

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

COMMON CAUSE, et al.,)
)
Plaintiffs,)
vs.) Civil Action No.
) 1:16-CV-2016-WO-JEP
ROBERT A. RUCHO, in his)
official capacity as Chairman)
of the North Carolina Senate)
Redistricting Committee for the)
2016 Extra Session and)
Co-Chairman of the Joint Select)
Committee on Congressional)
Redistricting, et al.,)
)
Defendants.)
)
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTH)
CAROLINA, et al.,)
)
Plaintiffs,)
vs.) Civil Action No.
) 1:16-CV-1164
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official capacity as Chairman)
of the North Carolina Senate)
Redistricting Committee for the)
2016 Extra Session and)
Co-Chairman of the 2016 Joint)
Select Committee on)
Congressional Redistricting,)
et al,)
)
Defendants.)
)

DEPOSITION OF MARIA PALMER

1:09 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017

SOUTHERN COALITION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
1415 WEST HIGHWAY 54, SUITE 101
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

1 Does this correctly state your name and
2 address under the voter details on the first
3 page?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And then you reside in Orange county, correct?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. And you're a registered Democrat?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. How long have you been a registered Democrat?

10 A. In North Carolina?

11 Q. Yes, ma'am.

12 A. Since I registered in '94, before graduate
13 school.

14 Q. Have you been registered in any other states?

15 A. In Kentucky, in Alabama -- no, not in Alabama.
16 In Kentucky. In West Virginia. Where else have
17 we lived? West Virginia. North Carolina. I
18 can't remember if I moved my registration to
19 Virginia when I was there, but mostly we were
20 there during summers and there wouldn't have
21 been an election. So I think just those three
22 states.

23 Q. Okay. And since you've been registered to vote,
24 if you could register and affiliate with a
25 political party --

1 A. I've always been a Democrat. Right. Correct.

2 Q. And is this -- does this sheet here accurately
3 reflect your polling place on election day?

4 A. Polling place, yes.

5 It does not accurately reflect my
6 ethnicity because when I registered, Hispanic
7 was not a choice available.

8 Q. But you would have marked Hispanic?

9 A. Right.

10 Q. All right. And where the heading says
11 Jurisdictions here, do the -- does this
12 accurately reflect the precinct and
13 congressional district that you live in?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. So you live in the 4th Congressional District
16 right now?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. And do the other districts appear to be
19 accurate?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So if we look at the next, I guess, three pages,
22 there's a voter history there. I want you to
23 take a moment to look at this -- and I know this
24 is asking a lot to ask you to go back in your
25 memory this far, but can you take a look at the

1 Q. Did you understand that the interrogatory
2 responses that you answered were done under
3 oath?

4 A. Yes, I did.

5 Q. And so as we go through these and look at these
6 responses today, if you see anything that isn't
7 accurate in these responses, will you let me
8 know?

9 A. Sure.

10 Q. Let's look at Interrogatory Number 1 first.
11 Part A just asks your name, birth date and all
12 that. Does all that appear to be correct here?

13 A. Number 1?

14 Q. Interrogatory number 1(a). I'm sorry, it's on
15 Page 3.

16 A. Okay. Yes.

17 Q. And then in (b) you were asked whether you voted
18 for a candidate running for Congress in 2016.
19 Do you see that?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you said that you did.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And was your candidate of choice elected in 2016
24 for Congress?

25 A. David Price was elected. The candidate I voted

1 for was elected, yes.

2 Q. And this says that you have voted in every
3 congressional election since 2002; is that
4 right?

5 A. That's correct.

6 Q. And from 2002 to 2016 you were assigned to the
7 4th Congressional District; is that right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So really since 2002 David Price has been your
10 representative?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. And was he your candidate of choice in each of
13 those elections?

14 A. Well, I like him well enough. Yeah.

15 Q. So he was the candidate you supported in all
16 these elections?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And he was -- he never lost any of those
19 elections?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. Now, I think I asked you about this with respect
22 to the Town of Chapel Hill already, but have you
23 ever been involved in any type of redistricting
24 process? I know you haven't in Chapel Hill, but
25 any other type of redistricting process?

