**PETER MAHEU**

TALBOT: So, one of the key things obviously your dad and I talked about was how he, you know, the Castro stuff and all that and his relationship with Jim O 'Connell who was a guest I know over at your home when you lived back in Virginia, I guess it was, right?

P. MAHEU: Right.

TALBOT: So, you were old enough in those days I guess in the 50s right to remember some of those parties?

P. MAHEU: Oh, absolutely.

TALBOT: So, what are your memories? Your dad had some good memories of the barbecues and I know your dad liked to cook and he was a big, he was really into food; he was a foodie before his day, I guess.

P. MAHEU: That’s probably true.

TALBOT: Do you remember Jim O 'Connell?

P. MAHEU: Absolutely. Absolutely.

TALBOT: They called him Big Jim O 'Connell, I guess he was…

P. MAHEU: He’d show up with his daughter, Maureen.

TALBOT: Yep, and he was a big guy, I guess.

P. MAHEU: He was a big guy.

TALBOT: And was he outgoing, what was he like?

P. MAHEU: They were all outgoing, gregarious guys, and then they were all, you know, they'd have Sunday football games, watching Notre Dame, or Saturday, I guess, naturally…

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: …watching games and having barbeques and drinking beer, and they all drank beer.

TALBOT: Yep. - Was it kind of a Catholic mafia? 'Cause Jim, I imagine, was Irish Catholic like my family. –

P. MAHEU: Well, I think most of the CIA at that time was—

TALBOT: That was the culture, yeah.

P. MAHEU: That was the culture. - That was the culture, it was Catholic. –

TALBOT: So that was why Notre Dame was important to you, the football games –

P. MAHEU: Sure, and they were the ones that televised back then. I mean, the majority of Notre Dame games were on television, they still are.

TALBOT: Yeah.

P. MAHEU: Back then you didn't have…

TALBOT: A lot to pick from…

P. MAHEU: … a lot of football packages. Yeah, they were huge parties. I used to go to a lot of them, but they were fun and we were young and we’d slip beers, drink along with the big boys when they didn't know it.

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: …and, you know.

TALBOT: And then Johnny Roselli himself showed up one of those parties.

P. MAHEU: Don Mulcahy, he was another one.

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: If you put Don Mulcahy, his name in Google, you'll find out that he had a...

TALBOT: Who was he? I don't know that.

P. MAHEU: CIA…

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: …operative. And, uh, his son was killed by Edwin Wilson.

TALBOT: Oh my God.

P. MAHEU: Maybe. They don't know; he was working with Wilson for the CIA.

TALBOT: Ah. Yep. Yep.

P. MAHEU: And they were transporting arms to some country. You can look that up. Um, Don Mulcahy,

TALBOT: Right, sure.

P. MAHEU: And he was involved in the CIA.

TALBOT: And was your dad still friends, I know Hoover tended to hold grudges and your dad and I talked a little bit about the FBI and all that and his leaving that. But your dad still had friends among the Bureau too, right?

P. MAHEU: Well, absolutely, yeah.

TALBOT: So, were some of those guys there too as well?

P. MAHEU: Uh, you know, I don't recall many of them being there, but, you know, those, those were, you know, I can remember O 'Connell, uh, O 'Connell having parties at his house, Dad had parties at his house.

TALBOT: Uh -huh, uh -huh. So, they were close, they were pretty tight, O 'Connell and your dad.

P. MAHEU: Oh yeah, the whole group was. You know, Washington was a small town.

TALBOT: Sure, sure, yeah. It was even that way when I lived there back in the 70s.

P. MAHEU: Yeah, it was, you know, it's, just now, it's a big city, but it was, you know, picture it in the 50s, you know, it was pretty small.

TALBOT: Yeah, I bet. So, O’Connell then, as they, you know, get involved in the in the Castro operation, you know, obviously your dad trusted him. I mean, he had to have someone at the agency, I'm sure, that he felt so he wasn't going to be hung out to dry. And I know your dad talked to me about how he wrestled with the decision to whether-or-not to even get involved with that project. I think he trusted him.

P. MAHEU: I think he trusted him; I think he trusted Ed Sheffield. And Ed Sheffield. And he knew Sheffield pretty well too.

TALBOT: And Sheffield was at those parties, too, then, right?

P. MAHEU: Oh, yeah.

TALBOT: Yeah. What was he like? Did you ever get a read on him?

P. MAHEU: I knew Sheffield well. I worked for security at CIA, right at…

TALBOT: Oh, you did?

P. MAHEU: …that part of my marriage.

TALBOT: So, you worked for the Office of Security?

P. MAHEU: Mm-huh.

TALBOT: Oh, I see. Okay. But he was gone by then, probably, right?

P. MAHEU: No, he was still there.

TALBOT: Oh, he was?

P. MAHEU: He was down at the end of the hall.

TALBOT: And so, he was an ex-military guy.

P. MAHEU: I think he was, yeah.

TALBOT: Well, they call him Colonel, right?

P. MAHEU: Yeah, Colonel Sheffield.

TALBOT: And so, was he pretty straight-laced? I mean, your dad…

P. MAHEU: Well, you know, he had… I met my wife at the Agency and …

TALBOT: Ah.

P. MAHEU: …when Ed found out we were going to get married, he invited us over to his home for dinner with him and his wife.

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: You know, they were, it was like a big fraternity.

TALBOT: Yeah, yeah. So, in that sense, your dad felt he was in good hands, that he could trust these people. And, you know, when he was asked to take this assignment on, that there was, I mean, I know the CIA had funneled a number of jobs to him over the, through the '50s…

P. MAHEU: Mm-hm.

Talbot … that were helping your dad build his business. And so, there was no lack of trust there obviously, right?

