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DETECTIVE SERGEANT TANOS: Just take a seat there. Interview between Detective Sergeant Tanos and Michael Alan Heatley at the Burnie police station on the 22nd of June 1995. The time commenced is 4.24. Also present is Detective Senior - Detective Constable First-Class Sidgreaves.

Q 1 Mr Heatley, do you agree that there are no other persons present in this room apart from yourself and those I have introduced?

A Yes.

Q 2 As I've already explained to you, Detective Constable Sidgreaves and are making inquiries in relation to the death of James William Meek on or about the 8th of March this year. I'm going to ask you further questions about this matter. You're not obliged to answer unless you wish to do so, but whatever you say will be electronically recorded and may be used in evidence. Do you understand that?

A Yes.

Q 3 Mm. Do you agree that prior to the commencements - commencement of this interview I told you that I intended asking you further questions about this matter?

A Yes.

Q 4 And do you agree that I also told you that my questions and any answer that you gave to those questions would be electronically recorded as the interview took place?

A Yes.

Q 5 And do you agree that I also told you that a - a viewing of the video cassette tape would be arranged, if required - - -

A Yes.

Q 6 - - - at a later stage, and did you then agree to be electronically recorded?

A Yes.

Q 7 For the purpose of this interview, what is your full name?

A Michael Alan Heatley.

Q 8 And what is your date of birth?

A

Q 9 And what is your current address?

A [REDACTED] Clare Court, Coles Beach, Devonport.

Q 10 What's the street number?

A There isn't one. It's just [REDACTED].

Q 11 Right, all right, and are you working at the present time?

A No, I'm unable to work because of the injury of my wrist.

Q 12 Are you receiving any benefits?

A No, they've been terminated ... I ... been going to the doctor ... - - -

Q 13 How - how do you sustain yourself then?

A Social security.

Q 14 You - do you get benefits?

A Yeah, yeah, is that - I thought you meant benefit from workers compensation.

Q 15 So you get government benefits?

A Yeah, government benefits.

- Q 16 And how much is that a week?
- A \$245 a fortnight - - -
- Q 17 Right.
- A - - - 122.50.
- Q 18 And who do you live with?
- A I live with my sister and occasionally stay at me grandparents' as well.
- Q 19 Right. How often do you live with - stay with your sister?
- A A few nights and from time to time I stay over at a friend's place a few nights, stay at me grandparents a few nights and just here and there, yes.
- Q 20 Right. How long have you lived in Tasmania?
- A I've lived in Tasmania - we came to Tasmania when I was, I think, about 7 years old - - -
- Q 21 Right.
- A - - - stayed here till I was 16 and I've been backwards and forwards from Tasmania to New South Wales ever since.
- Q 22 Right. Can you tell me where you were at the beginning of this year - - -
- A New Year's Eve - - -
- Q 23 - - - since January?
- A New Year's Eve I would've been in Sydney - New Year's Eve, I think.
- Q 24 When did you go to Sydney?
- A Can't remember - I actually went to Sydney - ...
... .., so March the 9th, I suppose.
- Q 25 What year?

- A Last year.
- Q 26 And where did you live then?
- A I went to Lidcombe, stayed over at Lidcombe. When I got to Sydney I stayed at Lidcombe.
- Q 27 At what address?
- A ■ Wayland Avenue.
- Q 28 And who lives there?
- A Marie Clark.
- Q 29 And who's she?
- A Me father's girlfriend.
- Q 30 And when did you start living there at that address?
- A Well, roughly around the 9th of that month.
- Q 31 And how long did you stay there?
- A Until my father's death.
- Q 32 And when was that?
- A October the 1st.
- Q 33 What year?
- A 1994.
- Q 34 And where did you live after that?
- A Various places. I lived in - I lived in Bondi; I lived at Granville; I lived at Lethbridge Park and here in Tasmania.
- Q 35 Who did you stay with at these places?
- A In Lethbridge Park I stayed with my sister and her boyfriend, Roger Bissett and Karen Heatley. Bob Woodward is the owner or the runner of the house. At Granville I stayed with Roger Griffiths, who's my dad's cousin, occasionally at Lidcombe with Marie and then, when I stayed at Bondi, at me sister's and her boyfriend's place - - -

- Q 36 And who's - - -
- A - - - and - - -
- Q 37 - - - Roger Griffith?
- A He's my dad's cousin.
- Q 38 Right, so after leaving your - is it your auntie,
is it, or your - - -
- A Uncle.
- Q 39 - - - your uncle's place where did you - where did
you stay after that?
- A What, Roger's?
- Q 40 Yeah.
- A What, as in - - -
- Q 41 At the Lidcombe address.
- A The Lidcombe address, when I left Lidcombe?
- Q 42 Mm.
- A I went and I stayed at Bondi with my sister and
then I left there and I went to Lethbridge Park and
I stayed there, then I left - left there and I went
to Granville, then I left there and went - I was
just going backwards to the three of 'em.
- Q 43 Were you working at this time?
- A When I was in Bondi I was working for a short
period of time.
- Q 44 Where at?
- A Alexandria, Bird Bros, tallow and stock
manufacturers.
- Q 45 And what were you doing there?
- A Collecting fat and bones from butcher shops.
- Q 46 How long did you work there for?
- A I worked there for 2 months and then I had an

