

OP

**RECORD OF INTERVIEW -  
RAY STEVENS**

EXHIBIT No. 224  
.....CLERK

**TAPE NO:** 1 (of 2)

**DATE:** 30 SEPTEMBER 2005

**PLACE:** GOLD COAST CITY COUNCIL

**TIME COMMENCED:** 09:20

**TIME CONCLUDED:** 10:10

**INTERVIEWEE:** RAY STEVENS

**INTERVIEWER/S:** DETECTIVE INSPECTOR KEN BEMI

**LEGAL OFFICER:** THERESA HAMILTON

**RE:** OPERATION GRAND

**FILE NUMBER:** MI-05-2482

Complainant: OPERATION GRAND  
Subject(s): OPERATION GRAND  
Investigator: DETECTIVE INSPECTOR KEN BEMI  
Statement Of: RAY STEVENS  
Legal Officer: THERESA HAMILTON  
File Number: MI-05-2482  
Directory :

COPY TAPE 1 OF 2 - RECORD OF INTERVIEW BETWEEN RAY STEVENS AND  
DETECTIVE INSPECTOR KEN BEMI OF THE CRIME AND MISCONDUCT  
COMMISSION

LEGAL OFFICER: THERESA HAMILTON

RE: OPERATION GRAND

RS = RAY STEVENS

KB = DETECTIVE INSPECTOR KEN BEMI

UI = UNINTELLIGIBLE

1 KB The time now is 9:26 am on the morning of Friday the Thirtieth day of September 2005  
2 I'm present in the office of a Mr Ray STEVENS, who is attached to the Mayor's office  
3 Gold Coast City Council and I intend to conduct an audio recorded interview with Mr  
4 STEVENS in relation to a matter that the Crime and Misconduct Commission is currently  
5 investigating pertaining to the Gold Coast City Council and elections, of 2004, for the  
6 purposes of voice identification I'll ask every person present here starting with myself to  
7 state their full and correct name my full name is Kenneth William BEMI, I am a  
8 Detective Inspector of Police currently performing duties at the Crime and Misconduct  
9 Commission in Brisbane  
10  
11 RS My name is Raymond Alexander STEVENS born first of February 1953 my current  
12 employment here at the Gold City Council as ah Mayor's Executive Assistant  
13  
14 KB What I intend to do today Mr STEVENS is to interview you about this matter in the form  
15 of an audio recorded interview, and by that I mean, whatever you say or I say will be  
16 recorded, as we speak, do you clearly understand that  
17  
18 RS I clearly understand and (ui) and completely agree with the same  
19  
20 KB Thank you do you require any other person to be present here with you during this  
21 interview  
22  
23 RS [Over talking] No I don't, no  
24  
25 KB Can you please state your current address  
26  
27 RS My current address is 20 Fitzwilliam Street Carrara and I've been at that address since  
28 June of this year, in premises that I am currently renting  
29  
30 KB And you mentioned that your current position here Executive Assistant, to the Mayor Mr  
31 CLARKE

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32  
33 RS Correct  
34  
35 KB How long have you held that position for  
36  
37 RS I've held that position since May 2004  
38  
39 KB Can you tell me what that duty – entails  
40  
41 RS Ah, the duty, is basically assisting the Mayor in ah, 'n ah carrying out his mayoral duties  
42 ah which may include, ah correspondence which may include, ah matters of investigation  
43 into ah issues before the council, ah it may include following up, on, with residents ah  
44 that he doesn't have the time to follow up on, ah it's generally ah, ah taking some of the  
45 wor' workload from the Mayor  
46  
47 KB In other words you're the Mayor's assistant hence Executive Assistant  
48  
49 RS Correct  
50  
51 KB Are you responsible for the supervision of any staff at all  
52  
53 RS Yes I am officially under the administration I'm ah, ah responsible for the staff in the  
54 what they call er ah in the mayoral support group ah which is currently at, ahm, 4 staff  
55  
56 KB And what positions do those 4 staff hold  
57  
58 RS We have ah 2 personal assistants to the Mayor, ah if you like a number 1 and number 2  
59 personal assistant, we have the Mayor's ahm, er sort've ah her official title, is Research  
60 Officer, ah and ah and speech writer type of thing, and the thir' the ah the fourth person,  
61 has ah really just become a permanent position with the Mayor's office in terms of she's  
62 the secretariat to ah a number of advisory boards that the council has which is handled  
63 through the, Mayor's office  
64  
65 KB Prior to assuming, your current position here, what duties did you perform - or what role  
66 were you in prior to becoming the, Mayor's Executive Assistant  
67  
68 RS Ah-ah I've been in private enterprise since 1997 ah I was formerly with ah Local  
69 Government ahm I have ah a my own, ah, my private company, ahm I have ah which has,  
70 other, clients which ah, I was allowed to continue, ahm when I took the position on  
71  
72 KB May I ask what that company is  
73  
74 RS Yes it's called R-A-S Enterprises Pty Ltd it's just a small family company  
75

