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Henry Berberich December 20, 2001

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September 11, 2001 Oral History Documentation Project Northeast Region, National Park Service

Henry Berberich Park Police Washington, D.C. (Interview No. Unlisted)
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December 20, 2001
HQ U.S. Park Police
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START OF TAPE	
Mark Schoepfle:	I'm with Henry Berberich with the Park Police. So, my first question is going to be, from the moment you became aware of what was going on, what happened?
Henry Berberich:	Well, it's sort of like when President Kennedy got shot, everyone knew where they were. I was at a meeting with one of my lieutenants with the multi-agency meeting, and they had turned on the news, and at that time one tower had gotten hit, and then we continued the meeting, the TV was on, and the second tower gets hit. And I basically told the US Attorney and the other NDP people that the pulp was we'd probably have to leave. And then within moments, the Pentagon got hit, and they showed it right on TV. So, myself and Lieutenant — we excused ourselves, and we went right downtown to the Washington Monument.
Henry Berberich:	By that time, the decision had already been made — because we didn't know when the next attack would come or where it would be — to secure and evacuate all the monuments and memorials. So, we brought officers down from everywhere. It was all of our special forces officers, and we evacuated the area around the Washington Monument, the Lincoln, and the Jefferson. I still remember an officer that was at the Lincoln — while we were closing the Lincoln — there was a secondary explosion in Arlington, and I think it later turns out to be a gas station — a secondary explosion. And we could hear it — not only could we see the smoke — the black smoke, just filling the air — we could— we heard the secondary explosion, and I mean, that just pumped up everyone's anxiety, but you couldn't tell exactly where it occurred. We thought it could have been on the other side — just on the other side of Memorial Bridge.
Henry Berberich:	From September 11th till now, the US Park Police has been on a high state of alert. Our patrol branch officers are working 12-hour shifts, and we've committed a great deal of personnel in outlying areas downtown. We've worked with NCP Central and President's Park.
Mark Schoepfle:	NCP Central?
Henry Berberich:	Right. National Capitol Park Central and President's Park, and the Secret Service, and we refortified areas around the monumental core, and the White House. Since September 11th, there's been a number of extremely high alerts, based upon intelligence coming in, and there have been no significant events, thank God, downtown, as a result of any terrorist acts. We continue now on high alert, and we don't know when it's going to end.

Henry Berberich:	Again, going back to 9/11, all the key components in the Park Police response will be with first responders that did go to Arlington Cemetery — uh, to the Pentagon. And I know we had motor officers there, and I know that our helicopter was there doing medivacs. We were also — I know — we had units that played a key role in the evacuation of government officials, which would have included the protection of the Secretary of Interior, and I'll provide you a copy of the written report —
Mark Schoepfle:	Sure.
Henry Berberich:	— that was generated from that.
Mark Schoepfle:	Great. Could we back up for a minute?
Henry Berberich:	Sure.
Mark Schoepfle:	Okay. When you — okay, you were responding at the point, and there had been a secondary explosion there in Arlington — right? But moving back to that day when that was occurring, what was going on, you — this was really heightening — you know, everybody was just really pumping up your concern and anxiety and everything of what was going on. What went on from there? Just straightforward as we go on?
Henry Berberich:	We just collapsed. We bring all of our resources — as much as possible downtown — and we just started evacuating the chambers of the Lincoln, the Jefferson. So, the Washington Monument — it was good for us — the Washington was closed. It's still closed for construction, so we didn't have as critical a need, other than to evacuate a safe distance from the Washington Monument. To be honest with you, it was chaotic to some extent. What we really saw was that everyone wanted to help out, and by this what I mean is: now we have all the officers on duty; we collapsed downtown. We're evacuating the monuments and memorials, and now we have officers at home that are watching TV, and the officers knew — and they were getting called in anyway — but we have officers that knew that this was catastrophic, and seeing the events — we called in all of our off- duty officers, and that first night we had officers that ended up working — oh — right through the night — maybe, almost 24 hours straight, because we worked as many people downtown to safeguard the monumental core. I guess that's it, unless you have any other questions for me.
Mark Schoepfle:	Well, yes, if you can back up on some of these things; this is getting very interesting. I'm going to dive in here, and pick up on some detail if we can, because — for example, it may seem obvious that you evacuate these buildings — all right — it sounds like a dumb question, but I think you'll see that it's not.

NPS History Collect	ion Henry Berberich	December 20, 2001
Mark Schoepfle:	What is involved in evacuating a building like complications? What are the things you've g going on that day that made things possibly of Maybe it wasn't.	got to watch out for? What was
Henry Berberich:	I think it was hard to communicate; for example here — we use this all the time in communic went, the cell phones went. You couldn't call they got overwhelmed. So, we couldn't use t second thing is the radio track was incredible have so many different things going on at on going through the Pentagon; you have Mediv this emergency evacuation procedure for Call I could back up a second?	cation; the first thing that Il on the cell phones anymore; the cell phone capacity. The e on our radio, because you nce. You have responders vacs at the Pentagon; we had
Mark Schoepfle:	Keep — yes.	
Henry Berberich:	That's kind of classified information.	
Mark Schoepfle:	Classified?	
Henry Berberich:	Getting the emergency evacuation of Cabine done, and the procedures involved in that. So have a hard time, depending on where this is	o, I mean, we may actually
Mark Schoepfle:	If it's classified, it's classified.	
Henry Berberich:	Well, if it stays internal, that's fine, but — ye the great detail.	es, we're not going to go into
Mark Schoepfle:	Okay. I'll have to work on this. I cannot guar nature of those things. They may be public, a you.	
Henry Berberich:	Well, if you want to characterize that, say the emergency evacuation procedures of Cabine — we were involved in the protection of the you want to leave it in generics, that there's a — how to do it, and where people should go that in public domain at all.	t members, characterize it as Secretary of Interior, and if all evacuation plans on where
Mark Schoepfle:	Got you. It's just important to us to know, for know, in evacuating, say, Cabinet members, that there were preformed plans.	
Henry Berberich:	Right.	

