way they kept on expanding the roster of purported evil-doers.

JON Well, I guess it's a good thing that I coined the phrase and get to decide its meaning. [Laughs] Like when a comet is discovered, and someone gets to put their name on it.

JONKAY Yeah, no, and by the way, I do agree with you that it has become a sort of term of abuse. You know, if you call someone a truther or a 9/11 Truther on social media, or whatever, you're basically saying, oh, you're unhinged or you're not part of the mainstream conversation. Strategically, I agree with your decision, it's probably a good one to use a different set of words to describe your own efforts on your website and such.

JON Well, a 9/11 Truther has essentially become the equivalent of a baby-killer or a dog-torturer because of all of the hit pieces over the years from the corporate media and so on and so forth. It's actually quite disgusting in my mind.

JONKAY Well, I think in recent months you've been replaced by anti-vaxers. Because the debate about vaccinations, so—

JON Well, that's not my thing. My issue is 9/11. We'll talk about that in a minute. But, what inspired you to write your book.

JONKAY The reason I wrote my book was because I was interested in why people believed these things because as I wrote in the book, I was at the time the comment-page editor at a large Canadian newspaper, and so, I heard a lot on a daily basis from readers and contributors who had alternative theories about what was going on in the world.

So—and one of the groups that send me emails was people who were 9/11 conspiracy theorists. And what was interesting to me was a lot of these

people were well-educated. Some of them were engineers and some of them were, one or two of them were academics. And, it was very interesting to me why these people—who are the furthest thing from kind of unhinged losers sitting in their basement—why they believe things that I thought were kind of, were far-fetched, and I wanted know about it. I had an intellectual curiosity in knowing why smart people believed things that I thought were so far-fetched, and I started interviewing them.

But, I never would have done it if I didn't start from a position of being an editor at a newspaper and getting so many emails from people who believed all this stuff. And it wasn't just 9/11—I got, one guy I interviewed for my book was someone who, he was a Serbian Canadian and he didn't believe that the War in Kosovo in 1999 happened the way people said it did. He thought a lot of the stuff was made up or contrived. So, I interviewed people like him and I interviewed people who had conspiracy theories about Barack Obama and where he was born.

So, the book became a wide-ranged project about why people believe far-fetched theories, but 9/11 conspiracy theories became the central case study of my book.

JON Well, you understand that when you're being lied to, or people refuse to answer your questions, it's human nature to theorize as to the reasons why. I mean, don't you agree?

JONKAY I agree with you certainly—well, I agree with you on a few levels. One is that it was a complete mistake by George W. Bush and the U.S. Government to wait so long to start the 9/11 Commission. It made it look like he had something to hide. He was being evasive. I think it took like more than 400 days, 440 days, something like that, before he agreed to strike a 9/11 Commission.

And, it's true—people look at that and they say you have something to hide.

JON Well—

JONKAY It's also true that our Governments sometimes do lie. There's a reason a lot of people are skeptical about their Government. I don't think they lie about things as big as 9/11 because I don't think they're able to lie about things as big as 9/11. It's just too big and too complicated to have a coherence set of lies about. But Governments do lie to people, and it's especially true in

parts of the world that have autocratic Governments. You know, if you look at which people around the world are more prone to believe that their Government does horrible things, it tends to be places like say Iran and Pakistan where the Government does do horrible things. Government conspiracies, unfortunately, are quite frequent. But it's harder in Democratic countries with a free press, and independent courts for Governments to systematically lie to people. That's one of the benefits of our society.

JON You mentioned that it took over 400 days to get the 9/11 Commission started. It was 441 days—and that commission would not even have existed if not for the family members. Think about how scary that is. And it's not just the 9/11 Commission. The Bush administration—Bush and Cheney went to Tom Daschle in January of 2002, and asked him not to investigate the attacks at all. And this was regarding the Joint Congressional Inquiry, which was limited in scope. It only looked at intelligence agencies and so on and so forth. And the families fought for what they thought would be an independent 9/11 Commission—and it was anything but. And we can get into that a little later.

But, you make it sound as if we shouldn't question 9/11 at all, or if we do, that we have to have a certain belief about 9/11 before we do so. And, you say that it would be impossible to lie about 9/11. My God, after 9/11 we were told repeatedly that there were no warnings whatsoever. That this was a complete surprise, that nobody had any idea that an attack was coming, and so on and so forth. And then in May of 2002, when the August 6 PDB was leaked, which was labeled: "Bin Laden determined to strike in the U.S." we found out that there was a warning that talked about hijackings or other types of attacks. That talked about people photographing buildings in New York City. And that PDB, which everybody made such a big deal about, as we learned from Kurt Eichenwald, is NOTHING compared to the PDBs that came prior to it. PDBs that we aren't even allowed to see. So, that's one lie.

Another lie is the NSA said that they couldn't identify where the calls were coming from with regard to the two hijackers in San Diego, that they could only identify where the calls were going to, which was the hub in Yemen. But they were well aware of where the calls were coming from, which means that they were well aware that the hijackers were in the United States. They didn't bother telling the FBI. I mean, so there's a MULTITUDE of lies out there. So I don't understand how you could say that it would be impossible to lie about 9/11.

JONKAY What I'm saying is it's impossible for a Government or entity to create a coherent and sustained tissue of lies that purports to disguise the entire province of 9/11.

So, it is certainly true that Governments will pick and choose what kind of information they release about historical episodes, and the reason they're doing it is because it's their ass covering. If you look, for instance, at the recent terrorist attack that took place in, I believe, it was Tunisia—(Well) something like six police chiefs just lost their jobs because of what happened. When disaster strikes, people who were in power instinctively think: "I'm going to get blamed because I didn't prevent this." And they start trying to manage information to make sure that the narrative that comes out doesn't make them look incompetent or stupid.

This happens all the time—and I don't dispute that. Sometimes they lie about... Why, for instance, in the 9/11—official 9/11 Commission Report the authors of the report clearly indicated that the folks from NORAD gave false information during the commission's investigation. And, in fact, the 9/11 Commissioners referred the information they have to the Inspector General of NORAD. And this was, it was classic institutional behavior where you're trying to manage information flow after a horrible disaster, so you don't—try not to look incompetent.

JON Well, what happened was, they put forward a story to coincide with what people like Paul Wolfowitz and Dick Cheney were saying about shooting down Flight 93. They were saying, trying to act heroically—

JONKAY Right, oh yeah, you and I are on the same page on that and that is what institutions do. (But—) Where you and I differ though is in our conception of the extent to which institutions, such as Government, are capable of managing that narrative. I think they sort of nibble and pick at the edges, usually in a failed attempt to make themselves look good.

But, the thing that I found far-fetched about what was then called the "9/11 Truth Movement," was that they imagined that Government could create this enormous architecture of lies that presented 9/11 as being this COMPLETELY different historical episode than it was. That it originated with different people. That it originated with radically different motives. That the terrorists were stooges, I mean, you're obviously more familiar of this than me.

JON I'm well aware of all of the theories that exist out there. With regard to NORAD, they put forth a story to coincide with what Paul Wolfowitz and Dick Cheney were saying, but the fact of the matter is that they did not intercept any of the planes that day. So, why didn't they intercept any of the planes that day? And there are a number of questions as to why that happened.

With regard to the Inspector General, do you know that during the time of the 9/11 Commission a memo was sent to Philip Zelikow suggesting that we refer NORAD to the Justice Department for a criminal investigation, and he sat on that memo. And then towards the end of the 9/11 Commission, they finally decided to send it to the DOD Inspector General. Do you know what the difference is between sending it to the Justice Department and the Inspector General?

JONKAY Well, it's a difference between essentially an internal investigation and an external investigation.

JON Well, an Inspector General can only recommend that people be held accountable whereas the Justice Department can actually hold people accountable.

And with regard to the Department of Defense Inspector General, Frank Rich spoke about how the Inspector General, during the time that these investigations were taking place—like into Able Danger, like into NORAD—that they were corrupt and that they were taking orders from above. Catherine Herridge, from Fox News, also confirmed that the Inspector General from the DOD was corrupt.

So, I don't understand how you could possibly think that we even have the slightest idea of what the truth was with regard to that day—with regard to NORAD and so forth—with regard to a MULTITUDE of things.

Now, have your opinions changed at all since writing your book?

JONKAY Ah, not, really. In fact—well, just to go back a little bit to what you said. I completely agree with you that Governments lie about how much they know and how they react to information. And the best example is what's happened in Argentina over the last couple of months, where you had a prosecutor in Argentina who was said to have died by suicide, but there's a

controversy about how he died. Nisman was his name. And he fell into controversy there because he started investigating how the Government reacted to a Hezbollah attack two decades ago. And the Government's efforts to manage the flow of information about how they followed up on that, who they investigated, when they investigated—and that is a very real conspiracy. But again, it's an after-the-fact conspiracy. It's not a before-the-fact conspiracy.

In the case of 9/11, the most sensational allegation coming out of the 9/11 Truth [sic] Commission isn't that there was any kind of after-the-fact conspiracy to manage information—that certainly did happen. It's about whether there was a before-the-fact conspiracy about actually creating this horrible tragedy for all kinds of nefarious foreign policy purposes.

JON Well, you mentioned—

JONKAY And just to answer your question, on that score, have I changed my mind about whether there was any kind of veracity to those 9/11 truth claims about who actually did 9/11? No, I haven't changed my mind. If anything, my views have become more concrete because as each year goes by, as more and more politicians flow through Washington, as there are more and more opportunities for retiring public servants, retiring politicians, to come clean about things they might have done in office, you would think that the truth about such a horrible thing, if indeed there was an American conspiracy to perpetrate the crimes of 9/11, one would think that that would start coming out now. And, yet, the years go by and we don't learn any new information that supports this.

JON That's completely—supports the idea of what? That there being an inside job?

JONKAY Correct.

JON You make it seem like it's blasphemous to even consider the possibility of criminal complicity.

JONKAY Not blasphemous, but it's highly far-fetched.

JON Our elected officials and people that work in Government are human beings just like you and I. They are capable of greed, they are capable of jealousy, they are capable of murder, and every other horrible thing human beings are

capable of. I don't put these people on pedestals. I certainly don't pray at the Church of Cheney.

Now, with regard to before 9/11—when Bush first came into office, at his very first principals meeting, according to former Secretary of Treasury Paul O'Neill, it was all about finding a way to go into Iraq. It was the President saying: "Go find me a way to do this." And in a 2007 interview, Richard Clarke said that there were members of the Bush administration in the months prior to 9/11 discussing creating a *casus belli* in order to go to war. You don't find that suspicious at all?

JONKAY [Laughs] What I think you will find is that if you pore through the speeches and writings of Henry Kissinger (Oh my God), who's often quoted by 9/11 conspiracy theorists, you find all sorts of things that—you look at that sentence, you look at those phrases—that's exactly what someone would say if they were plotting to invade Iraq or invade Afghanistan, or what not.

JON Dick Cheney was—

JONKAY It's true that out of the reams of information these things have said, there are always going to be slogans that they've said that you say: "Oh, that fits into my theory, exactly."

JON Well, it's not—it doesn't fit into any—first of all, I have no idea what happened on 9/11, or who was ultimately responsible, but I know suspicious behavior when I see it. And, Dick Cheney before 9/11 was meeting with every head of every oil company in existence, even though they denied it before Congress and Judicial Watch, managed to get documentation to show that they were looking over Iraq's oil fields prior to 9/11.

JONKAY Okay, so let me just stop you there—okay, let's say the theory was that they were looking over Iraq oil fields and then they invade Iraq, it's a trillion dollar operation—

JON But, it wasn't—

JONKAY And then they don't even take the oil. Like this whole theory falls apart after the invasion of Iraq, because the theory would suggest that they'd invade Iraq and then steal Iraq's oil. Instead, you look at Iraq, it's being run by French and Russian oil companies.

- JON Not every criminal gets—
- JONKAY The theory makes no sense. [Laughter]
- JON Not every criminal manages to get away with their crime.
- JONKAY But then what's the theory here? That they invaded Iraq. They did all the dirty with gloves, thousands of lives, and then they forgot to take the oil? Like, it makes no sense to me.
- JON They didn't forget to take the oil. There are plenty of American companies that have benefited from the oil in Iraq, along with Russia, along with China and so on and so forth.
- JONKAY Oil's at like \$50 a barrel. Where's all this money coming in? In fact—I was listening to NPR this morning and they were saying there's so much oil being pumped in the United States itself and the price of oil's now so low, that you actually have storage facilities in Cushing, Oklahoma that are actually running out of space for all the surplus oil—which is terrible business by the way for the oil companies.
- JON There were several reports that said that Saudi Arabia and the U.S. colluded to lower oil prices in an effort to bankrupt Russia. And these aren't figments of my imagination. These are reports from *The Guardian*, I think *Reuters*, and so on and so forth.
- JONKAY All right, it just, it seems, it all—you can see why someone who was listening to a theory about how Iraq was a smash and grab operation to steal oil—
- JON I, but see—many people had said that it was about oil. I think—the guy who was the former head of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, even said it was about oil.
- JONKAY I think what people—responsible people have said, and what I would agree, is that the United States and other countries were especially concerned about Saddam Hussein and especially concerned about that region because tinpot dictators in that region have an outsized effect on world events because of their ability to manipulate huge quantities of oil.

That is true. I agree with that. In that sense, the Iraq War could, in the abstract, said to be about oil because we don't care as much what happens in less strategic places, like for instance [AUDIOBAD] in Africa because they don't monopolize a particular globally essential asset, such as oil.

So, a lot of the rhetoric I hear from people say: "Oh, this war was about oil, because such and such a statesman said it, or such and such a military person said it." Usually, it's a reference to the fact that oil is abundant in the Middle East, therefore, the Middle East is an extremely strategic part of the world. And, in that respect, I agree with you. It doesn't mean the Iraq War was a smash and grab operation just for oil.

JON First of all, it wasn't just about oil. It was about making billions of dollars. It was about projecting America's hegemony across the world.

It's not just about oil, but again, as I said, not all criminals manage to get away with their crimes.

JONKAY Okay, fair.

JON So, let me get to the next question.

Do you consider journalists like Robert Scheer who wrote an article for *The LATimes* called "What We Don't Know About 9/11 Hurts Us," or Benjamin DeMott who wrote an article for *Harper's Magazine* called "Whitewash as Public Service: How The 9/11 Commission Report Defrauds the Nation" as 9/11 Truthers or conspiracy theorists?

JONKAY I'm going to plead ignorance here. I have to say I have not heard of either of those two authors or the articles in question.

JON Well, okay, but any journalist that has ever questioned 9/11—which are very few by the way—but there have been reports. Do you consider them to be 9/11 Truthers or conspiracy theorists—just in general?

JONKAY What I have seen is—here in Canada there's been a couple of respectable journalists who had dabbled in what I consider 9/11 conspiracism. Barrie Zwicker is an example. I'm sure you're aware of his work. He used to work at a big newspaper here called *The Globe and Mail*, and he became a truther. What sometimes happens is these people, they are—Barrie Zwicker, you can look him up. He's written thousands of articles for respected

publications. And then sometimes they sort of lose the plot a little bit later in life and they kind of go into some crazy directions. In his case, it was 9/11 conspiracism.

I know a guy who worked at the *National Post* here in Canada and he started writing a lot about stuff about how vaccines were going to kill you and stuff. It happens, I mean, people kind of sometimes—

JON I'm not going to defend Barrie Zwicker. I'm not into theories, so much as I am promoting information, asking questions, promoting lies, and so on and so forth. But, I mean, I just, you know, where's the line drawn. And, you know—

JONKAY No, but that's a good question. Let me stop there because I don't want to leave that question hanging. To me, the line is drawn—I'm going to go back to something I said earlier, I meant to—I'm willing to pursue any avenue of inquiry. And when you talk to 9/11 theorists, they always say: "I'm just asking questions. I'm just using empirical method. I'm just being scientific." And I respect that. And, as I admitted earlier in this interview, Governments do lie. They do it for their ass-covering purposes. (Well, but--) It's common.

So, it's especially important for journalists to ask questions. For me, the line is when something becomes a conspiracy theory is when it's clear that the person offering the alternative theory is locked in their own dogma and they're dismissing any evidence to the contrary, which is saying any evidence that backs up the officially promoted theory, and that they keep enlarging their conspiracy theory and enlarging their mandate to "ask questions."

JON One thing –

JONKAY Every time a contrary authority is raised.

JON Do you understand that the 9/11 Family Members —they submitted hundreds of well-researched questions to the 9/11 Commission to answer. They only answered 30 percent of their questions.

JONKAY Okay, but let me step back a little bit.

JON Now, hold on a minute. Let me—

JONKAY I agree with you that from a moral point of view it is extremely important to address concerns from survivors from—

JON It's not just about survivors. There are a multitude of questions, there are many things that the 9/11 Commission either omitted from its report or distorted and so on and so forth. I mean, the mandate of the 9/11 Commission was to give a "full and complete accounting of the 9/11 attacks." And every whistleblower that they didn't speak to, or every avenue they didn't look into, it just shows that they failed in their mandate and, there's a multitude of problems with the 9/11 Commission. But—

JONKAY One thing I found, as a journalist, there is as human beings a tendency to assign great moral value to the questions asked, and the testimony and the beliefs of people who are directly affected by tragedies. So, if it's EMS first responders or family members of victims or, you know, injured victims themselves who step forward, that we do have a tendency to assign them a lot of moral credibility. (Ha!) Unfortunately, what you do find as a journalist is that sometimes these are the people who are actually the most least informed.

One example, for instance, is the false movement to link vaccines to autism —some of the biggest proponents of that theory are parents who have autistic kids. And one of the reasons these theories, these false theories about vaccines and autism have been promulgated in the media, is because reporters want to believe the parents. They think it's morally important to believe the testimonials of autistic kids. But those are often the people that are least informed because they're so upset by the situation (Okay, let me--) because they're so personally affected, they latch on to non-sensicle theories. So, in some cases, sadly—this is a sad thing to say—they're actually the last people we should be listening to because sometimes they're the most emotionally vested in the answer to the questions.

JON You couldn't be more wrong. Let me—do you know who the September 11th Advocates are?

JONKAY They used to be called, the term, I forget—a group of women who are especially prominent and I forget the name that the media gave them.

JON They were referred to as The Jersey Girls (That's it) And it was 9/11 Family Member Sally Regenhard who actually called them that. I want the audience to know who these women are.

They are four widows who lost their husbands on 9/11. They are essentially responsible for the creation of the 9/11 Commission. They were part of the 9/11 Family Steering Committee. They worked with the staffers of the 9/11 Commission. They provided hundreds of well-researched questions for the 9/11 Commission to answer. They attended every public hearing of the 9/11 Commission. And before and during the 9/11 Commission, they were in the media a lot. They were part of the process from the very beginning.

I want you and people to understand that these aren't just any 9/11 Family Members. They went through hell and know what they're talking about. Or, at the very least, should be listened to. So, for you to say that they're the last people we should be listening to, I think that's absolutely absurd. And, incidentally, I heard you say that 9/11 Truthers or advocates for 9/11 justice started appearing after it was found that there were no WMD in Iraq. Do you know that the family members are actually, technically, the first members of the "9/11 Truth Movement?" Do you understand that? Do you realize that?

JONKAY I can see how that, based on how you define that term, that would make sense.

JON Okay, well.

All right, my next question. Is it fair to say that you consider yourself to be a Neoconservative?

JONKAY I don't think, you know what, I don't consider myself a Neoconservative. I've—this may surprise you—I've actually kind of moved away from the right wing of the political spectrum in the last few years. In part, because I'm so disappointed in how the Iraq war did turn out. It is true that the Iraq war ended up being a really bad idea. I've admitted this in my journalism. I admit also to being a columnist here in Canada who thought otherwise. I thought the Iraq war would end up very differently. And, foreign policy adventurism has very mixed results over the last 10 or 15 years.

So, I'm someone who's changed his mind about a lot of things.

JON Well, I saw that you've written for papers like *The Weekly Standard* and belong to an organization called the Foundation for Defense of

Democracies, which has James Woolsey as the chairman and includes people like Michael Ledeen.

So, you're saying that you don't like being lumped into a category of people simply because you may agree with some of what they say?

JONKAY Let me put it this way. If—

JON Because I can relate to that.

JONKAY If anyone—for instance, the logical extension of the Neocon thesis would be that we should start bombing Iran and that we should, perhaps, even consider invading Iran to halt their nuclear program. But I think that would be a terrible idea. And, in truth, I actually don't know—I know very few American conservatives. Even people who write for commentary magazines would agree with that thesis.

I think Neoconservatism, although it's still used as a term of abuse in American political circles, I think the Neoconservative movement was, as we knew it, was essentially killed off by the failure of the Iraq war to meet its expectations of its loudest cheerleaders.

JON I think they still exist. I think PNAC closed its doors and now they've started this new organization—I think it's called FPI or the acronym is FPI. So, they're still out there. Ray McGovern who was a CIA analyst for 27 years called them the "crazies," and when they came back into office after Bush was "elected" President, he said: "Uh-oh, the crazies are back."

JONKAY [Laughs] Look, there's always going to be people who have a really ambitious view of what American military power can accomplish. However, I think the ranks of those people have been vastly diminished because of what happened in Iraq—and not just Iraq, also Libya. Let's not forget Libya, which America had a relatively modest role in compared to its role in Afghanistan and in to Iraq. And look at how that turned out. Libya's a mess.

So, I think anyone who, back in 2002 and would say: "We should start bombing this country. We'll take it over. We'll turn it into a democracy. What could go wrong?" In 2002, 2003 people still took that view seriously. Now very few people take that seriously. And that's what killed Neoconservatism.

- JON Okay. Why do people who write pieces against those who are advocating for 9/11 justice lump in crazy things like UFOs, the Illuminati, reptiles and such. I'm an advocate for 9/11 justice. I don't advocate for that crazy bullshit. And I know many others who don't either. So why—
- JONKAY The reason for this is that, for whatever reason, some of the people who have been the most vocal proponents of the "9/11 Truth Movement" have been people who believe in all sorts of other bizarre things. And the example I give in my book is this fellow Icke in Britain. His first name escapes me now—he's the one whose thesis involves human beings being ruled over by lizard people. I can actually look up his first name on the internet. David Icke is his name.
- JON I'm well familiar with who he is. I've never promoted him. I never supported him. And the same goes for Alex Jones. I tried to be a team player at one time, but I found out that he was just a member of what I call the conspiracy theory industry, and I want nothing to do with him. And he does not speak for me. And neither do people like David Icke.
- So, I don't think it's fair that writers like you lump in all these crazy sounding things. It's crazy by association is what it is.
- JONKAY Okay, but it's not that—look, when I would go to campus events and I would see people campaigning for 9/11 truth, they'd be wearing Alex Jones tee-shirts.
- JON Oh I understand. He has a lot of power.
- JONKAY Okay, so but that's—it's not the basis that we therefore—that journalists like me would therefore say: "These people want 9/11 truth. Many of them are followers of Alex Jones. And many are followers of David Icke, or whatever." Like it's—you know, if you ask these people: "How did you learn this information?" Many would say: "I heard about it on Infowars."
- JON Well, do you know that a lot of people who got turned on to places like Infowars, they first started questioning 9/11 by themselves, and then they came across people like Alex Jones and started to listen to what he said. And they were well-intentioned, well-meaning people who took bad information and started promoting it.

And—it's like, unfortunately, he had a lot of pull. He essentially helped to co-opt what I considered to be the "9/11 Truth Movement." Our signs used to say: "Support the 9/11 Family Members. Expose the 9/11 Cover-up." And then they started to say: "New World Order. False Flag Attack." And that came—or 9/11 was an inside job—which is a phrase I can't stand. And, that was because of people like Alex Jones.

So, it's unfair, I think—essentially, what you're doing is you're taking a few bad apples out of the cart and then throwing away the rest of the cart and saying they're all bad apples, as well.

JONKAY Ah—look, it's—if you're part of an ideological movement, you can't control who the major players in that movement are going to be. (Well—) It's kind of like saying, look—

JON You actually can. When the corporate media—there's a multitude of people out there that could have been spoken to but were not—like Paul Thompson, the creator of the Complete 9/11 Timeline. He was never on Fox News. They chose people like Jim Fetzer and Webster Tarpley and Alex Jones and David von Kleist. And all of the people who are willing to promote their theories about what happened that day. They did not—

JONKAY Tarpley is a good example. I went to Washington to do a speaking event and Webster Tarpley was the guy I was debating. I was shocked how many people showed up to hear Webster Tarpley speak. He has a huge following. So, it's not surprising the media is going to say, these guys have large followings within, you find, the conspiracy industry. So, these are people who are mainstream advocates of this kind of conspiracy. Mainstream in quotes, I guess.

JON Most people in the "9/11 Truth Movement" started to see through Webster Tarpley's bullshit over the years. And, as a matter of fact, there's something called the "Kennebunkport Warning" that you can look up if you want. Essentially, he called Cindy Sheehan a name, and I defended her against him and as a result of me defending her and so on and so forth, he went on a stage, in New York City during an anniversary event and inferred that I was part of COINTELPRO.

So, Webster Tarpley is not someone that should be taken seriously, okay?
(Okay)

Why do writers like you and others find it necessary to try and discredit the messenger by name-calling and assigning psychological profiling diagnoses instead of taking the time to answer the actual questions, or to see if the questions were ever honestly answered?

JONKAY Well, look, in my case, for people who read my book, they'll see in my chapter on the personality types of people, who did become heavily invested in the "9/11 Truth Movement," I was careful to say: "Look, these people fall into different types." And I actually said in my book that a very small percentage of the people I interviewed were clinically insane. Most of them were quite sane. And there were people who had profound feelings of distrust toward the society around them—that was intended to be the unifying characteristic about the people I spoke to. And I broke them up into subsets. Some of them were sort of militant campus revolutionary types. Others were sort of middle-aged intellectuals who latched on to 9/11 Truth because they love puzzle-solving and they like the complexity of it, and they love immersing themselves in the research. And there were others who were more mystically minded. David Icke falls into that category, I would argue, and who see the geopolitical world around us as sort of a smokescreen on some larger truth that lies behind it, but they see it in mystical terms.

So, I went into this whole typology, but as I say, as I made clear in the book, I didn't find these people to be clinically nuts. What I was trying to do was discover why sane, smart people believe stuff that I find as far-fetched. And I believe, in my book, I didn't engage in name-calling.

JON You've called several people cranks. In fact, I looked up the word. It showed up 35 times in your book. So—

JONKAY The word crank—okay, so, when you look at someone who's a crank, you know, when we use the term colloquially and you see them and they start talking about how we'd all be driving around and flying planes if the U.S. oil industry didn't kill off the flying plane, or they have theories about aids; or they have a theory about the banking system; or the global money supply; or about Jews; or about who really wrote Shakespeare's plays; we all know what a crank is. A crank is someone who has a weird theory about everything. And these people, if they have a weird theory about aids, you can usually predict they're going to have a weird theory about B, C, and D. And, we all know the type. It's a word that's accessible to my readers, which is why I used it in my book. I didn't mean it to be like a term of

ethnic abuse. I was just trying to tap in to the concept of what we know of as a crank. That they're people who exist and that was a little label I put on them.

JON Okay, well, that's the modus operandi of everyone who's ever written a hit piece is that they love to call us names, suggest that we're crazy. I've seen people like Glenn Beck try to say that someone who took a few shots in the Holocaust Museum who murdered someone was a hero of the "9/11 Truth Movement," trying to paint us all as murderers. I mean, it's absolutely absurd.

And with regard to the psychological need—do you think I want to be doing this? I mean, do you think I wanted to spend the last 13 years of my life dealing with an aggressive corporate media, aggressive debunkers, aggressive members of the "9/11 Truth Movement," crank phone calls, death threats? I was spied on by a company called ITRR, you know, watching 9/11 First Responders become sick and die, listening to 9/11 Family Members cry because they want real truth, accountability, and justice. I mean, that's absolutely absurd. I believed everything my Government and the TV was telling me. It was THEIR actions and THEIR lies that made me try and do the right thing. I don't know, maybe you're right. Maybe I have a psychological need to do the right thing.

JONKAY Look, I've never met you. I couldn't say why you're drawn to this movement. I enjoy talking to you, but—ah, my book is about primarily about the people I met. I guess, it—the reason you're doing this is, right now, known only to yourself. I'm not going to try and psychoanalyze you over the phone.

JON It's the right thing to do. We were lied to about a multitude of things. Every—most investigations we had, had its own version of compromise and corruption. And I can't understand—in what world does it make sense not to seek truth, accountability, and justice for the murder of 2,976 people, especially knowing that we were lied to about that day, and especially considering what that day has been used for. It doesn't make any sense to me. I don't understand the thinking behind that.

In the beginning of your book, you say that you're not going to debunk every theory and, instead, you pointed to things like *Popular Mechanics'* book and the blog ScrewLooseChange. *Popular Mechanics* does not talk about things like whistleblowers, or the lies of the NSA or CIA, or Saudi

Arabia, or Philip Zelikow, the 9/11 Commission—a multitude of other things. As for ScrewLooseChange, did you know that at one time, one of their "star posters" was someone by the name of Troy Sexton who liked to crank call activists, such as myself, and family members to harass them, record the conversations, and post them online for everyone to hear? I mean, come on, really? Is that the best you could have pointed to?

JONKAY Ah, I pointed to a lot of sources in my book—

JON I understand that.

JONKAY But that website—actually, I thought it was a clever way to use the conspiracy theorists' own media tools against them. That's what I found interesting about them.

JON Well, they're a bunch of assholes is what they are. (All right) And they really don't deserve any attention, whatsoever.

All right, my next question. At one time, supporting the 9/11 Family Members was considered the thing to do. In your book, you essentially infer that we use 9/11 Family Members because: "Damaged survivors are particularly effective as recruiters for conspiracist movements because the spectacle of their grief short-circuits our intellectual faculties—much the same way that graphic testimony from a crime victim can sway a jury to convict an innocent defendant."

Now, first of all, I don't appreciate the inference. If you want truth, accountability, and justice for the 9/11 attacks, working alongside 9/11 Family Members seeking the same, is only natural. And, I might add, the right thing to do. Secondly, I came into this all on my own. No author, movie, or family member brought me into this cause. I saw that we were being lied to, and I tried to do something about it. Now, do you or do you not think we should be supporting 9/11 Family Members seeking truth, accountability, and justice?

JONKAY I think everybody supports truth, accountability, and justice, but I don't think that theories advanced by a lot of people in this field have any credibility, because they've been investigated. It's now been the passage of 14 years. There's no additional evidence that any of these theories that we were lied to on a massive scale about the true origins of 9/11. They don't hold water. And the fact that someone is related to someone who was

tragically killed on September 11, 2001, that doesn't give them any kind of magical insight into why that event occurred. In fact, as I've discussed before, sometimes it makes them less insightful about the true origins of that event because they're psychologically wounded by the event, and so they become more vulnerable to far-fetched theories that might have caused that event. It happens all the time. You see it with examples I've given you. It happens with wars. It happens with the origins of autism. It happens with people who get aids, and sometimes they latch onto bizarre theories about how aids is propagated. The human mind becomes more vulnerable when it's investigating the causes of its own misery.

JON Okay, the true origins, according to the official account in the 9/11 Report says that there were no state sponsors for the 9/11 attack, and yet we have found and heard over and over again that specific Saudis that are linked to the Government helped to finance the attacks. But, the 9/11 Report absolved the Government of Saudi Arabia. And, in fact, they absolved people like Princess Haifa, Osama Bassnan and so on and so forth. And so, there you go right there—

JONKAY Actually, I'm on the same side with you about the Saudi stuff, because apparently there's all kinds of information in the 9/11 Report about the Saudi Government and Saudi nationals, which was essentially blacked out, right? (Well—) and we haven't seen it yet. I'd love to see that information.

JON Do you know why it was blacked out? Because people like Philip Zelikow blocked half of the Saudi interview requests; he fired someone by the name of Dana Lesemann (RIP), who was on the Joint Congressional Inquiry who helped to author the 28-redacted pages of the Joint Congressional Inquiry. He blocked her access to those 28-redacted pages when she was trying to do her job. And so she went through a back channel to get them and as a result he fired her. Dietrich Snell and Philip Zelikow took part in a "late night editing session" to remove Saudi support from the 9/11 Report and move the information into a footnote in the back of the book against the wishes of the staffers who worked on the 9/11 Commission.

So, that instance, alone, how could you trust the 9/11 Report? My God, they had Government minders who were intimidating witnesses. I mean, the families released three statements during the time of the 9/11 Commission that said that there should not be any Government minders, whatsoever.

Now, think about what I just said. They were intimidating witnesses. So, how could you EVER come to the conclusion that the 9/11 Report is the end-all, be-all—the definitive account of 9/11. It's absurd to me.

JONKAY You know, no report commissioned by the Government—I agree with you on this—is ever going to be truly 100 percent objective, because at the end of the day, it's being commissioned and paid for by the Government, so it's never going to be 100 percent independent.

But, when I read that report—and I guess it was what five years ago that I read the report? Whatever it was, six years ago? I remember cross-checking with what I knew, with the evidence that was cited, with the sources that were cited, and it read reasonably to me. I also liked the fact that the report knocks Democrats and Republicans alike. No one can read that report and say: "Oh, this was written by a bunch of Republican stooges." It's not written that way.

And subsequent books—you know, there's a book that was written by Thomas Kean about, you know, sort of what it was like during the 9/11 Commission. There have been numerous journalist inquiries into the functioning of that Commission. They have identified one or two problems (heh) and you've talked about problems, but by and large it was a credible and well-respected commission exercise—and, by the way, the results of the 9/11 Commission Report have largely stood up. I would like to see more information about the Saudi connection. By and large it's not as if the results in that report have been massively discredited since it was published.

JON But how could—they didn't do their job. And the families, when they fought for the 9/11 Commission, they expected that people would be held accountable. We're talking about people who lied, or organizations that lied. Don't you think that people should have been held accountable for that?

JONKAY Well, as I say, everybody loves the theory of accountability and transparency, as do I, but I think your questioning about accountability and transparency starts from the premise that some horrible, overarching fiction was being promoted by the 9/11 Commission. (No—) On that thing, you and I just fundamentally disagree. I don't think that was the case.

JON It starts on the premise that they lied and that people need to be held accountable. I think Thomas Kean said at one time that if he was in a

position of power, there are people in Government who would no longer be in their jobs.

JONKAY You know, on that point I agree too. You know, the CIA Director, he didn't lose his job. It's true. Actually, you and I agree on that, that there were massive intelligence failures. This happened after Katrina. George Bush flies in, says the director of FEMA did a bang-up job. This is kind of what Governments do. Often the dishonesty expresses itself through cynical reactions to Government failures. People cover their asses and they congratulate themselves for their performance even if their performance was essentially a failure, as it was in this case, because they failed to prevent 9/11.

JON Let me ask you a question. Do you think that elements within our Government are capable of hurting Americans?

JONKAY I think that there are elements within the U.S. Government that are remarkably indifferent to the suffering of certain classes of Americans. For instance, American prisoners. For instance, Americans in some poor communities. I think that people in the lower classes, people who are mentally ill, people who are prisoners in America, people that have very little constituency in the media or in politics, they often get the shaft in the United States because there's no repercussions for victimizing them.

JON How about the heroes of 9/11? Do you think that they would hurt them?

JONKAY One thing that you have seen is, at least for a while, you saw an indifference to the medical conditions that resulted from their activities on 9/11—breathing in all sorts of toxic chemicals.

That part—you know, you talk about the "9/11 Truth Movement"—that part, there is some resonance for me. That you had people working in extremely dangerous and toxic environments during the after effects of that tragedy, and some of them did get very sick.

JON They were lied to about the air and the water quality down there in an effort to open Wall Street. This is well documented. And, as a result, thousands of 9/11 first responders have gotten sick. Well over a thousand have died. No one was held accountable for these lies. And these lies were directed by the White House.

So, the idea that elements within our Government would never hurt Americans is absurd. I mean, look at how many soldiers they were willing to send to war to their deaths? How many chemical weapons did they use, which caused our soldiers to get sick. I don't think they give a SHIT about Americans, or [AUDIOBAD]

JONKAY Well, that's a pretty broad statement. I can generalize—I wouldn't go that far. I do think, sometimes, Governments are indifferent to the suffering of some disenfranchised communities. But, broadly, I don't think it's true that Governments don't care about the citizenry in general.

JON Our Government is more—does not work for the people. It works for the corporate interests. And this is well documented. I think the support for Congress right now is at its lowest it's ever been.

My next question: Are you familiar with groups like 9/11CitizensWatch or HistoryCommons?

JONKAY Ah, HistoryCommons, yes, I've seen that. Some of these are sources that I investigated when I was doing my book but, as you know, my book was published in 2011. So, I'm not state-of-the-art when it comes to some of the sources you're talking about.

JON All right. 9/11CitizensWatch was a citizen's watchdog group formed by the late John Judge and Kyle Hence to make sure the 9/11 Commission was doing its job. They worked with the 9/11 Family Steering Committee as best as they could. HistoryCommons is the current site that houses the "Complete 9/11 Timeline" that was started by Paul Thompson.

And, I didn't know if you'd heard of them because they weren't mentioned in your book. And these things that are an essential part of the history and tools of the "9/11 Truth Movement" and you completely overlooked them. How is that possible?

JONKAY Ah, it's a big movement, or at least it was at the time. There were thousands of potential people to look towards. Some people consented to interviews. Some people didn't consent to interviews. I tended to prioritize people who gave me interviews, or whose documentation that I could find on the internet was particularly interesting or original. There were some fairly minor figures in the "9/11 Truth Movement" that figured prominently in my book because they were extremely forthcoming in interviews and said

interesting things. (Well—) That's the way it is with any writing exercise. You have to pick and choose the sources you use.

JON All right, since we're on the subject of what was and wasn't mentioned in your book, I did a little counting. And you have:

Alex Jones mentioned - 16x
David Ray Griffin - 15x
Webster Tarpley - 14x
Richard Gage - 11x
Robert Balsamo - 8x
Kevin Barrett - 6x
Eric Hufschmid - 4x
Theirry Meyssan - 2x

And so on and so forth. And then you have:

Paul Thompson - 0
Kevin Fenton - 0
Ray Nowosielski - 0
Jenna Orkin - 0
John Judge - 0
Peter Lance - 0
Phil Shenon - 0
James Ridgeway - 0
Erik Larson - 0
James Dorman – 0

And do you know the difference between those people you covered the most and those you didn't?

JONKAY No, what is that?

JON Well, the first bunch likes to focus on promoting things like controlled demolition or a missile hitting the Pentagon. The second bunch does its best to promote solid information and ask good questions.

So, I can't believe so many important people, like Paul Thompson and John Judge, my god! They were [AUDIOBAD]

JONKAY Well, Michael Ruppert was also extremely prominent in my book and he's not someone who believes in crazy missiles or UFOs or anything like that. He was a guy who was just asking. I went all the way to California to—and, by the way, Richard Gage himself doesn't have any crazy theories about 9/11. He's all about the engineering and asking questions. He is by no means someone who is considered marginal to 9/11. (So, you're—) And Richard Gage, if you ask him what happened on 9/11, he's like extremely careful. He'll say: "I don't know. I'm just asking questions. I want a citizen's inquiry." So, I don't think you can credibly accuse me of simply going for the people who are the most extreme in their views.

JON Well, it certainly seemed that way. Now, why did you reference *Loose Change* and not *9/11 Press for Truth*?

JONKAY The reason I—sorry, unfortunately, we've been at this for an hour, so I might have to go back to work soon, but let me address that question because I think it's important.

The reason I addressed *Loose Change* is because so many of the people who I interviewed—especially, young people—when I said: "How did you get into this movement?" They said: "I got into it because I was surfing late at night the internet and I came across this film *Loose Change*, and it was so well produced and it was so persuasive, and that's what made me get on to a "9/11 Truth Movement."

So, so many people said that. I said, obviously, this *Loose Change* film (Well, okay—) is an important phenomena and that's why I featured it in my book.

JON The reason that *Loose Change* was so prominent was because that was the movie that the corporate media chose to focus on to give attention to—to paint as kind of like our Holy Grail—like everybody in the "9/11 Truth Movement" believes everything that's within *Loose Change*, and that's simply not the truth.

And don't feel too bad about not covering *9/11 Press for Truth* or its sequel, which is *In Their Own Words: The Untold Stories of the 9/11 Families*, the corporate media completely ignored them, as well. However, every movie critic that was willing to review *9/11 Press for Truth*, gave it a good review. So, imagine that.

- JONKAY All right.
- JON So, we've been doing this for an hour. Let me see if there are any questions. Have you read the different press releases from the Jersey Girls over the years that call into question different things about 9/11?
- JONKAY Ah, I did read at least some of their material when I was doing the book back in 2009-2010. I can't say, as I already admitted, I can't say that I've kept up with this field since the publication of my book four years ago.
- JON All right. Did you read the report compiled by 9/11 Family Members Lorie Van Auken and Mindy Kleinberg that shows how poorly the 9/11 Commission answered their questions?
- JONKAY I can't remember if I read that document. But, I do know that there are relatives of 9/11 victims who are concerned about what was and what wasn't covered in the 9/11 Commission Report.
- JON All right. Are you aware that on September 11, 2006, 9/11 Family Members got together at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. to call for a new investigation into the 9/11, that in February 2008 the Jersey Girls called for a new investigation, that in 2009, over a hundred 9/11 Family Members supported our effort to get a new investigation into 9/11 onto the ballot of New York City?
- JONKAY I'm aware that for these people 9/11 was, tragically, a defining element in their life, and I'm sure in many cases to their dying day, they will insist on new investigations and push for alternative theories behind what happened. This is what happens when people are traumatized by horrible events. (Why do you say—) They never—understandably, they never lose their hunger for trying to get new information about these horrible events.
- JON Why do you say that they're pushing theories instead of asking questions? Seeking accountability. Why do you have to say they're promoting theories instead of those things?
- JONKAY In the "9/11 Truth Movement," what I found is that everybody just says: "Oh, I'm asking questions. I'm asking questions. I'm asking questions. But, when you talk to them, the reason they're asking questions is because they have some alternative theory behind what happened on 9/11. And, if you push them further, they will admit to you that well, I suspect it was an

inside job. (Well—) And they don't want to say that because it sounds crazy and, in my mind, it is kind of crazy. (And that gives—)

So, instead what they said: "Oh, I'm demanding transparency. I'm demanding accountability." But these are fancy words to say: "I think 9/11 was an inside job and I'm looking for information to prove that." That's essentially what you find when you talk to these people.

JON I think—I look at 9/11 as a crime, not an act of war, and as with every crime there are suspects FOR that crime. And, I think that along with people like Khalid Sheikh Mohammad, elements within our Government AND other Governments, like Saudi Arabia, like Pakistan, have more than earned the title of suspect for the crime of 9/11.

JONKAY Fair enough, okay.

JON And, you know, I'm not trying to prove that, but I certainly don't discount it. I don't think that it's impossible.

My last—

JONKAY Well, that's—what you just said, to my mind, is the most reasonable articulation of the 9/11 truth thesis. But, as I say, most people I interviewed don't stop there. They will go and they will say, you know—

JON Well, then I think you need to start talking to a lot more people—people like Paul Thompson; people like Dr. Nafeez Ahmed; people like Ray Nowosielski or John Duffy; or Rory O'Connor; or Erik Larson; or James Dorman. I mean, there's a whole number of people you could have spoken to that come across a lot more credibly than the individuals you've spoken to.

JONKAY Now? Now, for the last hour, now I've spoken to you. So, presumably, you know—(Okay—) you've put yourself amongst that group, so I appreciate this opportunity to have this conversation with you. I did learn some things and thanks for taking the time to talk with me.

JON Well, would you like to apologize for misrepresenting Advocacy for 9/11 Justice?"

- JONKAY No! I'm not going to apologize. I didn't say terrible things about these people.
- JON You misrepresented...
- JONKAY In fact, in some cases, the Wall Street Journal made a point in their review of my book—The Wall Street Journal made a point to say: "This guy Jonathan Kay actually painted a sympathetic picture of a lot of these people." So, I don't think I have to apologize.
- JON I do—you misrepresented it. I think you owe an apology to the Family Members who have been seeking truth, accountability, and justice. That's my personal opinion, but if you don't want to apologize, that's fine.
- JONKAY Fair enough.
- JON Is there anything that you would like to promote at this time?
- JONKAY Ah, no. Just to say, thanks a lot for the opportunity. If any of you wants to direct criticism or helpful links, I'm on Twitter. I'm @JonKay and, you know, if people are listening at this point—it's been more than an hour—thank you for dedicating your time to listening to me and Jon Gold talk about this. I appreciate it.
- JON Well, thank you, Jon, for taking the time today.
- JONKAY Take care.
- JON All right, bye.

We were **LIED** to about 9/11

With your host Jon Gold

This week
Jon talks to...



The
Soapbox
People's Network

Dan Christensen

Chapter/Episode 26 – Dan Christensen – April 23, 2015

Jon Gold (JON)

Dan Christensen (DAN)

JON Hi, everyone, and welcome to my show called, "We Were Lied to About 9/11." I am your host Jon Gold and this show is part of the Soapbox People's Network. This week we're going to speak with the journalist that is reporting on what seems to be a cover up pertaining to a senior adviser to the Saudi Royal Family and their possible connection to some of the 9/11 hijackers in Florida.

Hi, this is Jon and I'm here with Dan Christensen. Dan, how are you doing today?

DAN Hi Jon. How are you?

JON I'm doing great. All right. So, I'm going to read your bio for everybody. Dan founded *Florida Bulldog* in 2009 using the name *Broward Bulldog*. He is an award-winning former investigative reporter for *The Miami Herald* and *Daily Business Review*, and one of South Florida's most experienced reporters. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in political science from the University of Miami.

Dan's stories about Broward Sheriff Ken Jenne's private business dealings sparked a federal corruption investigation that landed Jenne in prison in 2007. His stories about hidden and falsified court records in Broward, Miami-Dade and elsewhere in Florida for The Miami Herald in 2006 led to a pair of unanimous Florida Supreme Court decisions in 2007 and 2010 outlawing those practices.

Similar stories for the Daily Business Review in 2003-2004 exposed excessive secrecy in the federal courts. The executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press later called Dan "the nation's leading journalist on an issue of tremendous First Amendment importance: the increasing trend toward secrecy in our nation's courts." In 2000-2001, Dan's reporting about a deadly gun-planting conspiracy and cover-up by Miami police resulted in the indictment of more than a dozen officers and significant Governmental reform, including the establishment of Miami's long sought civilian review panel.

So, very impressive. That's your bio. All right, so we're going to get right into the questions. Number one, what was the day of 9/11 like for you?

DAN Well, it was sort of a regular day for me. I was working at the *Daily Business Review*, which is a publication in South Florida that focuses on legal and business news. So, when 9/11 happened—the paper that I worked for didn't cover it, per se. It was—I was like everybody else, I probably watched a lot of it unfold on television and in the daily newspapers, which at the time were fairly pretty aggressive in covering it. (Okay) So, it was basically a day where I watched. I was on the sidelines. It wasn't until years later when I first got involved with all this.

JON Well, okay. What was the first thing you questioned about the 9/11 attacks?

DAN Well, the first thing was when Anthony Summers contacted me in August of 2011. He and his wife, Robbyn Swan, wrote a book called *The Eleventh Day*, which was, you know, actually it's a really good account of what happened and the events surrounding 9/11. And the book had just gone to press or was just about to go to press, and I've known Tony for a long time. He and his wife live in Ireland, so he contacted me since I'm in Florida and said: "I've got this lead and couldn't get it into the book. Do you want to help me report it out?" And I said: "Sure. And I've been on it ever since."

JON Okay. So, with regard to the *Eleventh Day*—and this is probably something

I should be bringing up with Anthony Summers, but I just want to mention it—there's no doubt that elements within what's called the "9/11 Truth Movement" promoted bad information and bad theories and some acted in ways that didn't help us in the long run. That being said, I didn't like how he treated the "9/11 Truth Movement" in his book. He went after the weakest links to denounce us and in the same book used the work of people like Paul Thompson and John Judge and Kevin Fenton, people who would be considered members of the quote unquote "9/11 Truth Movement." So, good or bad, it was the "9/11 Truth Movement" that did its best to bring attention to the family members fighting for accountability and justice. And it was the "9/11 Truth Movement" that did its best to bring attention to the sick and dying 9/11 first responders and, we'd been covering issues like Saudi Arabia and the 28-redacted pages for years. Along with a multitude of other issues, so, I never had the opportunity to speak with him, but I just—it left a bad taste in my mouth.

DAN I can assure you that Tony is a top-flight professional reporter and if he had, and I realize there was a section on this, in which he looked at a number of different things involving what you would call the "9/11 Truth Movement" and he discounted some of their theories.

JON Oh, absolutely. Believe me, I know. [Laughs] I know there are many theories out there that can be easily discredited and so forth, but you know, there's another faction that supported the families, that were asking questions, and demanding answers, and, were there from the beginning helping the families fight for the 9/11 Commission and all that stuff, so. Anyway.

DAN I will tell you this, I think Tony's a—I mean, I wouldn't have associated with him if I didn't think that. He's an honest guy who calls them like he sees them, you know? Right or wrong. Right or wrong.

JON No, that's fine.

DAN That's all you can ask from anyone.

JON Yeah, that's fine. Now, can you please give us an overview of this story concerning what happened in Sarasota?

DAN All right, well, the story begins when Tony spoke with the person that ultimately became our principal, but not only, source for the very first story

that ran, I believe it was on September 8, 2011, and it ran on what was then BrowardBulldog.org and is now FloridaBulldog.org. We changed the name a few months ago—sort of to reflect the—Broward is the name of the county where I am based. And we ended up writing stories that were more than just about Broward. That's why we changed the name.

Anyway, the story that we initially wrote about—this was the same day that we published it—the *Miami Herald* purchased it and had published it. So, a lot of times you Google around you'll see it as if it was a *Miami Herald* story or it was some different story, but it wasn't. They simply purchased our story and ran it as they have with a number of subsequent stories over the last four years.

But the story begins with this meeting in which this counterintelligence agent spilled the beans, I guess, for lack of a better phrase, on what had happened and was concerned about it and thought that it needed to come out—wasn't looking for glory or anything else, just telling me what happened. And it was so surprising because not a word of this had come out anywhere before. And Tony had the story and we've developed it a bit and then we went to Senator Bob Graham, who used to be the Governor of Florida and served two terms, and after that was a Senator, head of the Senate Intelligence Committee for maybe—he was in the Senate for three terms. And briefly he had run for President back in 2004. And we took this information to him and he was quite surprised and, frankly, upset about it, because he felt, frankly so I believe, that the FBI should have told him about their investigation of these people—what we call the Sarasota Saudi Family.

And the gist of what happened here, or was alleged to have happened, is that there were a family of Saudis who had lived in the Sarasota area in a development called Prestancia, which is actually just outside the city limits of Sarasota on the south side. It's an upscale community. And they had a home in there and had probably lived there for five or six years before that. The home was owned by Mr. and Mrs. al-Hijji. Abdulaziz was the husband and the wife's name was Anoud. Anoud's father, this guy named Esam Ghazzawi, who was an adviser to one of the Princes of the Royal Family of Saudi Arabia.

Anyway. So, they—the story sort of begins on the ground level here when after 9/11, neighbors start calling the authorities to report that these people had left abruptly a couple weeks before. But had moved out basically, but

had left behind their furniture, cars, food in the refrigerator. They left the pool pump running. Stuff like that. So, it took a little while, a few weeks, I think, or maybe even a month or so for the state and federal agents to go in the place. But when they did, they found all this—like dirty diapers and, it looked like they went out for a while. In fact, they had left the country.

And, on that basis, an investigation began into what had happened and we were told by this intelligence agent that they had done what you would expect to be typical police work. Since it was a gated community, they went to a gatehouse, they got records of people coming and going. They took photographs of license tags. They took logs of people coming and going. And they found through those logs and through those license tags, the cars driven by some of the hijackers, including Mohamed Atta, had gone through there and had visited that home. There were some others, too, including a guy named Adnan Shukrijumah who lived here in Broward County for a while in the town of Miramar, and later became very well known as an operative, senior operative, for al Qaeda. He was reportedly killed by the Pakistani Government a couple months ago.

Anyway, they find this out, they do a phone, they do what they call link analysis on the phone records trying to find out who made calls and they found, not necessarily—and we don't know all the details of this—but they didn't find, necessarily calls from Mohamed Atta going home, but calls that link analysis determined that Mohamed Atta and other folks would call numbers that also had calls in and out of this particular home. That's how it was described to us.

So, we have these very interesting findings, yet none of this was reported to the 9/11 Commission or to Bob Graham's—not Bob Graham, he was co-chair, but the committee that he led—the Joint Inquiry that was put together by Congress in the months after 9/11 to do an inquiry into what happened and such. And he, as I said, we spoke to him about this. He was quite concerned that he hadn't been told about this. He subsequently did checking on his own and he's told us that this information was never passed along to his committee, that it was an oversight or something. Nobody knew about this and nobody knew about it on the 9/11 Commission. If you read the 9/11 Commission Report there's no reference to what happened in Sarasota.

JON

That's very interesting. Now, the family that left, the Saudi family that left, were they ever questioned outside of the United States?

DAN Well, we have been told by the FBI that they were questioned. We don't know where, when, particularly. It does appear from some of the documents that the FBI subsequently released on this that Mrs. al-Hijji was questioned at one point when she returned to the home of her mother a couple of years after 9/11 to sell the property. They were there for, I don't know, a month or so. But we can't be—the records that we've got are too sketchy to know what's going on.

It sort of leads to the second part of the story is that we are currently pursuing a Freedom of Information lawsuit with the Justice Department and the FBI trying to open up the file to see what's going on, and the FBI has told us that there's nothing to all of us. They've said that on a number of occasions, but they are unwilling to explain the basis for that opinion. And without that declaration. And, frankly, I am quite prepared to believe there was nothing to all of this, if they are willing to explain why. So far, they haven't done that.

JON Well, with regard to the FBI cooperating with regard to 9/11 investigations, are you familiar with the site HistoryCommons.org?

DAN Yeah, little bit.

JON Okay. This is an entry that was from HistoryCommons. It's called: "Summer 2003 FBI reluctance over Saudi connection leads to complaint from 9/11 Commissioner." And it says:

The FBI is initially reluctant to provide documents to the 9/11 Commission team investigating possible links between hijackers Khalid Almihdhar and Nawaf Alhazmi on the one hand and some Saudi Government officials on the other.

Investigators' Attitude - The investigators, Michael Jacobson, Raj De, and Hyon Kim, have come to believe that, in author Philip Shenon's words, there could be "few innocent explanations for why so many Saudis and other Arab men living in Southern California had come forward to help the two hijackers—to help them find a home, to set up bank accounts, to travel." Jacobson previously worked on the 9/11 Congressional Inquiry and formed the opinion then that FBI officials had tried to hide much of the

evidence in its files linked to Almihdhar and Alhazmi.

FBI Drags Its Feet - At first, according to Shenon, the FBI "is as uncooperative with the 9/11 Commission as it had been in the Congressional investigation" and is "painfully slow to meet the Commission's initial request for documents and interviews." The three investigators want a formal protest to be made over the foot-dragging, but realize their team leader, Dietrich Snell, will not make one, due to what they perceive to be over caution on his part. Therefore, they approach 9/11 Commissioner and former Deputy Attorney General Jamie Gorelick and she then contacts FBI Director Robert Mueller, warning him he will lose the Commission's goodwill if he does not start co-operating. [Shenon, 2008, pp. 184-185] In the spring of 2004, Mueller will launch a charm offensive against the Commission and will make significant efforts to comply with its requests.

So, that's one instance of the FBI being uncooperative with regard to the 9/11 investigations. And—

DAN Well, clearly, clearly Senator Graham believes that they have not merely been uncooperative, he was interviewed by *The New York Times* this month and a story that ran, I don't know, a week or 10 days ago. He referred to what it is that he perceives them to be doing as quote aggressive deception un-quote. (Laughs) And it's not merely attempting to cover up what happened, but attempting to deceive people about it. And, frankly, that may be what's happening in another matter involving the *Bulldog* and its reporting.

JON What do you mean? As far as what?

DAN Well, as far as the—I assume that you're familiar with the 9/11 Review Commission.

JON Yes, I am, Sir.

DAN As the FBI—I'm sure you are—as the FBI 9/11 Review Commission and what it reported and filed that's one—apparently only report on this—[AUDIOBAD] and most of the report was, basically, mildly critical of the

FBI regarding its response to 9/11, and how it's changed and what it's done. And, that sort of thing. For the most part though, it was—I felt it was somewhat cheerleading for the FBI, which isn't surprising given the fact that the FBI director was the guy who appointed the three members, one of whom includes former Attorney General Ed Meese and, also, the FBI was paying the members who do not know the terms of all of that. We do know from a report that they were operating under personal services contracts with the FBI, but those contracts haven't been released yet. Actually, I filed a FOIA request trying to get my hands on that stuff. But, so far, I haven't gotten a response from the FBI as to whether or not they're going to release that information. I've requested a lot of stuff, including transcripts of proceedings, things like that, reports that they relied on, memos that they used. The sorts of things that are done when a commission like the 9/11 Commission or the Warren Commission, no matter how criticized those commissions were, they did release a lot of information about what it was that they did. In this case, they haven't released anything except their report. And if you read that report, it becomes quite apparent that they were sort of under the FBI's thumb while they were doing this report.

JON Well, could you explain the formation of this commission, because it was unknown to anybody until this report came out, as far as I know.

DAN It was, I mean, there were—if you really looked around and, sort of in retrospect you could see that they were out there and functioning. But, boy, you had to look pretty deep because it was—there was no publicity about it. There was nothing in any newspapers that I could find—I did a pretty large search. Bob Graham didn't know anything about it, and a bunch of other people that I talked to, no one had ever heard about this. It wasn't—you can't quite say that it was completely incommunicado, because they did appear before a Congressional committee in a sort of an informal setting in a small room it looked like, but it was done somewhat subversive, I hear. They didn't hold any public hearings. They did not have subpoena power. They were sort of spoon-fed the information that they got by the FBI. Now, the members certainly could ask their own questions about this. But when, again, when you read the report, it doesn't look like they did that very much. They simply relied on what the FBI told them, for the most part, in reaching their conclusions.

And the part of this whole report that was of most interest to me was the part that had to do with the Sarasota situation, because in addition to looking at the FBI's performance post-9/11 in terms of how it operates, how

it functions, is it protecting us from terrorists, they also were charged with looking at any new evidence that came in and to make an assessment of that evidence as to whether or not there's anything there and presumably to recommend, if they saw anything there, to recommend that there be further investigation.

Anyway, in the course of all this. They looked at the Saudi situation. Sarasota Saudi situation. And frankly they botched it. They looked at one particular document that was put out by an FBI agent that we obtained from the FBI in our FOIA lawsuit. Remember, it was released only after we sued them. Originally, they filed for an information request and went for like a year, and they kept telling us they had no what they call "responsive documents." Then all of a sudden, six months after we filed the lawsuit, I go out to the mailbox one day and there is an envelope from the FBI and there's like 30 pages in there.

Among those pages—and they were all heavily redacted—there was one from April 2002, a report that talked about how these—the names of the people, the players, were all blacked out but you could tell by reading it who they were talking about, and our request was all about the al-Hijjis there—the people who lived in that home. It said that they had many connections to people associated with the 9/11 attacks and they went on to talk about how somebody in that family apparently trained alongside Atta and al-Shehhi, one of the other pilots, and perhaps Jarrah, the third pilot. At either Huffman Aviation or one of the other aviation training schools down in Venice, Florida, which is about ten miles from where the al-Hijjis home was in South Sarasota, essentially.

JON Well, it reminds me—with regard to the 9/11 Review Commission, you described it as "a secretive blue ribbon panel formed by Congress to conduct an external review of the FBI's post 9/11 performance and to assess new evidence" and said that it was "largely under the sway of the very agency it was tasked to examine."

So, essentially it was the FBI investigating itself. (Yeah)

Now, originally, from what I read, the 9/11 Review Commission was presented with the idea of having subpoena power. They didn't actually—they ended up not having subpoena powers, isn't that right?

DAN Yeah, the idea for this was actually by New York Congressman, uh.

JON Peter King.

DAN Peter King, thank you. Having a senior moment. Anyway, he had filed a bill back in 2011, calling for the establishment of a 9/11 Review Commission, which he and others seemed to envision would be led by the guys who were in charge of the 9/11 Commission. Former Governor Kean and former Congressman Lee Hamilton with the idea being that they would be best qualified to do this. Anyway, it was supposed to be an entity, a national commission under the legislative branch under Congress. And it was going to have subpoena power. This is all in the legislation. It was going to hold public hearings. It was going to—the administration was going to be run by the General Services Administration, and there was no inkling that the FBI would be involved in any way. That idea seemed not to get too much support in Congress and the idea began to fizzle out, or did fizzle out, at the end of 2012.

