

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

DISTRICT OF MONTREAL

NO. 3000

SUPERIOR COURT

REUBEN LEVESQUE & AL

Petitioners ex-parte

Deposition of: Alexander Carsley

March 8th 1951.

AIME GRANDMAISON,
Official Stenographer.

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CANADA

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REUBEN LEVESQUE & AL

Petitioners ex-parte

Under the presidency of The Honourable Justice
François Caron

Councils: Me. Plante,
Me. Drapeau for the petitioners,

Me. Ubald Boisvert, for the respondents.
Me. Gross

In THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND
FIFTY ONE (1951) on the eighth day of March,

PERSONALLY CAME AND APPEARED:

ALEXANDER CARSLEY, 50 years, merchant,
5138 De Gaspé,

EXAMINED BY MR. PLANTE:

Q Mr. Carsley, do you know of someone in the
City of Montreal by the name of Louis Shapner.

A I refuse to answer.

Q Why ?

A I want the protection of the Court.

BY THE COURT:

Q You are ordered to answer and the protection
of the law will be given to you,

A Yes sir

MR. PLANTE:

Q Do you know someone in the City of Montreal
by the name of Louis Shapner ?

A Louis Shapner.....

Q You know him ?

A Yes.

Q Does he have another name ?

A Labelle.

Q What is his occupation ?

A I know he is a book-maker.

Q Where does he have his business ?

A On St-Urbain street

Q Is he still operating ?

A That I don't know.

Q Were you ever associated with him ?

A I was, ten years ago.

Q You were ten years ago ?

A Yes, silent partner.

Q In his business as book-maker ?

A Yes.

Q Where was he operating then ?

A On St. Catherine street east.

Q What is the address:

A 60

Q 60 ?

A Yes.

Q Were you ever associated with Angelo Bisanti ?

A No.

Q Do you know him ?

A Yes.

Q Do you know if he was interested in the
gambling business ?

A That I don't know.

Q You were very friendly with Labelle ?

A When we split we were not.

BY THE COURT:

Q Before that you were friendly with him ?

A Yes.

MR. PLATTE:

Q Do you know Harry Feldman ?

A Yes.

Q What does he do, what is his occupation ?

A He is I think in the real estate business.

Q In 1941, 1942 up to 1946 ?

A He was a book-maker.

Q A well-known book maker ?

A Yes, well-known.

Q Operating where ?

A 286.

Q St-Catherine street west ?

A Yes.

Q In the City of Montreal ?

A Yes.

Q Do you know a bookie on Bleury street, the address is 1455 Bleury street ?

A No sir.

Q Since 1941 have you been interested in placing bets ?

A No, not myself.

BY THE COURT:

Q Have you been interested in the business
yourself ?

A No

MR. PLANTE:

Q Where did you place bets ?

A At Feldman's with Ship.

Q Where else ?

A Dave Miller.

Q 1407 Cartier street ?

A No, on St. Catherine street.

Q 1976 St-Catherine street ?

A I don't know the address.

BY THE COURT:

Approximately where ?

A Near Papineau.

MR. PLANTE:

Q You have been around there ?

A Yes.

Q In what year ?

Carsley

A May be three years, four years ago. I could not tell you the year.

Q Was it not in 1946 approximately ?

A You are the one who arrested me there.

Q I was present, you mean ?

A Yes. You were present: 1946 or 1947.

Q Was that a booking establishment ?

A It was.

Q How was that place operating ?

A I was not interested, I don't know.

Q But yourself, you placed bets there ?

A Yes.

Q You saw Miller ?

THE WITNESS:

Dave ?

Q Was he related to Jos. Miller ?

THE WITNESS:

Who is he ?

Q Do you know Bercovitch ?

A Yes, he was not related to him.

Carsley

Q Is it not the fact that Bercovitch was convicted of murder ?

A Miller is the right name.

BY THE COURT:

Q Of ther person operating on St.Catherine near Papineau ?

A Yes.

MR.PLANTE:

Q At what time when you were arrested on St.Catherine street near Papineau, with whom were you ?