Mark Schoepfle:	That it wasn't easy getting these plans done, whether there [were] various kinds of complications, like because of the cell phone traffic, and the radio traffic.
Henry Berberich:	Okay. And the worst complications — and I think it will come to pass, and I don't have to get to the people involved in this, but what had come to pass is, the Secretary of Interior is quickly evacuated, and the rest of the plans — there were complications; the timing was off, and there were complications.
Mark Schoepfle:	I mean, I'd expect that, because of events you were describing. The reason I'm asking is because of the cell phone, and things like that were going on — I mean, good grief.
Henry Berberich:	And there's a whole other side to this here, and you know, the more we talk about it, the more you can remember now. Now, the monuments and memorials are closed. We did our evacuation, and we create our safe zones around the monuments and memorials, and now everyone wants out of the Washington DC [area], so the roads get completely clogged going — outgoing. Okay? And that just created more problems, because at the time — here's what happened: Park Police made the decision to close the Memorial Bridge, initially, with the Lincoln and Jefferson for fear that either a plane was going to run into it, or we'd have another explosion
Mark Schoepfle:	Right.
Henry Berberich:	Okay? So, Memorial Bridge is closed; the 14th Street Bridge is closed because it's right behind the Pentagon, so the only bridge to get out of the city is the Teddy Roosevelt Bridge — initially — so traffic is at an absolute — there's nowhere for anyone to evacuate into Southern Virginia — into Northern Virginia, except to go across one bridge. So, the evacuation of the city by the civilian people was really hampered and tied to traffic; going to Virginia was nightmare.
Mark Schoepfle:	What did you do? I mean, what could you do?
Henry Berberich:	Well, finally we decided to — we had to relieve pressure, so we — within an hour to reopen Memorial Bridge back up — to get going, and another thing that they did was — I'm not too familiar with Rock Creek Parkway.
Mark Schoepfle:	I'm not all that familiar —
Henry Berberich:	Yes.
Mark Schoepfle:	I mean, I've been there, but what happened?

Henry Berberich:	Well, Rock Creek Parkway is two-way traffic; however, during rush hour, it's converted to one-way, so as we knew that the city was going to be evacuated, they put in — evacuated the PM rush hour, so Rock Creek Parkway became four lanes outbound to get traffic out of the city going into Montgomery County. But it was just gridlocked getting out of the city.
Mark Schoepfle:	For example, I was right there — you know, right out of this building. They kicked us out, and of course I noticed everybody was jumping straight out in the street, because at that point, I mean, they just said everybody out, and we were at — we waited about an hour and then hit the Metro, and of course we had no problem. And so, I'm just wondering, you know, you had all this traffic; you opened Rock Creek Park. You finally reopened the Memorial Bridge; then what happened?
Henry Berberich:	Well, then — then for the next couple of hours people were just flooding and leaving the city, and we just maintained our closures and our perimeters. We just kept everything shut down.
Mark Schoepfle:	Everything shut down?
Henry Berberich:	Yes. All the monuments and memorials. You couldn't go to the Lincoln, the Jefferson, the Washington Monument. We closed, basically, almost the entire area from the Lincoln, all the way probably to the 14th Street — the Washington Monument — at least to the Washington Monument, as well as a key closure in this, too, is the left of the White House and the President of the United States, and both park areas — one on the north side of — this is Rock Creek Park, and the lifts on the south side were completely closed and heavily manned.
Mark Schoepfle:	There were probably tourists and people out there.
Henry Berberich:	Yes.
Mark Schoepfle:	How were they handled? What did you do?
Henry Berberich:	Well, the tourists were told that the areas were being closed for security reasons, and they were given the direction where they had to depart, and then right behind that more Jersey barriers and more fence was — were put in.
Mark Schoepfle:	I was talking to maintenance people who were talking about how to scramble like mad to put things up in the first period of time.
Henry Berberich:	Yes, yes.
Mark Schoepfle:	How did that go? How smoothly did that go? How did — what effect did that have?

Henry Berberich:	I'm not sure — I had to find somebody who was in an area nearer the White House, but I think within a couple hours the fence that had to get put up was put up, and it gave a good buffer around the White House. So — but it wasn't easy, and it took a long time to evacuate, and the public was very compliant — I kind of laughed, but normally when you make a closure and inconvenience people, the people get mad at you —
Mark Schoepfle:	Yes.
Henry Berberich:	— you create a detour. Well, since 9/11, and it continues to this day, that the public is well-aware of the need for security, and very much comply when they come, and if an area is closed for security reasons, we really don't get any complaints from people, because they know it has to be done. Everything's changed. They changed all the rules on us.
Mark Schoepfle:	Wow. [pause] Good. About what time of the day was all this going on? I mean, this seems like it was a very rapid set of responses with the closure of this traffic, and everything like that. What time of the afternoon or morning or whatever, was all— you know, you— closing the Memorial Bridge, reopening the Memorial Bridge — when was all that — when did all that happen?
Henry Berberich:	Well, I think the incident happens — what, at 9:09 or something?
Mark Schoepfle:	Yes.
Henry Berberich:	Yes. I would say that probably by 10:00 o'clock, we were pretty secure in evacuating downtown, and probably by about 11:00 o'clock in the morning, people started really leaving the city, and that's when the Rock Creek Parkway change took place, and then we saw the pressure that was getting put because of the closure of Memorial Bridge, so we opened — reopened — Memorial Bridge up to get people out of city, and that went on for hours. That went on for three, four — well into getting dark — and by that time, by 7:00 o'clock at night, we had the majority of US Park Policemen working; everyone was called in from home. All of our midnight people came in early, and we had — had a great commitment of personnel downtown in resources.
Henry Berberich:	Another thing, too, is — you know — you talk about how traffic gets messed up, because they closed the roadway. They closed 395 on the east side of the Pentagon; you couldn't go down through 395, while on the west side of the Pentagon is Washington Boulevard, and that's where the plane hits. So, Washington Boulevard, which is another big feeder added into Northern Virginia is closed, so you can't go down Washington Boulevard at all.