However, sometime in the first three months of 2013, this became transformed into the entity that it became, meaning this—or the executive branch, in fact, are basically under the FBI. The FBI was given Congressional funding, about a million bucks, to set this up. They had Director Comey as the one who picked the three commissioners quote unquote "in consultation with Congress" according to the report. They paid them. They helped staff them. They supplied virtually all the information that was used by the committee to reach its conclusions. And the FBI even ran the staff administratively. So, they obviously had a huge input as to how this was done. And it seems, to me, worthy of a story to point that out because I haven't seen any other stories noting that they were really, what I call, under the FBI's thumb.

JON Well, it reminds me of, I don't know if you remember or recall, but NORAD lied a lot about 9/11 and the 9/11 Commission referred them to the Department of Defense Inspector General and the Inspector General let them off the hook. And, with regard to Able Danger, it was also referred to the Department of Defense Inspector General. And that was apparently let off the hook like they didn't find what the people said they found they found, and so on and so forth. So, it just, every time somebody investigates themselves, it seems they get away with it.

DAN Well, it's not a good—obviously, you know, it's not a good idea to have an agency investigating its own situation here. And—it's a recipe for a

problem. And, Senator Graham believes that and he's a man I greatly admire.

JON Are you familiar with the story of Rudy Dekkers with regard to Huffman Aviation or the writings of Daniel Hopsicker?

DAN I'm familiar with them. I'm not completely conversant in them. (Okay) But Dekker's had some problems, I know, but it's not an avenue—he just did—I've spoken to Mr. Dekkers a while back trying to see if I could get some information about flight schools, trying to—one of the things that I've been trying to do is find out in that document—that April 2002 document that the FBI and the 9/11 Review Commission now both are trying to discredit—it talks about—the one that talks about how the family had many connections to the 9/11 players. It talks about the fact that there was a member of that family who is unidentified who was affiliated with that flight school. So, I was tempted to learn who that was—didn't have much luck. Along the way, talked to Dekkers, trying to find out if he had any information about it. He indicated that he didn't. I got the impression that he was telling the truth, but who knows?

JON Well, Daniel Hopsicker's book—it essentially portrays Atta as a drinking, drug-taking, party animal, strongly contradicting the conventional view of Atta as having been a devout Muslim, and it also implicates a retired businessman Wally Hilliard, the owner of Huffman Aviation, as the owner of a Learjet that in July 2000 was seized by federal agents after they found 43 pounds of heroin on board.

Now, this gained credibility because on December 13, 2012, *The Tampa Tribune* reported that:

"A year after he published a book about his travails, the owner of a flight school where two 9/11 hijackers trained has been arrested in Houston on cocaine trafficking charges. A federal judge last week ordered Rudy Dekkers held without bond pending his trial, partially because the Netherlands citizen poses a risk of flight. Dekkers was chief executive officer and President of Huffman Aviation in Venice, where 9/11 terrorists Mohamed Atta and Marwan Alshehhi enrolled as students."

So, you're—

DAN Jon, I know nothing about that.

JON Okay. Now, the next part of this question, and the reason I brought that up has to do with this next part of this question, was actually written by a 9/11 Family Member and I'm going to just quote it.

"Unless I read the documents wrong, it appears that there is a difference in the FBI/Hardy Declaration documents describing the residents at 4224 Escondito Circle, Sarasota, FL:

In the Third Hardy Declaration, the residents are described as a family, headed by a wealthy International businessman. Disappeared 9/4/01

In the Fourth Hardy Declaration, the residents are described as four Middle Eastern men, living in the house leased to a Middle Eastern woman. Disappeared 8/27/01.

Meanwhile, document DE72-1, indicates once again that a family lived at the address, headed by a wealthy International businessman. Yet, it also indicates that someone from that family had an arrest record, and was a flight student at Huffman Aviation.

If I am not wrong, why don't the descriptions of the occupants and their disappearances match? Did Dan Christensen look into those differences?"

DAN Well, it's—part of the problem with all this is that the documents are so heavily censored that we can't always tell. I don't know if I can make the same—draw the same conclusions that she has drawn. I didn't notice much difference in the descriptions. I mean, it seems to be pretty consistent here that there was a family here. When it talks about headed by a wealthy international businessman, they're referring I believe to Ghazzawi, but things are blacked out, so we don't know for sure. And it is—some of the wording is quite unclear. I've tried to piece it together. I'm not quite sure what they're saying.

But, one thing that we do know is—that's the only thing I think we can

work with here—is that this was the al-Hijji's home. They were the ones that were there. We know that from their neighbors. We know that from law enforcement. We know that from these informants that we talked to. And we also know that they were living in a home that they did not own. It was owned by the father. And this ties back to the Royal Family.

So, those seem to be—whenever you look at documents like this it's been my experience on many things over the years, not just on stuff like this, there are always going to be discrepancies. Somebody writes something—we all—everybody makes mistakes from time-to-time that, perhaps to read the last document closely and things filter in. We shouldn't—it seems to me we shouldn't get distracted by those sorts of questions. We should be focusing in on the larger questions, more important questions of, frankly, what is the FBI hiding? Or, why won't they talk about all this?

JON Well, this is the problem we've been having with all of the investigations. The Joint Congressional Inquiry, as you know, has 28-redacted pages that everybody is fighting to get released. The 9/11 Commission has only released 35 percent of its documents and many of the documents that it has released are greatly redacted. I don't know if you're familiar—

DAN Right, I think the 28 pages should be, assuming that that 28 pages gets released, should be the start, the first part of a wider push to open up all this information.

JON Absolutely. I mean, Prince Bandar—I don't know if you're familiar with what a 9/11 Commission Memoranda for the Record is. It's essentially just a brief description of an interview given with a witness, and Prince Bandar's MFR—

DAN Right, the 9/11 Review Commission used those, too, and I find it ironic that they call them memorandums [sic] for the record, yet they are not made public, so they're not part of the record.

JON Prince Bandar's is completely redacted or classified, rather.

DAN Like, how is it on record if nobody can see it?

JON Now, I'm going to try to read through what this family member wrote. It says:

"Again, in reading through the Fourth Hardy Declaration, it seems to me that, again, there was a pattern of these Middle Eastern men wanting to be noticed:

These Middle Eastern men had been rude to the postal carrier - such that they were brought to the attention of the Postal Inspector, even though it was noted that they received very little mail. Couple that 'activity' with their sudden disappearance after 9/11 and the package/letter later received by the Middle Eastern woman lessee at that address and returned to the post office with the name, "Saddam Hussein," stamped on it—and to please have her mail forwarded to Saudi Arabia from then on.

Maybe it's hind sight, but this M.O., if you will, sounds much like that of Mohamed Atta et al., where you had Middle Eastern men throwing around money, being seen in strip clubs, arguing with bank loan officers, etc. . . making themselves and their backgrounds, and associations (Middle Eastern, Saddam Hussein, Saudi Arabia, Huffman Aviation) memorable.

Again, who actually resided at the above address [which you already talked about], why are there differing accounts [you talked about that] and why would those individuals, allegedly and suspected to be engaged in plotting terrorist attacks, want to put themselves on the radar of authorities of any kind - never mind leave such obvious trails - prior to the attacks that might have caused the plot to be discovered and stopped?"

Do you have an opinion on that, or?

DAN

No, I don't, mainly because I don't, I mean, yeah, I mean, I have heard that, that supposedly happened here, because remember the hijackers, some of them were from Southeast Florida, Sarasota is Southwest Florida. And, as a matter of fact, I don't live too far from a place where Marwan al-Shehhi—it was a story, this was back before I was involved in this directly—I read a story in the paper, probably years, maybe even two years after, it was about how the FBI had traced—and they were going back looking through a credit card receipts to backtrack where these guys had been. One of the

places they went was a Tire Kingdom store, a place where I used to take my little boys to buy a new tire or something—it was pretty spooky.

But to try and get in the heads of these people and understand why they did what they did. I don't—I don't really have a theory about that because I don't know. I'm much more interested in looking at their actions and understanding them from that, rather than trying to psychoanalyze them and understand whatever the religious motives might have been behind all this that caused them to act as they did. But, again, they were apparently doing the same things here. They were reportedly in strip clubs—as a matter of fact, Tony and I worked on a lead that I never wrote about, but he did put his book, in a second edition, it was about a place over in Sarasota that we had heard or could not verify that al-Hijji had taken Atta and one of the other hijackers, maybe more than one—it wasn't a strip club, it was a bar where they'd pick up women and then bring them back in the house. I didn't report on it because I couldn't verify it. But Tony did put it in this book. So, it's out there.

JON Right.

This is an entry from HistoryCommons. The entry is called "Late September 2001: FBI confused about 9/11 hijackers suspect they left deliberate trail of misleading clues." And it says:

Journalist Seymour Hersh will write in the *New Yorker* in late September 2001, "After more than two weeks of around-the-clock investigation into the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the American intelligence community remains confused, divided, and unsure about how the terrorists operated, how many there were, and what they might do next. It was that lack of solid information, Government officials told me, that was the key factor behind the Bush Administration's decision last week not to issue a promised white paper listing the evidence linking Osama bin Laden's organization to the attacks."

An unnamed senior official tells Hersh, "One day we'll know, but at the moment we don't know." Hersh further reports, "It is widely believed that the terrorists had a support team, and the fact that the FBI has been unable to

track down fellow-conspirators who were left behind in the United States is seen as further evidence of careful planning. 'Look,' one person familiar with the investigation said. 'If it were as simple and straightforward as a lucky one-off oddball operation, then the seeds of confusion would not have been sown as they were.'" The hijackers left a surprisingly obvious trail of clues, even regularly paying for delivered pizzas using credit cards in their own name.

Hersh further reports, "Many of the investigators believe that some of the initial clues that were uncovered about the terrorists' identities and preparations, such as flight manuals, were meant to be found. A former high-level intelligence official told me, 'Whatever trail was left was left deliberately—for the FBI to chase.' Many newspaper reports—(I've always) —I'm sorry go ahead...

DAN I've always thought that it was more they didn't care (Right), because they were going to be dead. You know? It didn't matter.

JON It says:

Many newspaper reports in late September 2001 indicate doubt over the identities of many hijackers. The 9/11 Congressional Inquiry's 2003 report will strongly suggest that the hijackers at least had numerous accomplices in the US. But the 9/11 Commission's 2004 report will downplay any suggestions of US accomplices and will indicate no doubts about the hijackers' identities.

So...

DAN That in a nutshell is what Senator Graham is most concerned about. Are there or were there conspirators or co-conspirators here that have not been caught or identified. And, I think that's a valid concern. He points out repeatedly, that the hijackers that we know of—and there may have been additional hijackers, and I'll talk about that in a moment—a lot of them didn't speak English, they had no knowledge, they'd never been here before, they had little knowledge and culture, and yet, they came here and pulled off a fairly sophisticated plot. And, how do you do that without assistance?

JON Well, my next question—Apparently, the two hijackers in San Diego received support from elements within Saudi Arabia's Government. Both the CIA and NSA seemingly protected those two hijackers. In my opinion, that's the most honest assessment that could be given with regard to what they did.

With regard to the story in Sarasota, we're told that a senior adviser to the Saudi Royal Family may have been connected to the hijackers in Florida. Should we be asking whether or not the system that supported the hijackers in San Diego was used to support the hijackers in Florida? And should we be looking into whether or not those hijackers were seemingly protected by elements within our Government as well?

DAN I think those are legitimate questions to ask.

I can't, personally, I cannot believe that in advance of 9/11, that hijackers were being protected by our Government. I just don't, I can't buy that, that we would aid and abet the slaughter of our own people.

JON Well, it's not—I don't know that it was to do that, but it seems that their actions protected those hijackers, like for instance, the NSA said—

DAN Not so much protecting the hijackers as protecting people who were apparently aiding and abetting them that they found out about later, you know? Like the situation in San Diego. It seems apparent, certainly again, Senator Graham believes that this was a significant operation out there and one of the things he was critical of the FBI was they wouldn't allow the Joint Inquiry to question certain people that had information about all this. Because, again, they were under the FBI's thumb on this. And, apparently, because the FBI was doing the bidding of the Bush administration to lay off the Saudis on all this. That's what it seems, that's how this whole thing seems to have unfolded. And, now perhaps, regrets doing that and they're covering up the fact that they looked bad back then.

JON Well, what I'm referring to here—

DAN That's my theory.

JON Right. With regard to what I'm referring to as far as protection goes, are you familiar with Alec Station?

- DAN Ahh, no.
- JON Okay, Alec Station was the bin Laden unit, the CIA's bin Laden unit, and they got information that one of the hijackers from San Diego got a U.S. visa. And there were two FBI agents assigned to Alec station—one of them was Doug Miller, one of them was Mark Rossini. And one of them asked the CIA people there if they could send a memo to the FBI notifying them that one of the hijackers had a visa. And Tom Wilshire from the CIA told Michael Anne Casey to tell this FBI agent: "No, you cannot send a memo notifying the FBI." Later in the day, that same CIA official sent out a memo within the CIA notifying them that the FBI HAD been notified.
- So, that's one instance—the CIA withheld information from the FBI about those hijackers, I believe, for a while.
- DAN Right, but nobody at the time knew they were going to hijack—That's what I'm getting at here.
- JON No, but the story that's—or the theory that's being put forward is that the CIA was trying to flip them. That was put forward by Richard Clarke. But I don't know. Or were they working in collaboration with the Saudis to try and flip these individuals? Because, apparently, George Tenet wanted to get somebody in al Qaeda on their side or something to that effect.
- DAN Well, I think if they operate under the assumption that these intelligence agencies, which includes the FBI, are constantly trying to flip people and turn them into informants. That's how they operate. That's what they do.
- JON I understand.
- DAN And, so, that's why you can't necessarily trust. I mean, we sort of think the FBI enforces the law and wants to make—wants to arrest the bad guys. Well, that's only partially true. What they want to do is they want—they want to become and have ever since 2001, wanted to become THE domestic intelligence agency here, which I'm—that's one of the things the review commission talked about. That's one of the things that the 9/11 Commission recommended, which I wonder if that's something we really want.
- But, the point is—the old-fashioned notion of hey, you tell them about it, they'll go out and arrest the bad guys is out of date. They're much more

interested in developing sources of information that they can build on and continually use forever.

JON Well, the problem is that if the CIA was trying to flip those two hijackers, they were operating on American soil, which they were not allowed to do. So, that's one problem.

Now, with regard to the NSA and protecting them. The NSA said that they could only identify where the calls that the hijackers were making were going to, which were to the hub in Yemen. They monitored or recorded about eight phone calls. They said they can only identify where they were going to, which was the hub in Yemen. But the fact is, according to NSA whistleblower William Binney and also Thomas Drake, they were well aware where the calls were coming from, which meant that they knew that the two hijackers were in the United States and they didn't tell the FBI. So, that's another—and somebody mentioned or suggested that the NSA and CIA were collaborating to try and flip these people. But, I don't know. I don't know why the NSA lied, you know?

But, anyway.

DAN Well, you had asked a minute, should we be asking whether or not (Yes) the system that supported the hijackers in San Diego was used to support them in Florida? That again is another key question that Graham keeps bringing up. He believes the answer is yes. When we originally, Tony and I, originally went to him to tell him about this, he thought that this seemed to be somewhat of a mirror image as to what happened in San Diego and that this was something that he had suspected for a long time that there was no addition—that there were, excuse me—additional locations around the country where there was support for the hijackers. That's why he thinks this is so significant because it tends to show that indeed that was the case here.

JON Well, the next part of this question comes from a family member.

"To date, we know the FBI still has not addressed the many contradictions/omissions in evidence/plots/suspects/witnesses/ whistleblowers, in either the 9/11 Commission's investigation or that of the Joint Inquiry. Thus, I would expect nothing of value to come of their latest investigative farce. And she's referring to the 9/11 Review Commission. It was most likely a waste of time and money and another slap in the face of those 9/11 families still seeking truth

and justice with regard to the attacks. Whose or what agenda did it address, in your opinion?"

DAN You mean the 9/11 Review Commission? (Yeah) It seemed to address the FBI's agenda, frankly. But, I say, they had mild criticism of the FBI and, a matter of fact, Director Comey, after this was released, he basically came out and said what a great report it was, and said: "Oh, by the way, they're criticizing the same things that I've criticized, that we need to do things better." Which is sort of a general criticism. It doesn't mean anything.

So, yeah, I think it was, I think it ended up being turned and used by the FBI to pat itself on the back and make itself look good. Largely. (Right) And also in the case of Sarasota, it was used to discredit a document that essentially, contradicted everything that the FBI had said publicly about all of this. Very strange. I've never seen the FBI repudiate one of its own documents before, nor explain why it released to the public a document that it says was—bad.

JON Well, you released this story today, talking about getting the individual who wrote that report to, I guess, testify—or be questioned?

DAN Yeah, we—right, within our Freedom of Information lawsuit, we—our attorneys filed paperwork today that asks the judge—let me back up for a moment. We asked the Assistant United States Attorney in Miami who is defending the Government on this, whether or not we could interview the agent who has been criticized for issuing what they referred to as a report that was totally unsubstantiated, and this is a person they didn't identify, so we don't know who it is. We have suspicion who it might be, but we don't know who it is. And we wanted to talk to them and find out—why did they tell the FBI that they had no basis for writing this report. It's a fairly detailed report, some of which remains classified due to national security reasons, why would they make something up there? The question the lawyers have here is we need to talk with them to find out, because it's possible that the FBI ordered this person to not talk. That's—there's no explanation there. The whole thing just doesn't add up, okay? (Right)

We will, obviously, talk to whoever this agent is and find out why he said what he said, or what he allegedly said.

JON Okay, now, Paul Sperry just reported that "The Saudi 9/11 connection in Florida was no small part of the overall 9/11 investigation. Yet, it was

NEVER SHARED WITH Congress. Nor was it mentioned in the 9/11 Commission report."

And the *Herald Tribune* recently posted a statement by Paul Wysopal?

DAN *Sarasota Herald Tribune*, correct.

JON Okay. Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Tampa field office. In that statement, he says that: "All the documents and records gathered during the 9/11 investigation, including information regarding the Sarasota home and family, were made available to both the Joint Intelligence Committee Inquiry and the 9/11 Commission." [Laughs]

So, that's the contradiction. Which is it? Did they get it, or didn't they? It doesn't sound like they did, based on what Bob Graham is saying.

DAN Correct. I also talked to Lee Hamilton about this and he hadn't heard of any of this. So, what Senator Graham did, too, was after we reported all this—went to him, reported the first few stories—he contacted the FBI and asked them saying: "Okay, you guys say you provided this to us. Can you help us identify when—tracking numbers and things that will allow us to identify this material, so we can go back and find it and evaluate it?" And they never did. They could not document when they turned it over or how they turned it over or provide any tracking data for that.

JON Well, according—

DAN He went to the National Archives too. There was nothing there about this according to the people at the National Archives. (Wow) That's where their documentation for this was, the Joint Inquiry, I think, was kept.

JON Well, that's where it's also being kept for the 9/11 Commission's documents—(Yeah) at the National Archives.

Now, according to a report by you and Anthony Summers from June 5, 2013, it says: "Graham said the FBI kept the 9/11 Commission in the dark, too. He said co-chairmen Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton and executive director Philip Zelikow all told him they were unaware of the FBI's Sarasota investigation." (Right)

Now, one thing about the 9/11 Commission—I believe with regard to Able

Danger they originally said that they were completely unaware of it, that they never spoke to anybody about Able Danger and it turned out that they did. So, I don't know that I entirely trust what they're saying, but regardless.

DAN Well, the bottom line.

JON Are you—

DAN It seems to me that the FBI has made this assertion, yet they've not backed it up. They certainly haven't backed it up with me. It's like okay, you say you turned this over. Where is it? Why will they not discuss the basis for their statements here? If they—you have to remember, they are saying, when you go back to square one on this—okay, first of all, we have—they conducted a secret investigation into these Saudi folks living in Sarasota at the time. Okay? We did the first story. We spoke with them—or actually, we spoke to them after we contacted the Department of Justice for the story and they declined to comment on it. But, they did not disclose this investigation when they first put out their first statement on this, which was a day or two after the initial story, they confirmed that indeed they had conducted an investigation. However, they said that there was nothing to the investigation. They found no connection to the 9/11 plot or the 9/11 hijackers. And then they also added, in response to Senator Graham—oh, by the way, we've turned over everything to the 9/11 Commission and to Congress on this.

And, well—how come nobody ever heard of this investigation until we wrote about it? They turned it over. They turned it over—they did it in some way that nobody bothered to—nobody could recognize the significance of it, because they showed they were interested afterwards.

JON Are you aware of everything the 9/11 Commission did to hinder investigations into—Saudi Arabia's possible role?

DAN No, I haven't done a thing. You have to remember, I'm a reporter. I cover lots of things. I operate a website in South Florida that looks at local news here. So, no, I have not done a study of the 9/11 thing. All I know is that this particular aspect of it is weird.

JON Well, you're the first reporter that's actually writing current stories about one of the cover ups of 9/11 that I've had on the show. [Laughs] Do you think you might start pointing out to people like—or looking into the

ridiculousness of the 9/11 Commission or some of the lies having to do—

DAN Well, I look at the ridiculousness, shall we say, of the 9/11 Review Commission. But, I mean, the 9/11 Commission itself, no, I doubt if I'll be looking at that, because number one, I write about contemporary news. This is news. These are things that are happening now. Okay, but we also have problems here in South Florida like bid rigging at the local school board and things like that. That's our principal focus here. I got involved in this because Tony came to me and then it's just been this—journalistically it's been the story that's kept on giving here. And, there's been no, as you say, very little coverage of this in the national media.

JON Yeah.. there's none.

DAN Yeah, no, lately there has, I mean—*The New York Times* story—it's funny you see a story that ran on page five or six about how Bob Graham has generated a lot of coverage. I mean, when the story gets in there about stuff—it causes a response, and we report it. Obviously, we're not as well known as *The New York Times*, so it gets around, but it doesn't get around like it does when it's in *The New York Times*. (To me—) I'm hoping it's in my drawer. That's the first time Sarasota and 9/11 were mentioned in the same breath, I think by really—one of the biggest papers in the country.

JON Well, stories like this, to me, need to get the attention that say Michael Jackson's death got or Britney Spears' haircut [laughs] gets. And it boggles my mind that it doesn't.

DAN You're preaching to the choir on that one.

JON Okay, good. Are you aware of the history of the United States Government enabling and protecting and collaborating with Saudi Arabia with regard to their connections to terrorism?

DAN Well, I don't know about in terms with their connections to terrorism, but clearly, we have a long and interesting history with them. It seems like the principal motivating factors is we want their oil and they want our arms. When you boil everything away, that's what the whole relationship is about. If they had no oil, we wouldn't care about them, particularly.

JON Well, it's not just the oil. It's also their money and not just for arms. But, you know, the Bush family had business dealings with them. Hillary

Clinton, I understand, is like one of their biggest benefactors for an organization she belongs to. They've got like \$25 million from—

DAN Yeah, that's why it's quite disturbing here that apparently, I mean, keep seeing stories—there was another story today in The Times or somewhere about,—the connections here and the money and ultimately when I use oil, oil equals money certainly, you have to be concerned about the effects of potential foreign influence on our elections in the United States.

JON Absolutely. But, what I'm talking about is like during the 90s, there was an FBI agent who started an investigation into terrorist financing called Vulgar Betrayal and that was eventually shut down, and he was getting close to the Saudis and so forth. George Tenet developed ties with Prince Bandar. He would have meetings with him that his subordinates weren't aware of—what they talked about. And, in fact, were told to kind of back off the Saudis. We collaborated with them as far as arming Bosnian Muslims in the 90s and other things.

And, when George Bush first came into office one of the first things he did, according to Greg Palast, was to tell the different alphabet agencies to back off the Saudis and the Bin Ladens.

So, we've been protecting or enabling them for years before 9/11 and after 9/11.

DAN I don't—I got to tell you, I don't know anything about all those relations. I suppose I've read some of the same things you have, but as a reporter I don't know anything about them.

JON Okay. Now, in a written report from you on July 1, 2014, you write that:

"The April 2002 FBI report contains additional new information, though the deletions make its full meaning difficult to discern. It says that the Tampa FBI office "has determined that (blank) is an antagonist of the United States of America. (Blank) resides in Jerusalem. (Blank) allegedly has held regularly and recurring meetings at his residence to denounce and criticize the United States of America and its policies. (Blank) is allegedly an international businessman with great wealth."

Do we know the name of this individual?

DAN No, I don't. I'd like to know though. (Right) You know, if they're referring to Ghazzawi, I don't think he has great wealth. So, I don't think it's him, but I don't know.

JON Okay.

DAN That's what's so frustrating about the documents that get released, you know? They're released—and, more so than that, the oddest thing of this whole situation, this whole reporting situation for me, okay is—the original stories that we wrote were not based on any documentation. It was based on sources, okay? Intelligence Agent, counterintelligence or counter-terrorist agent that I mentioned. There was a gentleman whose name we did use. His name was Larry Berberick. He was a wealthy guy who lives or lived in that development, but was also like heading up—as an administrator—or heading up security for that. He was the guy that turned over the gatehouse photographs and records to the FBI, which the source later informed us—showed these connections to the hijackers. And, yet, none of that stuff has showed up in any of these documents that we've got from the FBI.

So, it's a real, I don't know, it's a real puzzle when you look at all this information that has been released, information that they originally said they didn't have and then they did release. And one of the things that they did release when we looked at it there when it first came out, this idea where it talked about how there were many connections from this family to the terrorists. We wondered why didn't they release that piece of information, that tidbit of information, because it was so damning of what their public statements had been. It was almost like somebody on the inside wanted to get that out and somehow managed to get it out to us. Again.

JON Well, we need more people like that, obviously.

DAN If that's what happened. That was just a theory that we had. It was like—why was this released to us? And now they're turning around and saying: "Oh, never mind. It was B.S." I don't believe that for a minute, because we used that document as confirming to what we had heard prior to that. It wasn't like that—that was a revelation to us. It was merely a confirm to us that what we had been hearing was correct. (Right)

When the 9/11 Review Commission sought to pooh-pooh it and didn't

bother to look at any of the other stuff that we had reported—they didn't mention Bob Graham's allegations that none of this was ever told to Congress. They didn't look at any of the other allegations. They didn't look at the fact that the original story dealt with sources saying all these things had occurred. They didn't question the fact that the FBI says there's nothing to this, yet doesn't produce the gatehouse records that the source told us DO show these things. Why not—if there's nothing to this, then why not just come out and show us. And if there's nothing to this, why are you censoring documents citing national security?

JON Oh, the same thing with regard to the 28-redacted pages that apparently—the 9/11 Commission looked at the allegations within the 28-redacted pages and found that they were lacking. Okay, if there's nothing to what's in those pages, why don't you release them?

DAN Exactly, it's the same argument. It doesn't make sense. By the way, we are involved in a legal push, a parallel legal push, in addition to the FOIA lawsuit, which is focused specifically on getting access to the FBI files on what happened in Sarasota—we've also been pursuing for the last year and a half what's called a mandatory declassification review. It's a little known—I didn't know anything about it—my or Bulldog's great first amendment lawyer, a guy named Tom Julin, who's in Miami, was aware of this and it is kind of a Freedom of Information like device in which you can request that agencies reconsider certain documents and move to declassify them. And, so we filed this. We got to go through the agencies that have the documents. In this case, the 28 pages, it was determined the FBI had them, so we asked the FBI. They ignored us. After a certain time period went past, we went to the Justice Department. They ignored us. After another certain time period passed, it landed before what's called the Inter-Agency Security Classification Appeals Panel (Laughs), which is a mouthful. Right.

But, it's basically made of members from various agencies, including the Department of Defense, Department of Justice, Department of State, also the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, National Security Council, and also the National Archives. Tom did look at them and found they are not a rubber stamp okay? Which was interesting. They released a bunch of information. Matter of fact, they released some new 9/11 information just a couple of weeks ago.

Anyway, we are waiting for them to decide whether or not the 28 pages should be recommended for release, and if they decide that that's the case,

then they will recommend that to the President, and that should shake things up a little bit here.

JON I spoke to or I interviewed Brian McGlinchey who is the founder of 28Pages.org and he spoke about what you just spoke about. And he said that he doesn't have a good feeling about it because of the individuals that are involved in the process.

DAN Right, yeah, well we don't—the bottom line is we don't know. All we can do is look at the track record that they don't routinely just say no, no, no, no, no. They do say yes. As a matter of fact, one of the things that they said yes on was what I personally found kind of interesting. It's a little bit of aside. It has nothing to do with the 28 pages or Sarasota, but they released a couple of weeks ago, and you can go on their Web site and see it, a number of documents that have been requested, I think, by HistoryCommons, regarding what appeared to be the efforts or the lack of efforts to stop the planes—the hijacked planes, intercept them. And, one of the things, there was an interview with a general, a guy who was in charge of the first Air Force Command, and in that thing, the part of it that I read, he was talking about the fact that how fortunate it was that the FAA—Federal Aviation Administration—grounded all planes back then or he said surely there would have been more loss of life because they believe that there was at least another plane that was about to be hijacked. And said that they found boxcutters and stuff. Now, there's been stories out there about—the possibility of another plane. In fact, Tony Summer's reported on that in the 11th day. There was, apparently a plane at JFK—I think it was United 23—and there were four Middle Eastern men that were on that plane that were not happy when the plane didn't take off, and initially refused to get off the plane and ultimately left the place before the cops could show up.

So, it's interesting that there's new little tidbits out there that continue to come out and, in this case, came out because of what they call ice-cap panel. And, so we're hopeful. We don't know, but we're hopeful that because given all the statements that we've heard about the 28 pages, from everybody, all these different legislators who have read it, including Graham and Senator Shelby, who was his co-chair back then, there's nothing or very little in those 28 pages that is about national security and that's a legitimately—should remain outside the public purview here.

So, we are hoping that they give a good look, that they'll give a fair look, and they'll say: "Hey, let's open this." And, in fact, it could be possible that

this would be a device that the administration could use to release it and do it in a way that wouldn't alienate the Saudis.

JON Well, from what I understand (We'll see) this process that you're talking about, they can only recommend really that they be released. (Mm-hmm) Is that correct? (Yeah) And the President would then have to decide—the President can release them any time he wanted to. From what I understand.

DAN Correct. This would perhaps give some political cover, shall we say?

JON Right, but he's already promised 9/11 Family Members Kristen Breitweiser (I know) and Bill Doyle that he would release them and—his administration fought against the families or sided with the Saudis over the families regarding a lawsuit years ago (Right) by having Elena Kagan go to the Supreme Court who was the Solicitor General at the time and tell them not to hear the case, and so on and so forth. (Right) That goes back to the protection of the Saudis that I was talking about.

DAN Right. But, if it turns out that the President would like to be able to release this, honor his promise to them, this might offer a way for it to be done and have some deniability there: "Hey, this is what the panel said. I felt I had no choice—who knows?" (Right) Those are situations that are well beyond my pay grade here.

JON [Laughs] Is there anything about this story, the Sarasota story that we haven't addressed that you think people need to know about?

DAN Well, I think I've talked about as much as I know about it. I think there's more to know. There was a sidelight that came out in one of the documents that I wrote a story about a year or so ago about in the nearby city of Bradenton after—about a month, I think it was on Halloween of 2001. There were—cops found some other materials that had been abandoned by some guy from—had been thrown in a dumpster by a guy from Tunisia. That—indicated that he might have been a hijacker or was thinking about doing a hijacking of some kind. There was information that was in there that they put out. But we don't know the name of the person. I tried to run it down a little bit, but I couldn't. But there's a story on FloridaBulldog.org if you do a search, you can find it.

JON Are there any actions people should be taking with regard to this issue?

- DAN Senator Graham has been urging people—as a matter of fact, he wrote a column that appeared in the *Tampa Bay Times* about this over the weekend explaining what's going on and urging people to contact their Congressmen to let them know about this—essentially, put in a vote for opening up the 28 pages. That sounds like a good idea to me.
- JON Yeah, it sounds like a good idea. And one of the things that 28Pages.org has been pointing out is that there are so few representatives that have been willing to go even read the 28-redacted pages. So, obviously, more need to do that.
- DAN Yeah, well, that's depressing if that's true. (Right) You would think that people would care about this.
- JON You would think.
- DAN And you would want to find out what's happened here. I mean our people were murdered, and we need to know what happened. We need to get to the bottom of this, and we don't need to be lied to by our Government. (Exactly) And that's—I'm a guy, look—now, this may sound a little sappy here, because I'm this tough investigative reporter—but, I have always felt that I was hearing things straight, for the most part, from law enforcement when I dealt with them. There were always some certain exceptions to that. But this goes way beyond anything I have ever seen. I mean the FBI is taking extreme steps to, frankly, cover this up. And that goes from, basically, denying—number one hiding this investigation in the first place for more than a decade until we reported about it, Tony and I. And, then to come out and say that there was nothing to it when quite obviously there was something to it. And, most recently here's this 9/11 Review Commission entity that comes out, and basically tries to discount all this in a very disingenuous way. They did not look fully at the evidence that we had presented on this.
- And, by the way, when I tried to—after the report came out and I did a story about having come out from under the FBI's thumb, I contacted—I called the executive director; I called the three commissioners; and others trying to get them to talk about this. I didn't go in with any preconceived notion. And they wouldn't talk to me. (Laughs) Just like, I had the guy—one of the guys is a guy named Bruce Hoffman—he's a professor of security studies at Georgetown. A guy who teaches for a living, who you would think would be interested in explaining his rationale for stuff. And I

called him up and he said, I told him my name. He obviously was aware of it. He said: "I'm not interested in talking to you. And hung up on me." I mean, that does not inspire confidence, you know, we're getting a fair shake, you know, the American public here.

JON I always ask people what qualifies as suspicious behavior. [Laughs]

DAN Well, that qualifies.

JON Exactly. There's so much—there's so many actions like that with regard to 9/11 that it just boggles the mind.

Anyway, Dan, I want to—

DAN I just want to say, there was one other thing that was interesting and it even made it into an editorial in the Sarasota Tribune. I don't have it in front of me. But, I believe, that the title of this was, and this was after the 9/11 Review Commission did its thing—they wrote an editorial that is headlined: "The FBI's Suspicious Behavior." I believe that's exactly what they said. (Laughs) And that was a remarkable thing to see. It ended up prompting that Paul Wysopal guy, or however he pronounces his name, the special agent in charge of the Tampa office, to come out and—dispute that. And, frankly, in a what they refer to as a guest column that I would THINK had to be cleared by Washington. I wouldn't think that the head of the FBI office would do anything like that without getting clearance from Washington.

JON It was probably ordered by Washington.

DAN Could have been that too, I don't know. Let's put it this way. I have never, ever seen anything like that before (Right), nor has my attorney or Senator Graham. All these very unusual things that are happening about all of this. And that's part of the mystery here. Why is all this happening? We don't know.

JON Well, they're covering incompetence, criminality. I mean, who knows? That's the thing is that there has been such a lack of accountability with regard to the 9/11 attacks. You want to talk about the intelligence failures, quote failures, before 9/11? Nobody was held accountable for any of these things. People that didn't deserve it were rewarded and promoted in many cases. It's just, again, it's such a weird situation. Such a suspicious situation

with regard to the 9/11 attacks.

DAN

Yeah, and if I might just add one other thing, too. It's not just about Sarasota here—okay, this 9/11 Review Commission—they went through it. If you look at the report and you see, basically, what I refer to as sort of mild criticism and, basically, hey you should be doing things faster. But other than that, you're doing things pretty well. And then they also went off on Sarasota and some other lead.

But I didn't think that that was an honest evaluation of the FBI's performance here because one of the things they didn't talk about were all the significant troubles, reported not by me, but by others, by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*. In their transformation here into more of an intelligence agency, one of the things that they have done was they apparently spent hundreds of millions of dollars on a new system to find documents and things like that. It's called the Sentinel System. And that whole thing was a giant mess up for quite some time, and I still don't know if they got it down. I still think there's problems with it.

But it's like this is their central document tracing system. And yet, it's not functioning the way that it's supposed to or certainly wasn't until very recently. And, yet, there was not a word that I saw of critical analysis of that in this basically cheerleading report by the 9/11 Review Commission. Which to me, tells you what the 9/11 Review Commission was all about.

JON

Well, if you remember, I mentioned that FBI Director Robert Mueller put on a charm offensive with the 9/11 Commission after being so uncooperative and so forth. And this is from Phil Shenon's book. It says:

"Mueller... was also aware of how much fear the FBI continued to inspire among Washington's powerful and how, even after 9/11, that fear dampened public criticism. Members of Congress... shrank at the thought of attacking the FBI.... For many on Capitol Hill, there was always the assumption that there was an embarrassing FBI file somewhere with your name on it, ready to be leaked at just the right moment. More than one member of the 9/11 Commission admitted privately that they had joked—and worried—among themselves about the danger of being a little too publicly critical of the bureau."

So, there are a lot of problems with the FBI. I mean, we can get into the entrapment issues with regard to terrorism and a whole bunch of things. Supposedly, after 9/11, John Ashcroft reinstated COINTELPRO, which was a bad thing. So. (Yeah)

Anyway, Dan, I want to thank you very much for all of the reporting that you're doing. I want to wish you luck with future endeavors with regard to that reporting and I want you to keep it up. And I want to thank you very much for taking the time today to be on my show. Is there anything you'd like to say?

- DAN Not really, except to remind folks that they can see us at FloridaBulldog.org. And, to also, just tell them that hey, we are a not-for-profit, essentially, a charity and we rely on contributions. So, if there are folks out there that can help us. We'd like to hire more staff to break more stories and also, perhaps, free me up a bit to be able to do more of this 9/11 report. So, if the folks out there that have the means can help us out, they can send a check to the P.O. Box that's on our website. There's even a button on the site where you can actually use credit cards to donate like that.
- JON So, there you go. You can go and support the Florida Bulldog and their reporting on this very important issue.
- All right, Dan, thank you very much for your time today.
- DAN Hey, Jon. Very nice. Thanks for inviting me.
- JON All right, have a good day.
- DAN You too. Bye bye.
- JON Bye bye.

We were **LIED** to about 9/11

With your host Jon Gold

This week
Jon talks to...



The
Soapbox
People's Network



Abby Martin

Chapter/Episode 27 – Abby Martin – April 30, 2015

Jon Gold (JON)

Abby Martin (ABBY)

JON Hi, everyone, and welcome to my show called, "We Were Lied to About 9/11." I am your host Jon Gold and this show is part of the Soapbox People's Network. This week we're going to talk with someone who has a far-reaching voice, that has a history of advocating for 9/11 justice, and how that advocacy was used against them in an effort to discredit them—a big problem that causes others with a voice not to speak out about the lies of 9/11.

Hi, this is Jon, and I'm here with Abby Martin. Abby, how are you doing today?

ABBY I'm doing great, Jon. Thank you so much for having me on.

JON Thank you very much for being on today. All right, so, I'm going to read your bio for everyone.

Abby Martin is an American journalist and former host of "Breaking the Set" on the RT America Network working from the Washington, D.C. Bureau. Before hosting her show, she had worked for two years as a

correspondent for RT America. Martin is also an artist and activist and helped found the citizen journalism website MediaRoots. She serves on the board of directors for the Media Freedom Foundation which manages Project Censored. Martin appeared in the documentary film *Project Censored the Movie: Ending the Reign of Junk Food News*, which came out in 2013, and co-directed *99%: The Occupy Wall Street Collaborative Film*, which came out in 2013.

That's her regular bio. Now, I wrote a little personal bio for Abby and I'm going to read that now. Okay, it says:

I remember when she first came into the "9/11 Truth Movement," there's a picture of her on a corner holding a sign that says: "Google 9/11 Truth." She helped to found San Diego 911 Truth, and I always thought that they were one of the better 9/11 Truth groups in the country. I remember them posting a video where they talked a lot about the families and I was very proud of them. Over the years, I have seen Abby grow as an individual and as an activist. I remember when she smashed her first television, and was doing news segments while she was working for YourNetwork.tv. I remember when she started MediaRoots. I remember her footage of what took place in Oakland, and I remember when she was first hired by RT. I've known her for years and, sadly, have only met her once and very briefly. I want everyone to know that she has an enormous heart, a great mind, and she is an excellent speaker. I want her to know that I am extremely proud of her for her many accomplishments over the years.

ABBY Aw, Jon. That's so sweet. You're going to make me cry. That's very very nice. Thank you so much.

JON Thank you for everything you've done.

All right. So, we're going to get right into the questions.

ABBY Yeah, let's do it.

JON What was the day of 9/11 like for you?

ABBY It was a horrible day like it was for everyone. I was in college. I was a junior, I think, and I was in my art class. Mr. Nico's art class and I just remember the TV turned on and we just saw these buildings burning and it was just shocking. Everyone just didn't know what was going on. It felt like

—I remember listening to Howard Stern that day and he was just like: "It's the end of the world! It's the end of the world!" Of course, he was also saying: "Let's nuke Palestine," which I didn't really catch the first time around. My brother showed me that later on. I mean, he was just going off the rails with a bunch of racist stuff.

That was a horrible, horrible day. It changed my life forever, as it did many people. Mine, mostly for the fact that my boyfriend at the time actually joined the Army because of 9/11. So, that kind of got me on the road to figuring out how our policies affect the world—blowback and just that whole ball of yarn and can of worms, Jon.

JON It's interesting that you were listening to Howard Stern that morning, because I was listening to him as well. And, you're right, he was very—let's carpet bomb the Middle East (Mm-hmm) and just get rid of everybody who's an Arab. He was very hateful. You know what, on the day of 9/11, or after 9/11, I was very much like that, as well. So, I understand the mindset, but I, obviously today, I don't agree with it at all. (Yeah, yeah)

Anyway, what was the first thing that you questioned about 9/11?

ABBY So, that was the day, and in the weeks following 9/11 I remember, of course, the media—looking back on it, I mean, it's absolutely vile. My brother and I collected all these Newsweek's from the weeks after 9/11. I think my mom actually had them and we found them in her attic. And, I mean, they are just unbelievable propaganda. It is unreal. I mean it's like dudes dressed in biohazard outfits saying like this is the new America, like prepare yourself for the police state. I mean, that kind of stuff, like we live in a—I mean, it was just every single page was just saying it's going to get worse, it's going to get crazier. Within minutes they had everything lined up of how 9/11 happened and why. Which I thought was really interesting. I mean, of course, at the time—this is all looking back on it now—but, at the time, I didn't think that that was strange. I remember everyone got sucked into the media because that's when we first saw the media become a 24/7 news cycle.

So, they took advantage of that attack to basically create that 24/7 model. And, so, they were just filling it with time, filling it with just 24/7 disaster porn coverage showing the buildings being blown up, showing the buildings falling, showing the buildings on fire, showing the planes hitting the buildings over and over and over again.

I mean, thinking about that on a psychological level, like man, what is that doing? What does that do to us? How did that traumatize us? Not only just the event itself but then being brainwashed and propagandized for weeks and weeks and weeks. I mean, everyone was glued to their television sets for weeks, if not months. But I remember just thinking how—I just remember crying, thinking about the people that had to choose to jump out of the building or (Oh, god, yeah) burn. And it's just such a horrible thing to think about still, but I guess the first thing that I started questioning about it, I mean, I just was really anti-Bush.

And, once my boyfriend at the time joined the Army, and he was all about going to war and killing people and stuff, I was like this is awful, because we had the Bush administration taking advantage of this tragedy and using it to go to war. So, it wasn't until around 2005, I would say, that I even just saw the first piece of footage and it started with unanswered questions. The Guerrilla News Network video with Nafeez Ahmed, and a couple other very credible journalists and scholars in there, and they were just talking about the air defense and they just talked about why was it that the air defense failed so disastrously on this day? And I was just like, you know what? That is a really crazy question. And that was, actually, the first time I saw Nafeez Ahmed and I was like, man, this guy is just super on point.

So that planted the seed. Of course, it all starts with the seeds. And then, I think, just a couple of months later I saw Loose Change and of course, Loose Change has serious problems, especially the first one, and it was just a bunch of guys getting together throwing together research, you know. But there are morsels of truth that were really damning and, definitely, the end stood in contradiction to the official story. So, of course, if you watch that and if you're a critical thinker, you can discern here's something that I was lied to about that I didn't know about before. So, kind of all of those things just started building up and I was like you know what, this is unbelievable that we don't know the truth about this horrific attack that has led us on a rampage of endless war and bloodlust.

And then you start to ask like why? Why don't we know this? Why isn't the media covering this? And then it just opens that whole Pandora's box of—just the complicity across party lines and the whole corporate media establishment and apparatus and how they work in conjunction to sell war and it's really devastating.

But, after finding out these facts about 9/11 and that we were lied to, and I remember going and trying to embed myself like, as a citizen journalist back in the day like in 2004, going in and sitting in Greg Palast lectures and, trying to talk to Ralph Nader and stuff about it and he kind of shut me down, and I was just trying to bring up the fact that we were allies with bin Laden and like—none of it made any sense to me. And I was just trying to like sort it through, but it was just kind of me shouting to the sky—like I didn't know where to go with it.

And one day I saw this little booth at one of the events that I was going to, and it was a little booth with Nelisse and Ted, and it said: "9/11 Truth" and I was like oh my god! I was like, wow, there's actually a group that is doing something about this. This is so cool. And, so I went over and just, at that moment, I kind of became like the youth organizer for trying to get justice for the 9/11 victims' families and worked with Nelisse and Ted, and we did some really great events and brought a lot of attention to the cause, but you know what, Jon, I have a lot of regrets, too.

JON

Right. You know, we all do. There are many things that I have done or promoted over the years that I have regrets about—when I first came into the movement. Well, actually, it's interesting that you stumbled across this table. They were saying the same things you were saying (Yeah) and, questioning the same things you were and you're like oh my god! There are other people doing this?

I had a very similar experience where I came into this all on my own. (Mmhmm) It was January 2002, when news of Bush and Cheney asking Tom Daschle to limit the scope of the investigations. And I asked why would the President and vice President, of all people, not want to know exactly how this happened. (Laughs. That's weird) You know, to make sure it could never happen again. I couldn't understand that. So, I paid a little bit more attention to 9/11, and then in May of 2002, news of the August 6 PDB came out (Mmhmm) and, as you know, we were told repeatedly that there were no warnings, that nobody had any idea that anything like this was going to happen. And, then we had a warning (Mmhmm) and so they lied. So, I was off to the races at that point.

But I never came across anybody in the "9/11 Truth Movement" until June 2004. I came across them—I used to watch the 9/11 Commission hearings after work, late at night, because they would be rebroadcasted. And, one night they had 9/11 CitizensWatch holding a press conference. And for

those who don't know, 9/11 Citizens Watch was a watchdog group that was watching over the 9/11 Commission making sure they were doing their job. They were also working with the 9/11 Family Steering Committee. (Mm-hmm) They were founded by Kyle Hence and John Judge. And, as soon as I saw that press conference, the very next day I called Kyle and said: "What can I do to help?" I couldn't believe there were other people, you know?

ABBY Yeah. You know what? I just thought of something. Actually, the seed planted was with *Fahrenheit 9/11*. That's when the first seed planted. Because that--I don't know, man, maybe that was just like amidst a journey that I was like what the hell is going on? Like with the whole Saudi, you know, fly out of all the Saudi Arabian princes and stuff, and I was like what is going on? (Right) So, I think Michael Moore did a good job kind of introducing the subject. But, go on.

JON No, Michael Moore did a great job. (Mm-hmm) In fact, I used to joke with people and say that if you look at *Fahrenheit 9/11* and watch the scene where Andrew Card goes up to Bush (Mm-hmm) and whispers in his ear (Mm-hmm) and imagine him saying that: "Everything is going according to plan." (Laughs) That movie becomes a very different movie. Anyway, I don't think that's what happened. I'm just joking.

Your first foray into activism, wasn't it to support John Kerry against Bush?

ABBY Yeah. So, 9/11 stuff was not my first foray into activism. I started—it was the Iraq war lead up. I was taking sociology in class. This was when I first went to college now from high school. So, in high school I was kind of rudely awakened, like holy shit—I'm sorry, can I swear?

JON You can say anything you want.

ABBY I was rudely awakened and said: "Wow! There's something outside of my selfish existence that is happening in the world." And so that was kind of my first window into that. I mean, of course, going to college, having my boyfriend be training to go to war, taking all these classes where I was like: "Whoa! The U.S. military is destroying the planet! Oh my god." It was just one after the other because it was like a fresh mine. I mean, it was like this Tabula rasa—I'd grown up in a Democratic family, but never kind of rudely awakened to the horrific effects of militarism, imperialism, hegemony. And I remember reading Chalmers Johnson's book *Blowback* in Sociology 101, and I just became so obsessed with these microcosms and studies of what

U.S. militarism has done to just different pockets of society across the planet.

So, that was—that was just insane. And then through there I got involved in Amnesty International, and I was trying to call attention to like, human rights abuses and, of course, the civil liberties thing with the Patriot Act. And, so, all of these things were going on at the time and I just started forming allies with these different groups. But, and then, once again, I was still wrapped up in the two-party paradigm. I still like didn't get it that the Democrats were complicit. And so, at that time, I think, the lead up to the 2004 election, I was just so upset with Bush and I just wanted to do everything I could to make sure that John Kerry won. (Laughs) Because wow! the country would be so much better if John Kerry were President. [Laughs] Right?

So, I went on the swing state trip for him. I mean, it's just embarrassing to talk about. But it's like we've all been there. It all takes us on that personal journey to figure out that it's a sham. I went to Yuma, Arizona, which was so weird because I remember it was like 90 percent Republican and I was like why are we here? Like what is—who strategized this? Like we're just wasting our time. I remember, every door would just get shut in my face. I mean, it was just like a really awful time. And then—

JON Do you remember everybody came out in record numbers to vote against Bush. And he still won. (Mm-hmm) It was just—it was a dirty election is what it is.

ABBY I think it was totally—no, no, no, it was completely stolen. I mean, Mark Crispin Miller has meticulously researched this in his book. The 2000 election—obviously, that was a ruse, right? The Supreme Court. The Supreme Court decides our election? That's great. And then the antiquated Electoral College bullshit.

So, then fast-forward to 2004, John Kerry is like: "We're going to have lawyers on the ground in Ohio. Give me your millions of dollars everyone. I'm going to stand with the—I'm going to go down fighting blah blah blah."

I remember earlier in the day the exit polls—because, obviously, middle-class, working-class people vote after work, so that it tends to be where more Democratic voters will actually come out after like 5 or 6. So, earlier

in the day the exit polls were actually way in Kerry's favor, and I was like: "This is an awesome sign." Because even if they drastically flip, like a couple percentage points because that's really statistically only like the room for margin of error, and it's obviously more Democrats are going to vote later because they're getting off work and stuff. And the opposite happened, where the margin of error flipped to favor Bush later on. And I was like something is wrong.

JON I remember that.

ABBY I was like this is absolutely not reality. I was like something's going on and I was like, you know what? Kerry will save the day. I was like Kerry will come out and dispute this charade. And then what happened? He conceded within the hour and then he left. He literally just left—for years. And then comes back and he probably was told—I don't even know—this is just my conspiratorial mind, but he was probably like: "Look dude, take the dive, come back, we'll give you the Secretary of State position." [Laughter]

JON Yeah, who knows? But it was so weird how he just conceded so quickly, and it seemed so dirty. (So hard)

But I want to get back to something you said about regrets. (Mm-hmm. Yeah) Now, I have promoted things—when I first came into the movement. That's what I wanted to say is that I—I listened to people like Karl Schwartz who said that he had video of a different kind of plane hitting the towers than what we were told. And, I told my friends at work about it and when I found out he had nothing, I looked like an idiot in front of all those people. (Mm-hmm) There were instances like that in the beginning. So, I had regrets. So, what kind of regrets do you have?

ABBY Man, I have a lot of regrets now, because as an activist you're not thinking about journalistic integrity, you're not thinking about journalistic ethics. And I was just, I was just shouting from the rooftops, Jon, I was so pissed and angry that I would just go up to people and yell at them. I mean, I have so many regrets of how I acted as an activist. Let alone the affiliations that I allowed myself to be—affiliated with to this day. And I'll get into that in a second.

But, I mean, just the tactics and strategies that I would use, personally, were really awful. It was all a learning curve, but at the same time, I mean, I got like, jumped in front of a Padres game holding a sign saying: "Question

9/11" by a bunch of guys and, I think, it was at that point that I realized that I needed to rethink my approach. [Laughs] It was like, why am I standing outside of a Padres game in San Diego with thousands of drunk, probably army people, with a sign saying "Question 9/11?" It's like am I trying to get jumped? Am I asking for this? I mean, I know you're never asking to get hurt, but it was just like I was provoking an unnecessary provocation. You know what I mean? It didn't make any sense what I was doing.

So, all of those things I regret. I regret linking up with people who were total frauds. I mean, there was a point during my antiwar activism that I was so burned out that anyone who would come into the group I would just be so grateful that there was new energy, and there was a total fraudster who ended up using me to sell shirts and say that he was giving money to 9/11 victims, family members, and firefighters who were dying. And I was going around allowing myself to be affiliated with this person and he turned out to be a complete fraudster and liar and never gave a dime to the first responders, so I was then tainted by my relationship with him.

And so that was one horrible thing, and then—a lot of people in the group like, for example, Webster Tarpley. I mean, God, if I could take one thing back, it would probably be having anything to do with that person. He's a disgrace. He is terrible. There's so many people who I regret even affiliating with or like, I mean, Alex Jones. (Right) Alex Jones and Webster Tarpley. It's really unfortunate, Jon, because—

JON It's sad because when somebody who questions 9/11 (Mm-hmm) on their own, they get into this on their own, and they go on the internet (Mm-hmm) and they type in 9/11 truth, or whatever (Mm-hmm), they get pummeled with PrisonPlanet.com or InfoWars.com, and they start to listen to what people like that are saying. (Exactly) Because it kind of goes along the lines of your mindset.

But, I want to talk about this guy you mentioned (Yeah) that got you into the T-shirts thing. (Mm-hmm) Just so everybody knows, I was a very big, or am a very big advocate for the 9/11 first responders, and I was working with the FealGood Foundation and I heard from John that—they never got money from this one organization (Mm-hmm, mm-hmm) who said they were going to give a dollar for every T-shirt sold. And—

ABBY Which is nothing, also. It's like—

JON Right, it's nothing. And Abby—I called Abby—and Abby out of her own pocket, sent money to the FealGood Foundation to resolve that issue. So that's the kind of person that Abby is.

ABBY Aw, Jon. It's just embarrassing, you know? And another thing that embarrassed me, and this is what, obviously, we're going to talk about next, which is the whole Crimea upset and what was exposed afterward. But, at that time I was so sure of everything in my world view. I thought that I had all the answers. I, basically—my mind was like a sponge. I was very invested in my own preconceived notions about what I thought 9/11 was (Right) and who I thought was responsible.

So, I—being in that very juvenile mindset, was basically saying it was an inside job. I was going out there saying it's an inside job and I was also just, really just—saying that the buildings were blown up, saying like I didn't know what happened at the Pentagon, all this stuff. I mean, obviously, I didn't know (Right) and I still don't know. I do think that a plane hit the Pentagon. I don't know—I mean, the building thing—I totally have zero like professional opinion on that, because I am not an expert in that field. I think it's definitely strange about Building 7, but I'm not going to sit here as a journalist and say this is what happened. This is how it happened. All I can do is ask questions about what doesn't make sense to me, and the things that we can prove. (Right)

And, so back in the day, back in like—2005 and 6, I mean, I was just running around saying all this stuff not thinking about, hey, like this is actually really irresponsible and not only is it irresponsible, it turns people off—because people act completely bat-shit insane—free to run up to someone and be like: "Do you know buildings were blown up on 9/11?" It's like: "Holy shit! That's crazy. Stop." Now, when I see people doing that, I'm like, you need to seriously stop. I'm like, because if you care about the truth about 9/11, like you need to focus on what's provable, and it's like so weird, because I was that person 10 years ago. But I just didn't know, and I was young, and I was immature, and I was completely ignorant of how the world actually works.

It was, obviously, before I moved to D.C. and saw the Government, you know, how it really operates, like the giant bureaucracy that we live under and really the nuts and bolts of that. So, I regret all of that. I don't adhere to it anymore. I said things that I do not stand by today. And I hate when people look at politicians and they're like he's a flip flopper. Well, you know

what, if you're not changing your views, then you're not evolving as a human. Like I give tons of leeway to people who change their opinions. I said stuff on air a year ago that I regret, that I changed my opinion on today. It's constant change. Life is constant evolution. You have to admit that you were wrong. You have to admit your mistakes.

It's just, it's just really, yeah, yeah I just regret a lot of things that I said, especially on camera. I should've stuck with what I knew in my heart was true, which is that we were lied to. Here is what we were lied to about, and here's why we need justice.

JON Oh, I definitely got burned over the years promoting the work of others thinking that it was credible and it wasn't. With regard to the buildings—(Mm-hmm) There's nothing wrong with questioning how those buildings came down. (Mm-hmm) I mean, that's where the majority of the people were murdered that day. (Right) But, when you admit that you don't know what happened on 9/11, or who was ultimately responsible, it makes you a better advocate for 9/11 justice. (Mm-hmm) It really does. When you ask good questions of people, when you plant good seeds. That's what you want to be doing. (Yeah) You don't want pushing people away.

And, the corporate media spent years trying to depict us as people who think that there was a controlled demolition (Mm-hmm), that a missile hit the Pentagon, that Flight 93 was shot down, that there was a stand-down order, that there were no hijackers, that the planes were remote controlled. (Mm-hmm) The media spent a long time depicting us as that. So, then when people go out and act exactly as the media who is trying to attack us, you know, if they go out and act exactly as they portray us, they're not really helping.

ABBY Oh, a hundred percent, no, a hundred percent. You just hit it on the head. And it's like, it was like reality manifesting itself. I was like—you know what I mean? It was like the media put out this narrative and all the "truth activists" just became that. (Right) And, unfortunately, today, you see all these like newbie idiot ASSHOLES that are jumping on board and all they do is talk about Israel and the buildings, and it's like, you guys need to shut the fuck up, seriously, because a) you have no idea what damage you're doing; b) where have you been for the last 10 years? Why don't you try to get in from the beginning, and then (Right), you know what I mean? Like, do not tell me—you know, all these people saying that I'm a sellout and stuff. You guys can seriously go F yourselves, because you have no idea

what we've been through from the beginning.

JON Exactly.

ABBY People like you and I and all the Family Members, and the Family Members would be disgusted by these tactics and behaviors that some of these trolls—and they, basically, might as well be working for the Government. They're basically doing the same damage that Government is doing.

JON The results are the same.

ABBY Exactly, they're muddying the waters. They're poisoning the well. They're changing the goalposts all over the place. And, honestly, those kinds of people made me want to distance myself because it's so bad, because they've tainted it so much that it's like you can't even talk about 9/11 now without people saying: "Oh, so you believe that space beams blew up the towers?" And you're like what? (Exactly) Like, what are you talking about? I'm just saying that there were warnings. [Laughs]

JON You spoke about evolving. And I've done the same thing. I've tried to distance myself from that group of people over the years. I've changed from saying I'm a 9/11 Truther to being an advocate for 9/11 justice. And my book is called *9/11 Truther* and that's only because I coined the phrase and I thought it would be controversial and I thought a lot of people would buy it because of the controversy. But that didn't happen. [Laughs] (Yeah) But it's the first thing I address in my book. How it's been depicted and so forth.

Now, is there anything that you did as an advocate for 9/11 justice that you're proud of?

ABBY Oh, absolutely. I mean, we'd organize, you know, Cosmos started 9/11, or I think it was like you and a bunch of other people started that day of action. And, so, we did that every week, we got so much. I mean, we were one of the biggest groups in the country because of my tireless, and Nelisse and Ted's tireless work—Laura. And we were out there every single day. You know, just doing outreach.

We did an amazing, like thousands of people marched in Balboa Park, which was one of the most gratifying days of my life, because I was just really proud of the diverse group of families and everyone from all walks of

life marching for this cause, which was that we were lied to and that 9/11 victims' families deserve answers and justice. And that was just really, really gratifying for me.

And, of course, just meeting everyone in the movement and meeting John Feal, and just being around people who really care. It was just a really gratifying thing. It really helped shaped me as a person. I learned a lot. It was also scary, because you see how these kinds of movements gravitate toward where they just are all encompassing. So, now every conspiracy, it's like the same kind of people just gravitate to the next one (Right) and that's what's kind of sad to me is that I thought that this movement was based on the facts. I thought it was based on really credible research that contradicted what we've been told, but, unfortunately, about I think like 80 percent of the people that I was around—just kind of got sucked up into the next quote unquote "whatever," you know?

