

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION

1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

No. 05 CR 644

2 Plaintiff,

3 v.

Chicago, Illinois  
May 22, 2006  
1:30 p.m.

4 ROBERT SORICH,  
5 TIMOTHY MC CARTHY,  
6 JOHN SULLIVAN,  
7 PATRICK SLATTERY,

8 Defendants.

9 VOLUME 5

10 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
11 BEFORE THE HONORABLE DAVID H. COAR, and a jury

12 APPEARANCES:

13 For the Government:

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United States Attorney, by  
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14 For Defendant Sorich:

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1 APPEARANCES CONTINUED:

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For Defendant McCarthy:

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1 THE COURT: Are you ready for the jury?

2 MR. COLLINS: Yes, Your Honor.

3 (Whereupon, the following proceedings were had in  
4 open court, in the presence and hearing of the jury:)

5 THE COURT: Please be seated, ladies and gentlemen.

6 Will the witness please stand and face the court  
7 reporter and be sworn.

8 (Witness sworn.)

9 THE COURT: Please be seated, sir.

10 You may proceed.

11 MR. GUENTERT: Thank you, Your Honor.

12 DENNIS HENDERSON, GOVERNMENT'S WITNESS, DULY SWORN

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. GUENTERT:

15 Q Could you tell us your name and spell it for the court  
16 reporter, please?

17 A Dennis Henderson, D-E-N-N-I-S, H-E-N-D-E-R-S-O-N.

18 THE COURT: You need to keep your voice up. They  
19 can't hear you.

20 THE WITNESS: Dennis Henderson, D-E-N-N-I-S,  
21 H-E-N-D-E-R-S-O-N.

22 BY MR. GUENTERT:

23 Q Mr. Henderson, why don't you pull the microphone a little  
24 closer to you so you can sit back in the chair.

25 A How's that?

1 Q How old are you?

2 A 42 years old.

3 Q What city do you live in?

4 A City of Chicago.

5 Q What neighborhood in the city of Chicago?

6 A Albany Park.

7 Q Your part of Albany Park is in which ward?

8 A Thirty-third ward.

9 Q Where do you currently work, Mr. Henderson?

10 A City of Chicago.

11 Q What do you do for the city of Chicago?

12 A I'm a house drain inspector.

13 Q Could you tell us what a house drain inspector is,  
14 briefly?

15 A Well, a house drain inspector goes out and inspects  
16 six-inch connections on new structures and also answers  
17 complaints, structure checks and also works with the private  
18 drain program.

19 MR. DEADY: I'm sorry. Could you ask him to speak a  
20 little louder?

21 THE COURT: All right. Sit back a little bit, and  
22 just keep your voice up. Don't worry about the mike. Just  
23 keep your voice up.

24 THE WITNESS: Okay.

25 MR. GUENTERT: And also since the heating and cooling

1 back here is noisy, you'll have to speak up particularly so I  
2 can hear as well.

3 THE WITNESS: All right.

4 BY MR. GUENTERT:

5 Q We'll come back to your specific responsibilities on the  
6 job in a minute, but first tell us what operating department  
7 of the city of Chicago you're a house drain inspector for.

8 A Department of Water Management.

9 Q And that is the department that includes the former  
10 departments of sewer and water?

11 A Correct.

12 Q How long, Mr. Henderson, have you been a city of Chicago  
13 employee?

14 A Nine and a half years.

15 Q I'm going to ask you some questions about how you came to  
16 work for the city of Chicago. Let me direct your attention to  
17 November of 1994. How were you employed at that time?

18 A At Jewel Food.

19 Q What were you doing at Jewel Foods?

20 A I was assistant manager.

21 Q Assistant manager of what?

22 A Produce.

23 Q And were you satisfied with the job at that time?

24 A Not at that time, no.

25 Q What didn't you like about that job?

1 A I was being passed over for promotion.

2 Q What did you do about that?

3 A I decided to join a political organization.

4 Q Which political organization did you decide to join?

5 A The Hispanic Democratic Organization.

6 Q At that time had you ever belonged to a political  
7 organization before?

8 A No, I have not.

9 Q Had you ever done any political work before?

10 A No.

11 Q What caused you to join HDO?

12 A To get a better job.

13 Q How did HDO help you get a better job?

14 A Well, I was told that you could get better employment --

15 MR. DURKIN: Objection.

16 BY THE WITNESS:

17 A -- through the city of Chicago.

18 THE COURT: I'm sorry?

19 MR. DURKIN: Objection to the conversation. Better  
20 foundation.

21 THE COURT: Let's have a better foundation.

22 BY MR. GUENTERT:

23 Q Mr. Henderson, let me put it this way. What was your  
24 purpose in joining the Hispanic Democratic Organization?

25 A To obtain a city of Chicago job.

1 Q And what was your understanding of why that would help by  
2 joining the HDO?

3 A That's the way the system worked.

4 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, that's admitted not  
5 for the truth or falsity of what he understood, but just that  
6 he understood it, to explain his subsequent actions.

7 MR. DURKIN: I have no objection to the conversation.  
8 I just wanted a foundation for who the "they" were.

9 THE COURT: All right. Well, we haven't established  
10 who the conversation was with.

11 MR. DURKIN: That was my objection.

12 THE COURT: I understand. And so the way the  
13 question was reasked it was not for the conversation, but what  
14 his understanding was. And if his understanding is to come  
15 in, I just want the jury to understand the extent to which  
16 that's relevant.

17 BY MR. GUENTERT:

18 Q Mr. Henderson, why were you seeking a job with the city of  
19 Chicago?

20 A Good pay.

21 Q How did you know about this Hispanic Democratic  
22 Organization?

23 A Through a friend of my ex-wife.

24 Q And how did you go about joining HDO?

25 A I attended a meeting.

1 Q When was that meeting?

2 A Approximately November 1st of 1994.

3 Q Why do you remember the date so well?

4 A It's two days before my birthday.

5 Q Where did you go to attend the meeting?

6 A At a storefront on Sacramento and Milwaukee.

7 Q What was at that storefront?

8 A It was the office of HDO.

9 Q What was the purpose of the meeting you attended?

10 A It was a political, to get out -- to be assigned for the  
11 Dawn Clark Netsch campaign.

12 Q As a result of that meeting were you assigned a task for  
13 the purpose of assisting the Dawn Clark Netsch campaign?

14 A Yes, I was.

15 Q What were you told to do?

16 A I was told to go out to be -- go to a certain precinct and  
17 be a poll watcher and obtain the tape at the end of the day.

18 Q What do you mean by obtaining a tape?

19 A A tape is the results of all the candidates that were  
20 running and -- at that particular precinct.

21 Q Why were you entitled to a copy of the tape?

22 A The poll watchers are always granted a tape to bring back  
23 to the office.

24 Q When was the election in which you participated relative  
25 to your first meeting with the HDO?



1 A It was a couple of days or the day after.

2 Q Mr. Henderson, when did you first apply for a city job?

3 A It was in the spring of 1995.

4 Q Did you do any other political work other than what you  
5 did for the Dawn Clark Netsch campaign --

6 A Yes.

7 Q -- before you applied for that city job?

8 A Yes. I worked on the mayor's campaign.

9 Q What did you do for the mayor's campaign?

10 A I was assigned a precinct and knocked on doors and talked  
11 to the voters.

12 Q When you were knocking on doors and talking to voters,  
13 what is it that you said to the people?

14 A I would ask them if they needed any service requests,  
15 anything was wrong in the neighborhood that we could help  
16 with.

17 Q And what kind of service requests would you receive?

18 A Garbage can carts, tree trimming, things like that, any  
19 lights, street lights out.

20 Q What would you do with the service requests you received  
21 from these potential voters?

22 A I would bring them back to the HDO.

23 Q What else did you do for the mayor's campaign?

24 A We also did a lot of voter registrations.

25 Q Did you work for any other campaigns before the spring of

1 1995?

2 A Yeah. I worked on the runoff election for Jessie Granato  
3 in the 1st ward.

4 Q What kind of election was that?

5 A It was a runoff between two candidates that did not get  
6 50 percent or more of the vote.

7 Q And it was for an aldermanic office?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q Who was the HDO candidate?