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76 KB And you were a former Mayor here on the Gold Coast  
77  
78 RS Correct I was Mayor of Albert Shire, in 19 for '94, after the amalgamation of the Albert  
79 Shire and the Gold Coast I became the Mayor of the first Mayor of the new Gold Coast  
80 from 95 to 97  
81  
82 KB You agree, yesterday, we had a telephone conversation and arrangements were made to  
83 conduct this interview here today with you  
84  
85 RS Yes I do correct  
86  
87 KB Can you recall what that conversation was just generally  
88  
89 RS Yes ah it was in relation to [sighs] matters ah particularly in ah relation to the – ah bi-  
90 election that was held – in ah – ah-oo  
91  
92 KB January 2005  
93  
94 RS January 2005-09-30  
95  
96 KB And – on my recollection I actually outlined ah, I wanted to talk to you about that and  
97 issues surrounding the bi-election in particular whether any approaches were made to any  
98 candidates at all  
99  
100 RS Correct  
101  
102 KB From yourself  
103  
104 RS Correct  
105  
106 KB As I said earlier on the Crime and Misconduct Commission is currently conducting an  
107 investigation, and it's spelt in the terms of reference  
108  
109 RS I think you said Ron then  
110  
111 KB Sorry  
112  
113 RS I think you said Ron – Ron's down the end there, I'm Ray  
114  
115 KB Nah – no sorry I don't know if I mentioned your name (ui) [laughter] I think you might  
116 have miss-heard  
117  
118 RS Ron, I'm sorry I  
119

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120 [Laughter]  
121  
122 KB That's okay, I apologise if I did  
123  
124 RS Yeah it's [laughingly]  
125  
126 KB Ah as I said earlier on the Crime and Misconduct Commission is currently, undertaking  
127 an investigation, that's ah, been outlined in the terms of reference which I don't know if  
128 you've had the opportunity  
129  
130 RS [Over talking] Yes I have, yes I have  
131  
132 KB To read at all so you understand what the nature of the enquiries are  
133  
134 RS Correct  
135  
136 KB Perhaps if I can start off – during the [sighs] March 2004 elections held on the Gold  
137 Coast here, did you have any knowledge of a campaign fund, for, certain candidates, that  
138 were running, in that March election  
139  
140 RS Yeah none whatsoever I didn't have any ah, ah knowledge or ah involvement in 2004, ah  
141 local government election campaigns, at all in terms of ah, it was probably of no interest  
142 to me, I had just completed, a State election in the February of 2004 where I'd run, ah for  
143 the State seat of Gaven, under the Liberal Party banner and had been unsuccessful, and ah  
144 I took no interest or no part, whatsoever with any ah, any matters relating to the election  
145 of 2004  
146  
147 KB So you certainly weren't running as a candidate  
148  
149 RS Absol' [over talking]  
150  
151 KB Ah for-for the local elections here  
152  
153 RS [Over talking] (Ui)  
154  
155 KB For the State elections you were  
156  
157 RS Yeah – absolutely correct ah my only involvement, was to give ah the then Ron  
158 CLARKE, a phone call to wish him the best 'n to give him my considered opinion that he  
159 was going to win the election in a canter  
160  
161 KB Did you provide any other assistance to Mr CLARKE at all in (ui)  
162

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163 RS [Over talking] None whatsoever and I ha' really, ah hardly knew I'd met him a couple of  
164 times over the years through Coran Cove, ah I think I'd met him while I was Mayor and  
165 he was doin' ah proposing, ah to get a race track a running track over at Coran Cove or  
166 Runaway Bay I'm sorry, ahm but I really didn't know him that well at all but it was just  
167 ah, ah a phone call of ah to give him a bit of support 'n ah, 'n lift his spirits I suppose  
168 comin' into an election  
169  
170 KB Did you have knowledge of any election fund  
171  
172 RS [Over talking] None  
173  
174 KB Whilst you were running  
175  
176 RS Absolutely none  
177  
178 KB Have you any – knowledge as to who administered the fund, at all  
179  
180 RS No absolutely none  
181  
182 KB What candidates accessed that fund  
183  
184 RS No, absolutely none  
185  
186 KB Knowledge of a, proposed ticket running for council at all  
187  
188 RS No, none whatsoever  
189  
190 KB Knowledge of a power block in council  
191  
192 RS Absolutely none -  
193  
194 KB So to summarise, ah your knowledge of any, election funding for candidates during that  
195 election, locally I'm talking about on the Gold Coast here you have not got any  
196 knowledge at all  
197  
198 RS None  
199  
200 KB And you certainly, weren't aware of the existence of any fund at that stage  
201  
202 RS No – I really had, nothing at all to do with the 2004, election and was really only like  
203 thousands of other Gold Coasters ah interested spect'tor  
204  
205 KB Did you have any dealings with, a printing company QUADRANT at all  
206