Henry Berberich: Park police also play a role in security — a small role in the security — of the Pentagon during the rescue and demolition and recovery - rescue and recovery. Henry Berberich: We would detail - we had officers - detailed to Arlington Cemetery and Washington Boulevard to provide security and traffic control, and that lasted, oh, probably about five or six weeks, because Arlington County Police: their resources greatly taxed by this event, and they were just asking for help. So, Park Police helped; Virginia State Police helped out a great deal; as from the police side of it. I really can't think of anything else right now. Mark Schoepfle: This is all very important. So, that first night, things began kind of people got out of Washington, DC; you got people that fully - you know, the night shift had come in; the day shift, from what you're saying, is still there? Henry Berberich: Right. Oh, yes. The day shift worked. Mark Schoepfle: So, you've been able to get people spread out over the area? Henry Berberich: Right. Mark Schoepfle: People are taking up positions that were interlocking with the Arlington County Police — Henry Berberich: Right. Mark Schoepfle: - dealing with Virginia State Police. And from what you're describing do I understand right that Northern Virginia seemed to be the really well, obviously the trouble spot, because of the Pentagon, and just — Right. Henry Berberich: Mark Schoepfle: — the lack of bridge traffic out of there, right? Henry Berberich: Right. Yes. Northern Virginia takes the brunt of this, right. And really, the DC side of this, I think — well — a lot of it from the District of Columbia Fire Department, and their real assistance, because it's right across the bridge. I'm not sure of the role the Metropolitan Police played in it, because now the Metropolitan Police — the city police here are — really can't commit that many resources, because we don't know what's going to happen next. Mark Schoepfle: Yes. So, they're going to stay put?

Henry Berberich:	So, they're going to stay put, and they've got to beef up and secure and patrol all their bridges. So, now they go on heightened alert and provide security throughout, because you look at all their different targets here. So, they commit all their resources to whatever potential targets there are.
Henry Berberich:	Again, it was pretty chaotic, with the amount of officers we had coming in, and — you know — and this is all after action. Could we have done a better job in coordinating that? Yeah. We learned a lot. We had officers coming in. We didn't know where our officers — where some officers were — and it was hard to get a handle for a number of hours on actually the amount of resources we had out, and where people were.
Mark Schoepfle:	About what time did you have the feeling that you had a better knowledge? I mean, you're saying at first there, you just weren't quite sure where everybody was. When did that quite level out?
Henry Berberich:	I would say maybe by 8:00 or 9:00 o'clock at night, we really got a good feel for what we had closed; what we — where we had our resources, and then we looked at how — we had to change shifts now, because we wanted [to] continue our security level. We looked at getting the day work off, and then how long how long the midnight officers had to work. So, by 8:00 or 9:00 o'clock at night, we realized we were in this for the long-term, and then we started working out a rotation, to give the officers some rest.
Mark Schoepfle:	How is that managed? I mean, for example the maintenance people were just setting up their bunks right then and there; they were sleeping right out in the parks in their sleeping bags. What was going on here?
Henry Berberich:	We had some officers that didn't go home. We have some beds at the station, and some of us went home for a couple of hours, and then we came right back. And one shift really got caught short. They had — they ended up working almost 24 hours straight, and we can — that was just a scheduling thing, that they had to work until the units got back on the next day. So, it was a long night for a lot of people, but again, like the citizens didn't complain, the officers certainly didn't complain, either. And they realized that we were in for the long haul, and we had a job to do, and we had to be there. So, the spirit of morale of the officers was actually — it was upbeat, and we were all concerned about what was going to happen next.
Mark Schoepfle:	Sure.
Henry Berberich:	We didn't know. We just didn't know.

Mark Schoepfle:	You mentioned the concern for what was going to happen next — it seems to have been running all the way through things, because that was never — you know, like right when the thing was occurring you see — there was that secondary explosion in Arlington, and —
Henry Berberich:	Right, right.
Mark Schoepfle:	— you know, I was getting the impression, and you were really waiting for some other shoe to drop.
Henry Berberich:	Yes.
Mark Schoepfle:	What kind of information were you hearing? Were there rumors that you had to get things clarified? How did that work?
Henry Berberich:	Ah. Well, we're hearing different things. Everyone's attention certainly turned to the skies, and I remember one of my officers saying that it was just a few minutes later, they recall seeing a military jet coming up the Potomac Valley, and we were talking later on, that it really felt like the military just missed the Pentagon plane.
Henry Berberich:	Then, everyone's attentions was on the skies. Somebody sees another — either an aircraft or a helicopter — and something really struck me, and I've never heard this before, and I think it's well worth remembering this — is the statement comes across our radio that the United States Military is in charge of the skies over the United States. And I thought — I said— that — I mean — that just caught me as — I couldn't even — I don't think I can even describe it. But what a statement to hear on the radio, that you didn't have the freedom to fly anymore, that the military controlled the skies. It was like we were at war, and that apprehension still exists today, when people see planes coming into National Airport, people watch the way they fly very carefully.
Mark Schoepfle:	You mean, like the police, you're saying?
Henry Berberich:	Yes. I mean, you just watch — when you hear planes, you're watching that, and it's just a legacy which will take years to get rid of.
Mark Schoepfle:	When you say they're watching, this is just sort of like an individual sense of alertness, or is there some kind of official policy for that or anything?
Henry Berberich:	No, no, no, no. There's no — well, there are official restrictions around the White House — flight restrictions. So, we're always watching that.
Mark Schoepfle:	That's what I was going to say. Ever since that tried to crack one in, yes.

Henry Berberich:	Right, right. Yes. There's no-fly zones all the time, and our officers are alerted to the no-fly. So, on occasion we'll report anybody that tries to compromise the no-fly space. But to hear that the whole country was no fly, that was pretty profound.
Mark Schoepfle:	I'll bet.
Henry Berberich:	Yes.
Mark Schoepfle:	What else? I mean, what other things were you seeing and hearing in that whole — you know, the military planes flying over?
Henry Berberich:	Well, again, within the next couple of days — I mean, more stuff comes across that — we lost track of some planes coming out of Canada, and we just didn't know where they would end up — and all the information we were getting was — as well as — I think — what tends to come out in the Pittsburgh plane, that crashes, is that the White House was probably targeted, and it could very well have been the Pittsburgh plane.
Mark Schoepfle:	Yes.
Henry Berberich:	And a lot of us — a lot of people wouldn't be here had that occurred, so — I mean, anything you — to this day forward we cannot — well, the White House — is still in a higher potential for a target, and our security measures are very high with the Secret Service. And we don't know when that's going to end. It may not end, either.
Mark Schoepfle:	May not end for quite a while?
Henry Berberich:	Yes, yes.
Mark Schoepfle:	Yes. I'm probably — I mean, I'm sure probably getting to the — sort of the border to classified information, but when you're saying — you know — higher alert potential, what does that mean?
Henry Berberich:	Well, we have different stages of alert, and depending on what stages of alert we're at, we commit different levels of resources.
Mark Schoepfle:	You know, is this like the different color alerts: Yellow, red, blue, or whatever?
Henry Berberich:	Well, we have our own system, and the Secret Service has their own system; the City Police has their own system. We have different alert statuses. I think they're all a little bit different, however, each one of the alert statuses will commit different types personnel, depending on what's — what information is coming in, and what role we need to be.
Mark Schoepfle:	Did you have these before, or was this something that got picked up? Is this just SOP?