1 hear the interesting stories and that I would
2 know more -- because I have my undergraduate
3 degree in history, I taught history, and I
4 thought, you know, I wouldn't have to study or
5 read anything or I would just enjoy Justice
6 Frye, but I learned a whole lot especially about
7 that issue.

8 Q. Now, was it a class that you had enrolled in, or
9 was it just a thing that was offered to the
10 community and anybody could come?

11 A. No. It's a class. It's a class. In fact, I
12 was not happy because I had to pay taxes. It's
13 a benefit. You get a free class if you work in
14 the institution, but then it's considered -- the
15 money that you would have paid is considered a
16 benefit, so you end up having to pay taxes on
17 your free class. So anyway, I didn't think that
18 was fair.

19 Q. So from that or anything else do you know what
20 types of considerations affect how lines are
21 drawn during the redistricting process?

22 A. There are considerations of counties on
23 maintaining the integrity of -- of counties and
24 communities and trying -- obviously there are
25 always political considerations, always. I

1 think we talked about the need for there to
2 be -- to be balance because the party that's in
3 power drawing the lines is not always -- I mean,
4 you know, it's like when your mother says you
5 cut the cake and you pick the piece, you know,
6 that -- that if you're fair, you know, everybody
7 benefits.

8 So we talked about representation of
9 the vote, that -- that the districts -- the
10 congressional delegation should reflect the
11 voting patterns of the -- of the state, you
12 know. There's something not right about a
13 county that's predominantly Democratic being
14 represented by a Republican because the district
15 was drawn in such a way that -- so we talked
16 about representation of the people.

17 We talked about geography, and we
18 talked about the politics involved and
19 compromises. You know, I learned -- one thing
20 that Justice Frye said was, you know, politics
21 is not a bad word, it's how we allocate
22 resources and it's how we govern ourselves. So
23 he was -- I think he was trying to make us more
24 civic-minded and to pay attention to the details
25 of the democratic process.

1 and the passion. If I can find that person, you
2 know, it's nice to feel that somebody is doing
3 it, but --

4 Q. You say in response to Interrogatory 4 that you
5 became a plaintiff because you served Democratic
6 voters throughout the state who were adversely
7 affected by the 2016 Congressional Redistricting
8 Plan.

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. What do you mean by that?

11 A. Well, when you become known in a community, you
12 end up going everywhere. I -- for example, I
13 helped -- I represented the Hispanic Caucus of
14 the Democratic Party of North Carolina when we
15 came up with the platform for the state
16 Democratic Party. So to do that, of course, I
17 had to communicate with different Hispanic
18 caucuses in other places.

19 So you become known and people start
20 calling you, hey, can you help us recruit a
21 candidate for our county, you know, no Democrats
22 are going to run here and we don't think that's
23 good, or calling me and saying can you come to
24 our church and talk about the elections or, you
25 know, some of my students, my former students

1 from A&T are saying, Dr. Palmer, can you -- you
2 know, who do I need to vote for, you know,
3 what's going on now at, you know, this company.
4 A lot of my A&T students are engineers, you
5 know, working in Charlotte and other places.

6 So you become very aware of the
7 political -- the harm that -- that this
8 community's experiencing, registered Democrats
9 in counties and areas where they have no voice.
10 And, you know, I felt like I was almost like I
11 was wasting my time.

12 I'll give you an example. I was asked
13 to help with the Black Brown Coalition of
14 Alamance and Guilford county and we were trying
15 to bring to the attention of our elected
16 officials the issues with the Dream Act, with
17 police brutality, things that have to be dealt
18 with at the national level. And we had a forum,
19 two-day forum, and sheriff -- it may have been
20 the sheriff deputy, but it got a little
21 contentious, and he said, well, we know you guys
22 didn't vote, didn't elect these people.

23 So, I mean, one of them -- one of the
24 persons who had said was going to show up didn't
25 show up and people were very upset, you know,

1 calling and he basically told us, well, you
2 didn't elect them, you know, so why are they
3 going to come talk to you. It's like -- and I'm
4 thinking I'm -- I'm teaching the opposite of
5 what I want to teach because I want to teach
6 civic engagement and that you shouldn't take the
7 law into your own hands. You should change the
8 law. You should advocate. You should vote.
9 You should participate. So I organize, these
10 people show up and then they see their vote
11 doesn't matter. So it was a rude awakening.

