

**STATEMENT MADE BY LESLIE FOOTE TO POLICE, FEBRUARY 1, 2010;  
MARSHALL CITY POLICE. AREA 5.**

**Assistant State's Attorney Michael Jewell: Leslie, we are going to record this interview, this conversation, and we may have it typed up for you to read and sign, OK?**

**Leslie Foote: OK.**

**Q: You wish to make a voluntary statement in relation to the case of People v. Connie Cutter, 2010 Cr. 0012. You are not a suspect or target in this case, and yet you wish to make a voluntary statement? And do you have an official ID?**

**A: Yes. Here is my driver's license. I just want to make sure the record is straight.**

**Q: Are you a witness in this case?**

**A: Not that I know of. A lawyer did talk to me a few months ago about a burglary where I work. I talk to Connie Cutter a lot. You are accusing Connie of stealing and I am sure that is not true.**

**Q: Excuse me while I get the file. [Pause in the recording.]**

**Q: OK, I have some background on you here. I will tell you what we have. You are Leslie Foote, you live at 131 N. Wayne, in Maple Park, State of Marshall, and you work at the Lake Kennedy Federation?**

**A: Right. I am an intern three days a week, 9 to 5 plus other assigned duties. I answer the phones, I do some filings, I run errands -- I'm a sort of go-fer -- and I open the mail, like that.**

**Q: Thank you. You are 30 years old, and you are finishing your last year as a night student at Maple Park Community College, and you expect to receive an Associate's degree this June -- June 2010, right?**

**A: Yes. I've been a student at night for the past four and a half years, and I am almost there.**

**Q: That's great. What are you studying there?**

**A: Well, it's general studies, but I plan to go on, maybe someday and study science fiction. You know literature and movies. I'm learning about the future if we don't take care of the environment. I've like that stuff since high school. I graduated from Salinger High School ten years ago.**

**Q: Do you live with anyone?**

**A: Yes, my parents, Duane and Diane Foote. Dad works at the Connell Steel Parts Company. He is a clean-up man. Mom is a housekeeper, and sometimes works Saturdays at the Big Box Department Store, you know, as a greeter at the entrance. She took my job there when I signed on for the internship at the Lake Kennedy Federation in June, 2009. I can't afford to move out, so I live at home, and I was helping out with the expenses until last June. This last year of college I have an internship with the Lake Kennedy Federation. It's a year-long, total of six hours of credit course I'm taking through Maple Park Community College. It does not pay anything, but I am getting important experience, and I hope that they will hire me full-time after I graduate. I pay only \$20 a semester hour for the course. That's \$120. I have to write a paper at the end of the course, which ends at the end of April. I got to get the paper submitted in May. The Cutters tell me that if I keep up with my good work, there is a really good chance I can come on full time in June. Connie Cutter is my supervisor and checks with the college and will give me my grade. So, I'm going for an "A". I am almost 30 and it is time I moved out on my own, but maybe I should stay at home and help out, because I have a student loan, like over \$11,000, to pay off, and a little credit card bill that I never seem to be able to pay off, so I owe almost \$1,000 there, too.**

**A: Leslie, you don't have to answer so much. Let me suggest that you just answer the questions I ask.**

**A: O.K. I'm here to help.**

**Q: So, you want to help Connie Cutter and Casey Cutter?**

**A: Yes.**

**Q: Were you working for them the end of June, 2009?**

**A: Oh, yes. Like I said, I started the first week of June.**

**Q: Do you remember what happened on June 24th, 2009, at the Federation offices at 53 W. Johnson?**

**A: Yes. I was interning that day, and I came into the building around 9 in the morning, and when I went to the Federation office on the third floor, there were police there and the Cutters were there, and I think Duncan Thompson was there.**

**Q: Duncan?**

**A: I'm sorry, that's a nickname Connie Cutter used to call Donnie Thompson, who used to work at the Federation. Like, Duncan as in**