A Ship was there ?

A Yes.

Q Miller was there ?

A Yes.

Q Max Blond ?

A No.

Q Jos.Blond ?

A That is better.

Q Was Louis Ship there ?

A Yes, I think he was there.

Q The little hunchback ?

A Yes.

Carsley

Q Harry's brother ?

A Yes.

Q Was Max Malumed there ?

A Yes.

Q Did you plead guilty ?

A The lawyer pleaded guilty. Mr.Gross.

Q You are not sure of it ?

A No.

BY THE COURT:

Q Did you receive the service of a lawyer ?

A Yes.sir.

Q What instructions did you give to the lawyer ?

A Whatever he does, it is alright with me.

Q Who was your lawyer ?

A Mr.Mayer Gross.

Q Did you go to Court ?

A I went to court,I think, once or twice.

Q At that time ?

A Not toward the end.When the case was finished
I was not there. The lawyer appeared for me.

Q You never appeared before the recorder as an
accused at that time, except the day after your arrest?

Carsley

A No.

Q You never pleaded guilty or not guilty ?

A No, I left it to the lawyer.

ME. BOISVERT: Objection il faudrait produire un document.

PAR LA COUR: Objection renvoyée.

PAR LA COUR:

Q You never went as a witness in this case ?

A No.

Q You never paid a fine yourself ?

A I paid the lawyer's fee. I bailed myself out.

MR. PLANTE:

Q Do you know at that time when you were arrested in 1876 St. Catherine street, near Papineau, was Ship's regular place of business, his regular bookie, was it open, when you were arrested with Ship ?

BY THE COURT:

Carsley

At that time ?

A It was closed.

MR. PLANTE:

Q Where was his regular place of business ?

A 906 St. Catherine.

Q Have you been going there a long time ?

A Yes.

Q He operated there regularly ?

A Yes.

Q Openly ?

A Yes.

Q No hiding ?

A No.

Q Not more than Feldman ?

A No.

Q Labelle ?

A Yes.

Q Opened to all comers ?

A Yes.

Q Was there a thicker tape at 1976 St. Catherine
street ?

Carsley

A Not that I know of.

Q Not that you know of ?

A Not that I know of.

Q You don't say you don't remember ?

A I never saw one there.

Q You never saw one there at 1976 St.Catherine ?

A There used to be one at 906 St.Catherine.

Q When you were arrested with Ship you recall I
was there ?

A Yes, you were there.

Q In what room were you in ?

A In the back room.

Q Around lunch time ?

A yes.

BY THE COURT:

Q You say there was a thicker tape at Ship s ?

A Yes.

MR.PLANTE:

Q At 906 you have seen that machine ?

A Yes.

Q You swear you have never seen that machine when
you have been arrested with Ship ?

Carsley

A No.

Q How long have you been in there when you were arrested ?

A Half an hour.

Q May be.

A I did not see. It did not catch my eye.

Q On what were you betting ?

A On horses.

Q On baseball too ?

A I never bet on baseball in my life.

BY THE COURT:

Q At the same place were they taking baseball bets ?

A I think so.

Q Did you see that thicker tape was registering baseball ?

A Yes. I was not interested in baseball. I did not look at it.

Q Was it registering racing results ?

A No, just baseball.

Q It was giving information about baseball ?

A Right.

Carsley

Q How were races results given ?

A A man on the Board had ear-phones on . He used to mark them up.

MR. PLANTE:

Q Did you go there frequently ?

A Yes.

Q Did you meet Harry Ship most of the time ?

A Yes.

Q Max Blond ?

A Yes.

Q Do you know if Ship was operating by himself ?

A I think so.

BY THE COURT:

Q Talking of Louis Ship, do you know if Louis was in partnership with Harry Ship ?

A No, he was his son.

Q This fellow Blond was he partner of Harry Ship ?

A He was only on salary.

Q Do you know what he was doing exactly, what was his particular occupation ?

A He used to mark out slips, check them.

Q He was a manager ?