Henry Berberich:	Yes. These are SOPs.
Mark Schoepfle:	Well, what —
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Henry Berberich:	Thank you.
Mark Schoepfle:	Okay. We were talking about other kinds of — you suddenly became aware that there are — all over certain kinds of havoc like the car bombs, the suicide bombers, and of course, then the Anthrax coming in.
Henry Berberich:	Yes. And things just got very complicated, but I mean, not only are you protected from the threats from 9/11, now just more things come into focus, and then it was just compounded with the whole Anthrax situation, and the Police and Fire throughout the city get deluged with Anthrax calls. We had a number of them, and we provided assistances for The Smithsonian institution and we got called on a daily basis when this was at its high pitch for Smithsonian.
Mark Schoepfle:	At the Smithsonian?
Henry Berberich:	Yes. The white powders, and then we got involved in the evacuation of some of the Smithsonian workers. It was sort of rumored [about problems at the Smithsonian] and we'd provide services to the Smithsonian workers, and they [the rumors] always turned out to be false. People were just at a heightened state of alert, and talking to the fire department — the DC Fire — Hazmat people — that had the primary responsibility; they were getting deluged with calls for everything, and HR, you know — all of them, with the exceptions of the ones that we know about at the Brentwood facility and the Capitol, were all false.
Mark Schoepfle:	Well, that's good. So, there were — so, that this was your main involvement in the Anthrax issue was just the business with the Smithsonian?
Henry Berberich:	Uh, the Smithsonian, and then we had sporadic cases at the Park Service buildings where people were uneasy and they called in — ah, the white powder, or mail that they didn't like — and we responded to those, as well.
Mark Schoepfle:	Like mostly — Main Interior or —
Henry Berberich:	The National Capitol region, Park Police headquarters, we had two cases where employees got mail at home, and they didn't like it, so they brought it to work, and they turned out to be nothing. And right now, the most part, it has subsided.

Mark Schoepfle:	Well, you didn't get any from us, but I'll tell you it wasn't for lack of concern.
Henry Berberich:	Yes. I mean, people were just scrutinizing their mail a lot, and there was a lot of different things. For example — and another thing — this whole 9/11 thing — which I failed to mention is that the concern and the alertness of the community was incredible. No one could do anything suspicious — that's why I think crime went down for a couple of days. For example, we got a call to go to Lincoln Park, because somebody left trash bags, and it turns out to be nothing, but people were calling in trash bags on the side of the road.
Henry Berberich:	No one could leave anything anywhere, abandoned in any park, and we'd get called immediately. The amount of suspicious package calls — and the document I provided you has the number in it — but we were just wandering left and right: Suitcase left here; backpack left there; trash bag left here. Anything that was left downtown, and so whether it was a handbag or a camera case at the Lincoln, we were just getting called left and right for suspicious packages, which could be potentially people reading into it the potential of a bomb, or even Anthrax or whatever. So, after 9/11, the calls just came — they poured in, and the parks were pretty safe, because the community was really watching out what was going on.
Mark Schoepfle:	So, this was actually sort of a positive thing from what you're describing?
Henry Berberich:	It was positive until — I mean — however it was pushed to extremes when people were calling in household trash, but you couldn't blame them, and you were happy to respond and look into anything. So, people really looked out for our resources for us.
Mark Schoepfle:	Really? When you were responding to these things, I mean did you respond to them all exactly the same way by procedure —
Henry Berberich:	Yes.
Mark Schoepfle:	— or did you just after a while just kind of get dismissive of them, or —
Henry Berberich:	Well, we got dismissive of the one in Lincoln Park.
Mark Schoepfle:	Yeah.
Henry Berberich:	Yes. We figured that one out, and the officers checked it once, and there was trash in it. Somebody has discarded their household trash, which happens in the National Parks. Some people take their household trash to the National Parks, and they use this as a dumping grounds, but for the most part, no. They were handled with procedures.

Henry Berberich:	We'd go there; we'd look at it; we'd establish a safe zone, and we'd coordinate a bomb dog; they'd sniff it, and whether they'd get an alert or not, we'd call the Bomb Squad, and then the bomb squad comes — the City Bomb Squad — and they'd do what they need to do.
Mark Schoepfle:	So, the Bomb Squad comes in, regardless of whether — what the dog finds?
Henry Berberich:	Yes, yes. Unless we decide to open it, and those are rare.
Mark Schoepfle:	Hmm. Just as an aside on this, are there times when you decide when to open them or not open them, and it's kind of a judgment call?
Henry Berberich:	Yes. It's really a judgment call on the officer. You're going to have to look at the location, the type of stuff that was left behind, and certainly just in and around the White House, it just raises the whole level. So, the White House area gets a high degree of scrutiny on things. Then as you go — of course, the Lincoln and the memorials certainly do, and if you go to some of the outlying parks now, you have to look at what's to be gained by leaving a black plastic bag in Lincoln Park? The same black plastic bag shows up on a White House sidewalk, and you do get a different reaction.
Mark Schoepfle:	Yes.
Henry Berberich:	Yes. So, it is different. It is different, depending on location, time of day, what's there, what the past experience is, what heightened alert we're at. Yes. It changes. It's all in flux.
Mark Schoepfle:	Well, with this heightened alert, this was over the next couple of days, and you were dealing with all these reports, and everything coming in, and all these concerns coming on, what else was going on? I mean, everybody was out doing all sorts of different things, I'm assuming.
Henry Berberich:	Yes. A lot of — we still had to run our basic Police functions, so we still had to provide all the normal services the we do; however, a big backlash to this whole thing, is — and it continues today for the most part, is that because we now collapsed downtown, and we pooled all of our resources to protect our treasures, we lose crime in the outlining parks, so DuPont Circle, and Logan Circle, and Park, Farragut, McPhearson; all of the inner city parks in my district, we now don't have the presence that we had in the past, and my tactical Officers, that — would look at different problems — are all committed to security.
Henry Berberich:	So as a sequence to this — remember, I said crime went down — but now in my outlying parks, and it continues to this day, I have significant crime issues in several areas.
Mark Schoepfle:	And so, it actually went up?

