

Provided by
LYNDON PRICE
at interview
25/6/14.

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

(Criminal Justice Act, 1967, ss. 2, 9; M.C. Rules 1968, r. 58)

STATEMENT OF Lyndon Malcolm PRICE
Age of witness (if over 21 enter 'over 21') Over 21
Occupation of witness Senior Children's Officer
Address DPA, Rochdale.

This statement (consisting of two pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 20th day of January, 1970
(Signed) L.M. Price

I am employed by the Rochdale County Borough Council as their Senior Children's Officer. I have been so employed since March, 1965

Near the end of 1965, Mr. James GAVIN, a child care officer in my Department, informed me that he had received information from RO-A49, a 16 year old boy who was under the care of our Authority and supervised by Mr. GAVIN. This boy had told him that Mr. Cyril SMITH, a Councillor of the Borough and Chairman of the Hostel for Boys' Association, had asked him to remove his trousers and he had then spanked him on his bare buttocks. This was punishment for some wrong done by the boy, but I am unable to say what this was.

This had come to light during conversation with the boy and not in the form of a complaint. Mr. GAVIN was seeking my advice as Head of the Department.

A few days later I saw RO-A49 in my office. He had come at my request. He then repeated, in substance, the statement which Mr. GAVIN had made to me. The boy was not complaining.

I was worried by the episode and after serious consideration I contacted Mr. ROSS, the Chief Constable of the Borough Police. This would be several weeks later, and I think it was outside the front of the Town Hall following a Chief Officers' Meeting. The meeting was not by appointment. I had decided that I would speak

Statement taken by:
.....T. Courtney.....
on20.1.70.....

L. Price
correcting
saying it
was within
1 week.

L. Price
Saying this
is inaccurate
25/6.

to Mr. ROSS when next I saw him. I acquainted Mr. ROSS with the facts as reported to me. I knew Mr. ROSS personally and I informed him of my worries on this matter. I told Mr. ROSS purely for his information, because I didn't feel that this incident was such that warranted complaint or investigation, but I did think that he may have been in possession of other information.

During the time that RO-A49 had been in care I had found him to be a difficult boy, who didn't respond to discipline. He had been placed in our care as being beyond parental control. He was plausible and sometimes untruthful.

At this time Mr. SMITH was taking an active part in the running of the Hostel, due to staff problems, etc., including matters of discipline.

25/6
LP can't
remember
saying this

This was a difficult situation for me, in so far as Mr. SMITH was a member of the Town Council which employed me.

L.M. Price.