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207 RS No  
208  
209 KB Do you know that company at all (ui)  
210  
211 RS [Over talking] I do know of the company they approached us ah to do the, ah media work  
212 ah when I was pra' the proponent for a cable car in the hinterland a number of years ago  
213 they live at Mudgeeraba, they work out at Mudgeeraba, the principal was a fellow called  
214 Chris MORGAN, who happened to be on the same, hinterland tourism ahm committee  
215 promoting tourism in the hinterland that I was, in 1998  
216  
217 KB [Over talking] (Ui)  
218  
219 RS He was he was, chasing our business if you like  
220  
221 KB Did you employ, the services of QUADRANT with your own campaign at all  
222  
223 RS No, I've never had any business dealings with QUADRANT we didn't even, look at  
224 them, a second time, for the cable car, but I do know of him  
225  
226 KB Is there anything else that you'd like to comment on, in relation to the, Gold Coast City  
227 Council elections in March 2004 just any general information that you think may be of  
228 assistance  
229  
230 RS Mmm - no not really cause I-I gotta say ah it was aah an election that I, didn't take, any  
231 interest in I suppose I was probably  
232  
233 KB [Over talking] Obviously you were busy running your own campaign  
234  
235 RS A little bit disappointed ah on the outcomes of the February, ah State election, ahm, and  
236 ah you know I sort've ah, you know just couldn't be ah get inspired or interested in-in ah  
237 the whole process at that particular point in time  
238  
239 KB And in fact the majority of time leading up to those elections in March, you were no  
240 doubt pre-occupied with your own election campaign  
241  
242 RS [Over talking] Oh totally - absolutely totally ah-dah we-we, we went right up until  
243 February the I don't know sixth it was early February sixth or thirteenth whenever the  
244 election was, and ah we really went flat out on that ah I suppose ah the ah, it-it's-it's a  
245 major, let down when you're a loser, after an election ah I've had it a couple of times now  
246 I lost the 97 election as well, although I got to say that sorta, faired a little better for me  
247 because the week after this 97 election I was out doing my cable car - and ah that took  
248 me a couple of years to do that and ah, then I was devastated when that was knocked  
249 down by the government so, ah there is a major, let down, and of you know I took no  
250 interest in March whatsoever other than just to make the phone call

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251  
252 KB Perhaps if I can direct your attention to, the bi-election  
253  
254 RS [Over talking] Yeh [spoken softly]  
255  
256 KB That was held in January 2005 here  
257  
258 RS Correct  
259  
260 KB As a result, of the death of the late, Sue ROBBINS who was, the councillor for that ah  
261  
262 RS Division  
263  
264 KB Ah Division – and that was down Currumbin way  
265  
266 RS Yes  
267  
268 KB Can you explain if any your role in the bi-election  
269  
270 RS Ah I basically, was an interested party, as t' oppose to, the 2004, no interest whatsoever,  
271 ah through my role as the Mayor's Executive Assistant, I suppose in some ways I have to  
272 be the ears and eyes, of what's happening around the council – and the directions things  
273 are taking and who are likely ah candidates who are likely winners, and ah the effect that  
274 may have on, the views that the ah the successful candidate may have, ah for the council,  
275 so I did take an active interest in the 2005 bi-election although I took no involvement,  
276 quite clearly because of my, ah position in the Mayor's office which I recognise as a, a  
277 very ahm, ah important, ah independent office, that cannot, and does not take any,  
278 political, ah sides, in any shape or form, so I had no, involvement in the 2005 election at  
279 all, with any candidates, ah, or you know or any, matters or, pertaining to the result of that  
280 election  
281  
282 KB Did you know who the candidates were  
283  
284 RS Absolutely  
285  
286 KB Could you outline those for me please  
287  
288 RS Aah no not all of them I can remember some of them, ah I can remember James KELLY,  
289 ah because he worked in an office just down the hall from me, ah, not the current position  
290 there, ah further down, on my way to the toilets to be honest er which I pass regularly, I'd  
291 known James KELLY ah from his Channel 9, reporting days, and to be honest when I  
292 came to council I was quite surprised to see him in here, ahm, he actually interviewed me  
293 several times during the 2004 election so I knew James KELLY, ah I knew, ah Chris  
294 ROBBINS was running, eventually there was humming and arring about it but, she was a