**Dunkin' Donuts. I'm sorry; I should not have said that. The name is Donnie. Donnie Thompson.**

**Q: Did you have a nickname at the office, too?**

**A: No, well, kind of, because Connie Cutter calls me "Doc" sometimes. "Doc," because I am an intern at the office, you know, for the credit hours. I don't mind. I kind of like it.**

**Q: Let's go back to June 24<sup>th</sup>. What did the office look like when you arrived at 9 AM?**

**A: The glass window on the door was broken; there was glass on the floor. Inside mostly. I could see that all the files had been thrown around, and someone had written "Screw the Lake" on the wall near the entrance door. It was in red, and it looked like it was printed with a big felt-tip pen. I mean, the office was always neat as a pin, but it was a mess that morning.**

**Q: Did you go in the office?**

**A: Not right away. The police were checking things out, talking to the Cutters, and a little later they took my fingerprints. I got to go in that afternoon. The police asked me some questions. I didn't know nothing, so that was about it.**

**Q: Was anything taken that belonged to you?**

**A: No. I know that all the electronic stuff was gone, you know, the laptops and a hard drive, which could have some value. Oh, yeah, and the monitor that no one was using was still there. See, there are three laptops, and the Cutters each use one each, and the other one goes with Pat Siewert who also works there. Casey Cutter was not there, just Connie and the police. Connie was taking it pretty well, though I was really freaked out. I never saw a break-in before. And, you know what? Pat Siewert's home was robbed also that same night.**

**Q: Well, let's talk about that. Were you ever at the Siewert home before or after the burglary there on June 23?**

**A: Yes, on the 4th of July. For the block party.**

**Q: You live in Maple Park. How far is that from the Siewert home?**

**A: Well, I had to take public transportation. The block party was on the north side and Maple Park is a suburb on the west side. I would say it's about 15 miles on the bus. I had to transfer downtown. If I am just going to the office, it's a half hour except in rush hour when it takes like 45**

minutes to an hour. Then, to go to Siewert's home or the Cutters' home, it's another half hour on a nice day. So, altogether it is at least an hour, not counting when you wait for the bus. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July it took me about an hour and a half, but I had to wait to transfer for about a half hour. And I had to stop off at the federation offices downtown to pick up a box of literature to take to the block party.

**Q: Why did you go to the Siewert home that day?**

**A: Connie Cutter told me to. I had to bring the box of Federation literature to the block party, and Connie wanted me to help out.**

**Q: How did you help?**

**A: I brought the pamphlets that Connie told me to. It was a pretty big box of stuff. I had to get there early. I left home at 7 AM, went to the office which was still in a mess, but the door was fixed, picked up a box of stuff. We had pamphlets saying, "Don't throw your pet fish in the Lake," and "Motorboat Courtesy" that had to go over to Siewert's home around 9 AM. Which I did, and then went over to the Cutter house. I took some pamphlets with me, and went back to the Siewert house at 11 or so, and again around 2 PM, to pick up food for the Cutter's back yard table. Pat Siewert was supplying some of the food for the cook-out. Mostly vegetable stuff.**

**Q: So you first went to the Siewert's house?**

**A: Well, it was a hot day, and I had to walk from the bus stop three blocks over to the Siewert's, so I took the box there, and Pat told me to bring some things over to the Cutters' kitchen, and later on I put the pamphlets out on the table in the back yard, and Connie had already put up a sign saying "Lake Kennedy Federation information here." It was on a card table in the back yard. Connie told me that the Federation was sponsoring the food in their back yard. So, there had to be these pamphlets so that it was OK for the Federation to pay for the food and drinks.**