P. MAHEU: No, no. I don’t think so, no.

TALBOT: Okay. After O 'Connell, then he was reassigned, I guess, like in ‘61 or 2, as I recall he went overseas for a while for a couple of years; was, did your dad have a rabbi, so to speak, at the CIA after that? Someone who, you know, was his liaison?

P. MAHEU: Hmm. It's a hard q…, I don't have an answer to that question.

TALBOT: Okay.

P. MAHEU: I know I could say things that I don’t know for sure.

TALBOT: No, no. That’s good.

P. MAHEU: I just don’t know that for sure, and if he did, I would guess it would be, uh, I don’t know.

TALBOT: Maybe Sheffield, if he stayed, if he was still there?

P. MAHEU: Sheffield I think was still there…

TALBOT: Yeah.

P. MAHEU: …for quite a while. Uh… Edwards, or maybe Don Mulcahy.

TALBOT: Uh -huh, okay.

P. MAHEU: They were kind of close.

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: And, you know, our kids our kids were all, their kids were all the same age so, you know, I dated Don's daughter, I dated Mulcahy’s daughter.

TALBOT: Mm -hmm, mm-hmm. That's the way it is, yeah. I grew up in Hollywood; my dad was an old movie actor, and sure, that's like a tribe, you all...

P. MAHEU: [indistinct] … co-mingle, you know?

TALBOT: Yeah, sure. In fact, my dad knew Johnny Roselli.

P. MAHEU: Oh, really?

TALBOT: Yeah, because he was a Hollywood guy, of course. Yeah, well, Johnny was, was pretty well known in Hollywood.

TALBOT: What are your memories of Roselli? Because he would come to some of these parties too, right?

P. MAHEU: You know, I didn't remember seeing Johnny at any of *those* parties.

TALBOT: Uh-huh.

P. MAHEU: We'd see him in California, at parties in California.

TALBOT: Or Vegas, of course.

P. MAHEU: When we were in Vegas.

TALBOT: Yeah.

P. MAHEU: I mean, Johnny was, you know, my brothers called him “Uncle Johnny.”

TALBOT: Sure.

P. MAHEU: Um… I mean, he was a typical gentleman mobster, if that's the correct term, I don't know how to put that, but he was charming…

TALBOT: Well dressed.

P. MAHEU: Beautifully dressed, beautifully cut hair…

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: Handsome as a devil, uh…

TALBOT: Yeah, yeah; the ladies liked him.

P. MAHEU: Everybody liked him. He was just that kind of a guy.

TALBOT: Right. Right. But your dad said he saw the other side to him when your dad had to stand his ground on a business deal

P. MAHEU: Yeah, right.

TALBOT: And then the darker side of Johnny emerged and how to your dad right wrote about that, I know.

P. MAHEU: Yeah, and then, you know, I think that a number of those characters had a double side and you know Johnny had his job to do and that was to protect the interests of the organized crime in Las Vegas.

TALBOT: Sure.

P. MAHEU: Dad's job was to protect the interests of the Hughes organization in Las Vegas.

TALBOT: Yep, yep.

P. MAHEU: And they conflict; That's just the way it is.

TALBOT: Sure, of course.

P. MAHEU: And I don’t know that they… You know, and I know Johnny was, was… Uh, I mean, going to testify at the Church Committee hearings if he didn't get a free ride on some…

TALBOT: The Friar’s Club thing, right?

P. MAHEU: Friars Club thing. That's correct.

TALBOT: Yeah.

P. MAHEU: And, you know, he, he…

TALBOT: Did he try to shake your dad down on that too?

P. MAHEU: Oh yeah.

TALBOT: Yeah. But they obviously they couldn't cut him a break on that so…

P. MAHEU: Apparently not.

TALBOT: [Laughs] So, there's a feeling obviously that he was starting to talk when he got knocked off.

P. MAHEU: Well, I don't know that for a fact, but I mean it's interesting that the only person alive that was part of that group that planned that assassination attempt was my father.

TALBOT: Yeah.

P. MAHEU: You know, Giancana was killed.

TALBOT: That's right.

P. MAHEU: You know, they were all, they were all assassinated, with the exception of my dad. I don’t have any reason for that, except that…

TALBOT: Well, your dad, as your dad told it to me, I mean your dad lived by a code and he didn't, you know, he stuck with that code; it doesn't seem like he ever betrayed anyone at the agency, that he was careful in his testimony, I know, before the Church Committee, even after they gave him immunity.

P. MAHEU: Mm-hmm.

TALBOT: I mean, that's the way I read it…

P. MAHEU: I read that testimony, yeah.

TALBOT: I mean, was that the way you see it too? That your dad, he wasn't the kind of person who would shoot his mouth off, maybe like a Roselli or someone.

P. MAHEU: Well, Roselli was trying to trade.

TALBOT: Yeah, right. They had him over a barrel.

P. MAHEU: So, you know, there’s a whole difference. I mean, Johnny’s motives were to stay out of prison and my dad's motives were to, he didn't have any motives to talk, other than, you know, threats of sanctions by the Senate.

TALBOT: Right, right.

P. MAHEU: I mean, there's a big difference.

TALBOT: Was your dad, it seems your dad was concerned though that the CIA or the government might throw him under the bus in that period. You know, I mean…

P. MAHEU: Well, they threw everybody under the bus.

TALBOT: Yeah, it's true.

P. MAHEU: The Church Committee resulted in a new FBI charter.

TALBOT: Yeah. Yeah.

