

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & FIREARMS

TAPE # 128

11:03 A.M. - 2:45 P.M.

(Tape 128)

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: Okay. Just a moment.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: All right.

MR. KORESH: Sheriff Harwell?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yes.

MR. KORESH: How you doing there, Buddy?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Is this Steve?

MR. KORESH: No, this is Dave.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Oh, Dave. I didn't -- I haven't talked to you that much that I recognized your voice readily. I'm sorry.

MR. KORESH: Steve's a better orator than I am.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Oh, you're, you're all right. I, I wanted to talk to you yesterday, David. Did Steve tell you I called and, and talked to him a while?

MR. KORESH: I'm not, I'm not really sure. I've been kind of, you know, separated from the people here for a while.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yes. Well, I just came into the negotiating office here just a little while ago and I asked that I be permitted to talk to you. I

called out yesterday afternoon to talk to you, David, and I, I'm just so determined to, to try to get this thing resolved, David, as soon as --

MR. KORESH: Well, we -- so are we. Like, like, like you understand, Mr. Harwell, that, you know, our, our beliefs are very well established in --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Sure.

MR. KORESH: -- certain scriptures.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Sure. And I respect you for that.

MR. KORESH: And the thing of it is is that these men have done nothing but lie to us, they've misrepresented us. They're, they're doing their little thing and if, and if they want blood, then our blood is here for them to shed.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, let me, let me talk to you from, from the standpoint of just me and you, David.

MR. KORESH: Well, I don't really know if you have that much authority.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Let me -- yes, I do. This is my county. These are my folks. You're my folks.

MR. KORESH: I appreciate that.

SHERIFF HARWELL: I've always represented

you. And I have the authority to sit down and try to work something out and ask these people to, to back off or whatever is necessary to get this thing resolved, David. And you know I have that authority.

I'm the sheriff of this county. I'm not a big shot or anything, I don't like to play that role, but sometimes we have to stand up for -- and do our job, and that's what I'm trying to do.

MR. KORESH: Okay.

SHERIFF HARWELL: And what I would like to do, really, I'd like to sit down and just talk face to face with you, because I think you and I have a mutual trust for each other, the, the kind of trust where we can sit down and talk.

MR. KORESH: You, you've always been good to us, I have to admit that. And we just had a little misunderstanding in '88, but, you know, that's, that's nothing. We got those things straight.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, those things happen, David. We, we can always live tomorrow and forgive and forget on those kind of things. But this is one of those things we need to get resolved and start moving toward that same circumstance. I've talked to all these people for the last two weeks, David, about

your property out there and how much I've always respected it. And even after this is over, it's going to still be you all's property.

MR. KORESH: Well they've already torn up our motorcycles, they've torn up sheds and buildings with property in it. And, you know, we, we've already seen --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, I regret that, David. That didn't --

MR. KORESH: You know, we've seen what they've done. And, like I say, now, our flag is flying. We stand under God and this nation, and, like I say, when they came here, you know, I was at the front door. I opened the front door, you know, I was halfway out the door.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Sure, I know that.

MR. KORESH: And when that, and when that -- of course, I heard on the radio that one of the ATF agents said that his, that his pistol fired by accident, but, you know, I, I, I can't, I can't afford to stand and talk to, to, to people that are firing at me. And so, you know --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Sure.

MR. KORESH: -- I --

SHERIFF HARWELL: David, let me assure you that when this thing is, is ended, and it has to come to an end at some time, I don't -- I would like to see it end today, I really would, because we can start doing some things and, and providing you all with attorneys. In fact, you've got attorneys already waiting to, to work with some of you. We can provide you everything, so that your, your side of this story is going to be told. It was that way before, when all these -- that incident happened, where you, you went through the system and you won, you walked out. You go back to your, to your facilities out there and you go on with your life.

MR. KORESH: That was a really strange thing, because, like I say, they kept that going two weeks when it should have been resolved in three days, but --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, you see what I'm talking about, David, is you and I are still going to be here in the county when most of these folks are gone. As dedicated as these folks have been in talking to you here --

MR. KORESH: You know they, you know they cut off all negotiations with us? Everything was going fine, everything -- they even called -- they

sent us a tape. You should see this tape.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yes.

MR. KORESH: And then, all of a sudden, the lights went off what, at 11:00, Steve? That night. And it was John Cox was talking to, right?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yes.

MR. KORESH: And so we called back up and says well, what's going on? And, and, all of a sudden, everything just changed. They just -- they were very abrupt, they were just like well, the generals -- no, the commanders, the commanders have decided that you're not acting fast enough. And, you know, the thing of it is is that after that, it's just been cold. They haven't called us or nothing and they never sent us the magazines they promised. It's just -- everything -- And they started putting these lights up and some of the guys are wanting to shoot these lights out. And, you know, and I says --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well --

MR. KORESH: And I says no, don't shoot the lights out, just, you know, just, just let these people do what they want to do and, you know, it's in God's hands now.

