

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

00:20:22:05 MS: ... tree of drug law enforcement. At some point we'll be ready for... for not quite ready for prime time. A couple of quick items to get out of the way - business items. First of all the Defending Liberty Exhibit, which is a salute to veterans both employees family members or employees themselves, who have served which is out here in the West Lobby, will be coming down after Veterans Day, November 11th.

00:20:47:13 So if you or your family members or fellow employees haven't had a chance to look at that exhibit, please do so in the next few weeks. Also a plug for our traveling exhibit - if you find yourself going up to the New York field division or to New York over the holidays or know family or friends who are going to Manhattan, our traveling exhibit on the consequences and costs of drugs on society and narco-terrorism is at One Times Square.

00:21:14:20 That is the building that the ball drops on at New Years and it will be at the exhibit venue at least through the end of January, it's open seven days a week, free of charge from 9:00 in the morning until 8:00 at night. It's a wonderful, wonderful exhibit on

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

DEA and the work that we do and the important role that we play.

00:21:36:12 Today we look a little bit more specifically on a piece of DEA's history and it is a very rich history. 2004 is the 90th anniversary of drug law enforcement in the United States starting in 1914. DEA and its predecessor agencies have always forged new territory in law enforcement and today Rick Barrett is going to talk a little bit about that from a perspective in Chicago.

00:22:01:19 Rick himself was born into an Irish Catholic police family on the South side of Chicago in 1953. He began his career in law enforcement as an IRS agent, chasing organized crime figures who evaded paying taxes and then he decided to join DEA in 1978. Rick's career took him to both domestic and international posts of duty.

00:22:24:13 In 1985 his assignment in Paris, France led him into some particularly exciting territory. Most of you are probably very familiar with the French Connection, several French chemists conspiring to make heroin in

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

clandestine labs in France and then ship the drugs to sale in the United States.

00:22:41:27 Who hasn't seen that highly intense chase scene with Popeye Doyle chas... racing through the slums of New York to apprehend elusive criminals? It became the gold standard for Hollywood with any cop and robber chase scene. So years later, three of the same French chemists who had become fugitives went back to business in heroin manufacture, only this time in Switzerland.

00:23:06:26 Barrett became the case agent in what "Newsweek" referred to as "The Return of the French Connection." All three were apprehended by Rick and his foreign counterparts. After returning to the States he was assigned to DEA Chicago where he focused on the modern day Al Capone, known as Larry Hoover.

00:23:25:07 Rick will speak to us today about his investigations on this and some other unique cases. Just a footnote here that Agent Barrett retired from DEA in 2003 and is now a systems engineer for Miter Corporation here

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

in Virginia. Please welcome retired special agent,
Rick Barrett. [APPLAUSE]

RICK BARRETT

00:23:51:08 RB: Thank you so much for that introduction and thank
you so for inviting me here. It's great to be home, I
feel at home. I get the little hee-bee-gee-bees
sometimes walking in this building, with some of the
memories, but 99 percent of them are great and as are
99 percent of the memories in DEA as a career.

00:24:09:17 And just to set the record straight, there were all
kinds of agents involved in that French fugitive case
in Europe and it had all kinds of tangents in the
United States and our New York office in particular
was able to prosecute those, at least one of them
cooperated and he testified against a New York crime
family in US District Court in New York City, which
was very, very interesting.

00:24:34:22 So today though we're going to talk about a domestic
case and it's a story, a very interesting story.. the
Discovery Channel did a piece on it, you may have seen
it. It showed a couple of times. So today what we're

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

going to do is, I'm going to show you a couple of sound bites from the Discovery Channel 'cause I think they're particularly relevant to setting the story up.

00:24:54:19 I have a little CD here, a little PowerPoint, it's only about 15 slides, we're going to walk through that, and then we'll have a little question and answer afterwards and hopefully I can, I'll still remember this case because it took place in the early '90s and.. sometimes I'm.. I'm getting some-timers.. sometimes I forget things.

00:25:12:14 Especially names, so in any event let's begin with a view of the City of Chicago, my hometown. Chicago has, for decades been associated with gangs, those that study criminal justice and sociology know that the first book on gangs was written by a guy named Thrasher who talked about gangs in the early 19th century.

00:25:35:23 And there were just a bunch of you know, German kids, Irish kids, Italian kids hanging on out on street corners, the early immigrants that came to the city and they identified their turf and they fought over

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

turf. And then gangs evolved... just as the city evolved and of course the drug business hit.

00:25:53:10 Gangs got involved in drug trafficking as they are coast-to-coast, a lucrative source of income. Unfortunately a lot of violence of course is associated with that, that's going to be addressed here in both the film and in the CD, and tons of money to be made.

