

WEDNESDAY, 26th JUNE, 1996.

TWENTY-FIRST DAY.

LORD CULLEN: Mr. Bonomy, I think we are without Mr. Jones today, so you can proceed.

MR. BONOMY: Thank you, sir. I have had brought to my attention a witness who claims to have been abused by Hamilton. This is the first such evidence that has come to light. He is unwilling to be identified. I have given anxious consideration to the question whether an anonymous written statement of his evidence should be read to the Inquiry. The view I have formed, with some hesitation, is that that is the appropriate course in the circumstances, albeit it is not an ideal course. I also consider it appropriate to advise the Inquiry that there are certain matters mentioned in the statement peripheral to the meat of the statement that one might expect would be corroborated by independent evidence. Efforts have been made to try to corroborate that without any success.

You should also be advised, sir, that the witness has in the past been convicted of a serious crime of dishonesty.

That is a full account of the background, and with your leave, sir, I propose to invite Mr. Lake to read the statement.

LORD CULLEN: Yes -- Mr. Lake?

MR. LAKE: This is the anonymous statement -- "When I was about 12 and living at home I attended a Boys' Club called the Rovers Group at Bannockburn High School, which was run by Thomas Hamilton. I think I got to know about it through certain leaflets that came through the letter box. I attended that for about four weeks. I remember that on two occasions we got to shoot guns at the Club in Dunblane. This Club wasn't at the school but in a hut on the other side of the dual carriageway. We shot with real rifles with bullets, not pellets. Hamilton picked us up and took us to Dunblane. We once went to the High School/

School in Dunblane and joined in with that Club. It was a gymnastics Club.

"When the summer came, a trip was organised to go and stay on a boat. I got permission to go to it and Hamilton sent a letter home setting out the details of the camp trip, boat, how much money we needed etc.

"The holiday was to last for about a week or a week and a half and we were staying on a cabin cruiser on Loch Lomond. There were about eight boys of my age involved. The only boy I remember being there was my sister's boyfriend. I don't know who the other boys were but we were all specially chosen from the Bannockburn Club.

"One day I remember that I was particularly frightened because Hamilton was tying a rope round us, one at a time, and throwing us off the side of the boat and then pulling us back in. I cannot now remember what the purpose of this manoeuvre was, but I remember being very frightened and I refused to take part and pretended that I was ill and stayed in the cabin.

"That night I was told to report to his cabin. The boys all slept together at the back of the boat and Hamilton slept in his own cabin. I eventually went in. I only had on my underpants. He had a sort of telescopic pointer device which you would use to point to a map or a chart and he was pointing this at me and he told me that I had better behave. He began to touch me between my legs and my private parts and I was very scared. I started to cry.

"He told me to stop crying or I would be hit with the pointer. While all this was going on he was only dressed in shorts. I was then told to lie down on his bed and I was lying facedown. He started to push his fingers into my backside. By this time he had his shorts off and his penis was erect. He was rubbing it. He was also stroking my back and asked if I liked it. At one point I was crying and he banged this pointed device down at the side of my face. It didn't actually touch me, but hit the pillow. I lay there frozen stiff with fear. He then told me to stand up and face the wall and again he ran his hand up and down my back and/

and he was breathing heavily.

"I was then allowed to go. I was terrified, and then the next day I phoned my mother and asked if I could come home. All I did was to tell her I was homesick. I couldn't tell her what took place. I came home at the same time as everyone else. It was too far away for me to come home early. He didn't touch me again during the period of this holiday although I was very frightened of him.

"I can't be more specific about the year this happened. I do remember though that the boat blew up about a week after the trip.

"I do agree, however, that what he did to me should be known about. It has affected me badly and has always troubled me."

~~ROY CAMERON (49), Sworn:~~

~~EXAMINED BY MR. BONOMY: Are you Roy Cameron? - I am, sir.~~

~~And are you presently the Chief Constable of Dumfries and Galloway Police? - That is correct, sir.~~

~~I think you are also Chief Constable designate of another Force? - That is correct -- Lothian & Borders Police, sir.~~

~~When do you take up that post? - The 6th September this year.~~

~~What age are you? - I am 49 years of age.~~

~~How long have you been a police officer? - 30 years' service.~~

~~Can you take us through your service, please? Yes; I started as a cadet in Dumbartonshire; followed that with beat duties in Dumbartonshire Constabulary; was promoted sergeant fairly/~~