Henry Berberich:	I know drugs dealing went up. I have much more drug activity, and I don't have the ability to fight it the way I should, even today. That I can't break enough officers free to make a consistent impact, and take out an open-air drug market, because all resources are committed elsewhere.
Mark Schoepfle:	What else? What other things change, as far as patrolling like 12 that? Normal things—
Henry Berberich:	Well, everything impacts on personnel: fatigue and boredom.
Mark Schoepfle:	Boredom?
Henry Berberich:	Yes. Because now you're asking officers — first of all, they're on 12-hour shifts, as opposed to 8-hour shifts, and now they go to the same place, and they stand — you know — they're performing their guard duty, as opposed to the flexibility of being a patrol officer. So, you've got fixed posts, and at a fixed post, it's hard to keep them motivated, and we do what we can.
Mark Schoepfle:	Okay. Who's — I'm going to ask this next question — the reason I'm asking it is it's been probably more than 30 years since I was pulling guard duty, but I can remember it very, very well for exactly — because of the boredom mixed with mild apprehension, because we weren't armed or anything like that in the service. We were not in a combat area, but we still had to do this kind of thing where there was certainly a likelihood of crime, so it was boredom mixed with apprehension, and there was — nothing you could do anything about it. But how does this change — first of all — how does this change — how does this affect the officers? You know, you mentioned the boredom and being on the post, how to keep up their concentration, because —
Henry Berberich:	It is. First of all, for the first week, there was none of that; our people were pumped, and the commitment was there, but now we're three months into this, you can see fatigue; you can see alertness; you can see more people going sick; and it's just taken its toll.
Henry Berberich:	And another thing — a backlash to this — although — because we're on 12-hour shifts, we actually have the same amount of officers on control. Our arrest statistics are drastically down. My station alone — I'd say my station — my arrests are down over 60 percent, and that — we just don't have the ability to make arrests. And here's another thing, which is another side to this. If you have an officer who's on a 12-hour shift on midnights. They lock up a person, they've got to go to court in the morning, so now that officer is into [a] 15 or 16-hour day, and up all night, and they've got to come back the next night. So, officers are really picking and choosing where they're going to go to court. So —

Mark Schoepfle: And therefore, the arrests they're going to make to start with?

Henry Berberich: Yes. They'll be more — they'll be more liberal in their discretion, as far as who they're going to arrest, because they know they're in for a 16-hour day, and they know that probably they've got to take leave the next night, because they're not going to get any sleep. So, you've got officers that now you've got officers that have to go to court, and they've got to come back that night for work, they're not alert. They're not going to be there, because they've had half a day's sleep, and so it just — just the alertness of the officers, the fatigue, the extended hours, the boredom — the boredom — has taken a heavy toll on the officers and what they are. And what we did to combat some of that is we're trying to put a good rotation of officers downtown, more of two weeks on, and then two weeks back at your station. And so far, that's working out for the most part.

- Mark Schoepfle: That's really helpful. Okay. What kind of arrests were getting missed? I mean, were there certain categories that tended to be ignored or what?
- Henry Berberich: Yes. Well, it was a across the board, and they had traffic arrests were down; criminal arrests were down; drug arrests were down, many of the vehicular. Again, it goes with a number of things. Number one is the extra officers, the tactical patrols, the plainclothesmen in the scooters, they were in fixed posts, so the arrests were down, immediately, because the tactical officers —
- Mark Schoepfle: It's they're not there looking for them?
- Henry Berberich: Yes. The tactical officers go out; their job is to arrest people. They're not the normal patrol officers that handle the radio calls. If I have a drug problem in the park, I send my plainclothesmen, and my scooters in there, and people go to jail.
- Henry Berberich: And we're not able to do that, because they're going to the Washington Monument or the White House, they're on fixed posts, because there were so many fixed posts, and so many resources committed.
- Mark Schoepfle: Yeah. Keeping an eye on keep going.
- Henry Berberich: Oh, I don't know if you have any more questions for me, or what do you want me to do?
- Mark Schoepfle: Well, this is all very important. I know this detail may sound tedious and obvious to you, but for somebody like me that doesn't have any knowledge of these kind of things, and for a reader who's going to be looking at this thing you know having no clue about this sort of thing, this the detail you're giving me is really, really helpful. It really is, and very interesting to me, personally.

- Mark Schoepfle: You mentioned beforehand some of the a couple of the lessons learned, regarding information. Are there other lessons learned in this kind of thing that you would like to pass on? Well, you've now had a while I got well, before I get yes, go ahead to lessons learned. I have another question, as well.
- Henry Berberich: Well, we did it after action. We looked at our initial response, and we know that there are things we can do better. And our call-in procedures, how we get officers in, it made us review a lot of our emergency plans; it made us look at how vulnerable we actually really are, and we were able to now reinforce a number of areas. It worked I'll tell you what, the big thing it did, it woke people up, and without getting very political about this, two weeks before and this goes to the history of the Park Police.
- Henry Berberich: Two weeks before 9/11, we get a report; it's called the NAPA report. there was an external study done on the United States Park Police, and basically it was so critical of our organization, and wanted to replace us in so many different venues wanted to cut our money. It said we didn't do our job right; said we didn't manage our money; wanted to take away and cut us basically, cut us in half basically, cut our legs off right? but the unfortunate events of 9/11 woke people up, and especially political people, and really had them take a hard look at what some of these recommendations are, and what they wanted to do to a Police Department that protects lands as valuable as the ones that we protect. Where I was very down before 9/11, we felt that we weren't getting support in a lot of areas, and people were looking to cut the United States Park Police up into little pieces.
- Henry Berberich: And the tragic events of 9/11 have just woken people up on how valuable Police and Fire actually are, and what services we provide, and I think that our officers are better for it, because it woke up our officers, too. It woke us all up, and we know how vulnerable we really are.
- Mark Schoepfle: Mmhmm. When you're saying how vulnerable we really are, what does that mean?
- Henry Berberich: Well, we can take any of the monuments and memorials, and we look at the potential different scenarios that can come across, and how we could best protect them, and we saw holes. Where we had had two years ago; this has been going on since August of '98. In August of '98, they bombed the embassies in Africa, so the events of 9/11 are just a continuation of the bombing — this has been going on for two and a half years; we've been under different terrorist alerts. And another study was done by Booz Allen and recommended a number of security changes. Well, by '99, only a few of them were implemented.