P. MAHEU: I mean CIA charter. They resulted in the whole charter that changed the entire complex of the CIA, or the FBI, I mean.

TALBOT: Right, right.

P. MAHEU: They could no longer tape witness’s statements of bank robberies.

TALBOT: Huh, I didn't realize that.

P. MAHEU: After the Church Committee.

TALBOT: Huh.

P. MAHEU: No, he turned the whole thing upside down.

TALBOT: Right, right, and your dad I know lashed out at one point during this testimony and said he knew someone who'd been, who'd been killed as a result of this and he was referring to the Bay of Pigs guys, of course.

P. MAHEU: Right.

TALBOT: So yeah, your dad didn't hide his feelings, I mean, when it came to dealing with the committee and all that.

P. MAHEU: No, that's not a major trait.

TALBOT: What did he think of Bill Harvey, speaking to the other guys at the CIA? I know he was at FBI too, but I never brought it up with your dad, I didn’t…

P. MAHEU: I don't recognize that name.

TALBOT: William Harvey? Doesn't ring a bell, Bill Harvey?

P. MAHEU: It does not.

TALBOT: Okay. And another guy just wanted to throw out his name to you, who's a legend of course at the CIA who was, and I interviewed his daughters, Jim Angleton, who attended Howard Hughes’ funeral, I just learned. Did you know that?

P. MAHEU: I didn't know that.

TALBOT: Did your dad ever have a reason to bring him up or to talk about him?

P. MAHEU: Not that I recall.

TALBOT: Okay.

P. MAHEU: I mean, he may have, but I don’t recall that.

TALBOT: One of the things that comes up in interviews with your dad, and briefly we touched on it, but I didn't know much about it at the time, was the extent to which, I mean, the Hughes empire, obviously, was very connected to the government, had lots of government contracts and was really built on, I guess you could say government contracts in many ways, particularly before he moved to Vegas and got another line of business there with the casinos and all that. But there’s, you know, and this came out a little bit during Watergate, there was a theory that the agency, among others, were using the Hughes empire basically as a bank, as their own bank, and were using those funds that were hard to trace to fund some of their operations. And your dad, of course, was known as the "Agency’s Man" inside the Hughes empire. Did he ever talk with you about that? The extent that he would maybe was, I imagine…

P. MAHEU: No, and I'm not sure that that’s an accurate story. But…

TALBOT: Okay. How would you… So…

P. MAHEU: I think they, I think, you know… I just don’t buy into that story. I've read it, and I've seen it, uh, I mean, the agency didn't need to use empire to transfer funds.

TALBOT: Right, they had other ways of doing that.

P. MAHEU: They had much better ways than using one company or two companies, they’ve got thousands of companies that they can transfer funds through. So…

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: If they did, you know, I would, I would guess, and I’m guessing, that it would be, you know, minor amounts for minor projects, but…

TALBOT: Nothing big.

P. MAHEU: I mean, maybe the Glomar Explorer.

TALBOT: I was gonna say Glomar. Yeah.

P. MAHEU: But, you know, who to actually build that? You know, was it a CIA project contract that was given to Hughes because he had the ability to do it?

TALBOT: Yeah.

P. MAHEU: Or, was it a hiding of funds? You know, I don't have an answer for that.

TALBOT: So, Peter, what's your sort of explanation of explanation then -- here's your dad, he's a very patriotic guy. He serves during World War II with the FBI and then the agency, and, you know, clearly, is someone who is motivated by his dedication to the country; how does he end up then working for Howard Hughes, given all the grief that he had to put up with if not for patriotic reasons? You know, I saw him as someone who continued to be serving the country during the Howard Hughes era. So, how did he, uh, make sense of that, you think? Or how do you make sense of that?

P. MAHEU: I’m not sure what you’re asking.

TALBOT: Well, I guess I'm saying, if he was not serving the country and the CIA working for Howard Hughes, how, what was he doing there? Why did he work for Howard Hughes? I mean, he gave up the rest of his business to dedicate…

P. MAHEU: $500,000 dollars a year.

TALBOT: Well, yeah, there's that.

P. MAHEU: Well, you know, money motivates people more than a lot of things.

TALBOT: Yeah, yeah.

P. MAHEU: I mean, what are the three motivators in life: money, sex, and what else?

TALBOT: Right. That’s true.

P. MAHEU: You know, I mean, that’s pretty obvious why he worked for Hughes.

TALBOT: Yeah. So, your family was living well then, obviously.

P. MAHEU: Yeah. We had private jets, private helicopters, private driven cars.

TALBOT: Right, right.

P. MAHEU: It was probably one of the highest paying jobs in the United States at the time.

TALBOT: Oh yeah.

P. MAHEU: And it brought with it an incredible amount of honor and respect.

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: And, you know, power, money, sex, you know; What else you gonna do? –

TALBOT: (Laughs) Yeah. That’s how it turned out.

P. MAHEU: You know, that’s…

TALBOT: That’s a fact of life, that’s for sure.

P. MAHEU: That’s just the way it rolls.

TALBOT: Yeah, yeah. I hear ya.

--BREAK--

P. MAHEU: [Recording resumes] So, you know, I don’t think it’s anything, you know, he was doing. I mean, I've read these stories where Onassis was controlling the Mafia and all that garbage.

TALBOT: That who was?

P. MAHEU: Onassis.

TALBOT: Oh yeah. Yeah, yeah.

P. MAHEU: Onassis and all that crap.

TALBOT: No, I don't buy that.

P. MAHEU: You know, some of this stuff gets pretty wild.

TALBOT: Of course. Yeah.

P. MAHEU: But I think he was doing it because it was self -satisfying. You know, dad had power and he had money.

TALBOT: Yeah.