- injury with me wrist.
- Q 47 How did you injure your wrist?
- A With a container of blood.
- Q 48 Did you get compensation for that?
- A Yeah, I had compensation for it and then I went back, had a medical and they said, "... ..
... all right," and it isn't all right, so I went and seen another doctor and so I'm gonna have to go back to New South Wales.
- Q 49 Mm, and when did you last - when did you come to Tasmania this last time?
- A A coupla months ago, a month ago.
- Q 50 Do you know the exact date?
- A No.
- Q 51 How did you travel here?
- A Spirit of Tasmania - - -
- Q 52 You - - -
- A - - - the bus and then the Spirit of Tasmania.
- Q 53 The bus from where?
- A Sydney - - -
- Q 54 To where?
- A - - - from Central Station - to Melbourne, then I walked from Melbourne to the Spirit of Tasmania and then got on the Spirit of Tasmania to Devonport.
- Q 55 Did you use your own name to - - -
- A Yes.
- Q 56 - - - to book these - - -
- A Yes.
- Q 57 - - - these trips?
- A Yes.

- Q 58 On the bus?
- A Yes.
- Q 59 And on the Spirit of Tasmania?
- A Yes.
- Q 60 You used your own name?
- A Yes, far as I can remember.
- Q 61 Right. You don't know what exact date you did that?
- A No.
- Q 62 What month? Do you know what month?
- A No, only that it was either - I'd say roughly 2 months ago, a month and a half, 2 months ago.
- Q 63 All right. Now, do you know a person named James Meek?
- A Yes, but I know him as Jim, Jim Meek - - -
- Q 64 All right.
- A - - - always known him as Jim.
- Q 65 And can you tell me what your association is with James Meek?
- A A friend and that was all.
- Q 66 Right. How did you come to meet him?
- A Through my sister.
- Q 67 And when was that?
- A That would've been September last year, I suppose, maybe before then.
- Q 68 And where did you meet him?
- A I met him in Surry Hills.
- Q 69 Where in Surry Hills?
- A At his flat, where he lives.
- Q 70 Do you know the address there?
- A No.

Q 71 Do you know the name of the flats?

A No.

Q 72 Is it near any specific place that you know?

A Near - ... - from the back of Cleveland Street - that's how I know it, just up from Cleveland Street. It's the next block.

Q 73 Can you describe the flats to me?

A Yeah, they're just big. Twelve storeys, they must be, 'cause he lived on the top floor - - -

Q 74 Mm, hm.

A - - - 12-floor flats.

Q 75 And how did you come to meet Jim, then?

A Well, he was at Karen's, where Bob's - where Karen used to live.

Q 76 But where - where did you first meet him?

A I think I met him at either his place or Bob's, but I - I actually really can't remember, to be truthful, where I first met him - - -

Q 77 Mm, hm.

A - - - except then my sister - me and my sister went down there and he invited us down for lunch and we had a bit of lunch and that and then my sister's boyfriend - we went down there and we had a meal again and that and then we left and then the third time my sister - I'd come back from Sydney and my sister wasn't able - went from Tasmania to Sydney and my sister wasn't able to meet me, so I said, "Well, listen" - she said, "Well, go up to Jim's and we'll pick you up from there." So, anyway, I went up to Jim's and they - 'cause they were in

Bondi and they came and they picked me up from there and that's when Karen said - Karen told me that he had AIDS and everything and I thought, "Oh," and that didn't - ever since then I just didn't - I was just particular about what I ate and everything from there, if I ever ate anything, 'cause when he - and after that I didn't want him to cook me any meals or anything 'cause I just to used to spin out on him having AIDS.

Q 78 And how many times did you meet Jim?

A Half a dozen.

Q 79 And how would you meet, under what circumstances?

A I'd just go up and knock on his door.

Q 80 Unannounced, you'd just turn up there?

A Yeah, well, I didn't know his phone number. I'd just turn up and he'd say, "Oh, yeah, come in. It's all right." There'd always be someone there.

Q 81 Why would you go there?

A Occasionally I'd go there and see if I could get a sleeping tablet. I can't actually remember what they were called, though, the tablets - used to get a tablet off him and say hello, that was about it.

Q 82 So he'd give you a tablet?

A Yeah, but I only did that a coupla times and - 'cause me sister told me - I told me sister - well, Jim told me sister, actually, about the tablets and Karen told him or Christine told him not to give me any more, whatever was - - -

Q 83 And were you aware that he was homosexual?

A Yeah, I was aware that he was a homosexual.

- Q 84 And how did you know that?
- A My sister and her boyfriend and my other sister.
- Q 85 What?
- A Just told me that - and Bob was saying that Jim was a poofter, 'cause he was - he was gay.
- Q 86 Did you ever have a homosexual relationship with Jim Meek?
- A No, never.
- Q 87 Did he ever suggest that you have such a relationship with him?
- A No.
- Q 88 When were you last in his unit?
- A I do not know the exact date, months ago.
- Q 89 Do you know what month?
- A No, don't even know what month, actually.
- Q 90 And what happened on that occasion?
- A I went up there and asked him if I'd be able to stay the night 'cause I didn't have anywhere to stay and he said - - -
- Q 91 What time of the day was that?
- A That would've been, say, between 5.30 and 7 o'clock.
- Q 92 Morning or - - -
- A Evening.
- Q 93 All right, and what happened?
- A He ummed and aahed and he said, "Yeah," he said, "you can stay 1 night and that's all," and I said, "Thank you" and sat down and he asked me if I wanted anything to eat and I said, "No, I'm right" and that and - - -
- Q 94 Well, can you tell me exactly what happened that

evening?