Henry Berberich

Mark Schoepfle:	This is in the Park Service?
Henry Berberich:	Yes. Only a few of them were implemented. I really felt that it kind of lost its steam, and then by 2000, they studied the Park Police, and they started to cut us up. People forgot what happened in '98, and then the events of 9/11 just woke everyone up, and said, boy, with what's out there, I think we need to hold on to our law enforcement people, and our firefighters, because we're the first line.
Mark Schoepfle:	Mmhmm. Has there been more support? I mean, have there been tangible indicators of more support?
Henry Berberich:	Absolutely. Absolutely.
Mark Schoepfle:	For example?
Henry Berberich:	The Park Police put in for anti-terrorism money for fiscal 2002, and I think that we will get \$24 to \$25 million dollars to fight terrorism this fiscal year.
Mark Schoepfle:	Good!
Henry Berberich:	And there's a fiscal 2003 — there is money, too — I don't have the numbers, but I'm hearing around \$10 million — \$8 to \$10 million in 2003.
Mark Schoepfle:	\$8 to \$10 million more, on top of the \$24-\$25?
Henry Berberich:	No. This was 2003. It will be \$8 to \$10 million for the next fiscal year, and in our National Park Service, who also gets money to reinforce physical security measures downtown. It's really pushed by the — there was a project to secure the Washington Monument grounds — a pilot project — which ran into some snags, and needed some more money, and money has been appropriated — more money has been appropriated to work out some of these difficulties.
Henry Berberich:	I think within the near future, we're going to be able to — we'll be able to finish that our closed-circuit TV project. After August of '98, we all believed that closed circuit TV monitoring was needed at all the monuments and memorials. Again, in '99, we lost a little bit, but that's one forefront. I would say that between the next six to eight months, all the monuments and memorials will have closed circuit TVs and monitors and reporting to the building.

Henry Berberich:	And when the Washington Monument opens — it should open very shortly — the Washington Monument will have the best—the highest level of security that it has had. Anybody going in — a visitor now will go through a magnetometer, and their bags on the X-ray. The X-ray machine is already installed. And the White House Visitor Center and the Commerce Department has now married that, and all bags are going to be X-rayed — for White House users.
Mark Schoepfle:	That's interesting. So — but this all happened, that the Washington Monument now is going to get take on at the White House?
Henry Berberich:	Oh, the White House Visitor Center.
Mark Schoepfle:	The Visitor Center?
Henry Berberich:	Yes. This is the Park Service Interpretive Center.
Mark Schoepfle:	Yes.
Henry Berberich:	Okay. They're going to — it will all be installed; the magnetometers, the X-ray machines, which are coming now, and there's a contract guard force there, who with our Park Police – as the baggage men. Yes. That was pressure from the Commerce Department. See, the Commerce Department went on heightened security, and they looked at their building, because that's part of the Commerce Department, and so well, you know, we check everything going in our building, but the Park Service side has free access, and people on check, so there was a lot of pressure. We were advised that the Secretary of Interior had directed the Park Service that the Chief of Park Police, and they said we needed to provide security, and the next day we were there. And that's going to continue. The legacy for this is it's going to cost a lot of money, but I think that in this wake-up call that the Park Police — we're down a number of officers. I think we're down something like 180 officers that —
Mark Schoepfle:	There's this many? That's quite a few.
Henry Berberich:	There was good talk about us back to where we need to be for personnel.
Mark Schoepfle:	When you're saying back to where we need to be, where was — what would that have originally been?
Henry Berberich:	We need to — we believe that we need 806 officers to do our job, and this is including New York and San Francisco, and we're at 620 something right now.
Mark Schoepfle:	I see.

Henry Berberich:	And then, the events being New York and San Francisco, I guess somebody is doing something in New York, because the Park Police had a big role in the World Trade Center.
Mark Schoepfle:	Oh, yes!
Henry Berberich:	And I guess somebody's doing that. And then the San Francisco Field Office has a role in providing security to the Golden Gate Bridge, and they were on different stages of alert, because they were getting — remember when the information came out that the bridges were going to be attacked, that the California bridges —
Mark Schoepfle:	Oh, yes.
Henry Berberich:	Yes. And they provided security for the Golden Gate Bridge, because — for a while.
Mark Schoepfle:	Oh, yes. That's right. And, in fact, I really ought to call some of those folks, too. As much as I'd like to go out and visit them in person.
Henry Berberich:	Yes. Well, [do] you want to call somebody out there? I can — or I can put somebody in touch with you.
Mark Schoepfle:	Sure. Yes. That would be great.
Henry Berberich:	The Major out there is Major Gretchen Merkle — M-e-r-k-l-e.
Mark Schoepfle:	Great.
Henry Berberich:	And her administrative captain out there, if you want — if she's not in — is Lieutenant Robert — Captain Robert Kass — K-a-s-s.
Mark Schoepfle:	K-a-s-s?
Henry Berberich:	Yes.
Mark Schoepfle:	Uh huh. That's great!
Henry Berberich:	And they can fill you in on their role. And also, another role that they played — oh, that was something else. Well, they can provide you on what they did out there, because I don't know if they got tied into any of the dam security or not, because —
Mark Schoepfle:	It certainly does not hurt to check. It's just a phone call. I'd be glad to do that.
Henry Berberich:	Yes.
Mark Schoepfle:	I know you're pretty busy, and I really appreciate your time on this. One other question, which is you had mentioned at the beginning that things have really not ever quite gotten back to normal yet, simply because of the