JON Well, I think a lot of that had to do with what I call the conspiracy theory industry (Mm-hmm) Like Alex Jones, for instance. He'll talk about 9/11, but he'll also talk about all kinds of other things and people pick up on that. And I've been VERY focused on 9/11, and you did a segment once on your show when something bad happens that people coming out of the woodwork within hours (Mm-hmm) to say that it was a false flag attack. You know, we have a hard enough time convincing people that we were lied to about 9/11. (Right) We don't need to be the boy who cried wolf. You know, that makes it even harder.

ABBY And that's exactly what—

JON And especially because it's irresponsible. Huh?

ABBY I said that's exactly what all these people became.

JON Yep. It's sad. And, it's unfortunate. I don't know what to tell people, but the world is a chaotic place, and guess what? Sometimes shit really does happen. (Mm-hmm) And it's not always a conspiracy. And you bring more credibility to your—I mean, question everything, but do so responsibly.

Anyway, when you when you famously spoke out against Russia invading Crimea, who came out of the woodwork to attack you, and what did they use to attack you?

ABBY

This is a horrible moment of my life, but it was it was—the only reason it was horrible is because it came so quickly. But, I guess, that's the way life works and you can never predict when the smear is going to come. I knew that the day would come where people would resurrect my 9/11 Truth past, obviously. Like it's not like I've been hiding it. I'd talked about it openly on the show multiple, multiple times. But I'd changed, obviously, my strategy which is because I realize that I don't know what really happened, so I can't claim to know what happened. All I can do is ask questions.

Of course I knew that there was footage of me back in the d-d-day—the dizzy day—(Laughs) saying some shit that I don't stand by today. But, you know, lo and behold, of course I speak out against the Crimea saying—and it was this amazing kind of moment because a) it brought all this attention RT; b) it kind of gave this credibility to my show, and it was just a really great thing. Because I was like: "Look, I've carved out this editorial freedom on a Russian network speaking out against Russia." And like so at that point, RT couldn't fire me and the mainstream media had to like pay attention to RT. So, it was like a really great thing. But, of course, the establishment can't have that. (Right)

And, so, you have the Neocons who are still very, very here. [Laughs] Like they didn't go away. They just rebranded themselves just like Blackwater. So, they are still working behind the scenes ferociously to try to hijack narratives. They have all these letters that they publish to try to shape foreign policy and the Tom Cotton letter, etc.

So, the Project for the American Century, which I'm sure people are listening to this know what that think tank was with all the Bush crew and so it's now the FPI. And, so after the statement, the next morning I woke up to this amazing article written by Glenn Greenwald about—this is what it means to have editorial independence, and this is like really cool what Abby did and da-da-da.

Then, that night—I was like on cloud 9 all day. I was like this is amazing, like people like get it—and then that night Jamie Kirchick, a very interesting person in D.C. He's a gay Neocon. He's like a performance artist. He's like a James O'Keefe type dude—the guy who dressed as a pimp and tried to let go on Planned Parenthood—like this guy disrupts things. This is a disrupter. He doesn't actually believe what he's doing, but he's like Bill Kristol's henchman, little henchmen. So, he also was a state propagandist. He worked for Radio Free Europe, which is under the

umbrella of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, the U.S. State Department apparatus which is kind of the counterpart of RT, except it has tens of million dollars more in funding.

So, he goes on Lawrence O'Donnell's show THAT night and just trash talks me the whole time. Like it was—it was amazing, because Lawrence O'Donnell didn't even ask ME to come on. So, what I thought was curious was that they asked Jamie Kirchick to come on. Mind you, this is MSNBC, which is supposed to be like a liberal leaning—you know what I mean? (Yeah) So, like why would—they didn't even ask me to come on for an interview. Instead they asked this like performance artist troll with zero followers here, to come on just to bash what I did.

So, it kind of goes in line with like—those two parties selling of the narrative, which is like Russia is this enemy. So, they can't dare have RT gain any sort of credibility. So, I thought that that was really insane. And what the guy was saying was fucking awful. I mean, he was saying that I was a crazy, I was a lunatic, I was a conspiracy theorist, I think that 9/11 was an inside job, da-da-da. So, I was just like damn, well here it comes. Like I knew at that point here it comes. And this is going to be the beginning of the avalanche.

And lo and behold, I remember waking up the NEXT day to *New York Times*, RAW STORY, BuzzFeed. Glenn Greenwald praises Abby Martin and THEN *New York Times* outs her as a 9/11 Truther—like that's like the kind of like bizarre like buzz-wordy headlines, you know. And I was like, well, and I just like tuned it out. I was like, you know what? I just got to ride the storm man, I just got to ride it. I knew this was coming. What was so fascinating was that it had nothing to do with what I did. (Right, exactly) It was just a way to delegitimize me. It was like—it was like, wow, great.

So, yeah, I question things that were told about 9/11, which by the way, we've been lied to about every single impetus of war in the history of fucking war!!! So, if you're telling me that we weren't lied to about 9/11, then you're an idiot. So, I'm sorry that I just question what the Government tells me because they lie to us about everything!!! So, yeah, sorry that makes me a critically thinking American and the rest of the people in the world agree, even though Americans have their heads under a freaking rock about this thing. It's like this Holy Grail.

JON

When you spoke out against Russia—first of all, at the time, I didn't know

if Russia actually invaded Crimea or if they just activated troops (Mm-hmm) that they already had in the Black Sea, and that was one of the first times I really took notice to the propaganda wars that were going on (Right) and realized that I really had no idea what was going on. (Right)

So, it was that incident that—caused that for me, but I didn't understand—you were essentially saying exactly what the corporate media of America was saying, that Russia invaded, they shouldn't have. So, why would they come out to attack you? And you explained it yourself, because it brought credibility to a Russian network which they couldn't have.

ABBY And, because I called out the U.S. in a statement. So, they all used a very small clip of the statement where I was just calling out Russia. But I also called out the entire U.S. media apparatus. I called out the political establishment for its incursion—NATO incursion and build up. So, and I said I was disgusted with all sides. And that doesn't bode well for the narrative either, because that would implicate them.

And, so once, I think, they kind of realized—they didn't, they had NO idea who I was. Of course, the news doesn't think. [Laughs] They just want the story first. So, they all picked up the story before knowing anything about me. And once they realized I was a pretty controversial figure who mostly spent my time trashing—criminal activity from our Government and exposing war crimes, then they kind of got a little bit scared and, so they had to find a reason to take me down. And, but—and then, of course, I made a statement saying like: "I don't think 9/11 was an inside job." Because, here's the thing. I don't. I don't come out there and say: "This is what happened." When I hear inside job, that is an insanely on-purpose loaded term to marginalize people who are questioning 9/11. (Mm-hmm) And to undercut what we're trying to say.

So, I tried to explain that really—I, actually lucidly tried to explain that and I posted a statement on Blogger, because I knew that people were going to fucking freak out and be like: "She's a Charlie Veitch" and I wanted to be like: "Look, here's the deal. I am saying this because of this. Because I'm a journalist and I'm a professional. And I think that this term is actually super damaging. And, also, I don't think—I think multiple Governments might have been involved." (Right) So, how can you say it was an inside job. [Laughs]

JON Right, exactly. Well, to me, the phrase "9/11 was an inside job"—when

people go around saying that—to me, they may as well be screaming that Elvis is alive. (Exactly) That's how it reaches people.

With regard to Robert Mackey—

ABBY Mm-hmm, that's the guy who I was talking about.

JON Right. He's the guy who wrote the blog in *The New York Times* and he called it: "Russia Today host has roots in "9/11 Truth Movement." (Mm-hmm) And I asked Robert Mackey about it and he said it was—I said: "Why did you attack Abby Martin?" And he said it wasn't an attack, but as I've pointed out several thousand times, the phrase "9/11 Truth" or "9/11 Truther" has been made the equivalent of a baby killer (Mm-hmm) or a dog torturer. (Mm-hmm) So, if you link someone to that in the media, it's not to make them a hero. (Oh, no) It's the exact opposite.

ABBY And look at what they say about Sandy Hook truthers—like everything's a *truther* now.

JON Exactly. And, the way they attacked you, there are different ways that big names or people with voices get attacked. And, there have been people like Cynthia McKinney, Richard Falk, Van Jones, Kevin Bracken, Rosie O'Donnell. (Mm-hmm) The list goes on and on, and when a celebrity who has spoken out about 9/11—they've been attacked in unison (Mm-hmm) by the corporate media. What they did to you is kind of like—what I call a "Van Jones." [Laughs] They looked into your past and found you questioned 9/11 at one time, and used that against you. Do you remember what they did to Van Jones, or not? (Oh, yeah) And I'm not a fan of Van Jones, but they got him out of the of the Obama administration because he signed a statement years ago in 2004, advocating for 9/11 justice. So—

ABBY Unbelievable.

JON You know, and this is, I think, one of the reasons why people with a voice won't address the lies of 9/11, because they don't want to be painted with the 9/11 Truth brush. They don't want to lose their pulpits and, these attacks are a big reason why, I think.

ABBY Oh, Jon, I can guarantee you that's why. I've lived in D.C. now for three years. I've talked to dozens of journalists, lobbyists, State Department people about this issue, and I will guarantee you that half of them, off the

record, will agree with me. That's what's so amazing. I even talked to this—in Guantanamo Bay, of all places—I was with an AP reporter, seasoned AP reporter, who was there at the beginning. I mean, he was on the ground in the earthquake; he was there when the first prisoners were brought to GITMO. I mean, this dude is like really baller. And he was just—he's the one who brought it up, oddly enough, and we're just sitting at this table, and he brings up—just questions that you have about 9/11 and he was like: "It got to a point where I had to stop." He was like: "Because I realized I couldn't do my job. If I didn't believe what the Government was telling us about 9/11." And I was like, dude, that—you're just like, you—not only is it avoiding the third rail, like you know, a lot of people avoid Israel because they know it's not good for their career—not only is this like the ultimate third rail issue, which is that you just don't touch 9/11, but I think that people honestly, psychologically, can't. Especially, if you're working remotely near the establishment. But, I mean, hearing what this guy said and talking to just dozens of people here, everyone agrees. It's just that who's going to take the risk? They're not going to go out there then and be like all right, like now I'm going to do a story about it. No. They just agree off the record silently and they move on like they're not going to risk their careers. And they also, in the case of this AP guy, didn't even want to go there.

JON Well I've risked so much. I'm a nobody and I've risked everything for this. (Right) And it boggles my mind that people like [sighs] Chris Hedges, Noam Chomsky, Glenn Greenwald won't—they'll talk about everything else in the post-9/11 world, but they won't talk about the fact that we were lied to about the event that justifies that world. And it just boggles my mind.

One of the other—

ABBY Because to them, they think it's a moot point, Jon. They think it's a moot point because it's done, all we can focus on now is what's to come. But the problem is that when you're omitting that world view, and the realistic implications of actual state crimes against democracy, which is what Lance deHaven Smith talks about in his book, that is omitting a huge portion of our reality and that is really damaging—because it's going to happen again. And we need to acknowledge facts, as hard as it may be. Otherwise, we're not doing our job as journalists.

JON They're able to write the history and they're writing a history that is simply

wrong. It's damaging. (Right) The myth of 9/11 is dangerous to everyone on the planet. The truth about 9/11, from what I gather, is dangerous only to a few. (Exactly) And, they need to start addressing this. It terrifies me that children go to school and they learn about 9/11, but they don't learn *really* about 9/11. And, so they grow up with this myth about 9/11 that is just wrong. And that's so dangerous. (Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm)

Let me see—I'm looking over the questions—

ABBY Yeah, the whole Crimea thing was so sad because here I was trying to do something really good. I was like trying to stay true to my moral compass. I was like really just trying to start this dialogue how we shouldn't be reactionary. We shouldn't be pro-Russia. We shouldn't be pro-U.S. We should really like discern that everything is very convoluted and like militarism is bad and the way that both countries are going about it was disagreeable in my point.

And then, of course, the entire narrative just got shaped that I'm a crazy lunatic for questioning 9/11. And I was like, whoa! This is typical because I've seen this happen so many times. I saw it happen to Ron Paul. I saw it happen to Van Jones. Like you've seen it happen and then when it was happening to me, it was just sad, because I was like this is just so sad because people—it's like my message got lost. You know, my original message got lost. And what are we even talking about.

JON The other thing that was sad was because of the fact that you defended yourself and evolved and stopped using language that doesn't help this cause, you got attacked by members of the so-called "9/11 Truth Movement." You know, and I say shame on them. Shame on the people that attacked you, because, my god, how many times on your show have you addressed the 9/11 issue?

ABBY I probably did about 12 interviews about it at least. And the Rachel Maddow thing, Kevin Ryan, you, I mean, everyone. I tried to touch it as much as I could.

JON Exactly. You brought more attention to the 9/11 issue than anybody else on the television. So how dare they come out and attack you for trying to defend yourself that—they should be ashamed of themselves. Then they do, as far as I'm concerned, everybody that did it owes you an apology.

Now, people that question the 9/11 attacks as a whole have been misrepresented, attacked, slandered by much of the corporate media for years. And why do you think that is?

ABBY Well, it's pretty obvious, but I think it can, if you want to trace it back to historical nature, I think you can look at Water—not Watergate, sorry. Oh, my gosh, the Warren Commission, because the CIA—and this is another thing that Lance deHaven Stevens talks about—the CIA actually had a campaign that's traceable, that infiltrated the media, not only with Operation Mockingbird and The Cold War stuff, but to discredit the term conspiracy theory and to muddy the water about people who were questioning the Warren Commission.

So, this was back in the day and it just worked with wonders, I think. And it started to shape this kind of dueling reality in this country where we always project these political assassinations, or fore-knowledge of events, or outright false flags, or manufactured war pretenses in other countries. But, if you ever question that here, then you're a lunatic. And it really does come from ethno-centrism; it comes from American exceptionalism; and it comes from this kind of brainwashing media campaign that was in conjunction with the CIA back in the 60s. And it's just permeated so much that we live in a society now where we can't even talk about facts. (Right) And people are so scared that it's not that journalists aren't thinking about it, it's not that they don't care, it's that they know the way the system works and they just know that they can't touch it—and they've known that since the beginning. So, why would come out now and break that mold?

JON After 9/11, a lot of people say—a lot of journalists say they dropped the ball because they didn't want to come across as unpatriotic and so on and so forth. And I think that's true for some people. But then there's what you were talking about.

Now, there were the journalists that did openly question 9/11. One of them was Robert Scheer from the *LA Times* who wrote an article called "What We Don't Know About 9/11 Hurts Us," and it wasn't long after he wrote that that he was gone from the *LA Times*, and he started his site TruthDig. So, that was one reason why you know journalists don't cover the issue. They don't want to lose their jobs.

ABBY They also don't want to be called, like—it's not only that. I just thought of this. Remember after 9/11 when Bush was like saying that, I mean, he

immediately started talking about conspiracy theories (Right) and how insane people were. I mean, they knew from the beginning that they needed to get that out there real quick. So, they tainted the water immediately and, made it outlandish for anyone to question anything that they were doing. And once—and they were so untransparent and secretive that it was like, of course, theories are going to pop up. Like, you couldn't be any more secretive about everything that's going on. (Right) But, of course, if we question anything that you're saying, then we're crazy.

So, I think it was like this complete—it was like the burning tires thing. It was exactly what Dan Rather said. It was just like South Africa. You were basically symbolically lynched, like you—had a tire thrown around your neck, and you were just hung out to dry. And that's the culture and climate of fear, that you didn't question a single thing. And not only with 9/11, but I mean, that's obviously how we got into Iraq, too. (Right) And it lasts till this day with this kind of compliance and unquestioning stenography going on. The Richard Engle thing, this NBC journalist who said that he was kidnapped by Assad forces, and then it turns out he was kidnapped by the rebels, and NBC lies on behalf of the State Department to sell a war! (Yep) This is the reality we're living in now, Jon.

JON Well, Bob McIlvaine, 9/11 Family Member Bob McIlvaine, was approached by a Philadelphia paper and they wanted to report on his story and, I think, they ultimately said—actually, no, the reporter was a friend of his son's and they wanted to do a story and they said to him that the Pentagon would never allow this to run. So, I thought that was very interesting.

ABBY That is very odd. So weird.

JON What do you have to say to people who have a voice, who speak about issues pertaining to the 9/11 world, but don't address the fact that we were lied to about 9/11?

ABBY I'll say two things about that. The first is that—to the people who do agree with us and are scared, look, what I've realized coming out of this entire experience for me, which is growing, evolving, changing my opinions, solidifying my beliefs, but also staying true to the fact that we were lied to and I still want justice. And I think that what we were told was complete bullshit.

Coming out of that stronger than I ever have because of the support of tens of thousands of people, not only here but around the world, Jon. I mean, anyone who's traveled outside of this country knows no one else in the world buys this shit. Everyone has questions. Everyone knows we were lied to. And people here support it, and they stood with me and the people who are true and they know what's going on, they see through it. So, I would only say that you have the majority of people on your side.

It's just that the media doesn't let it know, they don't show it. (Right) So, you feel like you're isolated in this belief. You feel like you're insane, you know? You're like, wow, am I crazy? But, you're not. The majority of people agree with you. (Exactly) And that, that's a beautiful thing. And it's so beautiful because I came out of this whole experience being reaffirmed that I'm on the right side of history and that everyone really appreciated—that people like you and I haven't sat down and we still remain true and stuff like that, and they appreciate that we're out there saying this stuff because they feel like maybe they can't.

But to the people who do not address the lies about 9/11—who continue to talk about just everything that happened in the post-9/11 world, I mean, once again you're not addressing a realistic view of how the political establishment works. And I'm not even talking about all that crazy shit. I don't believe in the Illuminati. I don't believe in New World Order. I don't believe in any of that stuff. And that's not where your mind needs to go, if you're talking about that there might have been inside complicity in terms of Cheney leaving the back door open. That's not what I'm talking about. And we need to differentiate between a vast criminal conspiracy of unnamed—not seen people in a smoky room with just like people out in the blue.

JON Well, we know people have lied. We know documented lies and none of those people were held accountable. (Exactly) Why can't they talk about that? And, you know, they're afraid—we spoke about how they're afraid of being painted with the 9/11 Truth brush and losing their pulpits. But I guarantee because of what YOU said that if they started to address even the slightest bit the fact that we were lied to about 9/11, I guarantee that the people that follow them would multiply—exponentially. (Mm-hmm) And so they wouldn't lose their pulpits. If anything, their pulpits would grow.

ABBY It's just really, exactly, a lot of these scholars—a lot of these philosophers talk about the conventional wisdom and they really eviscerate the concept

of American exceptionalism. But then they still adhere to that by not addressing the clear fact that we were lied to, and clearly someone from inside the establishment knew. That really bothers me, because that's almost as ethnocentric—like projection unlike: "Oh, but still our Government wouldn't allow that to happen." At least that's what they're putting out there, even if they disagree with that personally. That's what their work tells people. And that I think is really damaging.

JON What I told somebody—what I told Jonathan Kay is—our elected officials are human beings just like you and I. They're capable of greed; they're capable of jealousy. (Mm-hmm) They're capable of murder. And every other horrible thing that human beings are capable of doing. Don't put these people on a pedestal. It's their actions—You know, I look at 9/11 as a crime and not as an act of war. (Mm-hmm) And as with every crime there are suspects for that crime. (Mm-hmm) And along with people like Khalid Sheikh Muhammad, people—elements within our Government and other Governments—have more than earned the title of suspect for the crime of 9/11 by their own actions. It's not like we made this shit up (Right!) It was their own actions that gave them this title. So, it would be irresponsible of us as citizens to ignore that, that truth, I think.

And the fact that—even if you don't think they earned the title of suspect, there are many lies out there that need to be addressed. (Absolutely) So, I think it's irresponsible if you don't, especially if you have a voice.

Okay, my last question. What are your plans for the future and is there anything that you would like to promote at this time?

ABBY Plans for the future is I'm trying to figure out my next move. So, starting a show, but I'm not going to give away anything yet. It will either be independent or hosted by a network—trying to figure that out. But in the meantime, I'm doing regular podcasts and article postings on MediaRoots.org, which is my citizen journalism project that's been ongoing for about a decade now. And then I am also just participating in stuff. I'm finally able to go out and be a part of forums and protests and stuff, so that's fun to not be trapped in a studio. And trying to either move to LA or New York. So, a lot of exciting things ahead. Everyone stay tuned. Check out my art, as well. AbbyMartin.org and my brother and I's podcast on Soundcloud.

JON Who did that piece of artwork? The new MediaRoots logo thing that I saw?

ABBY So, that's this guy Leo who runs a lab in Ventura. It's really amazing. He's great.

JON It's excellent. And I love what you and Robbie do with your podcasts. When I listened to your GITMO show, I cried when you cried. (Awww) I mean, it really was very touching. And, again, Abby I'm really just so proud of you for everything that you've done over the years. And I want to thank you very much for everything that you've done. And I want to wish you well in all of your future endeavors. I hope you smash another television.

ABBY [Laughs] I don't think it will be the last one. I think I'll definitely have more to smash.

Jon, thank you so much for all of your tireless work and just for staying true to the message this whole time in the face of so much bullshit. And I just really admire your steadfastness and really appreciate it, man.

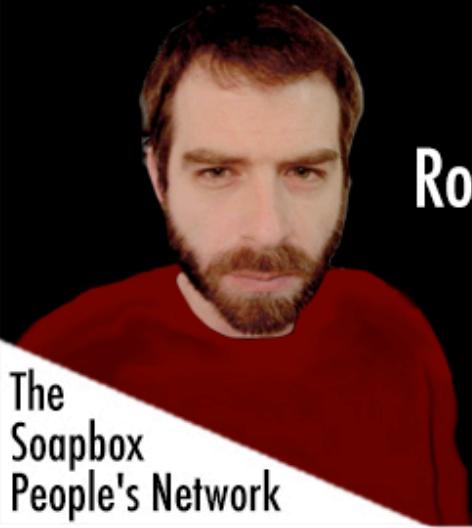
JON Well, thank you very much, Abby, and good luck with all of your future endeavors, and thank you very much for taking the time today to come on the show.

ABBY Thank you so much, Jon.

We were **LIED** to about 9/11

With your guest host Robbie Martin

This week
Robbie talks to...



The
Soapbox
People's Network

Jon Gold

Chapter/Episode 28 – Jon Gold – May 22, 2015

Jon Gold (JON)

Robbie Martin (ROBBIE)

JON Hi, everyone, and welcome to my show called, "We Were Lied to About 9/11." This week I am not your host. Instead, Robbie Martin of Media Roots has graciously agreed to be our guest host. This show is part of The Soapbox People's Network. This week we're going to focus specifically on the Presidential Daily Briefings or PDBs that the Bush administration received prior to 9/11.

ROBBIE And, since Jon has already been a guest, we're going to forego his bio. I hope that's okay with you, Jon. And the first and second questions he usually asks his guests, which is basically what were you doing on the day of 9/11? And if you want to hear it, if you want to hear Jon answer those questions and explain his own personal experience, listen to Episode 15 where Mickey Huff guest hosted. And you can find your episodes on YouTube, right?

JON You can find them on YouTube, on Cindy Sheehan's Soapbox, or they are available on iTunes.

ROBBIE Okay, I didn't know that. Awesome.

So, I guess maybe we should start out by just clearing past some of the very recent stuff that has happened. You know, there's always— seems like there's always something in the media once every couple months like clockwork that reminds us again of 9/11 and why—we should supposedly be fighting in this war on terror and, I guess, the most recent thing is probably this bin Laden—the bin Laden raid story by Seymour Hersh. And—and then what came out after that by the Government was a list of his books, sitting in his bookshelf. I'm just wondering if you had any thoughts on or reaction to that because that was super strange, you know, that he had actual "9/11 conspiracy" books and then sort of like the greatest hits of some of the best liberal books written, actually.

JON

I think it's funny that—you can't make this shit up. But I guess you could. But—the whole Seymour Hersh story. I have many questions about it. I don't think that it's—the absolute truth. I mean who knows who his sources were. Maybe they had an agenda of some kind. But, he's a respected journalist for the most part. I mean, everybody used to love him.

But I heard him on an interview the other day with The Real News Network where he praised Obama and said he voted for him two times, and it kind of showed that Seymour Hersh is like a partisan guy. But this article, obviously, doesn't make Obama look good. But I have many questions about it. He said that essentially Pakistan was harboring Osama bin Laden, and the Saudis were paying them to do it. And the reason that they did it was so that—the U.S. would not capture Osama bin Laden and find out from him—who is funding him and so forth. And we've known for years that Saudi Arabia or elements within it have been funding Al-Qaeda. We've protected that knowledge—prior to 9/11, after 9/11. So, that part didn't make any sense to me.

And, you know, with regard to the books, I thought it was funny, you know, Osama bin Laden was trying to figure out how 9/11 happened.

ROBBIE

[Laughs] Yeah, because what's interesting to me is that very originally out of the gates it was sort of proposed that bin Laden was almost like the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, and more recently, you're starting to see—well not more recently, this sort of narrative evolved over time where he was merely the financier of the attacks or whatever. But, I mean, it turns out that the only places we can trace a lot of the finances

back to are people within—the Saudi Government or the Pakistani Government, really. So, to me, that's kind of funny, because no one's ever really connected the dots even just—I'm not even talking about a conspiracy theorist. I'm talking about someone who is completely on the side of the sort of narrative of the war on terror. No one's ever sort of pointed out the dots of okay, here's where the money came from, where bin Laden got it, here's where it was dispersed to these—19 hijackers. No one's ever laid anything like that out that I know of. And I think that's kind of interesting that it just—it's like almost like the case against bin Laden just keeps getting weaker and weaker. So that now he's merely just this financier who was just as curious about 9/11 as a lot of other people that we know are [laughs] allegedly.

JON Or his books. I mean, I used to—think that the story might possibly be true, that he was in Pakistan and so forth. But over the years, I've come to think that it's possible he was not there. I have no proof. I have no proof, whatsoever, that he was there.

His wives—apparently the ISI spoke to them, but the FBI couldn't speak to them. Has any reporter even tried to get in touch with them to—find out their story, and what was it like being married to Osama bin Laden?

ROBBIE Yeah, isn't that fascinating? You would think that would be almost like the story of the century. (Right) These were bin Laden's wives. I mean, and that was another part of that same Seymour Hersh interview you're talking about with, I think it was with Paul Jay of Real News (Right), it infuriated me when Paul, I think he almost opened up the interview with asking a question that Seymour Hersh didn't address in his article, which was: "Why did the administration decide to kill him instead of capture him?" Why was that the—

JON Well, that's a *pretty big lie*, because one of the first things the Obama administration said was that they were going in to capture him and bring him to justice. But that was not the case at all. If he was there, the order was to kill him outright, just kill him, assassinate him.

ROBBIE Which is incredibly strange considering that it would be one of the biggest windfalls of like, intelligence to have someone that valuable in captivity.

JON Yep. Well, Ray McGovern opined once that the reason they wanted him

dead was so that he wouldn't talk about his relationships with the CIA and so on and so forth.

With regard to being the mastermind. It's always funny to me—it goes back and forth between Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and Osama bin Laden, as far as the corporate news is concerned. Whenever Osama's in the news, he's the mastermind. When Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's in the news, he's the mastermind.

ROBBIE Yeah. [Laughs] I mean, and then what happened to Zawahiri? That's the one thing I always wonder is why doesn't anybody talk about him anymore? If he's even above bin Laden, and he was the originator of a lot of the stuff that bin Laden ended up being influenced by—the supposed head of Al-Qaeda—it's just nobody seems to care where he is or where he's hiding. And I find that odd because that's—why? What's going on with that?

JON I don't know.

ROBBIE But the idea, yeah, the idea that they didn't want him to talk, I mean, it's just incredibly odd that even just the liberal media didn't even really go after that. When the Osama bin Laden raid first happened, barely anybody was sort of asking that question. And Seymour Hersh just totally dodged the question and told Paul Jay: "You're putting the cart before the horse. Let me like finish my point first and then I'll get to that." And he never gets to it.

And, I think, I saw someone else ask him the same question and he dodged it in a similar way. And, yeah, I can't imagine that someone like him wouldn't be curious about that. Unless his loyalty towards Obama is just that big that he just doesn't see anything wrong with that. A lot of people don't see anything wrong with just killing him in cold blood. You know, he of course, he was the—he was the guy behind the 9/11 attacks, so, why not kill him? But, I mean, it's missing the point of well, think of the intelligence we could have gotten from him.

JON Yeah, exactly. And the funny thing is is that—when the 9/11 Commission Report was released, on the day of, there was a press conference held by the 9/11 Commissioners, and somebody asked about—are you satisfied? Are there any unanswered questions and so on and so forth? And Tom Kean said: "Yes, of course—there are some unanswered questions. The

people involved, they died. But—someday when we capture Osama bin Laden, he'll be able to answer some questions for us." Or something to that—

ROBBIE Wow, wow. So, he—I mean, that just makes me think he was—that's a really naive thing to think that that would actually take place. I mean, but that would—I mean, if someone was genuinely interested in what happened on the attacks, that would be a great opportunity to be able to have him in a jail cell.

JON And to put him in a courtroom. Let's see the evidence, you know. And I've theorized about this before and I've said this openly before—I cannot tell you definitively—when Osama bin Laden was killed. I know that after 9/11 he was going around saying—he was denying any involvement in the attacks. I think he denied it on three separate occasions. And then we had the questionable confession video that came out.

But I don't think that they could allow him to roam free. If he's going to continue to go around saying he had nothing to do with 9/11. So, I think it was in their best interests very early on to either kill him, or to—lock him up. Put him in a position where he doesn't have—he can't roam free and say whatever the hell he wants.

So—there are two possibilities. Either he died early on or they captured him early on, like when they supposedly allowed him to escape into Pakistan from Tora Bora. Maybe that's when he was picked up by Pakistan and held—however long. I don't know. I don't know. And that's the part that *sucks*, is I don't know and I hate not knowing.

ROBBIE Yeah. And it's not, it's not being a kooky conspiracy theorist or—being conspiratorial to think that because—we simply weren't given any proof, and so many things about it were obvious lies. (Yeah) I mean that's not even—that's not even a—

JON Big lies too!

ROBBIE That's become mainstream now that, I mean, thankfully because of the Seymour Hersh article, regardless of if what he wrote is true or not, a lot more people out there are now understanding that a lot of that raid—was a lie or how it was told to us was a lie. So, that's, I guess, a good

outcome of it.

JON Well, what it's doing is it's getting people to actually question what happened and that's a good thing, so—

ROBBIE Yeah. And, yeah, I mean, there was another interesting component to that that you pointed out to me that someone actually wrote a very similar article to Seymour Hersh back in 2011, I believe. Was it? And what was her name?

JON I don't remember her name.

ROBBIE But she allegedly got the same story pretty much from this, probably the same sources that he did, and it just didn't get coverage at all.

JON Right. And if he was in captivity or being harbored by Pakistan, since what was it? 2006? That's when Musharraf was in power. I do not think that the U.S. would be unaware of it. And there's a reason to think that we were aware of it. In 2008, I think her name as Christine Amanpour, said that she knew that Osama bin Laden was not in a cave but in a villa in Pakistan. And according to U.S. officials or—intelligence sources, so there is an indication that if he was in Pakistan we were aware of it.

ROBBIE And, there's interesting holes also that go back before 9/11 about bin Laden like that one—that one story that a lot of people trot out as proof that he was still somehow working for the CIA right up until 9/11. I don't know if that means that, but that newspaper *Le Figaro* reported that he was getting dialysis treatment in, I believe, Qatar. Was it?

JON I thought it was Pakistan.

ROBBIE I think it was either Qatar or the United Arab Emirates. It was like a more Western-friendly country out there. And, yeah—that was reported in a mainstream French newspaper, but a lot of people here have written it off as being sort of a kooky conspiracy theory badly sourced.

JON Are you talking about when the CIA met with bin Laden at the hospital? (Yeah) Oh, that story is actually pretty well corroborated. I don't remember all of it off the top of my head, but I DO know that Anthony Summers in his book *Eleventh Day* actually thought there was more credence to that story than not. And that book was sold by—people like

Miles Kara who's a former employee of the Joint Congressional Inquiry, and the 9/11 Commission who became a debunker. He said it was like part two of the 9/11 Commission. So, if he's saying that and—in that book it actually gives credence to that story then, you know—

ROBBIE Well, that's incredibly strange then that, I mean, someone like that would give credence to a story like that. I mean, just how does that not flip upside down the entire paradigm? I mean, you know?

JON Well, what his reasoning was that of course, you're going to meet with your enemy at a time when they're threatening you to try and get them to not attack you.

ROBBIE Are you crazy? That's insane. What the f***? (Right) What?

JON My feelings are—this is the most wanted man in the world supposedly. And—if the CIA had a chance to meet with him—if this meeting didn't work out the way they wanted it to, wouldn't they have a contingency plan to capture him anyway? You know, there's no such thing as fair play.

ROBBIE It makes no sense at all. I mean, if the Clinton administration was going through the trouble of flying out drones to take pictures, and to find out where he was in Pakistan, I mean, apparently, they kept seeing him—I mean, not in Pakistan. I'm sorry, in Afghanistan, during the Clinton administration, they had actually had aerial photographs of him. The only reason they claim they didn't attack was because they weren't sure they would—not kill civilians in the process.

JON We don't care about that.

ROBBIE It's fascinating. I mean, if that actually happened it just completely contradicts almost everything we've been told. Almost like 100 percent.

JON I thought the story was that they called one of them off because there were Saudi royals in the vicinity or with him at the time.

ROBBIE I think Michael Scheuer claims that—well this is the Michael Scheuer version—is that Richard Clarke called off one of the attacks because it was, apparently, there was some United Arab Emirates like royal family member with bin Laden. (Right) And I guess he had some ties or he was friendly with them or something.

JON A lot of people don't trust Michael Scheuer or they do trust Michael Scheuer, I don't know.

Anyway, do you want to get into this topic? There's a lot of information to cover.

ROBBIE Yeah, yeah, let's get into the whole premise of the PDBs. And for those who don't know what the PDBs are, they are Presidential Daily Briefs that are internally circulated. They're not meant for public consumption, but some of them actually leaked, or one of them actually leaked right after 9/11, that sort of created a big—a little bit of a firestorm for a bit where the mainstream reacted saying that—well, Bush lied. He did know that this was coming, etc.

JON For this episode, we're not going to focus on the multitude of warnings we received from multiple countries and every other indication that an attack was coming. You know, like Able Danger identifying four of the hijackers a year prior to 9/11—all that stuff. Instead, we're going to focus specifically on the Presidential Daily Briefings.

So, you're right, after 9/11, actually, it was May 2002—the August 6th PDB was partially leaked and the *New York Post* ran a huge story on the front page that said: "Bush Knew." But, we'll get back to that, actually.

Do you want to—do you have the questions in front of you? (Yeah)
Okay, go ahead.

ROBBIE Yeah, so, I mean, after 9/11 we were told repeatedly by members of the Bush administration and by a lot of other people, also defenders of the administration, that there were no warnings. What examples are there of Bush administration officials or other people saying this, sort of echoing that talking point.

JON Okay, well, on board Air Force One on 9/11 2001, at 1:47 P.M., Ari Fleischer had a little press conference and the question was:

"Q: Had there been any warnings that the President knew of?

Mr. Fleischer: No warnings.

Q: Does the President . . . Is he concerned about the fact that this attack of this severity happened with no warning?

Mr. Fleischer: First things first—his concern is with the safety of people who have lost their—the health and security of the American people and with the families of those who have lost their lives. There will come an appropriate time to do all appropriate look backs. His focus is on events this morning."

So, I think that was the very first individual saying there were no warnings. Here's a quote:

"In the first 24 hours of analysis, I have not seen any evidence that there was a specific signal that we missed. In this case, we did not have intelligence of anything of this scope or magnitude."

And that was Colin Powell on September 12, 2001.

"There were no warning signs that I'm aware of that would indicate this type of operation in this country."

That's Robert Mueller.

ROBBIE Let me stop you really quick. It sounds like when you're starting to go through these and in chronological order—the very first one by Ari Fleischer seemed like it was sort of maybe off-the-cuff. They didn't think about it too much before they answered, and then as time passes, it already sounds like they're revising the statements to sound more (legalese) yeah, so that they can—it's like they're adding words like "magnitude," "specificity," like things, extra wording to it—to make it actually be technically true. You know, in a weird way.

JON Right. We had absolutely no warning that four planes were going to be hijacked that morning, and one of them was going to crash into the World Trade Center at 8:46. (Yeah) (Laughs) That kind of specific warning. That's exactly what they started to sound like.

I have a couple of more:

"No specific threat involving really a domestic operation or involving what happened, obviously—the cities, airliner, and so

forth." That's Dick Cheney on September 16, 2001.

And, here's one:

"Never (in) anybody's thought processes . . . about how to protect America, did we ever think that the evil doers would fly not one but four commercial aircraft into precious U.S. targets . . . never." That was George Bush September 16, 2001.

"No one can imagine someone being willing to commit suicide, being willing to use an airplane as a lethal weapon." That was Jane Garvey of the FAA September 25, 2001.

You know, these kinds of statements were repeated throughout the corporate news, and 9/11 was treated as a surprise attack. I believed it, many people believed it—that there were no warnings whatsoever, and it was a complete surprise attack. Do you remember that?

ROBBIE Of course, I mean, that was what they were putting out immediately. Yeah, I mean, I don't remember if I felt like I entirely bought the idea that it was a surprise attack. I remember I think I was more, at the time, I was more just confused about why our air defenses didn't escort or reach any of the planes, because I knew about that concept before 9/11, and that's sort of where my mind went at the time. And I don't think I was really paying as much attention to what Bush was saying at the time. I looked into all that stuff after the fact much later.

JON Right.

ROBBIE Were there more?

JON Were there more what? Denials? There's a whole—if you go to HistoryCommons.org and go to the Complete 9/11 Timeline, there's a section called "911 Denials." Just click on that. That where I got them from, except for the first one, the Ari Fleischer one. I had that stored somewhere.

ROBBIE Yeah. And, even when Bush left office, in his very final press conference, he goes back to that moment in time where the press was was, well, I guess we'll go into that in the next question. I mean, why don't you talk about what the August 6 Presidential daily briefing was.

What did it say?

JON

Well, and we have to remember that, as you were getting to say that Bush—he even made statements like: "If I had any inkling whatsoever that an attack was coming, I would have moved heaven and earth" or whatever the hell he used to say.

The August 6th PDB. Actually, it's interesting, the release of the August 6th PDB is what made me go off to the races with regard to 9/11. I found out,—I thought there were no warnings. And then there was a warning, and so we were being lied to and all this crazy stuff was happening and —I was off to the races.

Now, with regard to the August 6th PDB, which was titled "Bin Laden Determined to Strike in the U.S." The tidbits that got the most attention are as follows:

"We have not been able to corroborate some of the more sensational threat reporting such as that from a [redacted] service in 1998, saying that bin Laden wanted to hijack a U.S. aircraft to gain the release of 'Blind Sheikh' Omar Abdul-Rahman and other U.S.-held extremists"

[...]

"Nevertheless, FBI information since that time indicates patterns of suspicious activity in this country consistent with preparations for hijackings or other types of attacks, including recent surveillance of federal buildings in New York"

[...]

"The FBI is conducting approximately 70 full-field investigations throughout the U.S. that it considers bin Laden-related."

Now, with regard to that number of 70 full-field investigations taking place in the U.S., the 9/11 Commission will say:

"The 70 full-field investigations number was a generous calculation that included fundraising investigations. It also

counted each individual connected to an investigation as a separate full-field investigation. Many of these investigations should not have been included, such as the one that related to a dead person, four that concerned people who had been in long-term custody and eight that had been closed well before August 6, 2001."

ROBBIE When was this PDB leaked?

JON It was leaked in May of 2002, and when the PDB was leaked, Condoleezza Rice said that it was historical in nature, and she repeated those claims in front of the 9/11 Commission. But the information within the document was clearly present tense and—when it was leaked, people like Hillary Clinton, Christopher Dodd, Senator Paul Byrd, and Tom Daschle were essentially asking—what did the President know and when did he know it?

And I have actually videos of all those guys saying that on my YouTube channel which is Gold9472. And, as I said, the *New York Post* printed a front-page article with Bush on the cover that said: "**BUSH KNEW**" in big bold letters.

ROBBIE Yeah, and the *New York Post*—a lot of people don't know, maybe don't know this, but the *New York Post*—and this is completely unrelated to that, but they also received an anthrax letter addressed to their sort of main address. But, it's odd, because they're one of the most—I mean, they are owned by Rupert Murdoch's corporation. Is that true?

JON Mm-hmm, News Corp.

ROBBIE News Corp. So, it's really interesting to me that around that same time Fox News was the one beating the war on terror hysterical drum the hardest, while the other—one of their other papers owned by News Corp, *New York Post* was actually running one of the most sensationalist headlines, shall we say, about how basically Bush lied about not knowing.

JON And, the funny thing is, today, is that the *New York Post* "hates" 9/11 Truth or Truthers.

ROBBIE Yeah. And Truthers will still use—I mean, I see tons of Truthers still

using that front-page screenshot (Right) of their newspaper, so.

JON You know it's the thing that set me off, so. And it's funny, it's also the thing that set Paul Thompson off, and what he did was he created the timeline. I went off like an idiot and was contacting my representatives and the local media trying to get them to do their job without realizing that they don't do their jobs. [Laughs]

ROBBIE Now, this might be a more obscure question. But, do you know if there was a very first media organization that got that leak that reported it before anybody else?

JON As far as I know, the *New York Post* was the first to report it.

ROBBIE And do you know who that was?

JON No, I don't know and I don't know who leaked it either.

ROBBIE And nobody knows still, but it's been speculated, again, that Richard Clarke might have been the person who leaked that somehow. But I don't know how he would have had access to the PDB necessarily.

JON Well, he wasn't a principal anymore. There's something called an SEIB, which is like a PDB, but it's for the subordinates and it doesn't contain as much information. That's the kind of thing that he would get. I would think. But I don't know. But, I don't know who speculated that? That it was Richard Clarke that leaked that?

ROBBIE I don't know who speculated it either. But I remember seeing it somewhere. Could have been just a total baseless speculation.

But what is—can you explain how the White House fought against giving the JICI and the 9/11 Commission access to the PDBs, the rest of the PDBs, not just—the August 6th one, because at that point it had already been leaked publicly. Everybody already saw that.

JON Only parts of it were leaked publicly.

ROBBIE Oh, only parts of it?

JON It wasn't until later during the 9/11 Commission when, I think—actually,

I think, even that was redacted. Whatever was released during the 9/11 Commission, I think was also redacted.

ROBBIE But, correct me if I'm wrong on this, but it was mostly the title of the PDB that the public was familiarized with.

JON Right. "Bin Laden Determined to Strike in U.S."

ROBBIE And what you read off earlier, was that originally leaked as part of the PDB or was that something revealed later?

JON I don't remember what the original story was. I got that information from HistoryCommons. (Okay).

All right, now your next question with regard to what the White House did. I have this entry from HistoryCommons.

ROBBIE Briefly, describe first what is the JICI?

JON Oh, the Joint Congressional Inquiry. (Okay) The Jersey Girls call it the Jicky. And I just adopted it and started calling it the JICI, but it's the Joint Congressional Inquiry.

ROBBIE Yeah, that happened before the 9/11 Commission. (Right)

JON All right, this entry is from HistoryCommons:

"Late January 2003, White House Counsel Gonzales denies 9/11 Commission access to White House documents. White House counsel Alberto Gonzales denies a request made by the 9/11 Commission for access to a number of White House documents pertaining to 9/11 citing executive privilege. The documents date from both the Clinton and Bush administrations. The request is made by Philip Zelikow, the Commission's executive director who believes the commission must see the documents if it is to do its job properly, and that the White House has already indicated the Commission will get what it wants. The documents include highly classified Presidential Daily Briefings (PDBs), the "crown jewels" of U.S. intelligence reporting. Only a very few such PDBs have ever been made available

from the Johnson and Nixon administrations. Zelikow says the commission needs to see the PDBs so it can determine what warnings Clinton and Bush received about Al-Qaeda. However, the PDBs had not been provided to the 9/11 Congressional inquiry and Gonzales says they will not be given to the 9/11 Commission either. Zelikow tells Gonzales that this would be bad for the 9/11 Commission and the United States recalling the uproar that ensued when it was discovered the CIA had withheld documents from the Warren Commission that investigated the murder of President Kennedy. Zelikow also pressures Gonzales by threatening to resign from the commission if it is not given the documents, knowing this will generate extremely bad publicity for the White House."

It goes on.

"However, Gonzales refuses to cave in and, a few days later, makes what author Philip Shenon calls a "blunt and undiplomatic" phone call to Tom Kean the Commission's chairman. He tells Kean that he does not want to see Zelikow ever again, which means that in the future he will only discuss access to the documents with Kean and Commission Vice Chairman Lee Hamilton.

The battle over access to documents and witnesses will go on for some time. And Commissioner John Lehman will say that White House political adviser Karl Rove is "very much involved" in it. According to Lehman, "Gonzales cleared everything with Rove" and friends tell him that "Rove was the quarterback for dealing with the Commission," although the White House will deny this.

That's the end of that entry and—a few surprising things come up in this. Zelikow actually puts his foot down—and threatens to resign over access to these documents. And that goes against the grain of what we know about Philip Zelikow.

But what I think was probably happening at the time, was that the family members were pushing for the release. That's what I think. I can't imagine him being as good as this portrays him to be. [Laughs]

ROBBIE Yeah, well no, it's interesting, while—because I remember—that is in Philip Shenon's book, right? (Right) So, what it makes me think about, and this is pure speculation on my part, but you know at some point it seemed like Philip Zelikow was fighting in the opposite direction and he was fighting against the family members and he was fighting for the Bush administration.

So, maybe, maybe he knew at the beginning that his job there was to essentially cover for the Bush administration, and he wanted to know the full scope of what he was going to be dealing with. And maybe the Bush administration wouldn't even give him that—to at least let him know what he was fully covering for. [Laughs] I mean, that's part of where my mind goes with that. But, again, could be completely not true also. Who knows?

JON Exactly. Well, it's possible, but. I just thought it was very interesting that he was willing to resign over this and also that Lehman, you know, accused Karl Rove of being the quarterback of the 9/11 Commission, which we've heard before.

ROBBIE And it's also worth noting, too, that Gonzales was—he wasn't the attorney general yet at that time, right?

JON He was White House counsel at the time.

ROBBIE Yeah, so he was—which is weird. I mean, I don't know how, if that's like a normal thing to do, because like a White House counsel is like a lawyer that's designed to defend the White House. Right? I mean, that's sort of like the role. (Right) And to jump from that to being the attorney general where you're almost supposed to be, to some degree autonomous from the White House, to make legal decisions or things about the legal framework, it just seems like just another example of corrupt—sort of out-in-the-open Bush behavior that when John Ashcroft would step down, that's who would fill in that role. But, again, maybe that's commonly done. Just, to me, it seems unethical and strange for an attorney general to work in that position previously.

JON Absolutely.

ROBBIE What was this deal made between the White House and the 9/11

Commission that granted just a select few access to the Presidential Daily Briefings?

JON

Well, on November 7, 2003, a deal was made between the White House and the 9/11 Commission that would grant certain people from the 9/11 Commission access to the PDBs. Those people were Philip Zelikow, Jamie Gorelick, Thomas Kean, and Lee Hamilton.

Two of the commissioners, Democrats Tim Roemer and Max Cleland, are extremely angry with the deal and complained the commission cannot function properly without all the commissioners seeing all the relevant documents. The victims' relatives are also extremely unhappy, and the Family Steering Committee releases a statement saying: "A limited number of commissioners will have restricted access to a limited number of PDB documents," adding "The Commission has seriously compromised its ability to conduct an independent, full, and unfettered investigation." They are also unhappy that Zelikow is one of the two handling the main review, because they are concerned about his ties to National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, among other issues. One of the victim's relatives, Kristen Breitweiser, says: "How much more of Zelikow do we have to take?" The Commission's counsel, Daniel Marcus, will actually agree with the families, saying: "If we were going to have a staff person do this, Philip was not the right person."

Okay, so, it was Zelikow and Gorelick that, I think, reviewed the documents and then gave them to Tom Kean and Lee Hamilton to look at. When Kean looked at them, he said:

"There really was nothing there—nothing, nothing." He said that if his students at Drew University turned in term papers this poorly researched, he says: "I would have given them an F."

Now, Gorelick is struck by the general lack of information in the document. But the thing that strikes her most about the PDBs is just how many warnings were given in the months preceding the 9/11 attacks.

So, there's two conflicting accounts. Kean says there's absolutely nothing to them, and Gorelick says there were a multitude of warnings. So, I don't know. Now, remember, We the People do not have access to any of these Presidential Daily Briefings, so.

ROBBIE Yeah. I mean, it's unfortunate that we can only go by what they're saying. And in Philip Shenon's book he goes through—there's a lot of sort of second-hand relaying of information about what was in a lot of those PDBs. (Right)

And, was there anything else in them that gets into more specifics, like about what you're talking about? Like what Jamie Gorelick might have been referring to.

JON I don't know. Well, I know one thing, specifically. Now, it's interesting to note that between January 20 and September 10, 2001, Bush was briefed on Al-Qaeda over 40 times, and this is from an entry from HistoryCommons.org:

"National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice later testifies to the 9/11 Commission that in the first eight months of Bush's presidency before 9/11, "The President receive[s] at these [Presidential Daily Briefings] more than 40 briefing items on Al-Qaeda, and 13 of those [are] in response to questions he or his top advisers posed."

And:

"The content of the warnings in these briefings are unknown. However, CIA Director George Tenet claims that none of the warnings specifically indicates terrorists plan to fly hijacked commercial aircraft into buildings in the U.S. Counterterrorism "tsar" Richard Clarke will later emphasize, "Tenet on 40 occasions in . . . morning meetings mentioned Al-Qaeda to the President. Forty times, many of them in a very alarmed way, about a pending attack." These briefings are normally given in person by CIA Director George Tenet and are usually attended by Vice President Cheney and National Security Adviser Rice. In the Clinton administration, up to 25 officials received the PDB. But in the Bush administration before 9/11, this was sharply reduced to only six people. Other top officials have to make do with, what I said earlier, which is called a Senior Executive Intelligence Brief generally released one day later, which is similar to the PDB but often contains less information."

So, he received 40 Al-Qaeda-related briefings. And are you familiar with

Kurt Eichenwald?

ROBBIE No, I was just going to ask you. Can you explain to the audience who he is, exactly?

JON Well, he's a reporter, and he writes sometimes for *The New York Times* and so forth, and he's actually the one I tried to get for this interview about PDBs, because he wrote an article for *The New York Times* and—I wanted to get the experts and, unfortunately, I couldn't get him.

ROBBIE Is this the newer article that came out a few years ago?

JON Yeah, this came out, I think it was in—oh, it was September 10, 2012, is when his article came out.

Now, with all of the controversy that the August 6th PDB received, Kurt Eichenwald reported that it: "Is not nearly as shocking as the briefs that came before it." And it says: "By May 1st the Central Intelligence Agency told the White House of a report that "a group presently in the United States" was planning a terrorist operation. And the title of that article was: "The Deafness Before the Storm," *New York Times* 9/10/2012.

So, listen to what I said very carefully, that a group presently in the United States was planning a terrorist operation. So, then you go to the 9/11 Report and it says Bush "said that if his advisers had told him there was a cell in the United States, they would have moved to take care of it. That never happened." That's on page 260 of the 9/11 Report.

So, contrast that to what —

ROBBIE So, Kurt Eichenwald is talking only about the Presidential Daily Briefs, right?

JON Correct. Yep

ROBBIE I mean, it's just it's making me angry just to hear you talk about this because—and I'm sure you experience this as well being involved in this as long as you have been, researching all this stuff, tirelessly—that it was like, I mean it's really vindicating—11 years almost after 9/11, an article like that comes out. They really should have come out the same time as

that—in May 2002, when that August 6 Presidential Daily Briefing memo leaked, it sort of started people off on a more skeptical perspective.

But can you imagine what would have happened if this article came out back then? I mean, things—I want to say things could have been so much different for people like us where we wouldn't have had to—been having to prove to people—Look, you know, they did get all these warnings. I mean, it would have just been understood, sort of out there in the mainstream that, yes, the Bush administration lied. They got so many warnings directly to the President's office, not just warnings from the FAA or whatever. It was Bush getting a memo on his desk saying there is currently a cell of terrorists inside the United States planning an attack. (Right) I mean, how much more specific and alarming can a memo like that get?

I mean, so that is, to me at least, the smoking gun that they at the very least knew that they were lying immediately, and that they wanted to just cover their ass as much as possible. I mean, and that's the best-case scenario, really.

JON What's funny. There's a video on my YouTube channel called "Kurt Eichenwald versus Ari Fleischer." When this report came out, Kurt Eichenwald was on the TV and Ari Fleischer was there to refute what he was saying. And Ari Fleischer was holding up the 9/11 Report saying: "Look, everything you need to know is in this book and blah blah blah and everything that Kurt Eichenwald is saying is a lie."

ROBBIE Just like Rachel Maddow with the Truthers when she held up the 9/11 Commission Report on her show. (Laughs) What an asshole. (Exactly) I'm sorry. Keep going.

JON I just pointed out that the 9/11 Report said that Bush said that: "If his advisers told him there was a cell in the United States, they would have moved to take care of it. And that never happened."

So, I don't know. I mean, and also contrast what Eichenwald said to what Thomas Kean says. Of course, that's only one of the PDBs that I mentioned that Kurt Eichenwald reported on. Phil Shenon did an article that focused a lot more on the PDBs. I think it's called "They Knew, But Did Nothing." And it talks a little bit, it gets into more detail of the

PDBs. But Eichenwald—is saying that the August 6th PDB is not nearly as shocking as the briefs that came before it, and Thomas Kean is telling us that there was nothing to those PDBs.

ROBBIE But here's the one thing we don't know though is—what was the 9/11 Commission actually given as far as PDBs? And what did Kurt Eichenwald...Did he see these PDBs himself, or is he sort of relaying them from someone telling him about them?

JON It's hard to know from the article. He just said that he managed to get a glimpse at some of them, which means that he didn't get to read all of them. And so on and so forth, but what he found was startling to him. And I don't know how he gained access to this. This is why I wanted to have him on. You know, to ask him these kinds of things, but...

ROBBIE Well, I mean, it sounds like it's probably an anonymous official insider probably gave him access to it. But, I guess what it makes me wonder is what—did the Bush administration cherry pick these PDBs and is that why Thomas Kean said that? And maybe Kurt Eichenwald saw different, more incriminating, PDBs.

But the problem is, since we haven't—I just wish someone would actually leak them—like these are floating around. It's amazing—You know, everybody talks about "oh they couldn't keep a conspiracy, you know, as large as 9/11 or a 9/11 cover-up, together without somebody spilling the beans." But that's an example of someone not spilling the beans. If these exist and it's saying there's a terrorist cell in the United States and that landed on George Bush's office desk—as his daily brief, then why hasn't that memo come out? I mean, that's, it's amazing to me, that just nobody has decided to leak something like that. I mean, just the literal—just the document itself.

JON This goes back to transparency with regard to 9/11. And a lot of other issues—the 28-redacted pages need to be released. I think only 35 percent of the documents from the 9/11 Commission have been released by the National Archives. We don't have access to these PDBs. There's so much that we just don't have access to. And, the amount or the fight that they put up and the deals that they had to make in order to get access to these things—it's absurd. It's just—when you look at what they don't want you to look at, then that becomes a topic of interest. When you can blatantly see that they don't want you to look at something, it kind of

makes you want to look at it.

ROBBIE Or the alternate thesis even suggests that maybe when they want you to look at something incriminating that it might be designed to take your eye away from something more incriminating.

JON Isn't that funny? I mean, the 9/11 Commission focused so much on the August 6th PDB.

ROBBIE Exactly, exactly.

JON And, none of the other briefings came up in public hearings that I could see. I don't remember. But, Condoleezza Rice was questioned by Ben-Veniste about August 6th PDB. And there's a lot in the 9/11 Report specifically about the August 6th PDB.

So you're saying that it was leaked so as to take away the attention from other warnings?

ROBBIE It's arguable that even maybe Ben-Veniste thought that that was the most incriminating memo, but maybe the Bush administration knew that the framework of that aggressive sort of line of questioning towards Condi Rice was itself going to be a softball no matter what because they didn't have access to the one that said that there's a terrorist cell in the United States right now. Didn't say bin Laden determined to attack the United States. It said right now there are terrorists (Right) in the United States planning to attack. I mean (Yep), it seems to me that is so much worse than yeah—it could be. I mean it could be. I have no evidence that that's what it was. But you have to wonder that maybe that's sometimes what they do too. They take a little bit of a risk and think well—this does make us look bad, but not nearly as bad as this other thing would. But, again, you know.

JON Oh, I'm sure things like that happen all the time. We have absolutely no proof that that's what happened. (Exactly)

All right so let me get to some of the statements that were put forward by the families during the time of the 9/11 Commission about the Presidential Daily Briefings. I collected a number of them, actually. The first one is:

"The Family Steering Committee is deeply distressed to find that 11 months into the Government's independent investigation into the attacks of 9/11 the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon United States is still in the document collecting phase due to stonewalling by the administration.

Counter to the public statements made by both administration officials and commission members that there is continued cooperation between administration agencies and the commission.

The record indicates otherwise.

A critical document that the Commission needs is the Presidential Daily Briefing. Although such a document has never been released to an outside investigative agency during a current administration's tenure, a full analysis of the administrative failures that led to the death of 3000 people on the morning of September 11th calls for such an historical precedent."

That was October 28, 2003.

The next one's kind of long. It's a full statement specifically about the PDBs and it's called the Family Steering Committee Statement Regarding Access to Presidential Daily Briefings.

November 13, 2003 — The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Against the United States, commonly known as the 9/11 Independent Commission, released a statement to the press regarding the culmination of recent negotiations with the White House. These negotiations involved the 9/11 Independent Commission's document requests for access to certain Presidential Daily Briefings that may relate to the 9/11 attacks.

In response to the Commission's Press Release, which provides insufficient details to evaluate the circumstances and effects of the compromise, the Family Steering Committee holds the following positions:

1. All ten Commissioners should have full, unfettered, and unrestricted access to all evidence - including but not

limited to all Presidential Daily Briefings and all working notes related to those Presidential Daily Briefings, that may be related to the attacks on 9/11.

2. The full, official, and final written Agreement that was reached between the Commission and the White House should be released to the American public in its entirety. The American public should be fully informed as to all legal restrictions and limitations placed within this Agreement upon the 9/11 Independent Commission and their collective ability to access all information needed for their investigation. Furthermore, the mechanism by which this Agreement was reached should be fully released to the public. For example, who was involved in these negotiations? Were the terms of this agreement presented to all Commissioners and was a subsequent vote taken?

3. The Commission should issue a Statement to the American public fully explaining why this Agreement was chosen in lieu of issuing subpoenas to the CIA and Executive Branch to access these certain Presidential Daily Briefings.

4. The Family Steering Committee is committed to ensuring that the Independent Commission executes their mission statement in a full and unrestricted manner.

The mission statement of the 9-11 Commission is as follows:

"The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, an independent, bipartisan commission created by Congressional legislation and the signature of President George W. Bush in late 2002, is chartered to prepare a full and complete account of the circumstances surrounding the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, including preparedness for and the immediate response to the attacks. The Commission is also mandated to provide recommendations designed to guard against future attacks."

As it now stands a limited number of Commissioners will have restricted access to a limited number of PDB documents. This will prevent a full uncovering of the truth and is unacceptable."

And that's their full press release November 13, 2003. Do you have anything to say to that?

ROBBIE I guess it's really, I mean, the very first thing that you started saying—reminded me of the administration's defense or their reasoning for not wanting to release the PDBs was that it wasn't a historical tradition or it wasn't something that Presidents traditionally allowed. Therefore, they didn't want to set a historical precedent. I mean, that was the actual reasoning they use. Am I correct?

JON I think so, yeah.

ROBBIE It just blows my mind that they think, that they would have the hubris to say something like that. I mean, it's especially—when you consider that this administration was right after the Clinton administration. I mean, was there an historical precedent for making a President testify under oath about the graphic details of a sexual affair that he had on tape? [Laughs]

JON Well, okay, now you're—when Bush and Cheney testified under oath, the argument that was going—or NOT under oath, rather. Let me say that again, Bush and Cheney did NOT testify under oath. When that was going on, the argument that was being pushed around by the pundits was that historically Presidents do not testify before commissions. And, yet—Bill Clinton testified in the Monica Lewinsky thing. Ronald Reagan, I believe, testified for the Iran/Contra—

ROBBIE He did, yeah, you're absolutely right. It's absurd. And then also, I guess not directly related to the—the families. I mean, what always amazes me is when you read off these statements from the Jersey Girls and the Family Steering Committee, they're extremely articulate. They cut right to the heart of the matter. They're just—they're just very—it's painful to think about how the media was able to ignore so much of what they did out there—releasing these press releases—when every single time they're just hitting the Bull's-Eye. They're just like—do this, do this stuff. This is exactly what should happen. (Yep) Even—It surprised me that even

lawyers and other people, pundits were like "yup, the Jersey Girls nailed it. This is exactly what the Bush administration needs to do. This should be the protocol." I mean—if I didn't know any better I would think that some of the Jersey Girls had actually been to law school because of just how articulate and how great some of these statements they released were. Some of the statements they released were.