SHERIFF HARWELL: You and I have enough old

hard sense to sit down, David, good old common sense to sit down and talk. I would -- I told the folks here I've always trusted David enough and the folks out there that if you told me to come out there and sit down and talk to you and everything would be all right, and I would do it because I, I trust you to that extent.

MR. KORESH: Well, I don't --

SHERIFF HARWELL: And I do right now.

MR. KORESH: I don't mind you coming to visit.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well --

MR. KORESH: We'd like to see a happy face some time.

SHERIFF HARWELL: What I would like to do, and if this is -- I haven't talked to everyone to be sure that this can be done, cause -- and I know I can do it, but I, I would like to come out there and meet you at the gate. Just sit down and talk.

MR. KORESH: Well, I, I --

SHERIFF HARWELL: With every assurance that everything would be -- when we'd get through talking --

- MR. KORESH: I wouldn't come to the gate. And the thing of it is is, like I say, you know, if



that kind of mutual trust is to be established, like I say, we've asked for doctors, we've asked -- we've got a couple women here that are pregnant and, and, and Ayeesha's going to have a baby here, you know, some time this month. And --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well understand, David, that I haven't been familiar, and I haven't been aware of all the things that you all have talked about.

MR. KORESH: Oh, well, they, they don't tell nothing --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, it's, it's not because they weren't -- they didn't put confidence in me to tell me. I've had a, a department to run here.

MR. KORESH: Oh, yeah, I understand.

SHERIFF HARWELL: And we've had so many things to do that I -- even yesterday evening, after I talked to Steve and told him I wanted to talk to you, I had to leave just shortly thereafter, and I didn't know whether you had called back or whether anyone had called back to talk to me. So I have a lot of responsibilities to take care of other than, than doing this. I'm just working hard to get this thing resolved. I even talked to the Governor a little while ago. She's said to, to everybody sit down and

talk common sense and get this thing over with so that no one else would get hurt.

MR. KORESH: Our position right now is we're, we're fixing to tell these guys to get off our property and go home and we'll work this out ourselves. I mean, you know, we are not afraid of the government. Like I say, if we have to die for what we stand for, we're going to. We're not going to commit suicide. You know, it's kind of like --

SHERIFF HARWELL: David, I know that. I know you --

MR. KORESH: -- when, when you're, when you're a little kid and you walk into school, mind your own business, and the bullies come up and want your quarter. You know, they came here all decked out, dressed fine --

SHERIFF HARWELL: No one wants to hurt --

MR. KORESH: -- and for two weeks, two weeks of -- Sheriff Harwell, for two weeks -- excuse me, two months we worked with Robert Gonzalez. When the ATF agents moved in across the street, you know, when they first moved in?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yeah.

MR. KORESH: We went over there, we made the

first steps. He, he -- I was going to allow him to come and live with us. He wanted to come and stay for two weeks with the guys here, you know, to get more Bible studies?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yes.

MR. KORESH: And I kept telling over and over again, you know, I says look, you know, you want to come here and you want to learn this book, you'll learn everything there is to know about me and about these people. You know, we can give him a tour around the place, you know. But the fact of the weapons, we told him we had weapons. You know, he comes over and says well, I have this -- he brought this pistol over.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yeah.

MR. KORESH: Robert Gonzalez did. And he says well, I had this thing worked at the factory and when it came back, he says, I fired it and all the rounds fired. And I go what do you think is wrong with that?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Sure.

MR. KORESH: And I told him, I says hey, I says, you better get that thing fixed, that's illegal. And I told him about the incident where we bought that hell fire System and that it we was out in the

back, you know, firing with the hell fire system.  
Little spring thing goes on the trigger --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Um-hum.

MR. KORESH: -- and people reported that we had an automatic machine gun. And I told him, I says well, you know, Paul -- I sent Paul down there and he gave it to you all and everything and, and it says right there in the packet ATF regulation says that it's legal.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yeah.

MR. KORESH: You know, and, and --

SHERIFF HARWELL: But, David, that's all in the past. You and I are going to have time probably to sit down and visit some. And I want to sit down and visit with you, but right now you were talking about the lady being pregnant, going to deliver some time, and I'm, I'm not totally familiar with all the injuries out there. I understand you've been injured and there are several other injuries out there that need attention.

MR. KORESH: Um-hum.

SHERIFF HARWELL: And I'm, I'm -- straight from the heart, I'm worried about you folks and you all's well being. I, I --

MR. KORESH: The FBI, in the beginning, we, we called them up and we told them to come and take their wounded. We were concerned.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Sure.

