

1 don't know -- I don't know if it was a flip lock or push
2 lock or what it was. He would close the door and secure
3 it. I don't know what he did over there. I don't know.

4 Q. And then he would take his chair and sit
5 facing you. Is that correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Would he take his chair out from behind his
8 desk and put it in front of a chair you were sitting in?

9 A. Correct. He would be sitting like this
10 (indicating). He would roll around the right side, come
11 around, straddle your legs, then you knew you were in
12 trouble.

13 Q. And, now, did he do it the same way every
14 time with how he approached you?

15 A. Just about like he had a -- like it was
16 rehearsed, like this is the way we are going to do it.
17 I knew it was coming. I knew when the door was closed,
18 I knew when I heard the click, as soon as he come
19 around, I knew, here we go again. It's exact.

20 Q. And I know you've done it in your summary,
21 but I would like to hear it in your own words. What
22 would he do, then, after he pulled the chair around and,
23 I guess, straddled you somehow or other with his leg?

24 A. Bring the chair around and he would straddle
25 leg-to-leg like this (indicating). Start rubbing your

15

1 inner thigh and tell you what his problem was or
2 compliment you, whatever he wanted to do. Started
3 rubbing your inner thigh. He would touch your penis and
4 then back off, and then he would come back on again.

5 And after the few times I was in there, I
6 realized he was trying to see if I had an erection. And
7 that's what he was going for. He would try to feel to
8 see if I had an erection, then he would back down again,
9 and he would start talking and rubbing your thigh again.
10 "That football, you need to look at that. It's really
11 good if you go out for football, get a college career."
12 He would start rubbing you again.

13 When he knew you had an erection, that's most
14 of the time when he would pinch your testicles or the
15 head of your penis. And you would sit there and the
16 pain -- he didn't realize what the pain was. If he
17 would have -- what are you going to say? What are you
18 going to say back then?

19 He was my God. He is my God. He is the one
20 I'm getting sent to. If I complain about him, I'm
21 getting sent to him. Nowhere else. You don't go
22 nowhere else. You tell your mom and dad about it, they
23 send you to Father Soens, you know. I told a priest
24 once about it, but, you know --

22 Soens would get
23 you into the office and, it says here, once inside the
24 office, he would lock the office door. Is that correct?

25 A. He closed the door and clicked something. I

Pregina Student No. 18

EXHIBIT 7

3 Q. Then when he observed that you had an
4 erection, is that when he would pinch you?

5 A. Usually he would pinch the testicle real
6 hard. And then one of the last things he would do is
7 pinch the head of your penis.

8 Q. And create pain?

9 A. Much pain.

10 Q. Did he say anything to you about what he was
11 doing while he was doing it?

12 A. No, not at all. He would just act like he
13 was really wanting to compliment me or act like he was
14 really wanting me to get my grades better. I couldn't
15 figure out that man, between the two. What was it, you
16 know? Was he complimenting me and thanking me? Is this
17 the way he is doing it? Or was he scolding me and this
18 is the way he is doing it? I'm a 13- or 14-year-old
19 boy. I don't know what he is doing.

20 Q. It sounds extremely confusing.

21 A. Yeah. Very, very confusing.

22 Q. What other emotions did you feel when he was
23 doing these things to you?

24 A. Back then, nothing. I did something wrong.
25 He is God. I mean, I don't think people realize that

1 that -- in Iowa City, Iowa, you had two choices. You
2 went to City High or Regina. If you went to City High
3 and you are a Catholic, you are an outcast. You are not
4 part of the Catholic group if you went to City High.
5 The only way you are going to City High is when you get
6 kicked out of Regina, then you are an outcast. It was a
7 smaller city back then in 1964, '62, '61. You are an
8 outcast.

9 Q. Did it frighten you when he was doing that to
10 you?

11 A. Frighten to the part of why me, you know. I
12 need to go to the school. I can't let my family down.
13 But why me? Am I going to revolt against him? No. And
14 if he pulled a knife on me and stuck me, am I going to
15 revolt against him? No. He is my God. We were taught
16 that. He is the God.

1 was so hung over. But Father Bevenour -- I can get the
2 dates for you, if you would like. It was during a
3 retreat, and he took us up to the rectory. And we all
4 drank -- I was 14 at that time, or something -- up to
5 St. Mary's Rectory. We had to be real quiet, I remember
6 him telling us that, because Monsignor Meinberg was
7 sleeping there.

8 We went up to Father Bevenour's room. There
9 was a group of us. He opened this closet door, and
10 there is a shoe rack in his closet door with bottles of
11 booze in every one of them. This is the night before
12 our retreat at Regina. And I got so plastered, I didn't
13 know which end was up.

14 The next day we are at the retreat. Well, I
15 was so sick and so hung over and everything, so I
16 thought, I'm just going to tell Father Bevenour about
17 this in my confessional. He will probably say something
18 to Father Soens and then this will all stop. Well,
19 whether he did or didn't, I don't know that.

20 I went in the confessional, I told him. He
21 told me to pray for Father Soens. Well, I knew that
22 wasn't a good thing, you know, pray for Father Soens.
23 But I thought maybe at that point that this would stop,
24 but it didn't. So...

25 Q. What year in school were you when you had

1 don't you guys pull in the gas station up there and we
2 will hang out together." He pulls in there alongside
3 us. I says, "Who is this?" He pulls in. It was Father
4 Bevenour.

5 We goes down to John's Grocery on Market
6 Street, gets a 12-pack. They bring it out to him to
7 give it to him. We goes to Donnelly's Tavern uptown and
8 gets a 12-pack. We goes to Kinney's Tavern uptown and
9 gets a 12-pack. And that's what he does on Friday
10 nights. They give him this beer for free. And then we
11 went out and was drinking.