00:26:09:23 So what we really have is when people think of Chicago, I know when I lived in France and say I was from Chicago, they'd say Al Capone, rat-ta-tat-tat-tat. And they'd think of this character here and organized crime in Chicago, the legendary Al Capone and of course his gang had a lot of violence associated with it.

00:26:27:20 The classic St. Valentine's Day Massacre, but unfortunately this really pales in comparison to the violence that the streets of Chicago experienced in the 1990s, late 1880s. And today we're going to focus the presentation on Larry Hoover who was really a modern-day Al Capone.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

00:26:48:28 He ran a gang that was extremely sophisticated and he's a brilliant guy... I'm sure that if channeled his efforts in a legal corporation, he would have been the CEO because he was certainly the CEO of the Gangster Disciples. And... one thing we need to talk from the get-go here is about the structure of his gang and a little bit about the history of the gang, in order to put it in proper perspective.

00:27:21:16 And you have to be, you can't talk about gangs without talking about prisons. You know prisons were for incarcerating individuals. You do bad, you get caught, you're convicted, you go off to prison. Unfortunately prisons were never intended to house entire groups of organized crime figures, figures that were associated and brothers in an illegal activity.

00:27:50:02 So when you take 100 or 200 or 1000 members of the same gang and you put them in prison, it's not like they're out of the gang, the gang is now... a circle. Picture yourself - you're the only gang on the street, you get arrested by the police, you get convicted, you

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

go to prison, one of the 26 state penitentiaries in the State of Illinois.

00:28:11:03 You go to one of those 26 and you survive in prison because of your gang association, that's how you get through it right? So about the time you come out of prison, unfortunately you are even a stronger member of the gang because you hung with those guys for 1000 days during those three years.

00:28:28:13 So it's constantly a revolving circle and the gang kept getting bigger and bigger and bigger. Larry Hoover himself was convicted of murder in 1971 and this is really the fascinating part of the story. He has been incarcerated since 1971 or '72 and has been in prison, never been out ever since then.

00:28:52:14 Yet from within a prison was able to build the Gangster Disciples, really quite astonishing. And he was able to do it because of what I just explained earlier, this constant rotation in the new fresh meat that went in and out of the prison system. So with that in mind as a background, this looks like a photo that could have been taken on any college campus.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

00:29:18:03 Actually it's a prison in Vienna, Illinois, it's at a minimum security prison, that's Larry Hoover and his girlfriend, Bertha Mosby, who stuck with him all through those years and she would visit him quite regularly and the reason Larry was put in this... minimum security facility was very simple, he held a lot of power.

00:29:42:14 You know if he wanted to throw up all 26 prisons into riots and get guards killed and like you saw in Attica, he could do it with a phone call. So, you know what, the prisons made a deal with Larry early on. He came out of Joliet where he'd been for years and then put him in Vienna.

00:30:00:23 No bars, no gates... as you can see there's a lake in the background, you could go fishing and so on and so forth. But there was very little violence. If you think about it, there was very little violence in the State of Illinois prison system, in large part due to the fact that the authorities there cut a deal with the guy who controlled tens of thousands of inmates.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

00:30:23:07 He had a lot of power. This is a depiction of the organization itself. You had Larry Hoover, of course, the chairman of the board at the top. It's very important to show the next step because it shows the street side, the street board of directors and the prison board of directors.

00:30:46:15 And it just goes down the different governors, the regents, all the way down to what we call the shorties, 23,000 of them, selling dope on the street. To give you another perspective of this whole gang, I just want to roll three minutes of tape if we can roll that and it'll give you an overview of the organization that will resemble this chart.

00:31:11:24 If we could just roll that, it'll come up in a second and then we'll get back to PowerPoint.

00:31:20:07 TAPE

00:31:22:29 MS: And generates \$100 million of revenue per year. With the combined effort of the Chicago police, five federal agencies, and a determined U.S. Attorney (unint.). [MUSIC]

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

- 00:32:00:03 In December 1992 Assistant U.S. Attorney Ron Sabert took over the federal investigation of the Gangster Disciples, the most powerful and ruthless gang in Chicago.
- 00:32:10:09 RS: I was employed by a team of agents and officers who went out there and were real heroes in the community. They did the job, day after day, night after night, week after week, away from their families, doing tedious work and dangerous work, the work that builds the type of prosecution that changes a city literally, changes the lives of people in the city.
- 00:32:51:23 MS: In 1992 the city of Chicago was under siege. Vicious gangs turned thriving neighborhoods into wastelands. Leading the federal Drug Enforcement Agency investigation in gang activity was Agent Rick Barrett.
- 00:33:07:26 RB: Well Chicago's always been a place where there's been a lot of gang activity, but at the particular time crack cocaine was first hitting the streets of

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

Chicago, the drug was very powerful, very cheap, produced a lot of income, profits for the gangs. Associated with that (unint.) a great deal of violence.

