

little more seriously now than I did before. You're a little more cautious. Yes, I think you are. It does have some effect.

Q. How does the fact—

A. I suppose it is maybe a little fear of some of these characters, where you didn't really take them seriously before or really had no fear of them, you do now. You are looking over your shoulders when you walk out the door—that I never had to do before. Panning around the parking lot when I get into my vehicle—I never did that before.

Q. What about your home life? Have you made any changes there?

A. We had a complete security system put in. I mean, that is still not going to prevent somebody if they wanted to prevent the same type of—break a window and drop a bomb in there. At least it is—you know, they are not going to do . . . open a door without an alarm system. We have motion sensors outside. We have done what we can do to an affordable degree.

Q. Looking back, even with the focus you now have on safety, do you think there is any reason you would have suspected Sands and Holin?

A. Never. Never would have suspected them. I could have gone through, over the years, probably 50 other people I would have thought of before them as possible suspects if they came in here.

Q. Were they both charged in your court?

A. Neither one has been charged in this court.

Q. With the tax—

A. Yes, they both were charged with the tax counts. They resided together, indicted together, and I don't believe they have had any children.

Q. So it was some kind of business tax return?

A. Yes, they had an automotive repair place. Really, thinking back they did have a civil suit. Someone sued them for doing bad job performance. And I think—I can't remember if it was quality of work or fraudulent [practices] in the job. I can't remember, but there was a judgment against them.

Q. What type of a tax return was it that they were supposed to have filed? Was it property tax?

A. No, income tax.

Q. Income tax. A city—

A. Income tax. It is like a half of 1 percent income tax. I don't know . . . how much it was.

Q. So it is a village income tax?

A. Right. They actually had a trial. They came in here. We had a trial before the bench, not a jury trial. They

tried it before me. I found them guilty of not filing their tax return and delayed sentencing for a couple weeks. When they were in court before the trial, they had at that time already filed their income-tax form, correcting the nonfiling issue, and it showed that they didn't even owe any taxes. They just failed to file it. When they came to trial, they had done that. They had filed it already. I don't know why they wanted to go to trial on it. They did. I found them guilty.

So sentencing was delayed for two weeks. I wanted to make sure there was no more money owed or anything. There wasn't. I can't say what I would have done. In all likelihood, I would have made a recommendation to the visiting judge, probably would have [had] no jail time.

Q. Mike, is there anything you think I have missed that you want to particularly cover?

A. Oh, I think it is important for judges to if they have knowledge of a threat and even though there may be some hurt feelings with your local police department, that you contact the federal agents, which we did. I did. I had the FBI and the ATF involved.

There are always jurisdictional battles, and there is always the pride of the little department and whether they feel they probably can handle it. But for that extra bit of involvement and safety and technology, if the FBI can become involved, at least make that attempt.

They were extremely helpful in this case here through surveillance techniques. It is available to the local departments through our state government, but that takes two or three weeks to get everything set up. If you have the feds involved, they come in and they have it at their fingertips. They have it set up immediately. They had GPS placed in the suspect's car to follow him around. They had federal surveillance in my neighborhood and with the suspects. The locals sometimes don't have the ability because of lack of manpower to do that or because of lack of technology or lack of funding to have the technology, but the feds have it.

So if any judge is ever threatened like that—and maybe the Bureau can get involved, maybe they can't get involved—at least make that attempt. If is there some way they can tie it up in a federal charge—in this case . . . they did—this Dawn Holin has been convicted of a federal offense. I am sorry—of a felony. She had a gun in her possession, which is normally a state charge, but they closed the loop by stating that the gun was manufactured in another state and one way or another it had to come from that state to Ohio, therefore it is a felony, transporting a gun across state lines, and it is now a federal offense.

So if they can hang their hat on a federal offense, most likely if you have a good relationship with them, they will [help out]. I am very thankful for that. 