JON Kristen Breitwieser is a lawyer.

ROBBIE Well, there you go. I didn't even know that. I mean, so hats off to her and everybody else involved in that for . . . I mean, it just, I guess, it illustrates so strongly just how obvious it was that the press intentionally ignored them. (Yep) It wasn't like they were kooky. It wasn't like they were inarticulate. It wasn't like—they were going out there like Code Pink wearing silly Pirate hats and wearing—giant poofy pink sweaters and acting silly. They were like totally professional. I mean, it was what it was. So, yeah.

JON That's one of the points I've made over the years is that (I know) the families have provided us with the tools we need. We just have to use them. (Yeah)

And I have two more statements from them about the PDBs.

"In his remarks at the signing of the Intelligence Authorization Act on November 27, 2002, President Bush stated that the Commission's investigation "should carefully examine all the evidence and follow all the facts, wherever they lead. We must uncover every detail and learn every lesson of September the 11th. My administration will continue to act on the lessons we've learned so far to better protect the people of this country. It's our most solemn duty."

Sadly, on the one-year anniversary of the establishment of the 9/11 Commission, we, on the Family Steering Committee find that the President has not respected his "most solemn duty." By refusing to provide full and unfettered access to the Presidential Daily Briefings to all of the Commissioners, this Commission will be unable to "carefully examine all the evidence and follow all the facts

wherever they lead."

[...]

In an effort to protect this country and honor our loved ones lost, the FSC respectfully objects to the Agreement reached between the Commission and the White House regarding access to the PDB's. We urge the Commission to follow the directive of the President as stated on November 27, 2002, and to aggressively take every measure necessary to gather all information that is available. This Commission must subpoena the White House to provide full and complete access for all ten Commissioners to the entire document group of PDB's. All ten Commissioners have the highest security clearance; all ten should review these critical documents."

And that was November 27, 2003.

ROBBIE What happened in January and February of 2004, during the 9/11 Commission?

JON All right. In January of 2004 (HistoryCommons):

9/11 Commissioner Jamie Gorelick and Philip Zelikow, the 9/11 Commission's executive director, complete a review of 300 Presidential Daily Brief (PDB) items that might be relevant to the Commission's work. They find that 50 of them are actually relevant and under the terms of an agreement they have with the White House, tell White House counsel Alberto Gonzales that the Commission's chairman and vice chairman, Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton, should see these 50. The other seven commissioners will not see any of the PDBs, but Gorelick and Zelikow want to show them a 10-page summary of what they have found. The White House had previously agreed to this in principle, but Gonzales says that 50 is too many. He says that when the agreement was concluded, he thought they would only want to show one or two more to Kean and Hamilton. In addition, he claims the 10-page summary is way too long, and has too much detail about

one key PDB concerning Osama bin Laden's determination to strike inside the US. Gonzales's response angers all the commissioners. Its lawyer, Daniel Marcus, is instructed to hire an outside counsel to draft a subpoena, and he engages Robert Weiner, a leading Washington lawyer. The subpoena is to be for Gorelick and Zelikow's notes, because the Commission thinks it is more likely to get them. However, Marcus will say that filing a subpoena "would have been Armageddon," because, "Even though we had a good legal argument, the subpoena would have been a disaster for us because we could not have won the litigation in time to get the PDBs."

ROBBIE Oh my god (Right). It's absurd.

JON Now, in February of 2004, a last-minute action by the 9/11 Commission's Executive Director Philip Zelikow averts the filing of a subpoena on the White House over access by the Commission to information from Presidential Daily Briefs. The Commission has already hired an outside counsel to deal with the subpoena and drafted its text.

However, Zelikow works practically nonstop for 48 hours to draft a 17-page, 7,000-word summary of what is in the documents. He knows that a lot of the information in the highly classified PDBs is also available in less classified documents, to which the White House cannot object the Commission having and referencing. Therefore, he summarises the contents of the PDBs, but sources what he writes to the less classified material.

Exhausted by the arguments over the PDBs with the White House, commissioner Jamie Gorelick, who has also read all the PDBs that need to be summarised, agrees that Zelikow's summary can serve as the basis for a compromise with the White House. White House chief of staff Andrew Card pressures White House counsel Alberto R. Gonzales to accept it as well.

However, relatives of the attacks' victims are angry. Author Philip Shenon will write, "Many of the 9/11 family groups

were outraged by this new compromise; it was even clearer now that only Gorelick and their nemesis Zelikow would ever see the full library of PDBs; the other commissioners would see only an edited version of what Gorelick and Zelikow chose to show them."

So, basically—Zelikow was the one telling us what was in those things. Do you trust him?

ROBBIE Yeah, of course. It's just everything you're saying is just so frustrating to hear. I mean, I've heard a lot of it before. Some of the details you brought up—the whole idea that they were going to get them sucked into an endless litigation (Right) about getting the PDBs is just infuriating.

JON Well, and it goes back to the fact that the 9/11 Commission's time was limited—which is ridiculous! You're investigating the murder of 2,976 people. There shouldn't be—a timestep, or you know.

ROBBIE Yeah, but they really did create this false sense of urgency among everybody that we shouldn't be spending our time diverting our important time and energy and resources away from the war on terror. Like, people bought into that. I mean, even at the time, I mean, even Democrats and—a lot of people still thought that this is a really legitimate enterprise. Maybe not Iraq, but the rest of it, I guess. But, no, I mean, it's no excuse at all, obviously.

JON No, not at all.

ROBBIE I was wondering if you could answer this. I never really thought about this before, and I just had this thought while you were going through all this stuff about the PDBs. But, so there was an attempt to actually get PDBs of the Clinton administration as well. Is that correct? (Yes) And was this Bush legal—this sort of lawyer defense they were mounting—using Alberto Gonzales and their counsel. Did this include the whole package? Were they also defending or trying to prevent the release of Clinton's PDBs or not? Or how did that actually—

JON I think it was just across the board, honestly. I don't know, honestly, the answer but I think it was across the board.

ROBBIE Well, that brings up an interesting dilemma that may have actually

existed behind the scenes where—the Bush administration, if they wanted to, they could have maybe leaked an incriminating memo or two from the Clinton administration to take the heat off of them. Even when Michael Scheuer was going around the press making it seem like Clinton was to blame for not catching bin Laden, I guess part of me is surprised that we never saw a leak of that—a leak making it seem like Clinton was dropping the ball on catching bin Laden in the form of a PDB. It makes me wonder if the Bush administration—kind of helped them out a little, too, and just—I don't know. Again, it's just something we'll never really know probably.

JON I don't think so, because a lot of the Neocons and Bush people tried to point the finger at Clinton for 9/11.

ROBBIE They did, yeah.

JON If they had something, I think they would have released it.

ROBBIE You'd think so, yeah. Well, yeah. And Clinton didn't testify under oath either, right? He was—

JON Actually, I think he—I don't know if it was under oath or not. I think it might have been, but—Oh! No, it was not under oath, but it was separate from Al Gore. That's what happened.

ROBBIE And it was in private, like it wasn't, wasn't done publicly.

JON Correct. And, Bush and Cheney testified together, but Al Gore and Bill Clinton testified separately.

ROBBIE Yeah. So, was there was there anything else that happened during those months or was that pretty much it?

JON As far as the PDBs go? (Yeah) Well, there's one more story to tell. It's about Zelikow and the August 6th PDB.

Zelikow apparently tried to pressure one of the analysts that wrote it, to take the White House's side. According to HistoryCommons.org, in June 2004:

"An anonymous Commission staffer who overhears part of

the conversation and who talks to author Philip Shenon, Zelikow pressures the analyst to accept the version of the PDB offered by Bush and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, and say that it contained historical information and was written in response to a request by President Bush for such a briefing." Zelikow denied it "saying he was merely trying to prepare a summary of what was known about the PDB for the commissioners and that he had little time, so the interview was conducted by telephone."

"Nevertheless, the call is in violation of several internal Commission rules, including the requirement that significant interviews be conducted in the presence of at least two staff members. Shenon will describe the call as "a private inquiry into the origins of what was, without doubt, the most controversial document in the investigation."

Obviously, as we already pointed out, according to Kurt Eichenwald, it was not the most controversial. But, anyway. In June 2004:

"Richard Ben-Veniste, a Democratic member of the 9/11 Commission, insists that the commission properly interview two CIA analysts who drafted an August 2001 Presidential Daily Brief (PDB) item entitled "Bin Laden Determined to Strike in US." Ben-Veniste makes the demand after he learns that Commission Executive Director Philip Zelikow interviewed one of the analysts by phone, but allegedly pressured the analyst to back the White House version of events. Initially, Ben-Veniste asks to see the transcripts of interviews with the analysts. However, according to author Philip Shenon: "With a condescending tone that reflected his disdain for Ben-Veniste, Zelikow explained matter-of-factly that there weren't any transcripts.... After months of battles with Zelikow, it was hard for Ben-Veniste to be shocked by almost anything he did. But the staff could see that Ben-Veniste was genuinely startled." Ben-Veniste's demand for full interviews is opposed by Zelikow, who says that one of the analysts, known only as Barbara S, has already been interviewed (although it is unclear how much of this

interview focused on the PDB). Zelikow will also say, "The CIA was pleading with us not to do this, since the career people involved in preparing and presenting PDBs would be intimidated, disrupting the sense of confidentiality and candor they considered essential for the PDB process." However, when they are interviewed, the two analysts seem eager to volunteer the information they have. The commission's Democratic Vice Chairman Lee Hamilton, who has a record of siding with the Republicans, fails to back Ben-Veniste before the full commission. Republican Chairman Tom Kean rescues him, pushing through the request for the interviews in the face of opposition from the other Republicans on the commission."

On July 13, 2004, "the 9/11 Commission interviews two CIA analysts who drafted an August 2001 Presidential Daily Briefing (PDB) item entitled "Bin Laden Determined to Strike in US." The interview is conducted mainly by commissioners Richard Ben-Veniste and Jim Thompson and follows an internal battle inside the Commission. Despite a claim by the Commission's Executive Director Philip Zelikow that the analysts, known only as Barbara S and Dwayne D, were reluctant to answer questions, they are willing and eager to respond to Ben-Veniste."

Apparently, "the analysts are "confused" and "appalled" by claims by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and others at the White House that the PDB item only contained an "historical" overview of domestic terrorism threats. The analysts say that this was not its purpose and that it was supposed to remind President Bush that al-Qaeda remained a dire threat in August 2001, and that a domestic attack was certainly a possibility."

"In addition, the analysts say that another claim made by the White House, that President Bush specifically ordered the PDB, is false. They state that the PDB item was ordered "in-house" by the CIA in the hope that the White House would pay more attention to the threat."

"Ben-Veniste insists that the material from the two analysts

is placed prominently in the Commission's final report, although Zelikow objects to this. After negotiations, the relevant paragraph will read as follows: "During the spring and summer of 2001, President Bush had on several occasions asked his briefers whether any of the threats pointed to the United States. Reflecting on these questions, the CIA decided to write a briefing article summarizing its understanding of this danger. Two CIA analysts involved in preparing this briefing article believed it represented an opportunity to communicate their view that the threat of a bin Laden attack in the United States remained both current and serious. The result was an article in the August 6 Presidential Daily Brief titled 'Bin Laden Determined to Strike in US.'"

And, that's it.

ROBBIE Wow, so—

JON He tried to pressure the analysts to side with the White House. You know, and they said that Bush said that he's the one who ordered the August 6th PDB. But the CIA said it was ordered in-house. Now, we have to remember that the CIA is not blameless in 9/11.

ROBBIE Well, it seems like even Philip Zelikow himself. I mean, there's just so much weird legalese in the way that 9/11 Commission Report actually explained it. And it can be interpreted in so many different ways, but it's obviously still a lie. I mean, it was the opposite of how they're describing it. That President Bush didn't request it. The CIA was trying to—was sending—was trying to send him a message of how urgent it was because maybe they felt that he wasn't paying enough attention to it. I mean, so.

JON Now, there's another story going around. There was one that was broken this week. I think it was on FirstLook.org or the Intercept (Oh, god, yeah) about how Cheney saw these threats as possible disinformation, and in the article written by Kurt Eichenwald he mentions that there are neocons who are suggesting that all these threats about Al-Qaeda are disinformation meant to take away the focus from Saddam Hussein.

And I don't know how true that is. But can you imagine what kind of

environment that would create or mindset in some of the people within the administration—if they were charged with protecting us if they're being told by the top brass that this is disinformation or whatever. But the CIA apparently had to write a report saying this is not disinformation.

ROBBIE Well, it's fascinating because what does disinformation really mean? It means intentionally misleading information to give you some kind of misinformed picture to serve a specific purpose. So, why would the Bush administration—let's just assume that that's true, which I don't necessarily believe it is. But, if they thought it was all disinformation, just makes me think that—they were like paranoid to such an extent, I mean—and this is what makes it hard for me to believe is—they are sort of old Cold War lawyers. They're all from the 80s, a lot of these Bush administration people. And even back in the 80s, and I'm sure you know about this idea of the Team A and Team B group of people who were assigned in the Pentagon to examine terrorism, basically, around the world. And one of the teams came back to the Reagan administration saying that it was all Soviet communism that was behind all these different disparate allegedly unrelated terrorist incidents all around the world, and they were trying to link it together as this big communist Soviet conspiracy to basically destabilize the West.

And so, it's very odd to me that that would be their mindset. But in a way, I guess it makes a little bit of sense coming, that they came from that mindset—that they would think somehow that this is disinformation to distract us away from Iraq—or Saddam. I mean, do they think that Saddam was involved in getting bin Laden to go out there and spread—make it seem like he was going to attack the states?

It's bizarre. I don't really understand.

JON It is bizarre. But could you imagine on 9/11 being told by the media that the President was given warnings, but they considered it disinformation and ignored them? [Laughs]

ROBBIE I mean, I could—I was just going to say that would be the only way I can imagine if they had some extremely elaborate paranoid delusion—maybe they really did believe Saddam was working with bin Laden, but not for the reasons they've claimed, but maybe because they thought that it was all some big ruse to get us to—because Saddam was going to attack us or something. I mean, it just, even that just seems so absurd. It makes very

little sense.

JON It doesn't make any sense at all. In fact, Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice said before 9/11 that Saddam was contained, that he had no weapons of mass destruction, and so on. So. (Yeah) I don't know.

ROBBIE But any idea that they were obsessed, so obsessed with going into Iraq that they just ignored all the Al-Qaeda warnings—It works for a certain sort of understanding of the way the Bush administration operated. But it also just doesn't work when you try to mash it together with reality, and what we already know. I mean it's absurd, absolutely absurd.

JON Unless there was a purpose behind it like creating an environment where people disregard this information and therefore don't protect us as they should.

Now, the key thing to all of this, or one of the key things is we don't have access to these documents. I just want to repeat that.

We need to see—how can we possibly consider knowing the truth when we don't even have access to these documents, and this is another example of how compromised and corrupt the 9/11 Commission was.

ROBBIE Un-huh, I mean, yeah, and not just the 9/11 Commission but the Bush administration itself, I mean. (Exactly) Incredibly corrupt.

JON You know, what qualifies as suspicious behavior? Does any of this qualify? I think it does.

ROBBIE It all qualifies. And what makes me the most irritated is when—when we try to bring these specific points up to people, is the response of: "Well, of course, they were just trying to cover their ass—all administrations do that, you know. Of course, they don't want to be culpable for anything." I mean, that assumes that the worst that they did was just like drop the ball, you know? I mean, that they—

JON It assumes that they know what happened and they're okay with it. They have no idea what happened. They have no idea why they're trying to "cover their ass."

ROBBIE Exactly. But the assumption is always this very light accusation. You

know, even from some of the Bush's harshest critics. I mean. It almost has to be, because otherwise all of the—liberal—quote unquote liberal media would be would be quasi-Truther if they kept on what we're talking about right now and actually didn't come up with that automatic excuse of "well, yeah, they were just covering up, you know, the bureaucracy is just trying to protect itself." And that sort of mantra has held up over all these years and people still use it all the time. And I think people who say that or who think that should really take a closer look at some of the stuff Jon has been talking about, and the stuff that you've written about—the stuff that Phil Shenon has written about.

I mean, then another thing I think that people should also understand when it comes to a lot of this, with the type of reporting like Kurt Eichenwald did, as valuable and as incriminating as it is and it makes us want to take another look at how clearly the Bush administration had way more specific warnings than we were previously led to believe, that we don't really know what's in those PDBs. Like you said—maybe he was only, maybe he was given cherry picked access to PDBs by someone who had their own agenda on the inside. We simply don't know. And, unless we have access to them ourselves, we'll really never know.

But it's always helpful to go look at people like Kurt Eichenwald or Phil Shenon and check out their other work, you know.

JON And again, this didn't—the PDBs aren't in a vacuum. You know, again, this is just one topic. But, if you want to get into the topics of other warnings, I mean, it just becomes absurd.

ROBBIE Oh, I agree. I guess what I'm saying is—as long as these reporters aren't stenographers that are spreading—things like Iraq war propaganda, then I think chances are, you know, they're getting accurate information. I mean, Phil Shenon's book, most of it rings true to me from the other—and it's corroborated, as you said, by tons of other warnings from other intelligence agencies and other kinds of sources, so.

But, yeah, it is just really, it's just very endlessly frustrating doing this kind of research that we will never—or we just simply haven't seen these PDBs in full. Or, some of these more incriminating ones. And, I guess that's just my personal feeling on it. It's very, very frustrating.

JON We keep hitting brick walls. We can only research something so much.

But if we don't have access to the documents, if we don't have subpoena power, if we don't have the ability to call somebody under oath to testify with the idea that if they lie, they're gonna go to jail. We can only do so much, and all I did here was just point out one simple lie. You know, or I showed the compromise and corruption of the 9/11 Commission. I pointed out a lie. And that's—that's all I can do, really, without access and all that other stuff.

ROBBIE Yeah. And it just still blows my mind though that—organizations like The Intercept or, you know, a lot of these other really—lefty antiwar, anti-U.S. imperialism journalists out there still haven't even come to where you are, which is simply that you know that there is criminal culpability of some kind.

I mean, people need to be held accountable. And all of these journalists who have accepted that narrative that "Oh, they're all just covering for the bureaucracy" or yeah "Bush was—he ignored all these warnings, but he was just covering his ass." I mean, there in some ways, I'd say, you know, perpetuating a myth, a harmful myth (Absolutely they are), by omitting all this. And I'm not going to call them gatekeepers or whatever because I think a lot of them simply, they've looked at—the worst side of the "9/11 Truth Movement," and a lot of them just don't have either the courage or the time or the resources to really look into the real facts of this, and to really look at it all laid out and be like "oh my god, obviously, we were totally lied to and we should do another investigation."

JON Well, I was just talked to by someone who I won't mention who just took part in a panel recently and it was a bunch of progressives. He's a progressive. And one of the people in the audience started asking him all these crazy conspiracy theory questions about 9/11. And, you know, they didn't want to talk about it and I can't blame them for that—

ROBBIE Like what kind of questions.

JON I don't, I honestly don't know, but he was talking about, I think, holograms or something—something just way out there. And, when people hear this shit, they don't want to take part. And I understand that, but you know, some of this stuff is just so blatantly obvious and out there that they should know about it.

- ROBBIE Yeah, I mean, just as another example of what you're talking about is I—I had heard of the Iran/Contra CIA cocaine stuff for years. But I had heard of it in the form of like, sort of like black conspiracy theory culture like Louis Farrakhan and stuff like that so I didn't—I'd heard it even before I got into politics and I just probably wrote it off as "oh, that's probably just some crazy paranoid conspiracy theory stuff." And it took me a long time to actually eventually read Gary Webb's reporting on it and realize "oh, there actually is a lot of factual components to this idea, but it was sort of wrapped in this more—grand conspiracy theory that really actually diluted a lot of the truth of what this really meant. And I think that that's, I mean, that's clearly happening in the "9/11 Truth Movement."
- JON You saw what happened with Gary Webb and I, you know—did you see the movie?
- ROBBIE I did, yeah, it was rough. It was really good though. It was a really good movie.
- JON They killed the messenger—just exactly as the title describes. They went after him and—instead of going into the meat and potatoes of what he was talking about. Or, they tried to change the narrative or—just like they just did with Sy Hersh saying that he only had one source or something like that. Like that was the common theme. Did you see Jamie Kirchick wrote against Sy Hersh?
- ROBBIE Yes, I did, yeah, I wasn't surprised.
- JON He said that very same thing, that it's only based on one source. But Sy Hersh said in multiple interviews that it was based on multiple sources.
- ROBBIE And what does it even really matter. I mean it's like a lot of that can be corroborated from other sources as well. It's just. I mean plenty of reporting is done based on one source as long as it's a really credible source and a lot of the time. I mean this is just one example. We interviewed a guy named Ken Silverstein on Media Roots radio who got us, who a source told him, that Eli Lake had basically—that's a reporter for Bloomberg, one of these Neocon propagandists—that he had basically been wining and dining, wined and dined by a Georgian lobbyist firm. And then afterwards wrote positive stories about Georgia. A source told him that. But pointed him towards public records that he

found that basically proved it all.

So, sometimes you really only need one source. I mean, if as long as you can corroborate it and—when I say a source I mean like a person as a source because then you could find other actual sources—public records, other reporting that's already been done can be considered another form of a source. So, yeah, it's an irrelevant criticism to say that oh, he only had one source or, you know, whatever. (Right) You know, even if it were true.

So, it's dumb—and there's so many layers to the Seymour Hersh thing. You know, the fact that, yeah, that he's voted for Obama twice in a row and that he refuses to answer this fundamental question of why wasn't bin Laden, why didn't they attempt to capture him. I mean, I don't know?

You know, I don't know if I believe all of Seymour Hersh's story. I don't think he is—

JON I think he did say that was a good question.

ROBBIE Yeah. In the Real News network thing? (yeah) Okay, maybe I need to watch the whole thing, because when I saw Paul ask it, he said something like: "Well, you're putting the cart before the horse. Like, let's talk about that latest." Maybe they mentioned it again or something.

JON Well, regardless. So, thank you for hosting the show. What are you working on right now?

ROBBIE Well, I'm working on, I'm finishing up my movie that's been in the works for like almost a year. And that's going to be called "A Very Heavy Agenda." And it's premiering at the 9/11 Truth Film Festival in September, out here in Oakland. And it's basically just a movie about the Neocons, and how they were able to influence the Bush administration and get into the Bush administration. And then also how they had to sort of go into hiding because—their policies had been shamed, and then they came back out of hiding to re-brand themselves to basically create a new situation where Russia is now our adversary again.

And it's kind of—a lot of people think that the Neocon story has already been told before, but I guess the movie serves as more of a way to show the more obscure people who were involved in it. You know, arguably

some of the most influential people like Robert Kagan who aren't really talked about very often.

So, I think people—who are into 9/11 Truth stuff and just into, you know, the same politics we are, will probably get a lot out of it, so.

JON Great. Awesome. Aren't you still working on the anthrax story?

ROBBIE Off and on. I mean—I try to digest anything I can when anything new comes out. But, yeah, I mean, Abby and I are planning to do more on the anthrax story. I don't want to announce anything yet on her end, but we —there are some things in the works with her after *Breaking the Set* that are going to be very exciting, and I'm hoping that we could sort of re-approach that together in a more like a long-form investigative piece. And that's all I'll say about it for now.

JON Awesome. Excellent. Well, Sir, thank you very much for guest hosting today. It's always a pleasure to talk to you. You bring a lot to the table, a lot of sense to the table.

ROBBIE Well, same to you Jon. You are an amazing researcher and, yeah, I'd recommend everybody check out the articles you've done. All the different—you've done a really good article, too, which just lays out all the different lies and contradictions. What was the title of that article?

JON "The Facts Speak for Themselves?" (Yeah)

Yeah, I wrote that—I've written several articles. I recommend people read my book or watch *9/11 Press for Truth* or *In Their Own Words: The Untold Stories of the 9/11 Families*.

ROBBIE Your book is called?

JON *9/11 Truther: The Fight for Peace, Justice, and Accountability*.

ROBBIE Everybody check that out and check out the rest of the episodes of this show that you're listening to right now.

JON Absolutely. And I just want to say that it has been very difficult for me to get guests for this show—people that I consider to be credible or bring something to the table. So, I don't know how many more shows I'm

going to be doing. I'm going to try. But we'll see what happens.

ROBBIE Yeah. And you've done some great episodes so far, had some really great guests on, some of them who are—not guests normally willing to go on —quote unquote "9/11 Truth" related—broadcast, so I commend you for being able to get people like Thomas Drake and some of those people. And even Phil Shenon himself, which was awesome. I mean, I didn't end up agreeing with some of the things that he said, but I mean it was still a very enlightening conversation. And the Jonathan Kay thing, too, I mean, that was great being able to get him to come on your show.

JON Yeah, it was all right. I just wanted to show people that we were in the right. That's the only reason I had him on.

ROBBIE Yeah. And like, we talked about this in private a lot after that happened, but I mean that was a, I think that's what debunking is going to be like in the future. That's what we're up against is people who basically concede a lot of these points. Acting like "oh, yeah, of course, they're covering their ass; of course, Saudi Arabia is in those 28 pages; of course, this and that..." It's like where were you 10 years ago (Laughs) when we were asking all these questions, you know. They're just, they're adapting, you know.

JON You were doing hit pieces is what you were doing.

ROBBIE Exactly. They're adapting like a mutation. It's like evolution and they know sort of how to walk the walk, and what the right things to say are to seem on the level with intelligent people now.

So, yeah, we got—that's what we're up against—pointing out to those people—well look, where were you 10 years ago? Why do you belong to a think tank with Michael Ledeen—one of the most notorious insane Neoconservatives on the planet? I mean—what's up with that? You know?

JON James Woolsey.

ROBBIE Yeah, I mean, it's insane. I mean, James Woolsey was responsible for so much of the propaganda connecting Iraq to 9/11. I mean, if you want to talk about a propagandist outside the administration, I mean, he's a Democrat, too. And he's one of the most responsible for putting out that

kind of information. So, it's crazy, but yeah, you did a great job so far, and I hope you continue to get guests like that even if they're people who —make me furious. It's good to have those people on to.

JON Yep. Well, thank you very much, Robbie.

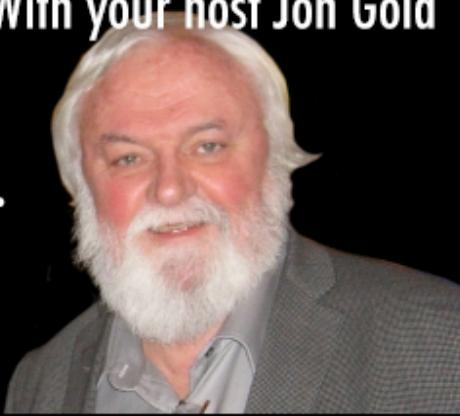
ROBBIE Have a good one, Jon.

JON All right, you too.

We were **LIED** to about 9/11

With your host Jon Gold

This week
Jon talks to...



The
Soapbox
People's Network

Peter Phillips

Episode 29 – Peter Phillips – June 15, 2015

Jon Gold (JON)

Peter Phillips (PETER)

JON Hi, everyone, and welcome to my show called, "We Were Lied to About 9/11." I am your host Jon Gold and this show is part of the Soapbox People's Network. This week we will, again, address the issue of the corporate news and how it affects us, as well as other issues.

Hi, this is Jon and I'm here with Peter Phillips. Hi, Peter, how are you doing today?

PETER Hey, Jon, hey, thanks for having me on here.

JON Thank you very much for taking the time today to be on.

All right. So, I'm going to read your bio for everybody.

Peter Phillips is a professor of political sociology at Sonoma State University and President of Media Freedom Foundation Project Censored. He was Director of *Project Censored* from 1997 to 2010. Phillips holds a Ph.D. from University of California Davis. His dissertation was on the sociology of the San Francisco Bohemian Club. His recent research is

focused on the transnational capitalist class or TCC and U.S.-NATO empire's move to 21st century fascism.

Before we get started, I just want to say that I had Mickey Huff on for Episode 2 to discuss how the corporate news has treated advocacy for 9/11 justice, and 27 episodes later, I still hate the corporate news. (Laughter) Bob McIlvaine and I have breakfast every week, and we talk about different things and we always end up saying—if the corporate news did its job, etc. and so on. So, this is still a major problem in this country and it gets worse all the time.

And I also want to thank Mickey Huff for helping to arrange this interview.

So, are you ready to get started?

PETER Yeah, sure, that's great.

JON All, righty. What was the day of 9/11 like for you?

PETER Well, we didn't have a television. We lived out on a ranch near Sonoma State here, and so, we went over to a neighbor's just to see what was happening, because my wife got a call from a friend of hers in New York.

And, so it was firsthand. Terrible things happening. We went over and saw what was happening on television and the collapse. And then I went to the university that day, but we all were basically over at the Commons looking at the big screen TV in terms of coverage, somewhat in shock like, oh my God, what's going on.

And, then the university closed. It said that the President decided that because of the national tragedy we're going to close the university, so we went home.

I followed it fairly closely—I think the first, that night or the next day, Michael Parenti was on KPFA and he was using the terminologies of—blowback and the chickens come home to roost kind of approach. And I started thinking about that in that context. But it was a few months before we really started to get information that contradicted the stories that corporate media was saying.

JON It's interesting that you say that. I was just talking to Mickey today about—it was different on 9/11 for people who have been following the exploits of our Government for years. (Mm-hmm) And—Dr. Parenti suggesting blowback and I would have never thought of that back then. It wasn't until years later that I came to different, or had a different, viewpoint. Anyway, so what was the first—

PETER Even that viewpoint was—that terrorists, supposed terrorists would have a reason for wanting to attack us. And that was always suspicious. You know, and Bush said: "Well, they hate our freedoms." And, that sort of thing. That, to me, just didn't make sense. And—

JON Right. What I would generally say is: "Well, they took away all our freedoms, so the terrorists have nothing to hate us for anymore."

PETER Right, something like that. Yeah, that's certainly been a result of that day. But, it didn't take long for some suspicion of how that happened or was facilitated beyond Osama bin Laden. That's the way they were laying it out to enter my mind and many people around me.

JON So, what was the first thing that you questioned about 9/11?

PETER I think that Osama bin Laden was behind it was one of the first things. He was denying it. I knew about planned invasions of Afghanistan, which we have seen earlier. And, then we started to really take a look at some of the problems—the failure of the airplanes to be intercepted; failure of the U.S. Air Force that day; and, in particular, and then the stock options information came out. That came out pretty quickly, and how that was kind of covered up and just ignored. And then we heard about ISI and how money had gone to—to support activities here.

So, there was a lot of different things in that year that came out—the jet scrambling; the Carlyle Group; and connection to Bush; the planned invasion of Afghanistan; the insider stock tradings; the U.S. Government; the pre-warnings that a number of countries had given to us that something was pending.

So, as *Project Censored* we were seeing these stories from a variety of independent sources, and we're going: "Oh my God, you know, what are we going to do here? In terms of our annual listing of stories?" Which was we always have the top 25 most important news stories not covered by the

corporate media. And there was a lot of pressure, even here at our university, to avoid trying to say conspiracies or things of that nature.

So, we decided—I mean, there were so many stories that we thought were legitimate stories that we just went ahead and put a chapter in our book on 9/11 that listed all of these things, and cited the sources for them as an overall statement about 9/11. And that's how we dealt with that. Because, if we'd really gone through our normal process, most of the stories that year would have been 9/11-related it would seem like.

So, it was kind of a question, and a lot of us, I think, were very concerned that the U.S. certainly ignored the warnings, and then we started to recognize the possibilities that there was some facilitation that occurred inside the U.S. military industrial complex, which could be private companies as well as public.

So that—with the information then the suppression of that. Any questions that questioned 9/11 were overtly challenged, and the corporate media wouldn't even go there. They wouldn't even point out anything. Most of these have been covered. The stock options stuff was covered, but then there's no follow up. So we thought that was pretty interesting. And so we had several students working on those stories and then published in our *Censored 2003* book, which was a year later. It actually came out in September of 2002. So, a year later we had put together quite a significant amount of information (Right) on 9/11. The beginnings of that and the questioning of the Government's facts on it.

JON And the stories that you mentioned, it's not like they were being reported on by conspiracy theory websites. These were—were considered corporate news, mainstream media news outlets. And they weren't getting the coverage, you're right, they were suppressing the information. Journalists, for a number of reasons, were not questioning things like they should have been doing. (Mm-hmm) And we found later—Like—I'm sure you're familiar with Robert Scheer—he wrote an article for the *L.A. Times* called "What We Don't Know About 9/11 Hurts Us," and not long after that he was let go from the *LA Times* (Right). And we saw a number of instances where journalists would—just shy away from it. And I've heard from Abby that journalists just won't touch it.

PETER There seems to be, yeah, there's kind of a strong resistance inside the corporate media to cover anything that would be looked at suspiciously as

implying some sort of a conspiracy. (Yeah) And that gets doubly manifested on the left, particularly, because some of the early engagers in 9/11 questioning were extreme right wingers. (Were—) And it became an issue on both the left and the right, and a number of people, paleo conservatives or even Ruppert, were not left-leaning progressives. (Right) And that raised the hackles on people like Norman Solomon, and some of the other liberal left liberals in the New York City environment, media environment. And they, of course, for years had been hassled by right wing 9/11 folks for being what they called gatekeepers and be called names. (Right)

So, they've gotten very tough skins around that, and they won't even go anywhere near it. And it's caused some, I think, blind-sightedness on not being able to look at very scientific and legitimate things, like the stuff Richard Gage is engaged in and, of course, Stephen Jones when he initially came out with his questioning on the collapse of Building 7.

JON Well, I think the buildings have gotten more attention than they should have for a number of reasons. But I wholeheartedly support the questions of how those buildings came down. I know many family members still have questions about how those buildings came down. But, I think, there has been a little bit of overemphasis on those buildings. (Well, I—yeah) We should have been focusing on simpler things, I think. My belief is that you shouldn't have to be a scientist or an architect or an engineer to understand the need for 911 justice, for truth, accountability, and justice. So, that's the route that I've taken.

PETER Certainly, 9/11 was used to justify a permanent war, permanent war terrorism. And that was, of course, a manifestation and extension of what the neoconservatives really wanted, and has continued to this day to expand global war and chaos everywhere.

So, that's the biggest problem and the biggest criticism at this point, which is why I've moved in the direction of researching—transnational corporate class and power.

JON Well, what I said earlier about how the media suppresses information while covering 9/11 information, they occasionally do cover a story, but they don't give it the attention that Britney Spears gets. Or, Shaquille O'Neal who supposedly just posted something on his Website about 9/11 that was absolutely ridiculous. I don't know if it was him or not, but it got so much media attention that Shaquille O'Neal is a 9/11 Truther. And, they'll cover

Saudi Arabia to an extent, but all the other stuff they just ignore. Especially the families, like the September Eleventh Advocates who have written letter after letter, press release after press release over the years, and have been almost completely ignored.

And, in fact, during the time of the 9/11 Commission the 9/11 Family Steering Committee released press release after press release calling into question different aspects of the 9/11 Commission, during the time of the 9/11 Commission. If any of those statements had gotten the attention they deserve, this might be a different world today. But, anyway.

PETER You're completely correct in that regard. I mean, corporate media today, and for decades now, is nothing more than a propaganda machine for the State Department, the Pentagon, and American capitalism at the highest levels.

JON It's so funny that you say that because one of the very first quotes that I remember from you is, I think you said something to the effect that if you rely on the television for your news, then you don't have a damn idea of what's going on, or something to that effect.

PETER Yeah, it's a Neil Postman thing—best entertained, least informed.

JON Well, it's funny because at the time you had said that I was still—maybe the TV tells the truth, maybe it doesn't. But, I've learned over the years that TV is horrible and you shouldn't watch it. But, anyway.

PETER Right. I mean, I didn't have a TV for 25 years and we do have cable and my wife likes to watch it, and I'll watch movies and stuff, but I don't watch television news, per se.

JON Oh, television shows I'll watch, but I won't watch it on a TV. I don't have a TV except for video games and DVDs to play. (Yeah)

So, when *Project Censored* did address the 9/11 issue—and we're skipping over a question, but we'll get back to that one—what did some of *Project Censored* supporters do when you decided to cover 9/11?

PETER Well, there were some raised eyebrows, but nobody did anything really seriously. When our 2003 book came out, were all these factual stories about 9/11, there wasn't any meta-analysis saying that—these are things that we really need to figure out. I mean, what's going on? If you read them

all together, collectively, you have to come to some understanding that hey, maybe there's more behind this than what's being presented. And, that, I think, was understood and a number of people, our national judges and that, were pretty clear. They go: "Yeah, this is concerning." We didn't get any pushback, formal pushback, even here at the University until we sponsored Steven Jones to come and speak here, which would have been in 2004-5, right in there.

And he came and gave a full scientific presentation on Building 7, and it was very well done. We invited the science community here at the university to attend and only one did. But the head of the physics department got a hold of another professor who was very concerned about us, about *Project Censored* here and 9/11. And they pushed the local newspaper to criticize Steven Jones. The front-page headline was: "Discredited Scholar Speaks at Sonoma State." And the chair of the physics department said that his information was incorrect. She didn't even attend. I mean she didn't even bother to come and hear his presentation.

So, that was a little raw. But going into that we had invited Steven Jones, and Norman Solomon was on our board at the time, our national judges board, and he called me up and he goes: "You're going to have Steven Jones come and speak." This was released with our annual stories. And I said: "Yeah, I think he's going to give a presentation." And he says: "Well, I don't think you should have him." I go: "Well, we've already invited him. He's going to come. It looks pretty scientific and factual." He said: "Well, at least make it a debate." And I said: "Norman, I can't do that. I mean, it's two weeks from the event. I can't call him up now and say: "Oh, you've got to make this a debate. We're not going to let you come and present." And then so he demanded the email addresses for all our judges, our national judges—I think there was like 18 or 20 at the time. And I sent them to him, and he sent an email out saying he was resigning from the Project Censored national judges, and encouraged everyone else to do it. Well, one other Judge did—Robert Jensen—and everybody else stayed, which was a statement to us that there are certainly people that can look at this objectively and say well, wait a minute—we have to look at the facts, as difficult as they may be or as scary as they may be. (Exactly) And that's about the time we started calling these threshold concepts. In other words, there's things that are so scary that you don't want to go into that dark closet, and open the door and cross the threshold.

So, from that—that was certainly an interesting factor. I mean, Norman, three years later decided he was going to run for Congress in our district here, and he knew that he really ticked me off when he did that resignation. He invited me to lunch and we got together and he told me he's going to run for Congress. And he said that in regard to the 9/11 issue, he would be happy to encourage further investigation. Because, apparently, whenever he went and talked, there were 9/11 people in his face. I think he was getting kind of tired of it. (Right) But understand, he also had led a "not let's talk about this" effort on KPFA Pacifica to discourage coverage of 9/11 or anything that would imply that it wasn't the way that the 9/11 Commission reported it.

So, that was too bad and we—I didn't criticize Norman when he ran for Congress, but I didn't get behind him either. So, it was kind of, that's just what happened.

JON Well, this is a very scary issue to confront, I think, for a lot of people. It is for me, certainly. You know, they say the Government is supposed to fear the people, and not the other way around. And—but I think as a people we need to address it regardless of how scary it is, because if we don't address it—look at the direction this country is going (Right) since that day.

PETER I think it was the Cynthia McKinney hearings. I was in Washington and I helped organize the press conference that day at the National Press Club and the place was packed. There just wasn't any corporate media there. David Ray Griffin spoke and there were a number of other people. But, there was media from all over the world, but nothing, nobody from corporate media came (No, no), which was telling in itself, because they just can't. They won't. They're jobs—

JON I believe the coverage—that the corporate news coverage that the 9/11 Congressional briefing got, which is what you're talking about (Mm-hmm), I think it came from the Weekly Standard in a attack form and then was put on CBS News. If memory serves, I think that's what happened. That was the only coverage it got essentially. Here comes the conspiracy—the march of the conspiracy theorists (Right, right, right). Something to that effect. (Yeah)

PETER There's a maturation that kind of comes with this. I mean, once you know all these stories and there's further investigation, and we know about the hijackers, and there's some good movies out. I think—I think several that I

think are really really solid, but then you kind of reach a point well, okay, we've covered all this. This is where we are. Now where are we going? And, So, I think—five years, six years into it I'm starting to think well, now we're in major wars. We have a U.S.-NATO global empire maturing. What's this all about? Where are we going in the future here? And, so even if we convicted Cheney of being involved, not saying that he was in fact, but he probably had some awareness of what was going down, or something like that, it wouldn't change where we are today in terms of global empire.

So, I think our energies just simply focusing on 9/11 as if it is going to save us, if we somehow could expose what really happened, that we can just get everybody to believe it, is not valid strategy. I'm perfectly happy to have everybody investigated as deeply as possible and continue to do research and expand it, but I think we need to move, also be thinking about a strategy of where we are today. What 9/11 has brought us and the continuation of false flag events and the empire building that we now are faced here.

JON What I try to tell Progressive's—and I'm talking about people like Amy Goodman or Glenn Greenwald or Chris Hedges or any of those people that generally don't talk about 9/11 (Right). They talk about everything else under the sun, but they won't talk about the lies of 9/11, and all I'm trying to get them to do is to acknowledge the fact that we were lied to about 9/11. To look at this post-9/11 world through that lens. (Right) And accept—when the corporate news doesn't do its job, it's up to those with a voice to inform the public about what's going on. And there are many people—with a voice that just aren't addressing the issue. And I have covered so many different topics over the years—Israel and Gaza; Russia and Ukraine; the wiretapping and the torture; and everything that came about from 9/11—I've been covering all of that. But I've also been covering the fact that we were lied to about that day, and I can't honestly think of a faster way to end what's considered to be the post-9/11 world than by proclaiming that we were lied to about that day, and thereby taking away the justification for all of it. If we could do that as a country, I think that would be a powerful statement to the world and to this country but—I don't know that that's going to happen.

PETER I think half the people already accept that. They certainly think that they weren't told the whole truth—literally, half the people in the country accept that.

- JON Well, most polls over the years have shown that a majority of the people question what we were told about 9/11 (Yes). It's a question of whether or not they're going to do something about it.
- PETER Well, 9/11 of course is a big media cover up. But so is election fraud. I mean, the fact that George W. Bush never won a U.S. election for President (Right) and that both elections were fraudulent, no corporate media wants to cover that story either. And there's plenty of evidence to show that there was voter manipulation, and not only cheating in terms of who could vote. But—election fraud in the sense of voting machines being manipulated.
- JON Well, that brings me to a good question. What are some of the biggest stories the corporate news has essentially ignored over the years
- PETER My general answer to that is class and power, and the degree to which the power elite dominate the country, dominate the world today in a much broader sense. That's the macro. Now, inside that there is certainly failure to cover 9/11, failure to cover the Kennedy assassination adequately, or various other things that are labeled conspiracies, which was the CIA, which they did after the Kennedy administration, which was to put that out as a conspiracy theory. So, you call them that, then they question us. And the negation of that, that term has come to—particularly in terms of corporate media and how they use it—so, anybody they don't like, they'll call them a conspiracy theorist, and dismiss them and then point out the silliest aspect of some theory and then try to relate that to that person. That's clearly a problem. Election fraud was a big problem. The war on terrorism is another big problem. Certainly, the idea that we've been lied to about Osama bin Laden forever, and the refusal to identify what we're saying are the terrorists—ISIS, al-Qaeda, and our involvement, U.S. involvement, and other agency involvements in terms of making those groups happen initially.
- JON Right, that's a big one.
- PETER Those are big lies, very big lies. Environmental destruction is a huge lie or lack of coverage in terms of blaming what's really going on and who's involved. And, so—we're really only talking about six or seven thousand people who are part of the one thousandth of one percent that control 100 trillion dollars worth of wealth. (Right) Those people have that kind of control over—literally half the wealth of the world—and there's only a few thousand of them. (No, I know) We need to identify who they are and focus

on making them change. And exposing them and pulling their covers back on these power elites in the world. That I think is an agenda that really—and from that 9/11 emerges, voter fraud emerges, environmental action emerges, and we can have all kinds of adjustments to the wrongs that we've seen.

JON I think this goes back to what Mario Savio was saying about putting our bodies in the gears of the machine (Yeah), like we see in so many other countries. And—it almost happened with Occupy and then it faltered. But for a number of reasons.

PETER It didn't falter. But it didn't falter. Social movements can emerge, that can explode, they can be repressed, but they leave a consciousness that has changed.

JON Right. Oh absolutely. My goodness, the one thing that I think the "9/11 Truth Movement" or advocates for 9/11 Justice have done over the years, has gotten people to question what they're being told by their Government. I think that's a success of ours. I think some people take it to the extreme and say that everything is a conspiracy. But I do think that we have successfully gotten people to question what they're being told (Right) at the very least.

PETER And the 99 versus the one percent. (Right, exactly) It doesn't even matter. I mean, if you take the one percent of 7-8 billion people—that's a huge number. To be in that number, you only have to have like 700,000 dollars worth of wealth. (Wow) It's the difference between somebody with 700 thousand dollars worth of wealth, and someone who's controlling 100 billion. (Right, exactly) That is the most immense. So, if you own a home and it's worth 700,000 thousand, that difference between you and somebody who's making minimum wage isn't that different massively. It may be in terms of lifestyle than it is between the power that the multi-billionaires have. (Right) That being that one thousandth of one percent of those 6,000. That's who's controlling the world. That's where—and they're the ones making the decisions about capital issues—how the hundreds of trillion dollars is being invested and where it's spent. And that's who NATO and the U.S. military empire is protecting is that capital. And they will do literally anything, include having false flag activities like 9/11 to create permanent war that uses up capital and increases wealth even more more globally and concentrates it even more. That's what war does.

- JON Yep, and War is a Racket. I saw the other day there was a headline that Israel said their war with Gaza is a moral war, and I was reminded of George Carlin's take on oxymorons and civil wars. (Yeah) You know, how can you have a civil war. But, it's ridiculous, in terms of—
- PETER It is ridiculous, and the U.S., Obama having drones that can kill people anywhere in the world and literally (including Americans) and people is a loss of moral legitimacy. So, there's the crisis of humanitarian—humanitarian inequality—human inequality as a humanitarian crisis of the half of the world living on three dollars a day—barely getting by, 30-40,000 a day dying from starvation with easily curable diseases. That crisis is—a hundred 9/11's every day. (Yep) And continues to grow and expand. And unless we address that, it will cause massive chaos. Ultimately, environmental destruction and the one percent won't have anywhere to live either.
- JON Exactly. They don't care. It's like an addiction. Dr. Parenti described it as being the worst addiction in this country. It's not drugs; it's wealth.
- PETER It is pathological. Achieving great wealth and wanting to have great power is a sickness that can only be countered by systems of democracy and due process. (Accountability) And accountability, yeah.
- JON You know, we see all the time, the banks were just fined, I think, five billion dollars, which is a drop in the bucket for them. But, you know, there's the two-tiered justice system...
- PETER But nobody goes to jail.
- JON Yeah, nobody goes to jail. And, but, we go to jail. We go to jail left and right. (Right) We have the largest prison industrial complex in the world (Right). I think. (Correct)
- Could you please give us a brief history of how our corporate news got to where it is today?
- PETER Well—newspapers and media inside of capitalism—this is kind of like a McChesney history lesson—were, before the Civil War, there were massive numbers and mostly not profit-making, mostly supported by community groups and political parties and various organizations and churches and all kinds of things. And any given city could have 20-30 daily newspapers.

After commercialization, after media became—particularly newspapers to start with and then of course radio and television eventually—became profit-making, where they were selling advertising in support of capital to people to go buy things, the support of media became advertising based.

And when that happens, then you're in service to people who are paying for the advertising, which would be the capitalist class (Right, exactly) that privatizes newspapers, and then newspapers, of course, can be owned by people who have political agendas. And one of the biggest political agendas is protecting our capitalism.

But—a hundred years ago, or certainly for the Spanish-American War, our corporate media was pushing and needing the capital needed to have places to grow. And so declaring war against one of the weaker imperial countries in Europe, Spain, and then taking over their territories—Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines—was one way for the U.S. to start to expand our own empire and our own colonial capability. And we, of course, have declared a long time ago that American continents were U.S.-led and that we didn't want interference from Europe.

So, the idea of the Monroe Doctrine, Manifest Destiny, all the U.S. being the exceptional country, we wanted to control North and South America. That was our areas of influence and growth. We, of course, controlled and expanded across the American continent and committed genocide in the process. And the newspapers were cheering that on. (Right) But these papers—if you had five newspapers in any given city, which was pretty typical 100 years ago, and today you have one or less, or you may have one large regional paper... So, the media has consolidated massively. So, when Ben Bagdikian first wrote his book *Media Monopoly* back in the 80s, he said there's 50 major media corporations in the United States.

And we were all like: "Oh my God, that's really not that many and they could all fit in a cocktail room"—

JON Right, and today there are five or six.

PETER Five or six, exactly. So, that concentration of media has made this an even bigger problem.

And then, of course, Chomsky and Herman came up with their propaganda model of corporate media ideas, which is about 23 years old now, and they were accurate, it was true. I mean, that's what it was about. It was about supporting capitalism and they wouldn't run stories that offended advertisers and they tended not to run stories that undermines corporate power and influence of the Government.

And that today, however, has even reflected to a certain extent an independent media. So, a lot of independent media is afraid to run stories the corporate media criticizes or won't run—for they will be identified as lacking the values of journalism, objectivity, or promoting conspiracy theory. (Right)

You know, in the mid- to last decade where we looked at all the corporate media and how they'd covered 9/11 issues, and the very objective ones, and we looked at independent media how they covered it. And—whether it was Building 7 or the stock options or the—it was very intermittent. Some did, some didn't. Never openly challenged, openly challenged.

JON There was a time when the corporate news as a whole, I would say 90 percent of them, were just in attack-mode (yes) or anybody who questions 9/11. And they're still doing that today as we just saw with Shaquille O'Neal. If you're anybody with a voice and you dare to question 9/11, they will come after you like you wouldn't believe. And, as a result, other people with a voice are afraid to speak out (Yeah, yeah). I don't know [sighs], I've given up my whole life for this and, I think, that if I can do it—a Joe Schmoe schlub—can speak out and continue to speak out, then the least they could do is—speak out.

And I've said before that if celebrities want to talk about 9/11, they should get together as a group, like 20 or 30 of them, and just make a simple statement that—we support the families call for a real investigation and walk away from the podium, and don't put forward any theories, because individually we're very—or, they're very easy to deal with, but as a group, it would be a lot harder. So, I think—that would have been wonderful if they had done that, but they never did. [Laughs]

PETER Oh, I started showing *Zero*—that 9/11 movie that came out 2008 in class every semester. And, as I found, the students became more willing to look at 9/11 as they were—10 years old when it happened or even today—five years old when it happened. That group of students are more willing to

really consider it, and look at it historically than people our age (Right) that are stuck in the fear of addressing that or being labeled in some way.

JON One of the things that I've focused on is trying to contact teachers to see—what they're teaching kids in their syllabuses about 9/11. They really, they don't teach them much. I've talked to students.

PETER They don't teach them much at all.

JON They teach them about the day, who is alleged to have done it, and that's about it. They don't talk about the 9/11 Commission, and how ridiculous that was and all that other stuff.

PETER Most of them don't talk about it at all. (Right, exactly) Or, they'll just say: "Oh, yeah, this happened, it was terrible." And, which led me to put together a course called "The Sociology of Conspiracies" two years ago. And we've offered it twice now here at Sonoma State and it's in our catalogue. (Right) And this course, it's Sociology 371—371 is the federal code for conspiracies by the way—occasionally, my students figure that out.

It's a course that looks at the broader aspects—of course, Lance deHaven-Smith's work on conspiracy theory in America, and state crimes against democracy, his work there. And we, of course, have Peter Dale Scott's work on *The American Deep State* and then Kathryn Olmstead from UC Davis, her work on conspiracy theories in American democracy, and she goes back all the way to WWI and up through 9/11. And, well, you start to see that these conspiracies of various sorts—assassinations, stock market manipulations, bank fraud—happen all the time. (Yep) And so, I have my students read Mark Lane's book *My Last Word* on the murder of John Kennedy. They read William Pepper, his book *An Act of State: The execution of Martin Luther King*. We cover a little bit on Robert Kennedy and Graeme MacQueen's book on anthrax, which has a lot on 9/11.

JON I have the course description right here. It says: "A critical analysis of conspiracies in society using power elite and state crimes against society theories applied to modern historical events with cultural, social, psychological, public propaganda, and power perspectives. Topics include political assassinations, election fraud, threats of terrorism, 9/11, and permanent war."

PETER That's it. And we're getting 95 percent positive feedback.

JON That's great.

PETER We're—we're maxing the scales. These students are really saying, this is a really important course, really valuable. I learned more than anything else in college—you know, kind of thing. (Right, absolutely)

Because if you look at these spread out, and you look at the pattern, the sociology of conspiracies, the patterns that are evident, then it makes more sense to understand what Peter Dale Scott is talking about when he talks about the deep state (Right). There are elements inside Governments and private bureaucracy businesses that want to repress democracy and expand their power and profits. And do so illegally. And that's the definition of a conspiracy.

JON Right, and some people refer to it as a state within a state, or the national security state, which is, I think, Michael Parenti's term for it right. (Right)

Anyway, what are—well, is there anything else you want to say about your course?

PETER Well, just that not only the students really like it. I have had zero negativity from other faculty or anywhere else for that matter, and I've not been quiet about it. I have put it out on lists. I've written about it. I say this is the course that we offer, it's in the catalog. I think it's an important course and nobody said anything yet. [Laughter] I'm waiting—waiting for the hammer to fall or something, but no, I mean, it's not like—and I don't think we could have done it right after 9/11.

JON Right. Well, yeah—I kind of wish—

PETER I kind of wish as well. And it's not like it's all about 9/11, because it's not. It's all about conspiracies. And then with, you know, and I used David Ray Griffin's book last semester, but I didn't do it this time. I used Graeme MacQueen's book on anthrax which he lays out a very clear case that this was Government anthrax that was spread around and we were lied to about.

JON Yeah, there was this story that broke in the last couple of months about one of the investigators in the anthrax investigation suing the FBI for oh, I don't remember, like suppressing evidence (Yeah) which showed to the contrary

that it wasn't Bruce Ivins and so forth (Right). So that issue is not resolved by a long shot. (No)

Now, what are some of the variables with regard to how our corporate news outlets decide to run a story or not? Do you know?

PETER Well, there's internal self-censorship that reporters just know that they shouldn't go in certain areas. But newsrooms will pick stories and Fox News, of course, we know internally now, they'll pick stories and tell reporters how to cover them. (Right)

But it's not like reporters are free to go out and pick up anything that they want to. You know, the idea of an investigative reporter out there running a beat, and trying to get something on the mayor doesn't really happen anymore. They're assigned. And so, it's editors that are assigning these stories and most of the—there isn't that much investigative reporting left. So, there's either stories coming out over the wire—and most of the newspapers in the country are just running a wire service. So, they're Associated Press, a New York Times, Washington Post Wire Services and they're just literally running these things verbatim. So, they can be covered—they're all selected by editors, which is actually just—there are 1700 dailies in the country, so it's not very—it's a few thousand people. (Right)

Now, certain stories like the one, like when the ACLU came out with the evidence and the autopsy reports on civilians who died in U.S. custody in Afghanistan and Iraq in the first three years of the war, and they reported that these were people who were in U.S. military prisons and they had died. And the autopsy reports showed, from U.S. doctors, that the cause of death was homicide. They were murdered, or the conditions of their bodies were so severe they said they died from heart failure, but they died when they were being tortured to death.

And, we had something like 40, 50 autopsies that indicated this. ACLU puts out a press release on this. This is what? 2006, I think, right in there. And AP picks it up. It goes out to all the dailies in the country. And less than 12 ran it.

JON That's horrible.

Well I have an example of that. On September 11, 2006, 9/11 Family Members Christina Kmirek, Donna Marsh O'Connor, and Michelle Little

got together with the makers of the film *9/11 Press for Truth*, Kyle Hence and Paul Thompson, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. to call for a new investigation. And ONE news outlet in the entire country covered that and they were right across the hall from, I think, Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton who were giving their own press conference. (Right, right). You know, obviously, they got a lot of coverage.

But, you know, there are other instances like that—the Jersey Girls calling for a new investigation in February of 2008. Raw Story was the only news outlet to cover that in the entire country. [Laughs]

PETER That raises too many important questions.

JON Right. Well, there are so many examples of that with regard to 9/11. It's not even funny.

PETER You're right. I mean, it's absurd. And, to have any idea, people will say: "Well, what isn't true about 9/11?" I'll say: "Well, you got five hours you can listen?" (Exactly) It's massive. I mean, You can do some highlights, but

—
JON What I generally try to do is just plant good seeds (Right) in people's minds so that they—they start questioning things on their own. And I try to point them in a good direction and that's all we can do. Unless we have that five hours, (Mm-hmm), you know.

Do you remember back in the 70s when Dr. Martin Luther King was on, I think it was The Mike Douglas Show, and he had the chance to talk about—his antiwar stance and so on and so forth, for an extended period of time. You would not see that today. You wouldn't see Cindy Sheehan on the television for the national news for half an hour unedited being able to speak her mind.

PETER Or Noam Chomsky, for that matter (Exactly). And Noam hasn't done anything on 9/11 and criticized it a bit, but you know, people have been really kind of calling him a gatekeeper and stuff like that, but he's—I can't go there.

I had a fight with Webster Tarpley about that once because he was criticizing Noam Chomsky. I said: "Look, he's covered so much, he's done so much a major intellectual in the world. If he doesn't want to do 9/11,

leave him alone." And, I think, that part of his response is that he does get heckled when he publicly speaks—or did for a long time. I don't think it's going on as much now from various sources on 9/11, and after a while, you just get defensive. I'm not talking about that. (Right) So, it might be interesting to talk to him about it someday, but—

JON Well, Cindy Sheehan had the same experience where she would go and speak at events and there would be quote "9/11 Truthers" in the event and they would almost harass her to the point where she started to hate 9/11 Truthers. And, it's funny that you mention Webster Tarpley because back in 2007, I believe, Webster did something and he called Cindy a name and I defended Cindy against Webster and, as a result—Webster got out on the stage in New York City during an anniversary event, and alluded to the idea that I might be COINTELPRO. (Laughs)

So, anyway, but with regard to Noam Chomsky, he and I have had a discussion about 9/11 in the past and, basically, his view is that we've done worse things around the world (Mm-hmm). Even if it's true; even if the Government was involved in some way in the 9/11 attacks, there are worse things going on in the world right now that require our attention.

PETER That's absolutely true.

JON Yeah, there are, but I don't understand how—

PETER Howard Zinn took the same position.

JON I know, but I'm not asking people like Noam to make it THE issue for them. I'm just trying to get them to incorporate the fact that we were lied to about that day. If, you know, you can't—if you—you can't say that like an omission. It's like omitting something—a big truth.

PETER I hear you and I agree with you, Jon. I just—it's not on the top of my agenda to criticize Chomsky or anyone else, Chris Hedges.

JON Oh no, it's certainly not how we get people on our side (Right). But I've tried to reason with a lot of—

PETER Or Amy Goodman, for that matter. I mean, at least she did have David Ray Griffin on and sort of sabotaged him, but she did do it.

JON But she never had a family member on. She never had Paul Thompson on.

PETER Oh, I know, I know.

JON You know, there's a lot of issues that she didn't cover, but she did cover a lot of things. So—a lot of people act as if she didn't cover anything and that's just not true.

PETER No, she did cover some things.

JON She had Sibel Edmonds on. She had the Loose Change boys on.

PETER She made it a debate.

JON Yeah, and she talked about the Israeli art students (Mm-hmm), and the people that were arrested on the van, I believe. She's had Bob Graham on to talk about Saudi Arabia. So, she has covered the issue, but she hasn't covered it to the extent that some of us would like. Anyway—

PETER No, I totally agree. And when we did the National 10th Anniversary shows on Pacifica, and all the Pacifica was an all-day event and *Project Censored* show helped make that happen—we did the three-hour segment in Berkeley. We were still required to make it a debate and not just a people present. That was the policy that was laid down to us, which we accepted, because at least we got it on a national all-day radio show. At Least it was on as an agenda item to be talked about. And we thought that was a big victory for us at KPFA, and then all the other Pacifica stations aired their segments, as well.

So, it was—a significant honoring of the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 and it was a critical honoring as well.