MR. KORESH: And we let them come here, and they did come in the building to take one of the guys out. They said they didn't, but that's a lie.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yeah, that was the ATF.

MR. KORESH: No one fired on them.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yeah, that was ATF people. Yeah, yeah.

MR. KORESH: Yeah, the ATF, right.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yeah, it wasn't the FBI.

MR. KORESH: We, we -- you know, there was a couple of guys, two or three guys, that were held up here, guys had them, you know, held up.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, that showed a compassionate thing on you all's side.

MR. KORESH: (Indiscernible) to get hurt --

SHERIFF HARWELL: David, that's all going to be good in, in any proceedings after this comes out.

MR. KORESH: Ohhhh. Yeah, but (indiscernible) --

SHERIFF HARWELL: You see, you've got a lot

of things working for you on this thing, if we can get you in a position where you can voice what's happened and, and have a chance to let people know what's happened --

MR. KORESH: Well --

SHERIFF HARWELL: -- from your standpoint.

MR. KORESH: People are watching.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Sure.

MR. KORESH: They slandered me on the radio, the newspapers slandered me.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, they've slandered me on the radio and all of us somewhat, David. I'm not concerned about the radicals out here who are doing things like that. What I'm concerned about is David, Steve, all you folks out there who I've known as our citizens here. And, and we've always -- let me ask you, David, just straight out, man to man, what can we do right this minute to get things moving so we can get this thing maybe resolved today?

MR. KORESH: Well, you --

SHERIFF HARWELL: What, what --

MR. KORESH: You can tell these agents that if they want to come in here, we're here to fight back. Like I said, I don't mind if I die, you know --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, I mind if you die, David. I, I mind.

MR. KORESH: Any time Big Brother stands up and pushes me, I'm going to push back. That's --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yeah.

MR. KORESH: Just like in 1988, I went down and asked you gentlemen for assistance 'cause George Rodin had pushed some old people off his property. Sheriff Dickerson -- I would have never -- I didn't even have a gun till that time. Sheriff Dickerson told me when, when I brought those pictures back, he said now, boys, be careful 'cause -- he told me to come back and get some more pictures of the casket. He said now, boys, be careful, there's some dangerous customers out there.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yeah, we were concerned about your well being.

MR. KORESH: Right. And so, and so when we brought the weapons on, it was only for a diversion. And that day that that battle took place -- this is the honest to God truth, Sheriff Harwell. That day everyone that fired was firing in the ground. The only one who fired towards George is me, and that was only because I was pushed in the corner to do so.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Sure.

MR. KORESH: See, George was firing at Stan and Floyd, who was, who was out in the open, behind that old burnt down foundation.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Um-hum.

MR. KORESH: That's the only way I could keep him behind that tree. But I did not fire at him, I fired at the tree.

SHERIFF HARWELL: And you got that all cleared up and you walked out of the courtroom a free man, to walk right back out into your facilities, David, and I wouldn't be a bit surprised if maybe that won't happen on this occasion. I don't know.

MR. KORESH: It should.

SHERIFF HARWELL: I couldn't tell you it will because I won't lie to you. I won't tell -- and I'm not skilled in, in the legal aspects of this, but I'll tell you this, that anything that I have, have control over, and I'm sure that being a citizen of McLennan County and this all happening in McLennan County, if there's any confinement or anything, it will be in, in our facilities here. And you're going to be treated just as courteously as we treated you before. You, you know that we're not mean folks.



MR KORESH: (Indiscernible)

SHERIFF HARWELL: We're humane in what we do. By the way, let me tell you about something I did yesterday with your neighbors out there. I met with a group of folks out at Elk. We met in the community center out there.

MR. KORESH: Uh-huh.

SHERIFF HARWELL: And, of course, they were concerned about -- you all been good neighbors to, to all of them out there. They haven't had any problems and --

MR. KORESH: We never had any problems.

SHERIFF HARWELL: -- and they spoke highly of the, of the living around out there and not bothering anybody. And, of course, I was real impressed. They were concerned about their well being and what's happening. David, a lot of them out there, you know, they're farmers and cattle ranchers and what have you, and this is kind of interfering their -- interfering with their going on about their lives and, and making their livelihood out there, working their places and taking care of the stock. Those people are going to be available to talk about you all's neighborly existence out there. They have not -- not

a one spoke up that I recall who had anything derogatory about your being there.

MR. KORESH: Have you talked to Mr. Perry yet?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Beg your pardon?

MR. KORESH: Have you talked to Mr. Perry, our next door neighbor?