12 And I have -- I have a friend in
13 Catawba county that -- no, not Catawba. Watauga
14 county where App State is, that's where Watauga
15 county is, yeah, because my son went to school
16 there and met this guy and he wanted me to come
17 over and help him reach out and do voter
18 registration, and I thought I'm going to spend a
19 lot of time and energy and it's not going to
20 make any difference. So I ended up not going to
21 Watauga county, but, you know.

22 Q. Well, so let me back up a minute here so I
23 understand what you're saying. This forum that
24 you talked about where people didn't show up,
25 who was it specifically that didn't show up?

1 Q. Several years ago?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. So before 2016? Before last year?

4 A. Yeah. That had more to do with race and --
5 yeah, you're right. Sorry. Scratch that.

6 Q. So I want to get back to your statement here
7 that you said that -- I think the phrase you
8 used was registered Democrats had been harmed.

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. Can you explain that to me.

11 A. Why would registered Democrats be harmed?

12 Q. By the congressional redistricting, yes.

13 A. Because their voice is diluted so completely
14 that their issues are not heard or represented.
15 And in North Carolina, immigration is a perfect
16 example, and there are so many others.

17 Healthcare, you know, hospitals are closing and
18 we didn't expand Medicaid and just so many
19 issues that Democrats support that nobody
20 carried our message to Washington because we
21 didn't have representation.

22 So when you don't have representation
23 and you don't have a voice, I think that harms
24 our whole democracy. Of course, it doesn't just
25 harm Democrats, but because their issues and

1 their voice are not represented, it harms them.
2 I think it harms -- having a weak democracy
3 hurts everybody, right. I think that, but I
4 don't think -- I don't -- if people are happy
5 with being in power and having a government
6 that's not very democratic, I don't think that
7 they could claim that they're being hurt by, you
8 know, electing the people that are going to do
9 exactly what they're told to do, but if you're a
10 Democrat and you don't have a chance to elect
11 somebody that can carry your message, then
12 you're going to be hurt.

13 Q. Now, how did Democrats not have a chance to
14 elect someone who could carry their message?
15 Because I think you testified that at least
16 since 2002 David Price had been winning in your
17 district.

18 A. Yeah, but he won and -- you know, you have
19 packed into these districts these incredibly
20 ridiculous number of Democrats who really should
21 be challenging -- should be able to challenge
22 Republicans in other -- if the districts were
23 fairly drawn, those folks would have to be
24 responsive to the voters. If there was a chance
25 that they weren't going to be reelected, they

1 would -- and that's where that forum really does
2 matter to me because it was just an example. We
3 know you all didn't vote for us, why are we
4 going to come, you know.

5 So I don't know that it had anything to
6 do with redistricting at that point, but I have
7 felt that as a Hispanic and as an immigrant and
8 I have felt it as a Democrat in North Carolina.
9 When you are -- I mean, I've gone to the General
10 Assembly and to the -- I've gone to Washington
11 too. My husband and I, September 17th
12 Constitution Day, and on a couple of occasions
13 we have joined, you know, with the NALEO,
14 National Association of Latino Elected
15 Officials, to go to Washington, and it is just
16 amazing how David Price is always really nice
17 and, you know, shakes our hand and thank you for
18 coming. Nobody else gives you the time of day,
19 you know.

20 Q. Well, have you reached out to anybody else?

21 A. Oh, yeah.

22 Q. Who else?

23 A. We had the sheet, you know, and went and knocked
24 on doors, you know how those lobbying days go.

25 I'm sorry, you know, no time, no -- and it's

1 because I'm from the 4th Congressional District
2 and they've already said, you know, we're giving
3 you guys that and we don't have to listen to
4 you.

5 So we have -- in places where there are
6 strong Democrats that have been split, a few
7 here, a few there, a few here, the people that
8 are elected from those districts don't have to
9 listen to them because there are not enough of
10 them to matter, and the places where they're all
11 packed in, you know, they already know, okay,
12 that doesn't count.

