U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & FIREARMS

TAPE #5x

3/17/93
1:28 P.M. - 2:14 P.M.

(Tape 5x)

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Because I -- Don't say I don't give a flip. You know that. Don't, don't make statements like that. I mean, that's an insult.

BYRON: Okay. Well, we both -- That's what I'm talking about. You and I need to be able to, to --

STEVE SCHNEIDER: It doesn't -- Why does it necessitate that I look at your face, that you look at mine? Be reasonable with me.

BYRON: Steve --

STEVE SCHNEIDER: You know, I, I wasn't born yesterday.

BYRON: Neither was I.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: You and I don't -- fight with one another. I've been trying to be as decent and cordial with you, and I want to be. But, remember, of course, I have some distrust and, and reserve about these things. Of course I do.

BYRON: Steve --

STEVE SCHNEIDER: When you're standing on -- ground, okay?

BYRON: Wait, wait.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: When you said to me that Wayne and I would walk out there, being unarmed, and you would be unarmed, I mean, I came there and looking behind the both of you and the way, of course, they

grabbed you by the back of the pants and pulled you back by the Bradley there, the way the two men were, they were so armed, as they were, pointing the guns.

BYRON: Right.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Fidgety. The look on the face, no smiles. These guys looked like if they would have had their opportunity they would have liked to have taken us out. That's the way it appeared to me.

BYRON: Those people are not there for that purpose.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Well, why did -- why couldn't the man at least smile?

BYRON: Let me explain that to you.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Okay.

BYRON: That man has got a job.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Okay.

BYRON: And he is extremely proficient at being able to carry out his mission, and that mission is the safe -- Listen to me -- the safe resolution of the situation if it has to go tactical. We don't want that. That's why I'm here. Okay? But I'm -- The reason he's not smiling at you, Steve, is because he's there to provide one thing and one thing only, and that's safety. And whether you understand it, it's safety for you as well as it was for --

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Well, you know --

BYRON: -- for the sheriff and I.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: That I --

BYRON: Let me finish. Just a moment.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Okay.

BYRON: The reason that he's sitting there stoic and so forth -- And I turned around to look, because, you know, besides him pulling me back by the nap of my neck when I tried to walk out to talk to you guys, he's got a specific mission, and that is to ensure the safety of all people there. We don't want this thing to escalate. That's his reason for being there. He's not there in an offensive manner, he's there in a defensive manner, and it applies to you as much as it did to us.

Now, if he didn't smile at you and so forth, that's because we're in a situation that we need to get resolved now. We need to get it resolved just as soon as possible so that nobody's nerves, nobody's tension, nobody's frustration gets in the way. Now, I'm telling you that we're prepared to do it. We're prepared to resolve this matter right now, safely, orderly. Get everybody out, give you an opportunity to talk to the media, give you legal representation, give you medical attention that you've talked about before. But we can only do that if we can get this thing resolved.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Byron, I would really like

you to hear what Wayne had to say to John earlier as to some of my statements that were on behalf of --

BYRON: Bring Wayne with you out.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: -- David and people with their concerns.

BYRON: Bring Wayne with you when you come out and you can --

STEVE SCHNEIDER: We're not, we're not going

BYRON: -- tell me again.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Byron, I'm going to tell you, okay, so I'm not going to lead you on or anything. It's not going to happen that way today. I'm not saying tomorrow or whatever. Today it's not going to happen.

BYRON: Why is that?

STEVE SCHNEIDER: I don't choose to do it. I want to hear --

BYRON: Okay, now, I get back to my original -- Do you understand, Steve? You don't choose to do it.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: You're not allowing me to talk. Do you want -- Byron, you're okay, but allow me to say something here, because it's going to be that way. I'm not willing today to go walking out there. You say you have information prepared, you've got tapes and so forth. David requested a dialogue with a man by

the name of Dr. Arnold. Where's the Newsweek, the Time? Drop that off and let's take a look at some things you do have, and then let's pick up from there.

But right now I'm not willing at this point of time, until I see some of those things and I take a little time to digest it and then give a response to you. And then let's -- When I've got something more substantive, then I'll get back with you and we'll see what we can work out.

BYRON: What happened to the -- Steve, what happened to this list that, that Wayne was preparing, that we were going to be able to --

STEVE SCHNEIDER: He just made a statement. Remember how I said yesterday that I was waiting for it, also? Well, he just -- And which he has not done. He gave his reasons to John. He says let me speak with John. He just gave clearly the reason. He did not tell me before, but he made it clear and I heard what he said and it made sense to me, also, the statement he gave to John and, and the reason for that at this point of time.

He said to the effect that he did not want to be doing all this work for them. He is an attorney. How would it benefit him? He sees us as not only being under house arrest, but he explained that this is a federal penitentiary basically that we're confined to

right now. That was his statement. That he himself needs counsel to proceed even from here, even before walking out of the building, in, in certain areas of the law that he is not -- which is not his expertise.

BYRON: Okay. And I can understand that.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Right.

BYRON: I, I think it's fairly obvious that you need a little, you need a little more legal counsel, which you've been asking for.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Exactly.

BYRON: All right. And I don't have a problem with that.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Right.

BYRON: We, we stand ready. You know, in fact, one of the items that I want to give to you is a confirmation of an attorney's notification of us that, that he's been retained. Now, you and I have talked about this before, but we'll send in a copy of the actual letter to show you that --

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Okay, that's great. Now, that's more help.