10 A Jessie Granato.

11 Q What did you do during that campaign?

12 A I worked the precinct also, the same precinct that I had  
13 worked in the mayor's campaign.

14 Q With respect to the jobs you applied for, what specific  
15 positions did you seek first?

16 A Cement mixer and asphalt helper.

17 Q And with which operating department were those jobs?

18 A Department of Transportation.

19 Q Did you speak to anybody at HDO about the fact that you'd  
20 applied for these jobs?

21 A Yes, I did.

22 Q Who did you speak to?

23 A Desi Soto.

24 Q What role did Mr. Soto have in the Hispanic Democratic  
25 Organization?

1 A He was one of the North Side coordinators.

2 Q What happened after your conversation with Soto?

3 A I had received an interview.

4 Q With respect to both jobs or one job?

5 A One job.

6 Q What was the result of that interview?

7 A I did not receive the job.

8 Q Did you do further political work for HDO in 1996?

9 A Yes, I did.

10 Q What kind of work did you do?

11 A I campaigned for Miguel Santiago.

12 Q And he was running for which office?

13 A State representative.

14 Q Who was his opponent?

15 A William Delgado.

16 Q Mr. Santiago was the HDO candidate?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q What kind of work did you do in that campaign?

19 A Basically we just did a little voter registration, and we  
20 put out a lot of literature and worked the polling place on  
21 election day.

22 Q As a result of your work for HDO over time, did you become  
23 familiar with how the organization is set up and led?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Tell us first -- I'm asking you now about the organization

1 as a whole. How was it organized citywide?

2 A There was three groups, south, southeast and north.

3 Q So it was organized geographically?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And which group were you affiliated with?

6 A The North Side group.

7 Q Now, with respect to HDO's North Side group, who were the  
8 leaders of that particular group?

9 A Desi Soto, Roberto Medina and Ariel Reboyras.

10 Q What title did they have within the organization of HDO?

11 A They were coordinators.

12 Q Among the three coordinators, was one in charge overall of  
13 HDO's North Side group?

14 A Yeah.

15 Q Who was that?

16 A Bob Medina.

17 MR. DURKIN: I'm sorry. I didn't hear that.

18 THE COURT: Would you repeat your answer, sir.

19 THE WITNESS: Bob Medina.

20 MR. DURKIN: Thank you.

21 BY MR. GUENTERT:

22 Q Again with respect to the North Side group, approximately  
23 how many members did it have?

24 A Between 60 and 80.

25 Q How many of those members worked for the city of Chicago

1 at the time?

2 A The majority of them.

3 Q Now, was there a place where the North Side group would  
4 meet regularly?

5 A Yeah. We would meet on the office on Milwaukee and  
6 Sacramento.

7 Q Now, when you say the office at Milwaukee and Sacramento,  
8 whose office was that?

9 A The HDO north office.

10 Q Let me direct your attention now to the fall of 1996. Did  
11 you attend an HDO function?

12 A Yes, I did.

13 Q What was it?

14 A It was a picnic at Montrose Harbor.

15 Q Did you have a conversation with somebody there about  
16 getting a city job?

17 A Yes, I did.

18 Q Who did you have the conversation with?

19 A Victor Reyes.

20 Q What caused you to have a conversation with Mr. Reyes?

21 A One of my friends that also did political work with me,  
22 you know, pushed me to talk to him.

23 Q Had you met Mr. Reyes before?

24 A On occasion, yeah.

25 Q What was his role within HDO?

1 A He was the head of the organization.

2 Q Did you also know him to have a job other than his  
3 participation in HDO?

4 A Yes.

5 Q What was that?

6 A He worked for the city in intergovernmental affairs.

7 Q Now, when you talked to Mr. Reyes at the picnic, was  
8 anybody else present for your conversation?

9 A No.

10 Q During that conversation what did you say to him and what  
11 did he say to you?

12 MR. DURKIN: Still same objection, continuing  
13 objection.

14 THE COURT: All right. It's overruled.

15 THE WITNESS: Should I continue?

16 MR. GUENTERT: Yes, you can.

17 THE WITNESS: Well, that I was seeking promote -- I  
18 mean I was seeking a job.

19 BY MR. GUENTERT:

20 Q A job with?

21 A The city of Chicago.

22 Q And what did he tell you to do?

23 A To talk to Desi and set up an appointment with his  
24 secretary.

25 Q And that's Desi Soto?

1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q When you say "secretary", you mean Mr. Reyes's secretary;  
3 is that right?

4 A Correct.

5 Q So what did you do then after the conversation?

6 A I spoke to Desi, and he set up the appointment.

7 Q Okay. You're still going to have to keep your voice up  
8 because it's hard for me to hear.

9 A Okay.

10 Q He told you to do what?

11 A He told me to set up the appointment with Desi.

12 Q And did you do that?

13 A Yes, I did.

14 Q When was your appointment for?

15 A It was in October.

16 Q Of which year?

17 A 1996.

18 Q What day of the week was the appointment?

19 A It was on a Saturday.

20 Q Where did this meeting take place?

21 A City Hall.

22 Q Do you remember where specifically in City Hall?

23 A No, I don't.

24 Q Tell us who was present for this meeting.

25 A Desi Soto, Bob Medina, Victor Reyes, and there was one

1 other person that I couldn't identify.

2 Q You can't recall now who it is?

3 A No, I cannot.

4 Q Was this meeting in progress when you arrived, or did it  
5 start when you got there?

6 A It was in progress.

7 Q What did Victor Reyes say to you during this meeting?

8 A Well, he asked me what kind of work did I want to do, did  
9 I want to wear a shirt and tie or did I want to make money.

10 Q What did you tell him?

11 A I told him I wanted to make the money.

12 Q You didn't want to wear the shirt and tie?

13 A No, sir.

14 Q All right.

15 Did the other gentlemen remain behind after you left  
16 the meeting?

17 A Yes, they did.

18 Q In October of 1996 at the time of this meeting, did you  
19 apply for a city job in connection with the meeting?

20 A Yes, I did.

21 Q Do you remember whether or not you did that before or  
22 after this meeting?

23 A I'm not sure.

24 Q Which job did you apply for?

25 A A laborer position.



1 Q A laborer with the sewers department?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q What kind of job is being a laborer in the sewer  
4 department?

5 A A laborer excavates the hole or the sewer and prepares the  
6 work for the bricklayer to lay brick.

7 Q Is that a good job?

8 A Very good.

9 Q Why is it a good job?

10 A Good pay.

11 Q What happened after the meeting at City Hall?

12 A I got an interview.

13 Q When was the interview?

14 A In October of 1996.

15 Q Who conducted the interview?

16 A Deborah Robinson.

17 Q Is that Deborah Robertson?

18 A Yes, correct.

19 Q Who is she?

20 A I believe she was the deputy at the south district.

21 Q With the sewer department?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q What was the result of the interview?

24 A I was hired.

25 Q When did you start?

1 A November 1st.

2 Q Now, after you were hired as a laborer, did you continue  
3 to work for the Hispanic Democratic Organization?

4 A Yes, I did.

5 Q What kind of work did you do?

6 A I worked on just about every campaign there was, every  
7 election.

8 Q I want to ask you about the period through the year 2000.  
9 First, with respect to the end of '97, beginning of '98, were  
10 you doing campaign work at that time?

11 A Yes, I was.

12 Q What campaign did you work on?

13 A Dave Rodriguez.

14 Q What office was he seeking?

15 A State senator.

16 Q Who was his opponent?

17 A Miguel Del Valle.

18 Q Rodriguez was the HDO candidate?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q What kind of work did you do on that campaign?

21 A Basically the same. I was assigned to the same precinct  
22 that I had normally been working.

23 Q Any other work in '98 that you recall?

24 A The end of '98 we started to work on the mayor's campaign.

25 Q From the end of '98 into the beginning of '99, besides the

1 mayor's campaign were there other races in which you were  
2 involved?

