

**Global Perspectives on
Dissociative Disorders**
Individual and Societal Oppression

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The Franklin Scandal: The Cover-Up of Child Abuse and its Analogues to Dissociative Identity Disorder

NICK BRYANT

The Franklin Scandal is a book that carefully documents the cover-up of a nationwide pedophile network that pandered children throughout the United States. Nebraska legislators attempted to expose the network in 1989 and 1990, but the legislators' efforts were followed by a rash of mysterious deaths and the overpowering responses of federal and local law enforcement, including the FBI and Justice Department, which effected an immaculate cover-up of the trafficking network. The events delineated in The Franklin Scandal include parallels to the amnesic barriers that exist between a dissociated alter personality and the host personality in Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) in the respect that societal institutions entrusted with the task of protecting children instead functioned, in effect, as an "alter" invested in disavowal of these crimes, dissociated from the larger society that seeks to protect children. As the cover-up of child abuse affected by these institutions proliferated, the child-protective laws and values of the body politic and citizenry were thwarted, much as abuse-denying, abuser-aligned "alters" can thwart life-affirming, self-protective functions in individuals with DID.

In Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), the primary feature is the presence of two or more distinct personality states, self-reported or observed by others, resulting in a failure to recall everyday events and/or important autobiographical information, and/or traumatic events (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). DID is also characterized by an impaired continuity in the sense of self and the self's sense of agency (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). In a comprehensive review of the literature, Dalenberg et al. (2012) argue convincingly that DID is "a response to antecedent traumatic stress and/or severe psychological adversity" (Dalenberg et al., 2012, p. 1).

Many individuals with DID have personality states that can psychologically influence the larger psyche to be amnesic for their abuse or to deny their abuse in order to enhance their psychological survival. However, these initially "helping" personality states turn to abuser-identified persecutory intra-psychic entities over time, which ultimately become disruptive to the individual's psychological integrity (Sar & Öztürk, 2009).

By analogy, just as a traumatized individual's internal world can be characterized by entities dislocated from the whole, recent history tells us that the larger society also includes powerful subgroups, such as the leadership of religious institutions and the Boy Scouts, who should have worked to protect children, but instead protected the children's abusers by disavowing the children's abuse, which, in the context of the larger society, parallels the denial that exists in DID.

These subgroups and their effective disavowal of child abuse over decades begs the question of whether or not Americans wish to deny the reality of child abuse or have Americans' awareness of child abuse been limited by the effectiveness of these powerful subgroups to suppress this knowledge? The scandal involving Jerry Sandusky and Penn State and the subsequent outrage that it fostered indicates that Americans do not wish to deny the reality of child abuse. But, rather, Penn State had the ability to suppress the knowledge of child abuse over years. Penn State's effort to preserve and protect its power and prestige acted much like an abuser-aligned alter personality within the larger psyche, a society that views child abuse as anathema to its laws and mores.

The Franklin Scandal (Bryant, 2009), which was the culmination of a seven-year investigation into a child trafficking network, embodies the emergence of two competing and largely dissociated forces: federal and state authorities who engaged in the cover-up of child abuse and the citizenry who seeks to protect abused children.

The Franklin Scandal essentially begins with Lawrence (Larry) King of Omaha, Nebraska. King was an African American, and the media reported that he had climbed out of a working-class background to become a hugely successful entrepreneur. Throughout the 1980s, the middle-aged King, tall and corpulent, had been described as a Republican Party "high-roller" (Keary, 1988). He was Vice Chairman for Finance of the National Black Republican Council, a sanctioned affiliate of the Republican National Committee. King also ardently campaigned for the 1988 presidential bid of his personal friend George H.W. Bush. King had an array of diverse business ventures, but his primary day job was manager of Omaha's Franklin Community Federal Credit Union, which was created to provide loans for Omaha's underserved black community.

The first documented alleged victim of Lawrence King-related child abuse to come forward was Eulice Washington. She had been placed in the foster home of Jarrett and Barbara Webb as an eight-year-old—Barbara Webb was a cousin of Lawrence King. The Webbs eventually adopted Eulice and her two sisters as well as two other children. Three foster children also lived in the Webb home.

The children in the Webb home told social services personnel of repeated "beatings" and "whippings" at the hands of the Webbs (Carpenter, 1985). In fact, a physician who treated one of the children said that a "rubber hose" most likely produced the welts on his back (Carpenter, 1986). After years of social services' documented findings of abuse by the Webbs, the children in the Webb household were ultimately placed in various foster homes, but child abuse charges were never leveled against the Webbs.

After Eulice Washington's liberation from the Webb home, she told her new foster mother that Jarrett Webb had repeatedly molested her. She even passed a "polygraph" administered by the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) on her accusations (Carpenter, 1986), but Jarrett Webb was never prosecuted for his purported molestation of Eulice Washington.

Washington also told her foster mother that Lawrence King had flown her and several Boys Town students (Boys Town is the distinguished Catholic orphanage on the outskirts of Omaha) to pedophilic orgies in Chicago and New York City. In March of

1986, a Boys Town youth worker interviewed Eulice Washington and penned a very detailed report about her allegations regarding Boys Town students and Lawrence King. The youth worker discovered that a Boys Town employee who she did not "trust" was tasked with looking into the allegations (Bryant, 2009, p. 58). Boys Town also allegedly informed the NSP and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) about Eulice Washington's allegations.

At this point, social workers, NSP personnel, and officers within Nebraska's state judiciary were aware of the alleged abuse within the Webb household, but no child abuse charges were brought against the Webbs. Boys Town claims that the NSP and FBI were also informed of Eulice Washington's allegations regarding Lawrence King, but she was not interviewed by either investigative entity. Thus, Eulice Washington and the children in the Webb household represent the first documented disruption in the normal continuity of a society to protect its children from abuse. The failure to appropriately respond to the allegations arising in the Webb household by institutions entrusted to protect children is the first manifestation of a societal subgroup that was an abuse-disavowing, abuser-aligned nascent "alter." The guardian ad litem for Eulice Washington would later testify at a grand jury that the county prosecutor did not prosecute Jarrett Webb, because he did not believe Eulice Washington's allegations (Transcript of testimony, Douglas County Grand Jury, 1990). So, in essence, the abuse was ignored and thus omitted as a reality from the collective memory of the authorities and also the society.

Approximately two years after Eulice was polygraphed by the NSP, the Omaha Police Department (OPD) investigated Lawrence King and a photographer associated with King, Rusty Nelson, for "possible child pornography" (Hoch, 1988). But, despite the OPD uncovering leads and filing multiple crime reports, the investigation was inexplicably discontinued (Bryant, 2009, pp. 66-69).

About a month after the OPD's first documented investigation of Lawrence King for alleged child abuse, Shawnetta Moore, a 15-year-old girl at an Omaha psychiatric hospital, disclosed to hospital personnel, including her psychiatrist, that she had been enmeshed in a child prostitution and pornography ring since she was nine years old. She also disclosed ritualistic forms of abuse, including multiple perpetrators committing homicide.

Moore's psychiatrist phoned the OPD, and an OPD officer was dispatched to the hospital to interview Moore. Moore eventually related to the OPD officer that Lawrence King was "involved" in her abuse and the abuse of other children (Carmean, 1988). Although the OPD officer found Moore to be "credible," the OPD did not interview her again (Bryant, 2009, p. 76). Moore's essentially ignored allegations by the OPD represent another disruption in the normal continuity of a society protecting its children from sexual abuse. By ignoring Moore's allegations, the OPD was, in effect, also omitting her abuse from the collective memory of the larger society.

Nebraska's Foster Care Review Board is a state agency that reviews the plans, services, and placements of children in foster care to ensure their optimum welfare, and members of the Foster Care Review Board had become aware of several allegations regarding Lawrence King's abuse of children. The Foster Care Review Board submitted a report to the Nebraska Attorney General of a "child exploitation ring" on July 20, 1988.

Although the Nebraska Attorney General's office was alerted about the abuse allegations whirling around King, the Nebraska Attorney General's office investigator who

was assigned to investigate the child abuse allegations would confess that he did not conduct an interview of a single alleged victim (Transcript of testimony, Franklin Committee Hearing, 1989). The inaction by Nebraska Attorney General's office with regard to Lawrence King-related child abuse allegations compounded the neglect of the aforementioned agencies, and, thus, the chasm widened between the abuse-disavowing alter protecting the alleged child molesters and the laws and mores of the body politic.

THE FAILURE OF THE FRANKLIN COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

On November 4, 1988, five months after the Foster Care Review Board alerted state authorities about their concerns regarding Lawrence King-related child abuse, federal agents descended on the Franklin Community Federal Credit Union, and the National Credit Union Administration would ultimately conclude that King had looted \$39.4 million from the credit union (Dorr, 1988).

A few weeks after the Franklin Credit Union was raided by federal agents, Nebraska state senators in Lincoln, the state's capital, had seen enough Franklin Credit Union press about missing millions and cooked books to conclude that something was seriously awry. The senators unanimously approved Legislative Resolution 5, which called for a state senate subcommittee, the "Franklin Committee," to investigate the Franklin Credit Union's failure.

Senator Loran Schmit, who chaired the state senate's Banking Committee, drafted Resolution 5. Schmit was a third-generation corn farmer and a 21-year veteran of the state legislator. The 60-year-old Schmit was Nebraska's version of a rural Renaissance man: he had earned a B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Nebraska, and he juggled various business ventures.

As chairman of the state senate's Banking Committee, Senator Schmit had witnessed major banking improprieties in Nebraska throughout the 1980s, and he initially thought that the Franklin Credit Union was merely one more example of Nebraska's banking industry malfeasance. "You can't get rid of that much money without someone knowing about it," said Schmit the day he introduced Resolution 5 (World-Herald Bureau, 1988).

Shortly after Schmit introduced Resolution 5, he said he received an anonymous phone call that foreshadowed the suppressive forces that the "Franklin Committee" would be challenging: the caller urged Schmit not to pursue an investigation into the Franklin Credit Union under the auspices of being a "good Republican," because he said it would "reach to the highest levels of the Republican Party." (Bryant, 2009, p. 79) Schmit, however, was undeterred.

