

Los Angeles, California, November 2, 1933.

Statement of ELLEN MARGARET GIBSON, alias PATRICIA PALMER,

- Q. by Special Agent Connelley: Miss Gibson, after being duly advised as to your rights in the matter as to making a statement, are you willing to make this statement of your own free will and accord?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What is your correct name?
- A. Ellen Margaret Gibson.
- Q. Where were you born?
- A. Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- Q. How long have you lived in Los Angeles?
- A. About fourteen years.
- Q. When did you first meet Don Osborn?
- A. About a year and a half ago.
- Q. What were your relations with Don Osborn?
- A. I owned the home they lived in.
- Q. By "they", whom do you mean?
- A. Don Osborn and Rose Putnam.
- Q. Have you ever been at their place for social calls of any kind?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What was the nature of such calls, parties or informal calls or what?
- A. Mostly on account of the property.
- Q. By United States Attorney Burke: Then you went there to collect the rent, is that it?
- A. No. I did not rent the place to them, I let them live in it for fixing the place up.
- Q. Did you meet anybody at this home other than Don Osborn and Rose Putnam?
- A. On different occasions, yes.
- Q. Whom do you remember meeting there?
- A. The people who lived across the street, Edith and Bennett Clapman.
- Q. Who else?
- A. There were always people there, I cannot remember their names.
- Q. Do you know of any one in particular whom you noticed around there more than anyone else?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you remember the men whom you met there?
- A. Yes, but I do not know their names. There were different picture men who would drop in there.
- Q. Anyone outside of picture men?
- A. They had many friends.
- Q. Do you remember any of those fellows whom you met around there by their first names or nicknames?
- A. No.
- Q. Then you were not introduced to anyone, or if you were introduced you forget their names.
- A. Yes.
- Q. Where did you first meet George W. Lasher?
- A. He was fixing some electrical fixtures at Osborn's.
- Q. That was the first place that you met him?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Then you afterwards became acquainted?
- A. Yes.

- Q. How intimate were you with Lasher after that acquaintanceship?  
A. Just as a friend.
- Q. Did you travel any with him?  
A. He went to Tia Juana and back.
- Q. Who else was in that party to Tia Juana?  
A. No one, just he and I.
- Q. What happened when you got to Tia Juana?  
A. He went to the races.
- Q. How long did you stay in Tia Juana?  
A. Two days.
- Q. Where did he stay and where did you stay?  
A. In a residence.
- Q. Whose residence?  
A. A cafe entertainer's residence.
- Q. What was his name?  
A. I do not know.
- Q. Which cafe did he work in?  
A. I could not tell you the name.
- Q. Where was this cafe located?  
A. In Old Town Tia Juana.
- Q. On the Main Street?  
A. Yes.
- Q. Was it the Vernon Club?  
A. I would not know the name.
- Q. Did you hear the name Jim Dallas?  
A. No.
- Q. When you got down to Tia Juana did you and this man Lasher pass as husband and wife?  
A. Yes.
- Q. You told people down there that you were husband and wife?  
A. I made no mention of it.
- Q. But he did?  
A. Yes.
- Q. But you did not deny it?  
A. No.
- Q. How old are you?  
A. 38.
- Q. Did you meet a man by the name of Edward Hucker down there?  
A. I do not know whom I met.
- Q. Did you have any money transactions in this place?  
A. No.
- Q. While in Tia Juana was there any check handed to you?  
A. Yes.
- Q. Give in detail all that happened in connection with this check.  
A. We were in a cafe sitting at a table with two ladies.
- Q. Do you know these ladies?  
A. I met them there for the first time and never saw them afterwards. We were drinking and Mr. Lasher said to me, "I'll bet you \$1000.00 that I can drink more than you can", and I laughed and said all right. We both wrote a \$1000.00 check. Mr. Lasher or I handed the check to one of the ladies. Afterwards I was talking to the lady and I realized the check was gone. I told Mr. Lasher the check was gone and I was afraid it was going to Los Angeles.
- Q. Just why did you fear that this check was going to Los Angeles?  
A. The lady who had the check said something about my check and I