00:33:28:12 Murder was at an all time high in Chicago and crack cocaine was flooding the streets.

00:33:37:04 MS: Chicago police worked to stem the tide of violence...

00:33:43:14 END OF VIDEO

00:33:44:09 RB: Okay, getting back to this structure here, if we could... the corporate structure of the Gangster Disciples... and Larry Hoover being incarcerated since 1971, he was coming up for parole and there was movement afoot to get Larry out. And as law enforcement officers the last thing we wanted was a guy who had the power and the authority to run a criminal organization like this from within prison walls, to get out on the street.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

00:34:11:13 So he took a lesson actually, the irony in this is he took a lesson from Mayor Richard J. Daley, not the current mayor, but the current mayor's father. And that lesson was, cause Mayor Daley when he was a youth, he was part of one of those... gangs that hang out on street corners when he was 11, 12, 13, 14 years old.

00:34:30:28 And he switched from that kind of activity into the political arena. And he used his same talents that he exercised in the leadership of the Humboldt Gang and the story on the streets of Bridgeport to organize the political organization in Chicago. Larry Hoover took a cue from that and he told us about that Mayor Daley was really his... his standard.

00:34:54:07 So what he did was he changed the name of the Gangster Disciples, the GDs to growth and development, there was no such thing as the Gangster Disciples, the GDs did not exist, it was growth and development. And that platform allowed him to launch a campaign to beat parole.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

- 00:35:14:09 And he was able to get on his team some very, very important people. He influenced a lot of political power in Chicago, he had a former mayor of Chicago, Eugene Slayer who would be on a black radio station, WVON in Chicago... arguing for Larry's parole, that the parole hearing was coming up.
- 00:35:36:19 He had a fellow named Wallace Gatel Bradley who has his political man on the street, who was actually a very powerful character. Wallace Gatel Bradley is pictured with the African cap on and you can see that they made their way all the way to the Oval Office in the White House, that they legitimized themselves.
- 00:35:58:06 That they were... they disbanded the criminal activity, they were in growth and development, they started a company called Save the Children Incorporated which, as it turned out, turned out to be just a money laundering operation. But they were pressing with the ultimate goal to get Larry paroled.
- 00:36:17:19 And that gave our investigation a sense of urgency that really this growth and development stuff was just a mask, it was just something to cover criminal

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

activity because there was, as you saw depicted in the film, huge amounts of violence, (unint.) crack cocaine being controlled on the street by the GDs.

00:36:38:26 Larry was such a powerful guy that he could, on a phone call, get 10,000 people on the streets of Chicago. If you're familiar with Chicago, you can see in the background the clock in the upper left-hand corner, that's the Marshal Field's clock, this is the corner of State and Madison, downtown Chicago, where he assembled 10,000 kids in a matter of hours.

00:36:57:27 He formed a political party called the 21st Century Vote. You know you've got the Republicans, you've got the Democrats, now you've got 21st Century Vote. These folks were all in 21st Century Vote and their objective was to get Larry Hoover paroled. This became a big, big thing in Chicago whether or not Larry was going to get paroled.

00:37:17:04 So... the urgency of our investigation, how did Larry do this? How the heck do you run... the command, the control and the communications from a prison? You know we... we picture our minds the old black and white

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

films where you go and you visit somebody in prison and you're talking through a cage, a gla... you know the bullet-proof and you're talking back and forth.

00:37:41:14 And it's not like that at all. In fact Larry had the run of the prison. This was the visitor's room which in effect became a board room for his meetings. He had open visitation all weekend. It was not a problem that this facility was located 350 miles from Chicago. You know that's a clue when key members of the organization get in their car every Saturday and drive 350 miles from the city, have a four or five hour meeting, get back in their car and drive 350 miles back, 700 miles round trip.

00:38:18:15 You know what... if I was going to see Miss America I'd get tired of that after a couple of months, you know what I mean? I wouldn't drive 700 miles for anybody. But they drove weekend after weekend after... year after year after year. So you have to say to yourself, what is going on down there? What the heck are they talking about that down there?

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

00:38:34:29 How do you capture those communications? One, it's not like the old days when you're talking on a phone through a glass window. Larry had his choice, he could sit at anyone of those tables or... he could go outside. He could go outside and sit with his visitors.

00:38:50:25 So the challenge for the investigators was, how the heck do we capture those conversations because if we put a bug in the flower pot over there, chances are he's going to choose to sit way, 50 feet away and we'll never hear him. So I used to pull my hair out and I did a real good job of it, thinking of a way because really his parole date did get closer and closer and closer.