12 And other times, then, we ended up like that
13 night up in the -- get back to where I started about, we
14 ended up into his room getting drunk on whiskey. That's
15 when I really had enough guts to tell him in the
16 confessional what's going on. But, apparently, it got
17 nowhere. He just told me to pray for Father Soens. I
18 was so damn sick and hung-over, I wasn't -- it wasn't a
19 good day.

20 Q. You told him about the fondling abuse that
21 was going on?

22 A. I told him in the confessional that,
23 apparently, I'm sinning because that principal of our
24 school is taking me in there and playing with my jewels
25 and playing with me and touching me. And he goes

1 that retreat?

2 A. I believe a junior. I was a junior, I
3 believe.

4 Q. So Father Bevenour fed you booze the night
5 before the retreat?

6 A. Yes.

11 He met us -- he would go get beer in town
12 for us.

13 Q. Bevenour would?

14 A. Yes. He had a 1950 Ford, or something, he
15 would bring out on Friday nights. And we didn't even
16 know who he was when we first met him. He had a leather
17 hat on. He was real strict in class. He kicked us out
18 of class, religion class, and stuff. He was real --
19 "You don't talk in my class," and this, "Get out." We
20 all thought he was a complete ass. But he are so
21 strict, so strict.

22 Well, we are uptown one night. I got my car.
23 This other car pulls up alongside it, a '50 Ford,
24 looking pretty sharp. A man with a leather cap on,
25 leather coat up around here (indicating), he says, "Why

1 something about some Hail Marys or something. I said,
2 "But it just keeps happening." He goes, "Well, you need
3 to pray for him." That was the response I got.

4 Q. And you think that was your junior year?

5 A. Junior year, I believe.

6 Q. When Soens would touch you in his office, did
7 he ever have direct hand conduct with your genitals, or
8 was it over clothing?

9 A. He would -- at the first, I don't believe he
10 ever took my zipper down. But he was taking my zipper
11 down, and then he would act like it was some kind of
12 a -- I don't know if it was a game or what it was. He
13 would take my zipper down, then he would back off a
14 little bit and kind of talk to you like, "Now I've got
15 you. What do you think about this?" I don't know what
16 it was. I really don't know at that age. Then he put
17 his hand back in.

18 Never did I believe that he ever touched bare
19 skin, but he did touch my underwear. He did rub my
20 penis through the underwear. After that, I don't -- I
21 always say, I always tried to think about a death or
22 something. That's how I was trying to -- because I knew
23 if I didn't get an erection, I was winning, you know. I
24 knew I was winning if I didn't get an erection, because
25 that's something he wanted me to get. I just knew he

1 did. It was just the way he played the game. I knew
 2 enough about -- at that age, about masturbating and
 3 stuff, that that's how -- you rub your penis, you get an
 4 erection. And I knew what game he was playing. And,
 5 like I say, I just tried to think of something terrible,
 6 and that's how it went.

1
 2 Q. I want to ask you a little bit about the
 3 dealings that you had with Father Bevenour.

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. We know that -- the one occasion that the
 6 four of you went up to his room, was that at the church?

7 A. That was at the **St. Mary's Rectory.**

8 Q. How many times did that occur, actually going
 9 up into the rectory?

10 A. **Myself was once. Drinking beer with him was**
 11 **numerous times.**

12 Q. Where would this drinking beer take place?

13 A. **Downtown Iowa City, driving around,**
 14 **reservoir, Coralville Reservoir in Iowa City, just kind**
 15 **of driving around, mostly cruising. That was a pretty**
 16 **heavy thing back then.**

17 Q. Is the only time you told him what Soens was
 18 doing to you in the confessional?

19 A. **Correct.**

20 Q. What was your understanding back then as to
 21 what use a priest could make of information that was
 22 provided to him during the course of the sacrament of
 23 confession?

24 A. **During confession, that's supposed to have**
 25 **been a very private thing. Nobody else could be told.**

1 I was just, in my roundabout way, hoping that he could
 2 get into a conversation. Nothing about the confessional
 3 with me. You know, roundabout way get into it, that he
 4 wondered if it was happening or something. I knew he
 5 wasn't going to tell what happened in the confessional.
 6 That wasn't going to be back then. But I was hoping, in
 7 a roundabout way, he could bring up that maybe he had
 8 heard through a grapevine, maybe he heard from another
 9 student, maybe one of the parents said something, some
 10 way of just getting back to him and say stop.

11 Q. Do I understand that what you were trying to
 12 do is plant a seed for Bevenour to maybe try and look a
 13 little further?

14 A. **To try and -- the confessional thing you**
 15 **brought up, and that's true. That's supposed to be**
 16 **nobody ever, ever knows your confession. Whether that**
 17 **was true or not, who knows, after some of the other**
 18 **stuff. Yes, planting -- just get a hint to Father Soens**
 19 **that some people have brought this up to somebody. Not**
 20 **in a confessional, but anywhere, so possibly he could**
 21 **address the issue.**

7 Q. When you said you were in a confessional
8 situation with Father Bevenour --

9 A. Bevenour.

10 Q. I'm trying to narrow down, what year do you
11 think this took place in your schooling at Regina?

12 A. I believe 1963.

After your confessional

22 with Father Bevenour, did the incidents with Father
23 Soens continue?

24 A. Yes.

25

4 Q. Was there any change in the number or --

5 A. No.

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16 When we went out drinking, I thought, that's
17 cool, you know, I'm friends with this priest, so I will
18 sit here and talk in class. He took me outside the
19 doorway and he made it crystal clear in my face that,
20 "If you want an F in this class, you are going to get
21 one. When we are in this class, you are going to learn
22 everything I teach you. And when we are out drinking,
23 that's a different ball game."