Carsley

A I don't know if he was or Louis was. They all used to fight together.

Q Did Jos Blond would appear as a partner of Harry Ship ?

A No.

MR. PLANTE:

Q How frequently did you visit Ship's place ?
Did you go every week ?

A Yes.

Q Every week ?

A Yes.

Q Sometime more often ?

A May be three times, sometimes I did not go, I would pass about once a week.

Q Before 1946 did you have found a closed door at Ship's, by the police ?

A The back door.

Q The back door was padlocked ?

A Yes.

BY THE COURT:

Q Permanently ?

A For one month.

Q Often ?

Carsley

A That I could not tell.

Q You were there fairly often. Was it something like a small sight to see a padlock on the back room ?

A Yes, the main room, they occupied the main room, so we had to go in a tavern downstairs.

Q For two or three years did it happen very often ?

A Yes, I have seen it quite often.

Q At different periods ?

A Yes.

Q All large was that room that was padlocked off hand approximately ?

A From here to the wall, may be a little wider, Lets say this square, between this and this.

Q Fifteen feet by twanty five feet or thirty ?

A Bigger than that, a little bigger than that.

Q It was a room ?

A It was a room.

Q The padlock you saw it always on the same door ?

A Always on the same door.

Q You never saw it on a different door ?

A No.

Q This padlock.....when the padlock was not there,

Carsley

did it ever happen to you to see any betting
goin on in the room which was padlocked ?

A I did not go in there.

Q When it was not padlocked ?

A Yes, they used that room for betting.

Q When it was padlocked they used the other room ?

A Yes.

Q Was it just something convenient to have this
room padlocked ?

A That was the only room to padlock, unless they
padlocked the door.

Q They had to padlock that in order to padlock the
whole place ?

A Yes.

Q Did any police officer see that it was useless to
padlock that room, if he wanted to stop the betting ?

A That I don't know, it is not my line.

Q Did you ever see the police officer going there
to visit the padlock ?

A Yes, I did.

Q While you were betting ?

A They opened the padlock and they went in the room
that was padlocked.

Q Was betting going on just the same in the other
room ?

Carsley

A Yes.

Q You did not consider that the police was intruding
in your business ?

A I don't know.

Q It did not bother you ?

A No.

Q It did not bother you, it did not bother any-
body ?

ME. PLANTÉ:

Q Will you look at this photograph and say whether
you recall the setting ?

A That is in the front room.

Q Where ?

A At 906.

Q I showed you the exhibit E-112 No.1.

BY THE COURT:

Q About Ship's place was there board in the room
which was padlocked ?

A Yes.

Q There was one there ?

A Yes.

Carsley

Q The same as in the other room ?

A Not the same.

Q Approximately ?

A Yes there was a board to hang on the sheets on the wall for the telegraph.

MR. PLANTE:

Q Were there big blackboards in the main room with a walk ?

A Yes.

Q In the big room ?

A Yes.

Q In the big room was there also a counter ?

A Yes.

Q With telephones ?

A Yes.

Q And that is where you bet ?

A Yes.

Q In the big room were there blackboard where they put, where they would put the sheets ?

A Yes.

Q Were there any blackboards in the back room just as elaborate ?

A No.

Carsley

Q This was the main room ?

A The big room.

Q Did you ever seen the back room padlocked ?

A No.

BY THE COURT:

Q Was there a walk in the back room ?

A No.

MR. PLANTE:

Q The room that was padlocked, it was only temporary ?

A Yes.

Q Will you look at exhibit E-112, No. 2 and say....

A That is, this is the big room.

Q Was there such a board ?

A The lower on.

Q In this big room there was a walk ?

A Yes.

Q For the marker ?

A Yes.

BY THE COURT:

Q In the small room were there spot lights like

Carsley

the one you saw in photograph E-112 ?

A That I don't remember.

MR. PLANTE:

Q Was there a trolley for the operators to allow them to walk and talk at the same time ?

A I don't remember.

Q You say that the big room was never closed ?

A It was never closed.

Q They used both rooms ?

