

Mr. Chaison. That's correct, sir.

Mr. Allen. Yes.

Mr. Burton. Any more questions from anybody?

Mr. LaTourette. While the yellow light is still on.

Mr. Shays. I want to ask one last thing to Mr. Schumacher.

Were you transferred to a desk job on March 15, 2000?

Mr. Schumacher. Yes, sir.

Mr. Shays. What do you believe was the reason for this transfer?

Mr. Schumacher. I was told that headquarters told our front office to take me out of--off the Rap-A-Lot case, out of the group that has the case and preferably out of the Houston office.

Mr. Shays. Who told you that?

Mr. Schumacher. I was told by--under confidential circumstances.

Mr. Shays. OK. Thank you.

Mr. Burton. Mr. Waxman, 30 minutes.

Mr. Waxman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First, I want to yield 10 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. Cummings.

Mr. Cummings. Thank you very much, Mr. Waxman.

First, I want to say to all our officers, we applaud what you do every day. As one who has addressed the drug issue head on and lives in a community that's been taken over by drugs to a large degree, I understand what you do, and we want to thank you for doing what you do.

But I want to clear up something very quickly. Mr. Shays said something that tremendously concerns me as a Member of the U.S. Congress when he spoke of Maxine Waters; and he said, I don't question her integrity, but I do question her judgment. And certainly he has that right. But I want to put it on the record that I could think of no Member of Congress who has fought this drug war and put her life on the line on many, many occasions--and I am talking about even from an international level--than Maxine Waters. And I just want to make sure that that's very clear because I would not want this moment in history to pass without that being abundantly clear.

Let me just ask you, Mr. Schumacher, I want to go for a moment--I am sure Mr. Waxman will go into other issues, but I want to just go to this discussion that was had with Mr. Howard with regard to the investigation being stopped. One of my concerns in sitting on this committee has consistently been is a lot of times people are brought before this committee, accusations are made, and these people have to go back to their communities and live. I want to make sure, just as we would not accuse you of something that you did not do, because you do have to go back to Texas, we wouldn't want that to happen to anyone. I know I wouldn't.

Let me ask you this in that regard in this conversation that you had with Mr. Howard: did he tell you about--did he give up any names of people when he talked about being stopped for--the investigation being halted for political reasons?

Mr. Schumacher. It seems that he mentioned the name Maxine or Waters. I'm sorry. Can you hear me?

Mr. Cummings. Yeah, I can hear you. Can you tell us what he said?

Mr. Schumacher. The best I recall, sir, is he walked into the group, we gathered up--it was not unusual for Mr. Howard to come over and speak to me directly about the case because he had demonstrated an intense interest in it. He was our biggest supporter, our biggest fan; and we cannot have made the progress we had made without him providing the resources for us. But on that particular day he came in, said numerous phrases, etc. What I recall was the words, DEA headquarters or headquarters, politics, Maxine or Maxine's letter, and I am shutting it down. I don't want anybody to get hurt here.

Mr. Cummings. Now, this was--you were--I think you said a little bit earlier that there had been a complaint against you, is that right, with regard to--you had been investigated with regard to what kind of charges, can you tell us, with regard to this case that is?

Mr. Schumacher. Allegations not charges.

Mr. Cummings. Allegations. Were you being investigated?

Mr. Schumacher. Yes, sir.

Mr. Cummings. What were those investigations? What was that in regard to?

Mr. Schumacher. Well, I later found out when I was requested to come and interview up here in Washington, DEA headquarters, OPR, in February 2000. That was the first time I