3 A Yeah, the aldermanic race.

4 Q The aldermanic race in which ward?

5 A The 1st ward.

6 Q Who was the HDO candidate?

7 A Jessie Granato.

8 Q Who was Mr. Granato's opponent?

9 A Cynthia Soto.

10 Q What was the result of that election?

11 A Jessie Granato, he had a runoff again, and he won in the  
12 runoff.

13 Q What was your participation in that campaign?

14 A I worked the precinct.

15 Q By working a precinct, what did you do?

16 A Went door to door, distribute literature, try to provide  
17 city services.

18 Q As you described before for the earlier campaign?

19 A Correct.

20 And worked the polling place on election day.

21 Q In the year 2000 did you do similar political work?

22 A Yes, I did.

23 Q Which campaigns?

24 A Al Gore and again Edgar Lopez against Cynthia Soto for  
25 state representative.

1 Q Who was the HDO candidate?

2 A Edgar Lopez.

3 Q Who won that election?

4 A Cynthia Soto.

5 Q As far as the presidential election goes, what kind of  
6 assistance did you provide?

7 A Well, we just put out a lot of literature, then asked  
8 people to put up lawn signs for the candidate.

9 Q During this period of time while you were doing this  
10 political work, did you apply for another city job?

11 A Yes, I did.

12 Q What position was that?

13 A Bricklayer.

14 Q Which department?

15 A Department of Sewers.

16 Q Did you get it?

17 A No, I did not.

18 Q What was the requirement for being a bricklayer?

19 A To be in the union.

20 Q Were you?

21 A No, I was not.

22 Q Let me direct your attention now to the end of this period  
23 we've been discussing, the year 2000. Did you apply for  
24 another city job at that point?

25 A Yes, I did.

1 Q Now, why were you applying for different city jobs once  
2 you were hired as a laborer?

3 A Because as a laborer I was often injured.

4 Q What was your goal?

5 A To get off the street.

6 Q By "get off the street" you mean you wanted to get out of  
7 the hole digging and the work on the pipes?

8 A Exactly.

9 Q What job did you apply for at the end of 2000?

10 A Assistant cleaning foreman.

11 Q What department was that with?

12 A Department of Sewers also.

13 Q What does a cleaning foreman do?

14 A They go check crews and make sure they're working their  
15 daily assignments, and they basically set the trucks to clean  
16 out the sewers and assist work crews.

17 Q In your attempt to get a job as a cleaning foreman, did  
18 you ask for help at HDO?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Who did you ask?

21 A Desi.

22 Q What happened after you talked to Mr. Soto about this  
23 particular position?

24 A Eventually I got an interview.

25 Q When was that interview?

1 MR. DURKIN: I didn't hear the end.

2 BY MR. GUENTERT:

3 Q Again, you'll have to keep your voice up, Mr. Henderson.

4 What did you just say?

5 A I got an interview.

6 Q When was the interview?

7 A The end of 2000.

8 Q What was the result of the interview?

9 A I did not get the job.

10 Q Do you know who was hired for the position?

11 A Yes, I do.

12 Q Was there more than one position open?

13 A Yes. I believe there was seven.

14 Q Were you familiar with at least some of the people who got  
15 the job from your political work out in the field?

16 A Yes, I was.

17 Q Which ones?

18 A Les Cioch.

19 Q Okay. Mr. Cioch, are you familiar with his political  
20 work?

21 A Yes. He was a precinct captain in the 1st ward where I  
22 was also working.

23 Q Who was the alderman in the 1st ward?

24 A Jessie Granato.

25 Q And how was it that you were familiar with his work as a

1 precinct captain for Mr. Granato?

2 A We often saw each other at the meetings and, you know,  
3 during election functions.

4 Q Where were you based at the time?

5 A 27th precinct.

6 Q In the 1st ward?

7 A Yeah.

8 Q Who of the other winners for this particular job were you  
9 familiar with?

10 A Maria Rios.

11 Q Maria Rios, what political organization did she work for?

12 A HDO.

13 Q That was your organization?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q How did her role at HDO compare to yours since you didn't  
16 get the job?

17 A Well, she was doing a lot more work because her husband  
18 was in charge of a group of guys too.

19 Q He was a leader within HDO?

20 A Yeah.

21 Q Was he a coordinator?

22 A No, he wasn't at that time, no.

23 Q But he had a leadership function?

24 A Yeah.

25 Q Did you have a leadership function at that time?

1 A No, not at that time.

2 Q Who of the other winners for the cleaning foreman job were  
3 doing political work, to your knowledge?

4 A Benita Foster.

5 Q Okay. And Benita Foster did work for which groups?

6 A Citizens For A Better West Side.

7 Q Do you recall any other groups she was affiliated with?

8 A No.

9 Q With respect to Citizens For A Better West Side, what kind  
10 of group was that?

11 A Political organization for the mayor.

12 Q And what about that group in particular sets it apart  
13 from --

14 MR. DURKIN: Ask for some foundation for this  
15 organization since this is an organization he's not part of.

16 THE COURT: All right. Let's have some foundation  
17 for his knowledge.

18 BY MR. GUENTERT:

19 Q Mr. Henderson, you said that you were familiar with at  
20 least some of the winners because of the work you did in the  
21 field?

22 A Yeah.

23 Q And you would see these individuals, including Benita  
24 Foster, at election time in connection with political  
25 functions?



1 A Yeah, mainly political functions.

2 Q And with respect to Miss Foster in particular, you saw her  
3 in attendance at political meetings of political  
4 organizations; is that correct?

5 MR. DURKIN: Objection.

6 THE COURT: Please don't lead.

7 BY MR. GUENTERT:

8 Q How do you know what group Ms. Foster was affiliated with?

9 A I've often seen her at rallies.

10 Q And what group then you said was associated with her  
11 attendance at these rallies?

12 A Can you repeat that again?

13 Q What group was she representing at these rallies?

14 A Citizens For A Better West Side.

15 Q What kind of political group is that specifically?

16 A African-American.

17 Q Who led that group?

18 A Tommy Simmons.

19 Q Was another one of the winners of the cleaning foreman job  
20 a person by the name of Ray Jiminez?

21 A Yes, it was.

22 Q Was he affiliated with a political group?

23 A Yeah. He was affiliated with Mike Harjung.

24 Q And how are you familiar with Mike Harjung's group?

25 A We often ran into each other on different voter

1 registration sites.

2 Q Now, when you say "ran into each other at voter  
3 registration sites," what do you mean specifically?

4 A Well, it was like a competition. We would try to get the  
5 most registrations, so a lot of times they were in our  
6 neighborhood because it had a high turnover of people moving.

7 Q Now, you were both members of the same political party; is  
8 that correct?

9 A Yes, we are.

10 Q Why were you competing to register voters?

11 A To make our organization look better.

12 Q To whom?

13 A To downtown, I guess.

14 MR. DURKIN: If he doesn't know, I --

15 THE COURT: Sorry?

16 MR. DURKIN: If he doesn't know, I'd move to strike  
17 it.

18 THE COURT: Sustained.

19 BY MR. GUENTERT:

20 Q Mr. Henderson, why were you doing it?

21 A To make myself look good.

22 Q To whom?

23 A To my political organization.

24 Q Which organization is that?

25 A HDO.

1 Q Now, after you didn't get the cleaning foreman job, did  
2 you take any further steps to obtain a different city job?

3 A Yes, I did.

4 Q What did you do?

5 A I had spoke to Desi.

6 Q That's Mr. Soto?

7 A Yes.

8 Q What happened as a result of your conversation with  
9 Mr. Soto?

10 A Actually, I don't recall exactly how it came about, but I  
11 had --

12 Q What happened next after your conversation?

13 A I had a meeting with Robert.

14 Q And by "Robert" who are you referring to?

15 A Robert Sorich.

16 Q Now, who do you know Robert Sorich to be?

17 A I know he worked in the IGA.

18 Q What was your purpose in arranging for a meeting with  
19 Robert Sorich at IGA?

20 MR. DEADY: Objection, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Sustained to the form of the question.

22 BY MR. GUENTERT:

23 Q All right. What was your understanding of speaking with  
24 Mr. Sorich about obtaining city employment?

25 A He was --

1 MR. DEADY: Same objection.

2 THE COURT: Overruled.

3 THE WITNESS: Can I answer?

4 MR. GUENTERT: Go ahead.

5 BY THE WITNESS:

6 A He was the man that had -- was give -- that gave out the  
7 jobs.

8 BY MR. GUENTERT:

9 Q Where did you meet him?

10 A I'm not exactly sure how I met Robert.

11 Q For this particular meeting where did it take place?

12 A In his office downtown.

13 Q And when did it take place?

14 A The end of 2000.

15 Q Was anybody else present for your meeting?

16 A No, they were not.

17 Q During your meeting what did Mr. Sorich say to you about  
18 city jobs?

19 A Well, he wrote a list of jobs out to me.

20 Q Those were city jobs?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Do you remember at least some of the jobs he identified  
23 for you?