BYRON: -- that that's truthful.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Okay.

BYRON: Okay? Now, let me -- It's -- I'll tell you, it's, it's disappointing to me, and I'm going to have to try to explain it away to, you know, to my

chief that -- as to why -- And I hope this isn't a demonstration that you don't trust me.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: No, it's not.

BYRON: Okay. You know, I --

STEVE SCHNEIDER: But, remember, you've got to remember --

BYRON: -- an explanation as to why --

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Well, Byron, let me give you an explanation. Because you guys -- Like you have said yourself and as John Dolan and John Cox and everybody else, that you, you have stated over and over again you're not in control, that you have superiors over yourselves that make the decisions as of what took place because of last Friday, Friday evening and Saturday and so forth, which really turned this thing totally completely around for a while.

BYRON: That's true.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: And we're trying to recover the pieces.

BYRON: That's true, and that's why I'm here.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: But this is what I'm saying.

BYRON: I'm trying to recover those pieces.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: But, see, it's not you as a person. That's why don't, don't be offended because, you know, I'm still in a precarious position myself, as

these people are. And it deals with issues of the Constitution, it deals with issues of freedom, of what actually took place, of the involvement of the perpetrators and what's going to happen to them, as well as ourselves, and the issues -- the religious aspects, which are the main ones to us.

BYRON: Steve, I've got answers to the majority of those things for you.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Okay.

BYRON: Okay? That's why -- Believe me, I could have stepped back to, you know, stayed under the speed limit trying to get some of these things rounded up, but I wanted to be responsive.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: I appreciate that, I really do.

BYRON: Okay. We've, we've -- I think you will find when we do meet that, that I've got some of these answers for you that, that are not just going to be imparted to you by, by merely reading documents. There are things that you and I need to be able to sit down and discuss. And, quite frankly, and please think about the statement I'm going to make to you, I've talked to you, Steve, since the 28th of February when this tragedy occurred.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Right.

BYRON: I've been there since, since within

hours of the first shot being fired. The sole purpose, the only reason that I've responded up here is to try to work through this thing so that we can resolve the matter without anyone else being injured. Okay?

STEVE SCHNEIDER: By the way, just for --

BYRON: Having the opportunity to talk to you face to face fills in a lot of questions that I had as to who this person is and is he, is he straightforward, is he honest. I put a great deal of, of respect in whether or not a person can look me right straight in the eye. You and I had that kind of connect down there. That's what I want to continue. There's nothing sinister about this, there's nothing that I'm trying to pull on you.

There's -- You know, I just want to have the opportunity to show you a little bit of, of respect, going out and being willing to step out from behind that tank and meet you in the middle of the road and talk to you man to man.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Well, that may happen, but not today.

BYRON: Okay. When -- Do you have any idea when you're thinking about doing it?

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Well, let, let's see, let's see the Newsweek, the Time, the Arnold tape and some of your information that you've picked up and whatever --

Let's be able to look at that today --

BYRON: Let me make a statement to you.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Pardon?

BYRON: Let me make a statement to you, Steve --

STEVE SCHNEIDER: All right.

BYRON: -- 'cause I know I'm about -- I'm fixing to hear it from my boss.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Okay.

BYRON: Okay? The patience of the federal government is not endless. Do you understand?

STEVE SCHNEIDER: The patience of the federal government --

BYRON: Is not endless.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: -- is not endless?

BYRON: Now, we've been here for, you know, 17 days. If it's up to me, I'm not, I'm not putting any ultimatums on you here, but what I'm trying to tell you mainly --

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Listen, Byron, let me -- David just overheard me and he said the patience of God is also not endless.

BYRON: That's good.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: That's what David says.

BYRON: Tell him I understand that and respect it.

STEVE SCHNEIDER: He says I understand that and respect that.

BYRON: But what I'm trying to tell you, okay, is that --

STEVE SCHNEIDER: He said not, not yet you do.

BYRON: No, I think I do, but I'm not, I'm not trying to be argumentative here, okay? What I am trying to tell you, though, is, is if David is there -- Can I talk to David?

STEVE SCHNEIDER: Just a moment. [gap] Yes, yeah, just a minute.

BYRON: Great. Thank you.

[gap]

DAVID KORESH: Mr. Byron.

BYRON: David, how are you, sir?

DAVID KORESH: I'm doing real well. How you doing?

BYRON: Good. Unfortunately, probably a little better than you. How are you wounds feeling?

DAVID KORESH: Oh, I'm doing just fine.

BYRON: Okay. All right. I've, I've been talking to Steve. I don't know if -- Did he have me on a speaker phone or were you able to hear most of what I told him?

DAVID KORESH: Well, I just came downstairs

when I, when I -- the conversation.

BYRON: Okay. Glad you're getting around a little better. What I wanted to impart to him, and I've been -- I don't know if you had an opportunity to observe our meeting the other day.

DAVID KORESH: No, I wasn't up then.

BYRON: Okay. But we had an opportunity, and I consider it to, to have been just that, a very positive opportunity to meet with Steve and with Wayne. And, and you've got some good guys working for you there.

DAVID KORESH: Well, they don't work for me, they work for who I work for.