P. MAHEU: Uh, you know, he enjoyed both, as most people do.

TALBOT: Someone else who's-- I've talked to the kids, Jack Hooper, who was, of course, a colleague of your dad's.

P. MAHEU: Mm-hmm.

TALBOT: Was-- he was head of security under your dad for Hughes, is that right, in those years?

P. MAHEU: That’s right.

TALBOT: And do you remember him? Did you work—

P. MAHEU: Yeah, Jack's and I were very close.

TALBOT: And he's—

P. MAHEU: Matter of fact, my wife and Lynn are still very close.

TALBOT: Oh, really? I didn't know that. So, he's of course gone as well.

P. MAHEU: Right.

TALBOT: But what was he like?

P. MAHEU: Jack was like a big Los Angeles police sergeant.

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: And, he was big and, uh…

TALBOT: Right out of LA Confidential or something.

P. MAHEU: Right out of LA Confidential. He knew how to get things done, got ‘em done; knew how to run secret operations; knew how to check for security at the time that it was developed as it was developing.

TALBOT: Sure.

P. MAHEU: We all forget we didn't have cell phones, we didn't have computers, we didn't have a lot of the tools of the trade and stuff that we have today.

TALBOT: Yeah.

P. MAHEU: You know, I tell people I was in the CIA Headquarters the day Kennedy was shot.

TALBOT: Mm-hm.

P. MAHEU: We didn’t know which was up. So…

TALBOT: You were at Langley, you mean?

P. MAHEU: I was.

TALBOT: Wow, so you were already working there?

P. MAHEU: Yeah. They locked the place down.

TALBOT: Yeah, I bet.

P. MAHEU: You know, nobody could get in or out.

TALBOT: So, the information was spotty and all that?

P. MAHEU: No, it was terrible. We were assigned to guard De Gaulle.

TALBOT: Oh, because he was coming there for the, for the…

P. MAHEU: For the funeral.

TALBOT: …funeral.

P. MAHEU: Yeah. Our squad was...

TALBOT: Did you meet De Gaulle?

P. MAHEU: Yes, and we were assigned to watch him, and…

TALBOT: Huh.

P. MAHEU: You know, nobody really cared during that time, to be real honest.

TALBOT: Right, right.

P. MAHEU: He wasn’t a real popular person in America during those days.

TALBOT: Or at the CIA, I’m sure, because he was so stubbornly nationalistic, right?

P. MAHEU: Right. Exactly. But, you know, it was interesting times.

TALBOT: Yeah. So, Hooper, there's great stories about him slipping Hughes in and out, bringing him back from Boston and all that, so he was a, he was like, like they say, what do they call, flat foot? I mean, he was the old school, he was like, he did do it through leg work, just sort of taking care of security and all that.

P. MAHEU: Basically.

TALBOT: Yeah, and was he an ex -cop you said?

P. MAHEU: He was a sergeant, I think a sergeant in the LAPD.

TALBOT: So he was, he was wired into the LAPD then.

P. MAHEU: Pretty much, yeah.

TALBOT: Yeah, and did he also, there’s reports that he ran his own private security firms…

P. MAHEU: He ran a company called Bel Air Patrol…

TALBOT: Which was famous, I remember, because I dated girls in those days. I always remember those cars.

Maheu:: Yeah. I think it's still there, isn’t it?

TALBOT: I think it is. Yeah. So, he owned that?

P. MAHEU: Yeah.

TALBOT: And did your dad have a stake in it or just Jack?

P. MAHEU: Jack and Jack Hooper, and John Egan-Waller. (Sp.)

TALBOT: Who's he? I don't know that name.

P. MAHEU: He's another retired LA cop.

TALBOT: Okay, and so he juggled those businesses along with working for your dad and he…

P. MAHEU: Well, he eventually sold Bel Air Control.

TALBOT: I see. Did he have any other firms?

P. MAHEU: He bought, while he was here, Mercy Ambulance when he was in Vegas.

TALBOT: Oh, okay. Someone mentioned Globe, something called Globe Protection or Allied or does something about…

P. MAHEU: Mm, he may have had a stake in like ADP, or ADP or Alarmco, something like that.

TALBOT: Right, okay. So, that was kind of a side business for him though

TALBOT: Right, and did your dad get involved in that was that just Jack?

P. MAHEU: It was Jack.

TALBOT: Yeah, your dad has hands full with other stuff.

P. MAHEU: And they bought in Mt. Charleston Lodge

; Jack, Frank Sennis (Sp.)…

TALBOT: What's that? Is that a resort?

P. MAHEU: It's, uh, on the very top of Mount Charleston.

TALBOT: Oh, okay.

P. MAHEU: It’s like a restaurant/cabin, mountain cabin kind of thing.

TALBOT: Gotcha. So, the Watergate period, obviously, that was when things started to blow up and your dad's, you know, is ousted from the Hughes Empire and gets involved with all this stuff. I've heard from, and unfortunately, I can't tell you who, because this is like one of those you know journalistic source things, but he said that, this is someone who was, you know, very knowledgeable at the Watergate period and all this, said that your dad's office in Las Vegas was broken into during those years by the FBI. Did your dad ever know that?

P. MAHEU: That’s not correct.

TALBOT: That's not correct? Okay.

P. MAHEU: Those offices were manned 24 hours a day.

TALBOT: Ah. So, they couldn't have been broken into?

P. MAHEU: Well, you know, “couldn’t” is a big word, but…

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: It would be highly unlikely.

TALBOT: But he had 24 -hour security and his

P. MAHEU: 24 -hour receptionist, yeah. There was 24-hour security on those offices.

TALBOT: I see.