- launched and said, "Why, I haven't got \$1000.00 in the bank". She said, "Well, he has". I told Mr. Lasher and he said it was impossible, they could not do such a thing, and he wouldn't listen, but the next morning I made him listen and we rushed back to Los Angeles.
- Q. Just before you turned that check over to the lady you endorsed the check?
- A. We both did.
- Q. He endorsed the check you gave him and you endorsed the check he gave you?
- A. Yes.
- Q. The next morning you rushed to Los Angeles. What did you do?
- A. We came on to Los Angeles. When we stopped at the border Mr. Lasher told the people there that we were going to Los Angeles to stop a check. On the way up we were stopped by an officer, going 45 miles an hour, and Mr. Lasher told him why he was rushing. We got here and got the check and tore it up.
- Q. Then the check was torn up the next day?
- A. Well, it was either the next day or the day after.
- Q. Were you ever with anybody when a presentment was made for the payment of this money to Mr. Lasher?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you at any time ever deny your signature on the back of that check?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you ever discuss this check with anybody afterwards?
- A. Yes, about a month or two months ago.
- Q. And with whom did you discuss it?
- A. Mr. Lasher called me up and a friend of mine, Mr. Saunders, went out with me.
- Q. What was the discussion then?
- A. Mr. Lasher would not talk to me in the presence of Mr. Saunders. His wife was there. He talked to me alone and he said I must give him \$1000.00 in thirty days or he would cause me a lot of trouble because he said I tried to get \$1000.00 from him and for that reason I must give him \$1000.00.
- Q. Where was this, at his place of business?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Why did you go there?
- A. Because Mr. Lasher called up and told my mother if I did not see him he would cause me a lot of trouble and I was afraid.
- Q. Did Mr. Lasher ever call to see you at your home?
- A. Yes.
- Q. On how many occasions?
- A. Quite a number, because he put in some electrical fixtures for me.
- Q. Aside from that, did he call to see you personally?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you entertain him?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You knew he was married?
- A. I did not know he was living with his wife until we got back from Tia Juana and when I discovered it I talked to his wife and told her I would never see him again.
- Q. When was this?
- A. After we got back from Tia Juana, about two weeks.
- Q. The check had been torn up in the meantime?
- A. Yes.



- Q. The check was not in existence at the time you talked to Lasher's wife?
- A. No.
- Q. After you talked to Lasher's wife you had no other conversation with him?
- A. Not except the time he jumped on the running board of a car I was in and threatened me. I was with a friend.
- Q. Who was this friend?
- A. Mr. McGinnis who is now my husband.
- Q. When were you married?
- A. Last Saturday afternoon.
- Q. Where was this that he jumped on the running board?
- A. In front of my home. He jumped on the running board and threatened me and demanded that I get out of the car. I got out of the car and talked to him.
- Q. Did you leave the car and go with Lasher?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you go back home with him?
- A. He drove around a while and then took me home, to my home.
- Q. That was the last time you saw Lasher?
- A. No. Then his wife called me up and asked me if I would do something for them. I was leaving for San Francisco and I saw them then.
- Q. What did she want you to do?
- A. She wanted me to get him a position in my company in San Francisco.
- Q. Did you?
- A. No, I could not.
- Q. When was that?
- A. Just before I left for San Francisco, about a month or six weeks after the trip to San Diego.
- Q. Then after you had called on Mrs. Lasher and recognized that Lasher was living with his wife, she became friendly enough with you to suggest that you get her husband employment?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you visit with her or meet her in a social way?
- A. No, except that one evening about two months ago when Mr. Saunders went with me to the shop.
- Q. That was the time when he demanded \$1000.00 from you?
- A. Yes.
- Q. A few days after you got back from Tia Juana you realized that this man and his wife were living together and you called Lasher's wife up and told her you would not see him again?
- A. I did not call her up. I never called her.
- Q. Then she realized that her husband and you were keeping company and she came over and told you about it?
- A. She was in the yard when Lasher and I drove up one day.
- Q. And then I suppose that you agreed with her at that time that you would have nothing more to do with her husband?
- A. Yes.
- Q. How long had you and Lasher been going together prior to the time that you went to Tia Juana?
- A. Six weeks, I imagine, or two months maybe.
- Q. All of the statement that you have made to us in reference to this check is the truth?
- A. Absolutely.