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295 relation of Sue's a sister-in-law as I understood it – ah but I, had only, ah sorta, nodded to  
296 her – ahm, at f' at the funeral Sue ROBBINS and my, you know knowledge of her was  
297 very very limited only, I knew that ah you know she carried the ROBBINS' name of  
298 course, ahm, I knew there was a Kelly TRIGGER running, for the Labor Party, ah Kelly  
299 I'd sort've, just no I didn't really know but I'd sorta, run into her as terms of a ah, [sighs]  
300 she was a ah, you know, Labor Party candidate for a different State I think in Federal  
301 elections – ah Peter TURNER the former Deputy Mayor – of Gold Coast ah Council and  
302 a friend of mine, he ah heads Kirra Surf, he ah, had a friend of his whom I can't  
303 remember her name running, ah he asked, me could she talk to me I mean I had several  
304 people ringing and saying you know, what's happening whose going on s-who were the  
305 candidates, but I can't remember her name to be honest, ahm, ahm, but it was a friend of  
306 Peter TURNER's, aah who else ran – ohh there was the Citizens for Democracy people I  
307 think, we thought for a-a good while that the doctor Karen COATES was gonna run, ahh  
308 but she didn't run  
309

310 KB She was from the Liberal Party was he

311  
312 RS No Karen COATES was ah, [clears throat] ah a serious, I don't know aware, (ui) I really  
313 didn't know her, but ahh I'd sorta kept an eye basically ahh she was ah Sue ROBBINS's  
314 former opponent, and it was over a-a doctor's surgery in hinterland or something like that  
315 so, ahh  
316

317 KB Operating from home (ui) [over talking]

318  
319 RS Yes I think it was yeah, so I-I thought she was going to run ahm – [exhales] wha' ah – I  
320 can't even think of who the Greens were I think it was Inga LIGHT – Inga LIGHT – I'm-  
321 I'M not sure – but – yeah the so, there was a few at about, 6 or 8  
322

323 KB What about a person Niree CHRISTIANSEN did you know her at all -

324  
325 RS No – whose I, no  
326

327 KB Niree – Niree  
328

329 RS Niree no  
330

331 KB Yeah – yeah – actually she wasn't um, she wasn't a candidate ah – in the – bi-election she  
332 was a candidate, actually the, two thou' March 2004 elections  
333

334 RS Oh okay  
335

336 KB Yeah – just in reflection  
337

338 RS Yeah

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339  
340 KB But you didn't know her in any event  
341  
342 RS Nnn  
343  
344 KB What about a person by the name of Irene WARRING  
345  
346 RS I've, known of the name Irene WARRING and I think I've – confronted her I (ui) never  
347 been, sorta officially introduced but she is are, a very vocal critic of the council ahh she  
348 ee' – did she I don't think she ran did she run for cri' [tinkling of china] oh for-for the-  
349 the Division  
350  
351 KB Believe so yes  
352  
353 RS She did she yeah, no I ah certainly haven't spoken to Irene WARRING [telephone rings  
354 in background] and ah – sorry can I just – hello – Hi Connie good I'm just tried up for the  
355 moment – (ui) thanks bye [hangs up phone] I'll just put a divert to that, ah sorry about  
356 that  
357  
358 KB You're right  
359  
360 RS [Over talking] (Ui)  
361  
362 KB Sorry back to Irene WARRING ahm, did you know her at all ah not necessarily in the bi-  
363 election at all but ah  
364  
365 RS No I-I don't know Irene WARRING, I don't think I've spoken to her unless I have,  
366 spoken to her at in the front of the council meeting ah which 's been a rabble, I don't  
367 really can't remember, speaking to Irene WARRING ever, I certainly haven't met her  
368 formally  
369  
370 KB Now  
371  
372 RS I know of her, you know she's quite a, you know, ah activist if you like – she comes to  
373 council regularly  
374  
375 KB Yeah – Irene WARRING was actually ah – running in opposition I think ahm to  
376 Councillor Greg BETTS and ah that was in the March 2004 elections  
377  
378 RS Okay  
379  
380 KB Yeah  
381  
382 RS I knew she'd been a failed candidate