13 So in the end, your message is just
14 not -- doesn't get -- doesn't get amplified in
15 the -- in the corridors of power, you know, it
16 just doesn't. Here you are a little voice going
17 door to door and --

18 Q. Have you tried to reach out to anybody since the
19 beginning of the year who did not respond to
20 you?

21 A. I got a form letter back on immigration raids
22 that was really funny because --

23 Q. Who was that from?

24 A. I don't know.

25 Q. Was it a Member of Congress?

1 going to put there, how many Republicans.
2 Because then you are deciding whose voice is
3 going to -- you know, you can have computer
4 models, you can have -- I don't know, I'm sure
5 there are experts. I'm not an expert so I
6 probably would mess it up, you know, if I tried
7 to do it.

8 But there have to be neutral criteria
9 that fairly divide the population, and I think
10 if you end up with a 10-3, that doesn't
11 reflect -- I mean, I don't think you would ever
12 end up with a 10-3 if you started out with a
13 population and fairly grouped without looking,
14 oh, how many Democrats are we going to put here,
15 how many Republicans.

16 Q. Well, now, so you raise a good point is that the
17 geography affects who's in a district, right?

18 A. Right.

19 Q. So if you were drawing districts based upon
20 where people live, some areas of our state are
21 more Republican than others, aren't they?

22 A. Uh-huh, right.

23 Q. The Triangle area is more Democratic?

24 A. Right. You would end up with different --

25 Q. Orange county is probably always going to be in

1 a Democratic district, Orange and Durham
2 together?

3 A. Well, if you put them together more, but why
4 wouldn't you also consider putting Orange and
5 Alamance, you know, and what is this of getting
6 Greensboro and cutting it in half and making
7 sure that they don't have -- you know.

8 I mean, obviously I can tell you what a
9 fair map doesn't look like. It doesn't look
10 like what we have now. I can't tell you how I
11 would make it fair right now, but I know there
12 have to be experts that could help us design
13 that and help us get to a fair representation.

14 Q. Well, you keep mentioning these breakdowns. You
15 say 10-3, and I assume you're talking about the
16 partisan breakdown, the number of Members of
17 Congress who are currently elected who are
18 Republicans and the Members of Congress who are
19 currently elected as Democrats in the entire
20 state, right?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. What kind of partisan breakdown would you think
23 is fair or one that is not gerrymandered?

24 A. Well, one that represents the population as a
25 whole. 6-7 or 5-8, I think, but I don't -- I

1 can't tell you exactly, but one where folks have
2 a -- where more districts are competitive. You
3 know, there always will be districts where the
4 primary is a real election, right, and you're
5 right, Orange county probably is one, but it
6 doesn't have to be that way. It can be less
7 that way.

8 Q. But if David Price, for example, stopped being
9 responsive to you, you could run against him in
10 a primary, couldn't you?

11 A. Yeah. We'd elect a different Democrat, yeah.

12 Q. So that would be one way you could deal with the
13 responsiveness issue, right?

14 A. Yep. The -- yeah, but it wouldn't make a
15 difference as far as the national politics. I
16 mean, we'd be switching -- and it's true,
17 Congressional -- what do you call that --
18 Constituent Services is really poor, I grant you
19 that, but I wouldn't vote -- even if David Price
20 didn't -- wasn't as helpful as he tries to be to
21 me, his politics are more important than whether
22 or not he's going to answer my phone call at
23 this point because he's carrying my message to
24 Congress and he's only one of three, so...

25 Q. And by that -- what do you mean "his politics"?

1 You mean the fact that he's going to go to
2 Washington and vote the Democratic Party line?
3 Is that what you're thinking?

4 A. Yeah. He's going to protect Obama -- the
5 Affordable Care Act. He's going to not vote,
6 you know, to increase military spending when the
7 military don't think that it's needed. He's not
8 going to -- he's going to put money -- not money
9 but resources and finances into solar energy and
10 is not going to disavow climate change, you
11 know, those kinds of things that I think matter
12 so much to the future of my children and the
13 country, so...