P. MAHEU: If they did, they did it very discreetly.

TALBOT: Gotcha.

P. MAHEU: And, I mean, we had staff in there every day, a large staff that would have noticed.

TALBOT: Right, okay.

P. MAHEU: That's one of those fables that you can't prove or disprove.

TALBOT: Had you heard that story too?

P. MAHEU: No.

TALBOT: Oh. Okay.

P. MAHEU: Now, I know Greenspun’s office was broken into.

TALBOT: Yes. Of course. What did he think of Greenspun?

P. MAHEU: My dad?

TALBOT: Yeah.

P. MAHEU: He loved Hank Greenspun.

TALBOT: Yes, I mean, they got along?

P. MAHEU: They got along great; they got along famously.

TALBOT: Did your dad know the famous Howard Hunt?

P. MAHEU: You know, I don't know if he did or not. I don't really know the answer to that. I know Hunt had some Bay of Pig, you know, experiences, but I don't know that…

TALBOT: Right. You never remember meeting him or being at any of the parties?

P. MAHEU: No. I met Giancana, Roselli.

TALBOT: What was Giancana like?

P. MAHEU: I don't remember. I was in college at the time in Florida, and they were at the Fontainebleau…

TALBOT: Oh, okay.

P. MAHEU: …doing the planning, and I went over to the Fontainebleau and…

TALBOT: Oh, so you went down there with your dad?

P. MAHEU: No, I was in college, I got a ride over to Miami, and I stayed a couple nights with Johnny and Sam and my dad…

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: …a couple other people I can’t remember.

TALBOT: So, you were the oldest son, I mean, still are, obviously. And, so you were the guy that your dad sort of would, like my oldest son, bring along on things and kind of, he was grooming you for the business in a way?

P. MAHEU: Sort of.

TALBOT: Yeah.

P. MAHEU: I mean, that’s a good explanation. Yeah.

TALBOT: And then after college is when you went to work for the Agency?

P. MAHEU: Yes.

TALBOT: And then when did you start your own, your own firm?

P. MAHEU: ‘83.

TALBOT: Aha.

P. MAHEU: After the Hughes blow-up I went to Tucson, I became a police officer, became chief investigator for the District Attorney’s Office. Um, didn’t figure out, with three children, I couldn’t make a living in 1983 at $33,000 a year or whatever the hell they were paying me.

TALBOT: Yep, yep.

P. MAHEU: And started my own business in Los Angeles in ’83.

TALBOT: And that's still the same firm?

P. MAHEU: Pretty much.

TALBOT: Yeah. And you moved it to Vegas in…

P. MAHEU: ’97.

TALBOT: Okay. And your brother is also involved in security, right?

P. MAHEU: No. My brother was deputy chief of police in San Diego.

TALBOT: Oh, I thought then he went to work for a …

P. MAHEU: Second in command of the Police Department in San Diego.

TALBOT: Then Qualcomm, I thought?

P. MAHEU: Qualcomm's not in security, they make the chips for the cell phones.

TALBOT: Right, right, but I mean, I thought he was in charge of security there.

P. MAHEU: No.

TALBOT: Oh, okay.

P. MAHEU: Director of, I think, Government Relations.

TALBOT: Oh, I see. Okay. So, you were the only, and is there any other, do you have another sister or brother?

P. MAHEU: I have a sister that died and I have another brother who is kind of a free spirit.

TALBOT: Oh, really? What did he end up doing?

P. MAHEU: He just, he had a car service business in Los Angeles. Sorry, down in, had to be Huntington Beach where he, a limousine-type company.

TALBOT: Right. Right. And you guys are all close, the brothers?

P. MAHEU: Yeah.

Talbot. Yeah. Okay, good. One other thing your dad mentioned to me about you, he said, we were starting to talk about the Kennedy assassination at one point and he said, well my son, you know, and he was saying that he still was firmly convinced that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone and all that, and he said, but my son disagrees with me, he thinks there was something else to the story. So, did…

P. MAHEU: That's not totally accurate.

TALBOT: I thought I assumed it was you because there was…

P. MAHEU: if it was me that’s not totally accurate. If it was me, I've said you can stretch me to a point where there was some type of organized crime conspiracy, but you'd have to stretch it a lot further than it is.

TALBOT: Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

P. MAHEU: But I don't, I don't see it now and I never have.

TALBOT: Do you think Roselli or Giancana might have had some information about it?

P. MAHEU: No.

TALBOT: Not that they were involved personally but that they knew…

P. MAHEU: I'm a sole assassin believer.

TALBOT: Oh, you are, so you and your dad, then, are eye -to -eye on that?

P. MAHEU: I don't know. I’ve never had any question about it.

TALBOT: Did you ever discuss it with your dad? Would you debate it with him?

P. MAHEU: No, I never, you know. I just, I’m not into conspiracies very much. You know, I'm old enough now to know that, you know, and I worked armed robberies long enough and the only way to get away with robbing a bank is do it by yourself.

TALBOT: Right, right.

P. MAHEU: Anytime you have a partner, the conspiracy’s gone.

TALBOT: Someone’s gonna have talk.

P. MAHEU: So, you know, when you're talking, when you start talking shooting presidents, you’re talking about conspiracies involving hundreds or thousands of people.

TALBOT: Right. Right.

P. MAHEU: It ain’t gonna, I don’t think it’s gonna happen. But I know there’s people that really…

TALBOT: are convinced of that.

P. MAHEU: You know, and that’s fine.

TALBOT: Yeah.

P. MAHEU: I’m not gonna argue about it, but…

TALBOT: Could it have been another brother, you know, maybe the free-spirited one who felt differently who discussed it with your dad?