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383  
384 KB Yeah  
385  
386 RS Well I knew she wo' is a failed candidate yes so was (ui) Greg BETTS yeh  
387  
388 KB Any other candidates that you're aware of, in the bi-election  
389  
390 RS [Sighs] (Ui) Division 14  
391  
392 KB (Ui) yeah – that actually ran  
393  
394 RS Mmm – [scratching sound] - no the main ones I re' ohh there was a bloke wasn't there  
395 Warren JAMES – yeah he's the nut case he ahh I saw, I passed him he was on the  
396 highway at one time and he's got this sign out, he's seen standing on the highway vote for  
397 me yeah, he runs regularly, yep – any others [laughs] any I (ui) [laughingly]  
398  
399 KB That's about all it's just, your recollection actually I  
400  
401 RS Yeah – yeah  
402  
403 KB I probably confused you a little bit with Irene WARRING and ah  
404  
405 RS Yeah that's okay  
406  
407 KB And Niree CHRISTIANSEN but that was, actually, back in March 'n-'n 2004 those  
408 elections  
409  
410 RS [Over talking] Four  
411  
412 KB Yeah  
413  
414 RS Yeah yeah – there was a Green that ran and I'm sure it's Inga LIGHT – is it Inga LIGHT  
415  
416 KB I'd have to double-check on that to be honest that's ah one name that ah, I haven't seen –  
417 Inga LIGHT  
418  
419 RS Yeah she's a constant runner of, State, Federal and Local Government, for the Greens  
420  
421 KB Did you provide any [sighs] any financial assistance or any other assistance to any of the  
422 candidates at all that were running in that bi-election  
423  
424 RS [Over talking] (Ui) – bi-election absolutely not no and, I don't have the capacity, ah and  
425 ah I certainly didn't  
426

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427 KB Did any other councillors to the best of your knowledge, provide any financial assistance  
428 to any of the candidates that were running in the bi-election  
429  
430 RS No, I knew ah, as it turned out, ah – [sighs] – I really – the only contact I've had, was ahh  
431 with James KELLY mostly just walking past are you running are you not running that  
432 sorta stuff, no I ah I don't know who, got financial assistance or, or in any matters of  
433 financial assistance really I was just sorta more interested in who won it, to be honest  
434 from the council's make up, and I thought Chris ROBBINS was gonna go pretty well –  
435 just on the name alone  
436  
437 KB Now with, James KELLY you said previously that, you know him  
438  
439 RS Correct  
440  
441 KB And you knew him from his Channel 9 reporting days  
442  
443 RS Correct  
444  
445 KB So to speak – ahm and now he's employed, with, by council here, as a  
446  
447 RS He wa' he was then as well  
448  
449 KB He was then as well  
450  
451 RS Correct  
452  
453 KB In the media section  
454  
455 RS In the media section correct  
456  
457 KB And he ran as a candidate for, Division 14 as a result of that bi-election  
458  
459 RS Correct -  
460  
461 KB Did you at any stage, approach, ah James KELLY, with the offer of any financial  
462 assistance, towards his election campaign at all  
463  
464 RS Absolutely not -  
465  
466 KB Can you recall having any conversation with him in relation to his election campaign  
467  
468 RS Absolutely correct – that I did have conversations from time to time it was quite a, a  
469 ongoing process, over a number of weeks ah, probably I don't know, from December on,  
470 are you running are you not ah somewhere along the line he ah, I know someone

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471 mentioned that he was gonna be a candidate – and ah which I thought was pretty strange,  
472 being a, council employee, ahh it's, very very tricky to run as a council employee – ah  
473 fortunately he wasn't running against the councillor, so ah he didn't get anyone off-side  
474 but we've had it in the past other times when council ee-employees have thought gee, that  
475 guy's a moron I can run against him, and it makes for a very difficult work place  
476 afterwards obviously in particularly in someone working in the media so, yeah I had an  
477 interest there ahh and where he was at and ah even his background you know ahh, ahm,  
478 you know how he fitted in and why he would want to run as a councillor and so sorts of  
479 things I suppose we talked, and ah he just felt that he could do it you know 'n that sorta  
480 stuff, and ahm – you know I supp he um, (ui) from, he might've questioned me a couple  
481 of times on what he thought his chances 'id be and ahh I – you know I didn't really know,  
482 that much about Division 14 ahm but, you know I asked him a few questions, and to be  
483 quite honest I thought he was a very poor candidate and he'd have great difficulty  
484