Senator Ernie Chambers, the 52-year-old Democrat representing North Omaha, immediately jumped on the Resolution 5 bandwagon. Chambers was the only senator voting for the investigation into the financial collapse of the Franklin Credit Union who was aware of the child abuse allegations regarding King, because members of the Foster Care Review Board had edified him about the allegations.

After Resolution 5 was passed, members of the Foster Care Review Board testified in front of the emerging Franklin Committee, and the Committee members heard shocking tales of interstate child trafficking and extreme child abuse that had been perpetrated with impunity, even though authorities within law enforcement were aware of the allegations.

The Foster Care Review Board members' testimony in front of the Franklin Committee ushered the King-related child abuse allegations into public consciousness, and the *Omaha-World Herald*, *Lincoln Journal*, and *The New York Times* followed with articles on the allegations. *The New York Times* described the allegations as "lurid" (Robbins, 1988).

The *Lincoln Journal* ran an article on Franklin-related child abuse that quoted Nebraska Attorney General Robert Spire and OPD Chief Robert (Bob) Wadman. "We did receive some sensitive information in July," said Attorney General Spire (Rutledge, 1988). "My office acted promptly and professionally and nothing was sat on" (Rutledge, 1988). OPD Chief Wadman spoke of a thoroughly conducted investigation and denied a lack of action by the OPD: "Every step that should have been taken was taken" (Rutledge, 1988).

But, in reality, Shawnetta Moore had been interviewed only once by the OPD, and Eulice Washington had never been interviewed by the OPD or the Attorney General's office. Previously, the Nebraska Attorney General's office and the OPD simply ignored the child abuse allegations, but now those agencies were proactively engaging in deceit to cover up the child abuse allegations.

The Franklin Committee members quickly realized that they would be navigating through law enforcement disavowals as they investigated the child abuse allegations. So their first major order of business was to appoint a chief legal counsel, and he quickly conscripted a Lincoln Police Department officer to serve as the Committee's investigator.

At the beginning of July 1989, the Franklin Committee was required to deliver an "Interim Report" to the state's legislature to secure additional funding, and the Committee's counsel was tasked with writing the report. In the Interim Report, the Committee's counsel said that the Committee's investigation of the Lawrence King-related child abuse allegations would be wrapping up at the end of August. But Senator Schmit absolutely would not sign off on the Committee discontinuing its investigation of the child abuse allegations by the end of August, and he added an addendum to the report stating that the child abuse allegations would continue to be investigated after August.

The Committee ultimately ruptured over the direction of the report. Three senators, and the Committee's counsel and investigator resigned in the wake of Senator Schmit's addendum. An *Omaha World-Herald* article reported on the Committee's rupture. The article quoted the Committee's investigator, who said that Schmit had remarked to him that there was "pressure to stop the investigation." In the article, Schmit confirmed the pressures: "I have gotten phone calls threatening me," he said. "I've been told to leave it alone or my kids were going to be orphans" (Flanery, 1989).

After the resignations, the Franklin Committee conscripted a Lincoln, Nebraska-based attorney as the Committee's counsel, and, at the behest of the Committee's new counsel, the Committee hired Lincoln, Nebraska-based private investigator Gary Caradori to be its investigator. Caradori had a stellar record in both the military and also in the NSP before forming Caracorp, his private investigation firm.

Though Caradori was the chief executive officer of a large security and investigative firm, he was a seasoned and relentless detective, and his passion was finding missing persons, particularly abducted children and teenage girls enmeshed in drugs and prostitution. Over the years, various newspapers had published articles on Caradori's investigations.

Whereas the Franklin Committee's initial investigator had conducted an investigation into state law enforcement's investigation of Lawrence King-related child abuse allegations, Caradori was committed to carrying out his own patented investigation. Early in his investigation, Caradori received a call from a friend who was an OPD lieutenant, and his friend cautioned him of the looming danger ahead, saying that "the sexual component of Franklin had been covered up from the start" (Bryant, 2009, p. 105).

Caradori immersed himself in the Franklin investigation with his usual determination. His initial foray included reading the reports, memos, and all the previous documentation and testimony collected by the Franklin Committee. From the onset of Caradori's investigation, several obstacles confronted Caradori and his staff. Many of Caradori's "Investigative Reports" from August and September of 1989 note that he faced widespread distrust and a pall of fear as he attempted to cultivate confidential informants or simply interview individuals who had previously volunteered information, because they suspected that the Franklin Committee was merely serving the function of a continuing cover-up.

In addition to widespread distrust, Caradori also encountered enemies that he had not anticipated. He suspected his phones were tapped, because when he arranged meetings over the phone FBI agents would already be at the designated place when he arrived. In an interview conducted with Caradori's wife, she stated that a friend of Caradori's who worked for the phone company checked out his phones and confirmed that they were tapped (Bryant, 2009, p. 106).

Despite these problems, Caradori soldiered on to locate victims and follow the money trail. To follow the money trail, Caradori originally received help from the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA). After the Franklin Credit Union was closed, the NCUA had set up a "reconstruction office" in Omaha to decipher the whereabouts of the missing millions (Bryant, 2009, pp. 107-108). The stacked boxes there contained thousands of checks, invoices, receipts, etc. The NCUA initially granted Caradori access to the reconstruction office, and he was allowed to make copies of documentation he deemed relevant to his investigation.

At the NCUA reconstruction office, Caradori and his investigative assistant, Karen Ormiston, managed to find boxes containing scores of receipts from various air charter services used by Lawrence King. The flight receipts rarely listed passengers, or would merely list "Larry King." The receipts also revealed that King chartered planes on an almost weekly basis. Though King jetted to numerous locations throughout the country, his favored destination was Washington, DC.

The majority of the charter services were located outside the state of Nebraska, so they did not have to honor the Franklin Committee's subpoenas. In October 1989, however, Caradori made contact with the pilot of a charter service frequented by King (Caradori, 1989a). The pilot informed Caradori that he had piloted King, "two young males in their midteens," and a "young white female in her midteens" on a flight to Los Angeles (Caradori, 1989a).

In a later Investigative Report (Caradori, 1990a), Caradori described his meeting with a former employee of a charter service used by King. The woman disclosed that King used her charter service "once a week," and she remarked that King routinely traveled with a number of young men who dressed in expensive suits. She also said the young men never spoke, which she found "strange."

ADDITIONAL VICTIMS SPEAK OUT

Caradori's Investigative Reports describe him scouring the streets and bars of Omaha to cultivate informants. He heard numerous rumors corroborating King's abuse of children, and it enabled him to identify other alleged perpetrators. At this point in the investigation, it was not uncommon for Caradori to log over 100-hour weeks.

One of the names Caradori gleaned working the bars and cultivating confidential informants was Alisha Owen. At that time, 20-year-old Owen was serving a three to four year sentence at the Nebraska Facility for Women at York for bouncing checks. Caradori had no idea whether or not Owen would be a fruitful lead, and he consigned her to a low-priority lead as demonstrated by the fact that he contacted the prison's administration about Owen on October 11 (Caradori, 1989b), but he did not make a trek to York prison until October 30 (Caradori, 1989a).

Caradori and his investigative assistant, Karen Ormiston, arrived at York prison around 7:00 p.m. Earlier that afternoon, Caradori had phoned the prison's Associate Warden and requested to meet Owen in a location that offered a modicum of privacy, and prison personnel escorted Caradori and Ormiston to a conference room in the prison basement.

A pair of guards then ushered Owen into the room, and Caradori and Ormiston introduced themselves to her. Owen stood 5'4" and weighed 150 pounds in her brown state-issued prison garb. She had a thick mane of curly brown hair and hazel eyes. Her rounded face, tentative voice, and mannerisms had the qualities of a timid teenager, even though she had turned 21 years old the month before, and her adolescence had been a detour to her own private hell.

Though Caradori was gracious to Owen, he quickly cut to the chase. She was initially hesitant to discuss her past, but she later revealed to me that Caradori and Ormiston conveyed an integrity that allayed her suspicions and fears. Over the course of the next three hours, she confessed to her involvement with "former members of the Franklin Credit Union," and she specified perpetrators whose names had repeatedly surfaced throughout Caradori's investigation (Caradori, 1989a). At the conclusion of the interview, Caradori asked Owen if she would be willing to make a formal statement the following week. Owen said she needed to sound out her parents, because she felt that her cooperation would potentially endanger members of her family.

Later in the week, Owen's mother and father visited her at York—Owen and her mother then took a walk in the prison's yard. Owen told her mother that she had been one of the abused children in the "Franklin" case. Though Owen's mother was dumbfounded by her daughter's disclosures, she finally had an explanation of her daughter's peculiar behavior, starting at the age of 14. As Owen and her mother cried, her mother asked her daughter why she had not come to her parents for help. Owen said that she was convinced her parents would not have backed down from the powerful perpetrators and they would have been murdered.

After Owen met with her parents, she phoned Caradori and consented to be interviewed. The Committee's counsel drafted a waiver stating that Owen's statements were made freely and voluntarily without promises or threats, and she was under oath during her statement and would be subject to prosecution for perjured statements. On the morning of November 7, 1989, Caradori and Ormiston arrived at York and started videotaping Owen's statement around 11:30 a.m. Following a series of respites and breaks, they finished at 10:00 p.m.

In Caradori and Ormiston's interview synopsis, they state that Owen said she was 14 years old when she met "some Boys Town" students at an outdoor dance in August of 1983, and one of the Boys Town students invited Owen to a party the following Friday night (Caradori & Ormiston, 1989a, p. 1). On that Friday night, Owen said that the Boys Town student and a friend picked her up and drove her to a luxury apartment building. They arrived at the party between 9:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. The luxury apartment and the party were a world removed from Owen's working-class background and prior life experiences. Owen said that the party consisted of approximately six adults and 20 minors (Caradori & Ormiston, 1989a, p. 1). At the time of the first party she attended, Owen said she did not have a clue about the identities of the adults. But in a short time she understood the adults to include Lawrence King, then-*Omaha World-Herald* publisher Harold Andersen, and then-*Omaha* Police Chief Robert Wadman (Caradori & Ormiston, 1989a, p. 1).