A No, unless there was a small crowd.

Q For a small crowd a small room , and for a big crowd a big room ?

Q Yes.

Q You never saw the big room padlocked by the police ?

A No not that I know of.

BY THE COURT:

Q' You never saw the big room padlocked for how many years ?

A It may have been going on during four years

Q For about four years you have never seen the big

room padlocked ?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q You were going there twice a week ?

A Yes, some week I would not go.

MR. PLANTE:

Q Was there a restaurant there ?

A Yes.

Q How long had you known Harry Ship ?

A I know Harry Ship for quite a number of years.

Q Do you know what was his occupation prior to opening the bookie at 906 St. Catherine ?

A I think he used to work in the bookie.

Q Which bookie.

A On St. Urbain street,

Q For Shapner ?

A Charlie Smith.

Q Do you know if Harry Ship was associated with Foster ?

A I don't know.

Q Was a case made against a bookie in 1950 ?

A Not me.

Q Were you arrested in 1950 ?

A No.

Q Was a case made against your store ?

A A fellow was arrested in my store.

Q Was he working for you ?

A No, he came to use the telephone, they followed him and arrested him there.

Q What was his name ?

A Blumenthal.

Q Was he convicted ?

A I don't think so.

Q What is the address of your store ?

A 58 St.Catherine street west.

Q Were you not convicted for operating a gaming house at 58 St.Catherine Street west in 1946 ?

A I don't think so.

Q On the 20th of December 1949, were you not convicted for operating a gaming house at 58 St.Catherine street west ?

A Not that I know of. That must have been machines like pinballs.

Q Were you convicted for anything ?

A They were seized, no conviction.

Q No conviction against you ?

A No, they seized the machines. I don't think they convicted me, I paid no fine.

BY THE COURT:

Were you represented by your lawyer ?

A Yes.

Q You look after everything ?

A Right.

Q What machines did you have ?

A I had gramophones and pinballs.

Q Were you ever interested in opening a bookie
for yourself ?

A No.

Q When you operated with Labelle, Shapner ?

A Yes.

Q Did you know how Shapner went about to open
his book ?

A Well, he did not have any money and he asked me
to come in as a silent partner to finance him.

Q Did you ever think of opening up a bookie for
yourself ?

A No.

Q Never thought ?

A No.

Q Did you know how to go about it, to open a book ?

A You could find out.

Q Did you know anybody who could open a book ?

A I don't know.

Q You don't want to say.

A If I am interested, I would go and see some book-maker interested in opening.

Q You did not talk to the boss ?

A I did not have time. You have to be there.

Q Did you go at 286 St. Catherine, Feldman's place ?

A Yes, years ago.

Q How many years ?

A Eight, nine years ago.

Q How long did Feldman operate, how long has he been operating ?

A I could not tell you.

Q Would you go so far as saying that he was operating in 1932 ?

A Yes, he was operating there.

Q He continued operating, you don't know when he stopped ?

A No, I don't know.

Q Did you go there in 1949 ?

A No, I did not go there in 1949.

Q When did you go there last ?

A Six, seven, eight years ago, the last time I went up there.

Q Then, you took Ship as your favourite book-maker ?

A Yes, right.

Q Were you present when raids were made by the police ?

A I was never there.

Q Were some of your friends there ?

A I don't know.

Q Did you ever hear of Ship being arrested ?

A He was arrested once.

Q Was that the only time ?

A That is only the time that I know of. I don't know if he was arrested before .

Q Do you know if Harry Feldman had been arrested ?

A That I don't know. I don't know if he had been, I was not there.

Q When Ship.....were you not afraid to go there ?

A Nothing to be afraid of.

Q Why ?

A I know it was not a criminal offence. There was a fine and the costs, it would amount to about twenty-five dollars.

BY THE COURT:

Q Did you know how to pay the fine for people arrested ?

Carsley

A When I was arrested I took one hundred dollars and paid my fine and I paid the lawyer myself.

MR. PLANTE:

Q At that time was that bookie operating openly ?

A No, it was closed.