485 KB Who instigated the conversation with him did you

486  
487 RS Ohh

488  
489 KB Approach him or did he approach you  
490

491 RS Oh-oh 'll, we had a lot of conversations not just one I mean ah every time I sorta go past  
492 the toilet I'd find out, someone would've told me that hey James KELLY is a possible  
493 candidate, and I would've said ahh something along the lines as hey James you running  
494 for council, just, as any matter of interest, and oh could be or might not be that went on  
495 for probably a month or two, really ahh what are you doing ah are you havin' a go or not  
496 'n it was just of interest to me, that someone in the same ah office was running – and ah  
497 [sighs] you know they were all sorta I suppose he'd say ah who do you, you know who do  
498 you think 's running and that sorta thing and ah what about ah is Sue, you know, oh I  
499 think we all thought the doctor was, was, would be the favourite, Doctor Karen  
500 COATES, ah cause she'd had gone very well ahh in the last election against Sue  
501 ROBBINS, ahh, so in terms of instigation, ah I mighta said, are you running – ah but after  
502 that it was just, I'd, you know a genuine, interaction of ah conversation on many  
503 occasions

504  
505 KB So (ui) go back ah, to what, I touched upon before did you offer him any specific advice  
506 in relation to how he should run his election campaign  
507

508 RS Absolutely not  
509

510 KB At any stage did you, contact him to come into your office at all to, discuss, his, running  
511 as a candidate  
512

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513 RS [Over talking] No I didn't contact, he popped into my office after hours one time I think  
514 he was a little concerned about whether he'd be running or not, but I-I-I can remember  
515 one time he came in sat exactly where you are -  
516

517 KB You can't recall you, phoning him for him to come into your office, at all [over talking]  
518

519 RS No I can't  
520

521 KB Ah you can't recall could that, could it have happened or, you're saying that no it didn't  
522 happen  
523

524 RS Ahhh I wouldn't 've called him over I wouldn't of thought I would've ah talked to him  
525 there or ah I would've said hey, you know if we're talking about the thing and he was  
526 running or not I might've said hey well, you know, pop in when you're ready or  
527 somethin' like that but I, can't remember phoning him to say come on over to my office  
528 'n, and request him to come in

530 KB At any stage did you tell him that a certain, amount of money was available to help his  
531 election campaign if he, wanted it  
532

533 RS Absolutely not, and ah we had this matter raised before I had a call from Fiona  
534 HAMILTON of the Bulletin, and she said Ray I understand you're bank-rolling James  
535 KELLY - and I said absolutely [laughingly] not - and ah I raised the matter with James -  
536 I'd said hey where did this story come from, and he said, I don't know he said ah, I said  
537 (ui) I said when did I ever offer you money and he said to me you haven't - I said James,  
538 you asked me what it would take, ah I went through his credentials, I said how long have  
539 you been living on the coast, and ahh he like (ui) short time I don't know 6 weeks or  
540 something like that that he'd been living in his current address at Currumbin or whatever  
541 it was or a couple of month I can't even remember what it was, I said oh you, you married  
542 oh I got a partner, ah I said oh so ah, where are your community groups or your  
543 associations surf clubs or anything like that down there, ah, mind you I don't really know  
544 the guy that well you know other than, as an interviewer from the television station, so he  
545 said oh no not really don't know anyone there I said well you know you, it's gonna be  
546 really difficult for you down there to get, you know a certain amount of ah groups cause  
547 as a candidate for council you have a, ah if you're known in your area you'd have a th', a  
548 thousand, people that would know you, and vote for you cause they know your face or  
549 whatever, I think James might've been going on the fact that he was are a television, in  
550 his own mind or television, star ah a fact that he's done some interviews but the reality is  
551 no one, recognises who does television interviews, they'd know the Rob READINGS 'n  
552 the, (ui) KRANOWSKI's but, whoever does the interview no one really knows so, I  
553 would've said I said well mate you're gonna need a fairly little packet, to get along and  
554 do this thing and ah you know you need about twenty-five grand, to ah run that side of  
555 campaign to get you up - and I would've, told that I mean that [hand clap] you know  
556 that's I would've said for sure, but never - did I, say I would, help him or would I get