SHERIFF HARWELL: I haven't talk to him myself, personally. I don't know whether he was out there, but there were about 120 people out there, and they all expressed the thoughts that you all were peaceful, you didn't bother anyone, they weren't afraid to drive up there on the road. They just didn't have anything bad to say about you. And, like I've always told you, I wasn't afraid to come out and visit with you. If I called you and told you I was coming, David, I'd be treated just as nice.

MR. KORESH: If you all had called us up and said you had a warrant for us, I'd have met you in town.

SHERIFF HARWELL: David, I wish I'd -- we're talking hindsight now. I've, I've laid awake thinking about that and worrying about it.

MR. KORESH: Well, I've asked

(indiscernible) Robert Gonzalez to call me because I wanted to give him a straight man-to-man talk, because I told him over and over and over again. See they wanted this, they wanted this. They wanted, they wanted some big --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, see, you've got me at a disadvantage because I don't -- I wasn't involved in any of the meetings. I, I don't know anything that preceded this. David, the only thing I can tell you is that I'm deeply involved from the standpoint of being your sheriff.

MR. KORESH: Right.

SHERIFF HARWELL: And I want to do everything I can. It's my job to protect life and property in this county, and it's my job to protect your life and property. It's my job to work with, with everyone, and I want to see this -- if I can, nothing would make me happier and a lot of folks out here in this county who would be just tickled to death to see everyone come out of this and just -- let's sit down like people, communicate with each other, get this thing behind us, because I'll tell you, David, straightforward, the only times I've heard anything that would be contrary to you folks out there is the

last few days some people are getting a little bit hesitant to think well, are they sincere in what they're doing? Do they really want to come out and, and resolve this thing in a logical reasonable way, through the court system, through the system that will protect you? And this is what I want to do. My job is to try to handle this thing, as the sheriff of this county, get everything resolved and get you folks back to your, to your lives. If, if you're confined, I can't tell you that, David. You've made --I can't tell you the outcome of this thing. But I know this, that the outcome right now, as it stands right now, just don't look good. It's, it's -- I'm talking about from the standpoint of any of us. From all over the country, people are talking about this and wondering why in the world can't those folks get this thing settled?

MR. KORESH: Yeah, why can't the FBI get this thing settled?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, let me ask you, what can I do? What can I do? You tell me what I can do and I'll, I'll do everything that I've got the authority to do, just about what I need to do to get this resolved. You tell me, because I'm not smart

enough to figure this out, David. I'm just an old dumb country sheriff in a lot of ways.

MR. KORESH: Well, that ain't true.

SHERIFF HARWELL: I don't, I don't sit and try to compete. But all I know to do is talk to you straight from the heart, David, and I'm interested in everybody's best interest and I want to get this thing resolved. So if you will tell me, and I'm asking for your advice, I'm, I'm pleading for your advice, tell me what I can do.

MR. KORESH: Well, Sheriff Harwell, this, this originates overseas. What we believe this is is it originates overseas. Now, let me, let me try to explain just very simply, all right? As you know, you know, Lois Roden -- remember Lois?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yes, I sure do.

MR. KORESH: See, she taught the Holy Spirit being female as a message.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yes.

MR. KORESH: Remember that?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Um-hum.

MR. KORESH: Now, every Jewish scholar will tell you that's, that's the way it is. That's just the ancient concept of the Elohim. Now, but not to

get into that, now, what I teach is I teach the Seven Seals. And I'm not trying to convert you, I'm just trying to give you a layout.

SHERIFF HARWELL: No, and I started to tell you, David, I don't want to be rude to you at all and never would I be rude to you.

MR. KORESH: Right.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Again I'm talking straight. You know I'm a, I'm a straight-shooting old fellow.

MR. KORESH: Okay.

SHERIFF HARWELL: If I -- I, I really want to get this thing resolved and let me have an opportunity to sit down with you later on, just me and you sit down, and I'll, I'll sit and talk with you. But, but right now my main interest is to get this thing --

MR. KORESH: This is where the foundation becomes resolved, okay?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, then --

MR. KORESH: You see -- Let me, let me explain again.

SHERIFF HARWELL: All right.

MR. KORESH: It's a political thing.

SHERIFF HARWELL: All right.

MR. KORESH: It's a political thing. You see, in all the denominations of this great nation, you know, our Constitution, our forefathers foresaw, based upon the experience of the ancient European tyrannies -- you see, used to -- the church used to have control of the government, the Papacy.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yes.

MR. KORESH: You see, and, and the voices, Hush and Jerome, Tenda, Weinert, they were men who, who had scholarly minds, who were reading the Bible, which was, you know, the Vulgate and the manuscripts of old, and they said hey, wait a minute, the scriptures teach contrary to what the Papacy institutes. Well, when they rose their voice, the Papacy killed them. Okay, so, you know, they, they kept the freedom of speech, it just did not exist in those days.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Um-hum.