Q It was barricaded ?

A No, the doors were closed.

BY THE COURT:

Q It was the time they broke the door ?

A Yes.

MR. PLANTE:

Q Did anybody tried to open the door ?

A I was in the back room, I don't know.

Q Was the door smashed ?

A The back door.

Q That is where you were ?

A Yes, where I was.

Q Did anybody open the door for the police ?

A I did not hear them knock. The only thing, there was a hammer in the door.

Carsley

Q When the police knocked with the hammer, did anybody come to open the door ?

A Not that I know of.

BY THE COURT:

Q Shapner, you told us that he asked you to be a silent partner. What did you tell him ? how much money did you give him , did you give him ?

A I did not give him anything at all. In case he should loose he would come to me and I would give him fifty dollars or one hundred dollars.

Q You gave him money ?

A Not big amounts.

Q Did it happen often that you gave him money ?

A No.

Q How many years have you been in partnership with him ?

A Three years.

Q How many times did you give him money approximately ?

A I do not quite remember.

Q Every week or every month ?

A Just occasionally.

Q Once in a while ?

Carsley

A Once in a while.

Q For what purpose was that money given to him ?

A If he had a bad day, he would have to pay the players.

Q It was used for nothing else but bets ?

A Yes.

Q Was there a business proposition for you ?

A No.

Q Did he give you money ?

A Very little.

Q Did it pay him ?

A Yes.

Q Were you mad at him ?

A We dissolved the partnership.

Q And that lasted for the period of three years ?

A Yes.

Q Did you go there often ?

A Yes, there was a period, eight months, I did not go there once, I had nobody in the store. I went there very seldom.

Q Was the place visited by the police ?

A Yes, he was arrested.

Q There were raids ?

A Yes.

Carsley

Q Often ?

A I don't know.

Q Did you make any records about the way those raids were settled or fixed according to the law ?

A No, he did not tell me. He used to tell me: twenty, fifteen people got pinched. It was a very small room.

Q He was not a big owner ?

A Ten feet by twenty-two feet, I would say.

Q

MR. PLANTE:

Q What was the address on St. Catherine street ?

A 60 St. Catherine street east.

Q You said that Shapner was arrested there ?

A No raids.

Q I see here.....I see in exhibit E-16 for 60 St. Catherine street east, apartment one, apartment two, apartment four, apartment five, apartment six, apartment seven, apartment eight, apartment nine, apartment eleven, apartment fifteen, apartment fourteen, apartment sixteen, apartment eighteen, apartment twenty-two, apartment twenty-five, twenty-seven, etc.

Carsley

BY THE COURT:

Q You said it was a very small room ?

A They had two rooms, two floors.

Q Two small rooms or one large ?

A No, about the same size.

Q About what dimensions ?

A It must have been ten feet by twenty-two feet or twenty-four feet.

Q You never saw any apartment there ?

A No, just the two rooms.

Q Apartments going up to twenty-four ?

A I did not see that.

Q Would it be possible to imagine that there would have been apartments from one to twenty-four ?

A I don't know how they were figuring it.

Q There were only two rooms ?

A Yes.

Q Did he ever tell you that this numbering on these rooms, the different numbers, that was used for different purposes ?

A No.

Q He never spoke to you of this system of number of apartments, so that the raids would not close his business ?

Carsley

A He did not speak to me about that. He was managing things his own way, I did not interfere.

Q Did you know how things could be run, so that raids could be made and that the business could go on just the same ?

A I could not answer that.

Q Shapner never told you about that subject ?

A The only thing he used to tell me was : we got pinched.

Q But getting pinched did not stop him ?

A Not that I know of.

MR. PLANTE:

Q Did you have anything to do with 64 St. Catherine street west ?

A 64, that was Labelle. Labelle was up there.

Q Was it 60 or 62 ?

A 60, that used to be a rooming house.

Q At 64 ?

A Yes.

Q When you were partner with Labelle ?

A That was at 64 street west.

Q Yes ?

A Yes.

Q He was your partner then ?