14 Q. So if there was a Republican who supported those
15 issues, would you vote for them?

16 A. Not in this climate because they would get -- I
17 mean, you saw what happened this week on TV.
18 You know, "We're going to have to come after
19 you" is what the president told some Republicans
20 if they don't vote the party line, You know,
21 even if their conscience tells them, no, that's
22 not correct.

23 So, no, I could not vote for a
24 Republican. Why would they be a Republican if
25 they believed, you know -- if their leadership

1 are saying climate change is a hoax, they
2 wouldn't have any integrity, you know.
3 But I'm one of the lucky ones that, you
4 know, can vote for a Democrat who has a chance,
5 but, again, it wouldn't matter. In Orange
6 county, if I don't vote, he'd still get elected
7 because of gerrymandering. So that means my
8 voice counts less.

9 Q. Now, if all the people who believe like you do
10 who live in Orange county and didn't vote --

11 A. You know, but you know what I mean. It -- it
12 means your vote counts for less. It's just a
13 little piece of the pie instead of your vote
14 making a real difference, you know.

15 Q. I guess that's what I have a little trouble
16 understanding in this is how is it that your
17 vote counts any less than the vote of someone
18 who's in a district that elects a Republican?
19 Because your vote counts as one vote and their
20 vote counts as one vote. Can you explain that
21 to me?

22 A. Yes. You probably have read the complaint. You
23 know, it's the wasted votes that -- when you --
24 I mean, anybody can do the math. You know, when
25 you're doing the get-out-the-vote and you

1 person out.

2 Q. Well, have you thought about moving to Alamance
3 county, next door, to consider -- under your
4 theory your vote would have more weight?

5 A. Actually, I have applied for a couple of jobs.
6 I had an interview at App State. Western
7 Carolina was one of the few places that had
8 openings that both my husband and I could work
9 together.

10 I am very involved in politics and
11 moving to a county where I am -- you know, I
12 don't have a Don Quixote complex to attack
13 windmills and, you know. It is discouraging.
14 Just like I told you that I didn't go to Watauga
15 to help my friend Art.

16 I don't -- I think there is no chance,
17 even if I move there, even if I register, you
18 know, and try to get out the vote and, let's
19 say, I'm able to convince, you know, 50 people
20 in my circle of friends to vote Democratic, the
21 gap is so enormous. The Democrats have been
22 diluted that there's no realistic chance that
23 I'm going to make a difference.

24 And, frankly, part of the reason we
25 moved to Chapel Hill was because I was tired of

1 being, you know, that looked-down-upon person
2 that seems to be trying to cause trouble. Why
3 doesn't she just get with the program, you know,
4 so...

5 Q. So you wanted to move to an area where people
6 tended to agree with your politics?

7 A. Yes.

8 MS. EARLS: Object to the form.

9 THE WITNESS: Well, I think you want a
10 place where you're going to be effective, where
11 you're going to -- but now I feel that I'm not
12 that effective because this 2016 map is
13 ridiculous.

14 So, you know, in 2008 I was able to do
15 more to elect Democratic candidates, and I
16 worked really hard with my students at A&T and
17 with the fraternities and the sororities. And
18 we went door to door and we registered hundreds
19 of voters. And in 2016, you look at the reality
20 of the map and you think I could kill myself and
21 I couldn't make that much difference.

22 BY MR. McKNIGHT:

23 Q. How do you know that? Because we've only had
24 one election under that map, right?

25 A. Yes. Because -- because that's how the --

1 that's what the map was designed to do, and it's
2 proven very effective. I mean, it's not that we
3 haven't tried, you know. You know the NAACP has
4 tried. We're not going to quit trying, but when
5 the cards are stacked against you so badly, you
6 have to seek a remedy.

7 You know, you can -- yes, you can keep
8 mobilizing and registering voters and all that
9 and you have to say wait a minute, let's level
10 the playing field. Let's -- let's play fair.
11 This is not democracy any more, you know.

12 Q. But you indicated that you hadn't tried anywhere
13 else outside of -- in terms of trying to
14 influence the congressional race in 2016, the
15 only place that you did work was in the 4th
16 District, right?

17 A. I did work with the Hispanic Caucus a little
18 bit -- well, actually quite a bit. They gave us
19 calling lists from all over the state, and we
20 called Democrats, you know, in Charlotte, in
21 Winston-Salem, in different areas and asked them
22 to vote. I did telephone get-out-the-vote in
23 different parts of the state.