**Q: So you were at the Siewert house at 9 AM? What happened when you got there?**

**A: I rang the doorbell and Pat did not answer right away. So, I rang again a couple of times. Pat finally came.**

**Q: Did you see any dogs there?**

**A: Sure. They are nice dogs, too.**

**Q: How did they behave when you first went there?**

**A: O.K. They are friendly dogs. I had to go back and forth a couple of times. They were always wagging their tails.**

**Q: Did either dog bark at you or growl?**

**A: No, after the first two times I went there, they did not even come to the door. I could see they were lying on the floor, not moving. It was a hot day, so I think they were trying to stay still. One time I walked in without knocking, and they just lay there and looked at me and did not move.**

**Q: When you went into the Siewert home, did you happen to notice a stuffed puppy dog, like a little doll, on the bookcase, a doll that had the word JAMBLAS on its chest?**

**A: I don't remember anything like that. I was not looking around.**

**Q: During the day, did you talk with Connie Cutter much?**

**A: Not much. Mostly I was running a lot of errands, and helping to serve the food, and cleaning up paper plates and stuff. I did get to eat all the food I wanted, so I really did O.K. I had maybe a half dozen hot dogs, and a couple of hamburgers, and a few beers and cake and ice cream. It was pretty good neighborhood party.**

**Q: How did you get home?**

**A: Connie told me to take a cab, and that the Federation would pay me back. The cab fare was \$40. I got a receipt.**

**Q: Have you been reimbursed?**

**A: No. Connie took the receipt and promised to pay. I am still waiting. I will get it, I am sure.**

**Q: Does Connie Cutter or the Federation owe you money, other than the \$40 cab fare?**

**A: Not really. Maybe another \$65 altogether, to cover some carry-out food I got for the office the day of burglary. Connie says that as soon as the office accounts gets cleaned up I will get my money.**

**Q: That was seven months ago. Did you receive any kind of pay for helping out on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July?**

**A: No, I was happy to do it for the Cutters. And I thought it would be good for my record as an intern.**

**Q: You say the Cutters promised you a job for this fall, this next year?**

**A: Pretty much. Connie says I am doing a great job and I should look forward to joining them when I graduate. Connie is a very upbeat, honest person. A good person. Connie is a licensed lawyer. I am really learning a lot.**

**Q: You are not getting paid anything at all? Expenses? Bus fare?**

**A: No, but that is what it means to be an intern. It is a great opportunity. It leads to a job.**

**Q: Did Connie Cutter say anything about an investigation of the Federation?**

**A: Connie was always saying that there is an investigation and that if everyone will tell the truth there is nothing to worry about. Connie said that someone was trying to shut down the Federation, you know, put the Federation out of business, but we were doing a great job and had nothing to be concerned about.**

**Q: When was this?**

**A: A few times. I think Connie told me that personally on July 4, when I was working in the back yard. Connie said, "As long as I am around, you have a job." Let's see, Connie said that at the office party the day before Christmas.**

**Q: On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, did you happen to look around the Cutter house much?**

**A: Sure.**

**Q: Where did you go, what did you see?**

**A: Well, in the morning I cleaned up some. I took some coats out of the hall closet downstairs and put them in a storage closet near the bathroom upstairs.**

**Q: You went from downstairs, up to the second floor of the Cutter house? What time was that?**

**A: I'm not sure. It was pretty hot, and the Cutters do not have air-conditioning in the house. Just in the bedroom, because when I took stuff up there, it was nice and cool in the bedroom. Connie told me to be sure I closed the door so that the air conditioner did not try to cool off the whole house. The only bathroom in the house is upstairs, and it was not air**

conditioned. That's the one some people were using during the block party and Connie's backyard bar-b-q.