24 A Yes.

25 Q What was one of those jobs?

1 A Hoisting engineer.

2 Q Hoisting engineer with which department?

3 A I'm not sure which department it was in.

4 Q What's a hoisting engineer?

5 A Operate heavy machinery.

6 Q Is that the kind of job you wanted to do?

7 A Not in particular, no.

8 Q Did you say that at the time?

9 A No, I did not.

10 Q What was the purpose of not saying that?

11 A I wasn't sure.

12 Q What other jobs did Mr. Sorich mention during this  
13 meeting?

14 A Assistant to the commissioner.

15 Q I'm sorry, Mr. Henderson, can you keep your voice up?

16 A Assistant to the commissioner.

17 Q What does an assistant to the commissioner do?

18 A He assists the commissioner in certain projects,  
19 special -- special projects.

20 THE COURT: Now, if you get too close to the mike it  
21 cuts off, so you have to keep a distance.

22 MR. GUENTERT: The only way to do this is to keep  
23 your voice up even though you have the microphone, okay?

24 THE WITNESS: Okay.

25 BY MR. GUENTERT:

1 Q Now, can you remember any of the other jobs that  
2 Mr. Sorich identified to you as potential jobs for you?

3 A No, I cannot.

4 Q But there were others?

5 A Yes.

6 Q At any point during this meeting did Mr. Sorich ask you  
7 about your qualifications for these jobs?

8 A No, he did not.

9 Q What did he ask you about these jobs? What did he want to  
10 know with respect to each of these positions from you?

11 A If I would want those positions.

12 Q And did you consider whether or not you were interested in  
13 them?

14 A Not at that moment, no.

15 Q When did you do that?

16 A Later on after I thought about it.

17 Q And after you -- well, what job did you decide you were  
18 interested in?

19 A Assistant to the commissioner.

20 Q Did you tell somebody about that?

21 A Yes, I did.

22 Q Who?

23 A Desi.

24 Q Why ask Desi Soto?

25 A Because he would talk to Victor and Robert.

1 Q Was this particular job, the assistant to the commissioner  
2 job, your ideal city job?

3 A No, it wasn't.

4 MR. DURKIN: That statement he just made is based on  
5 a conversation. Can we have that conversation?

6 THE COURT: Go ahead.

7 BY MR. GUENTERT:

8 Q Mr. Henderson, how long after your meeting with Robert  
9 Sorich did you speak to Mr. Soto?

10 A It was about a couple of months.

11 Q And was anybody else present for this conversation?

12 A With Desi, no.

13 Q Do you recall whether or not it was in person or on the  
14 telephone?

15 A It may have been on the phone.

16 Q What did you tell him during this conversation?

17 A That I was interested in the assistant to the  
18 commissioner's position.

19 Q Now, you were saying before, I think, that it was not your  
20 ideal job. What was wrong with the job from your standpoint?

21 A It was a appointed position, and if the mayor ever was out  
22 of office that I could possibly be laid off.

23 Q Why did you say you would take it?

24 A Because I wanted to get out of the hole, and I was hurt a  
25 lot.

1 Q When you say "get out of the hole," you mean the hole the  
2 pipes are in that you're doing the labor on; is that right?

3 A Exactly.

4 Q What happened with the assistant to the commissioner job?

5 A Nothing. I never heard anything about it.

6 Q Let me direct your attention now to around Christmastime  
7 of 2001. Did you attend a political function?

8 A Yes, I did.

9 Q What function was that?

10 A That was a breakfast meeting.

11 Q A breakfast meeting of what group?

12 A The Hispanic Democratic Organization.

13 Q Where did that take place?

14 A Downtown.

15 Q Who was present?

16 A Victor Reyes and most of the guys from the North Side and  
17 Robert Sorich.

18 Q What happened at the meeting?

19 A Robert had pulled me aside and explained to me that --

20 Q Stop right there. I'm sorry.

21 When he pulled you aside, was anybody else present  
22 for the ensuing conversation?

23 A No, sir.

24 Q Okay. Now tell us, what did he tell you?

25 A He told me that some house drain inspector jobs would be



1 opening up.

2 Q What did you tell him?

3 A I told him that I would put in the application.

4 Q Now, before you mentioned briefly what a house drain  
5 inspector is. Can you go into a little more detail about what  
6 your responsibilities would be on that job?

7 A Well, the main reason why they were hiring house drain  
8 inspectors because the mayor started a new program to help  
9 relieve homeowners of the burden of fixing their private  
10 drain, which is their sanitary sewer that comes out of the  
11 house on city property.

12 Q And goes to the city sewer line?

13 A Correct, correct.

14 Q And so why were these jobs opening up as a result of this  
15 program?

16 A Because there would be a lot more work, and the current  
17 inspectors that didn't -- you know, wouldn't be able to handle  
18 all the extra work.

19 Q And, again, which department was the house drain inspector  
20 job open in?

21 A Department of Sewers.

22 Q That's the department where you were currently working?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q Now, was this the first time you'd spoken to Robert Sorich  
25 about jobs since your meeting about the assistant to the

1 commissioner job?

2 A That I can recall, yes.

3 Q What did you do about the house drain inspector job?

4 A I put in an application.

5 Q And, again, why were you interested in this job?

6 A It was one of the best jobs with the city, and also I  
7 would be able to get out of the hole, and it's a less physical  
8 position.

9 Q After you put in your application what happened?

10 A I got an interview.

11 Q Where did the interview take place?

12 A 39th and Ashland.

13 Q What's at 39th and Ashland?

14 A That's the central district of the sewer department.

15 Q Who conducted the interview?

16 A Flenory Barnes.

17 Q Did you know him?

18 A No, I did not.

19 Q Did any other evaluation take place besides the interview?

20 A Yeah, there was a written test.

21 Q What was the general nature of the questions you were  
22 asked on the written test?

23 A It had to do with a little bit about blueprints and about  
24 the work you would be able to perform.

25 Q Were there other questions about your qualifications for

1 the job?

2 A No, not in particular.

3 Q Were there technical questions on the exam?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q Now, what happened after the interview?

6 A I was notified that I got the position.

7 Q Is that the job you have today?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q Are you good at it?

10 A I'm the best.

11 Q Did there come a time when someone asked you how you got  
12 the job of house drain inspector?

13 A Yes, there was.

14 Q When did that happen?

15 A In approximately October of 2002.

16 Q Who was it who asked you how you got that job?

17 A A Tribune reporter that came to my house.

18 Q Came to your house? Was anybody else present for your  
19 conversation with the Tribune reporter?

20 A There was actually two reporters.

21 Q And you?

22 A Correct.

23 Q And what question was put to you about how you got your  
24 job as house drain inspector?

25 A If my political work had anything to do with getting my

1 promotion.

2 Q What did you tell them?

3 A Told them no.

4 Q Was that true?

5 A No.

6 Q What was the truth?

7 A The truth is it did have a lot to do with it.

8 Q Why did you tell them something that wasn't true?

9 A Well, I didn't want to get in trouble by any of the guys  
10 in the organization, or I didn't want the general public to  
11 actually know.

12 Q About how people got those jobs?

13 A Correct.

14 Q Now, Mr. Henderson, can you turn to the tab that says  
15 Sewers 21 A in the exhibits, and I'd like you to turn to  
16 approximately the fourth page of that exhibit, and I want to  
17 ask you if you recognize the document there.

18 Are you there?

19 A Yes.

20 Q What do you recognize that particular page of Sewers 21 A  
21 to be?

22 A It's a letter addressed to me.

23 Q Referencing what? What's the letter about?

24 A That I was promoted.

25 Q To the job of house drain inspector?

1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q Is this particular copy of the letter in the same  
3 condition as the original that you received?

4 A No, it's not.

5 Q What's the difference?

6 A My address is left out.

7 Q Your specific street address; is that right?

8 A Correct.

9 Q Do you understand that was done to protect your privacy  
10 for the purpose of this trial?

11 A Yes, I do.

12 Q That address, though, was a location in Chicago, Illinois,  
13 as indicated by this copy?

14 A Yes.

15 Q How is it that you received that particular document?

16 A Through the mail.

17 Q U.S. mail delivery to your house at that address?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q And what city was that?