BYRON: That's right. Okay, I, I -- And I can understand that. But what I'm saying is, is I think they're serving everybody's best interests, they're trying to do a good job. And so am I. Including for who you -- who we all work for. What I was trying to impart to Steve was the fact that based upon some of the questions that they broached, the specific questions regarding, you know, the potential of forfeiture or seizure of your property and the legal counsel issues and the importance of a crime scene search to preserve what Wayne referred to as the legal evidence that you all specifically have some concerns about, sealed documents, the involvement of -- is this

purely a federal investigation or are we also talking about state agencies such as the Texas Rangers, which are -- which is an exceptional organization.

In fact, I'm out here with the sheriff right now. We're right around the corner from you all and we came out here to, to bring some of the results of the, the inquiries. I've been running around like, like mad here for the last day-and-a-half now, trying to gather some of the information that you all wanted, so that we could sit down face to face, man to man, looking one another in the eye, so that he knows that I'm coming from the heart here. This is the truth.

I think you have that respect for the sheriff. The reason that I, I feel that it's, it's urgent that we do something like this is because I want you to be able to have the feeling that I'm not running any kind of a game on you. I'm telling you exactly the truth as I --

DAVID KORESH: Mr. Byron, Mr. -- The problem that we're dealing with right now, and you're aware of it, is that myself being a fisherman from a long ways back, you know, in the game of fishery we try to, we try to use the best lures possible to convince the fish of the safe kill. Right?

BYRON: Yes.

DAVID KORESH: But, of course, what happens

is the fish are ignorant of hooks and gavels that are on the lures. And so what we're saying is we're saying, you know, from your point, from the counselor's point, you know, very positive definite moves forward in our negotiation. But what we see behind you, what you keep referring to as your commanders, is a very offensive threat which is not a threat to me or the people here.

As I said before, you know, you feel that you're very well armed, you feel that you're very well in a defensive position or an offensive position. But what you fail to understand is the important thing that we're looking at. By trying to push to the side what we're looking at, you fail to understand where we're coming from. And as long as you remain to do that, our, our communication together is just going to be a stand still.

BYRON: Yeah.

DAVID KORESH: You're failing to understand our convictions, what our responsibilities are, you see. Whereas, we are agree with you. We understand what your responsibilities and obligations are to the power that you're under, under submission to.

BYRON: Okay.

DAVID KORESH: Okay. So we've asked you all along that our position be allowed to settle itself by,

you know, letting, letting us talk with somebody -- letting the people here hear somebody who claims to have a knowledge of these seals. Remember, the seals are the political thing. It's not a religious thing, it's a political thing. God is a very political thing.

BYRON: Okay.

DAVID KORESH: You know, the nations of the Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome, before America became a great empire, there were other empires just like this nation, invincible, immovable. But the God who creates what shall be from the foundation of the world, to the end thereof, has stated that likewise as each nation comes up consecutively, each nation shall fall the way God preordains.

BYRON: Okay.

DAVID KORESH: Now, you're coming to me, telling me to negotiate, and I'm willing to do so. Give and take position, I'm willing to do so. I made the first move to send the children out. You all are the ones that stopped that, not me. You all are the ones that showed, by your crafty ways, that you were not in sincerity to your position and so I stopped that, because my God told me to stop that. And since then, we've seen a continual digression on your part.

You're not living up to what you promised us. You've done things to try, to try to aggravate us. Not

that we're aggravated. We hold no prejudice against you or anybody on the outside. You're just doing what you're told to by your commanders. So, you know, it's kind of a hard position that we're in because you do not understand where we're coming from. You understand?

BYRON: Yes, I do understand.

DAVID KORESH: You know, and by trying to, by trying to, to shut us up in our position, you know, you're continuing to keep yourself in ignorance of what our position really is, and we just can't communicate. It's like, it's like me being an Eskimo and you being from Hawaii, we just don't understand each other's territory.

BYRON: David, I understand, I understand what you're saying. I've been here, like I say, I think exercising a great deal of patience since, since the first day. I've --

DAVID KORESH: Patience meaning forbearance towards us?

BYRON: No, no. I'm talking about a commonly focused objective that I felt that you had and that we had to try to get this thing resolved without any unfortunate injuries or loss -- further loss of life.

DAVID KORESH: Well, we, we don't want you all guys to get hurt at all. We're for sure of that.

We've all discussed that. God doesn't want that. We know you're -- in regards to your position.

BYRON: We don't want that, either. Okay? David, we don't want that either, and that's an understanding that we can build on. But what I was trying to tell Steve and what I'm trying to tell you, and I don't mean this -- Well, maybe I do mean this in a, an offensive fashion. But what I've got to impart to you, because you need to realize that I have got people that I have to answer to and I know that you and I both have God that we have to answer to.

DAVID KORESH: Exactly.

BYRON: But this issue has got to be resolved. You have certain points that you want to be able to make. We have worked our, our rears off trying to facilitate that for you. We've made arrangements for legal counsel. I've got copies, documents of -- that confirm legal representation. Access to the media has been arranged. Just right on down the line. I've got statement that I've gotten the U.S. Attorney's Office to commit to on paper that I want to, to be able to show you, ensuring you about the, the safety of your home and so forth, so that people when they come out, we get this thing resolved, they've got a place to go back to.

DAVID KORESH: Are we talking about the

safety and respect of the property that's already been destroyed thus far? Is that what we're talking about?

BYRON: That's, that's another issue that you could bring up in court, but that's the proper forum.