00:39:15:04 We were involved in a long term investigation which the agents in this room know does not produce statistics in terms of head counts, so you got two, three years of time, money, manpower invested in the case where you don't have anybody arrested yet. Your main guy's about to get out of prison and half the office, truth be told, can't understand why we're

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

busting our... investigating a guy who's already in prison.

00:39:43:24 You know they'd whisper and holler when they'd see me coming. That's the guy who's spending all his time investigating somebody's who already in prison. And in the meantime they're (unint.) each other around the streets, why is this task force on the street? Well I got off on a tangent.

00:39:56:19 My deal was to stay focused on the CEO of the organization to do what we could to capture his communications because there was something going on, out on this patio, in that lunchroom and that's why those folks were going down to visit him. My belief and the attorney's belief was they were taking direct orders from Larry Hoover.

00:40:16:23 So let's just roll another three minutes of the film because the Discovery Channel did a much better job I think that I can in trying to communicate this part of the investigation.

00:40:28:17 VIDEO

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

00:40:36:00 MS: (Unint.) and his team knew that standard surveillance techniques would be ineffective. DEA Agent Rick Barrett came up with an idea.

00:40:44:27 RB: When I started thinking about it, (unint.) off of my head and I thought to myself, you've got to have a visitor's pass you know. Maybe it's not such a crazy idea, I hope it could be technically passable and... let's get the group in here, let's brainstorm this.

00:41:04:12 MS: The prosecutor went to the deputy director of the Illinois State Department of Corrections, who wanted to create prison visitor badges that could be outfitted with tiny listening devices.

00:41:20:02 RB: What they said was you create these visitor badges and we'll implement them at four separate institutions so that nobody is terribly suspicious, because if you introduce something new to the prison system, the prisoners will be quite alerted to the fact that... that there's something up.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

00:41:44:24 And they said, you agree to put these badges in for a period of time before you can do anything because you're going to get some chewed up, some destroyed, somebody searching through every inch of those visitor badges.

00:42:11:22 MS: (Unint.) began (unint.) conversations in October of 1993.

00:42:31:09 The conversations were recorded in Chicago, 350 miles away. A transcribing of the tapes was a painstaking task. The first thing that became apparent was these tape recordings were very difficult to hear, there was a lot of background noise, a lot of distractions and of course Larry Hoover and his visitors weren't screaming out in the conversations about this illegal activity.

00:43:02:04 And yet we could hear, it was tantalizing. They talked all about how the gang was making its money, directions from Larry Hoover about how he would run the operation, directions about where the drugs would go, who they should get them from, everything you could imagine.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

00:43:30:03 Six weeks later the bug was discovered by one of Hoover's visitors. The recording stopped. Of the 55 hours of tapes, only four hours showed incriminating conversations between Hoover and his high command.

00:43:54:05 END OF VIDEO

00:44:02:22 RB: It was the kind of thing that we knew we only had a 50/50 shot of it working... what happened was that the genesis of it, it was really funny how things work out. Any agent can tell you this, sometimes when you least expect it the light bulb goes off in your own head.

00:44:15:17 But I had an agent who was conducting an investigation, had a lot of time... in a different case, he was over at the U.S. Attorney's office trying to advance his case and get this prosecutor to bring... present his case to the grand jury and the prosecutor was not ready to do that.

00:44:31:03 The agent came back really mad, really mad... he came to my office, he closed the door and he was venting. So

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

I thought I'll let the guy vent. Then I saw he was so mad that I thought you know I'd better inject some humor here, something to break the ice. And I noticed that he was wearing his visitor pass from the U.S. Attorney's office, the place where he just came from.

00:44:52:08 And he was really bad-mouthing the prosecutor something bad. So I said to him, I said "hey Dave, you know you've got to understand, that visitor's pass you forgot to turn it in." "Okay well, big deal." I said, "man they put bugs in those things, everything you say is being transmitted right back to the prosecutor, he can hear everything you're saying about him."

00:45:10:19 And then of course we started laughing. And I says, "wait a minute... hey do they have visitors passes, what happens when we these guys go down on Saturday and they sit with Larry Hoover, I mean... because they guy I was talking to was very familiar with the system down there."

00:45:24:19 He said, "no they don't wear visitor's passes." I said, "well how do you distinguish the prisoners, who

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

don't wear any jail garb at all, from the visitors?" He said, "well you just take a magic marker and they put a V on their wrist, just like in a night club you know, you pay your fee and you get a V on your wrist."

00:45:40:07 So I thought, hey maybe we could do something to change that, you know, let's get the group and talk about this, give everybody some ownership of the idea, that's a real key, cause you know and you know what, it worked that way because there were so many different holes in the idea that once collectively, if you get 10 or 11 people brainstorming an idea, pretty soon it starts to take shape.