Owen said that she quickly found herself in over her head. She worried about retribution against her family, and she felt that she could not turn to the police for help. She also said that one of King's henchmen repeatedly terrorized her by threatening her life and the lives of her family members too. She stressed to Caradori that her fear of retribution was very real—she had heard of kids who were either "sold or murdered" (Caradori & Ormiston, 1989a, p. 18). She explained that the threats were counterbalanced by financial rewards: Owen regularly received funds as a drug courier.

Owen named several perpetrators and victims, and she discussed being on two flights—one to Kansas City and one to Los Angeles—where King pandered her as an underage prostitute (Caradori & Ormiston, 1989a, p. 11). Owen also told Caradori that she had several sexual liaisons with OPD Chief Wadman (Caradori & Ormiston, 1989a, pp. 1–9). She provided a myriad of specifics, regarding places and times, when she discussed her liaisons with Chief Wadman. Owen also related stories of sadistic abuse, including bondage and the threat of mutilation with a knife.

After Caradori videotaped Owen for a second time on November 21, he started to search for Troy Boner, who Owen said had also been victim in King's pandering network. Caradori eventually made contact with Boner through his mother, and they agreed to meet at a restaurant in Omaha. As Caradori and Ormiston waited for Boner in the restaurant's parking lot, he pulled up in a green Gran Torino that was driven by his mother's boyfriend. The 22-year-old Boner, standing 6'3" and weighing 200 pounds, cautiously emerged from the car and shook hands with Caradori and Ormiston.

Caradori noted that Boner was noticeably agitated, and the restaurant was too congested to confer a feeling of privacy, so Caradori suggested a second restaurant nearby. Boner rode with Caradori and Ormiston, but he had his mother's boyfriend follow them. His mother's boyfriend stayed in the parking lot as Boner, Caradori, and Ormiston entered the second restaurant. The three situated themselves around a table and talked in "generalities" for five or ten minutes before Caradori provided Boner with a succession of details that were designed to convey to Boner that his information was "on target" (Caradori, 1989c). After half an hour, Boner decided to grant Caradori a formal, videotaped statement.

Caradori and Ormiston then drove Boner to a Residence Inn hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska, where Boner gave them a seven-hour videotaped interview. During Boner's videotaped statements, he corroborated Owen's information on numerous alleged perpetrators, including Lawrence King and OPD Chief Wadman (Caradori & Ormiston, 1989b, p. 7). Boner also corroborated Owen on many events, which included being

flown to various locations to be used as an underage prostitute. Boner, too, discussed sadistic abuse, which included bondage and being burned by cigarettes.

Both Owen and Boner had mentioned that Danny King (no relation to Lawrence King) was another victim enmeshed in Lawrence King's alleged pedophile network. The following week, Caradori and Boner drove to Omaha and proceeded to Danny King's apartment. Boner knocked on the front door as Caradori stood next to him. Danny King let Boner into the apartment, and Boner briefly explained Caradori's intentions to King. Caradori noted that Boner and Danny King were alone for approximately "two minutes" before Caradori entered the residence (Caradori & Ormiston, 1989c, p. 1).

The 20-year-old Danny King—short, frail, and skinny—had a congenital throat condition, and he spoke in a guttural rasp. Danny King had a single mother, and he grew up with little supervision, whereas Owen came from an intact nuclear family and Boner came from a semi-intact family.

After Caradori dropped off Boner, he took Danny King to the Residence Inn hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska. Before Caradori drove Danny King to the Residence Inn, King asked Boner "Did you tell them everything?" And Boner replied, "Yes, I told them everything" (Caradori, 1989d). The following day, Caradori and Ormiston interviewed King for approximately six hours. During Caradori's interview of Danny King, he corroborated both Owen and Boner on perpetrators, events, and flights (Caradori & Ormiston, 1989c, pp. 5–10). Danny King, like Owen and Boner, disclosed extremely sadistic abuse too. He discussed being subjected to bondage and beatings.

The allegations of Owen and Danny King corroborated those of Shawneta Moore about abuse perpetrated by a school administrator, even though Owen and King had never previously met Moore. Moreover, Caradori's interviews of Owen, Boner, and Danny King corroborated Eulice Washington on chartered flights. Owen and Boner also corroborated Washington on the purported entanglement of Boys Town students in Lawrence King's pandering network.

In addition to Washington, Owen, and Boner's statements about Boys Town victims, Caradori indicated that a confidential informant of Caradori's provided him with the names of several Boys Town students who had been allegedly ensnared by King's pedophile network (Bryant, 2009, p. 122). Caradori found these revelations to be heartbreaking, because Boys Town had employed his father as a teacher.

By mid-December of 1989, Caradori had accrued approximately 21 hours of victim testimony from Owen, Boner, and Danny King (Bryant, 2009, p. 130). As the Franklin Committee members were confronted with Caradori's mounting evidence, they became increasingly perplexed about where to turn due to their distrust of state and federal law enforcement, because Committee members felt that those agencies had not properly pursued the child abuse allegations. The Franklin Committee tendered its concerns to the U.S. Attorney General's office, but they did not receive a response.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROACTIVELY PARTICIPATES IN THE COVER-UP

The Committee ultimately submitted its 21 hours of videotaped statements to the offices of Nebraska's Attorney General and Nebraska's U.S. Attorney on December 27, 1989. State and federal law enforcement were now forced to act. They no longer had the luxury of defaulting to the position that the child abuse allegations had no

substance. In addition to pledging immediate action by the NSP, Nebraska's Attorney General called upon the Douglas County judges (Omaha is located in Douglas County) to impanel a grand jury to probe the child abuse allegations. The U.S. Attorney for Nebraska later announced that a federal grand jury would probe the allegations too.

The announced state grand jury coincided with a rather unexpected event concerning Lawrence King when President George H.W. Bush visited Omaha to speak at a fundraiser for Nebraska's governor. King claimed President Bush was a personal friend, and he had previously hosted a "\$100,000 gala" for the newly nominated Bush at the 1988 Republican Convention in New Orleans (Goodsell, 1989).

An unnamed source informed Caradori that King had purchased a ticket to attend the fundraiser. This source also disclosed to Caradori that when the Secret Service discovered King's plan to grace the fundraiser, they either ushered him to the federal courthouse or demanded that he make haste to the federal courthouse. Either way, King appeared at the federal courthouse in the early afternoon of February 7, 1990 before U.S. Magistrate Richard Kopf (Bryant, 2009, p. 134). (In the U.S. federal court system, a magistrate judge is a judge appointed to assist a U.S. District Court judge in the performance of his or her duties.)

At the hearing, which Magistrate Kopf called for without a motion from the prosecution or defense, Kopf ordered King to undergo an immediate "mental health evaluation" at the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Springfield, Missouri, even though sources close to King reported that he was not suffering from psychiatric impairment (Associated Press, 1990a). King waived a hearing on Kopf's unorthodox ruling, and that day he found himself en route to Springfield, Missouri in the custody of two U.S. marshals. After King's "mental health evaluation," a U.S. District Court judge remanded him to a federal psychiatric hospital as a pretrial detainee, and King would be at the federal psychiatric hospital for the next five months. King would remain at the federal psychiatric institution as the state and federal grand juries investigated the child abuse allegations.

Vis-à-vis the analogy with DID, if King were not suffering from a psychiatric impairment that would have necessitated his hospitalization, but, rather, if his hospitalization was a ruse to shield him from the grand juries, the abuse disavowing "alter personality" suppressing the evidence of child abuse has now expanded to include the deceit and complicity of two federal judges.

After King was put in a federal psychiatric institution, FBI agents at the Omaha field office began a series of interviews with Alisha Owen, Troy Boner, and Danny King. Owen and King told me that FBI agents vehemently pressured them to recant their allegations of abuse, and Boner would submit an affidavit corroborating Owen and Danny King about being subjected to FBI harassment.

Following Owen's initial statement to Gary Caradori, she was conspicuously harassed in the warden's office at York by two officers of the NSP, which incited rumors among York's inmates that Owen was an informant (Bryant, 2009, p. 131). Six weeks after her meeting with the NSP officers, three inmates attacked Owen in the York shower. In response to the attack, prison officials placed Owen in solitary segregation. Once Owen was in solitary, FBI agents interviewed her several times, and, according to Owen, attempted to force her recantation of the child abuse allegations, but she refused to recant her abuse. Owen was kept in solitary confinement for nearly two years.

After FBI agents initially interviewed Danny King once in February, they conducted a series of interviews with him starting in March of 1990. Danny King initially stuck

to his story, but, after repeated interviews, he eventually recanted the statements he had made to Caradori and decided to be what the FBI report described as "totally honest" (Mott & Culver, 1990a). According to an FBI debriefing, after Danny King became "totally honest" (Mott & Culver, 1990a), he stated that Boner visited him in Omaha the night before Boner and Caradori visited Danny King's apartment (Mott & Culver, 1990a). The FBI report stated that Danny King said Boner told him of his upcoming visit with Caradori the next day, and Boner told Danny King that he needed to fabricate stories about his two interstate plane trips with Lawrence King.

Though Danny King pledged to be "totally honest" with the FBI, he evidently was not able to remain consistent with the narrative that was now required of him. For example, during a later FBI debriefing, Danny King said that Boner imparted the fabricated stories to him as Caradori filled his tank with "gas" when they were en route to Lincoln (Mott & Culver, 1990b).

The FBI's final debriefing of Danny King was essentially a cut-and-paste of the debriefings after King became "totally honest," but it contained a new, innovative twist: King denied Boner visiting him on the eve of his initial contact with Caradori and also denied Boner explaining the fabrications to him as Caradori filled his gas tank. The FBI report stated that:

Caradori and Ormiston left Danny King and Troy Boner in King's hotel room while they returned to Caradori's room, because Boner told Caradori that he and King were going to take a swim for about an hour. After Caradori and Ormiston left the room, Boner and King went to the bar in the hotel where they drank alcohol and talked for approximately one hour. It was during this hour long meeting at the bar in the Residence Inn where Boner first told Danny King what he Boner wanted King to tell Caradori (Culver, 1990).