P. MAHEU: Could be, I don’t know.

TALBOT: Maybe he didn’t refer, he wasn’t referring to you.

P. MAHEU: Naw, he wouldn’t refer to me because I never had any…

TALBOT: Okay.

P. MAHEU: I’m not a conspiracy guy.

TALBOT: Right. Right. Gotcha.

P. MAHEU: I’m just, I just, you know, I’ve investigated enough criminal activity to know that if there's two people involved, the conspiracy's going down.

TALBOT: Right. Right.

P. MAHEU: That’s just the way it is. Anyone that’s been in law enforcement will tell you the same thing.

TALBOT: Well, of course, the conspiracy people will say, well people were trying to talk and they were being eliminated, you know. So…

P. MAHEU: Remember, there again, now you've got a co -conspirator, so…

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: You’ve got eliminators eliminating the eliminator…

TALBOT: It gets complicated.

P. MAHEU: Yeah, real quick.

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: Real quick.

TALBOT: Okay. So…

P. MAHEU: You know, I’m not sayin’ it, you know, that’s my opinion, and that’s…

TALBOT: Yeah, you never looked into it yourself, right?

P. MAHEU: Naw. I could care less, I mean, it’s…

TALBOT: Yeah.

P. MAHEU: Naw, I mean, I cared; It disrupted the whole nation but, short of that, I don’t, you know. Um, he wasn’t…

TALBOT: Well, Kennedy wasn't someone who was beloved. Obviously, your dad was furious with him for the Bay of Pigs, I know.

P. MAHEU: Well, like, you know…

TALBOT: I mean, in certain circles he was not beloved.

P. MAHEU: And his brother wasn't beloved either, so you know.

TALBOT: No. Right, right.

P. MAHEU: I believe he wasn’t liked by many people.

TALBOT: Yeah, well he had an abrasive personality, that's for sure. I mean, he did a lot of the dirty work for Jack.

P. MAHEU: Oh yeah, no question.

TALBOT: Yeah. Another guy who came up, and I forget now why his name came up with your dad, but we talked about the infamous Johnny Meier.

P. MAHEU: Johnny Meier.

TALBOT: And I know that you kids grew up with his kids.

P. MAHEU: Well…

TALBOT: Sort of, right?

P. MAHEU: Sort of a reach.

TALBOT: Yeah. But you remember the family, of course.

P. MAHEU: Oh, yeah. I knew Johnny.

TALBOT: And they got along, in the early days, obviously.

P. MAHEU: True.

TALBOT: Yeah. He’s, was supposedly a charming guy himself, kind of a hustler, I guess.

P. MAHEU: Mm-hm. No, not kind of.

TALBOT: (Laughs) More than that.

P. MAHEU: Right.

TALBOT: So, how do you see Johnny Meier today? I mean, was he…

P. MAHEU: Living in Canada with an extradition warrant out for him.

TALBOT: Yep.

P. MAHEU: Refusing to come back to the United States. I wouldn’t have wanted to give him aid.

TALBOT: Well, and he served time and all of that. Um, and that was for the mining deals, right? For skimming.

P. MAHEU: He’s a thief.

TALBOT: Yeah.

P. MAHEU: That’s how I see him.

TALBOT: And, of course, he later made allegations about your father and even going so far as to like, you know, trying to tie into the Robert Kennedy assassination.

P. MAHEU: Well, that's what thieves do.

TALBOT: Right. What would be his motive for that, though? What was it?

P. MAHEU: To divert attention.

TALBOT: To get away from it.

P. MAHEU: : Yeah. I mean, you know, you tell me one story and I’ll tell you a better one.

TALBOT: Right. Right.

P. MAHEU: I call ‘em the “go first” people, you know, if you're gonna tell a story about a plane ride, why don't you go first, because you're going to have a better story than I'm going to tell, so why don't tell you story first and then I’ll tell mine.

TALBOT: Right. So, it's when he got in trouble during the Watergate period and all that, and it was, essentially, he seemed like he was a bag man, right, during the Watergate working with Don Nixon and all that.

P. MAHEU: Who’s that, Meier?

TALBOT: Meier.

P. MAHEU: I don’t believe any of that.

TALBOT: You don't even believe that? You don’t believe he was playing some kind of role?

P. MAHEU: I don’t know what he did.

TALBOT: Carrying funds…

P. MAHEU: I don’t think anybody knows what he did.

TALBOT: Well, I mean, that's the allegations, that he was carrying money from Hughes to different politicians.

P. MAHEU: He never carried money from Hughes to politicians

TALBOT: You never thought that?

P. MAHEU: I know that. I know where the money went: It went to the Silver Slipper, to a safe in my house…

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: …to Tom Bell or to me.

TALBOT: And, that was every transaction?

P. MAHEU: Well, I mean, the ones that I knew about, but…

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: I don’t know where else they’d get the money except from my house.

TALBOT: Uh-huh. So, you don't think your dad was using him?

P. MAHEU: My dad never gave any money to John Meier to deliver to anybody.

TALBOT: He never did personally.

P. MAHEU: No, and that’s where it all came from.

TALBOT: I see.

P. MAHEU: But, you know, that’s not to say they didn’t find some other money.

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: It wasn’t illegal in those days, so…

TALBOT: I mean, he did seem like he was carrying water for Hughes on all the atomic testing stuff. And, you know, that's why he was hired, basically, or in the moment…

P. MAHEU: Well, he portrayed himself as a, you know, a fairly bright scientist type person.

TALBOT: Right. Which was a stretch.