00:46:01:27 Pretty soon it starts, oh my gosh, maybe this will work after all. And we were off and running and went down to a private company in Florida that DEA contracts with all the time, AID, and they put this device together and it was way cool. And it was really, what motivated all of us to capture the communications of Larry and his high command, was really this photo.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

- 00:46:21:21 We used to have this upon the wall because this is Larry, this is really Larry here in the tan pants and that's really Shorty G who was depicted in the movie. And it used to drive us crazy thinking, what are they talking about, wouldn't you love to be a bug on the wall?
- 00:46:38:00 Wouldn't it be great if somehow you could get between those two guys and capture that communication, you would open up all the secrets. You'd mull it out and you could go to federal court and the jury could listen to the tapes and as Alan Funt used to say, you're on "Candid Camera", catch people in the act of being themselves.
- 00:46:56:20 So that was the objective, was to catch Larry in the act of being himself. And it came to pass that the only way to do that because of his movement, you could not have a stationary bug, you had to have something that moved with him. And it came that his visitors, unwittingly, wore audio transmitters, you know listening devices.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

00:47:18:18 So that was pretty cool. This is what the badge looked like, I actually went home... this is my computer, I didn't know the first thing about computers. My oldest brother was like... I think he was 11 years old and he just got a new computer and I said, hey Tim... I got this idea about a visitor's pass, do you think you could help me out?

00:47:37:24 He even had paint brush on the computer. So the kid opens up this program and he goes and he cuts and pastes the symbol of the State of Illinois which I thought was a miracle you know, how does anyone do that? And he pastes it on there and then he writes the word visitor.

00:47:50:11 So I came to work the next day and I go this is kind of what we're thinking about and actually you could peel off the back of this and change the batteries and that's how the woman discovered it, she peeled off... she was just picking, nervous picking you know. She was sitting there talking to Larry, going like this.

00:48:04:17 And she picked and pretty soon the whole thing popped open and the battery came out and there was wires in

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

there and the gig was up. But... we were able to identify four critical hours of conversation, that's a lot of minutes, of conversation. And... one of the things we were able to document was the Colombian connection to the Gangster Disciples.

00:48:30:01 We had worked a case earlier in which, my eyes are really going bad, but we arrested Julian Deapava (ph.) and he was a Colombian, he was supplying a guy named Darrell Johnson in Chicago who was Gangster Disciple with 200 kilos of cocaine a month. Darrell Johnson was an intricate... he was on the board of directors, one of Larry Hoover's guys.

00:48:53:21 He was in charge of distributing... overseeing the distribution of that cocaine in the public housing buildings of the city of Chicago, we tried to depict that on that slide. This is another depiction of how it would work... it says Barry L. Johnson, his real name was Darrell Johnson, aka Pops, who I'll tell you about in a second.

00:49:21:10 But like I say he... there was a governor in charge of each neighborhood in Chicago and that governor was

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

responsible for all the operations of the Gangster Disciples... the distribution of the cocaine, the collection of the money and so on and so forth. Getting back to the earlier statement that I made about that they went from Gangster Disciples to growth and development.

00:49:41:29 When they went to growth and development, in an attempt to secure Larry's parole, they formed these companies, one of them I mentioned was Save the Children. And what they... and they formed this political organization called 21st Century Vote. So what are the ways they laundered money, two ways... let's take Save the Children.

00:50:00:12 What they did is they would go to a rap artist and they'd say hey, we're going to get the international amphitheater in Chicago, holds about 16,000 people. We're going to fill it with 16,000 kids and you're going to put on a concert. And they'd be like... we don't say no to the GDs.

00:50:22:20 So they'd get a famous rap... artist to come in, put on a concert and then they would make up these tickets

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

and charge... charge \$30 a ticket when in fact they were free. They'd put on a concert so now if you have 16,000 kids each looking as if they paid 30 bucks for a ticket, you have that much money. If you do the math real quick, that you can say we've got this cash from receipts from a concert.

00:50:49:22 So they would put on these concerts on a regular basis and it allowed them an avenue to launder hundreds of thousands of dollars in that manner, okay. The other way they did it was with this political organization called 21st Century Vote, they called it collecting the P, the P was the political.

00:51:09:09 And what it was, it was collecting dues on the street, it was an extortion payment from drug dealers on the street giving them a license to deal dope and they covered it as a political contribution, the P, to 21st Century Vote and they had a whole organization out there that did nothing but collect money because one of the conversations that we intercepted with Larry Hoover and we didn't understand it for a long time.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

00:51:35:20 You know sometimes you get little pieces of the puzzle and you gotta put them together and sometimes it's kind of hard especially if you're a knucklehead like me. But one of the conversations is... he says I want everybody to give me a day, you tell all them little brothers they've got to give me a day.