A That evening - what exactly happened - we sat up at the table, me and the security guard, Jim, talking, just laughing and joking. I was smoking marijuana, Jim's marijuana, watched a few movies. I can't actually remember what the movies were 'cause we weren't paying much attention to them - and then that was it. We went to bed. The security guard left, the security guard come back, the security guard left, the security guard come back.

Q 95 What was the name of the security guard?

A I think the name of the security guard was Michael. I'm not sure, though I'm pretty sure his name - - -

Q 96 Can you describe him?

A Small, about half a head shorter than me, glasses, a little bit receding in the front, and that's about all, Caucasian.

Q 97 And how long did he stay there?

A He - he stayed there, he watched one movie and then he left, then he came back and then he watched sorta half of another movie, eating biscuits and chocolates and - - -

Q 98 What time frame? How many hours would he've stayed there all together?

A Who knows? He was coming backwards and forwards, say, up till midnight, virtually - I suppose midnight, about midnight, 11 o'clock.

Q 99 Right, and what else happened that night - - -

A Nothing.

- Q 100 - - - that you can recall?
- A Nothing at all happened.
- Q 101 Where did you sleep that evening?
- A On the couch, slept on his couch.
- Q 102 And where did Jim sleep?
- A In his bedroom, as far as I know.
- Q 103 And what time did you wake up the following day?
- A The following day I woke up - it was Jim, actually, who woke me up. It would've been about 7 o'clock, I suppose, 7 o'clock in the morning - I dunno. It was in the morning, though, early in the morning about sevenish, 7.00 in the morning.
- Q 104 And what happened then?
- A I woke up - well, I went in, I had a shower, come out. I cooked meself a few pieces of toast, had the toast, had a few more bongs and then virtually left, 'cause he said about the fire engines were coming, doing something with the flats, but I dunno what they were doing, fire engines and few other trucks. They were down the bottom of the flats, so - - -
- Q 105 And what time was that?
- A Well, before - before 9 o'clock, before 9 o'clock.
- Q 106 The following day?
- A Yeah, the following day.
- Q 107 Did you take anything from the unit?
- A I stole a ring of his - - -
- Q 108 Yeah.
- A - - - from - - -
- Q 109 Where was this ring?

- A The ring was on the - I - I can't actually describe what it was. It was a - a locker cabinet drawer just like a wall unit, miniature wall unit, a - a sort of daggy sort of wall unit. It was sitting up on top of the wall unit underneath sort of a bowl.
- Q 110 What type of bowl was it?
- A A wooden bowl, I think; I'm not sure.
- Q 111 What colour?
- A I wouldn't know - brown.
- Q 112 In what room was that?
- A That was in his lounge room.
- Q 113 Can you describe the ring to me?
- A Yeah, the ring was - it was gold with a brown flecked stone in the top of it.
- Q 114 Anything else you remember about it?
- A No, only that it was marked "9 carat gold", had a 9-carat gold marking on it.
- Q 115 Right. Now, what time do you say that you left that morning?
- A Before 9 o'clock, yeah, left before 9 o'clock.
- Q 116 What did you do when you left the unit?
- A When I left the unit - well, before, prior to leaving the unit, I went next-door and I got a Tally-ho and some tobacco. I rolled a joint.
- Q 117 From who?
- A The next-door neighbour, his - either his next-door neighbour or the next door up, but I'm pretty sure it was the next-door neighbour ...
- Q 118 Can you describe him to me?
- A No, I can't. I saw him through the flyscreen door

when he opened the flyscreen door to give it to me.

Q 119 What - - -

A All - - -

Q 120 What age would you say?

A He was tall, say late forties, early fifties, maybe, late forties.

Q 121 Clean-shaven?

A Yeah, but I'm not quite - actually can't remember, but he might've had a little bit of facial growth. I - 'cause I seen him only - well, I only saw him the once. That was the only time I ever saw him.

Q 122 Now, you say that there were some fire engines?

A Yeah.

Q 123 Well, what happened in that situation?

A Well, the fire engines - Jim said - Jim said, "Unless you want the cherry pickers to come and pick you up, the fire engines to come and pick you up, you're gonna have to leave or whatever, because the lifts aren't going to be working." So anyway I said, "Okay, then" and, anyway, I rolled a joint and I tasted a little bit of his leaf from his and then I left. I went down and he said, "Go down" - he said, "Use the stairwell," and so, anyway, I used the stairwell, walked along, used the lifts. The lifts weren't working, so I walked back along and walked back up the stairwell, knocked on his door and I told him that they weren't working and he said, "Sing out to 'em, then." I sang out to the fella down at the fire engine, told him that the lifts weren't working and

he said, "No, that's all right." One of the fellas went in, then come out. So, anyway, I said, "Okay, then," said goodbye to Jim, walked back down, walked along, pressed the button on the lift, it opened, went down and that's when I got a little cigarette - a lighter off a lady who was down at the bottom, just lit the joint.

Q 124 And what'd she look like?

A An old lady, just grey hair, short.

Q 125 On the ground floor, that was?

A On the ground floor, sitting outside the lifts. She had a little chihuahua - a coupla chihuahuas or something with her.

Q 126 Yeah. What'd you do with his ring?

A Took it to the hockshop to see if I could get some money for it.

Q 127 And what - what hockshop was that?

A Merrylands.

Q 128 Do you know the - do you know what street that's in?

A Merrylands Road.

Q 129 Do you know the name of the - - -

A No.

Q 130 - - - hockshop?