MR. KORESH: But, finally, when God arose this nation and men began to come -- they began to realize the importance that now under -- now no longer under the yoke of the Papacy, which is religious-political government, you understand? They realized

the importance to protect every man's right to believe in conscience, not just for religion, but even in -- against religion. So church and state separation was, was declared. The state would be a political state for individuals, irrespective of color or creed or, or religious beliefs. But, nonetheless, the state was not to interfere with those religions who had religious conviction or freedom of conscience. Okay.

So now we've got all the -- we've got, we've got the Papacy, we've got the Catholics, the Lutherans, the Presbyterians, Methodist, Baptist, you know, Church of Christ, Church of God, Armstrong, and everyone has these different viewpoints, and that's perfectly all right.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Sure, sure. I respect that.

MR. KORESH: Based -- exactly. Based upon the good old four-square gospel, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

SHERIFF HARWELL: I respect everyone's right to, to worship and, and have their faith and to -- but back --

MR. KORESH: Now, but here, here's the point I need to make. Here's, here's the concrete point.



Now, when it comes down to the Book of Revelation, very clearly in Revelation 4 and 5, John the Apos -- now, we know John was an Apostle, don't we?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yes, but here -- let me, let me interrupt you again, David. You're talking -- I'm not scholarly, I'm just plain down to earth old folks and I, I would enjoy sitting down -- but what I, what I wanted to do, David, is is -- you see, you're going to have an opportunity, after this is resolved, I'm going to see that you have an opportunity to talk to the press --

MR. KORESH: These FBI agents have lied to us since day one.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, take them out of it. You're going to be here with me. They're going to be gone when this thing is resolved and, and we're going to still be living here in McLennan County. If I give you my word that you will have access for a news conference or access to -- and when I say a news conference, you're going to have access to the media and you'll have a chance down through the months. You're going to have a telephone available to you there in jail, if you stay there. You might bond out, I don't know. But you're going to have a chance to

talk to folks, David, when this is over. You're not going to come out and just be cut off from the world.

And these things need to be looked at after we get this resolved, but we need to get this over so that we can look at what we can do. I can't promise you everything that I'm talking -- but I'll tell you this, I'll give you my best effort and --

MR. KORESH: Well, I understand --

SHERIFF HARWELL: -- I promise you that.

MR. KORESH: Like I say, I understand --

SHERIFF HARWELL: But we need to get this -- This is a pretty good day and we need to get this resolved. And I asked you a while ago what -- give me some idea, give me your input on what we need to do.

MR. KORESH: Well, like I say, there's people here that were going to come out. Me, I'm waiting on God. I've been told to do so. I teach the Seven Seals. Read Revelation 4 and 5, you might get an insight on what that may mean. But here's the thing. I know you don't want to talk religion, but that's all I am is religion (indiscernible). I have -- as an American citizen, somebody has stepped on my property, destroyed my property, and there's going to be some butt whooped over this.

SHERIFF HARWELL: You, you have to do it --

MR. KORESH: It's either my butt or it's going to be their butt. Now, they're here and they've flaunted the right arm of their strength and they've stood underneath my -- my flag's flying out here.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Why don't you whip butt in court, David, or in the legal process?

MR. KORESH: Now, let me tell you something.

SHERIFF HARWELL: That's the way you're going to be heard.

MR. KORESH: Now, wait a minute.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Not, not the other way. About these other people who wanted to come out, I didn't know about that, David, but --

MR. KORESH: Well, you --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Are there some other people who want to come out now?

MR. KORESH: Sheriff Harwell, there were people ready to come out. It's just -- Jim told us and one of the guys told us that at nighttime we would, we would finish it up in the morning. Now, now, now, John Cox, he waited five hours to call us from the time that Ollie was released. What's going on now?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Nothing. I'm just sitting here listening, because I'm unaware of all --

MR. KORESH: Now, now, they've just knocked down the fence. Now there's cows coming on our property now.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Who knocked down your fence?

MR. KORESH: The FBI agents over here.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Oh, my goodness. David, I'd give anything if --

MR. KORESH: I'm telling you the truth of what they're doing.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well --

MR. KORESH: They promised us they would not come on the property, they would stay on the perimeter, and, and here they are, they come all over our property, by our lake. Everything they tell us, they've lied about.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, I, I --

MR. KORESH: And all they do is broadcast on the phone things that we don't say. They're making it sound like oh, honky dorey. The last two days there's been no negotiations, right, Steve? Anyway, what happened was is that that night everything was smooth.