**Q: I am showing you a little stuffed animal, a dog, a JAMBLAS collectible. Did you ever see this – one of these -- in the Cutter home?**

**A: No. But Connie was wearing a t-shirt with that name on it, and there were some JAMBLAS CD recordings around. I never saw that stuffed doll until just now.**

**Q: Not in the upstairs closet?**

**A: No. I mean there were a couple of shoe boxes on the floor, but I probably would have seen something like this in there.**

**Q: Did you every hear either of the Cutters say that they would like to have one of these collectibles?**

**A: No, I don't think so. I think I heard Connie say something about the JAMBLAS group being killed in a plane crash the day before the big 2007 concert and that these collectibles are worth quite a bit. You know, money.**

**Q: When was the last time you looked in that upstairs closet?**

**A: Maybe 4 or 5 PM. I came in to get out of the heat, and I had to use the washroom. People could come upstairs, and use the Cutter washroom, so people would come up the stairs, but the bedroom door was closed except when I put a few things like some books and magazines from downstairs in there. People were coming and going in and out of the house, to cut through to the back yard for some refreshments or something from the grill. Some people came in just to use the washroom. Connie was out in back most of the day.**

**Q: Did you see anyone else go into that bedroom or that upstairs closet while you were around?**

**A: No. I never saw anyone open those doors or go into the bedroom door. But I was not standing watch over it all the time. I was not standing guard or anything. The last time I looked in there was when I left some of Connie's stuff there, maybe at 6 PM.**

**Q: When did you last look at that bedroom door?**

**A: Maybe 6 PM or 7 PM, when I took a look to see if everything was OK. I went out in back around then and did not go back through the house until dark when we all went out into the street to watch some fireworks. A few**

people might have come and gone in and out of the house until then. I did not see anyone go in the house once it got real dark except Connie.

**Q: Did you know any of the neighbors there?**

**A: No. Just the Cutters and the Siewerts. Donnie Thompson was there all day to help out.**

**Q: Was Donnie Thompson going into the house?**

**A: Oh, sure. But I don't know if Donnie went upstairs. Same thing for the Siewerts. I can't remember that far back.**

**Q: When did you leave?**

**A: Around 9 PM. I said goodnight to the Cutters then went over and said goodnight to the Siewerts. They had been at the Cutters during the afternoon and early evening. I saw them mostly at the house, in the house, talking in the front room some times. They did not go out into the street, just into the back yard and in the house. They left around 6 or 7 PM. I remember asking if they were staying for the fireworks, you know, at like 8 PM. They said no, because they were tired. It was late afternoon, you know, the sun was still up and did not go down for a while. They were already in bed when I got to their house at 9, so I just hollered goodnight.**

**Q: No one came to the front door?**

**A: No, it was unlocked. I just opened the door. Oh, the doorbell was not working, I remember, so I just opened the inner door and hollered in a "Goodnight," and I heard Pat say "Goodnight, Leslie."**

**Q: Did the dogs do anything?**

**A: No. Nothing.**

**Q: Thank you very much.**

**A: Can I say something?**

**Q: Well, yes. What about?**

**A: I think that Pat Siewert is gunning for the Cutters. Pat seems to think that they are trying to get away with something.**

**Q: What makes you say that?**

**A: Well, Pat has had a kind of hostile attitude, especially since the burglaries. Pat thinks that the Cutters took the laptops and were**

responsible for the burglaries. That's just not true. That's another thing I really wanted to tell you.

**Q: What about the stuffed dog, the JAMBLAS stuffed dog?**

**A: I didn't know anything about that.**

**Q: Anything else?**

**A: Well, the day before the Fourth of July party, Pat heard that Connie Cutter had been in court to talk to the grand jury or something.**

**Q: So?**

**A: Pat said, to me and to Donnie Thompson that Connie was going to get away with everything, the investigation and the burglary, and nobody could do anything about it. Connie was going to dodge another bullet.**

**Q: Where did you hear this?**

**A: In the office late in the afternoon. I was surprised that anyone could be so mean.**

**A: Well, thank you again. We will be in touch.**

**Transcribed by Regina Herbert**

**I have read the above and it is a true and accurate transcript of the interview I had with Assistant State's Attorney Michael Jewell on February 1, 2010, at the Area 5 Marshall City Police Station**

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**Leslie Foote**