JON Right. I think the very first event that I ever went to was hosted by Pacifica Radio on September 11, 2004, in Washington, D.C. and John Judge, Coleen Rowley, Sibel Edmonds, Ray McGovern were the panelists, and so on and so forth.

Now, this is a pretty easy question. If we had a functioning news, something that had the people's best interests at heart, do you think this would be a different world today?

PETER Of course. [Laughter]

JON [Laughs] I don't know why I wrote that. That's such an easy question.

PETER Well, I mean, the more transparency we have about what powerful people are doing the more likely we can call them on the carpet if they're doing stuff that we don't like. (Right)

That's why TPP is secret. We're not supposed to know who's involved there. Actually, I did see a list of 600 folks that at least got copies of TPP, implying that they were involved in its presentation and development. But we don't know who the negotiators are. The U.S. Trade Organization is certainly key to that, but—and they have staff and that kind of thing. But we don't—who's as an individual that represents the pharmaceutical industry and the TPP is going to let them—greenwash all their formulas. And keep their patent rights. We don't know who that person is and we should.

JON Right. How can people tell who to trust and who not to? Have you developed a system for this?

PETER [Laughter] You know, *Project Censored* puts out stories almost daily from one of our 20 to 30 college campuses that are involved with this. And not so much in the summer because the campuses aren't in session, but when they're in session, we're posting stories on a regular basis.

These are stories that students have researched in a class, and then a faculty member has reviewed. So, they've been vetted. And then we're posting them online. And, but what's key about this is we're posting the sources, where this is from. So, the idea that our validate Independent News, and the various places from which we get the news stories, we're saying these are valid places. This is a good place to look at news.

And, so yeah—whether it's Common Dreams or Truth Out or any other long-lived Global Research list of independent news sites, there's quite a bit that's online. It's quite available and it's certainly not inside of newspapers in America or on news. So we're telling—and students are learning through a critical thinking process involved in all these classes, they're learning that there are places for news that are independent. *Project Censored* is one of them, but there are many, many others, that you can find out information

about literally almost anything and—but learn to trust and look for multiple sources and verification—and that's what we do. (Right)

JON I generally tell people to judge people by the fruits of their labor. If they have a good track record, chances are they're pretty trustworthy. And, you know, another thing that you can do is look at—if a story is reported, how many other outlets are reporting on this story, and always, always go to the source. (Right) Like, if there's documentation that was just released and the news is reporting on it, don't listen to what the news is saying. Go read the documentation itself. Because a lot of times the news just doesn't report on the important stuff. But, definitely, always try to go to the source. And you can even try contacting individuals. (Mm-hmm) If you see somebody mentioned in a news report, try contacting them and getting their own account. You know, I've done that several times. (Mm-hmm)

It's very hard. You know, during the Ukraine—when the whole Ukraine-Russia thing happened, I really came to realize that we don't know exactly what's going on. There are propaganda wars going on right now that are just devastating.

PETER Ukraine has been one of the biggest lies going.

JON I'm sorry, say that again.

PETER The idea that Russia invaded the Ukraine (Right) and that Russia is trying to implement a cold war agenda of imperial power. It's just lies. It's just completely false. We've done a number of good stories of that. And, but that's part of the degree to which the U.S.-NATO empire is willing to go ahead and lie to create a global power structure for capital.

JON Yeah, and you know, I think, there's an unspoken war going on right now with Russia. I don't think that we have great relations with China at the moment. And—do you think looking back at 9/11, do you think one of the possible reasons for facilitating or allowing or whatever the hell happened on 9/11, was to get in that region, to compete against Russia and China? [PAUSE]

PETER Yes.

JON Do you think that was one of the reasons?

PETER Well, it's—yes. I mean, it's certainly—occupying Afghanistan and then our original underbite of the Russian's invasion of Afghanistan was a challenge. It was meant to be a challenge. Massive mineral resources and wealth in Afghanistan on top of the oil that was in Iraq. Of course, we're totally involved there.

I just did an interview with Nick Turse last week on his new book on Africa. And—he was saying that the future wars—and the Pentagon is really looking at this—the future wars are going to be in Africa. The War on Terrorism is going to make a big shift and go to Africa. It already has. (Right) We're already seeing that. War in Yemen and other places. But, it won't just be wars and chaos and balkanization of the various countries in the Middle East. We're going to see that all over Africa as well.

That's the agenda. And that's what we need to be fully transparent about and expose in a very big way. And the lie about—the terrorists. They're really people resisting—global capital penetration in their homelands. And we're just beating the shit out of them.

JON That's one of the things about the Iraq war if you watched, if you paid attention. First the people that were fighting against us were called insurgents. Then, they started referring to them as terrorists (Right). Then they were Al-Qaeda in Iraq. Then we were told that they chose Iraq as the battlefield. You know, and so on and so forth, and they have propagandized—I'm sorry, go ahead.

PETER That's ISIS.

JON Yeah, well, ISIS has come about [sigh]—it's a combination of things. Very simply, the anger that we created when we invaded Iraq; when we killed over a million people and displaced millions more; when Blackwater was hunting Iraqis for sport; when we were torturing people at Abu Ghraib; when we used depleted uranium and caused babies to become sick. You know, there's no statute of limitations on the anger these kinds of things create.

And then when you have Saudi Arabia and Qatar and Kuwait sending in rebels into Syria, and we're sending them intelligence. The so-called rebels. Then we sent them arms and then we started sending in rebels from Jordan to accompany them. You know, we—it's a combination of all these things—we created—we and our allies created ISIS, and that's how, essentially, it

happened. The two things combined: those in Iraq who hate us and those in Syria that we supported to take down Assad combined.

PETER It's called Chaos Theory. (Yeah) You've got chaos in the world and then global capital can literally penetrate anywhere because there's no resistance. It's just tiny little countries that become security zones that could be even privately controlled by private mercenary companies.

We just finished a big study on private mercenary companies. They're the new fascism of the 21st century. (Right) The whole life of an Italian and German fascism. It's fascism by capitalism using private military companies, and the U.S.-NATO alliance's military power to compete in nation states everywhere in the world.

JON With regard to—I'm sorry go ahead.

PETER Including Russia and China.

JON With regard to America, it's not so much in-your-face fascism as it was in Germany. It only becomes that way when you try to—push back like the Occupy people did. You know, like I've done (Yeah) civil disobedience and all that stuff. That's when you start to see the fascism. But it's not as in-your-face as it was in Germany. It might be. It could become that. But, you know...

PETER It's not as much for white people, but it certainly is for people of color, the people in the inner cities.

JON And Muslims now because of 9/11.

PETER You know, a couple thousand Muslims arrested after 9/11 and detained. They weren't arrested, they were just detained.

JON Right, I know. But, I mean, I read about stories where people in New York City—somebody pushed someone who looked like a Muslim in front of a subway train and killed them. Just hatred like that is just horrible. Like Pamela Geller, and all her propaganda. It's just horrible. And I try to tell people that 9/11 was not a Muslim crime. It was a crime. It wasn't—a Saudi crime, an American Crime, an Episcopalian crime—it was a crime. And you don't hold everybody who—if somebody who considered themselves a Muslim was involved in 9/11 that doesn't mean that you hold every single

Muslim accountable in the world. Just as—if our supposed Christian nation, if our Government does something that we don't like, does that mean we should hate all Christians? (right) That kind of thing. It's ridiculous. (Of course)

Now, one thing I want to talk about is how certain people help to discredit good work and research. And can you please tell us about your doctoral dissertation?

PETER Well, my dissertation was on the sociology of the San Francisco Bohemian Club, and most of my research work in graduate's political work was on power elites going back to C. Wright Mills. Bill Domhoff was on my dissertation committee. He was a long-time power researcher of UC Santa Cruz, and I was at UC Davis. I had a couple of good people there.

And, so I took a look at the Club as—I called it Sociology of the Bohemian Club, but it was—a relative advantage, which was kind of a play on words in that people who were members really had, was an expression of an advantage of society. Not only in terms of who go through the club and could be interacted with, but the private men's clubs had been that—had served that function for a long period of time, certainly throughout the British Empire. And were a way of allowing elites to commingle and, develop agendas and consensus about various issues and talk things through in private.

So, the Bohemian Club was one of the premier clubs in San Francisco. But they're unique in that they have a 2,000-acre private redwood forest, old growth forest, up in Sonoma County, just a few miles from where I live, actually, on the Russian River there. And they meet every year for two weeks, three weekends and two weeks and camp out. Camp out meaning they have these rustic cabins in the woods. And they meet there and every cabin has a bar, and they party and drink a lot and eat good food, and it's all men and have various self-entertainment, plays, and events and speakers and the President of a country could come in, or a high-level official in the state department or sometimes give lectures.

So, it's all very private, very elite. And, so I got to visit, and I wrote about them. And they acknowledged that everything I wrote was truthful, but they didn't like my interpretations very well. (Laughs) But that's the nature of academic research.

But I did that 24 years ago. So, that's—I started that research and then finished it up in '94 and that's when I got hired here at Sonoma State.

JON Now, have you had problems—as a result of Alex Jones going into Bohemian Grove and making his little movie, you know, the cremation of care or ceremony and all that stuff, have you had problems?

PETER I've criticized Alex for that. (Right) It was a ridiculous exposé, and it led to a young man from Texas showing up there with a crossbow and hoping to save children from being killed. I think he's still in jail. But, I mean, they weren't even in session when he got there. But it does get kooks enraged, and Alex seems to be good at that.

Well, it just absolutely wasn't true. When Alex went he could have walked in the front gate with a BBC reporter, because at that point before 9/11, anybody could, but he chose to sneak in through the redwoods and—and try to say all this was filmed and then—he called it the cremation of care ceremony, which is somewhat of a bizarre fraternity (Absolutely) But, it's certainly not sinister and it's just weird. I mean, they're burning—big bonfires in front of the statue. This owl statue and that kind of stuff.

JON A lot of men's clubs do weird things.

PETER Yeah, of course they do.

JON My father's a Mason (Yeah) and they do all kinds—he never told me what they did. Don't worry Masons. But he did say that they do some weird things.

PETER Yeah, private groups do that. I mean, they have ceremonies that supposedly mean something, but, you know—when I saw the cremation of care ceremony, there's 2 or 3,000 guys sitting out in the woods there. And it was all very interesting. And, they had fireworks and the high priest—comes forward and he challenges care and care responds "You can't kill care," and they end up burning up care with all the torches—go out and then—marching priests in robes with torches. It's quite weird, (Right) but it's kind of silly. There's guys are just kind of cracking up about it. Some people take it seriously because you go there for years and years, you do the same thing every year. But Alex is portraying it as human sacrifice. (Exactly) And, as a result—

- JON Do you get a lot of—I don't want to say dumb questions but—misguided questions about the Bohemian Grove as a result of what he did?
- PETER No, not so much.
- JON No? They don't say—did you write about how they burn people in effigy or whatever the hell they do?
- PETER No, I never really had anybody ask me that. First off, nobody out here listens to Alex Jones anyway. And, maybe if I was in Texas somebody might ask me, but it's never happened.
- JON Is it true though that they occasionally go out of the grove to get, you know, prostitutes or whatever?
- PETER Well, of course, I mean, if you put 2,000 men with money in one place at one time, of course a certain percentage of them are going to go out and fool around. (Right) There's no question about that. I mean, that's just money and wealth and men and their egos.
- JON Right, well, I don't say I condone it, but right. I hear you. [Laughter.]
- PETER I mean, that just—it happens at every convention and major football game or whatever. That's just part of the way of the world. But, yeah, women do come in to Sonoma County, and there are private homes that are used for entertaining the men. And there was a group of women busted, about 10 years before I did my research work, by the sheriff here. The cops were just looking the other way.
- JON I think if the United States knew about things that go on, they'd be shocked. But, again, your work was very credible and Alex's was not. And, I think that was the point.
- PETER I mean, he's a shock jock and what motivates him, whether he really does work for Stratfor—I don't know for sure. (Laughs).
- JON Whether he does or doesn't—the effect is the same.
- PETER Yeah, it doesn't matter. I mean, he's like Jonathan Kay. He makes outlandish statements and writes a book about 9/11, and criticizing anybody that is a truther or something like that. I mean, there's a lot of people that do that.

Whether or not they're paid to do that—they're certainly encouraged, and maybe ordered in some way.

JON I had him on as a guest and challenged him and did my best to make—people realize that this is a legitimate issue. (Yes) And it's funny, because one of the things that he did is he, essentially, he agreed with almost everything I said. (Mm-hmm) Like that's the technique they're doing now, as opposed to saying everything you say is wrong, there is nothing to what any 9/11 Truther has to say. Now—he agreed with a lot of what we said or what I say anyway. (Yeah).

Now, what do you recommend people do to get their news? I think we kind of went over this.

PETER Well, certainly not watch, waste any time watching TV news, unless you want to know what the weather is. And, find independent news sources that you like and trust and go to it on a regular basis.

I think *Christian Science Monitor* is pretty darn good, their website. I certainly recommend and encourage people listen to *RT—Russia Today*—for good, critical analysis, national stuff. There's all the Pacifica stations are for the most part giving us information you're not getting on corporate media. You find a Pacifica station in your area that's pretty good to do.

JON Right. What I generally did is every morning, and I did this for a decade, is I would go to Google News and type in "Israel" and everything coming up having to do with Israel. And I would go through them all, and pick out the stories I thought were important. Then I would type in "Russia" or "9/11"—each individual subject and I would search all the news outlets and post everything that I could find that I thought was important. But that's a lot of work and I've stopped doing that

PETER That's a lot of work [Laughs]. I get 200 emails a day on various news things. (Right) And some days, I'll spend—a lot of time looking at stuff. On other days, I just—you can't.

JON It's hard to do. But—it's a requirement, unfortunately, because we don't have the corporate news media that works, so we have to do it. We have to do what we have to do to try our best to inform the public.

PETER Yeah, and most people don't have the time or the ability or that and so, that's why, I think, groups like *Project Censored* and various other ones that help consolidate the news, *Electronic Infitada* are just some that can give you really good sources and information about what's happening.

JON Is there anything that you'd like to promote? Like your show with Mickey?

PETER Well, our show with Mickey originates on Fridays at one o'clock on KPFA in Berkeley and then, of course, it's online immediately at KPFA.org, and then within 24 hours it's pretty much up on the *Project Censored* website. So, all of our radio shows are there.

I think, yeah, I'd like to promote the *Project Censored* website. I mean, you could take any topic, whether it's 9/11 or Israel or Russia or anything else, depleted uranium, torture—TPP, health policies, environment—and use those words and search inside of *Project Censored*, you'll get a ton of information from various independent sources. And, that I mean, that's a great place to do student research projects. It's a really, in depth website with information covering our 40 years of research—39 years, officially.

JON Yes, I highly recommend *Project Censored*.

Now, I have a question and it's not—I kind of had a bet with Mickey, not a bet, but—do you remember the first time that I met you?

PETER No.

JON You don't? Oh, oh well. He said you would.

PETER Remind me.

JON Okay, it was the June 2006 conference in Chicago.

PETER It was in Chicago, okay.

JON You were sitting in the lobby and I sat down next to you and I said: "Hey, Peter." [Laughter] We had a little talk.

PETER Un-huh, un-huh, okay. I'm sorry, I don't remember that in particular. But, yes, I knew you were there, and I think you told me that once before.

JON Oh, okay. Yeah, that was the first time we ever met. But I don't think I've seen you since. [Laughs.]

PETER Yeah, I don't think we have. We haven't been to the same room at least, since. (Nope) You weren't in D.C. were you?

JON I was there for the Truth Emergency Convergence (Uh-huh), which was, I think, the day before (Okay) where we were at Lafayette Park and everybody was talking.

PETER I was there. I spoke.

JON Yeah, you spoke. A lot of people spoke. Paul Thompson, Jenna Orkin.

PETER Yeah, yeah, yeah. So, you were there then, but you didn't come up to say hi.

JON I'm sorry, I didn't come up to say hi that time. (Oh, okay) Yeah, the first time I met you was in June 2006.

Anyway, Peter, I want to thank you very much for taking the time to come on today.

PETER Well, it's been fun talking. You know, I'm just—we're kind of ad libbing here and thinking about what, where we're going, and what's happening and —

JON Yep, what, where we are going, indeed.

PETER I think we're a big part of all that. It has been in my life for since it happened and it's part of everything that I'm doing now in conspiracy's and looking at the transnational class at the highest levels.

JON Yep, and I appreciate the work that you're doing. (Sure) And, again, I want to thank you for coming on today. And, again, I want to thank Mickey for making this happen.

PETER Yeah, it was great.

JON All right. Have a good day there, Peter.

PETER Okay, thanks a lot. What do you do with this? How does it end up getting out?

JON I put it on iTunes, and I put it on my YouTube channel (Uh-huh) and it shows up on Cindy Sheehan's Soapbox, as well.

PETER Oh, great.

JON All right?

PETER All right, Jon, thanks.

JON Have a good day.

PETER All right. Bye, bye

JON Bye bye.

We were **LIED** to about 9/11

With your host Jon Gold

This week
Jon talks to...



The
Soapbox
People's Network

John Newman

Chapter/Episode 30 – John Newman – June 20, 2015

Jon Gold (JON)

John Newman (JOHN)

JON Hi, everyone, and welcome to my show called, "We Were Lied to About 9/11." I am your host Jon Gold and this show is part of the Soapbox People's Network. This week we will be discussing in detail who Lieutenant General Mahmud Ahmed and Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh are and their relationship to 9/11. This is a topic we could spend hours and hours on but, unfortunately, we were limited to two hours today.

Hi, this is Jon and I'm here with John Newman. John, how are you doing today?

JOHN Fine. Good morning. How are you doing?

JON Good morning. I'm doing great. Going to have brunch soon with my father for Father's Day. I'm going to get to see my new niece. I love seeing my new niece. I'm totally in love with her.

All right. So, What I'm going to do is I'm going to read your bio for everyone. And, by the way, this was a very impressive bio. I mean, all of

them are. All of my guests have been. But this was just—I was very impressed by this.

Dr. John M. Newman, Jr., Major, U.S. Army, Retired, was born on 20 December 1950 in Dayton Ohio. Dr. Newman earned a BA in Chinese studies (George Washington University, 1973), an MA in East Asian studies (George Washington University, 1976), and a PhD in modern Far Eastern history (George Washington University, 1992). He served in US Army Intelligence (1974–1994), became the Assistant to the Director, National Security Agency (1988–1990), and was a U.S. Army Attaché in China (1989–1991).

Dr. Newman taught for the University of Maryland Honors Program from 1992 to 2012. He currently teaches courses on counterterrorism, international terrorism, and America in the 60s at James Madison University. He is the author of *JFK and Vietnam* (1992); *Oswald and the CIA* (1995; 2009); *Quest for the Kingdom—The Secret Teachings of Jesus in the Light of Yogic Mysticism* (2011); and *Where Angels Tread Lightly: The Assassination of President Kennedy, Volume I* (2015).

Dr. Newman is an expert in textual records interpretation and documents forensics. His skills have been widely sought by US and foreign media organizations, including PBS, the History Channel, CSPAN, NBC, and other news organizations.

Dr. Newman has appeared on several occasions before various subcommittees of the U.S. House of Representatives to testify and/or make presentations on U.S. Government Agencies' compliance with classified records release laws and the performance of the 911 Commission.

Okay, so that's your bio. So, let's get to the questions. (Okay)

What was the day of 9/11 like for you?

JOHN I could talk for an hour about that, but I won't. A couple of things that are really just seared into my brain, I was actually in my car driving to the University of Maryland when I heard the first tower was hit over the radio. I was going through a neighborhood. I sped up and got a speeding ticket. In between the first doing 35 in a 25, in between the first plane crashing into the towers and the second one.

So, but the thing that I've never seen before—I don't know if you've ever driven around Washington D.C.—it's pathological, especially around the beltway. They call it the suicide circle, they have for years. And, it's just crazy.

That day, within an hour after the Trade Center plane crashes and the Pentagon event, it was amazing. Everybody lined up real nice to get up on or off the beltway or other major arteries. I've never seen American drivers around here so orderly and polite and working with a fellow man than in the hours of that first day on 9/11.

JON That's interesting. I have driven around D.C. It's a pain in the butt is what it is.

JOHN Yep. Those are the things that—stand out. Like everybody else, you know, it was glued to the TV set all day. My wife was actually working downtown very close to the White House that day and actually saw the plane come over (Oh, God) and, I believe, it went into the Pentagon, flew a path there close to the White House. (Wow)

So, it was low enough to make a big sound. Everybody saw it and heard it, you know. I was on the other side of the hill. I was north, so I wasn't able to see it, but yeah, it was a—you remember where you are day. Just like JFK was, if you're old enough to remember the assassination.

JON Well, it's funny the reason that I ask this question of everybody, aside from wanting to know—what was their day like. I think that people would find that interesting. One of the other reasons that I ask that question is because it's funny how some people in Washington, D.C. seemingly can't remember what they did that day. Everybody else can remember exactly, you know, if you're old enough to remember, exactly what you were doing that day.

What was the first thing that you questioned about 9/11?

JOHN Well, so, at this point I'm 51 years old almost, so I'm not young anymore. I'd been through a lot of history. In fact, history is my academic credentials. So, the first thing that crossed my mind by certainly within a few hours of the information streaming in, was this is just like the Tet Offensive in 1968. You know, they had so much information. We knew the Tet Offensive was coming. There was a big lie though. They cut the figures in half and the people that saw it as income and couldn't believe it because they didn't

think the Viet Cong had the numbers to pull it off. It turns out they did. But, the point is that something that big, well-prepared, has to have had a footprint, and that thought that I had which has been born out, is of course they did. But at the time—on the day, we didn't have any proof of who knew what at that point. But that's what I was thinking. This is crazy. Why weren't we standing out there waiting for these guys just like they should have been catching them across rice paddies in '68.

It also reminded me, because I had, because I was already teaching counterterrorism at the University of Maryland, it reminded me of the '93 attack on the World Trade Center. So, this was another thought. This wasn't their first attempt to take those buildings down. And, I just couldn't believe that as extensive as this operation was that it hadn't been detected before it happened.

JON Well, that was one of the major lies after 9/11 is that we were told, repeatedly, that there were no warnings, that nobody had any idea that this could possibly happen. George W. Bush said on two separate occasions that he didn't have any inkling, whatsoever. And then in May 2002, when the August 6th PDB was released (Right), partially released—that was a warning. So, we—that's when I was off to the races. When I found out that we were being lied to. That's when I started my activism.

But, yeah, that was one of the biggest lies after 9/11. And we've heard from numerous people that we have every indication to believe that they were well aware of what was coming and where it was coming and so on and so forth.

Now, before we get started with the questions, I just want to say that there is a long-established history between the Pakistani ISI and Al-Qaeda, or individual terrorists like Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, Osama bin Laden, and even Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. So, so much history that it would be impossible to cover it all in one show. Also, and I forgot to say this, I want to thank Dr. Peter Dale Scott for helping me get this interview together. He's a good man and a great writer. And I have a lot of respect for Dr. Scott.

All right. Can you give us some background history on the Pakistani ISI's connections to terrorism?

JOHN Yeah, and to reiterate your point any one of these questions we could talk for hours, so I put together just some highlights of things about that

question. The roots of the ISI's connection to terrorism grew out of a larger process that was unfolding for decades after the end of World War II. Basically, decolonization was happening all around the planet. And, of course, in the Middle East, the Near East, and South Asia. But, what characterized that unfolding process, in a nutshell, was that nearly all of the secular nationalist movements failed in countries with a predominantly Muslim populations—and in other places too, but certainly countries that have predominantly Muslim populations, the secular nationalist movements just failed almost everywhere. And that failure is what laid the groundwork for a return to a term we call Islamic fundamentalism. Pakistan followed that pattern, especially with Gen. Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq's regime. It was a coup d'etat in 1977. And Zia based his regime on the religious principles of Abu Layla Maldini who had erected the modern concept of the modern Islamic state. And he's published several things, but his first book has a few headlines I will mention.

Islam is all encompassing. The Islamic State is for the entire world. It should not be limited to just the homeland of Islam. Jihad should be used to eliminate un-Islamic rule and establish the world-wide Islamic State. Islamic Jihad wishes to destroy all states and Governments anywhere on the face of the earth which are opposed to the ideology and program of Islam, regardless of the country or the nation which rules it.

So, these were the centerpieces of Zia's Government as he put it together in Shariah Law, Sharization or Islamization of Pakistan and he, upon assuming power, promised neutral elections within 90 days to quickly postpone them and started witch hunts and trials of Pakistani politicians. He was assisted by several right-wing Islamists and conservatives, especially by an intelligence unit—then the so-called political wing of the ISI under a Brigadier General by the name of Faisal Hussain Sadiqi. The ISI—better to say that than Pakistan's Interservices Intelligence and Special Services Group—was crucial for the consolidation of power in Zia's regime. And, he became the undisputed ruler of Pakistan, assuming the office of President in '78; was granted power to dissolve the National Assembly at will, which he did, and replaced it in '81 with the Majlis-e-Shoora or consultative council—the same exact name as the lead council bin Laden used to set up the rules of Al-Qaeda. And, Zia used his Majlis to help with the process of Islamization in Pakistan.

So, these events were taking place in Pakistan against the backdrop of the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan in December of '79 and its developing occupation of that country in the years that followed.

So, when we talk about terrorism, it's not, in the case with Pakistan and the ISI, which is where we're going in this conversation, I think it's important to lay this piece in that the door was opened to Islamic fundamentalism by Zia's regime. And it's just a vectoring of circumstances that, as he was doing that, the Soviet Union invaded the neighboring country Afghanistan.

So, that's what I would start out with that piece as a sort of history of how the ISI is pulled into what we know of it today. Terrorism (Right) and terrorism operations.

JON Fascinating stuff. And then, of course, during the Afghanistan-Russia war, the CIA, the Saudis, and the Pakistani ISI all collaborated to support the mujahideen against the Soviet Union (Yep), and that mujahideen later became known as Al-Qaeda.

There's one thing I want to add to this. As I said earlier, there were connections between the ISI and certain individuals like Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and Osama bin Laden, and Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

On October 19, 2007, a B. Raman for in.rediff reported that:

"Brigadier Ejaz Shah, a former officer of Pakistan's inter-services intelligence" [...] "used to be the handling officer of Osama bin Laden and Mullah Omar the Amir of the Taliban."

I sent him an e-mail. And when I asked Mr. Raman "What does it mean to be Osama bin Laden's handling officer for the Pakistani ISI? What is the responsibility of the person that has this particular job?" And his response was.

"The handling officer of a source in Indian and Pakistani intelligence agencies is the person who looks after the welfare of the source, keeps him motivated, and uses him as needed. The source cannot meet anybody else other than his handling officer, except the head of the agency. One source, one handling officer, is the general rule. This is to prevent the exposure of the operation and maintain its deniability. I

understand in the CIA they call him the running officer of the source."

So, that was the connection to Osama bin Laden and Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, I believe, also had the exact same handling officer, Ejaz Shah.

So, I just wanted to point that out to people. (Yeah)

Okay, so, what about the CIA's relationship to the Pakistani ISI? What can you tell us about that?

JOHN Well, again, Zia is at the pole position when we move to that question because as soon as the Soviets invaded he sets up a big meeting, which included the then head of the ISI, Lieutenant General Akhtar Abdur Rahman and various others. General Khalid Mahmud Arif, the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, and Muhammad Sharif, Admiral head of the Navy. It was a very high-level meeting and the ISI chief called for, basically, a covert operation to arm the Islamic extremists and burn Kabul down to the ground.

So, that's how it started. Of course, the United States and other Western countries and Saudi Arabia, some other Gulf countries were interested in helping out. The United States had offered \$325 million dollars, which Zia said no, not doing it, that's peanuts. So, anyway, he found himself in a position to ask for a lot of money and it didn't take long. Once Ronald Reagan was in there, who called the Soviet Union the Evil Empire, and the U.S. financial aid was vastly increased and we finally sent something they had been asking for a long time—forty F16 jet fighters. And, eventually, of course, in 1986, we gave the mujahideen Stinger missiles, which put them in the title battle there.

But all this was done through the CIA, and it was the largest operation the CIA has ever mounted, this one with the ISI to defeat the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. There were also U.S. Army Special Forces that were there as well, and these CIA officers and special forces all worked at the operational level in the ISI in Pakistan, of course. Billions of dollars in arms, U.S. dollars, went to the mujahideen militants. The ISI and Pakistan basically demanded control. I have seen stories in coverage that the CIA was skittish and didn't want to go in there. That's really, I don't think that's true. I think that this was an arrangement that the Pakistanis demanded.

And—anyway, the covert operation was called Operation Cyclone. And a lot of the money had to be funded—well, really two ways the CIA and ISI worked out the financing—one was a big bank. It was called the Bank of Credit and Commerce International belonged to the Bank of England, but this branch of it, the BCCI—we'll just call it the BCCI—was based in Pakistan. It was the largest Muslim bank in the world. It financed just about every major terrorist network in the world within a few years—before it got closed. It was very closely connected to the ISI and, of course, it was one way the CIA could funnel money to the mujahideen.

Another, very lucrative source, that the CIA and ISI worked together on, was to boost opium production that financed covert operations. Again, because of its position in the middle, the result was that the ISI's power grew by a quantum leap. This is nothing new, by the way. Going back to World War II, even before the CIA existed, its OSS precursors and OPC—Office of Policy Coordination precursors—used narcotics to finance operations against the regimes that the enemy, in World War II, and then again, to help prop up and the regimes we wanted, like in Italy, and to stop the common sale is drug money. It's just not the first rodeo for it being used on a large scale. The CIA was directly involved with the ISI in doing that because it was so lucrative.

And, just to tie up the one loose end here about the CIA's deal where they're going to—give advice to their counterparts in the ISI, but they're not going to be in there. This is the backyard of Pakistan, as far as they're concerned, and nobody's going to touch it. They're going to do it. I've seen reports that said there were fewer than 10 American operatives in the region because it feared it would be blamed, US feared it would be blamed like in Guatemala. I don't think they ever minded being blamed for Guatemala. It's one of their star operations.

Anyway, we had ways of getting people in there. And one of them, to give you an example. The CIA still needed to know. So, they did not—they did break this arrangement, but the way they did that was covertly. In other words, they didn't ask permission—Oh, can I go in there today? They would send somebody who would appear to have no connection to anything who would get in there. It would have to be basically posing as a an extremist Islamic militant. We wanted to get into the northern front. Go up there and talk to Islam and so on and see what was happening. And, believe it or not, one of the most well-known terrorists for Al-Qaeda, his story, his triple agent is Ali Mohammed (Laughs). And we could go on with him, you

know, for a day. But, while he was working at the JFK School, he decided he was going to go to Afghanistan, which is against all the rules. You can't go. And he was ordered not to go and he did anyway. And then he came back and they wrote him up. They wanted to give him an Article 15 and all those—the paperwork disappears. It went into what we call File 13 in the Government. Right? He was protected by the Central Intelligence Agency. I'm pretty sure about that. I can't prove it, of course, because they're not letting us see all the memos on this.

But he was completely untouchable and he went up there right at the crucial time when—we needed eyes on the ground and he brought back—a couple of belts that Soviet soldiers he said he killed, and showed them off at school, at the warfare school. And, so, he was able to do that. He spoke the language. He was an American citizen. He married an American woman that was on the plane with him when he first got to the United States. So, he was an American citizen. He was walking around up there and was able to—I'm certain of it—provide that information to a very thirsty bunch of people who wanted to know how all this money was being spent and what was really going on, as a check against what they were being told by their counterparts in the ISI.

So, anyway, what are we talking about here? The mujahideen.

JON The CIA's relationship to the ISI.

JOHN Yeah. And what they're doing is not sort of the—British boxing. You know, it's this is terrorism. It's not called that because they're freedom fighters, right, for countries that have been raided. (Right) And, but we're talking about their main modus operandi was sabotage and assassination operations—not just against the military, but the civilian targets too. They attack convoys, bridges, roads, power lines, pipelines, radio stations, police stations, office buildings, air terminals, hotels, cinemas, and any other soft civilian targets they could. And so in another world we call that terrorism.

During a typical day in the border region with Pakistan the "muj" would launch 800 rockets between April '85 and January they carried out 23,000 shelling attacks on Government targets not military. They placed their own firing positions in or near little villages within range of Soviet artillery post that Soviet retaliation would cause civilian deaths.

And when my son, who had two tours up there, with the Mountain Division they had the same problem. The Taliban were always, you know, within a hundred yards of a little village that had kids in it.

The mujahideen assassinated a lot of people, pro regime Afghan political leaders. These were five main groups that this is reminiscent of what we know about Al-Qaeda. They would study their target for a long time, for months and months, before they—killed the person.

Anyway, this is what I call Frankenstein. We created Frankenstein through the ISI to crash the Soviet Union basically. And the problem is that even before it is over, you know, in mid-87 the Soviet Union announced it was going to withdraw its forces. And that didn't happen till February 9, but by that time, everybody knew what was going on so the Islamic jihadists in Afghanistan were already laying plans to implement these calls to worldwide jihad. And Frankenstein was coming home to its creators, the evil say the American homeland.

And, so, what grew out of the CIA ISI cooperation in Afghanistan, led directly to the rest of the story which was already underway while the last two years are being played out. Azzam is the guy. Azzam is the guy who set up the apparatus, who was very popular, had spent, you know, all that time on the northern front in Afghanistan, and he set up and attended, personally, here in the United States, the first conference of jihad in Brooklyn at the Al Farooq Mosque and founded the Alkilaf network—that's a refugee, sort of, network in New York and other major U.S. cities. In mid-1987, was when the Soviet forces announced they were going up and by '88 Azzam is here in the United States attending these big and promoting a worldwide jihad and starting to raise money.

There are other people who enter the story, which probably don't have time to go into—Wadih el Hage and Mahmud Aboualima. Wadih el Hage was later arrested for the U.S. embassy bombings in 98. Aboualima was in the Brooklyn cell. He was arrested for the first Trade Center attack.

Anyway, they were out at an Islamic conference in 1988, in summer of '88 in Oklahoma City. So, even as things wind down, the whole worldwide jihad thing is being launched and so, at various points—a long story—you keep seeing the ISI involved. For example, everybody in terrorism studies knows about Ramzi Yousef. The real story is that we had a guy inside the cell, the Brooklyn cell, who pretty much—a state trooper who ends up

taking over the counterterrorism branch in the FBI in New York doesn't like him. And, so, we lose our eyes and ears and he's inside the cell and he was going to be their bomber. Right? He was going to turn them all in but, well. So, he goes out and Yousef replaces him.

Well, Yousef is connected to shake up the Little Ramen and Al-Qaeda at that very time. And when he gets in here, it's a long story, he has a stooge with him who makes a scene at the airport—but, anyway, their passports had been provided to them by the ISI. And so it all—we have a long story in between the Afghanistan piece and when things fire up for jihad and 9/11. There's a lot of years in there and a lot of stories to tell that all were points on a line meant to attack us. And, so, without getting into each and every one of those in our conversation today, always lurking in the background are people connected to Al-Qaeda and in Pakistan. The fact that bin Laden was a Saudi is less important than where he ended up—was after a short time in Afghanistan and then he was in Sudan and then back in Afghanistan and then in Pakistan.

JON Well, one of the—

JOHN —Saudi Arabia.

JON I'm sorry, one of the things that you mentioned was that you had seen statements before showing that there were problems between the CIA and the ISI or that the CIA was reluctant and so on and so forth. But, I think it was in May of 2001, somebody by the name of Selig Harrison had spoken about the extensive ties that we still had between the CIA and the ISI. And another thing that you reminded me of, the drone strikes in Pakistan, you know, publicly the politicians argue against it—because the people of Pakistan hate them. So, the politicians publicly denounce them. But behind the scenes—Pakistan's intelligence is giving information to the CIA to be able to kill people.

So, you know, when you hear that there's a problem in the relationships between the CIA and the ISI, I just—I question that.

JOHN Yeah, I was actually saying something a little bit different than that, but I agree with what you just said—that the CIA was skittish about being involved at all in this Afghanistan war and was much happier to have the ISI take care of everything. I don't think so. I think they would have preferred to have had much freer rein to move people around, assets

around, inside Afghanistan. So, I don't believe that they were skittish about it at all. I think that was the deal. I think that the Pakistani side, the ISI, and the leadership at any one point in time—that will even include Bhutto before Musharraf got in there—wanted it that way. They didn't want the CIA to be pulling all the strings. They wanted their money. And sure, if there was some information they could provide them, but Pakistan. So, I just, I think the CIA had to take that deal. Is what I'm saying. And, then they would break it. So, they would send their own covert people around in there, like Ali Mohamed, trying to figure out—what was happening.

But, the relationship was certainly not troubled at the beginning. They were all on the same page, right? They had to defeat the Soviet Union in there. It was after Frankenstein came home, here, and started banging us on the head here, there, and all over the place, more places than people know about—some of the stuff is still classified and being withheld—that the problem starts to develop. And, it certainly got worse as you get closer to 9/11, because a lot of people start knowing what's going on and—Mahmood Ahmed, General Ahmed, ISI chief, has to play it real careful, because he doesn't want to let—his counterpart, which would be the head of the CIA, know what's coming or that he knows what's coming.

So, it gets awkward, you know, as you get into 1999 and 2000 and 2001, but certainly not back then. You've got a long time between '89 when the Soviet Union pulls out and 9/11—12 years.

JON

One of the things that happened after 9/11 is that it seemed that Americans forgot that the ISI had connections to terrorism. In fact, that knowledge was protected for many years. (Yeah) It wasn't until within the last five or six years that they finally started to acknowledge it, but they've known about it for years. Just like with Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is the chief financiers of Al-Qaeda. And—this is nothing new to us. We've protected that knowledge. We protected it prior to 9/11. We hindered investigations into Saudi financing prior to 9/11. We did the same thing after 9/11. We continued to protect Saudi Arabia and we also protected, I think, the Pakistani ISI.

So, after 9/11 there was a report that came out that said Lieutenant General Mahmood Ahmed, who was then head of the Pakistani ISI, ordered Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh to wire transfer a hundred thousand dollars to Mohamed Atta. Now, after that report came out, over the course of several months and maybe years, the blaming of Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh—that

story went away. And then a bunch of different paymasters were put forward using variations of his name, which was very confusing. Can you tell us about this?

JOHN Yeah. Let's see here, let me go to where I want to go. Yeah, I like to call it a shell game. Basically, you have—like a guy with two shells and you never know where the real thing is under which shell. It starts—this shell game began immediately after the 9/11 attacks and continues up to December. So, it takes place over about a three-month period in time and there are four acts involved. And, it's an amazing story. I think it helps when you understand this. It helps you get your arms around why we're covering up so many things.

One of the nice things about a huge event like 9/11 is that the official Government spokespersons are compelled, literally, to stand before the TV cameras and go on television, and all the talk shows on a daily basis. And, for a long while, I mean all day, on the cable TV networks that's what you would be seeing. And so it's interesting that a lot of the times they're telling the truth. Until they figure out that there's something that they didn't know that is really, really got to be held down. And that's really what characterizes this whole shell game. There comes a point in time when they figure out that it is Omar Saeed Sheikh. So, you have a story that takes place before that which reflects basically what they thought for real. And then they get to a point where they figure out what the truth is and that has to be suppressed. And then, when it is suppressed, they come up with yet the final act, another false name, to go to the top of the FBI's wanted list. So that's the overview of it.

But the first paymaster—they knew right away—they found out from the United Arab Emirates in Dubai. That's where all the money was coming from to Atta and the hijackers. And they came up—the first paymaster was an Egyptian—they thought. And his name was Mustafa Ahmed—excuse me, actually, let me just back up. The name, the alias of the Dubai paymaster was Mustafa Ahmed al-Hawsawi. And, so, this guy, this first guy, an Egyptian his name was Mustafa Ahmed. So, it's got a Mustafa in it and it's got an Ahmed in it. So, why not? Right? It sounds similar to the alias. Anyway, that was on September 24th. We're talking about two weeks out, less than two weeks out from the attacks.

So, then anyway, *Newsweek* reports that this guy Mustafa Ahmed had sent money to hijackers and they're quoting a Government official and so on

about that story. His full name was Mustafa Mahmoud Saeed Ahmad. All right. But here's the thing. This is a fascinating story about who this guy really is. That is his name. But PBS *Frontline* after the 9/11 attacks, they had done an investigation—basically looking at, mostly, I think at the 1998 attacks on our embassies in Kenya and Tanzania—and they discovered that in November 1997, this guy Mustafa Mahmood Saeed Ahmed had walked into a U.S. embassy in Nairobi Kenya and told a CIA agent there that he knew of a "plan to detonate a truck bomb in a parking garage of the embassy." (Wow)

During his Kenyan interrogation, at the time, he told Kenyan police that he had "cased the embassy and photographed the building." *Frontline* then reports that for unknown reasons the CIA did not take Mr. Ahmed statements seriously. The CIA issued two intelligence reports on Ahmed's warning that called into question his credibility. Ahmed was merely deported.

But Ahmed's story does not stop there. A year later in 1998 he shows up in Tanzania where he organizes the transfer of funds from Middle East Bank to the Saudi financed Greenland Bank of Tanzania to bankroll the embassy bombings. So, apparently, this financial work that he did then was what the post 9/11 press briefings were thinking about when they thought he could be the paymaster, as well as the two parts of his name that seemed to be close to the Dubai alias. Anyway, after his arrest, the Tanzanian Government says Mustafa's either the mastermind behind the bombing or is the key person in the bombing conspiracy and they lock him up in the Congo maximum security prison.

Well, if that's where the story would end, it would be just—bad silly CIA not taking the story seriously. But here's what happens. Less than a year later in mid-1999, without warning and without fully explaining the reasons, the Tanzanian prosecutors dropped all charges against Ahmed, released him from jail, and bought them a one-way ticket to Cairo. In a post-9/11 press briefing a U.S. Government official stated that it was Ahmed in Dubai that 9/11 pilot Mohammad Atta mailed the package from Florida a week before the attack.

So, here's the first paymaster, a really—I'm sure they would like to have gotten even with him but—three days later, after announcing that he was our guy, his name simply disappears from the 9/11 investigation. And U.S. commentators, officials they didn't say publicly why they dropped them in

favor of another Egyptian Al-Qaeda operative whose name was Sheikh Saeed.

So, this is Act Two. On October 1st U.S. investigators announced they found a smoking gun linking bin Laden to the 9/11 attacks. They told the *Guardian* that his name was Sheikh Saeed, an Egyptian, also known as Mustafa Mohamed Ahmad. The same day, BBC quotes FBI sources saying the same thing—that the paymaster was Mustafa Mohamed Ahmad also known as Sheikh Saeed. So, we'll call this guy paymaster #2.

Neither story points out that this Egyptian was not the man arrested in Tanzania named Mustafa Mahmud Saeed. And you can see how U.S. Reporters might have their eyeballs rolling back in their heads with all these names. Both stories say the U.S. investigators believe that the paymaster, Mustafa Mohamed Ahmad had worked as a financial manager for bin Laden while the Al-Qaeda chief was in Sudan, that he was still a trusted paymaster of Al-Qaida.

So, the BBC's coverage, likewise, dropped the first Egyptian Mustafa Mahmoud Saeed Ahmed for the new one, Mustafa Mohamed Ahmad. And that the ICE sources were happy to say that this is the guy, and because he is a trusted finance chief, this is it. This is how we can show—because Al-Qaeda didn't accept responsibility for quite some time for this thing—and this is how they could pin it, or apparently so, on bin Laden.

The thing is that this new identification was partly wrong and partly right. Mustafa Mohamed Ahmad #2 had indeed worked as a financial manager of bin Laden. However, he wasn't, as we now know, he wasn't the 9/11 paymaster, nor was he the Al-Qaeda finance chief, Sheik Saeed. The intriguing thing about the BBC story is they got a couple of things right. Bin Laden's finance chief was the Dubai paymaster. It was also correct in assessing the name Sheikh Saeed was an alias, but they apparently still didn't know at this point that it was one of the 17 aliases used by Omar Ahmed Saeed Sheikh. And he was exactly what bin Laden needed when he broke him out of jail.

We can get to that story elsewhere in the conversation here, because he was from the London School of Economics and bin Laden's finance chief had been arrested in the wake of the '98 bombings in Africa.

So, anyway, guess what happens? Very soon, Mustafa Mohamed Ahmad, just like #1 guy, Mustafa Mahmoud Saeed Ahmed before him, would be dropped as the Dubai paymaster. The 9/11 Commission report did not include either of these two Egyptians among the extensive list of those connected to the 9/11 plot. Names weren't even in the report.

But, for three brief days, in October 2001, paymaster #2 had become the FBI's choice for the 9/11 paymaster and Al-Qaeda's finance chief. So, the real news, actually, it was true, was that bin Laden's finance chief WAS the paymaster. All right, so they got the smoking gun at this point.

Then it becomes Omar, okay? He becomes the guy. And, I think, we should talk about that separately. We get to who's Omar and who's General Ahmed. It's a fascinating story. But, they find out on the 6th of October—in fact, I'll just do it quickly now, so that maybe—or maybe not—we won't have to come back to that.

JON Just so I understand, on October 6 Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh is named as the paymaster?

JOHN Correct. That's next. This is Act 3. (Okay) And that's when it happens. That's the first indication—well, of course, our Government knew, the FBI knew before that day, because it's the FBI team that makes the discovery. But our sources, they're really just three. And it takes place in a very short period of time. And then this whole story has to get killed. And you're right, October 6, CNN let's the first big surprise out, but it's not the whole story, but it's certainly part of it. And the most important part. They identify this Dubai alias Mustafa Ahmed al-Hawsawi as Omar Saeed Sheikh "the man released from prison and in the U.S. in two years to go after hijackers of an Indian Airlines flight and demanded his freedom." There's no doubt who we're talking about here. They've identified Omar Sheikh as the Dubai paymaster.

And so, that's Act #3. The second source is also CNN. Two days later, they include the \$100,000 dollar story. In other words, what happens is that Omar wires \$100,000 to Atta because they needed a little more money for all the reconnaissance flights and the final flights on the day of 9/11. And, so, this dovetails into that whole story about how they got that money. There's a—a kidnapping of a shoe businessman and so on, that—just going through, just trying to stay focused here on the main shell game. So, CNN 10-6 Omar is the paymaster. CNN 10-8, he wired \$100,000 dollars.

But it's not in CNN. What is not there is that the guy who ordered him to do it was the chief of the ISI, General Ahmed, it's the India times. One day later on the 9th that provides that detail. So from the 6 till the 9th, you've got three days in October where first we learn Omar is the paymaster; that he wired a hundred thousand dollars to a Atta; and that the person who instructed him to do that was the head of the ISI and the FBI found this out when they ran traces on Omar's or cell phone number 0 3 0 0 9 4 5 8 7 7 7 2; and they found out that beginning in July, that number was used often by Omar to communicate with the ISI chief. And as fast as that happened, that story was suppressed.

JON Well, it was originally broken by the *Times of India*, I believe, and then *Agence France-Presse*, I believe, confirmed the story.

JOHN That's because—

JON Everybody always says it was the *Times of India*. It's an Indian newspaper. You can't trust India when they're reporting on Pakistan and etc. and so on. But it was corroborated by Agence France-Presse, I believe.

JOHN Yeah, but what's the date of that, for Agence France-Presse?

JON Oh, I don't remember. I don't have it in front of me, I'm sorry.

JOHN Yeah, I've got them, too, but I don't have them beating CNN to the punch there. In other words, I'm looking at the very first moment that it became public. The India Times what I have is October the 9th. That's only one day after the second CNN thing. And the only way CNN is going to know about this isn't going to be from the India Times. It's going to be from the FBI. They're the ones who made the discovery. So, I don't know how soon *The India Times*, but certainly *The India Times* had no qualms talking about this because it is India. I agree with that much, but it doesn't make it not true.

JON Right, exactly. I found over the years that Indian reporting with regard to the ISI, generally, turns out to be accurate.

JOHN Good, yeah, because they had their phone lines tapped. [Laughs] They were pretty good. And the FBI got in on the action.

Anyway, let me just finish out the name shell game thing, so we can focus on other aspects of this whole big story. So, and we can—the explanation for why it has to be suppressed is because Omar had been a double agent working for MI6. We can talk about this in more detail and when it happened and so on, but that's what he had been and that's what they thought—that we had a highly placed source reporting to Western intelligence at the top levels of Al-Qaeda.

But, it turns out, he's not a double agent. It's what we call in the business a triple agent. He has been feeding—a triple agent must feed the agency that he's been doubled by, in this case the Brits. He's got to be feeding them good stuff for them to keep buying. Ali Mohamed did that to us, too. He was a triple agent.

So, this is a big like got-you-between-the-eyes. And it took all of 72 hours before the CIA and the White House were on top of this thing to suppress it.

So, the final act in this is a Saudi businessman and, without going through all the details, it's a silly story. There's two small fragments in a Irish publication—that's the only basis for it. But anyway, they hang it on a fourth guy. And, at the same time, and this is another part of the story I know you want to talk about, is finally when the United States secretly indicted Omar for a 1994 kidnapping of an American in India. So, they secretly invite him and just banish him from the story by going to the fourth and final name, which goes to the top of the list of the FBI's Most Wanted.

The thing is, by the time we get to the 9/11 Commission report, that name's gone too. And there's all kinds of monkey business in the 9/11 report when it comes to this story about Omar and the paymaster and so on and so forth.

But, anyway, it was a four-part, four acts, of a play where very briefly the truth was discovered, it was shared with the public, and then just as fast suppressed by the highest level, not just the CIA—by President Bush himself.

JON Okay. You mentioned that he was a triple agent (Yes) and that he was working for MI6, as well as the ISI. I have some news accounts with regard to this.

"When FBI agents questioned Sheikh earlier this month about his relationship with the ISI, Sheikh's answers were elliptical.

'I will not discuss this subject' one source quoted him as saying. "I do not want my family to be killed.' "

And this was *Newsweek* March 13, 2002.

"There are many in Musharraf's Government who believe that Saeed Sheikh's power comes not from the ISI, but from his own connections with our own CIA."

And that was the *Pittsburgh Tribune Review*.

JOHN Yeah, I've seen the *Pittsburgh Review*, but I don't agree with it. I think it's a — (Yeah, I don't think —) It's not logical. We would have wanted to, we would have loved to have run him as our double. But it didn't make any sense. The guy was already a Brit and had access to, you know, the moms there that were fundamentalists and with the Al-Hadid. This is a terrorist group in Britain. And, so, he had all—he had a cover. He could go to England to visit his parents. Right? So, he had a wonderful cover to work MI6. It made a lot more sense that MI6 would run him than the CIA. But, certainly, the CIA was beneficiary of what MI6 was learning.

So, you have—we share at very high levels with the Brits in not just in human intelligence, but other of the intelligence, the INTS like SIGINT and those things—very sensitive things.

So, he is—oh, by the way, I know it's a question you have put on your list that, you know, Musharraf said this, too, in his book *In the Line of Fire*, which I have read. I have that book, but Musharraf calls him a double agent and that just shows you that Musharraf is more of a general than he is an intelligence practitioner. He certainly knows a lot about it because he's running the country. But, look, let's start off with just an agent.

An agent is working for an intelligence agency in a country. Now, when you become a double agent, you have become recruited by an agency usually of another power, whether it's still friendly, like it could be a European country or some other U.S. agent. So, if he's doubled, he could be doubled by even a friendly power who report to them or to a hostile power —Soviet Union or—Pakistan or, whoever. That's a double agent.

But a triple agent is one who in his act, or her, activities as a double agent is actually working for the other side all along and is simply feeding you good

stuff so that his bona fides will be accepted. Otherwise, they can't get away with it. So, we've had some really famous ones. There's Ali Mohamed, the most celebrated triple agent. But it is still a matter of national security that Omar Ahmed Saeed Sheikh was the biggest one of all because it's got 9/11 on the other end of it. (Right) And it's very embarrassing for MI6 and the CIA. It's embarrassing for the ISI. It's embarrassing for Pakistan. And we're trying to go into Afghanistan, we and the British, right? (Right)

In the days after, this huge discovery has been made. We're airdropping people in there. And, for Musharraf it's like a dagger in his hands here. He gets a phone call from the deputy secretary of state that basically says: "We will bomb you into the stone age unless you do X Y and Z." That's why you get the title the book: *In the Line of Fire*.

So, yeah, it's really, really a crossover point. We find out that he was a triple all along. That we had misplayed him. Just like we had misplayed Ali Mohamed. And it's terrible. We have a terrible, terrible record of getting rid of good doubles and being fooled by double agents who are actually triples.

And there's another one—this is the other one we'll go into today—that has to do with Oklahoma City. It took me about 15-20 years to figure out. And those are the most sensitive stories of all. And you can't try. Why hasn't it been tried? You can have a real trial of a triple agent, or even a double agent, without blowing the doors off of all the case officers that have been involved.

JON Well, that's one instance. You know, after—okay, this is an interesting story to me. After 9/11, after Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh was named as the paymaster, we indicted him for a crime that he committed years prior. So, it was obvious that the U.S. wanted him, but they did not want to tie him to 9/11.

JOHN Right, it had to be suppressed.

JON Exactly.

Now, with regard to the shell game, as you refer to it—

JOHN Can I expand on that point you just made, just really briefly, and we'll get back to the shell game? (Sure)

So, "national security" quote unquote is the politically expedient that made it necessary to decouple Omar from 9/11, but the United States had no intention to let him get off scot free and getting away with all this stuff. So, that's why when they decide to go ahead with the indictment, they hang him for something he should've been indicted for all along. Right? He should have been indicted right away for that (Right). He was never indicted. He wasn't indicted or tried in India after they break him out of prison. He's allowed to walk a free man all over England. And the families are outraged for the people who died, Brits who died, because of his activities. He's never indicted anywhere—in India, in Great Britain, or the United States. All this time, until after 9/11. (Right) So, it's a secret indictment and it's not until November, mid-November that they indict him. They go a whole month before they finally work out this 4th Act, and the shell game, and then secretly indict him. And it's not released. The indictment isn't publicly released until late February 2002. The pearl thing is already going on. It's too late. It doesn't matter; Omar's never being extradited.

But, here's the kicker. Who is trying to get him to come here? It's the Justice Department and the FBI. And the problem is the White House won't buy. They—the story is that they had been leaning on the National Security Council trying to get him extradited and, actually, the CIA doesn't want that. It was the Justice Department trying to do it. The CIA knows the whole skinny. They don't want it and neither does President Bush. And so they're happy not to be bringing him back here and there can't be a trial. And we don't want him to talk.

So, he's not going to say anything to the FBI. And I think that's pretty perfunctory. It just was one interview. So, the U.S. people never got to talk to him—just once. And he's got—they don't want to kill him either for a couple of reasons. I'm talking about the Pakistanis, because number one, he still has information that they want. And number two, there's a lot of reason why he will continue to play that game. I'm certain that the only people he's talked to and said anything truthful to about all these past stories are going to be Pakistani intelligence.

JON Right, like people Ejaz Shah and so forth.

JOHN Yeah, I think, I don't think he's going to talk to anybody else. And I think everybody's happy with that—in London and Washington.

JON Well, okay. Now, with regard to the different variations of his name, I was going through a monograph from the 9/11 Commission. It's called the 9/11 Terrorist Financing Monograph. And I found a name in there for a financier of Al-Qaeda that was very similar to Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh. And it says.

"Before 9/11 Al-Qaeda was reportedly highly organized, with a committee structure that included the Finance Committee. Credible evidence indicates that Bin Laden played a significant role in planning each operation and was very attentive to financial matters. Other than Bin Laden, the person with the most important role in Al-Qaeda financing was reportedly Sheikh Qari Sa'id. Sa'id, a trained accountant, had worked with Bin Laden in the late 1980s when they fought together in Afghanistan and then for one of Bin Laden's companies in Sudan in the early to mid-1990s. Sa'id was apparently notoriously tightfisted with Al-Qaeda's money. Operational leaders may have occasionally bypassed Sa'id and the Finance Committee and requested funds directly from Bin Laden. Al-Qaeda members apparently financed themselves for day-to-day expenses and relied on the central organization only for operational expenses."

And that is from the 9/11 Commission monograph on terrorist financing.

Now, again, I looked him up—Sheikh Qari Sa'id. I can't find a damn thing about him anywhere.

JOHN Right, he's number four. This is Act #4. I've lost my notes here. I have so much stuff getting ready for this interview today. But, yeah, look Omar was the guy running the finances from the time he got out of jail, he went straight to bin Laden. And he was put at the very apex of the organization. He was, overnight, placed on the Majlis ê Shura with bin Laden. Bin Laden called him my special son. He was the heir apparent, going to be the heir apparent to succeed bin Laden.

JON Right. I remember reading that.

JOHN So—and here's what his folder, what he takes care of. First thing that happens is he has to, he breaks ranks with Azhar—the guy that he hooked up with, the terrorist, in prison. He was trying to spring Azhar out when he

got caught, and he got put in prison way back in '94. So, he's back now and he breaks with Azhar for various reasons, he didn't like him.

Incidentally, Azhar formed a new—that was Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM), I forget the expansion of that. It was his original group. He forms a new one—Jaish-e-Mohammed at this time, when Omar overhauls Al-Qaeda. And Azhar makes this—founds this movement, actually, at the Binori town mosque in Karachi. You know, that's the one Pearl was caught sneaking around in, by the way.

Anyway, Omar now is out from under Azhar. Initially, he is reporting directly to Abu Zubaydah, the operations chief, but his portfolio, that's what it would say, quickly becomes significant. He overhauls the entire financial network of Al-Qaeda, all the logistics networks, and the communications networks. He's also given responsibility for international liaison with the Hezbollah, the Sudanese National Front, and the UK, and he's also a liaison from the ISI to these various groups in Afghanistan. In connection with his financial overhaul, he does a couple of things. Number one, sets up a mini-stock exchange from a computer in the Kandahar safehouse with online access to worldwide stock exchanges. Why does he do that? Because when they're going to sell short any equities that would be most damaged, like insurance companies, because of the 9/11 attack. There are all kinds of financial things going on that have been looked into by people who've been stopped, because it would show that that had happened. He designed a new secure encrypted web-based communication system for finances and communications generally for Al-Qaeda. And, to bring in even more money, he took control of an overhaul and improved the whole opium, the whole narcotics trafficking thing. And that's why there was talk that he would one day succeed bin Laden. He operated across the entire front of Al-Qaeda's operations. (Right) He was in a great position to feed us real information, sell out some guys—they do that. And then—keep the big one, keep the lid on the big one for 9/11.

So, I think that the way the 9/11 Commission report got around this stuff was to not connect various aliases that, just like you said, when you go try and find them out, they don't seem to be born anywhere and have a past. And try not to say something that is an outright lie, but just to not say stuff to give you the appearance that it is what it isn't.

So, I am with you. I don't think this guy exists at all. I think it was just the end of the whole shell game. They had to come up with something. They'd

already dumped the first two guys and they ran into Omar. It became necessary to figure out how we're going to handle it. And they did. And the 9/11 Commission, basically, has obscured this part of the story, too.

JON Well, let me comment on the 9/11 Commission for a minute. This is an entry from HistoryCommons.org. It's June 20, 2004. 9/11 Commission figure says Pakistan was "up to their eyeballs" with Taliban and Al-Qaeda.

"An unnamed senior staff member" on the 9/11 Commission tells the *Los Angeles Times* that, before 9/11, Pakistani officials were "up to their eyeballs" in collaboration with the Taliban and al-Qaeda. As an example, this source says of bin Laden moving to Afghanistan in 1996, "He wouldn't go back there without Pakistan's approval and support, and had to comply with their rules and regulations." From "day one," the ISI helped al-Qaeda set up an infrastructure, and jointly operated training camps. The article further notes that what the commission will publicly say on this is just the "tip of the iceberg" of the material they've been given on the matter.

Now, there was a last-minute document given to the 9/11 Commission, apparently. And this is according to *The Washington Times*. It's a report from July 22, 2004.

"According to *The Washington Times*, 'On the eve of the publication of the report, the 9/11 Commission was given a stunning document from Pakistan claiming that Pakistani intelligence officers knew in advance of the 9/11 attacks.' "

Now, are you familiar with the Jersey Girls and so forth?

JOHN No, I'm familiar with that they did know before the fact.

JON Well, okay. The family—the Jersey Girls were the four widows responsible for the creation of the 9/11 Commission. (Oh, okay) They were Lorie Van Auken, Mindy Kleinberg, Patty Casazza, and Kristen Breitweiser. And, they submitted a question to the 9/11 Commission about this very incident. And this is a report from *The Washington Times*.

"On May 15, 2003, a group of 9/11 victims' relatives met with the commission co-chairman Thomas Kean and other senior

staff and submitted a list of questions, which included a mention of Lt. Gen. Mahmud Ahmed. On June 17, 2004, the New York Times reported that Lorie Van Auken, whose husband died in the World Trade Center, was 'irate' that the June 16 commission narrative of the 9/11 attacks did not even mention the allegation about Ahmed's role in the \$100,000 transfer to Mohammed Atta. Clearly, the ISI link is no mere conspiracy theory."