P. MAHEU: Yeah, I don’t think he was any of the above.

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: You know, Johnny Meier is where he belongs in Canada or wherever the hell he is.

TALBOT: Yeah, so you just think he has zero credibility.

P. MAHEU: I know he has zero credibility.

TALBOT: Right. Right. Okay.

P. MAHEU: You can put that in your book. I don't really care if he reads it and sues me.

TALBOT: Right. I know. I don’t think he’s in a position to do that. So, let's see, just one more. Is there any other story that you remember when your dad was working for Hughes that showed the kind of, you know, craziness and stress that he was going through during that period? Because, obviously, working for Howard Hughes was no picnic.

P. MAHEU: Well, I'm sure you’ve got the story about when Hughes told him to take some money down to [President Lyndon] Johnson’s ranch to get the atomic testing stopped.

TALBOT: Yep.

P. MAHEU: You know, it never went, it never got there. The money never left.

TALBOT: Because he just didn’t feel it was appropriate?

P. MAHEU: Well, yeah. It wasn’t appropriate and he didn’t feel it was appropriate.

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: You know, giving a cash contribution in those days was perfectly legal.

TALBOT: Yep.

P. MAHEU: Tendering the money for a favor , or, or a…

TALBOT: A bribe.

P. MAHEU: …quid pro quo, when it’s, you know...

TALBOT: That would be illegal. Yeah.

P. MAHEU: That was kind of pushing the envelope, yeah. Maybe not illegal, but real close to it.

TALBOT: Did you feel, because you were sort of involved in some of the stuff, did you feel that you were ever asked by the Hughes organization or by your dad to do stuff that was crossing the line or close to it?

P. MAHEU: No.

TALBOT: So, but you were put there, I mean you were being asked to by your dad to put money in a safe, in your own safe, right?

P. MAHEU: Yes.

TALBOT: And, but you felt that was all legitimate political…

P. MAHEU: It was.

TALBOT: Yeah, contributions of that money

P. MAHEU: No, there was none… I'm not aware of any illegal political contributions made by Hughes.

TALBOT: Right. Right.

P. MAHEU: I mean, again, that’s what I’m aware of.

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: Uh, you know, I know he lent money to Don Nixon’s brother…

TALBOT: To Don Nixon.

P. MAHEU: To Don Nixon. I’m sorry, I mixed ‘em up.

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: You know, that was a questionable transaction, but I think it was more questionable in President Nixon’s brain than it was for the rest of the world. But…

TALBOT: Do you think that was one of the reasons, motivations for Watergate? That Nixon wanted to find out what the Democrats had on him?

P. MAHEU: Absolutely.

TALBOT: …with the Hughes loan and all that?

P. MAHEU: Absolutely.

TALBOT: Right. So, in a way, Nixon's obsession with that was what brought him down.

P. MAHEU: Well, you're talking about a paranoid, obsessive person.

TALBOT: Yeah. What did your dad think of Nixon?

P. MAHEU: ‘Bout the same.

TALBOT: Because he'd known him back for years, right?

P. MAHEU: He’d known him when he was governor, he knew when he was, you know, he knew him for a long time.

TALBOT: So, he always thought he was kind of a whack job?

P. MAHEU: Well, I don't know about always.

TALBOT: But for a long time.

P. MAHEU: He certainly developed into one.

TALBOT: Did he think, did your dad see him sort of deteriorate that way?

P. MAHEU: I don't know the answer to that. I mean, it was pretty obvious to everybody that, if you just listen to the Nixon tapes, you pretty much watch the deterioration of the, you know, power and…

TALBOT: It went to his head.

P. MAHEU: You know, the ability to squash people.

TALBOT: Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

P. MAHEU: And using that power in inappropriate ways.

TALBOT: Mm-hm. Seems like your dad, you know, given the level where he was working and the world of power. I mean, yeah, obviously had some unique insights to these historical figures. Was there anyone in that world that your dad would come home and say, "This guy's a great guy," you know, any politician or any government figure that you can remember? I mean, who did he admire?

P. MAHEU: I don't know that, in the answer to that, I mean, I know he had respect for some of the politicians, but I don't know specifically, so and so and so and so and so and so.

TALBOT: Right. Right.

P. MAHEU: I mean, I know he liked certain presidents, even in later years and didn’t like others.

TALBOT: Was he a Reagan guy?

P. MAHEU: He was a Reagan guy.

TALBOT: Mm-hm. And he knew Laxalt, of course.

P. MAHEU: He was a Laxalt guy.

TALBOT: Yeah. He liked Laxalt.

P. MAHEU: Liked Laxalt a lot.

TALBOT: Uh-huh. And what about people in the agencies? What did you think of Hoover?

P. MAHEU: I think he was conflicted. I think he respected Hoover’s management of the agency. But I think he disrespected Hoover’s micro-managing of its personnel.

TALBOT: Mm-hm.

P. MAHEU: If that makes any sense.

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: You know, Hoover ran a very good agency, but he micro-managed his people to the point of frustration.

TALBOT: Did he seem to hold a grudge against your dad?

P. MAHEU: That’s, no, I’ve got the FBI file on my dad and that's really hard to, that’s really hard to find in that file, reading the different memos and notes and things.

TALBOT: Was… there’s like no personal memos in there, or about your dad, saying we got to keep an eye on him or that kind of thing? You see that sometimes.

P. MAHEU: I saw one that I can't remember the memo, David. It was about, we need to watch this guy, he’s expanding this operation and he’s using too many of our ex-agents.

TALBOT: Right so there was competition thing there.

P. MAHEU: Yeah, and I don't think it was more than that.

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: And, I don’t think my dad ever saw that.

