



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

March 26, 1993

TO: SERGEANT TOM EDMONDS

FROM: DETECTIVE LES ZOELLER

SUBJECT: MURDER INFORMATION BY SUSPECT IN VIRGINIA

In the course of investigating the disappearance of Ronald G. Levin (case #8405436), it was learned that he was the victim of murder committed by Joseph Hunt and James Pittman (Billionaire Boys Club). Witnesses stated that his body was buried in the mountains above Soledad Canyon. His body was never found. From the beginning of the court proceedings, the two defendant's cases have been severed. After numerous delays, in 1985, James Pittman was brought to trial first. The jury came back hung, 11-1 for guilty. In 1987, Joseph Hunt was brought to trial and convicted. After a penalty phase, the jury gave him life without the possibility of parole. James Pittman was again tried and again the jury hung, this time 10-2 for acquittal. James Pittman subsequently pled guilty to accessory to murder after the fact. He was sentenced to three years (time served) and was transferred to Northern California to await trial for the murder of Hedayat Eslaminia.

In 1992, Joseph Hunt was tried in Northern California for the murder of Hedayat Eslaminia. The jury hung 8-4 for acquittal. The prosecution, the State Attorney General's Office, thereafter dismissed the case against Joseph Hunt and James Pittman. Although the prosecution said they would re-file the case, probably this summer, a retrial may be too cost prohibitive.

In the Northern California trial, Joseph Hunt defended himself. The prosecution was allowed to bring in the Levin conviction to support their case. Joseph Hunt, in turn, brought in five witnesses that claimed to have seen Ronald G. Levin after his disappearance; death. Jurors in that trial said that they believed Joseph Hunt, and would assist in obtaining a new trial for him. His appeal is currently being heard.

An article was written, published in the Los Angeles Magazine, describing the Northern California trial which included the Levin murder case. The article has interviews of some of the jurors plus statements by Joseph Hunt. Attached is a copy of the article with highlighted excerpts referring to the Levin case and

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Levin on camera and arrange for him to travel to California after his release to show me where the remains of Ronald G. Levin are.

The conviction of Joseph Hunt is currently in the appeals court. The grounds for his appeal are judicial error, inadequacy of counsel and new evidence which is where he would introduce the five new witnesses who state that they have seen Ronald G. Levin after his reported disappearance; death. If his appeal is obtained, Joseph Hunt may very well be back in court in 1994. A new trial, ten years after the crime, would be hard to win without additional evidence of our own. James Pittman can supply that additional information.

March 28, 1993 3:19 PM (.DOC)

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