And the *NYTimes* piece said:

"Ms. Van Auken was irate that there was no mention of an accusation that General Mahmud Ahmed, the head of Pakistan's intelligence services, ordered the transfer of \$100,000 to Mr. Atta."

Now, Thomas Kean was confronted about the \$100,000 wire transfer in 2006, and he said he wasn't even aware of it, which is a little ridiculous to think because it was a pretty big story. A lot of people were promoting it and so on and so forth.

Now, there was one document from the 9/11 Commission—a Memoranda for the Record for Adam Drucker, an FBI agent from May 19, 2004, and in that document it says: "There is absolutely no evidence Atta received a wire transfer from the Pakistani ISI. There is no unexplained wire transfer or any unexplained funds at all."

But before this quote and after this quote, it's highly redacted, and their names aren't even mentioned. Lieutenant General Mahmud Ahmed or Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh. So, I, you know, I don't trust the 9/11 Commission. We've gone over this on my show before. They were completely corrupt and compromised. So, you're right. They did not address the issue. They wouldn't even say—I've never once heard an official in the American Government explain why this is untrue. If it isn't true. I've NEVER heard anybody explain why.

So, with that, why don't we get into the next question. Who are General Mahmud Ahmed and Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh? And, you kind of pretty much explained who Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh was.

JOHN

Which one did you want me to start with?

JON The Lieutenant General Mahmoud Ahmed. Who was that guy?

JOHN Okay, yes, yes. Well, in the interest of time, just to try and hit the high points, we should begin with the coup in 1999, that put him into power. It's an ironic thing. The way it happened was, he was kind of responsible and didn't intend this to happen, but he goaded his Prime Minister to go into Kashmir. And, when the Prime Minister did that, it kind of blew up his face and Clinton, basically, told him—that if you guys don't stop this, we're going to go world-wide public with all the terrorist stuff you guys are into. And this touched off a really bad blood between—I'm looking for the name of the guy that was ousted here, too many names—in any event, so, what happened was.

JON Sharif, wasn't it Sharif?

JOHN Yeah, Sharif, exactly, Sharif. And, so Sharif is going to fire Musharraf and the generals for having—he's going to blame them on this thing. So, that's how it starts. And Musharraf finds out. Because one of the top generals calls him out of the country and tells him this is going to happen and so Musharraf hops on a plane. He's chief of Pakistan's army at the time, by the way. He's the second in command.

And, so he gets the call from Lieutenant General Mohammed Aziz Khan who coordinates the coup on the ground with Musharraf on the way and, it's either that or get rid of Musharraf too. So, Musharraf is going to be taken over. They're afraid that Sharif has buckled under the United States and they're afraid that's going to happen in the future. They don't really know everything about Musharraf, but he's going to be the guy.

So, Aziz Khan has been the staunchest defender of the Taliban while working for the ISI, one of the most pious Islamist generals. In the heat of the coup, Aziz Khan works with the commander of the 10th corps, Lieutenant General Mahmud Ahmed. That's our guy we're talking about here. Also an Islamist who ordered troops from nearby Rawalpindi there, you know, the Capitol. The coup almost failed when the air controllers at the Karachi airport refused to let Musharraf's plane land. It had no gas left. But they changed their mind when another general, General Usmani, the Karachi corps commander took control of the airport and surrounded the control tower.

So, while Musharraf himself was probably not an extremist Islamist, the generals who put him there in power clearly were. Aziz Khan remained the Army Chief of General Staff, second in rank after Musharraf himself. And further roles in the coup as Usmani became Army deputy chief of staff and Mahmud Ahmed became chief of the ISI. One of the first acts of Musharraf as the new ruler was to cancel the top secret mission being planned by the CIA to send commandos into Afghanistan to capture bin Laden. So that's how the guy comes into power.

And, they cut off the CIA-planned mission to capture bin Laden. I would fast-forward to spring 2000. This is where things really go south between the ISI and the CIA. The story is, the short version, that Mahmud becomes—and this is what they said in Pakistan—"a born-again Muslim" and to just cut to the chase here, rather than use all the details, he actually comes to Washington and has a falling out with the State Department and he's given a dressing down and he goes back to Pakistan and basically cuts off the CIA. And there are no longer—this is 2000 now, in the spring of 2000—basically, the CIA is no longer able to plug in the ISI at the operational level.

The next major thing I would put in his story is it looks like he's anticipating the attack by April 2001. He, apparently, attempted to have Musharraf assassinated. Musharraf lived through that. And, also, he...

JON Lieutenant General Mahmud Ahmed tried to assassinate Musharraf?

JOHN Yes. That there was an assassination attempt that the ISI was involved in. And this was in the spring because they were already fearful that Musharraf was not going to be able—they wanted him out of the way before 9/11. And—I can't prove that, but I have a lot of details here that I could refer to in support of that. So, we'll just call that a possible or probable. But there's more pieces to this.

So, he—Mahmud—goes to Afghanistan to meet Mullah Omar, the head of the Taliban, and plead with him to get bin Laden out of there. Because they know that the attack is coming. And so, there's going to be reprisals—the Americans are going to go nuts. And so the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince Abdullah and General Mahmud Ahmed, the ISI, they go there together to try and get Mullah Omar to get rid of bin Laden, and this is still in the spring. So, in addition to an assassination attempt on

Musharraf, they're in there also trying to get bin Laden out of the way and Mullah Omar refuses. Says, he's our guest and so on.

So, there's a couple other things that happened, too, but—so, what happens in the end is that they—George Tenet goes over there to Islamabad. He meets with—he invites him to come back to the United States to work things out. Right. George Tenet is the head of the CIA at the time and things have gone into a glacial freeze. And so he's invited to come to Washington to meet with the CIA and other senior leaders in September 2001. And he doesn't say no. For him to say no would have raised antennae. So, he has to accept.

And, so, he comes to Washington and on the morning of September 11, 2001, at 8:00 o'clock, he's having a quiet breakfast with Representative Porter Goss and other members of the House Intelligence Committee. A Chairman of two Congressional intelligence committees were talking. He had Porter Goss and Senator Bob Graham talking to him. And, while they're talking—and they're talking about terrorism, especially generated from Afghanistan, says Graham. Anyway.

So, somebody walks in with a note and Porter Goss looks at it, hands it to Graham. It said: "A plane just hit the World Trade Center." Goss fervently scribbles a reply and asked for to find out more. So, while they're waiting to find out more, you know, they're talking some more with Mahmud. He was very empathetic, very sympathetic to the people of the United States, he said. I'll tell you, this is an acting performance worthy of an award, because you have to wonder what's going through his mind as he absorbs the news. You know, he understands, he has to understand there's an attack underway. Was he—the Americans wouldn't know he was behind the ransom money that had been sent to Atta for the plane that just flew into the Trade Center. (Right)

So, within moments—it's another plane and so on, and then they cancel the meeting. Anyway, he's actually physically sitting here with our top guys in Congress during the attack.

JON

Well, it also should be said that prior to 9/11, those same individuals that were meeting with him on the day of 9/11 met with him in Pakistan in the weeks prior to 9/11. Also, during the week of 9/11 in Washington D.C., he met with individuals from the Pentagon and unspecified individuals at the White House, and so on and so forth.

So, then we get to 9/11 and the news about Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh being the paymaster comes out. Then the news that he did so under the orders of Lieutenant General Mahmud Ahmed. Then what happens?

JOHN It's crushed, the story's crushed.

JON Well, but I mean I'm talking about Lieutenant General Mahmud Ahmed. Musharraf sacks him.

JOHN Oh, okay, so Musharraf, yeah, sacks him. He fires him. But what's really interesting about it is the excuse he uses—for being involved with the Taliban. Like everybody in Pakistan is involved with the Taliban, you know? (Right) So, it's a silly excuse.

JON And it was reported that it was due to U.S. pressure.

JOHN Yeah, in the newspapers, but not what Musharraf said. Musharraf's excuse, public excuse, was that he had been supporting the Taliban. One of the Indian newspapers, maybe even a Pakistani newspaper, said it was done because of CIA pressure or American pressure. You're right. And I'm sure it's true. I'm sure it's true. It could have, it could have been the under secretary of state who threatened to bomb them back into the Stone Age if he didn't do what he was told.

JON Well, to my knowledge, nobody in the FBI, none of the investigations that have taken place, any of them, have ever spoken to Lieutenant General Mahmud Ahmed. I would think that they would at least like to talk with him—or maybe put him under a polygraph and so forth, but that's never happened.

JOHN At the time, you've got to realize who's in the White House, and that's Bush and that's not going to happen while he's there. (Right) And Cheney, you know

JON Right, I know.

Now, there are a few stories about when and where Atta received the \$100,000 dollars from Sheikh. What is the most likely scenario? And I believe it has to do with Ansari?

JOHN Yeah, the guy that Omar met in prison back in '94. His real—that's an alias. His real name was Aftab Malik, but to broadly address the question you're asking about the scenario, the ransom scenario. I've got several sources that I rely on. One of the earlier ones is a German internal security service. Their informants told them that Omar Said Sheikh had sent a draft of \$100,000 dollars to Atta. How would they know? Because they had, they were infiltrating the Hamburg cell, you know, way back when Atta was there. So, there are German sources that also carry the story as getting it not from the FBI or the Indians, from their own informants. German internal security service.

Then you have the big break we've been talking about—the FBI team, the first week of October, finds out about it, as reflected as we said in the CNN stories and also *India Times* during those few days. But there is another chapter to this, which is *The Los Angeles Times* in late January of 2002. It resurfaces because there's another attack that's carried out. This isn't the one that takes place in early October, by the way, that Omar and Ahmed are involved in that one. So, but there's another one against the United States, I guess it's the U.S. I.A. office in India in Calcutta.

And the story is that it's pulled off by the same people that were used for the ransom payments, the bankroll of September 11 strikes, in America. And, this story is extensive. It tells a lot of the story about Saeed Sheikh, the real Omar, him being the one who sent the money to Atta, the \$100,000 dollars. But, it's curious, they leave out one thing. They do not mention that Ahmed, the ISI chief, was behind it and ordered it. Even though they're basing their story on *India Today*, which is a magazine. And there are two articles in *India Today*, January 8th and February 2nd. They do mention the ISI chief's role in it.

So, the *LATimes* runs this story on 22 January, 2002, puts everything in there, except for General Ahmed's role, which is strange. I mean, they had to be aware of it, but they deleted that part of the story.

JON Well, there's one thing you mentioned that they took part—the same individuals, Lieutenant General Mahmud Ahmed, Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, and so forth—took part in a terrorist attack against the United States you said? And—

JOHN Yeah, and this is in 2002.

JON Okay. We should point out that on October 1, 2001, this is an entry from HistoryCommons. Kashmir Suicide Attack Involves 9/11 Funder Saeed Sheikh. And it says.

"A suicide truck-bomb attack on the provincial parliamentary assemble in Indian-controlled Kashmir leaves 36 dead. It appears that Saeed Sheikh and Aftab Ansari [the people who were involved in the kidnapping of the shoe salesman where they got the money to send the \$100 thousand dollars], working with the ISI are behind the attacks."

And that's according to *Pittsburgh Tribune Review* and *Vanity Fair*.

"Indian intelligence claims that Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf is later given a recording of a phone call between Jaish-e-Mohammed leader Maulana Masood Azhar and ISI Director Lt. Gen. Mahmud Ahmed in which Azhar allegedly reports the bombing is a "success."

So, not only are there allegations that Lt. Gen. Mahmud Ahmed and Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh took part in 9/11, but there are allegations that he took part in other terrorist attacks. So, that gives credence and credibility to this whole 9/11 story in my mind.

JOHN It does. And it was the third one, which may not involve Omar but still involves the ISI chief—no, he's gone. Anyway, it involves the same gangster Aftab, sorry, they figure out his name, by the way. That's Malik that was used in the shoe kidnapping incident.

So, but the fourth—what we were doing here we were running through \$100,000 dollar scenario and there are all these sources that all—we've got three good ones now, and the fourth, actually, occurs in 2004, who is a British MP. And right on the floor he makes this big speech and he's basically, I think, poking fun at the United States for not say anything about this, and also poking fun at or, actually being critical, I think, of Pakistan for not indicting and trying, you know, Omar for—

JON Are you talking about Michael Meacher?

JOHN Yeah, exactly. And he could have mentioned his own country. Like, why didn't they invite and try Omar. He was walking around a free man. But

they had a British MP in 2004, making—bringing this stuff up again is interesting.

JON

Well, I spoke with Michael Meacher. I corresponded with him years ago and, you know, tried to corroborate everything that he said and so forth, and one of the things that he did mention was an individual by the name of Dennis Lormel who was an FBI agent who talked about a hundred thousand dollar wire transfer to Mohamed Atta during some of these Senate sessions. But if you read the transcript, he doesn't confirm that the 100 thousand dollars that they're talking about is the the 100 thousand dollars from Lt. Gen. Ahmed/Omar Saeed Sheikh to Mohammed Atta. It's a hundred thousand dollar wire transfer that took place a year prior to that. So, I think Michael Meacher got a little bit confused. And then I just tried to get him as an interview, but he declined. [Laughs] (That figures) Yeah, no, and I tried contacting Dennis Lormel. I sent him an email. I found out where he was working. I called him. He said he couldn't talk right now, to send him an email. And, basically, the end result was he had no comment because he never returned my calls. And a whole bunch of other things.

Now, so basically, after the 9/11 attacks happened and after it was found out that Ahmed and Sheikh were involved in paying Atta, Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh is involved in the kidnapping of Danny Pearl. And he was, I believe, found guilty for the murder of Daniel Pearl, but it was years later that it was found out that it was Khalid Sheikh Mohammed that was the one to actually murder Danny Pearl, and Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh was only involved in getting him to that area where he could be killed. And Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh has been sitting in prison since that time and there are few things that I'd like to point out.

There were allegations that he was running a terrorist network from prison and this is a quote.

"In a sensational development, authorities have claimed busting a clandestine terror network set up by jailed killer of Daniel Pearl inside the Hyderabad Jail and the Sindh Government has suspended senior police and jail officials after a large number of cell phones, SIMS and other equipment were recovered."

And that's TheNews.com.pk, by Amir Mir from December 18, 2008. And here's from another article:

"The real question that arises is how he has been able to acquire so much freedom to operate at will from within jail and engage in criminal activity that involved high-profile assassinations."

"It is also rumored that it is his links in high places that have enabled him so far to escape the gallows."

And that's from the TheNews.com.pk from December 19, 2008, so a day after.

So, he was running a terrorist network from prison and the last report about Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh that I'm aware of, was a suicide attempt. And it says.

"Omar Saeed Sheikh, the terrorist freed by India in exchange for the hostages of a hijacked plane in 2000, has attempted suicide in a Pakistani jail, an official said on Saturday."

That was ZeeNews.india.com, February 16, 2014.

That's the last thing I know about him, so far.

But, with regard to Danny Pearl, I have a quote from Mariane Pearl who was Danny Pearl's wife, and she wrote a book called *A Mighty Heart* and in that book she says.

"The distinctions between good and bad, Government organizations and terrorist organizations, are not simply fading; they seem to be faces of the same coin."

So, I just wanted to make people aware of that.

Now, let's see, do you have any—we went over a lot of stuff, but do you have any opinions of the 9/11 Commission?

JOHN Yeah, there's just a couple of things that, skip that. We'll go to that question.

JON I'm sorry, I don't mean to skip ahead, but we covered a lot of it.

JOHN That's okay, yeah, we're running out of time anyway—and I think you've covered some of this in the presentations you've done publicly. Philip Zelikow is the commission's executive director. He's a fireman. He's like the fox in the henhouse, you know. And, he's basically got a wide range to steer what's going on. And, obviously, the most you're going to get out of the commission is a limited hangout even if you could call it that much.

It did its best, I think, to hide the involvement of Saudi Arabia and even more so Pakistan. When I went down to the subcommittee headed by, I forget what's her name now, the African-American woman who has for a long while in the House of Representatives. I addressed her subcommittee and the 9/11 families for their service.

JON Oh, Cynthia McKinney, that's right.

JOHN Yeah, and I agreed to do that on one condition: to go down there and tell them what I knew about Omar. I said I want to know one thing and I don't have to know any of the details, but I want to know whether or not there was a separate closed-door classified briefing for Congressmen and Senators who had their committees that would have had jurisdiction or oversight of this. Was there a classified briefing, not in the 9/11 report, on Omar Saeed Sheikh. And they honor that agreement and the answer was yes, there was. There's a whole level of a set of information that was given to a few senior leaders in our Congress, on Omar, as a separate briefing that is not in the 9/11 report.

JON Also, the—

JOHN Yeah, there's a lot of things—

JON The allegations concerning—I'm sorry, yeah, no—the 9/11 Commission, Phillip Zelikow, as far as I'm concerned, belongs in jail for a number of reasons.

Now, with regard to the 28-redacted pages of the Joint Congressional Inquiry, I always thought these allegations regarding the hundred thousand dollar wire transfer would be in those pages, but based on what Bob Graham has told me, it doesn't seem that they are. So, I just wanted to point that out to people.

There are a few things I wanted to tell people about.

Okay, now, this is an interesting story. There were actually bribery allegations with regard to Pakistan and the 9/11 Commission. Are you aware of this?

JOHN Not really, not the details.

JON Okay.

On March 3, 2006, *The Friday Times* reported that:

"Pakistan gave tens of thousands of dollars to its lobbyists in the United States to members of the 9/11 inquiry commission to 'convince' them to stop some anti-Pakistan findings in the report." This according to FO Official Sadiq. According to the Pakistan paper *Daily Times*, this story about bribery "triggered" U.S. media interest.

I don't remember seeing any mention of this story at all. If you know of an American media outlet that investigated this story, and reported on the results of that investigation, please let me know.

On April 10, 2006, *The Dawn* reports that Pakistan officially denied the allegations of bribery.

"Pakistan has never indulged in the illegal activity of bribing or buying influence anywhere in the world" said a statement issued by the FO spokesperson here on Sunday.

Now, it's interesting to note, that after Osama bin Laden's reported death on 5/1/2011, and after the United States started to hypocritically point fingers at Pakistan for either protecting or harboring Osama bin Laden—and I say hypocritically because we were protecting them—we were protecting the knowledge that they were connected to terrorism.

Reuters reported that "Pakistan's Washington lobbyists have launched an intense campaign on Capitol Hill to counter accusations that Islamabad was complicit in giving refuge to Osama bin Laden."

Then an *NBC Washington Report* on July 19, 2011, comes out that says.

"A Virginia man has been arrested for participating in a conspiracy to act as an agent of the Pakistani Government. Court documents identified the man as Syed Fai of Fairfax, Virginia, a U.S. resident. The FBI alleges that Fai funneled millions of dollars to elected officials in high-profile conferences in an effort to influence American policy on Kashmir, a disputed territory along the Indian and Pakistani border. In charging documents, Fai was said to have received funding for his lobbying efforts from the Pakistani ISI, the country's spy agency."

So, they denied the allegations concerning bribery in the 9/11 Commission. And they say that they never do that kind of thing. And then we have two reports stating the opposite that they do do that kind of thing.

So, I wanted to make people aware of that.

And one other thing was an odd confession from an arrested militant. And this is an entry from HistoryCommons.org June 22, 2007.

"Arrested Militant Says Saeed Sheikh Funded 9/11 Hijackers
According to reports in the Indian press, a recently arrested militant leader says he believes Saeed Sheikh wired money to lead hijacker Mohamed Atta before 9/11. The militant, who is known as Babu Bhai and is a leader of the militant organization Harkat ul-Jihad al-Islami, says that the money came from a ransom paid for the release of a kidnapped shoe company executive and that he was involved in the kidnap operation as a deputy to the local commander, Asif Raza Khan. Other people involved in the money transfer are arrested based on the information disclosed by Babu Bhai. This confession supports previous reports about the transfer."

The wire transfer—so, I thought that was odd that out of nowhere came this story of an arrested militant talking about this. Did you ever hear of that?

JOHN Yeah, it links very nicely to all the other sources we have on that story.

JON Exactly. And, so I've told people over the years that there is more reason to believe that this wire transfer did happen than not. And that has been my opinion. Do you agree?

- JOHN Yes. Yeah, I think it's, like I said, the Germans have their own informants. The FBI—got all the cell phone numbers and transcripts of that stuff. And, you know, you have a guy here involved in the kidnap of the shoe tycoon. And we may find more, too, but that certainly rises to the level of certainly a probable—when you get that many independent sources giving you the same story, it can't be dismissed.
- JON Do you think one of the reasons that Danny Pearl was murdered was because of the fact that *The Wall Street Journal* was the only newspaper in the country to cover Lt. Gen. Mahmud Ahmed? Do you think that had anything to do with that?
- JOHN I've said so in the classroom constantly that that maybe caught their attention. Like I said, he was—the paper itself was on their radar screen, you know, and here comes Danny Pearl, only he's looking at the stuff that's even worse than what we've talked about today. He's actually looking at the weapons of mass destruction story. And they catch him sneaking around in a very bad mosque. He shouldn't have been in there, the Binori Town mosque and Omar's also tied into that to the liaison with bin Laden in Afghanistan, okay? That's a big story that developed out of all the rest of the stuff we've been talking about on into November and December. And, I mean, basically, the CIA chief was hopping flights over there, you know, every few weeks trying to wring the truth out of Musharraf and everybody else, all their nuclear scientists about what had been going on. And so, it's already enough to have the newspaper on their radar screen. Apparently, the only one that didn't cooperate and that was basically a news blackout in the United States on this story, but to be fishing around for something even bigger. Which is the export of Pakistan's nuclear technology, not just from the top and actual people who are bomb makers going in there and meeting with bin Laden was what Pearl was fishing around for. And so I think that's also part of why they killed him.
- JON Well, Mariane Pearl writes in her book, I believe, if memory serves, that his being Jewish also had something to do with it.
- JOHN Sure. I'm sure it did. But that's the story that nobody wanted to come out in Pakistan—what they were doing with bin Laden and WMD.

JON Are you aware of that time during a press briefing with Condoleezza Rice where an Indian reporter asked her about Lt. Gen. Mahmud Ahmed and the hundred thousand dollar wire transfer? (No) Have you ever seen that?

JOHN No, I can't imagine that she was forthcoming.

JON Oh, okay.

On March 15, 2002, Condoleezza Rice is asked a question about Lt. Gen. Mahmud Ahmed.

"Dr. Rice, are you aware of the reports at the time the ISI chief was in Washington on September 11 [And he says, falsely, that on September 10th \$100,000 was wired from Pakistan to this group here in this area. It wasn't September 10th. It was in August, I believe. But, anyway, he says:] "While he was here, was he meeting with you or anybody in the administration?" And her response was, "I have not seen that report, and he was certainly not meeting with me."

Now, if you read the transcripts from the WhiteHouse.gov where it says ISI chief, they take that out and replace it with a dash. They took out the ISI chief from that question in the transcript. I always thought it was funny.

JOHN Yeah. [Pause] He basically is, I think, that lines up perfectly with the *Los Angeles Times* reporting the story based on the *Indian Press* again in January and telling everything except for the ISI chief's role.

JOHN Right. Is there anything you're working on now or that you would like to promote or anything at all?

JOHN Well, the latest, I just published a book on the Kennedy assassination that goes way back into '59 and before and a little bit after. It's called *Where Angels Tread Lightly: The assassination of President Kennedy Vol. 1*. If any of your listeners are interested in the JFK case, I've started about a five volume or six volume series on that. And I am working on this subject that we're talking about today, too. I don't anticipate a manuscript being published until sometime next year, late next year.

JON I look forward to reading that.

Are you aware of this study that came out from George Washington University with regard to Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and so forth? That came out, I think, it was in 2011. [Pause] Are you aware of that document or report?

JOHN I don't know. I don't think so. Are you talking about national security archives they uncovered, or the school now?

JON No, it was like the Danny Pearl Project or something to that effect. It was about Danny Pearl's murder. And I wrote to them and I asked them why isn't there anything in here about Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and the hundred thousand dollar wire transfer and they said that they didn't see any evidence to support that. So that's why they didn't put it in this report. I could send you a link to that.

But, anyway, I want to thank you, John, very much for taking the time to come on my show to talk about this very important, what I think is an important issue that needs to be addressed and never has been. And I thank you very much for your insight. I think it's very invaluable and I wish you luck with all of your future endeavors.

JOHN Well, thank you very much for sharing your time with me, too. And good luck with keeping the 9/11 story alive. I think that it needs people like you that are going to stay on it. And keep digging until we get to the bottom of it.

JON Well, again, thank you for your time today, John, and I hope you have a great day.

JOHN You too.

JON All right. Take care, John.

We were **LIED** to about 9/11

With your host Jon Gold

This week
Jon talks to...



The
Soapbox
People's Network



Paul Thompson

Chapter/Episode 31 – Paul Thompson – Part 1 – July 27, 2016

Jon Gold (JON)

Paul Thompson (PAUL)

JON Hi, everyone, and welcome to my show called, "We Were Lied to About 9/11." I am your host Jon Gold and this show is part of the Soapbox People's Network. This week, I'm having a four-part series that covers a multitude of issues. This is part one.

Hi, this is Jon, and I thought that I was done with this show, but I was given an opportunity to speak to someone I wanted to speak to from the beginning. So, here I am today, and I'm here with Paul Thompson. Paul, how are you doing today?

PAUL I'm doing good.

JON All right, excellent. All right, so what I'm going to do is I'm going to read Paul's bio for everyone.

Paul Thompson is the author of *The Terror Timeline*, a compilation of over 5,000 reports and articles concerning the September 11, 2001 attacks. The book was based on research conducted by himself and other contributors to the HistoryCommons website. Thompson's research in the field has

garnered over 100 radio interviews, along with TV interviews on Fox News and Air America and interviews in print, such as for *Buzz Magazine*.

Articles about himself, his research and its reception by the "9/11 Truth Movement" have appeared in *The Village Voice* and *Esquire Magazine's* "Genius Issue," and recognition as "an authority on terrorism," even though, "He never studied, trained," as noted by *Esquire*. In 2005, Thompson was asked to speak at a Congressional briefing on the 9/11 Commission's final report, he addressed what he defined as failures by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD).

Paul Thompson was born in Pacific Beach, California and currently holds a psychology degree from Stanford University obtained in 1990. He now spends time there and in San Diego. He is a freelance researcher and has worked in the past as an environmental activist at an environmental-protection firm.

Mr. Thompson has made numerous appearances on Link TV and Free Speech TV. He helps these independent channels raise money.

All right, that's Paul's bio and I wrote a little personal bio for Paul, that I'm going to read for him now.

Paul Thompson is a hero of mine. He is certainly one of if not my biggest influence. The release of the August 6th, PDB gave both of us a kick in the ass to do something about the lies of 9/11, but Paul did something so spectacular and so important that in my mind, he deserves the greatest recognition. I'm talking about the "Complete 9/11 Timeline" available at www.HistoryCommons.org which I have called on several occasions one of the most important websites on the internet. I have spent years studying the timeline, and I still come across entries that surprise me. I have tried for many years to mimic the way I think Paul would present information. I'm basically a poor man's Paul Thompson. I want to thank him for everything he has done.

And that was for you.

PAUL Well, thanks a lot. That's high praise. It's nice to know that someone appreciates that, because I worked so many hours on that and I didn't get a whole lot of feedback. So, you know, when people look at an encyclopedic-

type thing, they usually don't go contact the author. They just kind of use it as a reference. So, it's good to get some, to know that I've had impact.

JON Oh, I've told—when I was talking with Ray before on this show, I told him that I would feel naked without the Complete 9/11 Timeline. (Mm-hmm) Anyway, so all right, we're going to get to the questions. The very first question is: What was the day of 9/11 like for you?

PAUL Well, I was living on the West Coast as I still am. So I missed the whole thing. By the time I got up and went to work the attacks were over, and I got into work and someone was listening to the radio. I was working at a, like you said in the bio there, I was working for an environmental group, and there was some mention just as soon as I came in about 10,000 maybe 20,000 people being killed in New York. I was just completely baffled. I had no idea what that could be about. So, pretty much everyone at work we just sat around and listened to the radio. We didn't have a TV—and then I went home and of course watched all the images over and over again.

So, at that time, I was just, you know, an ordinary person who had no connections. I didn't know anyone who was, you know, lost any relatives or loved ones. I was far from the whole thing. So, I just thought, wow, that's pretty amazing, pretty weird, and I just kind of moved on with my life. So, I didn't really get involved until about a year later.

JON Right. And that brings us to my next question. What was the first thing you questioned about 9/11?

PAUL Yeah, well, like I said, about a year later, maybe summer of 2002, if you remember that's when a lot of stories started to come out about all the different warnings. And there was the story of the PDB, the Bin Laden Determined to Strike in U.S., that hit the newspapers around that time. So, I had just accepted the story at face value up until that point, and then I started to see these news reports. And I just sort of fell down a rabbit hole where I realized that what I had been hearing was not the true story, and I wanted to know what the true story was.

So, just for my own edification to make sense of this complicated thing, I started working on a timeline. And, you know, I had no plans for it. I didn't think of—sharing it on the Internet or doing anything with it, really. I just wanted to understand for myself. And it grew into a bit of an obsession. And it just kept growing and growing and growing. And so, at some point,

you know, some friends I had were like: "You've got to do something with this. This is pretty interesting stuff you have here." So, I put it on the web, I think in late 2002, and then that just made it continue to grow even more, and other people chimed in and contributed. And so, it just was sort of an organic process that I really fell backwards into it.

I had no interest, really, in terrorism—in a way, I still don't. You know, I would have never imagined that this would be something that I would be spending so much time on. I definitely had no particular background to qualify me for anything. But, I just felt that I had to know what the true story was. I had to understand what was going on, because 9/11 wasn't just another terrorist attack. It was something that radically changed the history of, not only the United States, but the entire world that we're still dealing with the post-9/11 world that—if that would have never happened, things I think would have gone in a very different direction.

So, in order to really understand the world around me, I felt like I had to get into this topic even though I didn't have any particular fascination with terrorism or Al-Qaeda or any of these things but I just, you have to know these things in order to make sense of all of this that's been happening and the implications on domestic policy, on civil liberties, on foreign policy, you know, our entire way of life.

JON It's amazing because none of us know what we're doing when we get into this and being an activist is a learning process. And you, basically, have to develop a PR campaign that reaches the most people. It's trial and error. And we do the best that we can. Who would have thought that I would be focusing on terrorism today? Like you said, foreign policy or any of those things. I never in a million years would have thought that. (Yeah) All right. Have you read the released 28 pages, with redactions, and was there anything that stood out to you?

PAUL Yes, I did. Well, on first glance, it was, most of it was not that surprising to me, because a lot of it, the vast majority of it was just confirmation of things that had already been reported in the news. For instance, a lot of it focuses, almost all of it focuses on the two hijackers of San Diego—Khalid al-Mihdhar and Nawaf al-Hazmi and their various connections to Saudi officials and Saudi helpers. And, most of that had been reported as far back as 2002, most of it had been reported. But upon closer inspection, there are a lot of interesting things that we didn't know before.

And I would say the main thing about it that I think people should be making a big deal about is that it both confirms and adds to what we know about Prince Bandar who was the Saudi ambassador for a long, long time, since the early 80s until about 2006. And, it's a really strange thing if you look into this Prince Bandar connection, because he seems to have been directly funding through kind of a pass through his wife going to another wife—these two people, Omar al-Bayoumi and Osama Bassnan, who it's widely believed were paid spies by the Saudis who were supposed to keep an eye on the Saudi community in San Diego, and look at—is anybody there doing something that could be potentially harmful to Saudi interests. You know, there's a lot of dissidents and so forth, and the Saudi Government is very—they're a dictatorship, and they crack down on that sort of thing.

So, you can really see the money flow in a way that is clear. There were times that it went through the wives, but there were even some direct payments and directly to Bassnan or to Bayoumi. And then we find out these strange connections having to do with some phone numbers, like there's this person Abu Zubaydah who was the, well he has a very strange role. Some people say he's not Al-Qaeda. Some people say he was one of the very most important Al-Qaeda.

JON I'd say he was somewhere in between, actually.

PAUL Yeah, well, it's a strange thing. He also, his whole story is that he may have been sort of mentally ill in some kind of way. So, he's a very strange character. I think what he was, basically, was kind of like a human switchboard, if you will. He was based in a border town between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and he worked closely with the terrorist training camps in Afghanistan, which not all of them were connected to Al-Qaeda. There were some others. And so, if you were a person who wanted to go train in one of those training camps, you sort of went through him and he—so, he was not entirely Al-Qaeda, because he worked with these other groups also, but he was really one of the most important people because he had all these connections. He had sort of the terrorist Rolodex, if you will. And that's where Prince Bandar comes back in, because when Zubaydah was captured in March 2002, by the U.S. forces in Pakistan, they looked at his phone book and they found that he had the phone number of this organization that was managing Prince Bandar's house in Colorado. So, it wasn't directly Prince Bandar's phone number, but this organization was very secretive. They were not in the phone book or really there's no way to

reach them. And they seem to be like if you want to talk to him, you have to go through them. So, that is very interesting. What is he doing with Prince Bandar's phone number in the United States, basically?

And then he also had the number of one of the Saudi embassy bodyguards in Washington, D.C. where Prince Bandar worked. And then, furthermore, the 28 pages mentions that someone connected to one of Prince Bandar's personal assistants. Their phone number was found in a bin Laden safe house in Pakistan.

So, you have all these curious connections. And it's doubly curious to me, because if you look at the Saudis, it's a very strange, strange situation, because on one hand Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda publicly made it known that their goal was to destroy the Saudi Government. They felt that the Saudi Government was corrupt and had sort of betrayed their mission of properly guarding the holy sites in Mecca and Medina. And, every time practically that bin Laden would give a speech he would decry the Saudis. And there were some terror attacks even before 9/11 that took place in Saudi Arabia, you know, by Al-Qaeda.

So, you would think by all logical measures that they would be mortal enemies. Right? But then, on the flip side, the Saudis have for years been this very fundamentalist extreme branch of Islam called Wahhabism, which makes no bones about a goal to convert everyone in the entire world to their very extreme version of Islam. It's well-known women can't drive or vote—they're one of the most extreme countries in the world in terms of how they practice Islam.

And they have spent a tremendous amount of money promoting this Wahhabist division throughout the world. I saw one account that was, you know, from not long after 9/11 that said they had spent 70 billion dollars on this promotion which often took the form of building big new mosques, which then as the price of having the mosque, you have to have a Wahhabist Imam, the religious leader, so that that really spreads the Wahhabist message all around the world.

And, so, at the same time that they have been at odds, Al-Qaeda and the Saudi Government, you know, in some ways they've been very much allies in other ways. It's sort of like—sometimes one policy domestically is 180 degrees from the policy that takes place overseas. So, the Saudis definitely they don't want anyone who's Al-Qaeda or any other radical Islamist group

to be blowing up buildings and killing people within Saudi Arabia. But, at times, they've been very supportive of that happening outside of Saudi Arabia, especially to people or countries that are considered the enemies of Islam.

You know, you can look at different countries where there have been conflicts like Bosnia or Chechnya and you can see a tremendous amount of money that has flowed. I mean, we can look at recent years and it's very clear everyone admits that ISIS, which seems to be trying to—be even more extreme than Al-Qaeda, that they're getting a big portion of their funding and their recruits from Saudi Arabia. And that's not even that far from, that's like next door to Saudi Arabia. And look at what ISIS is doing. They brought back slavery. They have beheadings of people and just all kinds of terrible, terrible things and, yet, there's a large number of people in Saudi Arabia who would say: "Go for it. Do more. Take over more territory."

So, there's this strange, strange dichotomy, I think you have to agree, between like a love-hate relationship, if you will, between a lot of the top Saudis, both businesspeople and royals in the Government and then these Islamist fundamentalist movements.

JON I agree. And one of the things that I like to point out regarding ISIS. You know, we invaded and occupied Iraq. We killed upwards of 1.25 million people. We displaced millions more. We wounded I don't know how many more. We tortured people. Blackwater was hunting Iraqis for sport. We were flushing Korans down the toilet. I think I said torturing people. But, you know, there is no statute of limitations on the kind of anger those things create. So, there were a lot of people who were already anti-west, the anti-al-Maliki Government. He was very oppressive.

PAUL Sure, and what happens is that you find when there's all kinds of violence that takes place, massive homelessness and displacement after a war, that's really fertile ground for extremist movements of all sorts of different kinds. I mean, you could look at the United States doing the secret bombing in Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge developing and taking over directly because of that. Certainly, if their country hadn't been war torn, the Khmer Rouge would have never been able to take over. Or you could look at Libya and how that country is in a total state of chaos now and, of course, it's no surprise that ISIS has established a foothold there.

So that often happens. But what's curious is that the Saudis, even on some Governmental official level it seems, would support a group as extreme as ISIS, because if ISIS, I think, even the same people who support them would recognize that if they were super successful, took over Syria and took over Iraq, they wouldn't stop there. They claim that they're the one legitimate Government in the world, that they have the one caliphate and that the caliphate ultimately needs to control the entire earth. And, so, sort of almost next on their hit list would be to take over Saudi Arabia. So, it's a very strange thing that they're sort of gambling. You know, we want this group to be successful, but not too successful.

- JON They were blocking their borders to prevent ISIS from getting in. But to finish my point. As you said, Saudi Arabia funneled money—in fact, it was Bandar who was responsible for sending in rebels or terrorists, or whatever you want to call them, into Syria. The United States, originally, was sending them intelligence. Then we started to send them arms. When we started to send in our own rebels from Jordan, and the people that I spoke of earlier—the people that we were supporting in Syria, essentially started to collaborate amongst themselves. So, it's almost—it's of our own creation almost.
- PAUL Yeah, well, let's definitely get back to that. But I want to, for the moment, I want to sort of keep the focus on Prince Bandar (Okay). We can come back to ISIS and so forth later, because I think that it's a very interesting case of history repeating itself.

And, in any case, looking at Prince Bandar, the thing that's so curious is that we've seen that sometimes in Saudi Arabia you get these very fundamentalist Wahhabist diehard religious types who are big believers in this Wahhabist goal to conquer the world and very anti-Western. And, so, they give money to groups like Al-Qaeda and ISIS. And, yet, Prince Bandar never seemed to be that sort of person. In fact, his popular nickname is Bandar Bush and he has literally been defacto accepted as a member of the Bush family. He's treated like a family member and he is as western as any Saudi, you know, that you could think of in terms of his—he's got this multimillion dollar chalet in Colorado and he's a real mover and shaker in Washington. He goes to all the cocktail parties and he's friends with all the top officials and just treated very differently from your average foreign diplomat. He's almost treated like an insider. And this has been noticed for decades.

To give you an interesting little tidbit—just a few years after he had been made the ambassador, he was one of the key people in the Iran-Contra affair. He gave over 30 million dollars to the contras because the U.S. Government couldn't give the money themselves because of a Congressional ban. So, he was—this is not the behavior of a typical foreign ambassador at all. It's like—it's like one of the insiders, like I said. And, so, to have him of all people be connected to these Saudis in San Diego who are directly assisting the 9/11 hijackers, and then have these other connections come up with Abu Zubaydah and so forth, suggest that he may have been playing a really bizarre double game where he was, on one hand, very, very friendly to the United States but, on the other hand, seemingly willing to allow the 9/11 attack to take place, maybe directly assisting it in financial ways and all sorts of ways. We don't know. But if it were to be most anyone else, you know, this would be front-page news. I mean, imagine if we found an Iraqi official or an Iranian official that had these sorts of connections to the 9/11 attacks, we'd never hear the end of it.

JON Well, one of the things that we can speculate about, because of his relationships, as opposed to playing a double game, maybe there was a collaborative effort. I don't know.

PAUL We just can't know. You know, we're not privy to these private conversations, but just to give another example of how mind-blowing it is, I'm sure you know that just a couple days after 9/11, President Bush and Prince Bandar had a meeting, a private meeting. And it seems like that one of the things that took place in that meeting was discussion on how to get key Saudi Royals and bin Laden family members out of the United States. But this is the first foreign diplomat that Bush contacted in person after 9/11—very, very important contact there. And, in retrospect, I mean, how incredible is it to think that this key seeming ally in the U.S.'s efforts just two days after 9/11 may have been the person who was giving hundreds of thousands of dollars to the 9/11 hijackers cell in San Diego.

JON Right. I have an entry that doesn't get a lot of attention from HistoryCommons.org that I'd like to read. And I'd like to get your opinion on it.

March 15, 2001, Bush tells Saudi prince that military action in Iraq needs to be "decisive."

"During a meeting with President Bush, Saudi Prince Bandar expresses concern about the U.S.'s continuing patrolling of the 'no fly zone' in Iraq. The prince complains that it is 'costing us militarily, financially but much more importantly politically' and adds that 'It is not hurting Saddam Hussein.' Bush seems to agree. 'If there is any military action, then it has to be decisive, that can finalize the issue,' Bush says. 'The Iraqis are useless and not effective.'"

And that's according to James Risen's book *State of War*.

Don't you think it's interesting that the President of the United States is talking about military action in Iraq with one of the individuals who supposedly was involved with the 9/11 attacks, which gave Bush the ability to do what he did?

PAUL Right. Well, you know, I've been thinking about this in recent days and thinking like why on earth would Prince Bandar want the 9/11 attacks to happen and to be successful? And, one thing I've been thinking about that relates very much to that quote you just mentioned is that there was a lot of flak that the Saudi Arabian Government was getting after the Gulf War in '91, that they allowed the U.S. to come into Saudi Arabia with 300-plus thousand troops and attack the Saddam Hussein Government, and then afterwards they let them stay. And Saudi Arabia, in Islamic eyes, was considered sort of sacrosanct soil and that no foreigners—who are not of the faith should be stationed there. And, so, they were getting criticism from all over the Middle East and the Muslim world about this for years. And this was one of the key points that bin Laden would repeatedly harp on in his speeches was that, you know, that they've allowed these infidels to be based in Saudi Arabia.

So, around the time of 9/11 and thereafter it became clear that Saudi Arabia wanted, was pretty much saying it's time to go. We want you out of Saudi Arabia. It's causing us too much trouble. And, so, that's what happened was that when the U.S. took over in late—started moving all their troops into the region in late 2002, and then attacked Iraq in 2003, all those troops that had been based in Saudi Arabia, now were based in Iraq. And there were no more troops until this day no more U.S. troops based in Saudi Arabia. There are few based in the Gulf like Bahrain and a few other countries, but no more in Saudi Arabia.

So, this was one of the biggest thorns in the side of the Saudi Government that having the U.S. there and having the U.S. attack Iraq and then sort of re-center the U.S. military presence of that Persian Gulf region in Iraq instead of Saudi Arabia was very much to the benefit of Saudi Arabia.

So, if you're looking at that quote and you're thinking from Prince Bandar's point of view, they're thinking probably great, if the U.S. attacks and takes over Iraq, then they can be kicked out of Saudi Arabia without us really suffering, because the U.S. wants to have some presence somewhere in the region. You know, not just a small presence of just a couple bases in Bahrain and Qatar, but you know really a large presence. About two thirds of all the oil in the world is in the Persian Gulf and the U.S. has tried to maintain a strong military posture there in order to keep the flow of cheap oil going. So they were not willing to leave Saudi Arabia unless they had somewhere else to go.

So, I think if you look at it from that point of view, you could see why Prince Bandar was being sort of a cheerleader for the takeover of Iraq, even though strategically that would be very problematic for Saudi Arabia because, you know, there's this whole Sunni versus Shia divide and the concern that the Iranians would end up greatly increasing their influence in Iraq, which is what exactly happened.

So, it was sort of a gamble, but it looks like I could see why they would want that to happen.

JON So, it definitely seems as if Saudi Arabia wanted Saddam out.

PAUL You could see, you know, again, I'm not privy to their internal dialogue. They're a very secretive country, but you could see why there would be a logical reason for them to want that to happen. They really, really wanted the U.S. troops out. I think a lot of that had to do with bin Laden thinking like, you know, if—not just bin Laden—there's always been this great fear in Saudi Arabia that the people are very unhappy with the leadership. That they feel the leadership is corrupt; that they say one thing and then they do another; they profess to be very religious but then they're living sort of the playboy life in places like Monaco and gambling and having all kinds of foreign women and drugs and all this stuff.

So, there's this—there's the Arab Spring and so many countries have had, you know, their Governments overthrown and that has been THE great fear

for the Saudis for decades. And, so, to remove the U.S. troops would remove a major grievance by these potential fundamentalist movements within Saudi Arabia themselves who say the Government is not legitimate and thus needs to be overthrown.

JON All that makes sense and there was another—I think, Bob Woodward wrote in one of his books that in January of 2003, Cheney, Myers, Bandar and, I think, Hemming—I'm not sure—were having a meeting, discussing. They were planning what was to take place in Iraq after the invasion. So, obviously, he had a lot of inside knowledge, maybe influence or whatever, with what was going on.

PAUL Right. So, yes, so then you also see that time and time again that the Saudis have used terrorism as a foreign policy tool. They're not afraid to do that. I mean, you know, ISIS is a good example, where they—they have a problem with Syria. They don't like Assad and so they support, you know, rebel movements, which they would rather see take over who are more in line with their Wahhabist beliefs. And you can go to a lot of different countries where you can look, and you can see that there are, if not Al-Qaeda or ISIS, groups like that that have been supported by the Saudis and, sometimes, you know, they have even threatened or seemingly been involved with terrorist attacks in the West. There was—I don't remember the exact details offhand but—there was something that happened a few years ago with Britain where, remember they had the 2005 terror attack there. (Right) And, I think, a few years after that there was this big arms deal that had been going on for decades called the BAE deal—that was the name of one of the companies involved, which was a huge multibillion dollar deal, mostly between Britain and Saudi Arabia. And there had been accusations of widespread bribery that the British Government had been paying off millions and millions of dollars to key Saudis as part of that deal, and there was going to be an investigation. And then the Saudi Government openly, you know, in the public, pretty much said kind of like a mob enforcer or something like that. I don't remember the exact quote, but it was something like: "If you persist in these sort of things, we won't be able to stop another terror attack happening in Britain." [Laughs]

JON Right, that might have come directly from Bandar, I think.

PAUL It might have been Bandar. So, you can see, this is not just the Saudis that have done this. There's another really good example of a deal like this that happened with the Pakistanis where the French Government was involved

in some sort of big arms deal and they also questioned the terms of the deal and wanted to renegotiate the deal. I don't remember the details, but there was some problem with the deal that was coming up and then, very mysteriously, I think, 11 French workers working in Pakistan were killed in a bomb that was blamed, I believe, on Al-Qaeda, and the French later did—there was a French judge did an investigation and this was a couple of years after 9/11 when the bombing took place—and the judge concluded, basically, that the Pakistani Government aided and abetted that bombing in order to send a message to the French Government, you know, like basically back off on this deal or else this is what happens to you.

So, there is this rough Machiavellian power politics that goes on where people use terrorism as just another, you know, arrow in the quiver, if you will, of ways to get things done without really much regard to loss of life or the ethics involved.

And so, if you look at that, and you look at what Bandar is doing with, you know, with what was happening in San Diego, anything is possible. I'm not saying that he, you know, he was aiding and abetting 9/11, but it certainly is something that would need to be seriously investigated.

JON Well, to make sure that I was right, I looked it up and there's an article in *The Guardian*. BAE Secret Papers Reveal Threats from Saudi Prince. And it just says.

"Prince Bandar, the head of the Saudi National Security Council and son of the crowned Prince, was alleged in court to be the man behind the threats to hold back information about suicide bombers and terrorists."

PAUL So, there you go. I mean—so he himself is shown in other cases to just use this as a foreign policy tool. And we can see motives why he would have wanted the 9/11 attack to succeed at that time.

And, an interesting thing about this whole San Diego connection is that, I think, people often assume that there was this sort of hostile relationship between the Saudi minders, the spies, especially al-Bayoumi and Bassnan and then the hijackers—like they're being watched, but they don't really want to be watched and like you get these guys off my back kind of thing, you know.

But that is probably not true. If we look at these people like al-Bayoumi and Bassnan, they couldn't have been more supportive of the very things that Al-Qaeda was doing. Like, killing Westerners, using terrorism as a tool, and so forth. For instance, it was discovered just shortly after 9/11, one of them—I have to look up in my notes which one—I think it was Bassnan was at a party in San Diego. He hadn't left the country yet. And there was a group of people seemingly like-minded Wahhabist people where witnesses say he was cheering the success of the 9/11 attacks and calling the hijackers great heroes and sort of—that sort of language.

So, this is not someone who is like: "Oh, I've got to find out if these people are doing something bad like, you know, potentially going to blow something up and so I've got to pass a warning on." They were like: "Right on! Go for it. Blow something up. Kill some Westerners." You know, they were ideologically just as extreme as the hijackers themselves. And they had a long—both Bayoumi and Bassnan had been investigated previously for terrorist connections. These are not—like you would think, you know, if the Saudis were legitimately worried about stopping some sort of Al-Qaeda penetration of the United States, they're not the people that you would put in those jobs. And it's not like this is some sort of mistake that the Saudis wouldn't have known. I mean, one of them had a connection going all the way back to the blind sheik in the early 1990s, who was one of the people behind—the sort of the religious leader—behind the blowing up of the World Trade Center in 1993, and so on and so forth. I mean, the more you dig, the more you see that there is this very obvious terrorist connection and terrorist loyalties amongst these supposed Saudi minders.

Also, and they're not just watching—they were funding; they were helping. You need a flight school? Here, we'll get you set up with someone who can do that for you here. We'll pay your rent, and all down the line. This is not just people keeping an eye on potentially suspicious people, but that's how it's largely appeared in the press.

JON

Well, let's get back to the 28 pages, one of the revelations from the pages. What we've heard in the past is that the payments went from Princess Haifa's account directly to one of the wives—I forget, al-Bayoumi or Osama Bassnan—but, we found in the 28 pages a direct payment to Bassnan from Prince Bandar. It says.

"On at least one occasion, Bassnan received a check directly from Prince Bandar's account. According to the FBI, on May

14, 1998, Bassnan cashed a check from Bandar in the amount of thirteen thousand dollars. Bassnan's wife also received at least one check directly from Bandar. She also received one additional check from Bandar's wife, which she cashed on January 8, 1998, for ten thousand dollars."

That was on Page 427. That was one, I think, one of the bigger revelations in the pages. What do you think?

PAUL Well, I think that's interesting. There's also the fact that in 2002, I believe in May, when the King of Saudi Arabia and Prince Bandar and sort of the royal entourage was in Houston. Then I believe it was Bassnan also went to Houston and he lost some, I think he lost his passport there, so, there was proof that he was in Houston on the same day. And, you know, the 28 pages mentions that he met with a high-ranking royal while he was there.

JON I just wrote an article about that, and in the entry on HistoryCommons.org it describes the individual that he met with as someone that traveled with suitcases full of cash—and the only person I can find described like that is Prince Bandar. So, is it possible—

PAUL Well, it may not have been Prince Bandar, because the 28 pages always refers to him as the ambassador. And in that particular passage I noticed that it had mentioned it was a royal. So, it may or may not, but it's kind of a moot point, because usually when you're—when you're dealing with these sort of people, you've got to realize that Prince Bandar has to be savvy that he is being monitored by, certainly, U.S. intelligence and possibly other intelligence agencies. The Mossad, I'm sure, would want to know everything he's doing. Right? So if they, you know, usually use third parties or cutouts of some type. That's why you wouldn't, you probably wouldn't find Prince Bandar's phone number directly with Abu Zubaydah. But we find that his bodyguard has the phone number. (Right) So, you have someone one step removed who can just pass messages on.

So, you know, I would be shocked if there was a direct meeting. But there is no need to have a direct meeting. They know how to do these things through these third parties. Right.

But, the fact that he would be going brazenly after 9/11, and meeting with the entourage of the King of Saudi Arabia is pretty ballsy just in it—no matter who you met with within that entourage, you know. How is it that he

hadn't been arrested yet at that point? It's pretty incredible. I mean, like that thing I mentioned about the party, that was known very shortly after 9/11 and yet he continued to stay in the United States all the way until the end of 2002.

JON And they finally let him go because of Visa violations.

PAUL Right, and there's only days after he left that we started to get the first news stories that revealed his connection with the hijackers. And, so, that had been held until he was out of the country.

So, the whole thing was very suspicious that these people—and I'll go into this more later—seemed to act with impunity, who are connected with the Saudis, that the U.S. has such a hands-off policy that the mere fact that he would not even be worried for a whole year and continue to live in the United States sort of says a lot. We have to remember that this was a time when the United States was just picking up every Tom, Dick, and Harry that was Muslim and throwing them in jail. There were between a thousand and 2000 people in United States that were held for months after 9/11. A lot of them being held as quote unquote "material witnesses." And the vast majority, all but maybe one or two of them, ended up having no connection whatsoever with anything having to do with terrorism or Al-Qaeda. And, yet—you still have al-Bayoumi feeling like he doesn't even have to leave the country. And, you know, then you have Guantanamo opening up. You have all these reports already coming about people being mysteriously renditioned, which started to happen within days after 9/11, even from, you know, from first-world countries. There were a couple of people, for instance, renditioned from Sweden just a week after 9/11 and—put in some torture dungeon in some Middle Eastern country and, yet, you know, he and others—that we can go into some of the others—you know, they just seem to be like not even worried.

JON Right. All right, so, let's get into the next question. Since the 28 pages were released, the Saudi ambassador and the U.S. Government have come out on several occasions and said that there was nothing new in the recently declassified 28 pages. Obviously, we just talked about that to a great extent. What do you think about people like John Brennan coming out and saying that there's nothing in those pages? Or the Saudi ambassador referring to us as conspiracy theorists.

PAUL Well, I would just say of course they're going to say that, because there's been a cover-up from day one, or day two, after 9/11 until today and, so, why would they change their behavior now? They're just going to keep covering this stuff up. There was a lot of information in there that was new. We talked about the Bandar connection, but there was a lot of other interesting stuff in there.

I thought it was, for instance, quite interesting what it said about a couple of the bin Ladens who were living in the United States, like Abdullah bin Laden, who was living in Washington D.C. He was actually working at the Saudi Embassy at the time and he also was working for some Saudi charities, which often turn out to be a front for terrorist activity. He was working with a group called WAMY (The World Assembly of Muslim Youth). And, so, the 28 pages mentions that he's a close friend of someone called Quadir Harumani, who is—I've looked at all this stuff very closely with the 9/11 Timeline. Never heard of this guy before, but apparently, he was an associate of Mohamed Atta and Marwan al-Shehhi, two of the pilots of the 9/11 hijackers. Prior to 9/11, he'd been under investigation before 9/11 and Abdullah had been under investigation before 9/11 for terrorism ties. And, yet, despite this Abdullah was able to leave the country on one of these flights that took place just two or three days after 9/11. And you probably remember, there was all this controversy and that was considered a conspiracy theory for a while, and the 9/11 Commission kind of put out a statement in their report that sort of pooh-poohed it as, well, you know, yeah, those flights took place, but that—they got a chance to be interviewed before they left.

JON That's exactly what they said. One of the people that left on those flights was somebody by the name of Khalil bin Laden, who was the brother of Osama bin Laden. And he was wanted in Brazil, I think, for terrorist reasons.

PAUL Right. But here we have with this Abdullah bin Laden, it seems a direct connection with some of the hijackers through this close friend. And then, I believe I read somewhere else about Abdullah bin Laden that one of the members of the Hamburg cell—not one of the hijackers, but one of their associates was found with the phone number of Abdullah bin Laden. So, in retrospect, it's looking awfully suspicious that this person was somehow involved in the 9/11 plot. And we have to remember also that the hijackers, a few weeks or months before 9/11, a bunch of them moved to Falls Church, Virginia, which is very near Washington, D.C., and that's

where Abdullah bin Laden worked. His job was where he worked at this WAMY organization was three blocks from where four of the hijackers were living, including Nawaf al-Hazmi.

So, to have this person just put on a plane within three days of the attacks, I'm sure that what they knew at that time was very limited. You know, how much can you learn that quickly. (Right) So, they never got a chance to find all these connections until after he was out of the country and out of reach forever more. Because once you're in Saudi Arabia, you're never going to be accessed again.

So, you know, that was a real, real travesty and they did interview them, but they were apparently, basically, like literally interviewed sort of on the tarmac, you know, very quickly like: "Before you hop on the plane, do you have any ties to terrorism? No? Okay." It is very perfunctory. They didn't know what to ask and they just got on the plane. So, you know, that—what we learned now from the 28 pages is that that's yet another thing that the 9/11 Commission was totally wrong about.

JON Well, why do you think the pages were kept classified for so long?

PAUL Well, again, I mean, you know, we just see this ongoing cover up. And, I think, the Saudi connection, in particular, is one of those sore spots that the cover-up in a sense began decades before 9/11. There's always been this very sensitive issue. I have things in the timeline, you know, going back to the early 90s where there, for instance, there was a wiretapping of some of the Saudi royals that happened at that time because of concerns about terrorism ties and then they stopped the wiretapping because they basically said: "You can't do that. They're Saudi royals. Our relationship with them is too important. We can't risk it. I mean, we don't even, basically, we really don't even want to know if they find there's terrorism ties." So why are we even doing this. Right.

JON There are several instances in the 90s of Saudi protection. There's Vulgar Betrayal with Robert Wright. Let's see—1996, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia allegedly collaborated on illegal weapons deliveries to Bosnian Muslims. In June 25, 1996, CIA agents are told not to track militants in Saudi Arabia.

PAUL Right, we could go on all day (Yeah), because the Saudis are so tied to terrorism that they said at one point when the CIA sort of had a rare chance to meet with some of their counterparts in Saudi Arabia with the

intelligence agency there, they were sort of walking around the building and they noticed that a lot of the computers of the people working on the intelligence agency had screen savers that were a picture of Osama bin Laden. (Laughs) And so, the intelligence agency that supposedly kicked Osama bin Laden out of the country in the early 90s, here we are in the late 90s, you know, are openly showing that they're supporters, like they wouldn't even lose their job for having a screensaver with the big smiling picture of bin Laden.

So, and you can just go on and on that—it mentions in the, I believe, in the 28 pages somewhere that 70-80 percent of the people of Saudi Arabia at the time of 9/11 were believed to be supporting Osama bin Laden in the sense that they were hoping that he would be successful in his war against the West. So, that has been a constant problem that they have been this big supporter of terrorism and yet because of diplomatic reasons, because we're so addicted to the oil that comes from Saudi Arabia, especially, that the 28 pages also mentions that there was no unit, no particular focus, anyone who'd been tasked prior to 9/11 to look into that. Every time someone did, they would be told go look into something else.

So, we see that that continues after 9/11. We can see that continues all the way until this day. It's the surprising thing is that they even got the 28 pages released at all, because, there's been so much cover up about this that goes back so far or that the 28 pages were ever compiled in the first place. And that's a whole other thing that I could go into is that, to me, that sort of half of the interest about the 28 pages is not what's in the 28 pages, but what's not in the 28 pages. Because that's a snapshot in time, right. That was compiled in late 2002, so we can look at what else did the U.S. intelligence community know in that time period that was very much relevant to the Saudis? And how come that stuff didn't get into the 28 pages?

For instance, we now know it took many years to find out about this al-Hijji family in Sarasota Florida. I'm sure you know all about it. You know, it didn't come out until 2011, I believe, that there's this family, seemingly normal family living in a suburbia, you know, typical home in a gated community. But before 9/11, I think, about two weeks before 9/11, they left in such a haste that they left food on the table, in the refrigerator, cars in the driveway, three cars behind, one of them brand new. They left the pool machine running, the pool filter, clothes in the closet. They just got up and left. Like they had to be out of the country in 15 minutes kind of thing. And then we find out that because of the phone calls, the phone records, and also

because of the gated community, they were able to track the license plates of the cars coming and going, and we find that Mohamed Atta visited. They find, what's his name? Marwan al-Shehhi visited, Ziad Jarrah.

And, then, what I find very interesting is this other fellow, who is not one of the hijackers, Adnan Shukrijumah—who I hope we get to talk about a little more later—but he's ended up years later it seems have been that he is kind of the operational commander of Al-Qaeda. So, this is not just some guy, even at the time, before 9/11, he was already under investigation by the FBI for two separate terrorism plots and, yet, he seems to have also been connected to this house. And, then, that was not mentioned at all in the 28 pages.

And that, to me, is possibly the most important connection between the Saudis and the hijackers that's ever been discovered. Maybe even more than all this stuff in San Diego. The father of the family, I don't know why he has a different name, but the father of the al-Hijji family is known as Esam Ghazzawi, he was apparently an adviser to a nephew of the King of Saudi Arabia of King Fahd.

So, again, we keep seeing all these connections that go back to not just—maybe here's some, a few people in Saudi Arabia, a private business person or whatever who wants to fund terrorism, but we're finding connections that go right up to the top.