20 A Chicago.

21 Q Now, did that letter arrive shortly after the date  
22 indicated on the letter?

23 MR. DEADY: Objection, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: The objection is?

25 MR. DEADY: Leading.

1 THE COURT: Overruled.

2 BY MR. GUENTERT:

3 Q You can answer the question. Did you receive that letter  
4 shortly after the date indicated on the letter?

5 A Yes, I did.

6 Q What did you do with the letter after you received it?

7 A I kept it.

8 Q How long did you maintain possession of it?

9 A Till about a month ago.

10 Q What did you do with the letter one month ago?

11 A I gave it to the FBI agents that came to my house.

12 MR. GUENTERT: No further questions at this time,

13 Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Cross examination.

15 CROSS EXAMINATION

16 BY MR. DURKIN:

17 Q Ever had to testify in a courtroom before, Mr. Henderson?

18 A Not really, no.

19 Q And you don't know me, right?

20 A No, just from the TV.

21 Q Before the TV, before I became a celebrity you didn't know  
22 me, though, right?

23 A No, sir.

24 Q Okay. I'm confused. Did I hear you say that you lied to  
25 the Tribune about some kind of story they were running?

- 1 A Yes.
- 2 Q But did you not also just say that you were the best?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q And by that you meant you're the best house drain  
5 inspector, right?
- 6 A Yes, sir.
- 7 Q You go to work every day, right?
- 8 A Yes, sir.
- 9 Q Try to do the best you can do?
- 10 A Yes, sir.
- 11 Q You work hard?
- 12 A Definitely.
- 13 Q You worked hard even when you were in the hole?
- 14 A Yes, sir.
- 15 Q Down with the pipes, as you said?
- 16 A Yep.
- 17 Q Did I understand correctly that when you first talked to  
18 Mr. -- was it Mr. Reyes you first talked to about a city job?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q That was a meeting you talked about sometime in what,  
21 2006?
- 22 A No, 19 --
- 23 Q I'm sorry, two thousand --
- 24 When did you meet with Mr. Reyes?
- 25 A 1996.

1 Q 1996? That's the first time you talked to Mr. Reyes about  
2 getting a job?

3 A That I can recall, yes.

4 Q And when did you finally get a city job?

5 A In 1996.

6 Q I'm sorry. I wrote down the wrong date. You're right and  
7 I'm wrong.

8 But, if I remember correctly, you had joined HDO  
9 in -- two years before, in 1994, right?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q And it wasn't until two years later that you got the  
12 interview with Mr. Reyes, correct?

13 A Right.

14 Q And Mr. Reyes was the head of HDO?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q Now, you yourself aren't Hispanic, but your wife is  
17 Hispanic, correct?

18 A That's correct.

19 Q Is that how you knew about HDO?

20 A My ex-wife.

21 Q Your ex-wife?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And did I hear you say right you were working at the Jewel  
24 in the produce department?

25 A Yes, sir.



1 THE COURT: I'm sorry. Mr. Durkin, the jurors can't  
2 hear you.

3 MR. DURKIN: I'm sorry.

4 BY MR. DURKIN:

5 Q Did I hear you correctly that you -- before you went to  
6 work for the city you had been working at Jewel in the produce  
7 department?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q And did I hear you say to Mr. Guentert that you had -- you  
10 were looking for a better job, right?

11 A Correct.

12 Q Was it because you weren't making enough money, or was it  
13 something about promotion?

14 A Promotion.

15 Q Why weren't you getting promoted at the Jewel?

16 A I don't know.

17 Q I'm sorry?

18 A I have no idea.

19 Q Okay.

20 A Probably because I was in the union and I was a union  
21 steward.

22 Q Okay.

23 A That could have had something to do with it.

24 Q That's what you thought at the time?

25 A Yeah.

1 Q Okay. And so you thought you might do better at the city;  
2 am I right?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q Okay. And did you know anything about city employment  
5 when you -- in 19 -- this is what, 1994?

6 A Yeah.

7 Q Did you know anything about city employment?

8 A Not in particular, no. Never applied for a job.

9 Q Okay. Did you grow up in the city?

10 A Yes, I did.

11 Q Where did you grow up?

12 A Lakeview.

13 Q Where did you go to high school?

14 A Shurz in Lakeview.

15 Q Okay. And did you graduate from high school?

16 A I have my GED.

17 Q Okay. And what kind of work did you do after high school?

18 A I worked for a friend of mine. He had a construction  
19 company.

20 Q And then what did you do?

21 A Then I worked at Jewel.

22 Q How long did you work at Jewel?

23 A 15 years.

24 Q Okay. And you thought that the city might give you a  
25 better chance at some advancement, correct?

1 A That's right.

2 Q Now, so how did you come to learn about HDO? Who told you  
3 about that?

4 A A friend of my ex-wife's.

5 Q And who was that?

6 A Jose Perez.

7 Q And was he a member of HDO?

8 A Yes, he was.

9 Q And did he work for the city?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Where did he work, if you know?

12 A Department of Sewers.

13 Q Okay. And did he tell you that it might help you get a  
14 city job if you were a member of HDO?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Did he tell you there were other ways to get city jobs?

17 A Not that I can recall, no.

18 Q But he didn't tell you there was any guarantee you'd get a  
19 city job by being a member of HDO, did he?

20 A No, he did not.

21 Q And in fact, it took you almost two years to even get an  
22 interview, correct?

23 A You're right.

24 Q And do I take it during those two years you were still  
25 working at Jewel?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. And nobody forced you to do any political work that  
3 you didn't want to do, correct?

4 A Correct.

5 Q Did you happen to believe -- I mean, let me ask you this.  
6 I think you said you worked on what, what was the first  
7 campaign you worked on?

8 A Dawn Clark Netsch.

9 Q All right. Do you know Dawn Clark Netsch?

10 A No, I did not.

11 Q Okay. And you didn't have any particular interest in that  
12 election, did you?

13 A Not at all.

14 Q All right. She's kind of a lakefront liberal, isn't she?

15 A I really didn't even know at that time. It was like two  
16 days I was in.

17 Q You were just doing what they asked you to do, right?

18 A You're right.

19 Q Did she win?

20 A No, she did not.

21 Q Now, after that I think you said the next campaign you  
22 worked on was Mayor Daley's '95 campaign, right?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q Okay. Now, you certainly knew who Mayor Daley was, right?

25 A Of course.

1 Q And would I be correct in assuming you like Mayor Daley?

2 A Of course I do.

3 Q Okay. So you were very happy to work on his campaign,  
4 weren't you?

5 A Yes, I was.

6 Q Nobody had to force you to work on his campaign, did they?

7 A Nope.

8 Q And you believed in what Mayor Daley stood for, correct?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Would I be correct in assuming you voted for Mayor Daley  
11 in all the previous elections?

12 MR. GUENTERT: I object, Judge.

13 THE COURT: Sustained to how he voted.

14 BY MR. DURKIN:

15 Q Well, but you -- what kinds of things did you do in 1995  
16 for Mayor Daley?

17 A Voter registration was our main goal.

18 Q And did anyone explain to you why that was important?

19 A Well, to get more people registered to support the mayor.

20 THE COURT: You got to move back just a little bit  
21 away from the microphone. Keep your voice up and move back  
22 from the microphone.

23 BY MR. DURKIN:

24 Q I'm sorry. Could you say that again?

25 A Yeah. Because usually when you register somebody to vote

1 it's going to be a voter for the mayor.

2 Q That's because the city itself is largely democratic,  
3 correct?

4 A Correct.

5 Q Now, were you still a member of the unions when you were  
6 working on the Daley campaign?

7 A Yes, I was.

8 Q What union were you a member of?

9 A 881.

10 Q And you know Mayor Daley to be very much in support of the  
11 unions, correct?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And I take it that's one of the policies you were in  
14 agreement with with Mayor Daley?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q Would I also take it to be correct that you like the  
17 things he's done for the city?

18 A Definitely.

19 THE COURT: I'm sorry. I couldn't hear.

20 MR. DURKIN: I said would I also be correct -- the  
21 first question is did he like --

22 THE COURT: No, I heard you. Was there an objection?

23 MR. GUENTERT: I'm sorry, Judge.

24 I object to his view of Mayor Daley's policies.

25 THE COURT: I sustain the objection.

1 BY MR. DURKIN:

2 Q Well, so in addition to working on registration for Mayor  
3 Daley's '95 campaign, what else did you do for that campaign?