00:51:49:15 I want \$700,000 a week, you understand? I said what the heck is that? And what that was was, everybody who was dealing dope in Chicago and it would revolve, it would change, the day would change each week so the cops could never get onto it. So say the day was Thursday for this week, on Thursday, all the receipts of all the crack cocaine sold on all the corners in the City of Chicago, went to the Gangster Disciples, that was their payment.

00:52:16:06 So the Gangster Disciples got money two ways, they had their own drug dealing operations in the public housing and they had extortion income from the other gangs to the tune of \$700,000 a week and it added up you know, you're talking about gross receipts of millions of dollars.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

00:52:37:03 Everyone... I believe it was 39 governors, Larry Hoover, his entire board, both the prison board and the street board of directors, were indicted, they were charged with you know the big bats of the federal government, CCE, this Darrell Johnson that I made reference to who was... had the Colombian connection, got the 200 kilos every month, who was in charge of distributing in the public housing buildings.

00:53:08:00 He committed a murder during this whole investigation so he was indicted for CCE and murder. He was convicted of CCE and murder, he was sentenced to death. He's on death row today in... the place where John Gotti was... in Indiana, down in Terre Haute, Indiana.

00:53:26:16 If you go in the door of prisons web page and you put in a prisoner, Darrell Johnson, there's a lot of Darrell Johnson's but if you scroll down you'll see, I think it's prisoner number 19, he's in Indiana on death row. One of only, I think there's like 36 people who have been given the death sentence in federal cases to date since... maybe 12 years ago.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

00:53:50:06 So the case had high visibility, there were three different groups of trails, these governors were divided into three different groups. Everyone was convicted and... it was highly successful in that it exposed Larry Hoover, caught in the act of being what he was. That there was no such thing as growth and development, this whole thing was a farce, he was demasked and it was always the Gangster Disciples.

00:54:16:18 And it was the Gangster Disciples that the evidence showed... and Larry was moved, I supposed I could end this presentation by saying, well you know he was in prison since 1971, he's in prison today, why isn't he running the gang from prison? Because Larry's now in a federal penitentiary in Florence, Colorado, a really high security place where (a) he has no visitors.

00:54:39:27 So this nonsense can't go on. (B) He doesn't have access to a phone so he can't communicate that way and he's locked up 23 hours a day, six stories under the earth. He gets out one hour a day, that's it. So as far as being a CEO of the Gangster Disciples, those days are over.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

00:55:02:08 With the federal prosecutions and people doing life sentences, these governors, these three different trials, there was a little void in the leadership. So for years nobody wanted to step up and be you know the next governor because they knew that the G was going to come down on them pretty heavy, so there was a void.

00:55:21:20 And it's like anything else though, I've been gone from the city for a long time, but I understand the FBI, I read in the paper about two months ago, just concluded a very similar case to this where they looked at a massive corporate structure gang, took it down using RICO and CCE. So you know it's like everything else, it just has its peaks and its valleys.

00:55:44:27 One thing I do not want to forget to mention is the Chicago Police Department provided the missing link in this whole case and that was... see we have the tapes, but we needed people shorties, we needed full gangsters on the street corner to come to federal court and corroborate what was on those tapes and to outline the structure of the gang.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

00:56:07:17 And it was the Chicago police by doing old-fashioned, traditional police work, who made a lot of arrests, who rolled people over brought them to the U.S. Attorney and you know they were cooperative witnesses. So the Chicago police provided that whole portion of the puzzle that we in DEA did not get.

00:56:28:17 And we didn't get it by design because as a group supervisor my thing was this. You know what, and believe me there was a lot of angst over this. My deal was we're federal agents, there's only 16 of us in this court, we're going to conduct a federal investigation, we're going to use the big bats, the DEA... the CCE and the RICO, the electronic eavesdropping and so on and so forth.

00:56:50:04 And not try to duplicate the efforts of 16,000 Chicago policemen, let them keep the streets safe, let them do their thing and they'll bring a piece of the puzzle, you know, in good time, with all that street work. But why take 16 people and throw them on top of 16,000, you won't even make a splash. So let's

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

concentrate on being federal agents, doing a federal job and bring this case to federal court.

00:57:12:15 And at the right time we will bring in the police and they will provide the missing link. And it was very.. excuse the expression, sensitive investigation. There were different levels of compromise along the way. We did some bugging besides those visitor pass in business called Jimmy's Shrimp on the Nine.