Boner was then subjected to FBI interviews, and he, too, recanted his abuse allegations at the hands of Lawrence King et al. in a nine-page handwritten statement he composed at Omaha's FBI Field Office. According to Boner's handwritten statement, the day Caradori and Ormiston met Boner, they drove Boner to Caradori's Lincoln, Nebraska office. Caradori then phoned Owen, and handed the phone to Boner. Boner claimed that Owen told him to cooperate with Caradori, because Caradori would help them become rich by suing the men that they named as perpetrators.

Boner's FBI statement indicates that over the next 20 minutes, Boner committed to memory all the "places, locations, people, dates, times, and parties" that Owen disclosed in her videotaped statements to Caradori (Bryant, 2009, p. 153). Boner then claimed that Caradori talked to him and showed him pictures for the next three hours. Boner asserted that he did not recognize a "picture of Larry King" until Caradori pointed him out (Bryant, 2009, p. 153). Boner then gave his videotaped statement to Caradori.

Though this sequence of events would suggest that Boner's recantation is a tissue of lies, his inconsistent statements are not irrefutable proof of prevarication. However, the phone records for Caracorp, Caradori's security firm, on the day Caradori interviewed Boner clearly show that no Caracorp phone calls were placed to York, Nebraska or received from York, Nebraska on that day; and Caradori, like the vast majority of Americans, did not have a cell phone in 1989. The phone logs from York prison also

show that Owen did not place a single call on the day Boner alleged to have talked to her (Bryant, 2009, p. 154).

As the FBI was in the process of interviewing Owen, Boner and Danny King, in an apparent effort to force them to recant their accounts of abuse, the *Omaha World-Herald* started to publish articles disparaging Owen and Boner. One article, "One Accuser was Guilty of a Felony," reported that a 21-year-old victim videotaped by the Franklin Committee was incarcerated at York for a bad check felony (Dorr, 1990). The article also detailed that a second videotaped victim had been the "subject of legal proceedings" in the Douglas County juvenile court (Dorr, 1990). The *Omaha World-Herald* would publish additional articles undermining the victims' credibility (Bryant, 2009, pp. 141–142).

As leaks and newspaper coverage chipped away at the victims' credibility, Caradori was not prepared for his investigation's next surprise: his 21 hours of victim testimony was leaked to Omaha TV stations. In the second week of April 1990, Owen phoned the television station whose on-air personality, Mike McKnight, was the first to acquire the leaked tapes, and she consented to an "off the record" meeting with McKnight—York's *Visitor's Register* confirms that McKnight visited her on April 12. In a quid pro quo, Owen offered to make particular disclosures to McKnight if McKnight revealed who had leaked the tapes. According to Owen, McKnight said that FBI personnel had not actually leaked the tapes to the TV station—they had sold them to the TV station. Though McKnight would eventually be subpoenaed to give an account of how he acquired the tapes, the subpoena would be quashed.

The videotapes became quite a spectacle on Omaha's nightly news. The newspaper articles and leaked tapes sent a resounding message to victims who might have the temerity to step forward: they would be telling their deepest and darkest secrets to the greater Omaha area and also risk being maligned in the print media. The leaked tapes were a catastrophe for Caradori, because he now found it nearly impossible to coax victims from the shadows, even though he would identify approximately 60 alleged victims.

At this point, as mounting evidence pointed to the FBI proactively discrediting the victims and using the media to convince the body politic that the child abuse allegations were spurious and no child abuse was perpetrated, the once nascent "alter" that was protecting the alleged child molesters was becoming the society's dominate personality with regard to Lawrence King-related child abuse allegations.

After the recantations of Danny King and Boner, the media's negative representation of the victims, and the leaked tapes, Caradori managed to videotape a fourth alleged victim named Paul Bonacci in May of 1990 (Caradori, 1990b). The 22-year-old Bonacci was incarcerated at the Lincoln Correctional Center. In November of 1988, within weeks of Franklin's fall, he had been charged with two counts of sexual assault on a child.

After Bonacci's arrest, the court appointed a psychiatrist to determine if Bonacci was a "mentally disordered sex offender" (Bryant, 2009, p. 155). The psychiatrist interviewed Bonacci six times and concluded in a report that Bonacci was not a mentally disordered sex offender, but, rather, that he suffered from "Multiple Personality Disorder" (see psychiatric report; Bryant, 2009, pp. 589–592). By the age of 12, the psychiatrist wrote, Bonacci was heavily victimized by "child prostitution" and involved in drugs (see psychiatric report; Bryant, 2009, pp. 589–592).

Bonacci named the same alleged abusers as Owen, Boner, and Danny King, including Larry King (Caradori & Ormiston, 1990, p. 4), then-Omaha Police Chief Wadman (Caradori & Ormiston, 1990, p. 12) and former *Omaha World-Herald* publisher Harold Andersen (Caradori & Ormiston, 1990, p. 13). He also spoke of similar forms of sadistic abuse that had been described by Owen, Boner, and Danny King. He discussed being repeatedly tied up, whipped, cut by knives, and burned by cigarettes (Caradori & Ormiston, 1990, p. 2).

In addition to corroborating Owen, Boner, and Danny King on multiple victims, places, and perpetrators, Bonacci named several children who attended King's alleged pedophilic parties, including the Boys Town student who Alisha Owen named as having introduced her to Larry King's pandering network (Caradori & Ormiston, 1990, p. 10). Bonacci also claimed to have personally "seen" Owen's abuse at the hands of Chief Wadman (Caradori & Ormiston, 1990, p. 12).

By June of 1990, after the state grand jury had been impaneled for three months, Caradori had been immersed in the "Franklin" case for nearly a year. His investigation included uncovering alleged organized child abuse of an extreme nature, persistent media assaults, and a seemingly concerted effort by state and federal law enforcement and the media to sabotage his investigation. Moreover, two sources had told Caradori that federal and state authorities were in the process of framing him to take the fall for scripting the child abuse allegations (Bryant, 2009, p. 165). Shortly after Caradori realized that he was being "set-up" for an arrest, he wrote a letter to a renowned lawyer noting that the pedophile network he had uncovered extended "to the highest levels of the United States" (Bryant, 2009, p. 166).

The alleged victims Caradori had interviewed and also Shawneta Moore discussed being the victims of child pornography, so Caradori set out to find child pornography of them. He felt that pictures would provide absolute proof of their victimization. Bonacci informed me that one of his final conversations with Caradori revolved around pictures, and Bonacci told Caradori that Rusty Nelson was his best source for the pictures. Bonacci mentioned that Rusty Nelson was a child pornographer when he was initially interviewed by Caradori and Ormiston (Caradori & Ormiston, 1989d, p. 19). Alisha Owen had also singled out Rusty Nelson as an alleged photographer for Lawrence King during her videotaped interviews (Caradori & Ormiston, 1989a, p. 6). Caradori commenced a hunt for Rusty Nelson.

Nelson maintains that Caradori contacted him through a family member when he was in New Mexico, and he agreed to meet Caradori in Chicago and slip him incriminating pictures that would exonerate the victims and expose the perpetrators (Bryant, 2009, p. 170). After Caradori reportedly made contact with Nelson, he flew his 1984 single-engine Piper Saratoga from Lincoln to Chicago. Caradori, accompanied by his eight-year-old son Andrew James (A.J.), ostensibly made the jaunt to attend the July 10 Major League Baseball All-Star Game.

After Caradori and A.J. landed at Chicago's Midway Airport, Caradori's hour-by-hour activities are unclear prior to the game, but four sources—a newspaper reporter in Washington, D.C., Sandi Caradori (his wife), Loran Schmit, and Donna Owen (Alisha Owen's mother)—say they received phone calls from him (Bryant, 2009, p. 170). His conversation with the newspaper reporter in Washington, D.C. was quite candid—Caradori unequivocally told him that he was on the verge of acquiring pictures and other materials that would corroborate the victims' stories (Bryant, 2009, p. 170).

Caradori's call to his wife cryptically conveyed to her that his Chicago trip had been a "success" (Bryant, 2009, p. 170). He also had a pithy conversation with Schmit that the latter relayed to a reporter: "Loran, we got them by the shorthairs" (Bryant, 2009, p. 170). Caradori, having talked to Alisha Owen's parents on various occasions since initially interviewing their daughter, felt terrible about the horrors that had befallen her, and he told Donna Owen that she would be extremely happy upon his return from Chicago.

Caradori and his son flew out of Chicago's Midway Airport around 2:00 a.m. on July 11 (Stern, 1990), and his plane crashed in the Lee County, Illinois cornfield of Harold Cameron. After Cameron heard the sound of a plane and then an explosion, he drove around his property, looking for the crash site. But it was dark, and the four-foot-high corn obscured the wreckage. The plane was spotted at daybreak by a medical helicopter, and deputies from the Lee County Sheriff's Department were the first responders to the crash site, where they found the remains of Gary and A.J. Caradori. Parts of the plane were scattered up to 1,800 feet from the fuselage, and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) stated almost immediately that Caradori's plane broke up in flight, because it was strewn over such a vast area, but the "exact mechanism" for the plane's breakup was unknown.

The personal effects of Caradori and his son salvaged by the NTSB were eventually returned to Sandi Caradori. A.J.'s little backpack and Caradori's 35-millimeter camera were relatively undamaged, but the film in Caradori's camera had been taken out and returned inexplicably developed. Caradori's sturdy leather briefcase, a birthday present from his wife, was never returned. Ormiston told me that the briefcase was virtually an extension of Caradori—it almost "never" left his side throughout the Franklin investigation. If Caradori had acquired pictures in Chicago, she felt they definitely would have been in his briefcase.

Caradori's last statement to Senator Schmit was "We got them by the shorthairs," and Schmit never bought the explanation that Caradori's plane mysteriously "broke up" in flight. After the crash, Schmit stated in an affidavit that he had been warned that Caradori's life was in danger. He also wrote a letter to the NTSB regarding the backseats of Caradori's plane that were never recovered, because he thought a bomb had been used.