NPS History Collect	ion H	enry Berberich	December 20, 2001
	-	ecurity, the 12-hour shifts, and a ch you might figure that there's r	-
Henry Berberich:	anymore, and like I rules on us. We can 11th, and I think we	The problem is that we can't def said before, we characterize it as never go back to where we were c'll be adjusting our personnel re ry slowly, and we will probably han we had before.	s that they change the e before September sources. However, it's
Mark Schoepfle:	On the fixed guard	— fixed post guard duty?	
Henry Berberich:	looking for the amo and memorials, and just to try to find so	ent to the White House is extensi unt of personnel we need to prot it's higher than it's ever been. It me balance, and while we're stil to find any balance.	ect the monuments t's not going back. It's
Mark Schoepfle:		have in your mind's eye any vis ke? I know it's a weird question.	sion of what that
Henry Berberich:	January. We're actu have the reduction of is going to take place circuit TV in place, there's no vehicular bombs in, I think as on our manpower. He downtown; the more	bjecting — we're going to do some ally going to try to go to a volum of a couple of posts, and then I the e probably by this summer. Once and once all the areas that have access, so there's no way to get long as nothing else happens, the But long-range is there will be mouments and memorials will be us ashington the monument will have	teer task force. We do hink the next transition we we have closed been fortified, and any truck or car hat we can further rely ore officers nder closed circuit TV
Mark Schoepfle:	Okay. So, once you force?	get — you're going to be up —	an all-volunteer task
Henry Berberich:	Yes.		
Mark Schoepfle:	I'm not sure what th	nat is.	
Henry Berberich:	downtown, we're g	o get — we're going to — the ac oing to go to volunteers, because ays. Okay? And we want to retu	remember it's going
Henry Berberich:	-	80 percent of the force to norma of volunteer officers that like to v how long it can go.	•

NPS History Collect	on Henry Berberic	ch D	ecember 20, 2001
Henry Berberich:	And by next spring, we'll have an at further talent in detail, dependic circuit TV monitoring, because it an officer in some spots.	ing on the implementation	on of the closed-
Mark Schoepfle:	Ah, okay. So, when you're able to probably more subtly, and probably more precisely by this volunteer so of the closed circuit, and when you and just have more people downt an equilibrium, or a new balance	bly with better — what's system, when you get to ou have some basic forti- cown to start with, there y	s the word? — the eyes and ears fications set up,
Henry Berberich:	Yes, yes, yes. It will normal, but and again, it's solely contingent u	•	s. We hope to —
Henry Berberich:	I mean, if another event happens, Washington, all bets are off, and so much uncertainty, and there's there's — so many venues—	I guess that's our appreh	nension; there's
END OF TAPE			
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Mark Schoepfle:	So that, basically, with all this in the major problem is still going to are totally off, and it becomes tot	o be if something else ha	appens, all bets
Henry Berberich:	Yes, absolutely. Totally unpredic resources depending on whatever anything that happens.		•
Mark Schoepfle:	Because so far, so good, this was these different venues and possib knows?	•	
Henry Berberich:	I tell you what. If you look at what fortified?	at has happened — the a	irlines have been
Mark Schoepfle:	Yes.		
Henry Berberich:	To be honest with you, OK, if a h think they are going to have to fig think the awareness is there that h scheme of things for a terrorist.	ght all hundred and twen	nty passengers. I
Mark Schoepfle:	So, no terrorist with any brains at	t all is going to try the sa	ime act again.

Henry Berberich: Absolutely no. If they had any brains, they are going to do something else. And really, we have the strong potential — if you look at the bombings in Africa, 18 even Oklahoma City — we have to watch for a car or truck getting even close to us with explosives. If you take that scenario, I mean, we also have the scenario of the suicide bomber, but then that person loses his life. But to take a car or a truck full of explosives, leave it and walk away —

Mark Schoepfle: You do that all — many times you cannot get caught.

Henry Berberich: Yes. That scenario has raised his ugly head. And I think there is a strong potential for another act that would be another Africa. So, we are on guard for that. And we have actually — Park Services put jersey barriers around the Jefferson and the Lincoln. And you really can't fly on the east side of the Lincoln where the Tourmobile went from. We have cut their service. They are no longer to drive through that anymore. And hopefully that will continue. We meet with the Park Service next year. But right now, through the holidays we are not allowing them to go through there. The Park Service surrounded the Lincoln Memorial with jersey barriers before — two hundred and forty jersey barriers. And the Jefferson has a combination of jersey barriers and flowerpots, the big heavy flowerpots. You can't drive behind the plazas anymore. Our concern is a truck or a car bomb. It's really disconcerting, and certainly, a great concern for a Chem-Biohazard.

- Mark Schoepfle: Are you all getting any kind preparation or help or support for Chem-Bio, because that to me sounds like a really difficult issue?
- Henry Berberich: It is an extremely difficult issue. Are things moving as fast as one would like? Probably not. With this terrorism money we can buy equipment for Chem-Bio. There are procedures implemented here. There is a multijurisdiction Chem-Bio response. And it is run right out of one of your neighbors here. The Council of Government. They are right here on North Capitol Street. They have coordinated and put together a multi-discipline strike team here. But Chem-Bio is more training, more equipment, more resources. We are not there yet. We are still in need of a lot more.
- Mark Schoepfle: Sure. One other thing, when you were going through all this, several of the superintendents I have talked when we are getting out say as far as Catoctin and some of the other parks, we are talking about the communication and coordination center there in Shenandoah. Was that of any relevance to you at all during this?

Henry Berberich:	I am not sure. I really have to check with our communications people. I am not sure where the central communications information went to. I am not sure if they reported to Shenandoah or not. Early on in this, I know we had — it may have jumped Shenandoah because everyone had to report to the Department of Interior and the Department of Interior has a whole other side to this, what they have done with their security upgrades. If you're doing something here, they bring in rangers from throughout the United States, park rangers, through the Department of Interior high Security there. It is multi-discipline. It is rangers. It is BLM. It is — other interior law enforcement agencies providing building security. We couldn't do it. Even if it was offered to us, we couldn't do it.
Mark Schoepfle:	This is — I am sure I really could go on. And I know you have got a lot of other things to do. And I really appreciate your time on this. Are there other people that you recommend that I should talk to?
Henry Berberich:	Within the Park Police?
Mark Schoepfle:	Yes.
Henry Berberich:	I tell you what, let me go back. I have to get a copy of the memo. And that was written by a special forces branch, and probably Captain Sal Lauro. I think he was the author for the most part of that document. And he could probably give you our overall response. The helicopter unit, and the motorcycle unit, the officers that responded to the Pentagon were under his command.
Mark Schoepfle:	Okay, great. And so, what can I do? I can probably just call you about next week some time if you had some time to look through and —
Henry Berberich:	Okay. And I hope to get that — I have to find a copy of it — I hope to get that copy to you next week as well. And again, they may have to sanitize it if it is going to go into the public domain because of the Secretary of Interior.
Mark Schoepfle:	That would be the safest thing to do because once it falls into our hands, we may be sufficiently subject to FOIA [Freedom of Information Act]. I am almost sure of it, that we would have to give it over. So, whatever you have to do. Or if you can't, well, I understand that, too.
Henry Berberich:	I will look at it because now it is going to tell you — yes, I will look at it because it will probably tell you the security measures around The White House. And there may be a lot of stuff in there that you wouldn't want to add to the report.
Mark Schoepfle:	Understood. Are there any other points that should be made that I have failed to ask about?