A Don't know the name of the hockshop - - -

Q 131 Can you - - -

A - - - ... - - -

Q 132 - - - describe the front of it to me?

A Yeah. It's got windows there, windows there and the door's in the middle, display windows, display windows. It's only a small shop. Just as you come

up outta the train station you walk along. As you get to the pedestrian crossing you turn left, look to your left and it's there.

Q 133 Anybody else go with you?

A Yes, my father's cousin.

Q 134 And what's his name?

A Roger Griffiths.

Q 135 And what happened with the property?

A The property was sold for the value, I think.

Q 136 Who sold it?

A I sold it, except I needed - because I didn't have any identification and Roger was in there with me, 'cause he's good friends, because he always - he's been for 4 - for the past 5 years since his mother got ran over he's been - - -

Q 137 Yeah.

A - - - taking his - various typewriters, brooches, just stuff so he can get a little bit of money, so he can make the fortnight, see the fortnight through, and he took me in there, 'cause the fella's known him for so long, and Roger said that - 'cause I told a lie to Roger about the ring. I didn't tell him 'cause - Roger said, "Where'd the ring come from" and I told - I didn't have ... - if I told him I'd stolen it he wouldn't have taken any part in it, so I just said - said to Roger - I said, "Yeah, it's my ring, Roge. I've had it for a while and that," and he said, "Okay, then" and he brought me across and he said to the fella - he said, "Yeah, it's all

right," he said, "It's cool," so anyway the fella gave me \$40 for it and I left.

- Q 138 And did you give any of that money to Roger?
- A No, I don't think I did, actually; Roger had money.
- Q 139 And what'd you do with that \$40?
- A I bought food with it, I think, bought food, bought food with it 'cause I didn't have anywhere to stay.
- Q 140 And when did you actually sell the ring?
- A I don't know - that day.
- Q 141 Well, how many - how many - - -
- A That day - - -
- Q 142 That day - - -
- A - - - or the - - -
- Q 143 - - - that you took it?
- A Yeah, that day, that day, I think, that day or the next day. Yeah, it must've been; yeah, it would've been that day.
- Q 144 Did you take anything else from the flat?
- A No.
- Q 145 And what'd you do after you sold the ring and got the money?
- A I can't remember whether I stayed the night at Roger's or if I went to Mt Druitt. I think - pretty sure I might've went to Mt Druitt, but I can't really remember.
- Q 146 And who'd you stay with there?
- A My sister's boyfriend, Roger, and Bob Woodward.
- Q 147 That night?
- A Yeah, that night.
- Q 148 And who was present in that - in the house?

A There was Bob Woodward, Roger and Bob's friend who was also staying there.

Q 149 That's the night - - -

A - - -

Q 150 - - - after leaving in the morning from Jim's? You stayed there that night?

A Mm.

Q 151 And how long did you stay there for?

A I don't know, maybe a day, a couple days, 'cause Bob started complaining about rent and all the rest of it, so I left - - -

Q 152 And what - - -

A - - - and then I went to Roger Griffiths's.

Q 153 Well, what time did you get to there that - that evening?

A Where, at Roger's?

Q 154 Yeah.

A I don't know. I ... - I - - -

Q 155 Was it dark?

A No, I don't think so, no - no, it wasn't.

Q 156 And when did you leave there?

A - I dunno - the next day.

Q 157 And where did you go from there?

A Well, Roger's, Roger Griffiths's in Granville.

Q 158 And how long did you stay there for?

A A few days, maybe, maybe not even that - I dunno.

Q 159 And where did you go after that?

A Bondi, to my sister's and then - - -

Q 160 And how long did you stay there?

A Well, not a long time 'cause we was fighting and

everything and I only went down there to see if I could get some money off her.

Q 161 And where did you go to after that?

A Just on the street.

Q 162 Where did you have your clothing?

A My clothing was at Bondi, Mt Druitt and Granville and Lidcombe.

Q 163 And were you getting social security at this stage?

A Yeah.

Q 164 So you were living off that?

A No, actually, I wasn't getting social security at that stage because I was waiting for the compensation on my wrist to come through. Social Security weren't paying me or hadn't been 'cause I'd been working and I was waiting for a compensation claim.

Q 165 So how - how were you living then?

A Well, I was living off my sister, off my sisters, and I was living outta their pocket and off Roger and everything and that's why Roger was - Roger Griffiths was getting upset, 'cause I didn't have any money, and he started saying that, you know, he prefers to live on his own and all the rest of it.

Q 166 Can you tell me what you were wearing when you stayed with Jim that night?

A No. All I can remember is a black jumper, 'cause it was my father's, one of me father's ...

Q 167 Do you still have that jumper?

A I think so, ... - - -

Q 168 Where is it?

A I - I think it's at nan and pa's.

Q 169 And what sort of trousers did - were you wearing?

A I can't - honestly cannot remember.

Q 170 And what about footwear?

A Footwear? I would've been wearing sneakers, sneakers or mocassins, Smocassins maybe, 'cause these were in Tasmania. Yeah, I must've been wearing Smocassins.

Q 171 Have you still got those?

A Yeah.

Q 172 Have you ever worked for a - for a company called Daewoo Australia?

A Who?

Q 173 Daewoo, D-a-e-w-o-o.

A No.

Q 174 Have you ever worked for a company called Automail?

A No.

Q 175 Right. I just wanna show you a copy of a letter, two-page, sent from Daewoo Australia to Mr - Mr Meek. Can you see that?

A (NO AUDIBLE REPLY)

Q 176 That's the front of the letter - right?