The NTSB released its final report on the crash two years after the fact. The report determined that the crash occurred at 2:21 a.m. The report also concluded that Caradori lost control of the plane "for an unknown reason," but it cited "pilot fatigue and probable spatial disorientation of the pilot and/or an instrument malfunction" as likely causes for Caradori's loss of control (see report; Bryant, 2009, p. 560). As Caradori attempted to recover from "uncontrolled flight," the report continued, the wings on his Piper Saratoga snapped off due to an "overload" of stress (see report; Bryant, 2009, p. 560).

Five sources, including Rusty Nelson, corroborate that Caradori acquired what he was seeking—pictures—during his sojourn to Chicago, and the anomalies and inconsistencies involved in the official account of the deaths of Gary Caradori and his son are too numerous to explicate in this chapter (Bryant, 2009, pp. 172–174). Either Caradori's death was an oddly timed freak accident that caused his plane to fragment in mid-air or he was murdered. If Caradori and his son were, in fact, murdered, it shows that the "alter personality" impeding the normal continuity of a society from protecting

its children against child abuse is willing to maintain the homeostasis that no Lawrence King-related child abuse has occurred by murder.

THE STATE AND FEDERAL GRAND JURIES

One of Gary Caradori's ultimate objectives was to move the Franklin Committee's child abuse investigation beyond the margins of provincial law enforcement and into a grand jury. As I've already mentioned, after the Committee submitted Caradori's videotaped statements of Alisha Owen, Troy Boner, and Danny King to Nebraska's Attorney General, Douglas County's district judges convened and called for a grand jury to investigate the Franklin-related child abuse allegations.

Though Caradori initially welcomed the impaneling of a grand jury, he also realized the inherent flaws of the grand jury process, which makes the initial decision to indict (formally accuse) a criminal defendant to stand trial. Unlike a trial, a grand jury proceeding is private, and there is no cross-examination or presentation of the defense's case. The special prosecutor calls the witnesses, questions the witnesses, and selects the evidence that is shown to the grand jurors, who are ordinary citizens. Generally, only witnesses and evidence deemed relevant by special prosecutors are pursued by grand juries, and special prosecutors are in a unique position to be able to twist grand jurors' judgments in a particular direction. A former Chief Appellate Judge of New York State once quipped that a special prosecutor could persuade a grand jury to "indict a ham sandwich" (Kramer & Lombardi, 1985).

The Douglas County judges ultimately appointed Samuel Van Pelt as the grand jury's special prosecutor. After Van Pelt was appointed to be the special prosecutor of the grand jury probing the child abuse allegations, he dispensed quotes to the *Omaha World-Herald* about the case: "The integrity of the system is being challenge," said Van Pelt (Dorr & Cordes, 1990); "I feel the system needs to work. The grand jury system is the one process that can work now" (Dorr & Cordes, 1990). The tall, lean, 53-year-old Van Pelt grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska and was a graduate of the University of Nebraska Law School (Dorr & Cordes, 1990). In 1972, Nebraska's governor appointed him as a district judge in Lancaster County, but he concluded that being a judge was an "unpleasant job" and resigned after eleven years on the bench (Dorr & Cordes, 1990).

Though some Nebraskans gave Van Pelt a lukewarm appraisal, others viewed him with contempt. Their feelings about Van Pelt centered on an investigation he had directed five years earlier—they claimed he covered up the shooting death of a Nebraska farmer by a NSP SWAT team (Associated Press, 1990a). Shortly after Van Pelt's appointment had been announced, 43 Nebraskans sent a letter to the Speaker of the Legislature charging that Van Pelt was merely a "hired gun for the state" (Associated Press, 1990a).

Prior to his death, Caradori made two appearances before the grand jury overseen by Van Pelt. Though his first appearance was brief, Caradori had concluded that the grand jury was utterly corrupt and the process was a *fait accompli*. After his first appearance before the grand jury, a forlorn Caradori kissed his wife that night and told her, "It's all over" (Bryant, 2009, p. 229). Following Caradori's first appearance before the grand jury, he formed the opinion that only pictures would save him from the Douglas County grand jury and federal prosecution.

Troy Boner also made two appearances before the Douglas County grand jury. Though Boner's testimony was littered with discrepancies and contradictions, he had passed an FBI polygraph (Bryant, 2009, p. 229). Van Pelt was quick to point out that Boner had passed an FBI polygraph, and it was a point that was not lost on the grand jurors.

At the outset of Boner's testimony, Van Pelt took him through his initial meeting with Caradori and his videotaped statement. Boner maintained that Caradori and Ormiston brought him back to the offices of Caracorp, where, over the phone, he conversed with Owen for 20 minutes, and she told him to fabricate specific allegations of abuse, so they could gain untold riches by suing the alleged perpetrators (transcript of testimony, Douglas County grand jury, 1990). But, as noted earlier, according to Caracorp's phone records, the phone call that Boner pinned the entire "hoax" on never happened.

Boner's description of the alleged phone conversation with Owen at Caradori's office was littered with numerous contradictions. He told the grand jury that Owen fed him "85%" of the content that was contained in his seven-hour videotaped statement to Caradori (transcript of testimony, Douglas County grand jury, 1990). He initially testified that he jotted down dates, times, and places after talking to Owen. However, during his second appearance before the grand jury, Boner maintained that he did not take any notes, but Caradori helped him "over the hump" by giving him "hints" throughout his videotaped statement (transcript of testimony, Douglas County grand jury, 1990). In complete contradiction to his FBI statement and earlier testimony before the grand jury in which he said that he had only one call with Owen, he stated that he had multiple phone calls with Owen to craft the hoax during his second appearance before the grand jury.

Boner initially testified to the grand jury that he briefed Danny King, at King's apartment, for five minutes on the fabricated story that he wanted Danny King to tell Caradori. He then testified that he briefed King for 20 minutes at King's apartment; but during his second appearance at the grand jury, he claimed that Danny King had several calls with Owen too.

Danny King would be called before the grand jury only once—shortly after Boner's first appearance. Boner told the grand jury that he imparted the hoax to Danny King in the latter's apartment while Caradori waited outside, but Danny King testified that Caradori drove Boner and him to Lincoln's Residence Inn, where Boner gave him the low-down on the hoax in the hotel bar over beers. Lincoln's Residence Inn did not even have a bar. The following Q&A is between Van Pelt and an apparently confused Danny King (transcript of testimony, Douglas County grand jury, 1990):

VAN PELT: And is that true, is that what went on and what went through your mind the night you were visiting with Troy in the bar at the motel?

DANNY KING: Yeah.

VAN PELT: And is that why you decided to do this?

DANNY KING: Yeah.

VAN PELT: And was any of this true at that time?

DANNY KING: Any of what true?

VAN PELT: Any of the business about the basis for suing these people, the parties with all these people? Anything about . . . Larry King, any of those people true at that time?

DANNY KING: Yeah, so I wasn't really—

VAN PELT: I beg your pardon?

DANNY KING: Yeah, I was—I wasn't really making nothing up about any of the persons.

After Danny King's latter statements, Van Pelt walked Danny King through his conversation with Boner at the bar, but King still had considerable difficulties staying on track.

When Boner and Danny King appeared before the grand jury, they recurrently contradicted themselves—I've mentioned a rather limited litany. Both Boner and Danny King would later admit to covering up grave abuses during their grand jury appearances.

In contrast to Boner and Danny King, Alisha Owen never recanted her accounts of abuse, even though she was confined to solitary at the Nebraska Facility for Women at York. She spent two days in front of the grand jury that subjected her to numerous affronts on her character, especially regarding her sexual history. One of those affronts was made by a grand juror remarking, "I can't imagine Alisha being around a man and not having gone to bed with him" (transcript of testimony, Douglas County grand jury, 1990). Testifying before the grand jury, Owen attempted to explain that her teenage sexual history was the result of her sexual abuse: "I had absolutely no concept of what sex . . . was supposed to mean because my sexual experiences started in such a warped way" (transcript of testimony, Douglas County grand jury, 1990).

A few weeks before Owen made her appearance before the Douglas County grand jury, a distinguished Omaha-based attorney by the name of Henry Rosenthal agreed to represent her. Owen's mother had arranged for Rosenthal to represent her daughter, because she felt that Owen's previous attorney was working in collusion with the FBI to sabotage her daughter. Her former attorney would later admit to having an extramarital affair with one of the FBI agents who was attempting to coerce Owen into recanting her accounts of abuse at the hands of Larry King and others.

By the time Senator Schmit made his first appearance before the grand jury, Van Pelt had called selected witnesses who either portrayed the senator in an unfavorable light or severely ravaged his credibility. One witness in particular commented on Schmit's "paranoia," testifying that he was not "well physically or mentally" (transcript of testimony, Douglas County grand jury, 1990).

Schmit was of the opinion that Van Pelt had neglected to address numerous pertinent issues during his appearance before the grand jury. So he requested that he appear before the grand jury a second time, and his request was granted. Between Schmit's first and second appearance before the grand jury, he reported to have heard murmurs that Alisha Owen would be indicted for perjury and Caradori for obstruction of justice.

During his second appearance, he read a prepared statement and gave an impassioned plea for the grand jury to carefully consider all the evidence. Schmit said that "based upon the evidence the Committee has heard, we are convinced that certain prominent citizens have abused children, are abusing children, and will abuse children in the future" (transcript of testimony, Douglas County grand jury, 1990). He also discussed what he viewed as law enforcement's unwillingness to act and its hindrances: "Too many unanswered questions, ladies and gentlemen, too many leads not followed and too many roadblocks placed in the way of the investigation" (transcript of testimony, Douglas County grand jury, 1990).

Van Pelt eventually called a man to the stand who was clearly psychologically disturbed, and he admittedly had no knowledge of the child abuse allegations. He told the grand jurors that the Russian "KGB" had infiltrated the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and he wanted the grand jury to take action. The latter epitomizes the chaotic proceedings of the Douglas County grand jury, which lasted four months.

During the third week of July 1990, television newscasters and radio talk show hosts tingled with excitement as they quoted sources in the know who whispered that the Douglas County grand jury was in the homestretch of its deliberations. Van Pelt had pledged to restore "integrity" to the system, and his grand jury had ostensibly worked unremittingly to that end for month after month. Finally, the community hoped that all the confusion and uncertainty would be cleared up—criminals would be indicted and the innocent cleared.