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Henry Berberich:	you kind of refree the way to do it.	and think of them. You know, the mo- esh my recollection of things that hap If I have more time, or a couple mor- uld come up with some other things	pened. I guess that is e days to reflect upon
Henry Berberich:	<i>.</i>	gh the grace of God, we were okay. A ed on our park land. And we consider	e
Mark Schoepfle:	No significant in is no significant	cident. From what you are describing incident —	g to me today, if that
Henry Berberich:	And we weren't	ood thing. And we were prepared. W tested. We were tested a little bit. Ar put in place worked.	
Mark Schoepfle:	That is great. An would like [to] a	y questions about what we are doing sk?	or about me that you
Henry Berberich:	U.S. Park Police — the roadblock I was going back ago. If people we have been very e	ry is good. I was involved in writing And history is very important. And s that I came across on trying to rese to some events that happened fifteer ould have done what you are doing n easy. And that is one of our greatest d nat we can do a better job of preserva when we should.	I can only imagine arch different events, n or twenty years ow, my job would lrawbacks from the
Mark Schoepfle:	Great. I am glad	we can be here of service for that.	
Henry Berberich:	This is good. Th report or —	is is good. And you are going to publ	ish some sort of
Mark Schoepfle:	was first discuss that is what is of involving ethnog of the report. In the idea that we observations and out to people. So we are going to o	ape recorder on. Why not? This is his ed, the original goal was to get tapes ten done from a historical standpoint graphers, we tend to be directed more other words, we will do the interview take our basic data, the field notes, or interviews, and direct them toward a b, the issue is, therefore — it is going do it. And I can't believe that other po- s doing it. So, it is going to happen.	into archives because . When you are toward the issuing ving but always with r whatever else, our a report which goes to get done because
Henry Berberich:	was done to the	u want to go one day and ride downto Lincoln and the Washington Monum ers. I can certainly arrange that.	

- Mark Schoepfle: That would be great. And just to guarantee, even if we don't have the time at this point — we are looking at sort of the end of January to really start moving on an initial report — I am assuming that one of the main reasons we want to report is — once you have a document like that, it stays on the Park Services screen. My concern personally — I don't know if this is Park Service or not — but my personal concern would be that you do these things, put them on a tape, they get archived — bye. That is all you are going to hear about it unless some historian comes in later on and wants to do something years from now. If it is in a report form, it is getting circulated around, people are reading it. Then it stays on the screen and we get the go ahead to do more.
- Henry Berberich: Yes, and it stays on the screen forever. Because many things that we did in the past, we can't recreate anymore.
- Mark Schoepfle: And this history isn't done yet either.
- Henry Berberich: Oh, no. This is very much welcome.
- Mark Schoepfle: Yes, with that in mind, if we don't get to downtown immediately, I would still like to do it. And definitely want to keep that in mind.
- Henry Berberich: Yes, sure. Just keep my card handy. And maybe we could talk from time to time. And I will find a key person to talk to you about the rest of the force. I think it is going to be Sal Lauro probably. If our Public Information Officer did his job, and he may very well have done it, any news articles that had the Park Police mentioned in it during this time period, they should have collected. And I can check and see if they are available That is their job.
- Mark Schoepfle: Excellent.
- Henry Berberich: Because they the way that they are supposed to one of the duties of Public Information Officer, and depending on who is in there, they get to read the paper every day. That is their job. And they cut and paste and then archive our history as it is recorded in the public. So, those things should be saved. And throughout the years, some people did it good, and some people didn't do it at all. And we have had some major accidents that we can't even find we don't even have a newspaper article on. And it is tragic. And I am involved in restoring the archives of the Park Police. And we are starting a museum over in I am collecting the artifacts, historical artifacts as they are going over to our Anacostia facility. So, we did a three-phase effort to restore our history. One is we wrote a history book. One is to restore our archives. And then the other one is to create a museum of artifacts.

Mark Schoepfle: Is it getting — this is definitely in the mill.

Henry Berberich:	Yes, the book will be out next — it took us two years — the book will be out probably around mid-January. And if you would like to see a copy, I would be happy to provide a copy for you.	
Mark Schoepfle:	I would love to. Yes.	
Henry Berberich:	And the history, the only thing is it ends. The history — it is already out of date because of $9/11$.	
Mark Schoepfle:	as usual.	
Henry Berberich:	Yes. Events end April 2000 in the history book. But it details greatly of where we are and where we came from, and a lot of major events.	
Mark Schoepfle:	I can still remember all the way through nineties being here, before I ever even came to work here. You know, hearing and reading in The Washington Post about how the people in the projects were referring to you all as "the Parks" because during the crime waves and everything when you all were pulling duty with the —	
Henry Berberich:	Metropolitan police. That's the Task force in the mid-nineties — it got national attention and recognition. And that was preserved, with photographs and stuff.	
Mark Schoepfle:	I hope so.	
Henry Berberich:	Yes. But we are our own enemy when it comes to preservation history. And I remember having done a lot to restore our history. And like I said, this is great stuff. This is absolutely wonderful because this — we wrote a three-page interaction report, but no one will go into depth and report this the way you are doing it right now for other organizations. So, this is very helpful for us.	
Mark Schoepfle:	Great, because this is what I like to do.	
Henry Berberich:	That is the key part, because ten years from now, when a lot of us, we want to look back at what we did, you provided a record of it. That is wonderful. So, I welcome the ability and the time to help.	
Mark Schoepfle:	Okay. And also, when a report comes out, you will be on a list for it. And we will do everything we can to keep in touch with you and to see how this is going.	
Henry Berberich:	And if you have any more projects down the line that you think the Park Police are involved in, let me know.	
Mark Schoepfle:	Excellent. Great.	
END OF TAPE		