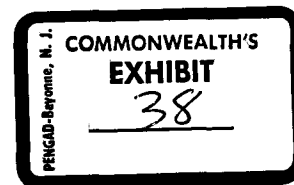


Note: We have used 'Ben' to redact Avery's brother's name.



MEMO TO FILE

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM: Rev. Joseph R. Cistone
ITEM: Interview with Mrs. Avery and Ben Avery
DATE: March 23, 1993
RE: Rev. Edward V. Avery (1970)

Rev. William J. Lynn, Secretary For Clergy, and Rev. Joseph R. Cistone met with Mrs. Avery and Ben Avery, the mother and brother of Rev. Edward V. Avery (EVA) today at the office for the Secretary for Clergy, at their request, to discuss EVA's present situation. What follows is a summary of this meeting.

Mrs. Avery and Ben requested this meeting, to tell their side of the story regarding EVA and James. They were "devastated" to learn of EVA's situation and the accusations made by James. Ben said he knew James well and was in his company many times because of his relationship with EVA. Ben described his own family as a "high energy family." EVA always played with the kids. They would "rough-house" and the kids would be accustomed to pile on EVA. He believes James took a bad meaning out of this.

Ben says that these accusations are a blatant lie. Fr. Lynn noted that they could be lies. However, it was the procedure of the diocese to follow up on these issues and ask the priest to undergo a complete evaluation. Any actions taken are based on the results of the evaluation, not the accusations.

Ben noted that he was present on every occasion mentioned by James. He spoke of James as having killed his wife-to-be and remarried quick enough (this refers to the car accident). Ben mentioned the incident at Smokey Joe's. He said that EVA told him immediately about the way James got drunk and EVA had to pack the van himself and carry James home. He also noted that James invited himself along to things on many occasions. Ben said he did not want James to come along on the ski trip, since he thought it would be good for the two brothers to go alone. Ben said that there were separate bedrooms. Ben and EVA slept together, as they were used to doing on trips together, and James slept in the other room. Concerning EVA's getting sick at supper, Ben said he had the same meal for dinner and did not get sick. He wonders if James slipped his brother a "Mickey Finn" or something.

Ben noted that James would wear girls pants all the time and believes that James is really fantasizing.

Ben brought along a tape recording of an incoming call to their house, placed on March 13, 1993 at 1:30 P.M. He believes that James was the caller, disguising himself as the maintenance man, asking for Ben. Ben said the caller sounded distressed and believes James was trying to cause trouble.

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Fr. Lynn and Fr. Cistone later concurred that they were not convinced that the caller asked for "Ben." To both priests, it sounded like "Jen." In any case, it was impossible to draw any conclusions.

Ben also believes that James is blaming much of his own difficulties on EVA, e.g. the death of his wife, his brother's leaving the seminary.

Fr. Lynn explained that EVA is still the pastor and the archdiocese is in no way denying the good work EVA has done. We are simply responding to the results of the evaluation.

Ben expressed their belief that the process is unfair and that the archdiocese is not supporting EVA as much as he deserves. Ben also expressed concern over the family's personal property in the rectory. This seemed a substantial concern on his part. Ben also noted that there is a great need for EVA to return to the Hmong community and was concerned about the renovations which had recently been completed on the first floor of the rectory for their (Hmong) benefit.

Fr. Lynn informed Ben that the hospital will soon be requesting a family meeting. Ben said he does not believe the results of the tests and thinks the issue, on the part of the counsellors, is money.

Fr. Lynn also noted that Ben's version of the ski trip is different from EVA's.

Ben said that their family was determined to get to the bottom of this. He predicted that James is really interested in money and will probably sue for the money necessary for medical school.

Fr. Joseph R. Cistone

Date 3-27-93

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