4 A I worked the precinct.

5 Q What does that mean? Does that mean on election day?

6 A No. That means during the election I during like three or  
7 four months went door to door seeking support for the mayor,  
8 see if any services could be provided, any concerns of the  
9 neighborhood.

10 Q Okay. And that's what you were talking about when  
11 Mr. Guentert was talking to you about there was some form you  
12 were passing out that asked people about whether they needed  
13 their trees trimmed or anything like that, right?

14 A Usually there's a form, but a lot of times I just took  
15 notes and went back and filled out the form myself.

16 Q Okay. And you did that everywhere you went, correct?

17 A Correct.

18 Q Okay. And you weren't trying to bribe anybody by doing  
19 that, were you?

20 A Never.

21 Q That was just something you were asking them whether they  
22 needed help on, right?

23 A Correct.

24 Q Now, did you ever meet the manager of -- the campaign  
25 manager of Mayor Dale's '95 campaign?

1 A I really don't even know.

2 Q Do you know anybody -- a woman by the name of Gorski?

3 A Not that I --

4 Q G-O-R-S-K-I?

5 A Not that I can recall.

6 Q Okay. When you did the work on the Daley campaign, you  
7 just did your work through the Hispanic Democratic  
8 Organization, correct?

9 A Correct.

10 Q And you knew that the Hispanic Democratic Organization  
11 supported all kinds of different democratic candidates,  
12 correct?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q This wasn't the Hispanic Daley Organization; it was the  
15 Hispanic Democratic Organization?

16 A Correct.

17 Q Now, did I also understand you to say you had worked on  
18 some other campaigns for other democratic candidates?

19 A Yes.

20 Q There were several aldermanic candidates --

21 A Yes.

22 Q -- as I recall?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Did I also understand you worked on Vice President Al  
25 Gore's campaign?



1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q Did you work hard on that campaign?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q Not hard enough, though, right?

5 A No. I can't do it all myself.

6 Q Okay. But would I be correct in assuming that Mr. Gore  
7 was somebody you believed in as well?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Would I be correct in assuming that you'd been pretty much  
10 a Democrat all your life?

11 A All my life.

12 Q And nobody forced you to be a Democrat, do they?

13 A Always voted since I was 18.

14 Q Okay. Your father a Democrat?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 MR. GUENTERT: Object.

17 THE COURT: Sustained as to what his father was.

18 BY MR. DURKIN:

19 Q All right. Now, in addition to Mr. Gore's campaign, I  
20 think you said there was somebody after that?

21 A Well, there was -- during the campaign -- during Al Gore's  
22 campaign we helped Edgar Lopez.

23 Q That's right. I'm sorry. It was Mr. Lopez, right?

24 A Right.

25 Q And that was in 2004, correct?

1 A No, 2004 was not Edgar Lopez. That was in 2000.

2 Q Oh, in 2000. Okay, that was the first time -- I'm sorry.  
3 It was John Kerry ran against Mr. Bush in 2004, correct?

4 A Right.

5 Q Did you work on that campaign?

6 A Yes, I did.

7 Q Would I be correct in assuming you believed in Kerry over  
8 George Bush?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And 2000 it was Mr. Gore against George Bush, George W.  
11 Bush the first time, right?

12 A Oh, yeah. Yeah, you're right. You're right.

13 Q George, Jr., George W. Bush, right?

14 A Right.

15 Q Now, and it was in 2000 when Mr. Gore was running, that  
16 was the election between Edgar Lopez and Cynthia Soto,  
17 correct?

18 A Correct.

19 Q And which one of those was the Hispanic Democratic  
20 Organization candidate?

21 A Edgar Lopez.

22 Q Okay. And I forget what you said. Did he win or not?

23 A No, he did not.

24 Q Okay. You didn't get punished for that, did you?

25 A No, I did not.

1 Q Okay. Now, as I understand your testimony, you said you  
2 had been often injured as a laborer, correct?

3 A Correct.

4 Q And as I also understand it, in 2006 -- I'm sorry, in '96.  
5 I don't know why I keep saying 2006. I'm getting old. But in  
6 2006 when you first got an interview with Mr. Reyes --

7 And I said it again. I apologize.

8 In 19 -- you first went to work for HDO in 1994,  
9 correct?

10 A Correct.

11 Q November?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q When did you first get the interview with Mr. Reyes,  
14 roughly two years later?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q And that was the meeting you had with Mr. Reyes on a  
17 Saturday downtown in his office?

18 A Right.

19 Q And that's where Mr. Reyes said you want to wear a tie or  
20 you want to make money or words to that effect, right?

21 A Correct.

22 Q I bet now you wished you had taken the tie job, right?

23 A I don't know. I like my job.

24 Q Okay. But you got hurt, though, right? I mean, isn't  
25 that ultimately what you wanted to change from?

1 A You're right.

2 Q Going into the hole?

3 A You're right.

4 Q Okay. And you got the job when? You finally got a job  
5 when?

6 A November 1st of '96 I was hired.

7 Q Okay. And what was the title of your job?

8 A A laborer.

9 Q Okay. And that was a hard job, wasn't it?

10 A Yes, it was.

11 Q And up until this point you'd never met Robert, right?

12 A Right.

13 Q And you know who I'm talking about Robert, my client  
14 Robert Sorich, right?

15 A Right, correct.

16 Q You know Robert, right?

17 A Yes, I do know.

18 Q You like Robert, don't you?

19 A Yes, of course I do.

20 Q Everybody likes Robert, don't they?

21 MR. GUENTERT: Objection, Judge.

22 THE COURT: Sustained as to what everybody does.

23 BY MR. DURKIN:

24 Q Well, Robert was good to you, wasn't he?

25 A Yes, he was.

1 Q Robert got you out of that hole, didn't he?

2 A Yes, he did.

3 Q Okay. And you came to him and you asked whether there  
4 were any other job openings, correct?

5 A Right.

6 Q You didn't come to Robert for a fix, did you?

7 A No, I did not.

8 Q You came to Robert because Robert was somebody you knew  
9 you could go to to see if there was a job opening, correct?

10 A Correct.

11 Q And all he told you was what job openings there were,  
12 correct?

13 A Correct.

14 Q And did you get the first opening right away?

15 A No, I did not.

16 Q Took a while, didn't it?

17 A Yeah.

18 Q An odd kind of fix, wasn't it? I mean, if he was the  
19 fix-it guy, he certainly didn't fix it for you right away, did  
20 he?

21 A No.

22 Q You had to wait your time, correct?

23 A Right.

24 Q And how long did it take you from the time you first met  
25 Robert to the time you ultimately got this other job?

1 A You know, I don't remember exactly when I first met  
2 Robert, so I couldn't answer that question.

3 Q But it was quite some time, correct?

4 A Correct.

5 Q And that was this job that you currently have of house  
6 drain inspector, or is that a different job?

7 A No, that's the job I have now.

8 Q Okay. And Robert simply told you that there was going to  
9 be an opening because of this new mayor's program that you  
10 described for everybody about the connections to the home?

11 A The private drain -- the private drain program.

12 Q And that's what created the openings, right?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q In other words, up to that point there'd only been X  
15 amount of house drain inspectors, but because of this new  
16 program there was all of a sudden going to be some more,  
17 correct?

18 A Correct.

19 Q Okay. And did I hear you say those were good jobs?

20 A Very good jobs.

21 Q Okay. Which pays more, though, the laborer's job or the  
22 house drain job?

23 A The house drain job.

24 Q How much more?

25 A Probably about 15,000 a year.

1 Q Okay. Do you get overtime in that job as well?

2 A Very rarely.

3 Q Did you get overtime as a laborer?

4 A Sometimes.

5 Q And do I take it that as the inspector you didn't have to  
6 go down in the hole and worry about getting hurt?

7 A Sometimes we have to go down in the hole, but it's not  
8 like you're excavating or, you know, digging up the pipes.  
9 You're not lifting.