They sent us a tape. We got to see the picture of the, of the negotiators. They showed us pictures of the family and all that. We were making tapes for them. You know, the other two guys were going to come out. Other people were talking about it. They were waiting for Ollie to call back. Ollie never called back. Ollie was taken --

SHERIFF HARWELL: You're talking about Ollie, now, he's the young man --

MR. KORESH: Oliver. Yeah, the one that they have now.

SHERIFF HARWELL: -- who came out? See, I'm not familiar with some of these things.

MR. KORESH: Right. He never called back that night. And, also, at eleven o'clock our lights were taken off. So, you know, we thought well, it might be just a fuse from the weather or something.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, did you talk to Ollie or have you talked to him since he's been out?

MR. KORESH: Well, let me explain what happened then.

SHERIFF HARWELL: All right.

MR. KORESH: So Steve -- I told Steve well, call John Knox up and, and we'll get this worked out.

Steve called up John Knox and, all of a sudden, it was just cold. Well, matter of fact, here, let me, let me let Steve tell you real quick what --

SHERIFF HARWELL: No. Let me, let me go ahead and talk to you for a little while, David, on this because I think me and you --

MR. KORESH: No we've still got to catch up our worship here, but the thing of it is is that --

SHERIFF HARWELL: I think you and I can work this thing out, David, if we'll just keep talking to each other.

MR. KORESH: Sure, we're going to work it out. But the thing of it is is that these guys don't scare me. I'm not afraid of their tanks, I'm not afraid of their --

SHERIFF HARWELL: I don't want to dispute you. Let me, let me do this. You tell me what we need to do to get this thing moving in the right direction, to get this thing resolved, whatever we need to do. And, like I say, I'm the sheriff of this county, I have some authority on what's going on.

MR. KORESH: Well, you tell these people to pack up, get out of here and leave us alone and let us have time to think --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, I can't tell them just to leave and set on it, now, David, I, I have to be honest with you.

MR. KORESH: Okay, well --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Can me and you meet or, or if not you and me, can Steve come out and talk to us?

MR. KORESH: Well, I'll tell you what. If Steve does decide to come out --

SHERIFF HARWELL: I don't mean leave. If he will just meet us. If he does decide to come out, I, I'd want you to know about it. We wouldn't pull any tricks. I wouldn't come out there and tell you --

MR. KORESH: Well --

SHERIFF HARWELL: -- to let Steve come out and we take him. But if he'll meet us at the gate --

MR. KORESH: Here's where the deal stands. If Steve does come out and talk to you at the gate, okay?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yeah.

MR. KORESH: And any foul play is done --

SHERIFF HARWELL: I give you my word --

MR. KORESH: -- then all these guys around here better get ready for --

SHERIFF HARWELL: David, I don't even carry

a gun. I, I haven't carried a gun in years.

MR. KORESH: We don't mind if you carry, if you carry a gun. We're not, you know, we know you know how to use it. You, you wouldn't have come here and, and, and shot up our doors --

SHERIFF HARWELL: No, no.

MR. KORESH: -- and walls and all that with automatic -- what'd they have, Ouzis?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Let me assure you and I'll give you my word as solid as I ever gave it to anybody, there will be no tricks. If I give you my word -- you see, I'm going to trust you like I want you to trust me.

MR. KORESH: Well, you can trust us.

SHERIFF HARWELL: I know it. That's why I'm willing to come out there. Do you think I would come to that gate if I didn't trust you?

MR. KORESH: Well, Sheriff Harwell, have we ever really given anybody any problems?

SHERIFF HARWELL: No. Your neighbors -- I was just telling you about your neighbors a while ago, having a meeting with them.

MR. KORESH: Mark -- what's Mark's name over there? Mark, Mark Spoon over here, we've loved him.



He's been right across the street from us.

SHERIFF HARWELL: David, your neighbors out there all yesterday. You know, I was telling you a while ago they all said that you all have been good neighbors, they've not had any problems. What I would like to do, David, just to show you my good faith and what I'm trying to do, let me meet with Steve. I know you've got a physical problem where it would be difficult --

MR. KORESH: It's hard for me to get around, that's true.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yeah.

MR. KORESH: I'm sure you --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Let me meet with Steve this afternoon, say, about four o'clock out at the gate.

MR. KORESH: Okay. Well --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Would that be all right?

MR. KORESH: -- let me let you talk to him and we'll work this out, all right?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Beg your pardon?

MR. KORESH: Let me let you talk to him and we'll work it out, okay?

SHERIFF HARWELL: All right, all right.

MR. KORESH: Okay. Nice talking with you.

SHERIFF HARWELL: You bet, David. Listen --

MR. KORESH: Thanks for calling.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Listen, let me tell you again, David, let me tell you again how serious I am. I care about you all.

MR. KORESH: Oh, I believe that.