24 I did not do what I did in 2008 and
25 2012 because I didn't have the flexibility with

1 my job. So I did mostly telephone get-out-the-
2 vote.

3 Q. How would you define the term gerrymander?

4 A. It's the drawing of congressional districts to
5 achieve a political objective by drawing the
6 lines in ways that disadvantage your opponent
7 and advantage your party.

8 Q. But if you draw the lines in a way that would be
9 likely to achieve what you say was a fair
10 outcome, which was a 6-7 breakdown, 5-8
11 breakdown, why isn't that a gerrymander?

12 A. Well, by definition, I guess gerrymandering is
13 the manipulation, you know, for -- to advantage
14 your political party. If we tried really hard
15 to not do that, to do a more fair and neutral
16 district, by definition that wouldn't be
17 gerrymandering because that's not
18 gerrymandering. Drawing fair congressional
19 districts is not gerrymandering.

20 Gerrymanndering is manipulating the
21 lines to get certain outcomes by, you know,
22 concentrating groups and --

23 Q. But because of the geography of the state and
24 where people live and so on, in order to get one
25 of those outcomes that you're talking about, the

1 idea by what margin.

2 Q. Now, just changing topics here a little bit,
3 looking at Interrogatory 8, you have some
4 organizations that you were involved with. This
5 is your list of employers in 8, right? Do you
6 see anything that's incorrect there?

7 A. No.

8 Q. And then Interrogatories 10 and 11 ask about
9 some civic and political organizations that
10 you're involved with.

11 A. Right.

12 Q. And you list those organizations. In 10 you
13 list -- specifically you listed the
14 North Carolina State Conference of the NAACP.

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. You've been a member of that organization since
17 2004; is that right?

18 A. Yes, that's correct.

19 Q. And the League of Women Voters, you said you've
20 worked with that organization since 2003 but
21 haven't paid any dues or membership fees?

22 A. I can't join everything. I would go broke.

23 Q. Do you consider yourself a member of them? Or
24 what do you consider yourself?

25 A. I collaborate with them. I volunteer and I go

1 to their programs. I have helped -- you know,
2 they do wonderful things in the community
3 colleges. They go to all the swearing-in
4 ceremonies when people become citizens and
5 distribute registration -- voter registration
6 forms, that kind of thing. I take part in their
7 programs. I'm on their mailing list, you know.
8 It's like WILPF, which I don't see listed,
9 unfortunately, the Women's International League
10 for Peace.

11 Q. Is that another organization that you're a
12 member of?

13 A. Yeah, but I'm not a member, but they send me
14 everything and they invite me to everything and
15 I try to go, but not as much with them as with
16 the League of Women Voters. So I didn't -- I
17 mean, I couldn't list everything, yeah.

18 Q. And you're also -- you're currently the vice
19 chair or co-chair of the Weaver Dairy Precinct
20 for the Orange County Democratic Party?

21 A. I rotated off. I rotated off.

22 Q. So what is your current role with the Democratic
23 Party?

24 A. I'm with the Hispanic Latino Caucus. I go to
25 all the meetings. I donate money. I mean

1 contribute funds.

2 Q. Are you precinct chair or co-chair?

3 A. No, not right now. I have been both. I'm
4 working two jobs, so I figured -- again, you
5 know, there are people willing to do something,
6 let them, and we have some really great people.
7 In fact, we have more than we need in Weaver
8 Dairy Precinct because of gerrymandering. Never
9 mind.

10 Q. How long has the Weaver Dairy Precinct remained
11 the same? How long have the lines of that
12 remained the same? Do you know?

13 A. No. We have -- are you familiar with Carol
14 Woods, the retirement community?

15 Q. I've heard of it, yeah.

16 A. They're in my precinct, and they have the
17 highest voting rate of any precinct in
18 North Carolina, 98 percent in the last election.
19 These are just amazing old people. They govern
20 themselves in this retirement community, but --
21 so I think nobody's going to mess with Weaver
22 Dairy.

23 MR. McKNIGHT: I don't have any further
24 questions at this time.

25 ///