- Q. You say Mrs. Lasher was waiting out on the lawn at your home when you and Mr. Lasher drove back.
- A. Yes.
- Q. And that was the time that she realized that you and her husband were going together?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Was there anyone else present at that time?
- A. My mother came out.
- Q. Did you and your mother and Mr. Lasher have any conversation at that time in reference to the fact that your mother was going to have Lasher prosecuted for violating the White Slave Act in taking you to Tia Juana?
- A. No. Mother told him that he must leave me alone or she would have him arrested.
- Q. Did you see him any more after that in reference to money matters or things of that character?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you ever receive any money from Mr. Lasher other than the \$1000.00 check that you have referred to?
- A. I think there was a small check for \$75.00 or \$50.00, which was for the payment on my car. I afterwards returned the money.
- Q. Just about when did he give you that check for the car?
- A. About two or three days after we got back from San Diego.
- Q. And what led up to that?
- A. I asked him for the loan.
- Q. And he loaned you this money?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did he ever give you any other money than this check?
- A. No.
- Q. Then as far as the financial transactions you have had with this man, there have only been two — when he gave you the check in Tia Juana and when he loaned you the \$75.00 here.
- A. Yes. In that Tia Juana affair, I never realized that it was a check. It was only a joke and the minute I realized it was a check we rushed back and got the check and tore it up.
- Q. Where did you get ahold of the check?
- A. He found it some way through the place where he was employed, I don't know just how. Anyway we went to several places and finally located it in an apartment house.
- Q. Where was this apartment house?
- A. I do not remember where. We had an address and drove there.
- Q. And who had the check?
- A. A man; I do not remember his name; he was a Mexican or foreigner of some sort.
- Q. Did you call him out on the street or did you and Lasher go up and see him?
- A. Mr. Lasher left me sitting in the car and he went up and then he came down with the man and he had the check.
- Q. Did you just deliberately tear up the check there?
- A. No, not until riding in the car. Lasher tore it up.
- Q. Did Lasher and the Mexican and yourself have any conversation?
- A. Yes, brief.
- Q. What was the effect of the conversation?
- A. Lasher blamed me and the foreigner said, "Well, you were all drinking, it was only a joke", and Lasher said, "Yes, I realize it", and I think that was all the conversation.

- Q. Then, outside of the \$75.00 check there was no other money transaction?
- A. No.
- Q. Did Lasher ever give you any cash?
- A. No.
- Q. He never gave you a nickel? never a dollar?
- A. He gave me some electrical fixtures.
- Q. About how much in value would you figure them?
- A. I would not know.
- Q. Did you volunteer to come in here and make this statement?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You came in voluntarily?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Everything you have told us is absolutely the truth?
- A. Absolutely.
- Q. And you are not keeping anything back in your mind that we should know?
- A. Not a thing.
- Q. Everything I have asked you have answered truthfully?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Your mother then never made the suggestion to you or to Lasher that she intended to have Lasher prosecuted for violation of the White Slave Act,
- A. No.
- Q. Lasher never gave you any money?
- A. No.
- Q. He gave you a \$75.00 check and that was money that you borrowed from him?
- A. Yes.
- Q. That is the impression that you want to leave with us and the story you want us to have?
- A. That is the truth.
- Q. As far as the individuals at Tia Juana are concerned you absolutely do not know them?
- A. I met them for the first time there. It was just a party, a wild party, and I would not know one if I were to see them again. I have never been to Tia Juana since.
- Q. And you do not remember the names of any of the men or women whom you met at the home of Don Osborn and Rose Putnam, except the people who lived across the street?
- A. I would remember, I suppose, if I stopped to think, but I can't right now.
- Q. Did you ever see that man at Don Osborn's? (Miss Gibson was here shown a picture of Elacky Madson.)
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you hear his name mentioned?
- A. No.
- Q. Did you see him on many occasions?
- A. No, just once.