SHERIFF HARWELL: And, and, believe me, trust me, and let me work on these other folks out here, see if we can get this thing resolved and let me work with them to do whatever we need to do in the way of the show of force and all that. I think we can resolve some of that if it will be favorable.

MR. KORESH: Well, we're not afraid of these old tin cans out here. I mean, you know --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, yeah, I -- but can me and you keep talking, David?

MR. KORESH: Sure, we'll talk.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Will that be all right, for me to sit and talk with you? I'm not a negotiator, I'm just one who can just sit and talk to you and try to talk common sense.

MR. KORESH: I'd rather talk to you with a fishing pole in my hand, but that never materialized.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, let me talk to Steve and see if we can work it out. Now, like I say, I trust you and I trust your folks out there that I will come to the gate.

MR. KORESH: Okey doke.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Now, if I sound a little loud, Steve -- I mean David -- that's the way I talk. So don't think my, my tone of voice is something that's sounding --

MR. KORESH: There's a lot of pressures around here.

SHERIFF HARWELL: And I've been through a lot of pressure, trying to get this thing resolved without any of your folks or anyone else getting hurt. So let me keep on a talking basis with you and let's try to use some old horse sense and work this thing out.

MR. KORESH: Okey doke. Well, here's Steve.

SHERIFF HARWELL: I appreciate it.

MR. KORESH: I know.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Bye.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Hello, Mr. Harwell?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Hello, Steve.

MR. SCHNEIDER: How you doing?

SHERIFF HARWELL: I'm pretty good. I had to leave early yesterday evening, after I talked to you.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Right.

SHERIFF HARWELL: And I didn't know whether you all had called back or not, so I came back up earlier, just a little while ago, and asked them to let me check back with you all.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Let me ask you, Steve, people can do more looking at each other and just talking eye to eye, and I would like to come out and just meet you at the gate there, just sit and talk with you a while. I talked to David about this and he was in agreement with it and told me to talk to you and see what we could work out.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Um-hum.

SHERIFF HARWELL: And I'd like to work something out where you, you and I could meet there at the gate. Might be one of the negotiators with me, but I assure you there will be no tricks, nothing, 'cause I'm trusting you, trusting David, and I want you all to trust us. And is there a way we could just sit down and talk eye to eye, so you can see my sincerity?

MR. SCHNEIDER: Well, sure.

SHERIFF HARWELL: So we could get a feel of what we're talking about?

MR. SCHNEIDER: I'd be willing to do anything that would help, you know, bring this to a better relationship.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Let me assure you we're not out there to pull any tricks. You'll be free to walk back in when you get ready. If you get upset at us in talking to us, we will be just straight with each other.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay.

SHERIFF HARWELL: And not, not pull back any, any effort whatsoever to get this thing resolved. And if we can do that, Steve, maybe we can make some progress. I -- we need to do something. We need to get this thing over, so let's try to work something out. I haven't made any arrangements for this. I need to get some folks here to make arrangements.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Now, it might be me and Byron or one of the negotiators come out.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Byron was the first man I spoke with.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yes. Byron's a fine man and if he -- and I trust him totally. I want you to trust us now.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes. Okay. If they wanted to send one, I really did like John Dolan. I mean, we got along very well.

SHERIFF HARWELL: He's -- I think he left, went back home, Steve.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Oh, he did? That's a shame because, you know, it was through him that the momentum was really picking up quickly --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yeah.

MR. SCHNEIDER: -- and there was a real trust that was developed.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, Byron's been here through all this time and he's still here and he's familiar with -- he knows more about this.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay.

SHERIFF HARWELL: I'm not familiar with all of it, Steve, so --

MR. SCHNEIDER: That'd be fine. I saw him on the video. That'd be all right.

SHERIFF HARWELL: That's why I want to bring one who is familiar with all of it, because you might

ask me some questions, 'cause, you see, I've got a department to run and I'm not here all the time to hear everything that has happened. So there may be some questions you would want to ask that I wouldn't have the answer to. If Byron would be with me, where he can -- we want to talk straight. We want to talk honest.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Let me just say this. The way the people -- to phrase it in a, in a -- just a statement or two, the way the people have seen what has happened is right to our face there was a handshake, there was friendliness, there was a look of sincerity. But on behind the back, there was nothing but total encroachment and, and a push and a shove when we were looking forward.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Steve, you all can look at my record here in McLennan County.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Right.

SHERIFF HARWELL: I've been sheriff for over 20 years and I don't think you've ever heard of anything like that from me. I've always been just one to talk straight to people --

MR. SCHNEIDER: Right.

SHERIFF HARWELL: -- try to resolve problems in a simple sort of way, if we can, do whatever to get things back the way they should be so we can all live and go on with life. And I appreciate you for meeting us out there.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Right.