00:57:32:20 It was a shrimp store on 79th Street that was run by this guy Shorty G, his girlfriend was a Chicago police officer. She got indicted too, she got convicted, she's in the penitentiary. But that was one way we had to kind of keep things tight because the culture in Chicago, going back to the days of Mayor Daley, as they started.

00:57:56:18 You know sometimes you can grow up with gang bangers you know and you go to school with them and they live on the block. And then you chose law enforcement, another guy chooses to be a fireman, another guy chooses to go off to college. You know unfortunately a large number stay in the gang.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

00:58:09:07 So what I'm saying is there are a whole bunch of people in the police department that had associations with people in the gang just because how they grew up and we had to be very careful about sharing any information especially with a sensitive operation that we had going in the prison.

00:58:24:08 So that's really the end of my presentation, that's pretty much how the story ends, Larry going to the federal pen and everybody else going to the federal pen and... you know all's well that's end well and it ended well after many, many years of investigation. So if I could answer any questions at this time, I'd be glad to take 'em. Yes ma'am.

00:58:51:21 FS: (Inaud.).

00:58:54:22 RB: Larry's still in prison in Florence, Colorado and all of the people that were convicted went to the federal penitentiary and they're all in prison and Darrell Johnson is even... you know, who knows if he's ever going to put to death, but he is on death row and he brutally murdered a guy, (unint.) three blocks from

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

my house and the informant... and unfortunately the informant was a voice ad and pushed a little bit too hard to go in, talk to a guy and get some conversation.

00:59:26:12 And the bad guy smelled a rat and you know shot him six times in the head. Yes sir.

00:59:31:21 MS: (Inaud.).

00:59:44:09 RB: Yeah that's a good question. I don't know Larry enjoyed so much of this money as the people in his organization did. They spent huge amounts of money. You know we have this clips of parties the gangsters would go to and the beautiful jewelry, just for (unint.) starter kits around them, so heavy they could barely raise their neck.

01:00:05:27 And beautiful cars and... incredible spending ventures in Las Vegas. Whenever there was a heavy weight fight, these guys would fly first class to Las Vegas, be completely outfitted in the best jewelry you know ever, really look like studs and sit at ring side and

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

they'd loose at gambling, they'd spend it on funerals, a lot of funerals cost \$50,000 and \$60,000.

01:00:32:05 Very few investments that you'd see, I mean these guys weren't buying condos in Aspen, they were spending money like drunken sailors on jewelry, on cars, on vacations, on girlfriends and just eating steak instead of hamburger. Any other questions now? Way in the back.

01:01:02:09 Thank you for your question... Larry Hoover's girlfriend, Bertha Mosby, actually cooperated in the investigation. She... we kind of worked on the case on her, what we did was, I (unint.) and we ended up putting a tracking device on her vehicle and the tracking device allowed us not to have to physically surveil it and we would be able to identify a pattern where she went.

01:01:27:01 So her job in the organization was to pick up money. So... she was... a cooperative witness in the case. She did not go to prison and no they did not have any children. You're welcome, yes sir.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

01:01:45:20 You know I... I don't know, I mean I don't... the federal sentencing guidelines as they are and then I think they're evolving, I mean never, never is a long time, I just don't know. I would be inclined to say, no, you know, no parole. But... hey things change, you know, we see guys get paroled all the time. So I couldn't give you an honest answer I just don't know the answer to that. Yes sir.

01:02:16:21 Oh, excellent question, thank you for asking that cause I started at the IRS, and we got an IRS special agent involved in the task force because I knew he knew how to follow money, I mean that's what they do. So no, these guys didn't file... most of them did not file income tax returns.

01:02:35:01 So the federal indictment charged tax violations as well as you know the drug violations. So most of them were and also that's another thing you can bargain away... you know the prosecutor would drop tax charges you know, you plead guilty to some drug charge and then cooperate and take the stand against the higher leadership.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

01:02:55:09 But yeah they weren't about filing tax returns, so the IRS was a major part of the investigation especially as far Save the Children is concerned and I did forget to mention one thing. The woman that you saw, that was a North Chicago police detective, Mary Hodge, she's the lead, one of the leads, there were like three case agents, one of three.

01:03:13:05 She did a search warrant on Save the Children and she found in the files of Save the Children the entire organization chart, just like the one I'm having here except with names you know and... that was a critical piece of documentary evidence that was introduced at trial to show that Save the Children was really a front for the gangster disciples.

01:03:36:12 So there wasn't a lot of tax paying going on, yes sir.