JON That is the end of Part 1. Please be sure to check out the other three shows in this series. Thank you.

We were **LIED** to about 9/11

With your host Jon Gold

This week
Jon talks to...



The
Soapbox
People's Network



Paul Thompson

Chapter/Episode 31 – Paul Thompson – Part 2 – July 27, 2016

Jon Gold (JON)

Paul Thompson (PAUL)

JON Hi, everyone, and welcome to my show called, "We Were Lied to About 9/11." I am your host Jon Gold and this show is part of the Soapbox People's Network. This week I'm having a four-part series that covers a multitude of issues. This is Part Two.

Well, just so everybody knows, right now there is a judge that's looking over 80,000 FBI documents concerning the Sarasota incident to try and release them. And it's the *Broward Bulldog* and Dan Christensen that's fighting for that right now.

PAUL Right, or we could—sorry to interrupt—but, we could also point out that, you know, I mean, I can just go on and on about all these Saudi connections, but there's this other very interesting thing that only came to light in the past couple of years, which was that Walid bin Attash, who was one of the really key players in the whole 9/11 plot. And, right now, is sitting in Guantanamo waiting for some day if there is ever going to be a trial.

He, apparently, came to the United States in the middle of the year 2000, and was able to get through customs at the L.A. airport because he was met by some Saudi dignitaries from the local consulate and they had a special arrangement with the U.S. Government where anyone who was guided in by somebody from the Saudi Government would not have to go through customs. So, there is no record, whatsoever, no passport stamp, nothing. This person just, sort of, glided into the United States like a ghost and was able to leave the same way, and the only reason they were able to figure it out—or, I'm not quite sure how they figured it out—but, that they were able to find some security footage of him in the L.A. airport. And, apparently, they had some informant who also mentioned him, you know, being there at that time.

But, that's stunning information. That was known before the 28 pages was put out. And if you would have added that into the 28 pages, it certainly would have shed a whole new light on some of the figures that are mentioned, like this guy Thumairy, who is one of the consulate officials and is not mentioned very much, but he seems to have been one of the people working with bringing this Walid bin Attash in and out of the country. And, I could go on.

There's another thing—I think I'll just mention one more thing. There was a person named—let's see if I can think of his name here. His name was al-Rasheed, I believe—Saud al-Rasheed—and the U.S. found out about him in the middle of 2002, when they were doing some investigating of a Al-Qaeda safe house in Pakistan that U.S. forces had taken over in a raid, and they found the CD that contained the pictures of al-Hazmi and al-Mihdhar and one more of the hijackers and then also a picture of this al-Rasheed person. And then they had passport documents and all kinds of other documents.

And it seemed clear that not only was this al-Rasheed one of the associates, but that he himself was apparently a candidate to be one of the 9/11 hijackers. And, the U.S. put out a big wanted poster and his picture and everything later in 2002, and there was a worldwide dragnet but, apparently, he went to Saudi Arabia and turned himself into the authorities and they never let anyone interview him. So, he's just sort of vanished off the face of the earth.

But, what's really interesting about this guy, is that his father turns out to have been a man named Hamid al-Rasheed, who is a Saudi Government

official, who was the very man who paid a salary to Omar al-Bayoumi, who's one of the minders of the hijackers in San Diego.

So, it's a small world after all. Do you know what I mean? (Absolutely). Think how much if you had that added in to the 28 pages, that would reinforce some of the other points that are being made. And that was known at the time the 28 pages were written, known by U.S. intelligence, but it seems there's all this stove piping, you know, where one agency wouldn't tell the others or the investigators what was going on, might even be one branch of the FBI in one city doesn't know what the one in the other city's doing. And, you know, so, we can make the 28 pages the 50 or 100 pages that would have just as much stuff. And that's only what we knew in 2002. And, presumably, we've learned even more since then. So, I would love to see some day. I don't know if it exists and probably doesn't exist, but a compilation of everything that the U.S. had on all the Saudi connections to the 9/11 hijackers.

JON Well, it does seem to me that you should have been the one to write the 28-redacted pages.

PAUL [Laughs] That would have been nice.

JON Yeah, there are still redactions. What do you think they're still keeping classified?

PAUL Well, I think that what we find in—when information like this gets released, is that they are doing it grudgingly and they just release the stuff that people pretty much know already, for the most part. So, they can talk—I mean if nobody knew about this al-Bayoumi and Bassnan stuff, I'll bet you most of that would be blacked out. But because it's been in the media since 2002, they feel like—it's not going to hurt us much to put that out there. So, what we see that gets redacted is the information that we still don't know much about.

And there's all kinds of other figures that get mentioned, and in some cases, we don't even know what their names are because their names are redacted, or we get a whole paragraph about them redacted, so, you know, who knows what that even is. But, it's a general rule that if it's in the media, if people know about it, okay, we'll release it. If we don't, we won't. It's not—it's supposed to be based on, right, we're only redacting the stuff that we

have to because of quote-unquote some sort of "national security concerns." (Right) But that's not what actually happens.

JON It seems to me that the whole purpose of redacting the pages was to protect Bush. Because, essentially, Bush protected individuals who were closely connected to the 9/11 attacks. That's the story that most media outlets should be running right now, but they're running the exact opposite and saying that there's nothing to them.

PAUL Well, yeah, the media has just totally fallen down on their job. Not just on this, but on everything. Investigative journalism is dead, basically. You know, the media has really been hammered. I thought it was in pretty bad shape at the time of 9/11. But since then—there were all these buyouts and mergers and staff always getting cut. And, since then, we've just seen the Internet becoming more and more prominent and people getting their news for free, so people don't have the money to have a staff in every country like the way it used to be, you know, back in the 70s or 80s. You would have CBS News, NBC News, every major news organization would have people in countries all over the world just doing reporting, and that doesn't happen anymore. They have to rely on what the U.S. Government tells them or other people with some agenda handing them some press release.

You know, I read a statistic once that said the average journalist at a major news organization now writes two and a half stories a day. So, if you think about the amount of time it takes to really look into something, to dig up something new, they just don't have the time to do that. They just, something comes across their desk and they just, basically, there's a stenographer that retypes it up.

So, you know, the media really has fallen down on the job and it becomes more and more like people like you and me kind of end up having to do the job that the media should have been doing and say: "Hey, you guys missed this. Look at this."

JON I always say that if the media had done its job, I would never have had to do what I've done over the last 14 years. (Right) And you wouldn't have had to do what you did.

PAUL So, I mean, to get back to protecting Bush. Think about how mind blowing it is that this Prince Bandar's nickname is Bandar Bush. I mean, he's not just not just some diplomat. He's as close as can be. And I read that—I recently

read, this surprised me—that even after he left office in terms of being the ambassador, he later went on to have important positions in the Saudi Government, but he is no longer coming to the U.S. and living in the U.S. all the time. And then Bush and Cheney also left office in 2008, but they stayed close, apparently, that to this day they're friends, and they advise each other, and continue to maintain very close relations.

So, this is a big, big egg on Bush's face that one of the key figures in the whole 9/11 plot, may be one of his closest friends.

JON His father brought him in to educate him on foreign policy in 1997, I believe. (Yeah)

All right, so let's get to the next question, which is the Yemen Al-Qaeda hub is a central part of the story concerning 9/11. What points of interest about it are most interesting to you?

PAUL Well, you know, this gets to so many different things. It's amazing to me that the media and the general public have looked at certain aspects of the 9/11 story and then overlooked others. Even if you look at either the so-called conspiracy theorists or the truth movement or what have you, I think some very important things that are extremely damning for the U.S. Government have just been overlooked. One of them is this Yemen hub. And a lot of it is because it has been so closely held as a secret that we didn't know most the basic facts about it until years after 9/11. James Bamford, an author—he did a couple of books that really opened up a lot of eyes on this, but didn't come out till 2006, 2008.

So, a lot of people don't know, and to get to the core of it is it's, I mean, it just, even thinking about it right now talking about it with you it just, sort of, my mind is blown all over again (Laughs), because in 1996, Al-Qaeda set up this hub. It was in a three-story building in Sanaa, Yemen—it's the capital of Yemen. And it was run by this guy named Ahmed al-Hada, and he was sort of this father of a terrorist family. He had like five or six sons, or sons-in-law, and every single one of them ended up being an Al-Qaeda operative and he himself was photographed with bin Laden and so forth. So, this is sort of like everybody in the family is diehard Al-Qaeda.

So, they figured this was a really loyal supporter and they set up a communication hub there, and the idea was that you would have, at the time, there were certain countries—Egypt is a really prominent one—that

the Government was trying to stomp out terrorism and so they would say: "We're just going to block all the phone calls from country A to country B because we know that a lot of the people who are making those phone calls are these Islamic militants." So, for instance, Egypt did not allow any phone call. If you were just a random Egyptian citizen, you were not allowed to call Afghanistan. I mean, Afghanistan back then was pretty much a basket case. You know, the Taliban in control. Not a lot of people had phones that could call internationally. So, it is probably true that, you know, a significant portion of those were people like bin Laden with his satellite phone and other militants, right?

So, what they did is they—and there were other cases like that. It's very hard for you to call from one country to another, or if you did, that might put you sort of—immediately in a suspicious person-to-be-investigated category. So, what they did was you would go through the hub, just literally like a human switchboard, you would call the Yemen hub, say, if you're in Afghanistan and you want to get a message to your co-conspirator on some plot who is based in say Sudan. And, so, you would pass the message through that hub. And it seems that almost immediately U.S. intelligence figured this out. Because Al-Qaeda had extremely poor operational security starting from the top. And that Osama bin Laden had a satellite phone, which he bought in around the same time 1996, that the hub started, and he would just call people all over the world who were involved in plots, like a hands-on manager. And the U.S. intelligence NSA learned his phone number almost immediately and began monitoring that at the highest priority. So, he made dozens of phone calls to the Yemen hub.

So, then, from there, it was not long before U.S. intelligence realized this was an intelligence goldmine, and they not only monitored the phone calls, but the CIA and the NSA got together, and they physically bugged the building itself. Somehow, they got people inside, planted bugs on the inside of the building. They had a mechanism that they would take a picture, you know, high-quality picture from some kind of zoom, maybe they had a telephoto lens down the street or something, of everybody who was coming and going from the building. They even had a satellite in the sky that was pretty much dedicated just to this hub and collecting information about this hub.

So, it couldn't have been any more important in terms of intelligence collection. And, I don't know when it happened, but there's a story that the FBI, they had their bin Laden unit that they put up a big map of the world

on the wall and they would put a little push pin at every single place in the world that there would be a phone call from that location to the Yemen hub, and it gave them just this worldwide map of exactly whatever Al-Qaeda's presence was in any given country. It was an incredible, incredible intelligence goldmine. (Right)

And, so, we have to remember that this hub was not exposed as in terms of Al-Qaeda realizing that they had been bugged all the while and that their phone calls had been monitored all the while until early 2002. So, that's well after 9/11 and before that—

JON I'm sorry. It's very hard to think that anything that was said or done within that building was not known to intelligence agencies.

PAUL Right. Well, the question that you have is the sharing question. And it's definitely a real problem that these intelligence agencies did not share, and it continues until this day. That that's always—that people have their little fiefdoms and they don't want to share their information, right? And it seems like that the FBI often would sort of have to beg, borrow, or steal to get information about the hub. They were not—because they don't have—the FBI has no foreign capability. They could not directly wiretap the hub themselves, so they had to rely on the good graces of the CIA or the NSA to share the information with them.

But it's very significant though—

JON One thing—

PAUL Sorry, let me just say one more thing. It is very significant when you look at the failures of 9/11, that both the NSA and the CIA had this joint monitoring of the hub. So, because the NSA has been notoriously bad about sharing their information. And when you look at the stories about the hub, and we'll get to in a minute how, you know, al-Hazmi and al-Mihdhar in San Diego were calling to and from the Hub. Right. There's been all these stories in the media that the NSA knew that, and they never shared it, and they claim it was because of the laws at the time that they were not allowed to share it, blah blah blah. And, so, we need to have all this surveillance and allow even more surveillance, and they've used this story as a justification for these very expansive surveillance programs.

Well, that's totally relevant, because the CIA was getting the same information that the NSA was. They had—it was CIA people who went into the hub, and because the NSA doesn't have this operational capability and had planted the bugs, and it had planted the photographic equipment and so forth to get everything monitored in every possible way. Right.

So, you know, continuing back to the main story of the hub—were you going to say something?

JON I was just going to say something with regard to the sharing problem. There are individuals that make decisions not to share information. It's not just some—where it just doesn't happen, or you just don't share. There are individuals that make that decision. And I believe that those individuals need to be held accountable and were not.

PAUL Yeah, and we have to find out why the heck would they not share something that is just—a smoking gun. This is some incredible thing that you have—we're going to blow up this building in five days—and you know that, and you don't share it.

And that's exactly what happened with the Yemen hub. Because—I've not only looked into 9/11, but I looked at all these terrorism acts and connections going all the way back to the 1970s. And the Yemen hub is very much involved in the embassy bombings in 1998, and the USS Cole bombing in 2000, which you know took place just 100 miles or 200 miles from the Yemen hub. That was another city in Yemen. And, so, they were not just a switchboard, but, like this Ahmed al-Hada and different people living in the hub were directly involved in these different terrorist activities.

And Osama bin Laden himself, for instance—when the embassy bombings happened in Africa in 1998, in Kenya and Tanzania, bin Laden himself called up the embassy bombers, the people in Kenya and Tanzania, in the days before and the weeks before the bombing and would talk to them. We don't know what the contents of those phone calls are, but it's pretty mind blowing that we know that—the NSA claims that from way back that they not only bugged the satellite phone of bin Laden, but they considered it so important that any time, 24-hours a day, if there was any phone call, they would get it translated within an hour. And he was—he made hundreds of phone calls—and he was calling all these people around the world that were, like in the embassy bombings, were the direct bombers that were taking part in the operational cells. And then you'd have phone calls

between those people and the Yemen hub, and then bin Laden and the Yemen hub, and so on and so forth.

I mean, you can make the spider web of all of these connections. And these people, as I said, had very poor operational security. Sometimes they would talk in coded language—but in such a way—it's pretty amateurish like we're going to deliver the package next Tuesday or, whatever. It doesn't take a real genius to realize the package might mean the bomb. You know, there was sort of that level of security. It was not like these calls were encrypted or they were talking in some indecipherable code. Right.

So, we have to wonder, not only why the 9/11 attacks weren't stopped, but how Al-Qaeda was able to do anything. It was while the Yemen hub was in existence, because it was just like a golden path. This is exactly what we're doing and who's doing it where. And, I would love to see more of that declassified because we don't know, in most cases, what the contents of the phone calls are. But just knowing that this person called that person on that day, you know.

Like for instance, in the days leading up to the embassy bombings, the phone calls with the embassy with the Yemen hub grew more and more frequent. And, even when they were in the car or the van driving on the way to the bombing that was going to take place, they were still on the phone talking with the Yemen hub. So, how is it that you're monitoring that, you know, to the highest level, like this is literally, you know, bin Laden's phone and these are THE two things that are the most important intelligence gathering points you have—period. And you wouldn't catch on that they're going to be bombing an embassy. It's inexplicable. And, so—

JON I'm sorry. The 9/11 Commission barely investigated the NSA. And one of the lies that we found was that—you mentioned that the NSA was monitoring the two Saudi San Diego hijackers making phone calls to the Yemen hub, and at the time, they said they could not identify where the calls were coming from, only where they were going to. But we have now from NSA whistleblower Bill Binney and, I think, from Thomas Drake, who confirmed it to me that they were well aware of where the calls were coming from, which means the NSA knew that these two hijackers were in the United States.

PAUL Well, you know, what we find over and over again is that there are these limited hangouts where the Government tries to release just enough

information to explain something that's, you know, that they're forced to explain. For instance, for a long time it was thought that the U.S. intelligence didn't know about the Yemen hub until shortly after the embassy bombings. And that's why they were not able to stop the embassy bombings. It was only the phone traffic afterwards where they caught on, right? But, you know, we learned and Drake and Binney, as you mentioned, have confirmed this that they knew about the Yemen hub and they were monitoring it from, you know, two years prior.

And, so, they try to put forth these cover stories or limited hangouts, as you call them, and like will this float? And if the media is gullible, and if the general public—no one's really questioning it, sometimes it sticks. But we have to look with a more critical eye and say: "Does this make sense?" And, of course the idea that the NSA, which is all about—well, not all about, but a big part about—monitoring phone calls that they would not be able to figure out where a phone call is coming from? Are you kidding me? That's just laughable. Right?

But, you know, there's a lot of people out there who just, they don't know much about this, and they just take it at face value because here's some important U.S. official who's saying that, and they just implicitly trust these people.

But to get back to the story—the Yemen hub—we have this incredible intelligence data point. And the really—one of the really mind-blowing things about the Yemen hub is the fact that Khalid al-Mihdhar is the son-in-law of this Ahmed al-Hada, who is the man who owns the building and lives in the building. And, so, when Khalid al-Mihdhar—he's normally around the world taking part in all these operations, militant activity. He kept his wife and his children living in the Yemen hub. So, he would very often physically go there and he'd want to visit his wife and he had a toddler-age baby, aged kids. He'd want to go visit them. And, so, in the tail end of 1999, U.S. intelligence had him—Khalid al-Mihdhar—at the Yemen hub and they were monitoring him, and they were monitoring phone calls that he was making to various other people around the world and they were arranging this Malaysia meeting that was going to take place, I believe it was beginning on January 5th in Malaysia.

And, so, U.S. intelligence was, for once, seemed to be on the ball, and when he left to go to Malaysia he stopped off in the United Arab Emirates. And while he stayed the night there they had some people sneak into his hotel

room and take a picture of his passport. And it showed that he already had a visa to go to the United States, which was a real mind blower because, at this time, there really had been no direct evidence of any Al-Qaeda activity in the United States. There'd been different people suspected here and there, but nothing rock solid. And this guy Khalid al-Mihdhar was as die-hard core member of Al-Qaeda as you can get.

He started off fighting in Bosnia in the early 1990s and then he fought for the Taliban and he also fought in Chechnya, and he was taking part in all kinds of operations. He was involved in embassy bombings, for instance, in '97. He got on the bad list of the Saudi Government because he and Nawaf al-Hazmi were found to have been trying to smuggle weapons into Saudi Arabia, which you know kind of breaks their usual like: "We'll let these terrorists go do their terrorists thing, if they're attacking, you know, terrorists or if they're attacking some other, Chechnya or something, but they're attacking Saudi Arabia. That's a whole other matter." That becomes, you know, they go straight to the top of these, are the people we've got to stop. Right.

So, this is the context of going to Malaysia. And, I believe—I'm a little vague on the details because it's been a while, since I've really done all this 9/11 research, but I believe Nawaf al-Hazmi was also at the Yemen hub and went also to Malaysia but took a separate route. And the U.S. Government claims that they kind of lost him along the way, but that should have been of no matter because then they were monitoring the Yemen hub. And, you know, you have Khalid Al-Mihdhar, Nawaf Al-Hazmi, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who's the 9/11 mastermind. You have the guy we mentioned earlier, Khalid bin Attash. You have, possibly, Hambali who's this Southeast Asian Al-Qaeda mastermind. You have a whole bunch. There are about a dozen people, possibly some of the one or two of the 9/11 hijackers. They all get together in this condominium outside of the capital of Kuala Lumpur and they meet for like four days.

And the story is that the CIA had the Malaysian Government do the monitoring systems taking place in Malaysia and that the Malaysian Government botched the monitoring, and at the end of the four days they said: "Oh, sorry, but we have no idea what actually was said inside the condominium." Which, personally, I think that's just another limited hangout story because it would be so embarrassing that we find that the U.S. had four days of all the top leaders pretty much except for bin Laden

discussing not only the 9/11 plot, but also being planned at the same time was the USS Cole bombing.

But, let's just say that they didn't know what was being said within the meeting. It also shouldn't have been really that important because these guys, as I said, they were so poor on their security that they would just talk about these things pretty much openly. And the Malaysians did a lot of recording of them outside of the condominium.

We know, for instance, that they took a lot of photographs of them. But it's less known that they also took a lot of video footage of them, of the participants of the Malaysia meeting, which should have been an intelligence bonanza. Right? (Right) And, then we know that the U.S. Government considered this so important that at the time that the Malaysian meeting was happening that people in the Government at the cabinet level, you know, heads of intelligence agencies were being given sort of as-it-happens briefings about what was going on in the Malaysia meeting.

But then things get strange, because then the story is that the meeting ends and all these participants go their separate ways. And it's just whoopsie daisy. U.S. intelligence just somehow lost track of everybody. And, about two weeks later, Khalid Al-Mihdhar and Nawaf Al-Hazmi got on a plane from Bangkok, Thailand and flew to Los Angeles and then proceeded to spend, especially for Nawaf al-Hazmi, just pretty much most of the rest of the two years living in the United States. And how on earth is it possible that intelligence agencies would not notice this and that—

JON Well, that brings us to our next question. But, go ahead. I'm sorry.

PAUL Well, and then, furthermore, we do find evidence that they knew, particularly in the CIA, and that they did not share that information with the FBI. And then this gets to a whole mystery which I'm sure you want to discuss, which is Richard Clarke's theory about: "could the hijackers, especially, Nawaf Al-Hazmi and Khalid Al-Mihdhar, have been people that the CIA were hoping to turn to become informants." (Right) And the idea would be that: "So, we'll just let them go. We will keep a close eye on them, but we don't want to tell the FBI, because they've got a whole different mission, and their goal is to catch people and put them in jail." And we just want to string this out and see what we can learn and, potentially, turn them, so that we can—it's believed the CIA had no informants within Al-Qaeda at the time. The whole U.S. intelligence had no informants and they really

wanted them and they thought well this is a really golden opportunity.
[Right]

So, that's the theory and—

JON Well, I have a couple of problems with the theory. Number one: How long does it take to realize that people are not going to turn? Because they were here for a long time. Number two: Why didn't they select terrorists outside of the United States so as to not put any Americans at risk.

PAUL Right. Well, you know, we can—one sort of aspect of the theory also is the thinking that your average CIA agent is a white guy, doesn't speak Arabic, you know, it would be very hard to get close to someone like this. So, you would enlist the help of the Saudis and, thus, this would explain why you have Bayoumi and Bassnan keeping a close eye on these two guys when they're living in San Diego. Right. But there are, as you point out, there are all kinds of problems with this.

Well, one problem is that there was this USS Cole bombing that took place in October 2000, and Khalid Al-Mihdhar, he kind of stayed for about six months in San Diego and then he left. And he seemed to be this international jet setter. He went to a lot of different countries, doing all kinds of different things. We have to remember that Al-Qaeda, at least back then, was a very small organization and there were really it seems less than 100 people that were truly trusted, and out of those probably, you know, some portion of them were, for whatever reason, not willing to actually take part in operations. So, there may have only been a few dozen that were the real actionable people.

And, so you find them they're often recycling the same people over and over again in different operations, which for any organization, especially a terrorist organization, is idiotic because like let's say you have the embassy bombing, right? Immediately, thereafter the U.S. starts an investigation and lo and behold Khalid Al-Mihdhar was one of the people that took part—not, you know, he wasn't one of the bombers, but he was indirectly involved—and then he's involved in the Cole bombing. So, a good investigation of the embassy bombing should have stopped the Cole bombing just from him alone. Right? As well as a bunch of other people that were involved in both. But then, there's two major—the two big Al-Qaeda operations—use the same guy for the 9/11 operation. So, if anybody has really done any of their homework on the investigations for either of those two things, they should

be able to stop the 9/11 attack. Khalid Al-Mihdhar actually was in Yemen at the time of the Cole bombing. It seems he had a pretty significant role in that bombing. So, if you've been watching him and Nawaf Al-Hazmi in San Diego for the last, whatever, nine months or so, and then for some reason, inexplicably, that hasn't led you to stop the Cole bombing, which in and of itself would make no sense, because the whole point would be to be gathering intelligence and figuring out who are these people working with? And, like I said, they had such poor operational security with the phone calls to the Yemen hub. It should have just been a, you know, just an open book. Right.

But, let's say you screw up and you don't stop that, then these guys continue to move around the world and move around the United States and you're still doing nothing? You're still just watching them for another year and a half?

JON It's unbelievable.

PAUL I mean, that doesn't make any sense. You know, there's rules about informants, like if you are moles—let's say you're a mole within the mafia, right. And if you start doing actual say assassinations on the behalf of the mafia, that's the point that the whole operation says: "Whoa, stop this guy. Pull him out. Maybe charge him with murder." You know, you don't just continue to use that person as an informant, no matter what they're getting, because that person has just killed people. You know, that's how law enforcement has always operated.

So, the idea that these people would be allowed to take part in the Cole bombing, and then you're just continuing to allow all this to happen, just doesn't make any sense. Furthermore, I mean, if you're looking at who would you turn? These guys would be last on your list. As I said, they fought in Bosnia; they fought in Chechnya; they've taken part in just about every Al-Qaeda major terrorist operation of the last 10 years, and you would expect them to all of a sudden say: "Yeah, I think I'll go join the U.S. and work for them." What are the odds of that happening? It makes no sense.

JON It makes no sense to me. But I don't have an honest theory as to why it did happen. I mean, if you want to go for the low-hanging fruit, you say well, they did it to protect them to allow them to do the 9/11 attacks. But, I don't

know that. I don't know why they did it? But I don't think Clarke's theory stands up to scrutiny.

PAUL I mean, if I were to be generous and play devil's advocate, you might argue that there was a—you could argue a lot of different things—but one thing you might argue is like maybe the Saudis are playing a double game, because these people like Bayoumi and Bassnan really had their loyalty with Islamic militancy, that they would say: "Oh, yeah, we're watching these guys and they're just living normal lives. Nothing to report. They haven't contacted anybody anywhere and so on and so forth, right?" And, so then it's just this colossal screw up, and the CIA got played by the Saudis and they never figured it out until it was too late that these guys really were, you know, Al-Qaeda.

But, that doesn't make any sense either, for a lot of reasons. One is that, as I said Nawaf Al-Hazmi was on the move for most of the time. While now—sorry, Khalid Al-Mihdhar was on the move, while Nawaf Al-Hazmi generally stayed in United States. And Khalid Al-Mihdhar was involved in just all kinds of intrigues. And on three separate occasions, he went back to the Yemen hub and lived there for significant periods of time, like maybe a month or two months. And you have to remember how monitored the Yemen hub was, right. And how poor their operational security was. If he was back in the Yemen hub, do you really think that he wouldn't tell these other people like, you know, the father-in-law, Ahmed al-Hada and all his brothers and brothers-in-law and so forth, who are all these Al-Qaeda people.

You know: "Oh, yeah, I'm taking part in the Cole bombing. It's going to come up in a couple of months. Can you help me out with this or that? And I'm going back to the United States. I've come from the United States, I'm going back. And I'm going to be doing this and taking part in this operation. I've been learning to fly planes."

I mean, these guys were being monitored in the Yemen hub 24 hours a day and his wife was there. And you're telling me he would have kept all of this completely a secret from everybody else in the Yemen hub? That doesn't make any sense.

JON It's inconceivable.

PAUL Right. And then you have these phone calls from the United States to the Yemen hub, back and forth. We know of a few of them. We know that not only did they know the NSA and the CIA knew the phone number, but they also knew the content. In some of the 9/11 Timeline entries you can find some details about the content. I was just looking up something related to the 28 pages with this other document. I forget what it's called—the Document 13 or 17, or whatever that came out—what's that document called?

JON Document 17.

PAUL Document 17, right.

JON That's what Mike Jacobsen and Dana Lesemann (RIP) wanted to look at.

PAUL Right, that gives some mentions of some of the things that were said in a call from the spring of 2000, for instance. You know, just kind of mentioned in passing. So, we know that this stuff was recorded. But it seems like there was a lot of stove piping that was going on that the FBI in particular was not being told. There's this whole story about Ali Soufan who was the FBI agent who was pretty savvy and competent, and he spoke Arabic. He was investigating the—I forget, I think he was investigating the Cole bombing—and very quickly got onto the trail of not only Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar, but the Malaysian meeting. And he didn't have solid proof, but there were a lot of lines that were pointing to something happened that was important in Malaysia in the beginning of January, and he went to the CIA, repeatedly, and with increasing specificity and said: "What do you have on this?" And they kept saying: "Nothing, nothing, nothing." You know?

And, eventually, on 9/12, the day after 9/11, he was in Yemen still doing investigative work about the Cole bombing, and he got sent a package and it was a big detailed document about the Malaysia meeting. And he said he was so upset that he immediately went to the bathroom and threw up, because it showed that obviously, in the last 12 hours or whatever this wasn't collected by the CIA. This was stuff that they had had for months and months and months—probably since the Malaysian meeting—and that they hadn't deliberately not shared with him or with other people like him who could have really used that in their investigative leads. Right.

So, it's totally understandable when people think like how on earth could these attacks have happened unless somebody within the Government

wanted them to happen? Because this is just so inexplicable. I don't know. You know, I can't go there, because I can't determine what these people were thinking. But to me it almost doesn't make a difference because if you're doing this on purpose or you're doing this because of sheer incompetence, either way, it's so bad. Incompetence is so ridiculously bad that you should be in jail anyway.

You know, like to have these guys go ahead, do the Cole bombing, and the only logical explanation that would be semi-charitable is like I said you're following them for intelligence or trying to turn them and you let them go for another year and they're meeting, phoning, you know, crossing the U.S. repeatedly with practice flights that they would get on these 747s, you know, and have trial runs. And they met in Las Vegas, the whole group would get together and, Atta would meet with Al-Mihdhar, and blah blah blah, to have all that go down, and still we didn't stop 9/11. How on earth is that possible? That would have to be such incompetence that, you know, if anyone has ever been put in jail for gross incompetence, it should be those people.

JON And, yet, what happened was people were rewarded and promoted who shouldn't have been.

PAUL Right, so, I wish that even those people who are of the thinking of the U.S. Government being behind this, that they would pay more attention to this Yemen hub, because it is—and the movements of Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar. Because it's like—you pull on this thread and you just keep pulling and pulling and it just gets stranger and stranger. Why weren't these guys stopped? For most of the other hijackers, the quote unquote "muscle hijackers" a lot of them only came into the U.S. two, three months before. Maybe a little more than that. But they were kind of trickling in near the end there. Right. But these two guys in San Diego, they were living so openly. Nawaf Al-Hazmi even had his name in the San Diego public phone book. (Laughs) They were not trying to hide. They had credit cards in their name. They had bought a car in their name. They had bank accounts in their name. It just goes on and on. If there was any search of any database, how do you not pick these people up.

And, in fact, there's a little aside. There was a—it was around September, no October 22nd or thereabouts—the CIA finally gave the names of Al-Hazmi and Al-Mihdhar and a couple other people to the FBI and mentioned that they had, at least one of them if I recall, had this visa to come to the

United States. Right. So then the FBI was tasked with searching for them. And at that point, if they would have conducted a competent search, or even really just any search, they should have picked them up right away. Because, even up until the day of the attacks, they were moving around, yes, and they were staying in sometimes different hotels and so forth. But they were continuing to do everything in their own name. They would even go to the point of buying pizzas delivered to a hotel room, using a credit card, which talking about poor operational security. I mean, when I was a teenager I worked for a summer as a pizza delivery guy. I don't think there was one person in the whole summer that paid for a pizza with a credit card. It's just strange.

And, so they had all these databases. They had a police database, which they had been in because they had gotten into a few minor run ins that got them into the police database. They had some card databases that they had gotten into. They had a bank database. They had credit card database. They had—you go down the line. There were like eight or nine sort of major databases, which they found just after 9/11, if you just type in the name Nawaf Al-Hazmi, and there's different ways to spell it—but with a dash or without a dash and so on and so forth. But even different variants they found were in these different databases and they would have pointed just like a giant red arrow to where these people were. At the very least, even if you couldn't physically locate them, you would have found, very quickly, from their immigration records that they, in fact, still were in the United States.

And, if you would have put out an all-points bulletin, I would think that the hijackers would have had to cancel the operation right then and there. And for some strange reason—there's some apparent low-level FBI agent was assigned to search for these two people and they claimed that they looked into the databases but somehow missed them all. Which, there's so many things about this that just make you scratch your head and just say: "What the heck is going on here? How is that possible?"

JON Yeah, well, unfortunately that applies to a lot of things concerning 9/11. (Laughs) What can you tell us about the Al-Qaeda support network that exists within the U.S.

PAUL Well, before I want to get into that, I want to totally switch gears, because another question that you were telling me you wanted to talk about was to look at sort of a bigger picture of the War on terror and how the U.S. has

behaved. And let me just kind of get into that first, because I think some of the stuff you have to kind of set the scene to understand the overall milieu. I think it's very important for anyone trying to understand not only 9/11, but geopolitics for the past 30-40 years up until today has to understand this.

And it goes all the way back to the 1950s, if not earlier, which is the idea that after World War II ended, the U.S. was involved in the Cold War with the Russians and was very keen anywhere and everywhere in the world to defeat communism and even socialism. And, so, there were all these middle eastern countries that were very important strategically, and sometimes they would be toying with socialism or leftism of various sorts. And the U.S. didn't like that. And the U.S. Government found out pretty early on that they had sort of a natural ally with fundamentalist Islamists. Because those people also really hate communism. They're sort of naturally politically conservative and often at odds in terms of—this radical group wants to overthrow the Government and some communist group also wants to overthrow the Government. So, they both are fighting with each other to see who's going to be successful, if you will. Right.

So, the U.S. learned early on, at least into the 1950s, that they could use these Islamists kind of as pawns in a larger chess game, kind of as tools for foreign policy. Like, let's say you have a country that is—was an American ally but is now toying with leaving the U.S. orbit. You could support a fundamentalist rebel movement in that country and kind of turn on the spigot, turn off the spigot, in terms of providing the money and weapons until the country gets the message that if you want this problem to go away, you help the U.S. Or, sometimes it would work where there would be an opponent of the United States and the U.S. would support some rebel movement in order to harass them or overthrow them. You know, various means.

But the bottom line is that when you're dealing with the Muslim world, most of the time if there was some sort of rebel movement, it would be these fundamentalists. Because most of these countries, practically all of them, had some sort of corrupt royal leadership. A lot of these countries would have a lot of oil money and these people would become personally very wealthy and very corrupt, and then the public, as a whole, would be dissatisfied and suspicious about the corruption at the top and so there would be this sort of natural call to let's go back to the purity of Islam as the way it was practiced long ago and kick out these corrupt Westernized bums and have this sort of pure vision of Islam to replace it. Right. And we see

that all the way. I mean, that's kind of ISIS's message. And that's basically Al-Qaeda's message, and so on and so forth.

This has happened over and over again in different countries that there's always these movements coming up. And what the U.S. has found is that that they could use these as tools. Like a really classic example would, of course, be what happened in Afghanistan in the 1980s, where Russia got heavily militarily involved there. And the U.S. worked closely with the Saudis to give them kind of the Russian version of their own Vietnam where they got in this quagmire and the U.S. was pouring in billions of dollars to aid the mujahideen rebels. Right.

JON Wasn't Bandar involved in that, as well?

PAUL Probably, yeah. I'm a bit foggy on some of the details, but I would be surprised if he wasn't. And, you know, everybody—a lot of people. I wouldn't say everybody because some people now don't even know what 9/11 is, but a lot of people know that that's how bin Laden got his start and most of the top people in Al-Qaeda, they all sort of got together and found common cause in this Afghanistan fight. Right.

But you can look at other things that have been more recent where it's a similar sort of situation. Another almost exact parallel is Chechnya, starting from the mid-1990s, where again the United States thought let's have this big thorn in the side of Russia. They're fighting in Chechnya against these Islamist militants. So, we will do what we can to support them and the more Russian soldiers they kill and the more problems they cause with the Russians, that's good for us from a zero-sum game in terms of political strategy.

Or, you could go look at Bosnia in the early 1990s, where exactly the same thing happened. Where the members Slobodan Milosevic and the Serbians, you know, the U.S. wanted him out and the other two countries involved there when Yugoslavia broke up, the main ones were Croatia and Bosnia. Now, Bosnia was—basically, everyone in Bosnia 90-or so percent of the people are Muslim. And, so, it became another cause for Islamist militants. And al-Qaida got very involved. Bin Laden, personally, got very involved. I know of two reporters who personally saw and spoke to Osama bin Laden in Bosnia in the waiting room to go meet the President of Bosnia, who is a Muslim. It's in the timeline. And it was believed that he would meet with Osama bin Laden, the President I forget his name, on a weekly basis and

that bin Laden for a while he was pretty much living most of the time in Bosnia going back and forth between there and Sudan. And both of these reporters, I think one of them was for the *London Times* and the other was for *Der Spiegel*, when they later had the trial of Milosevic, they actually testified in the trial, under oath, to this effect that they had seen Osama bin Laden there. And it just got no news coverage, even though it was in the paper as so many things are, you know, page B12, or whatever.

JON That is the end of Part 2. Please be sure to check out the other three shows in this series. Thank you.

We were **LIED** to about 9/11

With your host Jon Gold

This week
Jon talks to...



The
Soapbox
People's Network



Paul Thompson

Chapter/Episode 31 – Paul Thompson – Part 3 – July 27, 2016

Jon Gold (JON)

Paul Thompson (PAUL)

JON Hi, everyone, and welcome to my show called, "We Were Lied to About 9/11." I am your host, Jon Gold, and this show is part of the Soapbox People's Network. This week I'm having a four-part series that covers a multitude of issues. This is Part Three.

PAUL Crucially, Osama bin Laden had this fake charity and the Bosnians were in a real fix because the Serbians, when Yugoslavia broke up they basically inherited the Yugoslav military, so they had tanks and planes and artillery, and the Bosnians had nothing. And, then the United States and the European Union at the beginning of the war said: "We're going to have a total ban on all weapons going into the whole region." You know, the former Yugoslavia. So, it would have been just a slaughter that the Bosnians and the Croatians would have been defeated.

But what happened was that the U.S. had kind of a nudge-nudge, wink-wink where they let the Saudis and a lot of people in the Arab world fund, to the tune of billions of dollars, weapons and supplies coming in to fight the Serbians, because that was kind of the idea—that we're on the same side there. Right. So, there was this one fake charity of bin Laden's that they

believe, I think, two billion dollars of money from the Middle East passed through that charity into Bosnia.

And it goes even deeper than that. There was a need—that Serbia is a larger country. Bosnia is pretty small for just sheer numbers of people fighting. So, there were a lot of people from the Muslim world just like in Afghanistan where it was like this call. Come join the holy war. And people from all over the world come join the Bosnian holy war.

And that, again, nudge-nudge, wink-wink that the United States and other Western countries gave because they wanted the Serbians to at least be stopped from conquering their neighbors, that they would not only let this happen, but often encouraged this to happen.

So, for instance, there were Al-Qaeda linked charity fronts in the United States that would pretty much openly call for people to come fight in Bosnia. And they did. And, this happened in Britain and other places. And there's even stories that have been reported in mainstream media that the United States would fly them over there on C-130 military aircraft and drop them off because it's like who would we rather be fighting here? U.S. soldiers or some of these militants. (Right)

So, this happened. Now, interestingly it turned out that a bunch of the people who went and fought in Bosnia later came back and, actually, while the Bosnian war was going on, and took part in the World Trade Center bombing in 1993. So, this policy always had a blowback element. They call it blowback, where you're playing with fire. You're dealing with these people in these hotspots kind of hoping that they will go and kill or harass your enemies. But these people generally hate you too. They're fundamentalists and they—the ones that say: "We hate Russia in Chechnya, they also say we hate Israel, and they also say we hate the United States," and they would be just as happy to be killing people in those countries, if they had the chance. Right?

JON Well, it's interesting, the shenanigans that took place during the '93 bombings with regard to Emad Salem and the FBI.

PAUL Well, we could go into so many different things. (Laughs) Yeah, I mean, there were, again—and so many times it turns out they're informants or wiretaps or whatever, that they're a good reason to stop these attacks. And,

again, it's incompetence or whatever. I think in the case of the World Trade Center bombing I think that that was incompetence.

You know, people forget that that bomb that blew up killed six people. It came very close to killing tens of thousands of people. It would have made 9/11 look small, because they planted a bomb in the basement and it would have—they had forensic experts, bomb experts, look later and they said: "If they would have just used some more explosives to have a bigger bomb, it would have knocked the whole, one of the towers, over." And, you know, in the middle of the day, there are tens of thousands, sometimes up to 50,000 people there who could have been killed in one stroke. (Right)

So, you know, one of the things about 9/11 that's, thank god, is that because they attacked so early in the morning, before people generally were at work at nine, the number of people inside the towers were much less than it otherwise could have been. If they were going to maximize the body count, they could easily, they would have done it in the middle of the day, they would have killed tens of thousands of people.

So, yeah, I don't, you know—So that was a close call, you know, that they, the U.S. intelligence knew: Boy, we almost lost 50,000- 40,000 people in downtown Manhattan because of this blowback policy.

So, you would have thought that they might have learned something. And there's even a story that came out about a year later that was kind of an apology story from the CIA. It said that there was an internal investigation and basically realized that it was their screw up that allowed this to happen. And that almost every single person involved in the plot was somehow connected to the CIA. Because they had—they were grabbing these militants off the streets in New York City in different places and saying go fight in Bosnia or go fight in Afghanistan. And, you know, and kind of working with them in these overseas intrigues only to find that it would come back and, literally, blowback.

So, this is the kind of the larger context that you have to look at not only 9/11 but, you know, these other terror incidents and wars that take place—that we always do this supporting of these Islamist movements thinking that we'll be very clever and we'll use these people as our pawns and our stooges and then they end up attacking us as well. You were talking earlier about ISIS. This is a good example with ISIS. It was not that long ago when Senator John McCain met with a bunch of ISIS people, before they were

known as ISIS, and gave some interviews saying: "Why aren't we supporting these guys? We should be giving them money and weapons." And now he wishes that interview could be wiped off the face of the earth because it looks so bad. But, this is the—like we never learn our lesson about: "you play with fire, your hands get burned."

We can see this, also, very much in Libya with the 2011 war. Right. And then after that ended, we thought: "Well, there's all these weapons. The country is just sort of overflowing with weapons because even before the war started, Muammar Gaddafi stockpiled a crazy number of weapons and, boy, wouldn't it be nice to have these people fighting Assad in Syria to have some of that weaponry." So, you know, it's still kind of a bit mysterious, but there have been credible news reports that the U.S. set up a secret program to take the weapons from Libya and bring them over to the Islamist militant fighters in Syria. And, you know, that again was like how was ISIS started? We were one of the main factors with that program that would seem.

So, you know, we never learn these lessons. But if you're looking at why a lot of these terror attacks happen, you might think that it has to do with this strategy.

To give you an example. There is the case of Zacarias Moussaoui. Now, I don't know if this is well known, but I think it's not that well known, is that he was a recruiter for the Chechnya war. And this was well-known within intelligence circles in the West prior to him being arrested shortly before 9/11. The French had files on him, and the British had files on him, and the U.S. had files on him. And he would go back and forth between Western countries and Chechnya and find dissatisfied youths who were Muslim and say: "Hey, go join the holy war and find a cause, find a reason to, you know, think you're important, blah blah blah."

And, so, if you are looking at why nobody seemed to care about Moussaoui when he was arrested in the middle of August 2001, I think it has directly to do with the fact that he was serving this role in Chechnya. A lot of people talk about this idea of "good terrorists" quote unquote and "bad terrorists" quote unquote. And the idea of the good terrorist is that's somebody, or you might call him quote unquote "freedom fighter," if you're knee-deep in the propaganda, the idea that that's someone in some rebel movement that we want to see succeed. And, so, then we want to support them. But, if they're fighting some cause we don't want to succeed, then they're a bad terrorists. But what they're doing—blowing things up and killing people—is the

same. Right? And what we find is that, oftentimes, it's the same people that they go from one country to another. And, you know, it's this small core of Islamic militants. A lot of the people—I was doing some follow-up research on what happened to some of the people in the embassy bombing that didn't get caught, and a couple of them now are fighting for ISIS in Syria.

So, there's this blowback effect that we protect, or look the other way, for the militants who are doing things that we want them to do.

So, remember, there's this FBI agent working with Coleen Rowley in the Minneapolis department of the FBI. I believe his name is Harry Samit. He later testified that he tried to contact everybody he could within the U.S. Government about the fact that they had Moussaoui, and that he was talking about, you know, wanting to fly a plane and asking questions about crashing it into the White House, and all this stuff that was so damning and incriminating. He went to the CIA, he went to the FBI, he went to—just a whole alphabet of different agencies. And every single person just pretty much shut the door in his face.

JON I think we refer to that as criminal negligence.

PAUL Well, yeah. And when he testified, he made a statement that I thought was really interesting. He said: "I came to the conclusion that—and I'm paraphrasing—that there is no amount of evidence I could have had that would have gotten these people to do something about him. Like there was just something about him that no one was going to do anything, like he had this protected status." And you could easily see that, you could imagine, someone in, you know, say the CIA, would know his history of being a recruiter for Chechnya and say, you know: "He's one of the quote unquote good terrorists. Let him go." And that has been such an idiotic and tragic policy that, you know, people a lot smarter than me, like there's a guy named Chalmers Johnson who's written a lot of books about blowback and has pointed out that it has failed, over and over and over again. Not just the terror aspect, but when the U.S. Government tries meddling through coups and assassinations and so forth, there's always these side effects that are not anticipated and end up just making the situation worse than it was before.

So, one other thing I want to say, just to finish off about this idea of this larger context that is, I think, very revealing is that one of the, I wouldn't say architects of this policy of using Islamic militants, but he definitely took it to the next level and really ran with it, was Zbigniew Brzezinski,

who was the national security adviser under President Carter, and he was a real war hawk. And he had this idea of, he called it the arc of crisis of this sort of arc around the Soviet Union, and he wanted to stir up trouble in a lot of these countries which would give the Soviet Union a lot of trouble. You know, like for instance, there are a lot of countries nowadays that are independent but were Soviet republics back then, like Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan and so on. And he thought: "well, wouldn't it be great, if we could use these Islamic militants and sort of point them in the direction of the Soviet Union and then cause all kinds of trouble for them and it will be like kind of no cost for us. No American lives are lost." Right?

So, he was interviewed about this in 1998. And it is very revealing. That he, as part of this arc of crisis policy, he was basically the one that really initiated the Russian war in Afghanistan. Because he did all these destabilization projects prior to the Russians coming in that kind of forced the Russians to come in. The CIA was involved in intrigues there and funding Islamist rebels, and so forth, as they do over and over again and, as I said, in this general policy that goes back decades.

So, here they were doing it in Afghanistan. So, someone asked him, a journalist asked him if he regretted starting the Afghan war. And he said quote: "Regret what? That secret operation was an excellent idea. It had the effect of drawing the Russians into the Afghan trap. And you want me to regret it? The day that the Russians officially crossed the border, I wrote to President Carter: We now have the opportunity of giving to the USSR its Vietnam War."

Then he was asked if he regrets quote "having given arms and advice to future terrorists" unquote—which, by the way, I think was a very farsighted question to ask him back in 1998. But he responded quote: "What is more important to the history of the world—the Taliban or the collapse of the Soviet empire? Some stirred up Muslims or the liberation of Central Europe and the end of the cold war?" Unquote.

And then the interviewer said quote: "Islamic fundamentalism represents a world menace today." And Brzezinski said quote: "Nonsense. It is said that the West has a global policy in regard to Islam. That is stupid. There isn't a global Islam." Unquote.

So, he was basically thinking: "Boy, these are just a bunch of rubes, a bunch of fools. These Islamist terrorists who will just, we'll just point them in the direction and they'll just go stir up trouble and blow things up and kill people and they will be unwitting tools thinking that they're anti-Western when they're actually, you know, fulfilling our foreign policy objectives." And, in some ways, you could say they had some successes with that. Like, yes, Afghanistan did become the Russian quagmire, the Vietnam War for Russia, right. But—as time went on the blowback just grew stronger and stronger. And, what's amazing is that to this day that we still do this. For instance, you know, in Syria or in Libya we can see recent examples where we just couldn't resist the temptation to say: "Well, okay, we'll support the rebels in Syria, but we'll only support the quote unquote "moderates." And this is something that you can go back decades where it's like they're always looking for the moderates and it always turns out that the supposed moderates are saying, you know, death to America, and would be just as happy to be blowing up a building in America as anything else that they're doing. (Right) And we're just fooling ourselves over and over again thinking that we can manipulate in this clever fashion without having the blowback effect.

So, you know, we're already going to be getting blowback from ISIS and it will go on for probably the next couple decades where people will come back from those—let's say ISIS gets defeated and, you know, the different people will scatter to the four winds and they'll still have their same ideology and they'll say: "Well, gee, now I'm over here in Algeria. I'll blow things up over here, or wherever they happen to be."

JON One of the things that's happened as a result of ISIS was it gave us the opportunity to go back to Iraq, which is where we wanted to be in the first place. If you remember, George W. Bush signed a Status of Forces Agreement that said everybody had to be out by a certain time. And Obama fought to keep troops in Iraq and couldn't do it because he couldn't get immunity for some of the crimes I believe we committed. And, so, we had to leave or withdraw. Now, because of ISIS, we have the ability to go back into Iraq. And we're slowly sending more and more soldiers into Iraq.

PAUL Well, I kind of disagree with that. Personally, I think that Obama, if he had a magic wand and he could make ISIS go away and just everything with Iraq go away, he'd be very happy to do that and have no troops in Iraq. I think one of the reasons ISIS happened was because he kind of overreacted from what happened under the Bush administration. And he just was like: "I

don't want to hear about Iraq. I'm sick of Iraq." You know, like with the time leading up to when ISIS just burst on the scene and started taking over major cities, the U.S. had really no involvement in Iraq. They weren't talking to the Government there. They weren't engaged in any way. Obama just wanted out. And, I think, in a way, that was an intelligent policy. Because Bush's idea, in the first place, to have—you've got to have all these military bases in the Persian Gulf was a foolish one. You don't. Why do you need all these troops in the Persian Gulf in the first place? They have these bases, like I said, in a few of the tiny Gulf states like Bahrain, which provide, I think enough security if something dramatic were to happen—like say, Iran were to suddenly up and attack another country, you have aircraft carriers, you have different things in the region already. Right. Why do you need 100,000 troops to be stationed there? It's very costly and you're not getting anything for it in return.

So, I don't see why Obama, if he's smart—maybe he's dumb—but, why he would want all these troops in Iraq? His attitude has been, you know, make this problem go away. And, also, in Afghanistan. I think in both those things, he keeps troops there because he's in a sort of a damned-if-you-do/damned-if-you-don't, where if you pull the troops out, then all of a sudden, the Islamist forces are going to completely take over. Like in Afghanistan. So, you kind of, you can't, you're forced to, sort of, have some troops there, but he keeps trying to bring it down to as few as possible, because he sees it's like this quagmire. So, I don't think he wants to be—Iraq is going to be, let's face it, it's going to be a quagmire for a long time. Why do you want to be losing lives and, like a money pit, constantly throwing more and more weapons and troops into that big money pit. Are you going to get any oil out of it? You're not going to get any oil out of it. That country is so messed up that it will not be a major oil producer, putting new fields on line, you know, I don't think for decades. So, what are you spending all that time and money for putting troops in there?

JON I don't know. I just remember that he did fight to keep us in there. So, anyway, let's move on.

PAUL Well, yeah, I mean, I think it was the same idea with Afghanistan. I think he would have been happy to keep, you know, 10,000, 20,000 troops in there. You know, in an ideal world. But to have, like the original Bush plan was to have this sort of major military presence and then it's kind of like, you know, the U.S. has this gigantic club that would keep any country in the Persian Gulf region in line by saying: "Look, we've got this army right on

your border, so you better do as we say." And, you know, there was even talk, I remember, it was reported in *Newsweek*—I even for some reason remember the details—some people within the Government saying: "Everybody wants to go to Baghdad, but real men want to go to Tehran." They were already thinking not just militarily dominating, you know, Iraq but that use that as a springboard to just control Iraq and Iran and the whole region. And, I think, Obama's coming from a different place.

JON I think back in the Bush administration they were using their ISI connections to use Jundallah to go into Iran to commit terrorist attacks—so that brings us into another—

PAUL Yeah, but before you get off that, it's just another classic example of thinking like we can be so clever and use these Islamist military groups to, like I said, like turning on and off the pressure for these countries like: "If you mess with us, we will stick this thorn in your side—in the form of some rebel province or, you know, terrorist group that's bombing your capital, or whatever, and do that as a way to it's like politics through whatever Machiavellian means you can manage." And I think it's a) highly unethical and b) has just been shown, time and time again, to just blow back and cause way more trouble than it's worth.

JON So, what is the relationship between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan?

PAUL That is a very good question, and it's interesting, you know, you look at the 28 pages, there's nothing in there about Pakistan. But you could write a hundred pages more on the Pakistan ties to 9/11. But, the thing is, Pakistan has a different role than Saudi Arabia does, and they've been working kind of hand-in-hand in a lot of things, going way back. And, you know, you could look for instance at their cooperation to support the Mujahideen back in the 1980s. But it goes a lot deeper than that.

Basically, in a larger sense, Saudi Arabia has been the money guy. They've got all that oil money and they're always funding different things. They like funding fake charities a lot. And Pakistan has been the operational guys. The ISI actually goes in and does things and kills people. And, you know, it's boots on the ground, sometimes even quasi-military operations. So, the two have these different functions. And when Pakistan needs money, they go to the Saudis, and when the Saudis need operational support, they go to the Pakistanis.

So, that's the way it's worked. And the Pakistanis have had such deep ties to both the Taliban—well, first of all, the Taliban, pretty much everyone in the know will admit that they are a branch of the ISI. They're just a puppet of the ISI. (Right) I remember one time I turned on the TV and I was watching the *MacNeil/Lehrer* news hour, which is very vanilla news coverage. They're not going to go into anything startling that, you know, like investigative journalism. But they had a panel of like five or six experts. And every single one of them they said: "Oh, yeah, Taliban. They're tools of the ISI."

I was like, wow! I'm surprised that there are—that even these, you know, mainstream pundits all accept that as fact. Because it's still kind of a "conspiracy theory" idea, because we are allies with the Pakistanis and we're enemies with the Taliban. So, it's like, does not compute. How can that be? It must not be true. And it's been true for not only since the formation of the Taliban that they were basically a creation by the ISI, and we even have quotes from even the prime minister of Pakistan at the time, Benazir Bhutto, said: "We gave them carte blanche. We gave them everything." Meaning the Taliban, that they were just—they were propped up entirely because of Pakistani support.

So, they haven't even tried to deny it. But where it gets more controversial is the idea of that still being true after 9/11. And the evidence for that is overwhelming. And I remember seeing 2005, 2006, seeing these news reports. And it just seems so strange to me that this stuff could be talked about in a mainstream way. Like I remember what might have been *Dateline* on ABC—or not *Dateline*. What's that other program? Their version of *60 Minutes*, whatever that is. They had a big piece about this and they were talking about how in Pakistan that there were all these terrorist training camps. And even training suicide bombers, and not just one or two, but dozens of these training camps. And some of them were for Al-Qaeda and some of them were for the Taliban, and you could go to a map and you could say, you know, here, there and there. And exactly, we've got satellite photos of them all and it's all totally known. Right? And it's 100 percent known by U.S. intelligence that these people are all being trained and funded by the ISI.

And what every single recruit from these training camps does they merely cross the border into Afghanistan and they start fighting U.S. soldiers, and they're blowing them up in suicide attacks or shooting at them with

weapons. And at the same time this is going on, the Pakistani Government is the target of billions of dollars of foreign aid from the United States.

So, this has happened for years and years, in an open way, that we were basically funding the very people that were killing our soldiers.

JON There was a political cartoon that said, I think it was an American taxpayer talking to somebody in Washington, saying: "Should we write the check to Pakistan or should we send it directly to the Taliban?"

PAUL Well, I'm surprised there even was that cartoon, because the American public has been, generally, clueless about this and the media has just been lapdog and hasn't made a big deal out of it. It was just like: "Well, what are you going to do? It's just one of those things." For some reason, this was just accepted as normal for year-after-year-after-year. And it still continues to this day. This goes, you know—just like we have had this policy of using terrorists as a foreign policy tool. Other countries have done the same thing.

We've already talked about how Prince Bandar has done this with the threat he made to Britain or with the support he's given to ISIS. Well, Pakistan has been one of the most blatant users of this strategy, in particular, with India.

JON Kashmir, yeah.

PAUL Yeah, it was particular in the Kashmir region. It goes all the way back to the 1980s, where Pakistan is a much smaller country than India. You know, they're outnumbered 5 to 1, 6 to 1 in terms of population. So, their army is similarly outnumbered. So, if there ever was a conventional war, Pakistan would just be slaughtered. And there have been a few wars going back to the 1970s and earlier, where they just barely hung on.

So, they decided the only way they could really even things up is through guerrilla warfare in Kashmir where you have a small number of people, but because they're using these terrorist or guerrilla warfare type tactics, they can pin down a large number of the opposing side. You never know where they're going to strike next. And they've even supported attacks within India itself. Most particularly the Mumbai attack in 2008, that ended up killing about 150 people—that was directly tied. One of the bombers—or it wasn't a bomb, it was more like a machine gun attack that went on for over 24 hours. One of them survived and fingered the ISI as being their funder and trainer and so forth. And that almost led to another hot war between those

two countries, because India was so outraged when they got this direct evidence.

So, Pakistan has been playing this game for a long time, and if you go back to Al-Qaeda and what was happening before 9/11 and what was happening after 9/11, it couldn't be more obvious that these guys were their official sponsors and were funding them and training them in every way.

And, so, I know you're going to ask, because we talked earlier before this phone call, you're going to ask about the money that went from, seemingly from, what's his name? Mahmoud Ahmed, the head of the ISI at the time, to this guy Saeed Sheikh, who was a pretty active terrorist, Islamist terrorist, who is now in prison in Pakistan, to the 9/11 hijackers. There was a belief of about hundred thousand dollars that was stolen through criminal means in India, so it could be sent to the hijackers without it directly being traced to Pakistan. That was the idea.

Now, I don't know if that's true or not. It very well could be. It's possible that that could be Indian propaganda, because it would be in Indian interest to—to tie Pakistan to the 9/11 attacks in this way and make them look bad.

So, I don't know the facts, you know, the raw data.

JON One of the things I've noticed over the years with regard to the Indian news coverage of what Pakistan does is that, oftentimes more than not, it's accurate.

PAUL Yeah, I hadn't seen—I mean, we have so much stuff that for real, it's like why would they need to make stuff up? Because Pakistan is constantly messing with India. And so—you don't need a bunch of propaganda because the reality is like enough to practically bring them to war.

So, yeah, I too have noticed that where I have seen that in other countries, including the United States, where we see a lot of ridiculous propaganda that's easily identified as such. And I haven't seen that, generally, with the Indians. But, I will say that, admittedly, is a possibility. But I would also say it's almost a moot point. Because the larger context of the ISI support for Al-Qaeda and for the Taliban is so strong, you could argue that neither group would exist in anything near a successful form if it weren't for the ISI. They're basically tools. One is the Afghanistan version. The other one's the international terrorism version that wouldn't exist without ISI support.

And, so, there's no way in heck, in my opinion, that the 9/11 attacks could have happened without the head of the ISI Mahmoud Ahmed giving at least a tacit okay. It's just impossible, because he was the guy that was propping them up in every way. You had to—you didn't want to cross your sugar daddy, basically. They wouldn't do that if Pakistan said no.

To give you an example, in the days after 9/11, it was reported that Mahmoud Ahmed went to Pakistan and met with the Taliban leaders and encouraged them to hand over bin Laden. But, at the same time that story came out, there were other stories that came out that said that was just the cover story and what he was really doing was he was going there and he was telling them: "Don't turn over bin Laden. Fight the Americans and we will help you all the way."

And I believe the second version of events, because that's exactly what happened. That the ISI, at the time that the U.S. in October, starting in October 2001, was bringing their troops and landing. It was very strange, because Pakistan was an absolutely essential logistical stop that at the time—it's happened since then, we've developed some bases in Central Asia—but, at the time, there's really no way to get a huge number of U.S. troops into Afghanistan without them going through Pakistan. So, Pakistan is like: "Oh, come on in. We'll help you out. And here, logically, we will give you gasoline and landing strips and everything. And come right on in to Afghanistan."

Meanwhile, ISI officials were embedded with the Taliban and they were advising the Taliban how to fight the United States successfully. So, talk about a two-sided game. It couldn't have been more obvious. There were mainstream articles that came out at the time that were saying, you know, that the ISI would be giving the U.S. advice on how to fight the Taliban. And then, at the same time, they were giving the Taliban advice on how to fight the U.S. And that the U.S. knew this and that they were just, again, like what can you do? We'll just have to blunder through and do as best we can. But that's just how Pakistan works, and you can't stop them from doing that.

JON Just give them more money. And continue calling them our ally.