Carsley

A Before that he started in delicatessen store.

Q He started in a delicatessen store ?

A Yes.

Q On St.Catherine street ?

A Yes, corner of Clark.

Q When he became your associate, where was he ?

A In delicatessen.

BY THE COURT:

Q WAS IT his store ?

A No. That is in 1938.

Q Was he using that as a spot to sell his book-maker ?

A No.

MR.PLANTE:

Q From thenon, did he acknowledge....

A From that to rooming house.

Q At 64 ?

A Yes.

Q He was your associate then ?

A Yes.

Q There ?

A Yes.

Carsley

BY THE COURT:

Q Was there a rooming house or exactly a booking place ?

A A room. Fellows would come up and bet.

Q No drug store ?

A No, agents.

MR. PLANTE:

Q Was there any raids made at 64 St. Catherine west ?

A Yes.

Q Were you ever arrested there ?

A Yes, once.

Q Would you say that you were arrested only once in your life ?

A Not that I know of.

Q How many times have you been arrested in your life ?

A A few times.

Q As a book-maker ?

A Not that I know of. May be one or twice.

Q Where the first time ?

A At 64, I think, I don't remember, because it is years gone by, may be ten years, fifteen years.

Q At 60 St. Catherine street east, was Sam Smith

Carsley

an associate or an employee of you or Labelle ?

A An employee.

Q Harry Young ?

A He started...he must have been an employee.

Q Phil Rock ?

A He was an employee.

Q Donato Mastracchio ?

A I did not know him at all.

Q He was convicted according to exhibit E-16.

He was arrested by the Provincial Police at 60
St-Catherine street east and convicted the 17th
of February 1942.

Vito Carini ?

A I don't know.

Q Solamo Sailor ?

A Yes, he used to work there.

Q How many employees did you have ?

A Labelle would know that. I don't know.

Q Do you mean to say that you were giving money
to Labelle and that you mean to say that you do
not know what he did with it ?

A I did not bother with it. At the time I was
pinched at 64, I just happen to go up when the
police came and Labelle was up at the third floor

Carsley

They did not take him. They took me, instead.

BY THE COURTS

Q Did they take you down to the police station ?

A I don't remember, nine years ago.

MR. PLANTE:

Q Was Harry Ship a prosperous man ?

A Well, before he had a book, he was a poor boy.

Q And since he became interested in a bookie ?

A Well, I don't know, somebody backed him there.

Q Do you know who backed him there ?

A No.

Q Did you ever hear of Harry Foster ?

A No.

Q Was Ship interested in night clubs ?

A After.

Q When ?

A After he had a book he became a partner for a night club.

Q Which night club ?

A The Tic-Toc.

Q Do you know if Harry Feldman was a partner in the Tic-Toc ?

Carsley

A I understood he bought Feldman's home

Q Did you ever go to his home on St.Catherine Road ?

A No, I have never been there.

Q Do you know if Harry Ship had interests in the
Drummond Café ?

A I thing he had a small interest in that.

Q Do you know if Harry Ship had a gaming house
on the island ?

A No....I heard he was interested in Cote de Liesse.

Q Have you ever been to Cote de Liesse ?

A No, never been there.

Q Where is Cote de Liesse ?

A Cote St-Michel Road.

Q Is that two different roads: Cote de Liesse and
Cote St-Luke ?

A I don't know.

Q Is Harry Feldman a prosperous man too ?

A Yes, he is.

Q Very prosperous ?

A I think so.

BY THE COURT:

Q Would you say that Ship is very prosperous ?

A Well, he is well up .

Carsley

Q Did he become well up while he was interested
in nothing but books ?

A He started with books and he used to bet on
horses. He was very lucky.

Q Lucky with his books too ?

A I don't know.

AND FURTHER DEPONENT SAITH NOT.

I, the undersigned, Official stenographer
declare that the foregoing pages are and contain
a true transcript of the deposition of the
above named witness as taken by me by means of
stenography; the whole, according to the law.

And I have signed:


AIME GRANDMAISON,

Court Official Stenographer.

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