A Yeah.

Q 177 And that's the back of that letter.

A Yeah.

Q 178 Have you ever seen that letter before?

A This letter? I think I may; I'm not sure, actually. If I have, it would've been because he was showing me about his car. He had - he said he had to take his car back because there was a fault;

there was only a fault in three cars or something and his car was one of 'em and he had to take it back - - -

Q 179

Yeah.

A

- - - so that probably could be the letter. Yeah, that's it, three vehicles being - yeah.

Q 180

I'll draw your attention to this - what I'll describe as scrawl or the pattern design on the back of that letter. Do you know who did that?

A

No, but I was drawing on it, except I didn't do it all.

Q 181

Do you know what this "ST" represents?

A

No.

Q 182

Did you write any of this?

A

I might've did some of the heavy black stuff. That's about all, I reckon, 'cause it was sitting on his table.

Q 183

And what's the "ST" stand for?

A

I wouldn't have a clue; I didn't do it.

Q 184

What about the scrawl or scribbling on the top of the front of the letter? Do you recognise that at all?

A

No, I don't think that was on his letter 'cause he got it outta the cupboard.

Q 185

When did he get that out of the cupboard?

A

When he was telling me about it and he was telling me about his car and he said he had to ... it back and he showed me.

Q 186

What time of the day was that?

A

I haven't any idea, wouldn't - that was in the -

- that would've been that night, I reckon.
- Q 187 It was evening?
- A Yeah, I think so, either - either - either the evening or early in the morning.
- Q 188 Your fingerprint has been found on the original of this letter.
- A Yeah, well, that's what I mean. He showed me it, so - - -
- Q 189 You handled the letter?
- A Mm, I read the letter.
- Q 190 All right.
-
- Q 191 I'll just put the front of this letter up here. And could you just put the - the back of that letter on?
- Q 192 As I've told you, James Meek was bashed to death on or about the 8th of March this year. Do you know who caused those injuries to him?
- A No, I do not know who caused those injuries to him.
- Q 193 Did you have any arguments with Jim Meek?
- A No.
- Q 194 Was any other person besides the security guard in that unit with you on that - that night you stayed there?
- A No.
- Q 195 Did you ever have any arguments with Jim?
- A Never, no.
- Q 196 Did you owe him money?
- A No.
- Q 197 Did you ever borrow money from him?
- A No - borrow - the only thing I ever borrowed from

him was a pair of socks and that was ages ago and I washed 'em and returned 'em - - -

Q 198 Did - - -

A - - - and - - -

Q 199 Did you know anybody who may've wanted to cause these injuries - - -

A No.

Q 200 - - - to Jim Meek? Did you bash him?

A No.

Q 201 Did you take any property from him - - -

A The only - - -

Q 202 - - - besides the ring?

A No, no property besides the ring.

Q 203 Can you tell me when you left the unit that morning, after staying there the evening, what sort of mood was Jim in?

A Well, a mood like he always is, I suppose, and said, "Righto, then, see ya, see ya," and left. Yeah, we played radio games - - -

Q 204 What do you mean by radio games?

A He rang 2WS to see if he could ring a - win a prize, 'cause he'd won prizes from them before, and he rang up 2WS.

Q 205 And what - what time was that?

A Early in the morning, say - I don't know.

Q 206 The morning you left?

A Mm.

Q 207 And did you win?

A No, I don't think we did; no, I think we lost.

Q 208 And what type of contest was it?

A You had to - I actually can't remember, can't even remember what contest it was, actually, 'cause it was a long time ago.

Q 209 Had you - seen any injuries to Jim - - -

A No.

Q 210 - - - whilst you were staying there that evening?

A No.

Q 211 Did he complain to you about anything?

A No.

Q 212 Did you leave the unit that evening with him?

A No.

Q 213 Did the security guard have any arguments with Jim - - -

A No.

Q 214 - - - whilst you were there that evening?

A No.

Right. Do you have any questions to ask him, Constable Sidgreaves?

DETECTIVE CONSTABLE FIRST-CLASS SIDGREAVES: For voice identification, Detective Constable First-Class Anthony Sidgreaves.

Q 215 Michael, just a few things, just for clarification, if that's all right.

A Yeah, yeah.

Q 216 Your social security payment of \$245 a fortnight, what bank is that moneys paid into by the Commonwealth government?

A Trust ...

Q 217 The Trust Bank?

A Trust.

- Q 218 just to - you - when you said you returned from Sydney to Tasmania, from Melbourne to - to Tasmania, that you travelled from Sydney to Melbourne by bus?
- A Yeah, coach - - -
- Q 219 Coach?
- A - - - or bus - - -
- Q 220 Sorry.
- A - - - same thing.
- Q 221 Right. How much - do you recall how much the fare cost?
- A No.
- Q 222 Mm, and when you came across from Melbourne to Devonport is there a chance you might've used a name not - other than Michael Heatley? Could you - is there a possibility you could've used a different name?
- A There is a possibility, except - because - because I'm to and from, to and from, to and from - - -
- Q 223 Right.
- A - - - and usually all the time I - travel in an alias, except I think I used "Michael Heatley" this time.
- Q 224 If you were to use an alias name would you - would you use the same name all the time or would you just pick a name from random?
- A Just pick a name from random, just go in just for fun and just pick a name from random,
... a good laugh.
- Q 225 Okay. The morning that the fire brigade were there

and there was that problem of exiting the room or exiting the - the unit block, do you remember what the weather conditions were like?