10 Q But as you told us, you became very good at it, correct?

11 A Correct.

12 Q Now, let's talk about this Tribune story. This Tribune --  
13 when you were contacted by the Tribune, it was by somebody --  
14 it was either Laurie Cohen, Jorge Mota or Andrew Martin,  
15 correct?

16 A Correct.

17 Q Do you remember was it all three or was it --

18 A I believe it was Laura Cohen and the Hispanic male.

19 Q Okay. I'm sorry, Laurie Cohen, L-A-U-R-I-E, Cohen?

20 A Yeah, I believe that's her name.

21 Q And when they contacted you, they were asking about jobs  
22 and HDO, correct?

23 A Correct.

24 Q And they asked you whether or not your political work had  
25 anything to do with the promotion, correct?

1 A Correct.

2 Q And you said that your political work had nothing to do  
3 with the promotion, correct?

4 A Correct, yes.

5 Q Now, and then they ultimately ran a story, correct?

6 A Correct.

7 Q And it was a big story that ran on page one, correct?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q And it was a story that ran on the front page of the  
10 Tribune in October, the end of October 2002, correct?

11 A Correct.

12 Q And it also had Victor Reyes's picture on the front page,  
13 didn't it?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And then it had several pictures -- the rest of the story  
16 ran on page 15, and it had a bunch of pictures there as well,  
17 correct?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Actually had Governor Blagoevich's picture on the second  
20 page of the article, correct?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Now, when is it that you were first contacted by the  
23 government about this case? Was that about April of 2005?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q And is that when you were visited by an FBI agent at your



1 office at 39th and Ashland?

2 A It was actually at 39th and Iron.

3 Q I'm sorry?

4 A It was actually at 39th and Iron.

5 Q Where is Iron in relation to Ashland?

6 A Approximately three blocks east of Ashland.

7 Q Okay. And was this an interview with somebody from the  
8 FBI by the name of Reiner and a Postal Inspector Hodapp and a  
9 Postal Inspector Lindow, who's here, I think?

10 MR. GUENTERT: Labor agent.

11 BY MR. DURKIN:

12 Q I'm sorry. Labor agent, this young lady here, was she  
13 there?

14 A I believe those were the three agents.

15 Q There was also somebody from the city by the name of John  
16 Schaumburg with you, right?

17 A Correct.

18 Q And Mr. Schaumburg is sitting in the second row here now,  
19 right?

20 A Correct.

21 Q He's a city lawyer?

22 A Yes, he is.

23 Q Okay. And they told you that they wanted to talk to you,  
24 correct?

25 A Correct.

1 Q And they told you they wanted to talk to you about how you  
2 got your job, right?

3 A I'm not sure at that time of the conversation exactly what  
4 it was.

5 Q Did they advise you of the nature of the interview?

6 A Yeah, I guess they did.

7 Q What did they tell you, as best you can recall?

8 A You know what, I really don't remember exactly.

9 Q Would I be correct in assuming you were a little nervous?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Was this the first time you had to talk to the FBI --

12 A Yes.

13 Q -- and these other criminal law enforcement federal  
14 inspectors?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q First time you ever had to use a lawyer?

17 A Yes, sir. No, not the first time I had to use a lawyer.

18 Q Okay. How about in a criminal investigation?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Okay. And Mr. Schaumburg is not a criminal lawyer; he's  
21 just a corporation counsel, right?

22 A Right.

23 Q He works for the city, right?

24 A Correct.

25 Q But you knew at that time, did you not, that the feds, the

1 federal government through the FBI and I think these other  
2 inspectors had already executed search warrants at City Hall,  
3 correct?

4 A Yeah, I read that in the paper.

5 Q That was all over the paper, right?

6 A Right.

7 Q And you also knew that there had been this massive  
8 investigation into what was called the hired truck program,  
9 correct?

10 A Correct.

11 Q And everybody at the city was aware of that, right?

12 A Right.

13 Q And when they talked to you, they wanted to talk to you  
14 about how you got your job, right?

15 A You know, I don't recall if they -- they asked me that.

16 MR. DEADY: One moment, Your Honor.

17 (Brief pause.)

18 MR. DURKIN: I'm sorry.

19 BY MR. DURKIN:

20 Q Am I correct that in -- I misspoke, and, again, it's  
21 because I mix up my dates. In the April '05 interview they  
22 only talked to you about hired truck, correct?

23 A Yes.

24 Q That's what they were asking you about in April of '05?

25 A I believe so, yes.

1 Q And they asked you about people that you had got some  
2 bottles of liquor from; am I right?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Did you tell them why you got the liquor?

5 MR. GUENTERT: Objection, Judge, improper  
6 impeachment.

7 MR. DURKIN: I'm not trying to impeach him.

8 THE COURT: I sustain the objection.

9 BY MR. DURKIN:

10 Q Let me ask you this. They did ask -- did they -- did you  
11 know why they were asking you -- did they explain to you why  
12 they were asking you about these bottles of liquor you got?

13 MR. GUENTERT: Objection, Judge, relevance.

14 THE COURT: Sustained.

15 BY MR. DURKIN:

16 Q Did they ask you about any dealings you had with DePaul  
17 Plumbing?

18 A Yes.

19 MR. GUENTERT: Objection, relevance.

20 THE COURT: Sustained.

21 BY MR. DURKIN:

22 Q Well, did they ask you about whether somebody took you to  
23 a Cubs game?

24 MR. GUENTERT: Objection.

25 THE COURT: Sustained.

1 BY MR. DURKIN:

2 Q In any event, you would agree with me, would you not, that  
3 no matter what they asked you about in April of '05, they  
4 didn't ask you anything about how you got your job or anything  
5 about your job, correct?

6 A Correct.

7 Q The context of how you got it, right?

8 A Right.

9 Q They were interested in other things then, right?

10 A You're right.

11 Q It wasn't until a year later, almost a year to the day,  
12 that they started -- came again and asked you about how you  
13 got your job, correct?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And that was on April 7th of 2006, correct?

16 A I'm not sure of the exact date.

17 Q If I showed you a copy of the memorandum, might it refresh  
18 your recollection?

19 (Brief pause.)

20 THE COURT: Could we turn the projector off?

21 MR. DURKIN: Yes, that's fine.

22 BY MR. DURKIN:

23 Q That was on April 7th of 2006; am I right?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And that was a meeting here in this building at the U.S.

1 Attorney's Office, correct?

2 A They actually came to my house first.

3 Q When did they come to your house?

4 A I'm not sure of the date.

5 Q Was that -- was that between the time they spoke to you in  
6 April of 2005 and April 7th, 2006?

7 A I'm not sure exactly the date. It was recently, I mean,  
8 probably around April 7th or before.

9 Q Did they come to your house on March 23rd, 2006, to pick  
10 up some letters?

11 A That sounds about right.

12 Q Okay. And who was it that came to your house? Was that  
13 Miss Lindow?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And how did they come to -- how did they end up coming to  
16 your house in March of '06? Did they call you in advance  
17 or --

18 A No, they did not.

19 Q Did they just show up at your door?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And when they showed up at your door, what were they  
22 asking you for?

23 MR. GUENTERT: Objection, relevance.

24 MR. DEADY: Judge, I'd like to be heard.

25 THE COURT: Let's have a side bar.

1 (Side bar conference:)

2 THE COURT: There's an objection to a question that  
3 Mr. Durkin is asking and you want a side bar. I don't  
4 understand.

5 MR. DEADY: I think Mr. Durkin -- I mean, this  
6 witness already testified that somebody --

7 THE COURT: Is Mr. Durkin -- it's Mr. Durkin's  
8 witness.

9 MR. DEADY: All right.

10 THE COURT: Mr. Durkin.

11 MR. DURKIN: I'm sorry. Is there an objection?

12 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

13 MR. DURKIN: And the nature of it is?

14 THE COURT: Relevance.

15 MR. DURKIN: Well, I believe they came to his house  
16 and asked him for the letters, one of which is what they put  
17 into evidence.

18 THE COURT: I have no idea what the letters are.  
19 What letter are we talking about?

20 MR. DURKIN: This is the 302 or the report of that.  
21 It says that's what they came for. I believe that's the  
22 letter they put into evidence.

23 THE COURT: What does the government say?

24 MR. GUENTERT: The question was what were they asking  
25 for. A lot of these questions are about the actions, the

1 motivations of the government or the agents. It's hard to  
2 understand why any of that matters at this point in the  
3 examination.

