

## NOTES

**RE: TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH MONSIGNOR TOMLINSON  
RE: PAUL HERSBACH**

- M: What happened in Laverton involved
- P: The father of Paul
- M: The father and his brother
- P: Yes indeed
- M: And now this is the son
- P: Yes it is
- M: Was there any is there any likelihood of charges on this count or was he of an age
- P: Well look I don't I haven't really thought other than that what it is is would be I don't think likely to be prosecuted and certainly not likely to be prosecuted because Rubeo was convicted of indecent assault or whatever many many years ago
- M: Which involved the father of this boy
- P: Yes it did it did yeh. There was also another matter I think but I'm just trying to think of it. But look I wouldn't think that's likely to occur at all.
- M: No its just that I suppose I knew Vic well because he was in well I've known him over the years because twice he was in the neighbouring parish to me. And I've had contact with him and I suppose when I saw this it
- P: Well I haven't even bothered to talk to as you call him Vic about it because I have little doubt that it's probably true
- M: Oh well I wasn't doubting that it wasn't true

P: No but the nature of the abuse if I can call it that is pretty marginal its undoubtedly abuse and so on and so on but when they were kids in the bath and things like that

M: Oh it wasn't the same nature as with the father then

P: Oh no it wasn't and of course then Vic had all that trouble with I've forgotten the name of the lady now but

M: Oh well when the

P: [REDACTED] I think

M: That's at Doveton wasn't it

P: Yep

M: Yeh

P: And that was look so if you I think that that's not this fellow Paul I think I'm permitted to say this he's got he's a pretty smart bloke and well educated but he's got a lot of complexes and he's had [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] other problems [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

and so I think its all in fact I'm certain it is all designed to be therapeutic

M: Yes because I suppose what I was thinking is that I was aware of because he'd talked to me about because at the time when this arose with the father and in fact Vic went to the police about it

P: Well as it turned out he sort of inadvertently admitted it I mean I've got to go back but this is my memory

M: Yeh yes well that's certainly my recollection. At the time when that happened he was at Boronia and I was at Rowville and I remember going over there for a meal one Saturday night and him saying oh we're actually going across the road to somebody's place for dinner but

before we go I want to tell you and that's when he told me what he'd said to the police and so forth

P: Well that's right and it was entirely he didn't have to say what he did but he did

M: No yes and I remember that being quite clear at the time and that he seemed somewhat relieved he'd done something about it. I suppose where my difficulty arose is that having given him some support through that and then to find that there's now the son I felt a bit I suppose I'm not quite sure what I felt but there was more to it than he was admitting to

P: Well look I think that well I'd have to really think about it but I would venture to say that this was a sort of an extension of what was occurring with the father and the uncle and when I say an extension of it it was just simply a manifestation of Rubeo's

M: (inaudible) wasn't appropriate

P: Rubeo's behaviour yeh and but what is your concern if any

M: Well I suppose my concern really centred around the fact that he certainly spoke to me about the incidents with the father and the uncle but didn't indicate there was anything with the sons. I do recall them living at the house at East Preston I can remember going there for meals and the family being there and actually at that time those boys were really not that young. I wouldn't have thought I mean my recollection was that there was a couple of boys who were the eldest in the family and there was some girls and I think they would have ranged in age and this is over 20 years ago I would have thought they aged in

ranged in age from about the girls well I'd say the boys were the end of secondary school the girls were sort of mid secondary school down to lower primary higher primary that sort of age group it seemed to me and I don't even remember how many there were but there was at least four there may have been more children than that

P: Yep well the that's probably right but they did in fact the reason for the confusion was because Paul Hersbach when he saw me whilst he mentioned East Preston he then said initially that the problems occurred at Reservoir where they'd also live with Rubeo or lived in Rubeo's house at Reservoir

M: Um well yeh maybe I certainly remember that I think they were building a house the parents were building a house up at Monbulk or somewhere and he offered them accommodation at the presbytery because it was a large presbytery while they were building the house and they were there maybe twelve months. It was seen to be quite a while and as I say I presume because I remember the boys being the older couple of boys being quite big boys I thought that that must have been the time of the incident unless there was a younger boy in the family and then maybe that is this one but as I say I'm talking about in excess of 20 years ago.

P: Absolutely well I am still if I might say with respect I'm not quite sure what your concern is

M: Oh well I suppose my concern was that while I was well aware of the incidents with the father and the uncle he hadn't discussed anything with this generation and I just sort of well I suppose I was concerned as

to what the dimensions of the problem were and whether or not that should impact on any contact I had with him.

P: Oh no I don't think that and let me I think there's undoubtedly the case that what the visit to the presbytery is for and I've discussed this with Sue Sharkey and to a more limited extent with Michele Pathè it's what the psychologist thinks and he apparently says that it might be therapeutic.

M: Yes

P: But he's a if I can say is I think I repeat he's well educated but he's a bit of a queer bird but of course its always

M: Which he might have been without any intervention from Rubeo

P: Exactly it might have been or you can't watch the chicken and the

M: The chicken and the egg which came first yes

P: I'll have a quick look at it again just to and I'll if I think it necessary to speak to you I will but I look I'd put it out of your mind if I were you

M: Ok then well I'm relieved to know that I just wasn't sure because of course Sue Sharkey had always intimated that there were

P: Well she did she did to a significant degree and I said well I've forgotten this now but it floods back but she was saying that what other abuse has occurred and I said well none that I know of this was some years ago but then this fellow appeared. Look I'll have a quick look at it and I'll get back to you

M: Ok Thank you very much I didn't mean to put you to any trouble

P: Oh no no it's ok

M: Ok Thanks Peter bye.