A That was - well, it must've been fine, 'cause it wasn't raining.

Q 226 And during the night you stayed with - Jim's house on that last occasion, you saw him, did Jim leave the house at any time ... - - -

A In the night?

Q 227 Yeah, during the night or any time?

A Yes, he did live and he took his dogs down to the toilet.

Q 228 What time was that?

A I wouldn't know. I think he took 'em down twice, I think.

Q 229 You said "dogs". Did Jim have dogs in the unit with him?

A Mm.

Q 230 And how many dogs did he have?

A Two.

Q 231 What kind of dogs were they?

A He had a white fluffy one and a black one.

Q 232 And he - were you on the couch at this stage - -

A No - - -

Q 233 - - - - - -

A - - - I was sitting up at the chair, sitting up on the chair.

Q 234 And he left and how long was he away from the unit form - for?

A 15 minutes.

Q 235 He obviously indicated to you that his intention was to leave the unit for the purpose of walking the dogs; would that be true?

A Yeah, well, we took 'em down to the toilet.

Q 236 "We" took them down?

A No, he took 'em down.

Q 237 You - you stayed in the unit, did you?

A Yeah.

Q 238 Right. In relation to the ring that you told us that you took from Jim's house, how did you know it was a 9-carat ring?

A It had it marked on the inside of it.

Q 239 What was the marking?

A Yeah, "9 CT".

Q 240 There was no other markings on the ring?

A Not that I can recall.

Q 241 Right.

A ... - - -

Q 242 You're au fait with jewellery? You know that - you can differentiate - - -

A Well - - -

Q 243 - - - know the difference between a 9-carat ring and an 18-carat ring?

A No, not really.

Q 244 You say that you took this ring to the Merrylands loan office?

A Yeah.

Q 245 Why did you go to Merrylands in preference to or in - - -

A Well, I went to - I went to other ones as well,

- other loan - - -
- Q 246 Which other ones - - -
- A - - - other loan shops.
- Q 247 - - - did you go to?
- A I went to one near the Cross.
- Q 248 Do you know which one it was?
- A No, wouldn't have a clue, but one on William Street.
- Q 249 Opposite the Toyota dealership there?
- A Yeah, right, yeah, that one.
- Q 250 East Sydney Loan Office?
- A Yeah, and - - -
- Q 251 Did you go anywhere else?
- A Yeah, I went to one in Bondi Junction.
- Q 252 Which one? There's two in Bondi Junction.
- A The one at the end of the mall.
- Q 253 Yeah, they're both at the end of the mall, either the Brisbane Loan Office or Aceben. Can you remember which one it was?
- A Probably Brisbane Loan Office or maybe Aceben. I don't - I'm not - you know.
- Q 254 How did you know to make - how did you know to go to the neighbour that was - you said that you went to two doors up from Mr Meek to get the - the Tally-ho?
- A Mr Meek - - -
- Q 255 Yeah.
- A - - - Jim.
- Q 256 He told you to go there, did he? You weren't known to this person and he didn't know you?
- A No.

Q 257 It was a situation where you were after some tobacco?

A After, yeah, ... Tally-hos - - -

Q 258 And you - - -

A - - - and ... - - -

Q 259 - - - asked Jim, Mr Meek, and - - -

A Well, Jim had tailor-mades and I don't think he had any at that stage. I dunno whether he had cigarettes

Q 260 So on Mr Meek's inference you went to the next-door neighbour - - -

A Yeah.

Q 261 - - - and introduced yourself and said, "Jim sent me up here"?

A I didn't introduce myself. I just knocked on his door. It was next-door. I knocked on the door and I said - - -

Q 262 And there was no problems in that regard?

A No, he said, "Yeah, yeah, fine, fine." He give me the Tally-ho paper and some tobacco and I said, "Thanks, mate" and - - -

Q 263 Right. I think Detective Sergeant Tanos asked you to describe that person. Can you describe him? You - I'm not sure that you could. Do you have any - anything that stands out in your mind about this person?

A He was tall; that's the only thing really I can describe about him, I think. He was taller than me.

Q 264 What colour - - -

A That's the - - -

- Q 265 Was - what colour did he have?
- A Wouldn't have a clue - I dunno.
- Q 266 Pale?
- A Yeah, he would've been - he was - he - just normal. He was big, I can remember.
- Q 267 And when you say tall, taller than you, did he have a - was he wearing glasses, beard or moustache, anything like that?
- A I'm not sure, might've been - might've worn - might've worn glasses, but I don't remember.
- Q 268 Well, just sort of reading glasses? Were they - did they appear to be for reading or for other purposes or - - -
- A I wouldn't know, wouldn't - and that's just it, I can't - as I said, I saw him for, what, 30 seconds at the most, not even that.
- Q 269 To travel back from Sydney to Melbourne or Sydney to Tasmania's obviously a costly venture. How did you finance that trip?
- A How did I finance that trip?
- Q 270 Mm.
- A Social security and also a bit of the - well, it must've been all this money, actually, from me - 'cause they paid me \$1000, yeah, compensation money, \$1000. I bought me ticket - I think - I can remember the boat ticket 'cause I've travelled on the boat a few times, so it costs about \$149, \$150, except I can remember this time I had to pay more because there wasn't any - well, any rates or any of this or any of that or something.