01:03:44:06 You know the relation... it goes back to the genesis of gangs in Chicago. In Chicago it's kind of unique, they have a thing called, because of the prison, this started in prison. People and folks, you know it's like heads or tails, in Chicago you're either people or your folks, those are the two big parties.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

01:04:04:13 And then everything falls underneath that. The gangster disciples falls under folks, the gangster disciples were an outgrowth of the early Blackstone Rangers. You know Jeff Forte was a major leader of that gang and he had a falling out with Larry Hoover and Jeff Forte started... branched off into another gang that was subject of a federal indictment prosecution and unfortunately kind of blew up in their face.

01:04:35:06 You might remember seeing that on "60 Minutes" some of the witnesses they had were really, really bad, you know just as bad as the dopers. But that's why we wanted to capture Larry Hoover in the art of being himself rather than rely on really dirty you know, dope dealers themselves to take the witness stand.

01:04:56:22 So I mean I know I didn't answer your question sufficiently, but I know that the Blackstone Rangers were one of the early gangs in Chicago that split up and the leadership divided, Larry Hoover going to the gangster disciples and James Hysmith going to the BDs, the Black Disciples and then... the P Star Nation was run by Jeff Forte and the P Star Nation really was

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

the... Blackstone Rangers. Yes sir, I mean ma'am, I can't see that well, I'm sorry.

01:05:38:22 You know what, there wasn't a lot of money seized, (unint.) were executed in like 20 different locations and I don't believe there was more than a couple hundred thousand dollars seized. There was no stash of millions and millions uncovered unfortunately. Well they spend all of it you know. It was a lot of being spent living the good life. Yes...

01:06:04:00 Larry's... I'm 51, Larry's probably 10 years older than I, 61, 61 years old. Yes ma'am.

01:06:24:10 Just little tally sheets, tallies of the P, of the political contributions that were collected and from the receipts from, say for instance, the concerts and so forth. He just wanted to see the paperwork to see who was paying and who wasn't paying because if you weren't paying they had this thing called the pumpkin head.

01:06:45:00 And Larry would order them to give that guy a pumpkin head and what a pumpkin head was a beating on the head

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

with a baseball bat and the head would just swell up and you'd have a pumpkin head.

01:07:05:24 You'd get a guy... that's a good question. You'd get a visitor like Shorty G who'll go down there and during their visit they'd be going over slips of paper and talking about you know who came up and who owes and you know what you should do to collect and stuff like that.

01:07:21:28 So yeah the paperwork was brought and discussed over these outdoor tables in Vienna, Illinois. Yes...

01:07:35:04 You know I honestly don't know. I doubt that the Illinois penitent... I mean as a native Chicagoan who'd go up there... you know I've never seen a change. Like I said earlier, one of the reasons they don't have violence is because they realized how strong the gangs are.

01:07:50:13 Now did it change when Larry Hoover went to the federal penitentiary, did the violence increase in prison, I honestly don't know the answer to that. I was transferred to headquarters... yes.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

- 01:08:21:14 Unfortunately you know what... that's a great question. Here's the problem that we encountered, we came that close. The problem was we only could intercept and give this visitor's pass out that was bugged on Saturdays and Sundays to visitors outside because the guy who was in our tent, in our fold, who gave them out, he's a critical link in that chain of security and integrity.
- 01:08:43:16 That guy only worked on Saturday and Sunday, so the visitors during the week, they got a free ride, we didn't intercept those conversations you see. And unfortunately the reason I'm saying that is because the guy in the oval office, Wallace Gator Bradley never visited on a Saturday or Sunday.
- 01:09:00:22 Every time he came down it was like a Tuesday or Wednesday and we missed all those conversations. So that whole aspect of the investigation was not unearthed and nobody cooperated. Yeah that was really frustrating. Yes.

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454**

01:09:23:27 I honestly don't know. In fact you know what, rap was so new back then... that (unint.) was so new that I didn't know who... even it was local talent, you know they would get rap artists that were local talent on the South side or on the West side or whatever, and they'd say you're going to do, you know a thing Saturday night and just be there.

01:09:40:22 And they'd be glad to do it, you know, cause that's what they do and they put on a concert, got paid, got paid... so it was just... like I say all they had to do was inflate the cost of a ticket to the concert and that was gravy because the tickets were really free and that's a great way of building good rapport with all the shorties on the street.

01:10:03:07 I mean you give them a concert free every week or two and that's pretty cool. My kids would love to go to a concert every couple of weeks for free. I would go for free.

01:10:20:09 Right.

01:10:21:18 Exactly right. Yep, yes ma'am.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454

01:10:29:01 Correct.

01:10:35:00 Yes... he's... yes exactly because let me kind of demonstrate it for you. (Unint. - turned away from the microphone)... and that's how they would do it. They knew that sooner or later everybody (unint.) (rest of tape was not miked)

01:15:24:19 **END OF TAPE**

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
MUSEUM LECTURE SERIES
TAPE NO. 454