SHERIFF HARWELL: If I could let you talk with one of the other people here --

MR. SCHNEIDER: Well, you know, David himself has let me know, too, of the concern of the people about the freezers, refrigerators being cut off, all the food going bad.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yeah.

MR. SCHNEIDER: He mentioned the (indiscernible) --

SHERIFF HARWELL: Well, maybe we can talk about that when we come out there and set and talk with you.

MR. SCHNEIDER: All right. When are you -- What, what time are you looking for? Say, today, tomorrow ?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Say at four o'clock. At four o'clock.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Four o'clock?



SHERIFF HARWELL: Yes.

MR. SCHNEIDER: As soon as that?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yes. And what they're going to do now probably is --

MR. SCHNEIDER: Well, how, how about something like this. That you and, that you and Byron meet me about halfway down the driveway. I walk up halfway, we both walk toward each other and about -- or by that -- yeah, about halfway there.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Let me see. Let me talk to Byron and be sure he's --

MR. SCHNEIDER: All right.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Hold on just a moment. Let me -- Byron, I need to locate Byron, be sure that he's in agreement 'cause I don't want to --

MR. SCHNEIDER: All right.

SHERIFF HARWELL: -- I don't want to pull any -- tell you we'll do something and then it not work that way, Steve.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay. Okay.

[gap]

(Voices in background not discernible.)

SHERIFF HARWELL: Steve?

MR. SCHNEIDER: Yeah.

SHERIFF HARWELL: Let me, let me tell you what, what we need to do for this first meeting.

MR. SCHNEIDER: All right.

SHERIFF HARWELL: So that we'll all be comfortable with it. I'm comfortable, anyway we go but I want the other folks who are with me, Byron, to feel comfortable, too, Steve, because I'm talking for him.

MR. SCHNEIDER: All right.

SHERIFF HARWELL: What we would like to do is just pull down there in a Bradley. We'll get out of it. I'll step out where you can see me.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay.

SHERIFF HARWELL: And you come on out to the gate, because I've always respected you all's property out there. I don't want to be one to walk in on you all's property without, without proper authority or without a reasonable reason for being there. But if we work it that way, if we pull down in the Bradley, we'll get out and stand behind the Bradley. I'll step out where you can see me. Byron will be with me. You come out and whatever distance is comfortable with you, I'd like to just walk up and shake your hand myself and, and sit and talk eye to eye. Whatever

distance is comfortable with you, if you feel comfortable to come on out, you'll be free to leave. If you get upset at something we're saying and you want to go back, whatever you feel like doing.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Would you -- so there would be the two of you then?

SHERIFF HARWELL: Yes. There would be Byron, because, you see, the reason I want Byron, Steve, is because --

MR. SCHNEIDER: That's fine.

SHERIFF HARWELL: -- I haven't been here -- I explained a while ago I haven't been here and I don't know all the details.

MR. SCHNEIDER: I think -- would it be okay if Wayne Martin would be with me?

SHERIFF HARWELL: That would be fine.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay.

SHERIFF HARWELL: That would be fine.

MR. SCHNEIDER: All right. Then let's -- About four o'clock then, huh?

SHERIFF HARWELL: At four o'clock.

MR. SCHNEIDER: All right.

SHERIFF HARWELL: What time is it now? I said four, I want to be sure we've got time.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay, I have about 16 minutes to 3.

SHERIFF HARWELL: I think we'll have time. Be there at four.

MR. SCHNEIDER: All right.

SHERIFF HARWELL: We'll call you up when we start moving out there. Or wait a minute, let me be sure I'm right on this now, Steve.

MR. SCHNEIDER: All right. Okay, we'll --  
[gap]

SHERIFF HARWELL: Steve?

MR. SCHNEIDER: Yes.

SHERIFF HARWELL: As soon as we're out there, they'll call you from here and let you know we're out there. And when we see you come out of the building, I'll step out where you can see me.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay.

SHERIFF HARWELL: And then we'll, we'll meet at a distance that's comfortable with you all. If we can just walk straight up and shake each other's hand and, and stand and talk and, and do what we can, that's the way I would like to do it.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay.

SHERIFF HARWELL: And you all feel

comfortable with us because I'm certainly going to feel comfortable with you all.

MR. SCHNEIDER: All right.

SHERIFF HARWELL: And, and believe me, trust me.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay, we'll do that.

SHERIFF HARWELL: All right.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay, we'll -- I'll wait to hear from you.

SHERIFF HARWELL: They'll call you, Steve, when, when everything is worked out and when we get up there.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Okay, sounds good, Jack.

SHERIFF HARWELL: All right, Steve. Bye-bye.

MR. SCHNEIDER: Bye.

(End Tape #128.)