4 THE COURT: Just ask the question what they asked  
5 for.

6 MR. DURKIN: That's fine.

7 THE COURT: All right.

8 (Whereupon, the following proceedings were had in  
9 open court, in the presence and hearing of the jury:)

10 BY MR. DURKIN:

11 Q Am I right that they showed up at your house at about 5:45  
12 p.m. on March 23rd, 2006?

13 A I don't know the exact time, but it was around that time,  
14 yes.

15 Q Okay. I mean, it was after work?

16 A Yeah, I was actually laying down.

17 Q And before they arrived did you know they were coming?

18 A No, I did not.

19 Q And did they knock on the door? How did they get in?

20 A Yeah, they knocked on the door, and I let them in.

21 Q And when they came in did they tell you what they were  
22 there for?

23 A Basically I kind of knew.

24 Q Why?

25 A Well, I've met with them already a year before, and they



1 said they spoke to me.

2 Q And did they ask you for specific things?

3 A Yes, they did.

4 Q What did they ask you?

5 A About a letter.

6 Q And was that the letter that was up on the screen here?

7 A Yes.

8 Q How long did this meeting take?

9 A Approximately 20 minutes.

10 Q And did you -- was that the first time they began asking  
11 you anything about your job and how you got it?

12 A Yes.

13 Q But at that point they were already asking you for whether  
14 you had a specific letter, correct?

15 A I think it came out near the end of the conversation.

16 Q On March 23rd?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Okay. And that was just March 23rd of 2006, correct?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q Now, and then after that, on April 7th, that's when you  
21 went down and met at the U.S. Attorney's Office, correct?

22 A Correct.

23 Q When you came to the U.S. Attorney's Office, you met with  
24 Miss Lindow and Agent Hauser of the FBI, both of whom are  
25 sitting here, right?

1 A I believe so, yes.

2 Q You believe you met with them, or you believe -- they are  
3 both sitting here, are they not?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q Okay. And is that who you met with?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. And you also met with Miss Ruder, the lady that was  
8 asking you questions, correct?

9 A I'm not sure if that was the day I met her or not.

10 Q If I showed you a copy of the memo, would it refresh your  
11 recollection as to who was there?

12 A Yes.

13 (Brief pause.)

14 Okay.

15 Q Does that refresh your recollection that Miss Ruder was  
16 there?

17 A Yes, it does.

18 Q And Mr. Schaumburg was there as well, right?

19 A Correct.

20 Q And that's when they started asking you about HDO,  
21 correct?

22 A Correct.

23 Q And you talked about the meeting with Mr. Reyes in '96,  
24 right?

25 A Yes.

1 Q And you talked about other things, many of which you've  
2 already testified to, correct?

3 A Yes, yes, sir.

4 Q Now, you -- when did they ask you about the Tribune story?

5 A I'm not sure if it was at that meeting or not.

6 Q Now, did you also tell them in that interview about asking  
7 Robert to get a transfer at some point?

8 A Yes, I did.

9 Q And when was that?

10 A That I asked Robert?

11 Q Um-hum.

12 A Had to be in 2002.

13 Q And was that because you'd been assigned as a house drain  
14 inspector someplace on the West Side?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q And you wanted to get a transfer to a different location,  
17 correct?

18 A Correct.

19 Q Robert wasn't able to get you that transfer, was he?

20 A No, he wasn't.

21 Q Was he at least nice to you about it?

22 A Always.

23 Q He didn't tell you to go pound sand or anything like that,  
24 right?

25 A Never.

1 Q He didn't tell you to go out and work harder for the  
2 political organization, right?

3 A No, he did not.

4 Q He never told you anything like that, did he?

5 A No, he didn't.

6 Q And you still work for the city, correct?

7 A Yes, I do.

8 Q And you're proud of your work with the city, aren't you?

9 A Yes, I am.

10 Q You're proud of the job you do on a daily basis, aren't  
11 you?

12 A Yes.

13 MR. DURKIN: Nothing further.

14 MR. DEADY: Judge, I might be a little bit, so it  
15 might be a good time to take a break.

16 THE COURT: All right. Let's take a ten-minute  
17 recess, ladies and gentlemen.

18 (Jury out.)

19 (Recess taken.)

20 (Whereupon, the following proceedings were had in  
21 open court, outside the presence and hearing of the jury:)

22 THE COURT: Ready, Mr. Deady?

23 MR. DEADY: Yes, Judge. In discussion with counsel,  
24 I have no questions.

25 MR. MILLER: Judge, if I can advise you, the next

1 witness you need to caution before or order before.

2 THE COURT: All right.

3 (Whereupon, the following proceedings were had in  
4 open court, in the presence and hearing of the jury:)

5 THE COURT: Mr. Deady.

6 MR. DEADY: Your Honor, we have no questions.

7 THE COURT: All right. Miss Giacchetti.

8 MS. GIACCHETTI: None, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Mr. Blegen.

10 MR. BLEGEN: None.

11 THE COURT: Anything further from the government?

12 MR. GUENTERT: Briefly, Your Honor.

13 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. GUENTERT:

15 Q Mr. Henderson, you were asked questions about your job as  
16 a laborer. Do you recall that?

17 A Yes.

18 Q You have to keep your voice up again.

19 A Yes.

20 Q Is that a hard job or an easy job?

21 A A hard job.

22 Q What makes it a hard job?

23 A It's a lot of physical lifting and bending and crawling  
24 into the hole.

25 Q Is it also a job that requires certain kinds of skill or

1 understanding of how the sewers work?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Is it a job that you have to be qualified for apart from  
4 the physical labor?

5 MR. DURKIN: Object to the leading.

6 THE COURT: Sustained.

7 BY MR. GUENTERT:

8 Q Well, let me ask you this. What qualifications are  
9 necessary for the job besides being able to lift something  
10 that's heavy?

11 A For a laborer you just got to be physically -- in  
12 physical -- good physical condition.

13 Q By working on the job, what, if any, additional skills did  
14 you develop by working in the hole with the sewer pipes?

15 A Well, I learned how to install sewer pipe. Also I learned  
16 how to lay brick. Learned about safety, shoring up a hole.

17 Q Now, are those -- was that experience, did that serve as  
18 some basis for your qualification to be a house drain  
19 inspector?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Now, you recall Mr. Durkin asking you questions involving  
22 your opinion about why you got your job as a house drain  
23 inspector?

24 MR. DURKIN: I don't recall that.

25 BY MR. GUENTERT:

1 Q Well, you were certainly asked about your qualifications  
2 for the job of house drain inspector; is that correct?

3 A Right.

4 Q And, now, you were asked your opinion about how you do  
5 that job; is that right?

6 A Correct.

7 Q And what's your opinion?

8 A That I do it well.

9 Q Now, is it your understanding that you could have gotten  
10 that job of house drain inspector, given your qualifications,  
11 without doing political work?

12 MR. DEADY: Objection. Calls for speculation.

13 THE COURT: Sustained.

14 BY MR. GUENTERT:

15 Q Do you recall also being asked questions about the purpose  
16 of seeing Mr. Sorich about city jobs?

17 A Can you repeat that again?

18 Q Do you recall Mr. Durkin asking you questions about your  
19 purpose in seeing Mr. Sorich about getting a city job?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Now, specifically do you recall him asking you about going  
22 to see him about what city jobs were open? Do you recall  
23 those questions?

24 A Yes.

25 Q First of all, how do city employees general speaking find

1 out about what positions are open?

2 A They were on a bid board.

3 Q Now, when you went to see Mr. Sorich, did you go to see  
4 him about what jobs were open or to get a job that was open?

5 MR. DURKIN: Object to the leading.

6 THE COURT: Overruled.

7 BY MR. GUENTERT:

8 Q Do you need the question repeated?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q Did you go to see him to find out what jobs were open or  
11 in order to get a job that was open?

12 A In order to get a job that was open.

13 MR. GUENTERT: I have no further questions, Your  
14 Honor.

15 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Durkin.

16 RECCROSS EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. DURKIN:

18 Q You wanted to know what jobs were open, right?

19 A Correct.

20 Q And that's what you were hoping to get, right?

21 A Correct. Yeah, yes.

22 Q And you didn't get it right away, right?

23 A No.

24 MR. DURKIN: I have nothing further.

25 THE COURT: Anything?