On July 23, 1990, within two weeks of Gary Caradori's demise, the Douglas County grand jury released its 43-page report (Flanagan, 1990). The *Omaha World-Herald* bore a banner headline: "Grand Jury Says Abuse Stories were a 'Carefully Crafted Hoax.'" A subheadline stated: "Three Indicted; Many Rumors Debunked" (Dorr & Stern, 1990).

The first page of the Douglas County grand jury's report discussed its thorough deliberations: convening for 82 days, reviewing 395 exhibits, issuing 136 subpoenas, hearing from 76 witnesses, and watching over 30 hours of videotapes (Flanagan, 1990, p. 1). The first page of the report also included an introductory comment: "Two of the victims recanted their video statements and testified that a third victim, Alisha Owen, was perpetrating a hoax for personal gain" (Flanagan, 1990, p. 1).

The grand jury declared that all Lawrence King-related child abuse allegations were a "carefully crafted hoax" (Flanagan, 1990, p. 15), but the grand jury report never specified who concocted the hoax (Flanagan, 1990). Even the report's first page had inaccuracies, because it is not true that the grand jurors reviewed 395 exhibits. On July 23, the very day that the grand jury foreman Michael Flanagan signed off on the grand jury report, grand jury documentation demonstrates that Van Pelt introduced 87 exhibits into evidence. However, 62 of those 87 exhibits were given the same number—"exhibit 394." So it ultimately appears that Van Pelt only introduced 26 exhibits on the grand jury's final day of deliberations.

And among those 87 exhibits introduced on July 23 was a review of Caracorp's phone records. An NSP investigator had picked up a copy of Caracorp's phone records on May 23, and they were not introduced into evidence until July 23, the final day of the grand jury's deliberations when Van Pelt introduced 87 exhibits into evidence. Thus, Van Pelt seemed to possess evidence that the phone call where Owen clued Boner in on the "hoax" never existed.

The grand jury overseen by Van Pelt indicted Alisha Owen on eight counts of perjury, and it indicted Paul Bonacci on three counts of perjury. Owen's perjury indictments pertained to her statements about being molested by then-OPD Chief Robert Wadman and Omaha Judge Theodore Carlson, and also regarding statements about Lawrence King and then-*Omaha World-Herald* publisher Harold Andersen molesting children. Bonacci's perjury indictments pertained to him witnessing OPD Chief Robert Wadman molesting Alisha Owen and him being molested by then-*Omaha World-Herald* publisher Harold Andersen.

Each count of perjury carried a maximum sentence of 20 years, so Owen was looking at 160 years in prison and Bonacci had to contend with 60 years in prison. Alan Baer, whose name emerged on Caradori's videotapes and during the grand jury as one of the alleged wealthy pedophiles in King's network, was indicted on two counts of adult

pandering. His charges were reduced to a misdemeanor, and he was fined "\$500" (Bryant, 2009, p. 436).

Shortly after the *Omaha World-Herald* published the Douglas County grand jury report, it published an editorial, "Franklin Committee a Disgrace to Nebraska," excoriating the Franklin Committee and a deceased Gary Caradori (*Omaha World-Herald*, 1990, p. 16). The Nebraska legislature rescinded its financing for the Franklin Committee, and it was disbanded in January of 1991.

The federal grand jury investigating the Franklin Credit Union was initially impaneled in September 1988, and it issued indictments against Larry King in May of 1989 for his financial crimes. The federal grand jury would then shift its focus from Franklin-related financial improprieties to Franklin-related child abuse, and be given a six-month extension in April of 1990 to continue exploring the allegations; so it was ultimately impaneled for two years. The FBI served as the investigative entity for the federal grand jury.

Alisha Owen alleges that one of the federal prosecutors pilloried her with threats at the federal courthouse before she took the federal grand jury's oath. She said that he was "livid and discharging spittle" as he shouted that she would suffer grave consequences if she did not recant her prior statements to Caradori, but Owen still refused to recant (Bryant, 2009, p. 272). In the federal grand jury, like the Douglas County grand jury, Troy Boner was a key witness to impeach Owen.

In September of 1990, the federal grand jury released a three-page report stating that it found absolutely no evidence of interstate transportation of children for illicit purposes, and also indicted Alisha Owen on eight counts of perjury. *The New York Times* published an article on the federal grand jury's findings—"Omaha Tales of Sexual Abuse Ruled False" (Associated Press, 1990c).

THE STATE OF NEBRASKA V. ALISHA OWEN

Thus far, in the Franklin case, my investigation has established that state and federal authorities have disrupted the normal continuity of a society that seeks to protect its children from sexual abuse. Initially, the disruption was of omission (e.g., ignoring the abuse allegations), and as the allegations persisted with mounting evidence, the disruption included acts of commission by the OPD, NSP, FBI, and the Nebraska state judiciary and the federal judiciary. The reporting by the local and national media also compounded the state and federal government's disruptive process. The escalating cover-up was also accompanied by the society omitting the reality of the child abuse from the collective memory of its citizens.

But the cover-up in Nebraska was confronted by a pair of wild cards: Alisha Owen and Paul Bonacci—they would have to be found guilty of perjury in a court of law in order for the "carefully crafted hoax" to become the official story. The Douglas County judiciary elected to prosecute Owen first. As Owen lingered in solitary segregation at York throughout the fall of 1991, girding herself for her upcoming trial, her 16-year-old brother, Aaron, stole a car. Although he was a juvenile, Douglas County opted to try him as an adult. The judge sentenced Aaron Owen to between four and seven years in prison.

Shortly thereafter, Aaron Owen hanged himself in his cell. He had slash marks on both wrists, a bone-deep gash on his forehead, and a large bruise under his left eye. The official account essentially found that Owen succumbed to extreme masochism before

he decided to hang himself. Aaron Owen signed the alleged suicide note "A.J." He had never referred to himself as A.J. before. The Owens felt that Aaron Owen writing A.J. on the suicide note was a clear sign that he had been murdered in retaliation for his sister's refusal to recant her abuse. Approximately two and a half months after Aaron Owen's death, Troy Boner's younger brother, Shawn, shot himself in the head allegedly playing "Russian roulette."

Since both state and federal grand juries had disavowed the existence of Larry King's pandering network, the state of Nebraska and the United States had vital vested interests in the guilt of Alisha Owen. Although FBI agents had coerced Owen, Boner, and Danny King to recant their accounts of abuse, they were not called to testify before the Douglas County grand jury, but at Owen's trial they would be called as witnesses to impeach Owen's integrity. The *Omaha World-Herald* would play an integral role in underscoring the state's case, and the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS), the national television network, would also underscore the state's case. So Alisha Owen and her attorney, Henry Rosenthal, found themselves squaring off against the state of Nebraska, the United States government, and the local and national media.

Rosenthal had been an attorney for over 30 years, and he was appalled by the miscarriages of justice he had witnessed against Alisha Owen during her appearances before the Douglas County and federal grand juries that indicted her for perjury, so he consented to represent her pro bono at her trial (Bryant, 2009, p. 325).

Owen's trial was tried in the Douglas County Courthouse, the same site where Van Pelt pledged to restore "integrity" to the system, and Rosenthal was determined that it would not be the scene of a second flagrant miscarriage of justice against Alisha Owen. He managed to have her trial postponed until May of 1991, and he put in 16-hour days backtracking on Caradori's investigation and the Douglas County grand jury. He spent enormous out-of-pocket sums to finance his defense of Owen. As Rosenthal immersed himself in Owen's case and Caradori's investigation, he shared Caradori's views about the perfidious power of state and federal law enforcement to fluently twist truth into lies and vice versa (Bryant, 2009, p. 334).

Alisha Owen's perjury trial turned out to be one of the longest criminal trials in Nebraska history. The state of Nebraska pulled out all the stops and spared no expense: her trial represented much more than a simple case of perjury. If Alisha Owen was found guilty of perjury, the grand jury reports would be validated. But if she were found innocent, their findings would be called into question.

Just as Samuel Van Pelt had been plucked out of judicial retirement to lead the Douglas County grand jury, retired 77-year-old jurist Raymond "Joe" Case would be brought forward to serve as the judge in the Owen trial. Case was originally appointed a judge in Nebraska's rural Cass County in 1950. His tenure as a Cass County judge lasted 40 years, and he retired in 1990. After Case retired from the bench, he went into private practice. Nebraska law prohibits practicing attorneys from serving as judges, but Case was appointed Owen's trial judge nonetheless. Whereas appointing Van Pelt was ostensibly a collective decision of the Douglas County District Court judges, Case was chosen to oversee Alisha Owen's trial by the highest court in the state—the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Douglas County Deputy Attorney Gerald Moran stepped into the ring to represent the state and its vast supporting cast. Moran was a youthful looking 43 years old. Moran had spent the 1970s practicing criminal law for an esteemed Omaha law firm before signing on with the Douglas County Attorney's office in 1981.

Prior to Owen's trial, Rosenthal presented Judge Case with a series of motions that delineated various improprieties by the Douglas County grand jury and also by FBI agents when they questioned Alisha Owen at York prison. Sitting at the bench, Case peered at what he called Rosenthal's "bunch of motions," and he said that Rosenthal had missed the deadline for submitting the motions (*Nebraska v. Owen*, 1991, p. 6). But the week that Case set the deadline, Rosenthal had been hospitalized for a heart condition; so he had phoned Case, explained his medical predicament, and requested two additional days to file his motions. Case reportedly agreed to Rosenthal's timetable, and instructed Rosenthal to notify Moran about the deadline being pushed back. In accordance with Case's decision, Rosenthal called Moran and explained his quandary.

Shortly after Case brought up Rosenthal's "bunch of motions," Rosenthal reminded him of their phone call in which Case extended the deadline for his motions. Case told Rosenthal that he remembered the phone call, but he could not recall that the crux of the conversation was an extension of his deadline to submit the motions. Rosenthal then said if Case had not issued an extension for the motions, he would have filed the motions on time by hook or by crook. Moran quickly interjected that Rosenthal had not notified him of the extension until after Rosenthal submitted the motions. But Rosenthal disagreed and remarked, "That's absolutely a false statement to the Court—I notified that man and certainly, judge, I would not be in violation of your order" (*Nebraska v. Owen*, 1991, p. 6). Judge Case now recalled his conversation with Rosenthal, and he said that he explicitly stipulated that Moran had to be in agreement with the extension. It was the first time in Rosenthal's lengthy legal career that an opposing counsel instead of a judge had essentially succeeded in rejecting motions he had submitted. It quickly became evident to Rosenthal that he was not trying Alisha Owen's in an impartial courtroom.