- Q 271 Right. Just one additional question, Michael - - -
- A Mm.
- Q 272 - - - you said to Detective Sergeant Tanos you had clothes secreted or you had clothes held at different locations.
- A Yeah.
- Q 273 You mentioned Mt Druitt. You never had any clothes - at Mt Druitt and Granville and Bondi. Have you ever kept any clothes in Mr Meek's house?
- A Maybe once; maybe once I went there before and I might've - may've left - stayed the night in my clothing there, but I don't think - I'm not sure. I can't actually remember because ... - - -
- Q 274 Was that recovered by you on that time you left the house? Like, when you left the house on the last occasion did you leave the house with what you went with, what you arrived in, or did you take any other additional items of your clothing that might've been there?
- A There may have been an item of my clothing there, ...
- Q 275 Is it in a bag or - do you remember?
- A No. If it was in the bag it would've been - anything - if I've left anything there, it would've - may've been a singlet or something. Actually, I think I might've left the singlet there, 'cause I had a shower. I would've left it in the bathroom.

That's it, sarge.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT TANOS:

Q 276 Can you - when you stayed at Jim Meek's unit - - -

A Mm.

Q 277 - - - that last occasion, can you remember what -
what he was wearing when you first met him?

A No, just casual clothing.

Q 278 Can you describe it at all?

A Probably shorts, shorts and a jumper, I think, or a
cardigan.

Q 279 What colour? Can you remember what colours?

A No.

Q 280 What about the morning you left the unit?

A The morning I left the unit I'm pretty sure he was
still more or less wearing the same clothing,
shorts and a cardigan.

DETECTIVE CONSTABLE FIRST-CLASS SIDGREAVES:

Q 281 To the best of your knowledge, Michael, he hadn't
left the unit prior to you waking up that morning
in any - for any reason?

A Mm, he - he did leave the unit. He went down to
the shop, so it might've been cigarettes - I dunno,
but he went down - he said he was going somewhere
and he left the unit, then he came back up.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT TANOS:

Q 282 What did he have with him?

A Well, he took the dogs for a walk or he did
something. I can't actually remember 'cause I was
in the shower and he said he was going down and he
shut the door and that, then I got out of the
shower and he was already back. He might've even

bought a loaf of bread, actually, because the loaf of bread was new. I can remember opening it and the crust was right on the top. I remember that and I had - ... the griller.

Q 283 Can you explain the floor plan of the unit to us? What'd it consist of?

A What did it consist of? You walked in the front door, you looked, then the window was straight there, the kitchen was straight there, hallway just there, bathroom just there, bedroom just there, and that was the unit. The unit wasn't very big at all. It was about, as a matter of fact, four times the size of this room - and you'd probably have the unit. ... - - -

Q 284 Did Jim receive any phone calls?

A Yeah, yeah.

Q 285 Whilst you were there?

A Yeah.

Q 286 Do you know from who?

A No, not from who, who was ringing and he was ringing people when I was there, people ringing - people rang him - only a few people rang him, though, I think.

Q 287 Did you listen to the conversations?

A No, no.

Q 288 You dunno what he was talking about?

A No, no, didn't really pay any attention to 'em.

Q 289 Do you - did you have any money with you at the time when you were in - in the unit?

A Yeah, ... - I might've had a coupla dollars. That

would've been it, a coupla dollars - well, maybe not even a coupla dollars, actually, - maybe only a coupla dollars, 'cause I can remember when I got on the train I got done for not having a ticket or the inspector at Granville got me at Granville for not having a ticket.

- Q 290 When did you first realise that Jim was dead?
- A I first realised when Jim was dead when Bob come home and - - -
- Q 291 Bob who?
- A Woodward, and he told me, so - - -
- Q 292 And where was that?
- A Mariana Crescent, Lethbridge Park.
- Q 293 When?
- A Well, when it - months ago, a while ago now. I can't actually pinpoint a correct date.
- Q 294 A month?
- A No, longer than a month, 2 months, 3 months ago, 4 months.
- Q 295 How long after you'd last seen Jim that morning you left?
- A A few days, maybe a week - well, it wouldn't have been a week.
- Q 296 And - and what did Woodward say to you?
- A Woodward come home and he didn't really say anything. He was just upset. He didn't - I said, "Bob, Barbara rang and she's got some distressing news" and he said, "Yes, I know. Jim's dead," and me and Roger looked at each other and the other fella, Bob's mate, and he said, "What, what, what?"

and he said, "Jim's dead" and, anyway, he walked up into his bedroom and I followed him up there and Roge followed him up there and we thought he was joking and then he turned around and he started crying. Then we realised that he wasn't joking and so me and Roger went for a drive in the car and that and then we come back, just said - and that was that.

- Q 297 So who specifically told you that Jim was dead?
A Bob.
Q 298 He told you?
A Yeah, Bob Woodward.
Q 299 And what did he tell you exactly?
A That's ... - - -
Q 300 About how he died?
A No, that's all he said, said he died in his sleep, told us that he'd died in his sleep.
Q 301 Right, and what have you heard about the - the death since then?
A Nothing, nothing at all. My sister's spoken of it a coupla times. We've spoken of it a coupla times and that's about it.
Q 302 Did you read anything in the media about it?
A The paper. Bob brought out all - the big thing in the paper and showed us in the paper - - -
Q 303 Did - - -
A - - - with the - - -
Q 304 Did Bob know you were with him 2 days before his death?
A Probably, ... maybe not, maybe so, because when I

went there I said that I'd been down and seen Jim and he said, "....,,"
 been talking over a Kentucky fried chicken and a cheesecake or something. I didn't know what it was over - and that was - and that was it. ... - - -

Q 305 When did you first realise that Jim had been murdered?