DAVID KORESH: Oh, it's the proper forum for you to state. We understand it's for you to state any and all things that you feel will be appliable (sic) to get your point across. But the thing is this.

BYRON: David, this isn't just my point. I'm trying to meet you halfway --

DAVID KORESH: You've already shown us --

BYRON: -- and you're not coming forward with it.

DAVID KORESH: -- that you have no power over the commanders.

BYRON: I'm sorry?

DAVID KORESH: You've already showed us that you have no power over the commanders. You stated one thing to us in confidence. We were complying with it, we had a good relationship going. And, all of a sudden, your commanders started making moves behind the back. It's kind of like the old story where, you know, you smile at your friend to his face while your other friend gets behind him and you push him over the back. I mean, it's -- that's exactly what happened. You can't deny that, Mr. Byron.

BYRON: David, let's back up a second here and put this thing in the proper perspective. Now, I mentioned to you that I was here from the first day. Okay?

DAVID KORESH: Right.

BYRON: I was not here when the people drove up to the front of your, of your church, and I'm not sitting here trying to defend how that happened or anything else.

DAVID KORESH: No, no, we're not talking at that point. We're talking at the point where --

BYRON: Okay, that's, that's what I'm getting at. Okay, you're not talking to ATF now, you're talking to the FBI --

DAVID KORESH: Right.

BYRON: -- and we're trying to get this accomplished in your best interest and in ours. But we can only do that if we work together. Now, you've talked about promises that have not been kept and things that have been changed in midstream. Partner, I'm the one that you -- not that you talked to, but you relayed messages through Steve and through Wayne to try to get your message off. First, the brief message that was read for you by ATF to the media, I'm the one that facilitated getting it on the radio through KRLD in Dallas.

DAVID KORESH: Right.

BYRON: The next thing that you wanted to do is to try to get your message out nationally. Do you recall this? I'm the one that contacted the Christian Broadcast Network and convinced them to put your message on the air, unedited, unreviewed. I mean, these people were laying their, their jobs on the line. I'm the one that did that for you. The FBI did that for you. Your response, in your own words, David, in your own words, not my words, not ATF's, not the FBI, not anybody that's ever wronged you, your own words was that as soon as this message is broadcast I will immediately -- and you stressed immediately --

DAVID KORESH: Come out --

BYRON: You did a good job.

DAVID KORESH: -- immediately.

BYRON: -- come out immediately.

DAVID KORESH: Right.

BYRON: What happened? You went back on your word.

DAVID KORESH: My, my, my commander, my commander in chief told me to wait.

BYRON: Well, that's a pretty easy excuse to hide behind.

DAVID KORESH: And that's what you all hid behind, too, isn't it?

BYRON: It is not. We have --

DAVID KORESH: You've hidden, also.

BYRON: -- everything we've promised you, David.

DAVID KORESH: Mr. Byron, I disagree with Evidence shows in every respect, the media, what you've done, turning our lights off, all this shows that you are making the same point that I am.

BYRON: No, that's not correct at all. That's your interpretation, which is very convenient for you.

DAVID KORESH: And also for you, too. Hey, the other night your tanks came right up towards the house. Is this not a violation of what you promised Yes or no.

BYRON: No. What we promised you --

DAVID KORESH: It's not a violation?

BYRON: Let me finish. You asked the question, let me give you the response. You asked that we not encroach on your property as long as you were going along with arrangements that we were making in a very healthy and human fashion on the 28th and the 1st and the 2nd. That did not happen. And you think about this for a second. Those tanks did not encroach. And they're not tanks, by the way, they're armored personnel carriers. In fact, one's am ambulance, and I

pray we never have to use it.

DAVID KORESH: Well, that's what the radio -- That's what the guys, that's what the guys in the --

BYRON: Well, I'm, I'm setting you straight. They are not tanks, they're armored personnel carriers. The next thing I want you to -- Please think about this. Step back, get away from the emotional aspect of it --

DAVID KORESH: I'm not emotional.

BYRON: -- and I will try to do the same. But, listen, they did not step one foot on your property until you went back on your word.

DAVID KORESH: That is a lie.

BYRON: That is not a lie.

DAVID KORESH: That is a lie.

BYRON: That is absolute fact.

DAVID KORESH: And you will find out in the judgment that you are fixing to witness that it was a lie. You will find out very clearly. Every detail, every thought, every statement made, every, every manipulation done behind the scenes will be made apparent to you. You do not understand what you're dealing with. You do not understand what position of time you're in.

BYRON: David --

DAVID KORESH: This nation does not

understand. I know you don't want to hear this.

BYRON: No, I want to hear it because I, I answer to the same God you do, pal.

DAVID KORESH: No, you do not.

BYRON: You don't have a corner on the market.

DAVID KORESH: You do not know the seals, Mr. Byron. You do not understand the seals. There are scholars that would help you out. There are scholars who would understand the indepthness of what I stated over the radio.

BYRON: David, can I ask you a question?

DAVID KORESH: Yes.

BYRON: Okay. I've read the same book. Okay? I was -- I, I found my saviour in a, in a situation in Vietnam where I realized that I wasn't in control of my life.

DAVID KORESH: Right.

BYRON: Okay? I read the same book that you are, are founding your faith on. I respect that book. I respect your faith. But I read in the scripture, and I'm not a -- I'm not claiming to be a Bible theologian and I'm not claiming to be anywhere near as well versed in word and quotation as you are, and I respect that capability. But I find in that book that the book says the only person, the only person, the only entity that

can open those Seven Seals is the Lamb of God.