In Rosenthal's opening statement to the jurors, he focused on the state's star witness: Troy Boner. Rosenthal said that it was absurd to believe that Boner's nearly seven-hour statement to Caradori was supposedly gleaned from a 20-minute phone call to Owen. He said that Boner's videotaped statement specified times, places, names, etc. Rosenthal stated that even if Boner had mastered shorthand to the tune of "5,000 words a minute" he could not have jotted down everything he articulated in his videotaped statement to Caradori from one 20-minute phone call (*Nebraska v. Owen*, 1991, p. 618). Rosenthal told the jurors to carefully scrutinize the videotaped statement of Boner and decide for themselves if Caradori had acted deceitfully, and he remarked on the alleged phone call: "Because if you don't believe the phone call, and if you don't believe the phone call was made, then the cookie crumbles" (*Nebraska v. Owen*, 1991, p. 618).

By the time Moran called Boner to testify at Owen's trial, his story had been considerably hemmed and hedged. For example, in front of the Douglas County grand jury Boner gave conflicting accounts of imparting the hoax to Danny King: Boner testified he conveyed the hoax to King the night before he and Caradori went to King's apartment, and he also testified that the hoax was transmitted while he and Danny King were alone in King's apartment for 20 minutes. Danny King told Van Pelt and the Douglas County grand jury that Boner had imparted the hoax to him over beers at the Residence Inn. Evidently, the state preferred Danny King's version of events, because Boner's testimony now incorporated King's version. Upon cross-examination, Rosenthal would ensnare Boner in numerous lies. When the state called Danny King to testify, Rosenthal would entrap King in numerous lies too upon cross-examination.

As Rosenthal cross-examined the state's witnesses, Moran barraged him with objections—Rosenthal was consequently kept on a very short leash concerning the questions he could ask the witnesses called by Moran. Conversely, court transcripts demonstrate that Case gave Moran considerable latitude when he cross-examined the witnesses called by Rosenthal.

Owen's trial wended for five weeks, and the trial transcript is over 4,000 pages. A more complete discussion of the miscarriages of justice that constituted the perjury trial of Alisha Owen is included in *The Franklin Scandal*.

On Friday June 7, 1991, after three weeks, 35 witnesses, and scores of exhibits, Moran and the state rested their case. The following Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. Rosenthal met with Moran and Judge Case in the judge's chambers. Rosenthal had prepared a long list of reasons for Judge Case to dismiss perjury charges against Owen or, at the very least, declare a mistrial. He also had a newfound revelation that he thought would ensure a mistrial. But before Rosenthal unfurled his newfound revelation to Moran and Case, he offered the following reasons for Judge Case to declare a mistrial after the state presented its case (*Nebraska v. Owen*, 1991, pp. 2837–2841):

- The state's use of confidential material plundered from Owen's Social Services records.
- The state's use of confidential material plumed from Owen's Presentence Probation Report.
- The Court's refusal to accept the motions Rosenthal submitted to Case on May 1.
- The vague wording of Owen's grand jury indictments.
- Misconduct on the part of Van Pelt and the grand jury that "destroyed the impartial administration of justice."
- Misconduct by Owen's previous attorney who provided state and federal law enforcement with various communications—both written and verbal—that were unlawful for the state to use against Owen, because Owen had at no time waived her attorney-client privilege.
- The state's use of information obtained by the NSP and FBI that was involuntary, coerced, and obtained without a competent counsel, violating Owen's right against self-incrimination.

Judge Case was unmoved by any of Rosenthal's arguments, and he dismissed Rosenthal's rationales for a mistrial. Rosenthal then told Case that the Caradori videotapes that were shown to the Douglas County grand jurors had been "altered," and the corroborating statements between Owen and Boner had been edited out (*Nebraska v. Owen*, 1991, p. 2842). Rosenthal told Judge Case that he wanted to demonstrate to the jurors at Owen's trial how the tapes shown to the grand jury had been doctored, but Moran objected and Judge Case supported Moran.

Rosenthal and Owen felt that Case's refusal to allow the jurors to see that Caradori's videotaped statements of Owen and Boner had been doctored when shown to the Douglas County grand jurors proved that the trial of Alisha Owen was not concerned about whether or not child abuse had occurred—it was only concerned with putting Owen in prison for perjury.

When Rosenthal presented Owen's case to the jurors, he called a number of witnesses who discussed how Boner had told them that the FBI forced him to lie before the state and federal grand juries, and that Boner had lied throughout Owen's trial.

Owen's jurors deliberated her fate for nearly three days. Owen's fate still hung in the balance as her jurors left the Douglas County Courthouse after their first full day of deliberations. The day before, Judge Case had told the jurors that the CBS program *48 Hours* was to be telecast on the following night at 9:00 p.m. Case mentioned that the program may pertain to Owen's trial, and he instructed the jurors not to watch it.

Dan Rather hosted *48 Hours*, and the episode on that particular night was entitled "Accusing Prominent People of Sex Crimes" (Bryant, 2009, p. 428). And the fourth segment of the show began with a shot of Troy Boner, who said that he had falsely accused prominent men of abuse to the *48 Hours* reporter. The *48 Hours* episode demonstrates that the media's portrayal of the Franklin Case as a hoax now extended to primetime, national coverage, and it was aired at an opportune time for the parties executing the cover-up.

According to a juror affidavit, "almost all, if not all" of Owen's jurors opted not to heed Case, and they tuned into *48 Hours* that night (see affidavit; Bryant, 2009, p. 567). The juror's affidavit further stated that the *48 Hours* episode "impacted the decision" of the jurors who watched the program (see affidavit; Bryant, 2009, p. 567).

A second juror's affidavit also discussed "almost all, if not all" of the jurors watching the program, and it had a highly prejudicial impact on Owen (see affidavit; Bryant, 2009, pp. 565–566). In addition, the juror's affidavit alleged that fabricated evidence had been planted in the "jury room," during the jurors' deliberations, that was extremely prejudicial to Owen (see affidavit; Bryant, 2009, pp. 565–566).

The jury ultimately found Owen guilty of perjury, and Case sentenced 22-year-old Alisha Owen to between nine and 15 years in prison.

The following day, a *Omaha World-Herald* editorial entitled, "Prosecution Crushed Lies With Avalanche of Truth," showered accolades on Moran just as previous editorials had praised Samuel Van Pelt (*Omaha World-Herald*, 1991, p. 16).

Shortly after Owen was found guilty, the Douglas County Attorney dismissed the perjury indictments against Bonacci. Owen's trial almost resulted in a hung jury, as evinced by the jury's protracted deliberations, despite the efforts of Case and Moran and the aforementioned misconduct cited by the jurors during their deliberations. If Bonacci were to be found innocent, Owen's conviction would have been jeopardized and, perhaps, even overturned.

Alisha Owen's case would be appealed on multiple acts of misconduct concerning the judge, prosecution, and jurors. The following are appeals alleging the misconduct of Judge Case (Bryant, 2009, pp. 442–443):

- Judge Case erred in refusing to dismiss the charges against Owen based upon the misconduct of the Douglas County grand jury.
- Judge Case erred in refusing to declare a mistrial of Owen's case based on prosecutorial misconduct during the course of the trial.
- Judge Case erred in committing judicial misconduct during the course of Owen's trial.
- Judge Case erred in refusing to grant Owen a new trial based upon the misconduct that occurred during the jury's deliberations.

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON DISSOCIATIVE DISORDERS

- Judge Case erred in admitting into evidence, over Rosenthal's objection, contents of a presentence investigation.
- Judge Case erred in admitting into evidence, over Rosenthal's objection, testimony from an employee of Social Services.
- Judge Case erred in allowing the prosecution to introduce irrelevant, immaterial, and prejudicial evidence regarding Owen's character.
- Judge Case erred in allowing the prosecution to admit into evidence statements of Owen's made while she was in custody without having been notified of her Miranda rights.
- Judge Case allowed Wadman to testify about the results of genetic blood testing by means of hearsay and without establishing a proper "foundation and custody" that demonstrated the blood tested was, in fact, from Wadman, Owen, and Owen's daughter. Thus the question of whether or not Wadman was the father of Owen's daughter was never satisfactorily established.
- Judge Case had improper contact with the jury—the appeal cited Case's verbal directions to the jury concerning "reasonable doubt" and also an Allen charge.
- Judge Case erred in overruling Rosenthal's pretrial motions.
- Judge Case's quashing of subpoenas deprived Owen of a fair trial.
- Judge Case improperly limited Rosenthal's cross-examination of witnesses.
- Judge Case repeatedly allowed "hearsay evidence" to be used against Owen.
- Judge Case repeatedly allowed "prejudicial and irrelevant" evidence to be used against Owen.

Despite the numerous miscarriages of justice that were cited in Owen's trial and the subsequent appeals they fostered, the Nebraska judiciary refused to declare a mistrial on Owen's behalf. But Owen and her appellate attorneys were given hope for corrective legal remedies when Troy Boner came forward and submitted an affidavit whereby he confessed that he "lied" before the grand juries and also at Alisha Owen's trial (see affidavit; Bryant, 2009, pp. 524–537).

Boner's affidavit is 14 pages long, but the first page offers a succinct rundown of both his motives for the affidavit and the wrongful acts he committed against Owen:

I, and my mother and my family, are exhausted from living in fear of death or injury as a result of my personal involvement in the Franklin matters which ended up in my testifying at the Grand Jury hearings as well as at the Alisha Owen trial. I lied at the Grand Jury hearings, and I lied at the Alisha Owen trial. I lied when I 'recanted' my original statement to Gary Caradori. I lied because I truly believed and still do believe that it was a situation where I must either 'lie or die' . . . (see affidavit; Bryant, 2009, pp. 524–537).