A When Bob said, Bob come home and Bob said that - - -

Q 306 He told you he was dead - - -

A He ... - - -

Q 307 - - - but did he tell you how he died?

A Well, he didn't - he told us that he'd died in his sleep. It wasn't, I suppose - - -

Q 308 But what did you believe him to mean when he said that?

A When he had said he died in his sleep me and Roge looked at each other and - because, the lady on the phone, she said that there'd been a real tragic accident and all that and - and Bob said that and then he was talking to Alan and discussing it and me and Roge went for a drive and when we come back Roge said he didn't know what was going on and Bob went out somewhere. He asked Roger to take him somewhere, I think - or ... 5 bucks off him for petrol and then he went out and then it might - it might've been the next day - I must've stayed there and it might've been the next day or something - Bob come back - or I went back or was up there or something and he had the paper - a coupla days later and we had the paper and he said, when I

asked him if I could have a read of it and I read it, me and Roge read it. I think Roge read it, Roge read it and then I read it - - -

Q 309 What - - -

A - - - - - -

Q 310 What paper; do you know?

A Well, he didn't - he only had the - like, that was the paper. That's all he had - - -

Q 311 And - - -

A - - - two pages of it, the - just a page of the paper.

Q 312 When you realised that Jim had been murdered, why didn't you go to the police?

A Well, I didn't really see any need to go to the police when Jim had been murdered.

Q 313 You didn't think it was important that police may wanna speak to somebody who Jim had come into contact with prior to his death?

A No.

Q 314 You didn't think that was important?

A Well, I didn't think it was important 'cause I didn't know anything about it. That's what - that's what I mean. I'd been down there at Jim's, but, as I said, it was 3 days, 2, 3 days, 4 days, maybe 5 days. Like, as I said, I don't know. I haven't any ... recollection of it.

Q 315 And as - I think I've already asked you this question. You - you don't know of anybody who had a grudge against - - -

A The only person - - -

Q 316 - - - Jim?

A - - - that I knew that had a grudge against Jim was [REDACTED] and I was laughing when he was telling me 'cause it sounded funny - held him out over the 12-storey balcony and - it wasn't funny, but it's - you would've laughed if he was telling you the way he was telling it, held him over the 12-storey balcony by his belt and his next-door neighbour had to save him, 'cause if - [REDACTED] was telling Jim that [REDACTED] was gonna let him go, drop him over the 12-storey balcony, and his next-door neighbour come out and grabbed Jim or something - I dunno what happened.

Q 317 We might just suspend the interview and I'll just confer with Detective Sidgreaves. We'll come back in shortly - okay?

A (NO AUDIBLE REPLY)

DETECTIVE CONSTABLE FIRST-CLASS SIDGREAVES: ..., will you just suspend the interview by way of voice identification on - on the ERISP for - - -

DETECTIVE SERGEANT TANOS: Right. Interview suspended at 5.07.

INTERVIEW SUSPENDED

INTERVIEW RECOMMENCED

DETECTIVE SERGEANT TANOS: Right, interview recommenced with Michael Heatley at 5.18.

Q 318 Mr Heatley, would you be prepared to give us a sample of your blood?

A Yeah.

Q 319 Right. We can do that tomorrow, if you like - - -

A Yeah.

- Q 320 - - - so would you be available to do that for us?
- A Yeah.
- Q 321 All right; we'll contact you tomorrow and do that.
- A Yeah.
- Q 322 All right. Would you have any objections -
objection to us going to your home now at Clare
Court and just searching your room, with your
permission?
- A My room?
- Q 323 Yeah.
- A On the lounge?
- Q 324 Or the - - -
- A The lounge, that's - - -
- Q 325 Or - - -
- A I'd object to the house or whatever, because the
house isn't mine; it's my sister's - - -
- Q 326 All right.
- A - - - and even - and my grandparents I would object
to, because my grandfather would absolutely go
bananas - - -
- Q 327 All right.
- A - - - and he would absolutely go troppo.
- Q 328 Right. Well, how about your sister's house, then?
We'll go back to your sister's house - okay?
- A And what is it that you wanna search?
- Q 329 We're - - -
- A Do - - -
- Q 330 We're looking for some property - all right?
- A (NO AUDIBLE REPLY)
- Q 331 We'll take you back there and we'll just - have any

objection to that?

A Well - - -

Q 332 Well, depending on what your sister says.

A Well - well, my - my sister, she won't mind. I mean - - -

Q 333 All right, all right. Is there anything further you wish to tell me about this matter?

A No, only that I wasn't the person who did it.

Q 334 Do you wish to make a handwritten statement about this matter?

A No.

Q 335 Have the answers that you have given as recorded in this interview been made of your own free will?

A Yes.

Q 336 Has any threat, promise, inducement or offer of advantage been held out to you to give the answers which have been recorded in this interview?

A No.

All right, time concluded 5.20 - - -

A I've just noticed

- - - time concluded 5.20 pm.

Q 337 I will now have an officer not connected with this investigation speak to you about this interview and his function is to ensure fairness in the conduct of the interview. Do you understand that?

A Yes.

Q 338 Okay. We'll now get that officer. Just stay there.

A There - is there any chance on the way back to Devonport we could stop at a chemist, 'cause I've gotta get a prescription filled?

.....:
.....:
.....:

Q 339 All right, Michael, you can come out now - okay?

A Mm, hm.

.....:
.....:

TAPE-RECORDING CEASED