DAVID KORESH: Exactly.

BYRON: I don't claim for a moment to have that capability and you know as well as I do that your challenge to us from day one, to just quote, just get somebody in here that can open these Seven Seals and all my people will come out.

DAVID KORESH: Exactly.

BYRON: That's garbage.

DAVID KORESH: Exactly.

BYRON: It's garbage. It's a false hope and you know that.

DAVID KORESH: No, it's not. On the contrary. These people remain here because I have thoroughly opened to them the Seven Seals. See, if you had understood --

BYRON: And if you have the message that's extremely valuable that you need to share with the rest of this world, the only way you can do that, David, is if you -- if we can get this matter resolved. When, when you come out, you will be provided with that opportunity, and I'll be in the front of the line to listen to it.

DAVID KORESH: That's where you remain ignorant. It's not your fault. I do not hold you contemptible for that, but you remain ignorant to

understand what is actually being applied at this very time. See, when it says in 22 I come onward as me, it's very clearly identified that when Christ comes the identifying mark will be the knowledge of those Seven Seals.

BYRON: And so you are now claiming clearly and simply that you are the Christ?

DAVID KORESH: I am saying that no man can know me nor my father unless they open their book and give a fair chance in honesty and equity to see the seals.

BYRON: Okay.

DAVID KORESH: Chapter 10 shows that when there's time no longer this mystery of God, the seven thunders, which is the Seven Seals, will be finished as God has declared to his servants the prophets. The keynote is that from Deuteronomy 32, the Song of Moses --

BYRON: David, David, in all due respect, and I, I would, I would love to and I'm telling you that I genuinely would -- And I'm committed to doing this, to, to research what you're telling us and so forth, but we need to get the matter, the stand-off, as we have it right now, resolved.

DAVID KORESH: Well, that's what we're -- to do.

BYRON: -- forward.

DAVID KORESH: But we're going to, we're going to also have to comply to the fact that if I am right you people are in more trouble than I am.

BYRON: I, I couldn't agree with you more.

DAVID KORESH: This nation is at the verge --

BYRON: David, did you hear what I just told you? I couldn't agree with you more. I know what you're, what you're talking about.

DAVID KORESH: And that's from your religious conviction. But now where we stand at this present time is that you come in the name of this nation, I come to you in the name of a God, a God who has declared in heaven that no man on earth, neither on earth, anywhere, in heaven, can open the book and look thereon. Now, it would be a definite miracle after 2,000 years of all the scholars in the so-called world not to know the truth, especially if they're plainly recorded in the prophesies.

So what I've asked of you is a very simple thing. I've asked you simply --

BYRON: What you've asked of me and what you've asked of the, of the Biblical scholars --

DAVID KORESH: Of the nation who says in God we trust on the currency --

BYRON: That's right.

DAVID KORESH: -- sanctuary right now -- See, things are taking place around you don't know. I would like to show you these things, I would like to impart this knowledge to you.

BYRON: Please come out and show us. That's all we're asking here.

DAVID KORESH: I am more than willing to come out when I get my message from my commander.

BYRON: Let me -- Can I, can I mention a couple things to you that I really think you need to realize? Your message -- You had the, the absolute zenith opportunity to get your message out and it was broadcast, and we facilitated it. We're not the, the anti-Christ here, we're not the, the evil doers.

DAVID KORESH: That, that remains to be seen.

BYRON: Well, let me finish. We are the ones that facilitated you getting that message out. It went out across this nation. It went out internationally. But what you, you apparently don't understand is that with the passage of time, and one of the documents that I wanted to provide to you is a letter from the Christian Broadcasting Network, from Craig Smith who is the, the talk show host that facilitated getting the message out and, by the way, lost his job as a result of it because he was willing to stick his neck out to try to help you, to help the people in that compound to

safely resolve this and not put out an issue of -- a, a statement of death but a statement of life.

The posture you're assuming now is not promoting the safe welfare of the people inside that, that -- the church, and you know it.

DAVID KORESH: So what you're implying --

BYRON: Let me, let me finish here. Just a second.

DAVID KORESH: Go ahead.

BYRON: When he put that message out, he stuck himself out front because he also has a saving faith in the word Jesus Christ that you claim to serve.

DAVID KORESH: I didn't say I claim to serve Jesus Christ. I did not say that, did I?

BYRON: Okay, are you telling me you don't then?

DAVID KORESH: What I'm saying is --

BYRON: Let's -- I don't think you need to clarify that position because this is not a religious debate.

DAVID KORESH: No, it's not. It's a point of a political matter. The matter is is that as the ambassage (sic) is at the present, I teach the Seven Seals, not that I, but I show from the prophetic writings of the scripture, your scripture, the very clear decoded message of God for the last generation

that compiles the 144,000 that stands on Mount Zion. That is a literal number. The gospel's going back to the Jews. All the prophets foretold that the time of the gentiles would come to an end because you will be doing worse than what they've done 2,000 years ago.

See, you fail, Mr. Byron, to understand the purpose of the cross 2,000 years ago. It was stated, Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. Now, in those days they didn't have manuscripts everywhere, only the Pharisees and Sanhedrim had copies of the Torah (indiscernible). Now, also, it states into thy hand I command my spirit. So very clearly, through all the new testament writing, Christ sits at the right hand of God. In the Book of Revelation, in the right hand of God is a book. Have you ever heard of the word of God being made flesh?