PAUL [Laughs] Keep giving them more money, right. And so, you know, and then Seymour Hersh came out with this bombshell story about there was this

town in northern Afghanistan called Kunduz, which was a Taliban stronghold, and it was surrounded by U.S. troops and they had nowhere to go and they were all going to be rounded up. And then, for several weeks there was this airlift. And night-after-night, there would be these cargo planes that would just take all these fighters and bring them back into Pakistan. And a lot of them were Taliban, but many of them were Al-Qaeda. And it's believed that some of them were Al-Qaeda leaders and even members of bin Laden's family were taken on these planes, and in an open way, when the United States controlled the skies of Afghanistan and they knew these flights were happening, and it was only a secret to the American public.

You know, people have talked about this from the military. You know, have come out later and they said: "Oh, yeah, we knew those flights were happening." And this was like done as a favor to Pakistan. And the reason why, one of the reasons why, was because so many of the people in Kunduz at the time were ISI advisers and it would have looked really bad to have them all been—roped up and arrested by U.S. forces. So, it was like, well, you know, some of the quote unquote "bad guys" will go on the planes with them, but what can you do? And we keep making these kinds of crazy compromises because of the fact that we were faced with a situation where Pakistan was simultaneously our ally and our enemy.

And so, you know, to get back to the money issue, like I said, it kind of doesn't matter because it's just the—Osama bin Laden, for instance, he would have been dead long ago had it not been for the ISI. It's pretty openly acknowledged, for instance, that in 1998, when the United States tried to bomb bin Laden, the one time it happened—people called it the wag the dog. When, remember there was the Monica Lewinsky scandal and Bill Clinton did these couple of bombings—that it's well known that the ISI tipped bin Laden off. And this happened time and time again. You know, the timeline is filled with instances where there would be some—some big Al-Qaeda figure that the U.S. was trying to get.

And, at one point, they even, you know, snatched some guy away from the U.S. and drove him away in a car, you know, a bunch of ISI guys, because they were so allied with Al-Qaeda. So, you know, what more could they possibly have done to show their true, in my opinion, their true allegiance and really play America for a fool for over ten years? There must just be people in Pakistan that were like: "I can't believe we're getting away with this! You know, that we're killing U.S. soldiers, on a daily basis, with the

people we train and equip with suicide bombs, and they're still giving us money."

JON Well, the one thing is, you know, the 9/11 Commission said that the source of the funding was of little practical significance, and I think that if the ISI was connected financially to 9/11, that would be huge news, because Pakistan is an ally of the United States—and that's why that is significant.

PAUL Well, sure. I'm not saying it's not significant, but in a larger sense, like in terms of the reaction that the U.S. should have had, it shouldn't have made a difference if they found out about that \$100,000 transfer or not. I'm not saying attack Pakistan (No, no, no), especially because it's a nuclear power. But, well, I mean, why the heck would you continue to act like they're an ally? That is craziness.

JON Yes, absolutely. Now, let's get to this question. How credible would you say the 9/11 Commission and its report are?

PAUL [Laughs] Let's say zero. You know, what the 9/11 Commission tried to do was that they realized that there was a certain amount of information that was in the public domain, and they wanted to present all that information in a way so that they could be seen as the establishment-accepted version of events. So, they worked with everything that was, basically, undeniable and tried to weave that into a story that would become the de facto version. But anything that was not widely known already, they suppressed.

For instance, they had a whole bunch of whistleblowers—you mentioned Robert Wright is one of them—who would want to speak with them. And either they wouldn't listen to them—they wouldn't even give them the chance to speak—or, they did and they just said: "That's very nice. And put the testimony in a drawer." Anything that was not, like I said, widely accepted and known, they just tried to bury. And it's a total travesty of a commission. And time has shown, since then, that there have been, you know, things that have come out.

Able Danger is one example, where you knew that they knew about it and they basically managed to suppress that completely from their report. Or there was, for instance, there was an important warning that George Tenet, the CIA director, gave to Bush that was not publicly known at the time the 9/11 Commission report came out, and didn't come out into the public domain until 2006. And it turned out that the commission had that

information about that warning and they just sat on it. And I'm sure that they sat on all sorts of other things.

So, the fact that they have this reputation is pathetic, and it shows how, again, the sad state of our media that they would just so often become stenographers for Government figures and that they just swallow this thing whole has been one of the major disappointments, for me, in terms of this whole 9/11 story. Now, anybody who says anything they just say: "Oh, that's not in the 9/11 Commission report. It must not be true. As if this is the definitive Bible."

JON Well, what's killing me about the 28 pages is that people are pointing to the 9/11 Commission and saying: "Well, they didn't find anything to what was in the 28 pages, and they're the definitive account of 9/11."

PAUL Right, I mean, the 9/11 Congressional Inquiry, actually, did a much better job on far less information, because they weren't such an obvious—I mean, there were some people, like Eleanor Hill and others, who seemed to be genuinely trying to get to the bottom of things. (Yeah) Whereas, I get the impression from the 9/11 Commission that it was just a cover-up from the word go.

I'm really reminded of the Warren Commission going back to the JFK assassination. It's a known fact that Earl Warren didn't want to be on the commission, but he was persuaded to be on the commission because he said he was told by—whatever the people in the know like the CIA director at the time, that there was potential evidence tying Lee Harvey Oswald to the Russians. And so, if this were to become like the story that the Russians killed JFK that this could potentially lead to World War III.

So, he felt like it was his patriotic duty to, not only take part in the Warren Commission Report, but lend his name to it, but basically just be open about, you know, open acknowledge later in life that it was a cover-up from the get go with the express purpose of creating this lone gunman theory in order to prevent this other theory of the Russians being behind it. Remember, Lee Harvey Oswald defected to the Soviet Union for a while. And, so, that was a real alternative theory.

So, he admitted that, you know, we went in there—I don't remember the exact quote from Earl Warren, but it was like: "I did this so that we—we

had the conclusion before we even started, and then we fit the facts to, you know, to go with that conclusion."

And that's exactly what the 9/11 Commission did. They, you know, I'm sure before they started, they had ideas like: "We cannot have anything in there about the Pakistanis. We can't have anything in there about the Saudis." Insofar as there's been stuff that has been widely reported like, say, this Prince Bandar information about Bayoumi and Bassnan, we will have to mention it to some extent in order to downplay it, because if we totally don't mention it, then it looks too obvious.

JON Did you know that when the 9/11 Commission met with Bush and Cheney behind closed doors, with no transcripts, not publicly and so forth, that when John Lehman asked Bush, specifically, about the Bandar 9/11 connection, he quote: "dodged the questions." (Laughs) That, to me, is reason enough to bring him in for questioning, as far as I'm concerned.

PAUL And the fact that you could let him get away with that is just, it's again, it's just—

JON One thing I'd say about the 9/11 Commission is that it was completely corrupt and compromised, but there were good people on the 9/11 Commission. So, that's why it's important to look at the documentation from the 9/11 Commission because oftentimes it contradicts what's in the 9/11 report. So, doubt, you know, all of the conclusions of the 9/11 report, but definitely look into the documentation that they had, you know, from the staffers and so forth.

PAUL Well, yeah, I'm sure. It's kind of the same thing with the Congressional Inquiry. Not so much that the final conclusions there were so—what would you say—a cover-up, as just that everything that was critical there was redacted and remains redacted to this day. It's not just the 28 pages. You look at that thing, it's like a big piece of Swiss cheese. There's lots of pages in there that are completely redacted outside of the 28 pages. So, you know, but in both cases I'm sure there were a lot of good people coming forth with information that got—closed out at some level as it kind of worked its way up the chain.

And what I'm curious about is if you and I were omniscient, you know, we had ability to see all and know all, and you could look at all the documents in the CIA and the FBI and the NSA and everything, would there actually

be an honest accounting somewhere at some level of what really happened, or in their attempt to cover up, did they, essentially, believe their own propaganda or only write down—this skewed version of events. Or is there actually some genuine accounting in there? Not just in terms of the raw data, but as it worked its way up and got into reports and so forth. I don't know, because I think the desire to cover up was so strong.

JON I think getting access to Bush's PDBs that came prior to 9/11 is essential.

PAUL For instance, let's just argue that, for argument's sake, that this idea of al-Hazmi and al-Mihdhar being attempted mole or someone that the CIA was trying to follow—if that was the case, was there ever like an internal report that looked at that is like mistakes made and lessons learned and actually lays out the full story? Or was that just so hot that they just said we're just going to deny, deny, deny and just rewrite history from the day after 9/11 onwards? I don't know.

JON Neither do I.

PAUL But, I sure—I think there's still plenty to learn from these documents, you know, that are still to come out or are out but are so redacted that you can't make heads or tails of them. Because this thing is such a gigantic sprawling mess that, and there's so many people in so many levels who have a story to tell that you couldn't keep everybody quiet at every level.

And, so that's what I kind of try to do with the 9/11 Timeline was to take all these little pieces, since no one within the Government ever was going to step forward and say: "Aha, here's the 800-page intelligence community summary of the full truth of 9/11." (Laughs) That was never going to happen. You know, we've got to try to do our best to cobble it together piece by piece.

JON Now, this is a question that might make some people mad, but whatever. I don't do this to be popular. I do this to get the job done. What is your opinion of people who say that the 28-redacted pages reinforces the myth that there were hijackers and therefore should be ignored?

PAUL Well, I have understanding of people who feel that way. Because, you know, people have been lied to so much. There's been such a ridiculous cover up about 9/11 that it's kind of easy to just think that the official story is not true, so just anything goes. And people have just speculated in some

really wild ways like the planes themselves were holograms and all kinds of things. And, but it's unfortunate, because I think that extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence. And there's just a whole mountain of evidence about these hijackers going around from town-to-town doing all the things that they did, and I don't see how that just couldn't be. Sure, there could be a lot of spin and manipulation of that information. But, I think there's no doubt that there were these 19 guys and they were running around and they wanted to be suicide bombers and so on and so forth.

One thing that I remember from when I first started to get involved in this in 2002, was that there was a contingent of people who just thought that the very idea of people being suicide bombers was absurd. You know, that these 19 people would get on these planes and crash them into buildings was sort of in and of itself ridiculous, it couldn't be.

JON Right, thinking all 19 people—I think that's what they said: Getting all 19 people to commit suicide.

PAUL Right. And since then, we have seen that suicide bombing is such a common tactic that it's almost, you know, not even worth mentioning in the news anymore. In Iraq, in Afghanistan, there are suicide bombings on a daily basis (Right), and people—it's like they have, you know, like a conveyor belt of recruits and they put them through indoctrination and they send them off and here's your bomb and go blow up that target. And it's not something that is so incredible and strange. And, historically, it's not either. It's happened a lot of times in history, a lot of places like prior to 9/11, you could look at Sri Lanka, you know, had a long civil war, a lot of history of suicide bombing going on there.

So, I think, another thing that goes on with people who feel that way—it's again, I can sympathize with—is that they want this story to be 100 percent focused on the criminal deeds of the U.S. Government, which in my opinion are criminal. It's just a matter of what are you going to charge them with? At the very least, gross negligence. So, they want to focus on that and that is the most important thing, you know, because there are always going to be people out there who are enemies or want to kill Americans and so forth. That's not really so interesting.

My focus has been really on like what has the U.S. done about that? Why is it that these things have gone forward? And bombs have gone off when they should have stopped? I, too, I am interested in the U.S. angle mostly, but I

think some people for sort of purity reasons, ideological purity or simplification reasons, it would be nice to just say it's just a hundred percent. We just look at the U.S. Government and their misdeeds and bringing in these Muslim fanatics and the things that they've done just kind of complicates the picture and spreads the blame. And, so, they prefer this other vision. But, I think, you got to go where the facts are (Right), and the story actually is, as I said, going back decades.

This American policy of thinking that they can manipulate and use Islamist militants for various purposes and the blowback that always happens. And it seems in some cases, for strategic reasons, letting these people be successful, you know, has come and it's how far do we go with that? Did they let these 9/11 attackers be successful for various strategic reasons? But there's definitely a pattern of that. And that is a decades-long scandal that 9/11 is just like one of the biggest pieces that fits into.

JON Yeah, absolutely. And I do sympathize with people who fall for certain information because there was a time when I believed certain things and I don't anymore. But I do have sympathy for those people, but at the same time I don't think it helps. And it's a hindrance, if anything, when you say not to look at certain things. Because most of the incriminating information exists with the hijackers in the picture. (Yeah) And I don't understand why people insist on taking them completely out of the picture.

PAUL Well, I think that's a small number, but kind of a diehard number. Yeah, but I think as time goes on, that also that viewpoint has dwindled as we just deal daily with the craziness that is this Islamist fundamentalist movement. Like, for instance, what's going on now with ISIS and that there really are these people that behead people and—have sex slavery of innocent people and they do all these terrible things and you realize that human beings—I'm not singling out the Islamic belief by any means—are capable of doing incredibly awful things. And everybody of every religion, pretty much down through the ages, has done really, really terrible things and it's just right now this is something that's happening in a particularly violent way in the Middle East. And, you know, there is blowback and so forth. But, you know, suicide bombing—this is not an invention that happened on 9/11. This is something that happened before, it's happened a lot since and we shouldn't be so surprised that this is part of the world we live in today.

JON That is the end of part three. Please be sure to check out the other three shows in this series. Thank you.

We were **LIED** to about 9/11

With your host Jon Gold

This week
Jon talks to...



The
Soapbox
People's Network

Paul Thompson

Chapter/Episode 31 – Paul Thompson – Part 4 – July 27, 2016

Jon Gold (JON)

Paul Thompson (PAUL)

JON Hi, everyone, and welcome to my show called, "We Were Lied to About 9/11." I am your host, Jon Gold, and this show is part of the Soapbox People's Network. This week I'm having a four-part series that covers a multitude of issues. This is Part Four.

Back in the 70s, there was something called the Dawson's Field hijackings where I think there were four planes that were simultaneously hijacked (Mm-hmm), not as spectacularly as what happened on 9/11, but you know, so it shows that it could happen. (Right)

So, let's finish off now with a couple of questions. What other areas of interest regarding 9/11 should people be focused on, in your opinion?

PAUL Well, one thing that I sort of put in my mind to talk about, which I could use this question to talk about, is this issue that if you go back to the 28 pages, it definitely comes up, which is was there a support network in the United States for the hijackers? And I think that's one of the biggest lies that the U.S. Government has put forth and continues to put forth about 9/11.

Because the evidence is just overwhelming that there was a support network.

Now, 28 Pages, they're particularly looking at the Saudi connection and the Saudi Government connection. But, there's all kinds of other connections that people are not tied to that. And, yet, if you were to ask the FBI, they would say there was no support network. It was just like, basically, 19 lone nuts. There were these 19 guys, completely didn't know anyone from Adam in the United States. They did it all on their own working as this little group and that's the end of the story. And that has—you can point to all kinds of official documents that have come out that have said that. And that is the biggest load of bull, and it's really tragic that they say that, because there are people out there who are looking for justice. The 9/11 victims' relatives and many others who would like to see some sort of justice. And there are people out there, alive today, who are still directly responsible in some way or another. You can look at the people—who in the United States Government who should be in jail for their, whatever you want to call it, you know, negligence or worse.

But aside from those, there are all these people who are, actually, part of the Al-Qaeda bomb plot and, yet, they're still not punished. And, I think, that it's like a continuing crime that just goes on every day that this cover story is maintained and that these people are still not brought to justice.

To give you an example, we were talking earlier about the al-Hijji family in Sarasota that seemed to have all these ties to the 9/11 hijackers. Now, I don't know, if they are fellow travelers or if they knew of the 9/11 plot. I don't think anybody really knows, but maybe we just don't have that intelligence, because we didn't really find out about them until after 9/11. But, the fact is that family, apparently, is like living now in Britain, openly, and anybody could arrest them at any time and try to get some answers from them. And, yet, they seem to be living with impunity like they don't even have a concern that's going to happen. Because they know that there's this such pervasive bias that since they have ties to the Saudi Government, they seem to be untouchable.

And, you know, there's a lot of other people around the world today who really should be put on trial. What about these people in Guantanamo like Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and Ramzi bin al-Shibh. It's been 15 years and there still has never been any sort of legitimate trial. There's this kind of quasi-military tribunal that's moving along at a snail's pace. But, it's just a

joke. (Absolutely) There's no justice that you could point to and say that was a legitimate just trial.

And, so, it seems that, with the possible exception of Zacarias Moussaoui, nobody anywhere is ever going to go on trial about 9/11. And, I don't even really think, necessarily, that Moussaoui was connected to the 9/11 plot. I'm sure he was doing a lot of bad things, but it was more like he had this other thing that he had planned going on. So, you can't really say that he was convicted of the 9/11 plot either.

JON Yeah, if JASTA is passed, that would give the families the ability to take Saudi Arabia into a courtroom. And I would LOVE to see 9/11 make it into a courtroom. Can you imagine them calling in Dana Lesemann (RIP), who was fired by Zelikow for gaining access to the 28 pages through a back channel because he was blocking her access to them.

PAUL Yeah, well, that would certainly be interesting. And, I think the truth comes out eventually. You know, we'll find out. That trial may go 10 years before it ever reaches some actionable point. You know, it's been 15 years and still there's been so little movement on that. So, these things it seems are just moving along at a snail's pace.

Meanwhile, a lot of people out there who really are to blame and are dying off. Terrorists generally have a pretty short life, because of the lifestyle they've chosen to live.

JON Speaking of that, did you know Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh recently tried to kill himself?

PAUL Oh, I hadn't heard that. I had heard that he caused a lot of mischief within prison. He almost caused India and Pakistan to go to war by faking a phone call to India. But, no, I hadn't heard about that.

JON He just tried to kill himself within the last couple of years.

PAUL Huh . . . Well, anyway, one thing—we've been talking a long time, but maybe you can make this into a two-parter or something, because I want to go into this whole other thing about the support network idea, which is that there are some people out there who, I really want people, listeners out there, to know more about—people involved in the 9/11 plot I mean—who are just so obviously connected to the 9/11 plot and, yet, they were never

brought to justice. There was never a trial. And, so, it says a lot about this cover-up that the Government seems to, time and time again, they would rather let some of these people go and continue to cause mayhem than to bring them into a courtroom where you would have, basically, all kinds of things that could come up. You could open up a whole can of worms about the 9/11 attacks that, I think, they would just prefer not to ever go there.

And one of the guys that I have been really fascinated about ever since I first heard about him, and yet nobody seems to know about and never talks about, is this guy called Nabil al-Marabh and he's such a fascinating case to me. It's like, you know, it's like some sort of Zelig figure who's just everywhere and involved in all sorts of things. And it's a telling story because he ultimately was deeply connected to 9/11. Arrested by the United States Government shortly after 9/11, and then just let go in 2004. He served an eight-month sentence for entering the country illegally and just deported to Syria. And that's pretty much the last anybody ever heard of him.

And, so, imagine if you had one of the 9/11 hijackers somehow survive and then you just let him go. I mean that's about as bad as it is with Nabil al-Marabh. Here's a guy, he has connections to Al-Qaeda that just go back—you could write a whole book on this guy. He fought in, I think, as far back as Bosnia as a militant. And this is just so interesting what happened to this guy. Because in the late 90s, he moved to Boston and he was part of a cell of at least four really, not questionable, like maybe they were Al-Qaeda, but four definitely Al-Qaeda people. The other three all sort of went off to do other things overseas, bombings, different things, so there's no doubt about it.

And, so, when these guys went off, he stayed in the U.S. and he keeps crossing paths with all these other people. There's not that many Al-Qaeda people in the United States prior to 9/11, but he seems to be this real linchpin figure. After 9/11, he was listed as, I think, one of the 27 most wanted—the U.S. put a most-wanted list out and he was listed as, I think, one of the most five most wanted, in particular for 9/11, as opposed to—other people who were just wanted in general for all kinds of things. He was really tied to 9/11. And, he was seen by many eyewitnesses with Mohamed Atta, with Marwan al-Shehhi. There were phone calls that they had the phone records of him talking to the 9/11 hijackers. There were money transfers that they found through the banks that definitely involved him passing money on from overseas to the 9/11 hijackers.

You could not have more evidence against a guy than this guy. He even was wanted for attempted murder in the United States for stabbing somebody in an argument and then skipped bail and he was never—you know, when they kicked him out of the country, they still never prosecuted him for the attempted murder and skipping bail. There's just something really strange about how this guy was involved in so many things and, yet, seem to have just been ignored and pushed out of the country.

JON I've never even heard of him.

PAUL There's a whole—you know, when I had the *Terror Timeline* book, I have an entire chapter on him. And there's a whole section on him, if you go online to the 9/11 Timeline HistoryCommons. And it just seems like no one has never seemed to notice. It's really weird.

One of the things about him that's fascinating is that he may well have been an FBI asset. There was some—well, first of all, of these four guys in Boston, one of them, I think his name is Raed Hijazi, a story came out that he WAS an FBI asset and, in particular, that he—this Raed Hijazi guy—was helping the FBI regarding heroin smuggled in from Afghanistan to Boston, which in and of itself just raises all kinds of interesting questions that an Al-Qaeda cell may have been tied to that prior to 9/11.

But putting that aside, later on when, I think this was maybe in 2000, early 2000, when Nabil al-Marabh is moving from one town to another town—he kind of moved around a lot in the U.S. and also to Canada—later on they went and they asked people who knew him before he moved and he said to them that he had been approached by the FBI to be an FBI asset and he was seriously considering taking them up on the offer.

And the reason why he was approached was because this other guy, right, Hijazi, he was captured overseas and turned over to U.S. intelligence in the year 2000, and, apparently, he just sung like a bird when he was captured. He was one of those people who just sort of immediately told everything, and he revealed that Nabila al-Marabh was an Al-Qaeda operative living inside the United States.

So, of course, you know, again, the FBI and the CIA they love to try to turn these people. So, it seems extremely plausible to me that his story about

being offered to be an FBI asset right after Hijazi started to talk makes total sense.

And then, interestingly, sort of middle of, or maybe early 2001, he was captured trying to cross the border from the United States into Canada, and he was held by the Canadian Government for two weeks and then they let him go. And the interesting thing about that was that when he was being held, you know, he was in a cell with some other prisoners, and the other prisoners said later on that he seemed very confident that he would be released soon. And he said the reason why was because he had been in contact with the FBI and quote "because I'm special" like that the FBI has this special relationship with him.

JON I think I do remember that story and, and it reminds me of Ali Mohamed.

PAUL Yeah, I mean, isn't this all so strange? And it got stranger, too, because it turns out also that one of the things that he had done for Al-Qaeda, being one of the few people in the United States who was Al-Qaeda, was that he was involved in money transfers from Boston to operatives overseas. And when Raed Hijazi spilled the beans that this all came out. Right.

And, so, then the U.S. Customs Department launched an investigation into this because it involved the transfer of funds from the U.S. overseas. And they found out not only about Nabil al-Marabh, but they found also on the run, but they found also Hamza al-Ghamdi, who was one of the 9/11 hijackers later on, was involved in these money transfers when they were overseas. And then al-Suqami, Satam al-Suqami, another 9/11 hijacker, that he was also fingered being as part of these money transfers.

So, this was before 9/11, that these 9/11 hijackers were being investigated by the U.S. Government because of money transfers that were known to be Al-Qaeda. Right? But from this, based on a guy that they had captured and he was spilling the beans, right? And just days after 9/11, there were some stories in *The New York Times* that just completely went down the memory hole that said that when the 9/11 attacks happened, and they looked at all the names, that they looked at their files and they realized that a whole bunch of these people were already being investigated. And it included a handful of the hijackers, like al-Suqami and a couple of the al-Ghamdis that you never hear anything about because they had been targeted in this customs investigation. And this is reported in *The New York Times* and had several follow-up stories and then it's just totally forgotten. And the 9/11

Congressional Inquiry never looked into it. The 9/11 Commission never looked into it. It was like, I think again, it's like there was such a cover-up from the beginning that if there wasn't enough of a media story, that they would just bury this stuff—20 feet underground and hope that everybody kept it forgotten forever. [Laughs]

But, people like you and me, we can dig up these newspaper stories and still say: "Hey, what about this?" But for some reason when it came to Nabil al-Marabh, everybody just forgot about it, and then he was still in the U.S. after 9/11, and it seems that he was going to be involved in a follow-up plot. He had been doing some training and gotten a license for driving a truck that would be containing hazardous materials. You have to have a special hazardous materials license and he was apparently waiting for the license to come in the mail a week after 9/11 when he was arrested. I think it was like in a 7-Eleven-type store in Chicago. And, so then all these continued stories come out about his ties to the hijackers and everything, and he was one of the very few—in fact, I told you earlier there were over a thousand people who were arrested after 9/11 and there was a story that came out in early 2002, that said Nabil al-Marabh might be the only one out of all of those who actually is tied to al-Qaeda. (Wow)

So, they have this guy and you would think that he would—that this could be the big 9/11 trial. Put him on trial, right? And some people tried to do that. In fact, Patrick Fitzgerald, who was later well-known for trying Scooter Libby for the whole Valerie Plame story—you probably know who Patrick Fitzgerald is, right?

JON Yeah, absolutely.

PAUL Well, he was in charge of this Nabil al-Marabh case and he really wanted to charge him with the 9/11 plot.

And, I mean, I'm just skimming over the story. I mean, there's so many things about this guy that just, you know, like stamp guilty on his forehead. Like when he was caught at that 7-Eleven, he was working, you know, like real dead-end jobs, making minimum wage, and yet, he was found with \$30,000 in cash and another \$30,000 in jewels. (Wow) Amber jewels on his body when he was caught. You know, it's like what the heck is he doing with all this money?

So, then Patrick Fitzgerald in, I think, late 2002, tried to prosecute and he got the word from on high: "No." And, so, you know, being a loyal Government bureaucrat, he decided not to do it, and then, it turns out that while al-Marabh was being held on these minor charges, there was another guy in his prison cell—you know, just a random person—and he kind of got to be friends with al-Marabh and al-Marabh just told him all kinds of incriminating things, kind of boasting about all of the things that he had done. And it corroborated all these other things that had come out and that the intelligence had learned independently—like that al-Marabh mentioned to this prisoner that he had a plan—he was going to drive the truck into the Lincoln Tunnel, and with the hazardous materials, and blow up the tunnel and kill all the people, whatever, hundreds if not thousands of people in their cars. And, he mentioned all kinds of other things. He talked about his connections to the 9/11 hijackers. And just a whole fountain of information.

So, Patrick Fitzgerald went back and said: "Okay, look, now we have like an even stronger case. Let's try this guy." And, again, they said: "No." I don't know who "they" are. We should find out (Yeah), you know, who the higher ups were that kept putting the kibosh on this.

And then there was another prosecutor who independently found out about the case and also tried to prosecute al-Marabh. And, also, got the word from on high to say: "No, you're not going to prosecute this guy."

So, it's just like you couldn't be more clear from Nabil al-Marabh case that there were powers-that-be within the U.S. Government that never wanted to have a real open trial about 9/11, because if they did, it would just be this can of worms, and all these stories about the incompetence and the missed warnings and everything, you could bring all that out in the trial and it would be very relevant. I mean, all this stuff about the Saudis and the Pakistanis. You could, you know, it could all come out. So, they figured this is just one one kind of, relatively, in the global scheme of things insignificant guy, so we'll just deport him on immigration violation charges and send him back to Syria.

So, that's what they did. But, you know, for you and I and anybody who just, if you just look at this one person alone, it becomes clear that yes, there was a support network; there were people there who had a whole cell in Boston. There were people there before the hijackers ever got there that laid the groundwork.

And, you know, I don't want to talk forever, but I could go in equal depth, if not more, about Anwar al-Awlaki in San Diego. He was this imam, you know, religious preacher there. And he was seen many times meeting behind closed doors with Nawaf al-Hazmi and Khalid al-Mihdhar.

JON Didn't he have lunch at the Pentagon, as well?

PAUL [Laughs] He did, later on. Later on, after 9/11—well then, so he moved in the middle of 2001, he moved to Falls Church. And then, at the same time, pretty much exactly Nawaf al-Hazmi also moved to Falls Church. And, by this time, Hani Hanjour and some other hijackers were along. So, they all sort of relocated and then they went to his mosque there. So, it's like, again, wow, it's such a small world. What are the odds? (Laughs) You know, and yet, after 9/11, this Anwar Al-Awlaki, he not only lived in the United States openly, but he gave interviews to the media where he would decry the evils of fundamentalist Islam, which of course was totally hypocritical. And, like you said, he even gave some sort of, he had some official role in the capital at one point. Like, oh, here's a good Muslim imam we can kind of hold up.

But, that is really strange, because within days of 9/11, days of 9/11, they found his phone number in the Hamburg cell with some of the—I think Ramzi bin al-Shibh might have been the one who had his phone number. And, you know, evidence quickly piled up that this guy was not just some benign Muslim. And, even as he was in some places talking about—like this benign version of Islam, he would also make other comments that were noted at the time, where he was very pro, you know, praising the hijackers.

Which is, you know, again, it's like we see this double game and how dumb are we supposed to be? Like Musharraf, Pervez Musharraf, the leader of Pakistan at the time of 9/11 until years later, shortly after 9/11, he gave a public speech on TV broadcast in Pakistan where he basically was very defiant and said: "My support is with the Taliban and I refuse to denounce Al-Qaeda." Right? And that was in Urdu. And then he gave another speech in English meant for American audiences where he denounced Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, because he knew that he was speaking to this totally different audience, and—really, was the U.S. intelligence and the U.S. Government so dumb that, apparently, they would let them get away with this just because they're speaking a different language?

But, apparently so, because they never got any flak for it. The media never picked up on it. It's just like god, man, like really? Really? It's not only that

the U.S. Government which had—you could see they had a vested interest that they wanted Pakistan's cooperation at that point. But how is it that the U.S. media doesn't pick up on that when I picked up on it? I would see newspaper reports, and I didn't have any special access. But, these kinds of things, these anomalous things, would just get buried and very little mention.

So, to get back to Anwar al-Awlaki, so same deal with him, where he's putting forth this—public persona of just being a good ole peace-loving guy. And then there's evidence piling up that he's actually very involved with Al-Qaeda and, yet, he lives openly in the United States and even left the United States. And then, I believe, he came back and by this time the case against him had gotten even stronger. And there was a warrant out for his arrest and they arrested him at the airport and then the people who arrested him got a call saying: "Let him go." And so they did.

And, you know, it's just like the Nabil al-Marabh cases. Like we just don't want to, apparently, have these types of people in custody because they might actually say things that could—that are really about 9/11 that could sort of ruin this whole attempt to just make the whole story go away.

So, he ended up moving to Yemen, although, I believe he lived in London for like two more years openly and, again, nobody gave him any trouble. He eventually moved to Yemen and, eventually, it turned out I believe he was involved in 25 terrorist attacks, mostly as a spiritual adviser, but sometimes even on an operational level. And yet, to this day, you know, the powers that be in the FBI and the CIA will say it's an open question whether or not he really supported the 9/11 hijackers and knew about the 9/11 plot. And they have to say that because they maintained this story that there were no supporters and zero. And so, even in a case like this, they just have to totally defy the evidence in order to be consistent with that cover story.

So, it just gets ridiculous. Like: "Do you expect us to be that gullible?" But, apparently, yes. Most people—they're very busy, they don't have time to look at this stuff in depth. And so, they just see, you know, the headlines or, whatever. They get a very surface level. And so they never realize just how ridiculous this cover story is.

And just one more quick thing. There's another guy that I find very fascinating is Adnan Shukrijumah—very hard name to pronounce, who I

mentioned earlier when this whole al-Hijji family in Sarasota, Florida. You know, the story that didn't come out until years and years later, that he was also visiting that family. I found that really interesting because this guy ended up being kind of it seems like he kind of later on ended up taking over the Khalid Sheikh Mohammed role of operational mastermind for Al-Qaeda. And even before 9/11, he was a young guy. He was in his 20s, but he was already—had a long history of terrorism. FBI was investigating him for two different terrorism plots before 9/11, and trying to get informants to get close to him and all this kind of stuff. He was living in Florida. He'd been born and raised in the United States and his father was Imam, who was a very Wahhabist radical Islam kind of guy and he, actually, had been kind of tangentially involved with the whole crowd behind the World Trade Center bombing in 1993, including other links to The Blind Sheikh.

So, when people are kind of puzzled when they said, you know, Able Danger, how did—that based on the limited information that we know, that they say that they fingered people like Mohammed Atta because of connections to The Blind Sheikh. How could that be?

Well, one thing about Able Danger is that one of the claims, I remember reading about it, was they said that they somehow got access to sort of attendance rolls at various mosques around the world and around the United States. Because when—sometimes when people go visit a mosque, they record their name. I'm not Islamic, I don't know the tradition, but apparently there's something like that where it kind of ends up leaving a good record of who is what where.

So, it looks like both Mohammed Atta and Marwan al-Shehhi was attending the mosque in Florida that was run by this Adnan Shukrijumah's father. And, so, you could make a connection between them right there and The Blind Sheikh crowd. And, so, but there'd always been sort of this well, you know, witnesses had seen them with some of the hijackers with this Adnan Shukrijumah. But they—witnesses can be unreliable. We're not 100 percent sure.

So, it's very interesting that when this al-Hijji story came out, that we definitely know that he—because of the phone calls and the license plates—that he was there, visiting that family, and where Mohammed Atta and other hijackers were. So, again, we can see that this suggests not only that the Florida hijackers had a support network, but if you look at this Adnan Shukrijumah guy, he is sort of like connected to all kinds of people. He was

involved in different plots. And, so, if they knew him, they certainly knew a lot of other people and it really, just from that alone, you could guess that there would have been a dozen or more people who we later find out, you know, are connected to Al-Qaeda who would have been in contact at least to this guy.

So, you have a whole, basically, ready-to-go network in Florida. In fact, there was a cell in Florida that Shukrijumah was a part of, apparently, that went all the way back to the early 1990s and that the FBI had tried to penetrate for years.

So, this notion that the hijackers were just—kind of like just dropped from the sky into Florida, or into San Diego, or into these different places, and never had help from anybody, is an insulting lie. Because the evidence is so overwhelming otherwise. And, yet, it seems like anybody who is legitimately tied to 9/11, would just be let go. And then the people who were not, were arrested. They arrested 1,200 people and, you can look at the 28 Pages and there are a number of suspicious people in Phoenix and in San Diego, all these different people. Not a single one of them was ever—one of these over a thousand people who were arrested and held for being a material witness. Right? Every single one, except for Nabil al-Marabh, which was arrested in weird circumstances, they were just completely innocent. They had nothing to do with anything and every single one of them was let go. None of them were ever charged for anything.

Meanwhile, you had Guantanamo Bay, right. Very early on in 2002, they put over 600 people in there, and almost every single one of them ended up having no ties to Al-Qaeda or the Taliban. They had this thing in Afghanistan where they basically had a bounty system. The U.S. dropped fliers and said: "Hey, anybody out there who thinks that anybody is a potential Al-Qaeda or Taliban, just turn them in." And, so, all these people who had local grudges would just grab up innocent people and the U.S. Government would just kind of no-questions-asked, just hop them on a plane and send them to Guantanamo.

You know, it's known that some of the people there now, still, are considered innocent and have been there for like over ten years and, eventually, over time they did put a small number of actual people like, you know, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, but in the beginning, it was nearly all innocent people. So, it's this weird, weird thing where there were all these real terrorists out there who were, seemingly, given a pass, especially

anybody connected to Pakistan or—the Saudis, and then all these innocent people were put in jail. And this is something else that just seems to have gone over the heads of the mainstream media and the public at large. And, if I were, you know, a victim, a relative of one of the victims, I would just be so livid that this is just—it's a continuing miscarriage of justice that continues to this day.

JON We have many things to be livid about.

All right, my last question for you—if you're done, because that was very fascinating.

PAUL [Laughs] Sorry, for going off.

JON No, I saw that you were working on a Hillary Clinton email scandal timeline. Is that what you're working on now?

PAUL Yeah, let me go a little bit into, you know, my personal life (Sure), because I worked a lot on the timeline. But then, at some point, I just got burned out of it, and I got frustrated because it seemed like I was doing all this work and, yet, all these cover-ups and injustices with no real investigation, the mainstream media missing the story over and over again, just kept on happening. Like I kept trying to feed information to the media. Journalists would just never listen. It just got really frustrating after a while.

And, so, I just had to stop. I had to go cold turkey. And I thought that I was done, because in terms of not just 9/11, but doing any of this type of political work, because I had never gone into this wanting to do this. I had this other career doing environmental work that I was happy with and I just felt like—like I said, I wasn't even that interested in these topics, but I just felt like I had to do this, because there was this crying need for this information to all get put together and put into an understandable compilation that I was not seeing anywhere. And, so, I felt like, you know, I could make an impact doing this.

JON You made a HUGE impact.

PAUL Well, thanks. I hope I made some kind of impact.

JON Some of the people, I mean, who are aware of HistoryCommons, you've made a HUGE impact. And I know the families, like Lorie Van Auken,

wanted me to say hello to you, to send her regards. A lot of people appreciated what you did, especially me.

PAUL Well, that's good to hear. But, you know, but in a larger sense though, you know, you could basically say that the cover up worked. And, most people now—receives the history, they know and understand less and less and they generally believe the whole 9/11 Commission story, and think that's the end of it. Right? And it just seems like we're never going to get a real investigation. And I've just been very, very frustrated by that. And then all these killers are still wandering free and all these people in the Government are still wandering free when they should be in jail. And it's a real bipartisan thing.

This is what I realized, you know, a long time after I got started that I was hoping that there would be some people in power who would step up and lead this in the same way. You know, for instance, you look at Watergate. There were people who created commissions and stepped up and really took that Watergate story, which had been done by Woodward and Bernstein, and took it to the next level. Right? But what happened with 9/11 was—what I realized was that this was a bipartisan failure, that the Democrats and the Republicans were both so to blame. They had—both had—you could argue which one is more to blame. I think the Bush administration is more to blame. But these problems had been going on way back and it was only nine months earlier that the Democrats had been in power. So, they didn't—they were not in any big hurry to see all of this come out, because it made them look bad too. Right.

Whereas, if you look at a case like say Benghazi, you know, that 2012 incident where the ambassador got killed. Now, that is just a purely—the Democrats are to blame. So, the Republicans picked up on that and they have made that like beating a dead horse for years and years and, really, that is such small potatoes. I mean, four people got killed compared to almost 3,000 people got killed. But, the difference is that in one, there was obvious partisan advantage to be had and the other there wasn't. And that's not going to change.

And, so, there's this bipartisan sort of—agreements—not out loud, but kind of unspoken agreement—that just, all the powers that be would just be better served to let 9/11 go away. And that's the continuing problem that people like you and me have to face moving forward. I mean, I think that—history overtime, these cover-ups tend to be exposed and you tend to find

out what really happened. But, the question is how much time is going to pass and how many people are going to die who should have been punished before we finally get to the truth?

JON Oh, believe me, I've been burned out for at least 10 years now. But I continue doing what I do. I've tried to stop before and I get depressed because people are still being killed, family members still have no justice and they deserve it. We all deserve and require justice and accountability for what happened that day. So, for some reason, I can't stop doing it because it's still, I mean, look—the military operations that we're taking part in today, the legality used for that is the authorization for use of military force that was written after 9/11, specifically for 9/11, and that AUMF is still being used to this day for the legal justification for what's going on in Syria; I think it was used for Libya; and if we weren't told the truth about that day, then obviously, the people of the world need to know that, so, this insanity could end.

PAUL Yeah, well, it does still go on. I was just thinking the other day when I was preparing to do this interview, and I knew you were going to ask me about the ISI. And, so, one thing I was thinking about was that if you look at Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and some of his cohorts, like he had a brother named Zahid, if you go way back to the early 1990s, there's evidence that's been reported in mainstream newspapers that he was so closely tied to the Pakistani Government at that time that he was even photographed with the Prime Minister. (Right) And the reason I mention that now is because who was the prime minister back then? A guy named Sharif. And guess who's the prime minister of Pakistan now? The exact same Sharif. He's the same guy. He's been in and out of Government. I think he's been the prime minister for the third time now since 2013.

So, you know, some of these guys, these same dynamics—that he was using—Nawaz Sharif is his full name—it seems like using Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and Ramzi Yousef, who was his nephew who is one of the most notorious terrorists ever, to kill—they had an assassination attempt on Benazir Bhutto back then. So, you know, just like the U.S. does, there's this temptation that these terrorists can be used by you, the supposed clever politician, if you want to go outside the box and do extra legal things, kill people, start insurrections, do all these things, they're sort of the easy way to do it. And that policy, like I said, not just the U.S., other countries around the world do it—false-flag operations still happen to this day where terrorists are manipulated and used by different Governments. And, at some

point you'd think my god, we've got to get wise to this, and we have to stop this destructive pattern of behavior. And, yet, it just keeps going on and on.

And, so, there's that frustration. But to get back to your—

JON Oh, believe me, I understand it.

PAUL But to get back to your question though, so, I thought that I had, you know, I've got other things in my life, but I've never profited off of this 9/11 stuff, so I've always had to juggle you know, making money with real-world jobs. So, I thought I'd just go back to doing these other things. And then, just a few months ago I got spun up again about this whole Hillary Clinton email scandal. I thought like a lot of people that was kind of like the Benghazi scandal and just a lot of hot air. But, as I looked more into it, I had this déjà vu where I felt like, wow, this is clear evidence of criminality on a very high level and they're getting a pass because the general public is not following the story. It's a very complicated story, and people only get a few soundbites here and there and they don't really understand. And I did not want our next President of the United States to be somebody who has engaged in crimes that should definitely put them, no doubt about it, behind bars. And not just in terms of email. There's the aspect of, you know, being very careless with national security, with classified information, but also there's this whole Clinton Foundation element where there's been a quid pro quo, you know, I will, if you donate a bunch of money to the foundation, we will do a political favor for you, which is really treason. (Right) You know, that these foreign entities, individuals and Governments, basically, gave payoffs to the Clintons and got the department of state—their policy of the State Department changed. That's supposed to be illegal.

And, so, that scared the heck out of me that this person might become the next President. So, I did, basically, exactly what I did with the 9/11 Timeline. I've created a new timeline about Clinton's emails, which you can find it at the Website ThompsonTimeline.com. And, it's kind of similar in that—people have found it useful and other people have been contributing.

But, it's a weird thing, because there's—at the same time, you know, there's all this politics going on and Donald Trump is the main competitor, and as much as I dislike Hillary Clinton, I dislike Donald Trump even more. I think he would be terrible. I mean, the Clintons should be behind bars, but he should be like in an insane asylum. I really don't like either one of these people. I saw a kind of a funny thing where one of the polling companies

recently asked: "Who do you want for President?" And they gave the choice of Trump or Clinton or a giant meteor hitting earth. (Laughter) And 13 percent of the people chose the giant meteor. [Laughter] And, I think at this point, I would be in the giant meteor crowd (Yeah), because both of these candidates are so bad.

So, you know, at this point, I'm working on that. If it turns out that this is going to be something that could potentially elect Trump, I might stop, because I really think he could, potentially, be even worse.

But, I do think that there's a hope that there's a greater than zero chance that before all is said and done, that Clinton may not be the candidate for President, even with her being nominated in a couple of days. Because we've also seen in the past few days, and this is something that's I've felt was going to happen for a long time. And why—one of the reasons why—I got involved in this, is that WikiLeaks has been coming forth with documents. They just released this big 20,000 emails from the Democratic National Committee and that got the head of the Democratic Party fired. And I've had reason to believe for some time now that there's a lot more that's going to come out. And, I believe, WikiLeaks themselves has said this is a series, they call it the Hillary leaks series and that is part one of six leaks to come out. And, based on what I know from just understanding the email scandal, I believe, what we've seen with her behavior with the Clinton Foundation and so forth, that this should be more than enough evidence to indict her. And Julian Assange just said as much. He said this should be enough to indict her.

So, if this were to come out in the next month or two, it's very possible that Hillary Clinton could be so scandalized that they would have to drop her from the ticket and put in someone else. This actually happened in 1972, with the vice Presidential candidate, a guy named Thomas Eagleton. He'd been picked as the vice President in the Democratic convention and then like two weeks afterwards it came out that he had been seeing a psychiatrist and people back then were very immature with their attitude towards psychiatry. So, they thought that maybe he was crazy. So, they dropped him from the ticket. It's been pointed out—that there's a deadline, eventually, where you have to be putting someone's name on the ballots in the different states.

But, there's still some time. So, I'm hoping that WikiLeaks will get their act in gear and release these other five big releases that they have coming up.

And, we'll see. And if I could play some role in getting this obvious criminal removed from the ticket, so we could have someone who's, you know, maybe not great, but at least somewhat decent as our next President, that would be really great.

So, that's kind of what I've been working on. And I don't know how long that's going to last, because—

JON Do you think we'll ever see any new entries on the 9/11 Timeline from you?

PAUL Well, I don't know. You know, part of the problem is—I got it just on a technical level, is that the interface for that Website is very, very clunky and it's very difficult to make one of those timeline entries just the way it was written, programmed, is not ideal.

JON Believe me, I know. It's very—

PAUL [Laughs] So, I've been in contact recently with Derek, who you know was running the whole thing. And he noticed that I have this new timeline Website and I gave it the name Thompson Timeline so that could, potentially, put other projects on it. And we've got a new interface there that's really great. So, if there's some way that we could port the information from the old timeline into a new one that would be very streamlined and easy to do, then I would be tempted. But, the way the interface is, I would think I'm just kind of too burned out to go back to that one again. (Well—) But if you want to get involved or anyone out there listening wants to get involved in terms of the computer programming that would be necessary, basically, you got one data set and you've got this other format and we've got to get things converted from one to the other. You know, that would take some work. But, I think then we could potentially have a big revival, and we could move forward on all sorts of different things.

Because, I think that with this email thing, we're also finding a new crowd of people, a lot of young people these days who are—a lot of them are tied into the Bernie Sanders movement, and I've been a big supporter of Bernie Sanders, who just generally is sick of the status quo in Washington. And it's kind of a bipartisan problem that we really need a lot of change, and there's a lot of energy out there, regardless of who becomes the next President or what happens, if people say, you know, we've got to shake things up. And this could be one means to do it. And people are looking for, you know,

have been energized in this last election and looking for some sort of way to do it.

So, I would like to see—we've got a Facebook group now that has over a thousand people, and people wanting to help out with this email stuff. (That's cool) But, I think—and, you know, obviously, not all thousand, but we've got a core group. What I'm hoping with this email is that if some really damning emails come out through WikiLeaks, that there could be a mobilization of people, citizen journalist types to go through them, all these thousands of emails, pick out the really interesting ones and get those publicized. And we see this happening, like that happened with this latest batch. Just people that read it, for instance, also who were doing this. And, so, kind of do that, kind of like a rapid-response team, do that with more emails.

But then if other things come out, we could use that same model, like what if some whistleblower comes out with a big WikiLeaks release related to 9/11? It would be great to have, sort of just take that energy and mobilize it to deal with that. Or other issues that may come out, not just with WikiLeaks, but if there's some interesting new document release that comes out, like you were talking earlier about a judge in Florida who may or may not release some big portion of 80,000 FBI documents related to the hijackers.

I mean, I would love to have a bunch of people helping out and going through that. And it's almost necessary now because of what I said earlier about how journalists just don't have the time or the money to do any serious journalism anymore. I mean, there's a few. You can almost count them on one hand, you know, who are kind of like the relics of the old days. Like Seymour Hersh is still out there. He won a few Pulitzer Prizes. And a few more are like that. But, there's no sort of new group like that coming along because, you know, who would pay their salary? (Yeah) Media, as we know it, is almost on the deathbed.

What was it? Like a year or two ago when *Newsweek* got sold for a single dollar? Because, the debts they had were even more than the amount it was worth. And so many of these are just going out of business. Different newspapers are shutting down because they have to compete with people getting their news for free off the Internet. So, the only time any sort of any real journalism gets done is if actual people are doing it on a kind of a non-paid just out of the goodness of their own hearts, and sometimes they get

that funneled to actual journalists who can then trumpet it to a larger audience.

But, you know, we may eventually, and some people are talking about this, that you know another 10 years that media as we know it, may cease to exist, with a few exceptions. You may have *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, but you know, maybe most towns just won't even have a newspaper anymore, because they can't make any money off of it. And, so, the people will be getting their news almost entirely through social media, through Twitter and Facebook and Reddit and all these new forms that are rising up, and a whole new form of journalism will come up.

So, we'll see. I don't know. I mean, at some point, you've got to figure out like if anyone gets serious, they have to put in enough time, they have to be paid, and who pays these people?

But, you know, we can see in another way, like what's happened with WikiLeaks. Here's this amazing thing that has emerged and that's been entirely done with no one being paid at all. So, I don't know.

But anyway, so right now, my focus is on this email scandal. But, you know, that could go in so many different directions depending on what happens in this election. I don't know. And then at the end of that, it might just go back to doing what I was doing, my regular life, or I might get drawn in to some other thing. I could see getting drawn back into this 9/11 stuff—again, if there was some team, and some energy, and some better, you know, format to get this done. But—

JON I could listen to you for hours. In fact, I just did. (Laughs)

PAUL How long have we been talking here?

JON About three hours.

PAUL Oh, my goodness.

JON But, I just, I wanted to thank you for your time today, for your insight, for the information that you had to share. Because I know a lot of people out there just aren't aware of it, and I wasn't aware of a lot of it myself. And, I don't know how to thank you for the Complete 9/11 Timeline. I'm sure the

families owe you a debt of gratitude and so do the people of the world for that thing. And I really want to thank you for your time today.

PAUL Well, thanks. It's good to know, because I just had to step away completely from this for a couple of years. And then I've kind of been following the news a little bit more about these issues, but I was just so frustrated for a while. (We understand it, believe me) And I think that right now, as a whole, this issue is suffering from that burnout, because people think America as one, basically, would be glad to never see or hear of Bush or Cheney or their likes again. I mean, even amongst the Republicans, they've become kind of persona non-grata. It's amazing. (Right) I mean, every now and then Cheney sort of pops up to say something controversial, but most everybody in the Bush administration has been very low profile, and they just seemed to be—everyone just kind of wants to forget about them. And it is a very painful chapter in American history where even at the time, that since, they had a poll of historians who said the Bush administration is probably the worst presidency in the history of the United States, for so many different reasons. So, people just want to just forget about it. And, so, part of that is just forgetting about 9/11.

But, I think that these things they tend to come and go in waves. And, like if you look at the JFK assassination, which I think has a lot of eerie parallels—I don't want to open that whole can of worms—but, you know, that story has kind of waxed and waned. There have been times that like—when the JFK movie came out, or there'd be some bunch of documents or some book—it would sort of surge up and then it would quiet down. And, I think as the years go by, we'll kind of see that same thing happen with 9/11. (Right)

But, right now, for the past few years, people have just been in this, you know, just-make-it-go-away/forget-about-it kind of mode. And I was, you know, I was part of that, too. And you know, hopefully, the energy will come around again to finish off what we need to know, because there is more stuff that comes out over time, and it really should be that the public should get a totally different understanding. And maybe as the media and the way people learn information evolves, maybe a new opportunity will arise there. If, you know, if we can use the power of social media to get past the usual gatekeepers who have just so far fallen down in their responsibilities in their job. I mean, we can just see the way this 28 Pages got covered, and how little coverage it got. It's just—it didn't surprise me at all, because that's just how the media is these days.

JON Well, they dropped it right before the RNC, so.

PAUL Well, yeah, I mean, you know, these leaks are timed. You know, it always—for someone like me who follows the news, you always want to pay attention on Friday evening (Yep), because that's when they drop the really interesting stuff, because they figured that's when people are paying the least attention.

Yeah, so, but it's more than just that. It's that they are at such a stage that it's the media if someone just sort of hands them a one-piece of paper press release, they'll just kind of retype it up into a story. But, if there's, you know, you ask some journalists to: "Let's dig in deep and see what's in these 28 pages. What didn't we know before? Let's have a big long essay in *The New York Times* or *The Washington Post*." You don't see that kind of thing anymore. They just are kind of struggling to stay afloat.

And plus, as time goes on, they have become more and more captive to the people that they're supposed to be covering. That the politicians and Government departments have become so savvy with their manipulation of the media. For instance, I know a lot now because of, about Hillary Clinton because I've been following this email scandal, but you'll notice she hasn't given a press conference in over six months, which is unheard of in the middle of a Presidential campaign. But, she's given lots and lots of one-on-one interviews. And, as some people in the media have noticed, is what they do is they go to media outlets and they sort of test the waters early in the campaign, and if they get asked softball questions, the type of questions they want to get asked, then they'll give them more interviews down the line. If they get tough questions, then they get dropped off the list. So, they use kind of a carrot-and-stick in order to make sure that they get exactly the media coverage that they want. And, so, their manipulation is like almost, you know, the scientific precision to—like you find newspapers and journalists, they don't want to report certain things, because they will upset their sources. And then their sources will go to someone else in the future. It has become like an art, so that they will—you really only report that which is within the acceptable sphere. Like, you don't want to report something that would make the FBI look too bad, because, two weeks down the line, you might need some sourcing from the FBI. (Yeah)

So, the whole system is just broken. And, you know, this is why maybe we have some hope from citizen journalists and the like, who don't, it's just a

totally different thing—I'm not going to be beholden to the FBI. You're not going to be. We can just say what we want. And the media can't do that anymore. (Nope) Very few people have the, you know, the courage to do that.

JON Well, I think we're going to end on that. Again, I want to thank you very much for your time today. I can't wait to post this online for people to hear. I will probably get it up sometime tomorrow, and I will send it to you. Again, thank you, Paul, for everything you've done over the years. And, again, you're a hero of mine and you're a major influence to me.

PAUL Well, thanks. Like I said, it's really great to know that some people have appreciated this, because I do get frustrated that I see these narratives that are so blatantly false, and that they get so widely accepted. And, nowadays, anybody who says anything, you know, controversial about 9/11, they get tarred as a conspiracy theorist, which has done more than anything to shut down any reporting or inquiries along these lines. No one wants to be, you know, tarred that way. And, I just feel like the bad guys are winning a lot of the time. But, I also do, you know, what do they say about the arc of history, the arc of justice? You know, it's—

JON It's a long one.

PAUL It's a long one. But, you know, what's the saying? It's long, but it bends towards justice. And, I think that really is true. I think that's—like you can say look at Iraq and all the lies that happened there. I think as time goes on, for some reason with that issue, it's become more acceptable to say: "Okay, that was a total mistake. There were no weapons of mass destruction. You know, that was a complete fiasco."

And, I think that, eventually, the same will come around with 9/11. We may need a few more, you know, stories that come through with new information that just pokes such big holes in the 9/11 Commission story that that finally gets discredited in a major way. I'm hopeful that things like that will happen.

Because I think also, you know—[laughs] sorry, I know we're supposed to be wrapping up—but, also related to this email thing, I'm encouraged by what's been happening with Wikileaks and the idea that more and more information is getting onto computers within all these Government departments and private corporations. Everything is becoming

computerized. And it's, for these entities, it's kind of a double-edged sword, because it's way more useful, but it only takes one whistleblower to then release a tremendous amount of information that can be extremely damning.

And, I think that we are going to see things down the line—maybe not 9/11 related, I don't know—but, certainly, more Government whistleblowers coming forward with a lot like Edward Snowden or like Chelsea Manning. I think we're going to see more of that as everything gets more computerized. And that will be an important check on corruption, on incompetence, and on all these things when maybe the media is not doing their job. But if we can have leaks come out, and give the public the true story that way, kind of the raw data—I have a lot of hope that things like that can happen.

And we'll see what happens in the next few months with this Clinton story, and if we can maybe set an example there with what's happening with Clinton's emails. So, I still am hopeful. And I still think that in time, if someone is writing the history book 100 years from now, I hope it will look a lot like the 9/11 Timeline and not like the 9/11 Commission report.

JON Yeah, me too. All right, Paul, thank you very much for your time today. And have a great night.

PAUL Okay. Good talking to you.

JON That is the end of Part 4. Please be sure to check out the other three shows in this series. Thank you.

Suggested Further Research (Books, Videos, Websites)

Chapter/Episode 1 – Jenna Orkin

[The Moron's Guide to Global Collapse](#) by Jenna Orkin

[FromTheWilderness.net](#) founded by Michael Ruppert

[Iraq Invasion Was About Oil](#) by Dr. Nafeez Ahmed, March 20, 2014, The Guardian

[World Trade Center Environmental Organization](#)

[The FealGood Foundation](#)

[9/11 Omission Hearings - Jenna Orkin On Environmental Crimes - 9/9/2004](#)

[Ground Zero Wars: The Fight to Reveal the Lies of the EPA in the Wake of 9/11 and Clean Up Lower Manhattan](#)

Chapter/Episode 2 – Mickey Huff

[Project Censored](#) (Website)

[Project Censored Show](#) (Radio Show KPFA)

[Project Censored the Movie](#): Ending the Reign of Junk Food News

[Project Censored Facebook](#)

[Flashpoint in Ukraine](#) Clarity Press (2014)

[Banned Books Week](#)

[American Library Association](#)

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The SAGE Publication [Encyclopedia of Censorship 2017](#)

[Deconstructing Deceit: 9/11, the Media and Myth Information](#), Project Censored 2009 by Mickey Huff and Paul Rea

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[Breaking the Set](#), Abby Martin, RT (Russia Today)

[TV Media Info Wars Strikes at Valley Forge "9/11 Truth" Conference Nate Graham on March 9th www.facebook.com](#)

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[9/11: Press for Truth](#), Ray Nowosielski and John Duffy, Documentary

Chapter/Episode 3 – Erik Larson

[The Post-911 World is a Detriment to Humanity](#) – 911Truth News. Photo: Jon Gold arrested outside the White House while protesting Obama's continuation of the 9/11 Wars

[Scribd.com/911documentArchive](#)

[National Archives](#)

[Freedom of Information Act](#) Website

[Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel](#) (ISCAP) Website

[The 911Dataset Project](#)

[Two Days Before 9/11: Military Exercise Simulated Suicide Hijacked Targeting New York](#), HCGroups Wordpress Website

[911 Live: The NORAD Tapes](#), by Michael Bronner, October 17, 2006, *Vanity Fair Profile: Vigilant Guardian*, History Commons

[Disconnecting the Dots: How 9/11 Was Allowed to Happen](#) by Kevin Fenton

[9/11: Press for Truth](#), Ray Nowosielski and John Duffy, Documentary

[Insiders voice doubts about CIA's 9/11 story](#) Salon.com

Chapter/Episode 4 - Ray Nowosielski

[An Interesting Day: President Bush's Movements and Actions on 9/11](#) by Allan Wood and Paul Thompson

[The Thin Blue Line](#), Director Errol Morris, Docudrama

[Bowling for Columbine](#) Michael Moore, Documentary

[9/11: Press for Truth](#), Ray Nowosielski and John Duffy, Documentary

[In Their Own Words: The Untold Stories of the 9/11 Families](#), Ray Nowosielski and John Duffy, Documentary

[Wake-Up Call: The Political Education of a 9/11 Widow](#) by Kristen Breitweiser
[HistoryCommons.org](#)

[The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11](#) by Lawrence Wright

[Secrecy Kills](#) Facebook Page

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[Moussaoui Trial Documents](#)

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[Different press releases from the September Eleventh Advocates from over the years](#)

Chapter/Episode 7 - Dr. Nafeez Ahmed

[Zero Point](#) by Dr. Nafeez Ahmed

[The Crisis of Civilization](#) Full Length Documentary Movie

[The War on Freedom: How and Why America was Attacked, September 11, 2001](#) by Nafeez Mosaddeq Ahmed and John Leonard

[The War on Truth: 9/11, Disinformation And The Anatomy Of Terrorism](#) by Nafeez Mosaddeq Ahmed

[NATO's Secret Armies: Operation GLADIO and Terrorism in Western Europe](#) by Daniele Ganser

[Operation GLADIO: Full 1992 Documentary](#) BBC

Chapter/Episode 8 – Cindy Sheehan

[Cindy Sheehan's Soapbox Network](#)

[What Kind of Extremist Will You Be?](#) by Cindy Sheehan

The following books by Cindy Sheehan can be found here on [Amazon.com](#) or on [Cindy Sheehan's Soapbox](#)

Not One More Mother's Child, a collection of her writing and speeches, *Dear President Bush; Peace Mom: A Mother's Journey through Heartache to Activism; Myth America: 20 Greatest Myths of the Robber Class and the Case for Revolution; Revolution, a Love Story; and I Left My Marbles in San Francisco: The Scandal of Federal Electoral Politricks, The Obama Files*

Chapter/Episode 9 – Michael Springmann

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[Prelude to Terror: the Rogue CIA, The Legacy of America's Private Intelligence Network](#) by Joseph J. Trento

Chapter/Episode 10 – Paul Church

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[Sept. 11's Smoking Gun: The Many Faces of Saeed Sheikh](#) by Paul Thompson, HistoryCommons.org

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