His affidavit further stated that he had balked at testifying against Alisha Owen at her trial, and he felt his brother's death via Russian roulette was a murder that was designed to ensure that he testify at Alisha Owen's trial. Boner's affidavit explicitly mentioned delivering Alisha Owen to OPD Chief Wadman, and it exonerated Gary Caradori of any improprieties.

An appellate hearing that had the potential to secure Owen a new trial was set for December of 1994 at the Douglas County Courthouse, and Boner was to testify that he

had lied before the grand juries and at Alisha Owen's trial. As Alisha Owen, Owen's parents, Troy Boner, and Owen's appellate attorney walked through the Douglas County Courthouse towards the courtroom where the hearing was to be held, they saw Douglas County Deputy Attorney Robert Sigler, and then they noticed a handful of men conspicuously milling around Sigler. Owen thought the men were either Douglas County Deputy Sheriffs or NSP officers. Alisha Owen, Owen's parents, and Owen's appellate attorney witnessed the men around Sigler abruptly approach Boner, snatch him, and drag him into a vacant room. After the men, Sigler, and Boner disappeared into the room, its door was locked, and Alisha and her party heard screaming emanating from the room.

A terrified Boner eventually emerged from the room, and he pointblank told Owen's appellate attorney that he would invoke his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination when called to testify at Owen's hearing; Boner said that if he did not take the Fifth, he would end up in prison just like Owen.

In the Franklin saga's previous disruptions of a society that seeks to protect its children from sexual abuse, the disruptions generally occurred behind closed doors (e.g., meetings among law enforcement and the judiciary, law enforcement's meeting with victims, the secrecy of grand juries, etc.), but Owen's trial and subsequent hearing with Troy Boner were hijacked in a public forum. The government and the media had publicly trumped the laws and mores of the body politic to protect its children in the case of Lawrence King-related child abuse, and it was now functioning much like a powerful abuser-aligned alter within the larger psyche of an individual with DID, in that both disavow child abuse.

Alisha Owen was paroled from prison in 2000.

THE WASHINGTON, D.C. CONNECTION

The extreme power described above that was deployed in Nebraska to eradicate the slightest vestiges of Lawrence King-related child abuse is nearly impossible to comprehend without understanding King's relationship to Washington, D.C., the epicenter of America's political authority.

When Senator Schmit proposed Legislative Resolution 5, which called for the formation of the Franklin Committee, he reported that he was anonymously warned against the Committee's investigation, because it would lead to the "highest levels of the Republican party." Gary Caradori also informed a renowned attorney that the pedophile network he uncovered in his investigation extended "to the highest levels of the United States."

The alleged warning to Senator Schmit and the information relayed by Gary Caradori implies that the alleged child-pandering network of Lawrence King extended beyond the geographical confines of Nebraska. Earlier, I mentioned the accounts of Eulice Washington, Alisha Owen, Troy Boner, Danny King, and Paul Bonacci, all of whom stated that they had been flown to various states where Lawrence King had pandered them as underage sex workers. I also mentioned Gary Caradori collecting accounts of underage children accompanying Lawrence King on chartered flights, and King renting charter planes on an almost weekly basis—his favored destination was Washington, D.C.

According to five sources cited in *The Franklin Scandal*, including a police detective (Bryant, 2009, pp. 307–308) and a newspaper reporter (Bryant, 2009, p. 284), King's

partner in pedophilic pandering was Craig Spence, a Washington, D.C.-based lobbyist and powerbroker. An article featured on the front page of the *Washington Times*, "Power Broker Served Drugs, Sex at Parties Bugged for Blackmail" included extensive corroboration that Spence's home was bugged for audio-visual surveillance (Hedges & Seper, 1989a). Craig Spence also confessed to being a CIA asset (Hedges & Seper, 1989b), and *Washington Times* reporters corroborated his claim (Bryant, 2009, p. 287). Spence later confessed to *Washington Times* reporters that "friendly" intelligence agents had bugged his home (Hedges & Seper, 1989c).

According to credit card vouchers salvaged by the *Washington Times*, Craig Spence spent up to \$20,000 a month on male escorts from an escort service operated by Henry Vinson (Hedges & Seper, 1989d). As the credit card vouchers demonstrated, Vinson dealt with Spence prolifically over the course of two years. I conducted an extensive investigation of Lawrence King and Craig Spence, and their relationship to Henry Vinson. Vinson told me that Spence eventually introduced him to Lawrence King, and Vinson alleges that King and Spence were involved with not only pedophilic pandering but also pedophilic blackmail. Vinson also indicates that Spence personally showed him the blackmail equipment that was scattered throughout Spence's home.

Vinson also alleges that both King and Spence attempted to coerce him into providing them with "children," even though his escort service only provided consenting adults, and he refused to be a party to pedophilic pandering. According to Vinson, he continued to refuse to cooperate with Spence on child pandering and other crimes, and a high-ranking officer in the Justice Department pressured him to cooperate with Spence or be subjected to legal ramifications. Spence had told Vinson that he provided this particular high-ranking officer with "adolescent boys."

Vinson said he did not succumb to the pressure, and shortly thereafter the U.S. Secret Service raided his home. During the raid, the Secret Service garnered evidence that Vinson was running an escort service, and the U.S. Attorney for the District of Washington, D.C. eventually impaneled a federal grand jury to investigate Vinson's criminal activity and the criminal activity of his accomplices. *The Franklin Scandal* addresses various improprieties that occurred in that grand jury's deliberations.

The Washington, D.C. grand jury exonerated Spence of any crimes, including solicitation of prostitution, but Vinson was charged with a 43-count RICO indictment, and he was facing 295 years in prison. RICO is an acronym for the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, and it was originally designed to dismantle the Mafia, as RICO allows for mob bosses to be tried for crimes that were sanctioned on their behalf.

Vinson viewed the RICO Act in his case as prosecutorial overkill by the federal government. Vinson told me that he feels the federal government's prosecutorial overkill was designed to leverage his cooperation and ultimate silence. Facing a 295-year sentence, Vinson ultimately cooperated with the federal government, and he entered into a plea agreement of 63 months of incarceration.

At the onset of his cooperation, government agents debriefed Vinson, and Vinson claims that he told the debriefing agents about the interstate pedophile network operated by King and Spence. However, federal officials in Washington, D.C. never publicly acknowledged the purported network, and they sealed Vinson's evidentiary file, which may include Vinson's statements to federal officials about a King and Spence pedophile network and whether or not these allegations were investigated. The

Washington Times attempted to unseal Vinson's evidentiary file twice, but the government rebuffed each attempt.

Readers of *The Franklin Scandal* are confronted with a quandary concerning Vinson's revelations: should they believe Vinson, a convicted felon, whose statements are partially corroborated by the *Washington Times*? Or should they believe the federal government, which refuses to unseal the documents in his case? Absent of any evidence to the contrary, it seems plausible that the government was protecting Vinson's customers and perhaps Spence and King's pedophilic enterprise as it protected King from child abuse charges in Nebraska.

Throughout the course of investigating *The Franklin Scandal*, the names of eminent politicians and powerbrokers have emerged as alleged child molesters, particularly in Washington, D.C. Given the names that have surfaced in my investigation, a major political scandal may have erupted without an immaculate cover-up of King's alleged pedophilic pandering—a political scandal that may have had the seismic impact of Watergate.

King was ultimately sentenced to 15 years in a federal prison for his financial crimes, but he would not be charged with a single count of child abuse, and Spence committed suicide in 1989.

Although Lawrence King was not charged with a single count of child abuse, Paul Bonacci and his attorney filed 16 civil lawsuits in federal court against people Bonacci accused of molesting him, including Lawrence King, or of covering up his abuse, and the lawsuits contended that these individuals had deprived Bonacci of his civil rights. U.S. District Court Judge Warren Urbom declared Bonacci's allegations were unsubstantiated and "bizarre," and he dismissed 15 of the lawsuits. Larry King was incarcerated for his financial crimes when Bonacci's lawsuits were filed, and he opted not to contest the allegations, so Judge Urbom granted Bonacci a default judgment against King in 1998. Bonacci's attorney then requested a separate hearing on the single issue of damages, and called Bonacci to the stand along with other witnesses who partially corroborated Bonacci's accusations. After Judge Urbom listened to the testimony, he awarded Paul Bonacci a one-million-dollar judgment.

Urbom's one-million-dollar judgment discussed the scope of Bonacci's allegations against King, which included "repeated sexual assaults, false imprisonments, infliction of extreme emotional distress, organized and directed satanic rituals . . ." (Bonacci v. King, 1999, Memorandum of Decision). The judgment also addressed Bonacci's suffering because of King:

He has suffered burns, broken fingers, beating of the head and face and other indignities by the wrongful actions of the defendant King. In addition to the misery of going through the experiences just related over a period of eight years, the plaintiff has suffered the lingering results to the present time.

King appealed the judgment, and then withdrew his appeal after Bonacci's attorney made "motions for depositions." Judge Urbom awarded Bonacci the one-million-dollar judgment in 1999, but Bonacci has yet to receive any remuneration from King.

CONCLUSION

The Franklin Scandal documents the existence of an apparent nationwide pedophile network that pandered children to the power elite of the U.S., and it was covered up by both state and federal authorities. The extraordinary power that was deployed to orchestrate the cover-up of the Franklin story, and the striking aberrations it created in the state and federal judiciaries, is deeply disturbing. The media's participation in the government's cover-up of child abuse is also deeply disturbing. The Franklin story is a cautionary warning for the United States, because it demonstrates that the government and the media, working in conjunction, have the potential to transform fictions into facts and facts into fictions regarding the most heinous of crimes that are anathema to the laws and mores of the American body politic.

The events delineated in *The Franklin Scandal* are analogous to DID in the respect that a nascent abuse disavowing "alter personality" initially emerged to disrupt the normal continuity of a society to protect the Webb children from abuse, and accompanying that alter personality was a disavowal of the abuses. As the cover-up of child abuse effected by multiple institutions and agencies intensified and proliferated, the child-protective laws and values of the body politic and citizenry were thwarted, much as abuse-denying, abuser-aligned "alter personalities" can thwart lift-affirming, self-protective functions in individuals with DID.

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