Sure, it's easy to accept what's been in the past, but when the word is made flesh again it'll come according to the Seven Seals, of which you are standing right --

BYRON: David --

DAVID KORESH: -- at the door looking at in the face and you know it not.

BYRON: David.

DAVID KORESH: Sir?

BYRON: With all due respect, my own personal

commitment, my own personal faith, my own personal salvation, you are not in a position to attack. And I'm not here to debate it with you.

DAVID KORESH: You do not know my position to attack.

BYRON: Okay, I'm just giving you my opinion. You can take it or leave it. Obviously, you'll leave it. But let me just, please, make this, this point. You need to realize that we are not here, I'm not here, I'm not -- The sheriff's not still sitting out in that Bradley idling on the road so that we can force a confrontation. We are here trying to resolve this matter without anyone else getting hurts.

DAVID KORESH: And that's what I'm trying to do likewise.

BYRON: Well --

DAVID KORESH: I do not want my people --

BYRON: With all due respect, I think that it's a very safe position to hide back and say I'm not coming out until my God says that it's time to come out.

DAVID KORESH: No, no, no. It's a very safe position for you. You're behind the Bradleys. We're here behind walls of sheetrock. We're here behind walls of sheetrock. We remained here from the beginning. We did not build walls of stone or steel.

BYRON: We are here to facilitate you getting out behind these walls --

DAVID KORESH: But you're behind --

BYRON: Let me finish, please. As well as your message, if you want your message to get out, that message is not going to get out until you come out to profess it and we will facilitate it. Now, you can, you can condemn us -- Please listen to this. You can condemn us for, for interfering with your free and unfettered access to the media, but what I'm telling you is we stand ready, my commanders stand ready and have assured me to assure you that as soon as you come up -- out -- we will facilitate free, complete, unedited, uncensored access to the media.

I just got off the phone before I came out here. David, are you listening to this?

DAVID KORESH: I'm listening.

BYRON: I just came -- got off the phone with the Christian Broadcasting Network. Now, I don't know if you listen to them or not, but they have assured me that they stand ready, and it's in this letter that I was prepared to provide to you, that they stand ready to continue to help you to facilitate to put your message out. But only when you come out. Only when you live up to your initial word that you broke.

We did not break it, you broke it. Let that

be perfectly clear. And we'll build from that point forward, but we're not going to build castles on sand, and you know what I'm talking about.

DAVID KORESH: Well, we know that --

BYRON: We're going to build them on rock. You need to bring that rock out and build your message. Let us help you.

DAVID KORESH: Well, we know the rock's in heaven. We know that, right, Mr. Byron? Sits on a throne, right?

BYRON: That's right.

DAVID KORESH: And we also know it can hit the image in the feet, right? (indiscernible) 244?

BYRON: I'm not going to get into a religious debate with you. I believe what you're saying.

DAVID KORESH: No, that's not -- that's a statement of Christian fact. Everyone who loves Christ knows.

BYRON: David, I know what you're saying and I agree with it, but it's time for you to bring your feet out and to place them on the, on the -- in a position, and a proper forum, to get your word out, if that's what you really want to do.

DAVID KORESH: That's what's going to be done.

BYRON: If that's what you really want to do.

DAVID KORESH: That is what is going to be done, I swear by God unto you.

BYRON: How's it going to be done until you come out?

DAVID KORESH: Well, that's what I'm saying. You still fail to understand the finishing part of what our work is, you see? And unless you sit down, because you care for our soul and you love the innocent within these walls, which you profess to do, unless you sit down and you hear a man, you can't judge him.

BYRON: David, we have heard you for 17 days.

DAVID KORESH: No, you have not. You have interrupted, you've made statements, the people have scoffed. No, you have not.

BYRON: We have never scoffed you or your message. Not one time has the FBI ever gotten up there and scoffed you or your message. That's not true. If that's the message that you're putting out to your people

DAVID KORESH: Again, that'll be brought, again, that'll be brought out.

BYRON: Let me finish. Let me finish. If that's the message you're putting out to your people, you are not representing the truth in the best interest of the people inside that compound.

DAVID KORESH: I have not been talking with

these people at large.

BYRON: Well, you need to, David. You profess to be the leader in that compound. It's time for you to take command and bring these -- the, the sheep forward.

DAVID KORESH: Mr. Byron, understand again salvation is not done by -- It's an individual responsibility. The people here --

BYRON: Then let those individuals free. Let them come out.

DAVID KORESH: They are free.

BYRON: I don't believe it.

DAVID KORESH: I know you don't. You don't believe me. You don't even believe that God sits on a throne, you don't believe that he gave the book to the Lamb, you don't --

BYRON: David -- these people to tell the truth --

DAVID KORESH: You don't believe the lamb is going to come with the reward.

BYRON: -- with their promises. That is not you to this point. You understand that?

DAVID KORESH: I understand that you are trying to make statements for us to comply to your ideals, but here's the thing. You just told me you fear God.

BYRON: I do.

DAVID KORESH: Which God do you fear?

BYRON: I fear -- I'm not going to get into this debate with you, but I'm going to tell you that I am personally convinced and secure in my salvation. I don't have to represent that to you one iota. What I do have to represent to you is that this is not an unlimited situation. Time is, is passing.