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557 anyone else to help, cause again I repeat, I thought he was a hopeless candidate I thought  
558 he had no chance – and ah unfortunately ah what happened ah after that, James got into  
559 bed with two other candidates, like-minded candidates [hand clap] and that's where the  
560 story ah came back to me but, when I, asked him about it cause I was really upset that  
561 Fiona HAMILTON from the Bulletin, had called me and said hey you're funding  
562 candidates I'dn't any involvement whatsoever [hand clap] I said what's the bottom of this  
563 story, anyway, obviously I [hand clap] I got led to James KELLY and I said whe', when-  
564 when did I offer you money he said you never offered me money – so, if he's saying I  
565 have now he's changed his story again  
566  
567 KB And where did this conversation take place with him that, you-you said to him that you  
568 would need twenty-five thousand dollars  
569  
570 RS Here [hand clap]  
571  
572 KB (Ui) in your office or  
573  
574 RS Yeah  
575  
576 KB Outside or  
577  
578 RS Probably here  
579  
580 KB In-in the office  
581  
582 RS Yeah  
583  
584 KB Right  
585  
586 RS Yeah when he came over I'd say in that evening [hand clap] and he wanted to run through  
587 he said oh I think I'm gonna run you know this sorta stuff  
588  
589 KB And you didn't call him over, to your office to speak with you  
590  
591 RS No – no [over talking]  
592  
593 KB He just came in did he  
594  
595 RS Yeah, yeah  
596  
597 KB He said yeah I-I'd – (ui)  
598  
599 RS I think I had a couple of them we're going back, here wa-away (ui) I think we had a  
600 couple of talks

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601  
602 KB This would've been in December 2004 because the bi-election was held in January 2005-  
603 09-30  
604  
605 RS Well it would've been December hmm - yeah  
606  
607 KB When you said about him getting into bed with like-minded candidates you just  
608 mentioned before what-what was that, about  
609  
610 RS They had a preference it was in the paper, and he was doing a preference wha' with what  
611 we call, the three lower key, type, it wasn't Kelly TRIGGER 'n it wasn't Chris ROBBINS  
612 - it wasn't ah who else were there there were three of them and I can't even remember  
613 who they were - and I can't even remember whether it was actually 3 it could've been 4  
614 but there were 3 of them that called themselves like-minded and were swapping  
615 preferences - there was a story in the Bulletin on that  
616  
617 KB And you're not quite sure who they are  
618  
619 RS Nmm I think erh I was gonna say Irene WARRING but she wasn't a candidate but it, I  
620 can't remember who they were  
621  
622 KB You made mention of a newspaper article - ah and Fiona HAMILTON approaching you  
623 - or she contacted you  
624  
625 RS She contacted  
626  
627 KB By phone I take it  
628  
629 RS Correct  
630  
631 KB And she basically - put it to you - whether  
632  
633 RS You're funding the campaign your organising  
634  
635 KB [Over talking] You were specifically funding, certain candidates  
636  
637 RS Correct  
638  
639 KB Right - and those candidates were -  
640  
641 RS [Sighs] I don't think she mentioned any candidate - ahm I don't thin' I think she said are  
642 you organising, part of the campaign I can't remember if she said (ui) - was it Ja' no she  
643 never mentioned James KELLY  
644

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645 KB She didn't specifically mention James KELLY  
646  
647 RS No  
648  
649 KB What about Kelly TRIGGER  
650  
651 RS No, no, no – I mean she's a Labor Party girl I mean I, I don't even know Kelly really – I  
652 don't even know if she said are you funding – any particular person, I mean I think the,  
653 Fiona's comments were – ah did you offer a candidate, a candidate, ah money to run  
654 their cam' and I think it was a bigger figure I think it was about forty grand  
655  
656 KB I'm just referring to a newspaper article dated the – Twenty-First – of the First, 2005-09-  
657 30  
658  
659 RS Yeah  
660  
661 KB Appeared in the Gold Coast Bulletin – and it's titled nasty campaign, I'll show you that  
662 shortly but – it's a story by Fiona HAMILTON where  
663  
664 RS [Over talking] (Ui)  
665  
666 KB She claims that, she writes that 2 claim meaning candidates 2 claim that they had been  
667 offered thousands in election funding before Christmas potentially from developers, I'll  
668 just show you that article now  
669  
670 RS Yeah  
671  
672 KB And just invite your, comment on it  
673  
674 RS Yeah [shuffling of papers] – do you want the little, written bit oh no  
675  
676 KB Yeah (ui) take your time  
677  
678 RS [Over talking] Take the whole lot  
679  
680 KB Just yeah read through the – the whole lot if you like [shuffling of papers] – [a long  
681 pause] – [shuffling of paper] –  
682  
683 RS (Ui) – they are funny times – [sound of movement] – [laughs] – [a long pause] – yep,  
684 thank you, good (ui) [laughs]  
685  
686 KB So that's the article that ah  
687  
688 RS [Over talking] Yeh

