

COPY

May 17, 1991

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Mr. Steve Bragdon, Esq.
Bragdon and Berkson
82 Court Street
P.O. Box 465
Keene, NH 03431

CONFIDENTIAL & PRIVILEGED

Dear Mr. Bragdon,

At the time I was charged with the misdemeanor, and pleaded guilty in November of 1989, I was not able to provide details important to this situation to you or anyone else. It was not until much later that I learned that I had a neurological disease which impaired my memory and perception of events. I probably was not really competent at the time to enter a guilty plea without legal representation. When I learned of the police investigation that November (1989) I went to the police on my own. During the conversation I was told twice that getting an attorney "would only muddy the waters" and that "we seem to be reaching agreements here without one". This was four months after I had made an attempt on my own life with my car following incidents of bizarre thinking and behavior which I later learned were related to Temporal Lobe Epilepsy.

In spite of the above, I still own that I did proposition this adolescent. I never said the words which he quoted me as saying, mine were much more vague, but I did say things which were inappropriate and irresponsible after he came to me looking for large sums of money and stating that he would do anything for it. This happened on two occasions in July and August of 1989. At the time I was on leave of absence from ministry and living in an apartment in Keene. I was wrong and am solely responsible for this. Beyond the spoken words, however, nothing happened.

I did know [REDACTED] and his family while I was assigned to St. Bernard Parish in Keene. The relationship was somewhat superficial. Both he and his mother attended there. None of the above problems took place there however. I left St. Bernard Parish and went on leave of absence in June of 1987. A year or more earlier [REDACTED] and his mother left St. Bernard Parish and joined the Keene Congregational Church. [REDACTED] told me that they went there because he had an opportunity to join a youth group with a lot of youth activities. He still occasionally called me.

In the summer of 1987 (It may have been the next summer, but I don't think so), and after I went on leave, [REDACTED] called me and was quite upset. She asked me to talk with [REDACTED] because he was involved in a Summer Job Corps for youth and came home that day crying that the supervisor of his job had sexually assaulted him, but she said she and [REDACTED] step father didn't believe him thinking that he just wanted to get out of work. I talked with [REDACTED] and he told me that he was assigned to work in a park in Swanzey, and that the male supervisor took him home, sat in a chair, and forced [REDACTED]

to kneel placing [redacted] face between his (the supervisor's) legs saying "Whatever happens here will be our secret". After hearing this from [redacted] I told [redacted] that regardless of whether she believed him she should notify the director of the Job Program and that it should be reported. [redacted] did so and told me that the Swanzey Police Department was now investigating it. I later learned that it was dropped for lack of evidence.

I heard from [redacted] occasionally over the next year. At one point he told me that he was spending a lot of time with [redacted] the choir director at the Congregational Church, and that he was going to Mr. [redacted] cabin at times on weekends. He said that his mother wanted him to keep this relationship because it appeared that I was too busy to spend time with him. He told me that he and Mr. [redacted] had become best friends, and the impression I had was that, for some reason, [redacted] was trying to make me feel jealous by this. He also said that I seemed to have time for everyone but him. At one point that year [redacted] called and asked to see me. I picked him up, and in my car he told me that he was going to spend the weekend at Mr. [redacted] cabin, that he didn't want to go, but his mother was making him go. I asked him why he didn't want to go, but he gave no answer. He asked me to talk to his parents and get them to not make him go. I refused saying that [redacted] should communicate this to his parents himself. He said that he cannot because his stepfather ends every argument by hitting [redacted] in the face. I told [redacted] that he had a right not to be hit, and gave him the number of a family mediation program which he could call for help. Much later, after I had left Keene, I learned that [redacted] was indicted and convicted of sexually assaulting minors at his cabin, and of taking pornographic photos and videotapes of them.

Almost a year after I pleaded guilty to the accusation of soliciting [redacted], I received a letter from [redacted] asking me to contact him secretly. This letter was given to my attorney. I did not contact [redacted], but I understand that he was confronted for writing me the letter. After this confrontation [redacted] accused me of having taken lewd photographs of him. This is untrue. The letter to me from [redacted] contained statements that he was sorry for the trouble his accusation brought me, that he told the police that I asked him for sex, but that nothing happened, and that he still sees me as the father he always wished he had and he wanted me to write to him. It did not sound like a letter from someone who was about to bring a new accusation against me.

At this time I had been in a residential psychiatric program for six months. My sister called me and said she had received a disturbing telephone call from a police officer in Keene who said he was investigating me for an accusation of taking lewd photographs and wanted to know if I had any belongings at her residence which he could search. She had nothing of mine there. I then called the officer from the facility I was in and asked

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that he search my possessions which were in storage. He said that he would not do so since, by virtue of the fact that I wanted him to it was obvious that nothing was there. He told me that [REDACTED] claimed that I used a 35mm camera to take lewd photographs of him. I never owned a 35mm camera until I moved to New Mexico for a treatment program. I purchased one in Albuquerque before a hiking trip a week after arriving here, and I still have the dated receipt. For the previous eight years I owned one camera - a Kodak disk which I received as a gift. The officer also told me that he had given [REDACTED] a polygraph test which he passed. I told him that I also request a polygraph test.

I then called David Forrest who later called me back saying that this investigation is suspended for lack of evidence. David told me that he would not advise me to take a polygraph. I found it very strange that the officer would give a polygraph to someone making such a complaint.

A month later I was diagnosed as having Bilateral Temporal Lobe Epilepsy and have since been taking 1,000 mgs of Carbamazepine daily. I can remember all of the above incidents and conversations, but I still have great difficulty placing them in a time frame, and I cannot trust my own judgment as to when each of the above occurred. For example, I cannot remember whether my soliciting [REDACTED] happened before or after the suicide attempt with my car in July of 1989. I remember it as being a month later, but I cannot be certain.

I feel strongly that [REDACTED] involvement in similar incidents with at least one, and possibly two, other individuals may be very much effecting his current stance against me and against the Diocese. Please let me know if further discussion of this with you would be appropriate.

Sincerely,

Gordon J. MacRae

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