DAVID KORESH: I know it is. It's very close.

BYRON: You have not -- Let me finish, please.

DAVID KORESH: It's very close.

BYRON: David, let me finish. You have not lived up to your promises.

DAVID KORESH: And have you lived up to yours?

BYRON: Yes, sir, we have.

DAVID KORESH: You believe that honestly?

BYRON: And here, here's the next promise I'm going to give you. Are you ready?

DAVID KORESH: I'm listening.

BYRON: We have the facilities available right now to safely and orderly recover the people out of that compound. All you need to do is show your leadership and direct them to come out. We will, we

will treat them in an honest, open, humane fashion. We will get medical attention to them that you have not been able to do because you don't have the facilities there. We're trying to help you out, David, and you don't understand it.

You either don't understand it or you don't care. There's no, there's no middle ground here. It is as black and white as the message is that you profess to teach. If you care for those people, take care of those people. Let us come forward with what we have prepared to help you out. We're not here to hurt you, we're here to try to help you. And if you, if you can't believe that --

DAVID KORESH: I believe you. I believe what you are saying.

BYRON: Okay. If you believe -- Okay -- David, you believe me, you just said that.

DAVID KORESH: No, I said I believe what --

BYRON: Here's what I want, here's what I want to make clear to you. We have three buses that will be in this area by 3:00. That's one hour. Now, this, this is one of the things I wanted to bring forward to Steve. This is not any kind of trick or anything. We have medical attention that we have, have made contacts with and they will be prepared to help with, with injuries, including Judy's right hand, the

finger and possible shoulder, Scott's thigh, your abdomen. And hopefully, that's not -- Is it still weeping, your wound?

DAVID KORESH: It still weeps.

BYRON: Okay. We would like to, to be able to help you out with that. David Jones that got the, the shot in the buttocks, we want to be able to try to help these people as best we can. Medical attention will be available at 3:00. The buses are standing by to take these people to the proper authorities, have access to legal counsel, including yourself. But, David, please, let's get off the dime here. It is -- You and I both know that if, if you make the decision that okay, we're coming out, we're going to go before the media, we're going to have our day in court, which according to the sheriff you wanted to do -- You did it in 1988 and you were successful. Do it in 1993. Do it now.

We are ready to do this without anybody else getting hurt. Do you understand? I don't know how to make it any more clear, except maybe to take a couple breaths and relax. But what I'm trying to do is I'm trying to tell you what I tried to tell Steve. I'm excited because the things that I found out and that I wanted to come out there and deliver face to face are in your best interest. You had concern about property,

the property is not going to be moved upon.

I have a statement from the U.S. Attorney's Office that says based on Federal Firearms Act, there's no provision to move on it for forfeiture. They couldn't seize it even if, if -- If you were fearful of ATF jumping up and down saying that that's their plan, there's no legal grounds for them to do it. You're safe and secure in your church. The legal issue, I have proof that you have legal representation. And those that aren't represented, we have -- there's a roster I can provide to you as soon as you come out and court appointed attorneys are standing by.

The crime scene, we've made -- Are you still there?

DAVID KORESH: I'm here.

BYRON: The crime scene -- I hope you're listening to this.

DAVID KORESH: I am listening.

BYRON: Okay. The crime scene, we've made arrangements to work on getting a, an independent special, special master, I believe is the legal term for it, to oversee the processing of the crime scene. Now, I hope you're listening to this because this is a point that I know Steven has made, that, that Wayne has made, and that you have made through them and directly to the various guys that have talked to you during the

course of the negotiation.

We've now made a -- We've made that step. That's very unusual. Normally, the agencies process the crime scenes and that's it. And the, the evidence is brought forth into court and it's judged by, by a jury of your peers. Now what you're looking at is we've made provisions to try to accommodate the needs that you've expressed. Time after time we have and we have again in this issue, so you'll have an independent party that can assure that that evidence is collected properly, that it's not compromised, and so forth.

Sealed documents, you had a problem with that. I have copies for you, David -- Are you listening?

DAVID KORESH: I am.

BYRON: I have copies for you of the, of the warrant for your arrest that was filed -- Let me get it out here. The warrant for your arrest was filed before United States Magistrate Dennis Green on the 25th of February. That's four days, three days before the unfortunate incident out there with the raids and, and the loss of life. But I'm telling you it's a legal document. I've got an original fax sent in to me from the U.S. Attorney's Office at 12:26 today.

I've not been sitting on my hands trying to get this done for you. I've got a copy of the search

warrant that you -- that Wayne had expressed a problem with because he questioned whether or not there was even one in existence. I've got it here, and it says "In the matter of the search of residence of Vernon Wayne Howell, also known as David Koresh and others, Route 7, Box 471B, also known as Mount Carmel Center." I've got it sitting here to provide to you so that you would know, David, that I am not trying to run a game on you.

If I sound excited or if I sound upset or whatever, I'm excited to get you out. Safely. That's the only reason that I'm sitting here. Now, you've also mentioned -- So those things -- That aspect of it is not sealed, it's not secretive, it's not something that's being suppressed. I stand ready to provide it to you, and I still stand ready to provide it to you. I've personally talked to the Texas Rangers. I've taken this all the way up to Maurice Cook. Do you happen to know him, the senior ranger captain?

DAVID KORESH: No, I don't, I don't remember his name.