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689  
690 KB You would've been referring to before when Fiona HAMILTON – rang you and  
691  
692 RS She rang me probably before she wrote that article  
693  
694 KB Right  
695  
696 RS [Over talking] I would've thought  
697  
698 KB It would appear she would've because then it would've been in (ui) to you  
699  
700 RS [Over talking] Then she would've made comment, yeah  
701  
702 KB But, in any event  
703  
704 RS Obviously that would've been where the accusation, yo' know, that I got wind of the  
705 accusation that I was funding candidates, and that's when I would've said to James  
706 KELLY what sorta bullshit's this, or pardon me [laughs]  
707  
708 KB Oh, you're right  
709  
710 RS [Laughs] And ah – and ah at that particular point in time ah James KELLY said, well it  
711 didn't come from me because you never made me so he at that particular point in time  
712 said that that, accusation, was nothing to do with him  
713  
714 KB That's what he told you, James (ui)  
715  
716 RS [Over talking] That's what he told me  
717  
718 KB But in any event you certainly didn't approach either, James KELLY or Kelly TRIGGER  
719 or any other, candidate (ui) funding  
720  
721 RS [Over talking] Offering money – absolutely not  
722  
723 KB Or saying that a certain amount of money was available, ah to their election or for their  
724 election campaign  
725  
726 RS [Over talking] Absolutely not  
727  
728 KB I've had the opportunity to interview – James KELLY – previously  
729  
730 RS Hmm hmm  
731  
732 KB And what I'd like to do is just

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733  
734 RS Go through his accusations  
735  
736 KB Ah, go through his a, ah  
737  
738 RS Statement  
739  
740 KB [Over talking] Allegate, well, it's  
741  
742 RS Allegations  
743  
744 KB Allegations or assertions  
745  
746 RS Assertions assertions yeah (ui)  
747  
748 KB Alright he – ah says that ah he, ran as a candidate in the bi-election which we know he  
749 did  
750  
751 RS Agreed  
752  
753 KB In January 2005 – prior to that in about mid-December, aw early December and mid-  
754 December – ha-he claims that he was telephoned by yourself – and you asked him – if  
755 you could see him in your office here  
756  
757 RS Well I've already – clearly ahh, enunciated what happened into those matters and it  
758 wasn't just a one off phone call, in fact I think he initiated coming in ah as I said before  
759 after hours, because he didn't really want to be seen in work time and I, I work back  
760 obviously from time to time, but we'd have many conversations about it really even  
761 before that in terms of, discussing whether he would-would run or he wouldn't run  
762  
763 KB So can you recall making a phone call to him and (ui)  
764  
765 RS [Over talking] No I can't  
766  
767 KB Right okay and you've said that before that he (ui)  
768  
769 RS [Over talking] No  
770  
771 KB Specifically (ui) a phone call, asking him to come into the office here  
772  
773 RS Yeah no I can't  
774

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775 KB And he claims that he would've received this phone call from yourself for about 3 or 4  
776 days after, it was announced in the paper, that he was going to run as a candidate and  
777 that's that time period, early to mid-December  
778  
779 RS Well, I do remember he was on and off for a long long time – and ahh-I, you know I don't  
780 know whether he was a candidate or wasn't a candidate for a quite a while and that was,  
781 the base are you gonna run James or aren't you running and that sort've stuff, and he was,  
782 that's where the conversation which were many, in ahh, that ahh he'd ahh he'd chat to me  
783 about whether he had the right credentials, all the rest of it  
784  
785 KB And – you outlined before that's basically the discussion you had with him, about his  
786 credentials 'n  
787  
788 RS I never said he was hopeless to his face  
789  
790 KB No  
791  
792 RS But I mean  
793  
794 KB If he was sorta known, his profile you would've discussed  
795  
796 RS I asked all those questions, I said (ui) [over talking]  
797  
798 KB And you made the comment that you would need, at least twenty-five thousand dollars  
799  
800 RS Correct  
801  
802 KB For your election campaign  
803  
804 RS Correct  
805  
806 KB Right, it didn't go beyond that at all  
807  
808 RS Absolutely not  
809  
810 KB Correct me if I haven't summarised that correctly but  
811  
812 RS Oh no that's, you're right on Ken  
813  
814 KB (Ui)  
815  
816 RS I didn't have the capacity and nor would I bother as I said, I thought he was a very  
817 ordinary candidate  
818

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