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: That file was obtained after his death.

TALBOT: I see, right. Right. So, he had no, I mean, he never talked about it with you at least, so you never got the feeling.

P. MAHEU: No, he would never say. I think he respected Hoover’s management ability, but disrespected some of the things that Hoover was later accused of and that eventually, you know, came to the front.

TALBOT: Well, there was this case where the FBI investigated when your dad was in private business. He was a guy, some intellectual, who had fled Trujillo, the, Trujillo, the Trujillo regime, and he disappeared off the streets of New York, and if you remember that, he ended up probably being eliminated by Trujillo back in the Dominican Republic. But the FBI got involved in investigating it and was looking into whether your dad had been involved and the disappearance since Trujillo was an ally of ours and all that. He never talked about that with you?

P. MAHEU: No, no.

TALBOT: Okay. What about Dulles? What did he think of Dulles and the other sort of...

P. MAHEU: I don't know.

TALBOT: He never really came up?

P. MAHEU: No, no, no.

TALBOT: As far as you know, did he ever even meet him?

P. MAHEU: No, I don't know.

TALBOT: He would have been at maybe a higher level or whatever.

P. MAHEU: I don't know. You know, I don't know. He never said we went into Dulles's office and had a meeting. I think the highest level that it went to was Edwards.

TALBOT: To Edwards? So, did he, he wouldn't have met a Dick Helms then or?

P. MAHEU: Maybe. Then again, you’re talking about a small…

TALBOT: Sure.

P. MAHEU: …group of people that hung out together.

TALBOT: Yep, yep.

P. MAHEU: So, yeah, Helms, could’ve been, I don’t know. You know, there’s 16 guys half drunk at a party watching the Notre Dame football.

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: …throwing beer cans at the TV.

TALBOT: Yeah. Well, actually, that doesn't sound like a Dick Helms kind of thing since he was pretty preppy.

P. MAHEU: Yeah, well, that's true. Some of those preppy guys go wild, too.

TALBOT: Yeah, right, that's true.

P. MAHEU: But, you know, you couldn't identify individual characters. I mean, I can remember parties in the house on Beechwood Lane where there'd be senators. You know, I can remember a Hughes party where we had...

TALBOT: Beechwood was your house in Virginia?

P. MAHEU: Yeah, 1025 Beechwood Lane, I think.

TALBOT: Right.

P. MAHEU: And then I, uh, I can remember being on a yacht and, you know, in Florida during the Hughes days trying to come up with a slogan for when the astronauts found this Hughes surveyor on the moon, and I can remember, you know, Vice President Agnew was on board, Walter Cronkite was on board.

TALBOT: Right, right.

P. MAHEU: All the astronauts’ wives were on board. So, you know, you kind of played with those people. I mean, that was the group you hung with.

TALBOT: Sure. So, they…

P. MAHEU: You don't remember individual, you know, it's hard to remember.

TALBOT: Yeah, yeah.

P. MAHEU: I mean, I can remember Cronkite, I can remember Agnew.

TALBOT: Right, right.

P. MAHEU: You know, I can remember the astronauts' wives, you know, that kind of thing, but I can't remember, you know, every person that was there.

TALBOT: Exactly, yeah.

P. MAHEU: And when you say Helms. Helms could have been there; he could not have been. I don’t know.

TALBOT: Right, right. Okay. Did your dad ever, after the Church Committee, he never had any other troubles, right, with congressional hearings or anything like that?

P. MAHEU: Well, the Watergate, I think, came after...

TALBOT: The Watergate would have been before, yeah. Church was ‘75.

P. MAHEU: Watergate was a problem.

TALBOT: Yeah.

P. MAHEU: Church was a problem.

TALBOT: Right. Those were the main ones.

P. MAHEU: I don’t know if there were any others. I don’t really remember any more than that.

TALBOT: Right, right. Did a guy named Lucien Conein come up during those hearings?

P. MAHEU: Maybe.

TALBOT: Do you remember that name? He was kind of another swashbuckling kind of CIA legend.

P. MAHEU: I don't.

TALBOT: Okay. Well, look, I appreciate your time, Peter.

P. MAHEU: I’ll take your call, if I’m available.

TALBOT: Oh, and is there an email where I can shoot you a follow-up question or two if it comes up?

P. MAHEU: It's maheu…

TALBOT: Maheu…

MaheuL @globalintelligence.net.

TALBOT: @globalintelligence.net. Great. Well, I appreciate it.

P. MAHEU: I don’t write, I’ll tell ya right now, I don’t write much.

TALBOT: You don’t, so it’s better to call you.

P. MAHEU: Well, I’m not gonna put much in writing, I just don’t do it.

TALBOT: I understand. So, if I have…

P. MAHEU: Not an issue about trust or distrust, it’s just my nature is to write little and speak loudly.

TALBOT: I hear you. So, I will call you then if I have another question.

P. MAHEU: That'd be fine. That’d be fine.

TALBOT: All right, I appreciate your time.

P. MAHEU: I'll be responsive, and if I'm here, I'll be happy to take your call.

TALBOT: That's great, Peter, I appreciate it.

P. MAHEU: Not a problem. Good luck on your book.

TALBOT: Thanks so much.

P. MAHEU: Send me a copy, would you?

TALBOT: I sure will, I'll get your address when I get closer. It's gonna be two years still from now, so.

P. MAHEU: That’s fine. I hope I'm still around.

TALBOT: Yeah. Well, let's, I hope we both are.

P. MAHEU: There you go.

TALBOT: All right.

P. MAHEU: All right, sir.

TALBOT: Take care.

P. MAHEU: Bye.