BYRON: In Austin, Texas. That's where I'm assigned. I know this man. I know that he's, that he's straightforward and he's honest and he is not going to give you a line of garbage, and neither am I. He tells me that he absolutely stands ready and has a,

a significant force of rangers up here to be able to go in and handle the homicide aspect of this investigation. If, if you have a concern that this is being covered up by the federal government or whatever, it's not being covered up because we're not even going to be the lead agency in it. It's the Texas Rangers.

I don't know any finer agency to handle this thing on a state level. That's -- We've been able to ensure that for you. The media, we've made arrangements for -- again, as I mentioned. We've made arrangements -- In fact, if you saw the press conference today or yesterday --

DAVID KORESH: No, we, we can't see nothing. Our electricity is turned off.

BYRON: Okay. Did you hear it?

DAVID KORESH: No.

BYRON: Okay. Well, you need to get together with your other troops 'cause they've told us that you did hear it today.

DAVID KORESH: Did somebody listen to the conference today?

BYRON: Anyhow, they will tell you that a specific question was raised by the media as to how come we have arranged for a pool camera. Do you know what that term is?

DAVID KORESH: No. What's a pool camera?

BYRON: Instead of having, you know, 20 or 30 news crews out there, you have a centralized camera crew selected by the media, not selected by law enforcement, to have an accurate and a specific recording of the events as you all come out. That stands ready to be done and they'll be ready at 3 if you tell us. We also have made inquiry regarding your concerns about ATF, as to whether or not there's any reprimand or independent inquiry going on. I'm telling you it's going on right now.

I've also got a document that I cut out of the newspaper to show you how this thing tracked from the very inception. I don't know if you're even aware that the FBI had a complaint on this back in I think 1990, allegations from, from your buddy Marc Breault is it?

DAVID KORESH: Marc who?

BYRON: From Australia. Is that the proper pronunciation?

DAVID KORESH: Marc Breault?

BYRON: Breault, okay. We looked into those at that time and we -- that's when we first hooked up with, with Jack Harwell, the sheriff here in McLennan County, and with the county authorities as far as the concerns, genuine concerns, or at least what we felt were genuine concerns, as to how those kids were being

treated. The results that we got back from the appropriate authorities, and I stress appropriate because we are not big brother, we're not tromping on people, we're going to go to the people that have the rightful authority to say yes, these kids are being handled properly or no, they're not and we have genuine concern and you should go forward with your investigation. We found in 1990 that there was no justification that we found, no substantiation of any allegations regarding mistreatment of those kids.

DAVID KORESH: Our children are the best treated in the world.

BYRON: And I'll tell you, I have had the pleasure, David, and I, I will say this twice, I have had the pleasure of meeting with several of the kids that you have allowed to come out of that compound and they're wonderful. I've got, I've got three young men of my own. I just hope they're that well behaved when, when I'm not around. But you need to be around. You've got an investment in the future. Exercise it.

Let us help you to get those people out. The last thing I want to tell you is that there is a Congressional inquiry going on on this matter right now. There's internal inquiries from ATF and the FBI is, is in a position to continue to maintain control of this overall situation to assure you, and I'm telling

you this from 24 years in the FBI, you are not going to be victimized by the manner in which this investigation is conducted.

We are not going to allow anybody to compromise any aspect of this investigation, as long as it has the FBI on it. Now, I'm not saying that would happen in the first place, but I'm telling you that it ain't going to happen under the Bureau. Do you understand that?

DAVID KORESH: I hear what you're saying.

BYRON: That's my personal assurance to you, David. And I'll live up to it and I can assure you that my commanders will live up to it. Now, I don't know what else we could do. We're ready to go. We have the capabilities of carrying this forward. You need to be man enough, prophet enough to help your people in there and the ball is in your court. I don't know what else we can do. Everything you've asked for we've accomplished.

We're ready to go. We're done talking. As far as, as trying to get things arranged in the future, we'll talk to you anytime you want to talk. But what I'm telling you is that we're done talking about telling you we're gonna, gonna, gonna. We've done it. We're ready to go forward and we're ready to go forward right now.

DAVID KORESH: Okay. The things that you've already stated to me, have you stated them to Wayne Martin as of yet?

BYRON: No, because he didn't want to come -- I don't know what, what Wayne's problem is. I don't know if he's afraid to come out and meet us in the road again. I don't know what the deal is. Hopefully, the man's not because I looked him in the eye, as I, as I look forward to looking you in the eye and telling you that, that my heart's in the right place. I deal, deal with you from a position of honesty.

I will not lie to you. If you ask me a question and the answer is something that I know you're not going to want to hear, I'm going to tell you the truth anyhow, and then we'll work through it. I'm not going to lie to you. I told him the same thing. My understanding was that we were going to meet again. We left on very good terms, shook hands. Of course, we were all freezing our, our rears off, but we shook hands. We've looked each other eye to eye.

I spoke more to Steve than I did to Wayne, but I, I assured him, because I have respect for the man as an attorney, that I would try to find out the questions that he had asked from a legal standpoint. I'm telling you I have those answers. Now, after an indication, and I've got to admit it it wasn't a

guarantee on their part, but it was an indication, a very straightforward indication I felt, that they were ready to meet again when I had the answers for them. We're ready to meet, they're not.

DAVID KORESH: Wait, just wait one second.
(End of Tape 5x.)