

7 Our next witness is Samuel Lopez from
8 United Third Bridge.

9 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you. Good morning.
10 I'll say good afternoon now.

11 My name is Samuel Lopez and I'm
12 President of the United Third Bridge
13 Incorporated, a nonprofit organization in the
14 area of civil rights. We formed United Third
15 Bridge back in 1975, we started to organize.

16 As we were organizing we encountered
17 various discrimination practices and targets
18 towards our organizations as we started to
19 encounter to testify, and, at one point, to
20 incorporate and testify at certain hearings
21 with reference to UTB.

22 We finally got incorporated after two
23 years of being sent to the wrong places, being
24 kept out of work, blackballed, intimidated,
25 harassed, and blackballed, blacklisted. We

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finally got UTB incorporated.

As we continue to incorporate UTB and continue to get membership into our organization, the big people who opposed the incorporation of UTB was the IBEW, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union, Local Union No. 3 of New York City. Also, involved in that was the New York State AFL-CIO. Also involved with that was the Building and Construction Trade Council, who at that time was headed by Peter Brennan.

During the time that we were continuing to incorporate and now that we got incorporated, various of our members were kept out of work. I was being intimidated, I was getting threatening calls to the house, told that I was going to be found at the bottom of the East River with concrete and cement. And at one point I was told that my children were going to be kidnaped, which we contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

During the time that everything started to get heated up, we decided to take our situations and our problems to the United

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2 States Attorney's Office and also to the
3 Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

4 The first thing that we encountered was
5 one of the people that we were having meetings
6 with, his name was Manny Labido, was found on
7 Third Avenue with his head blown off. As we
8 encountered the situations that were going on
9 and we kept meeting with some of our
10 membership, we also decided that it would be
11 the proper thing to go to Washington, D.C. and
12 have a person-to-person meeting with the FBI
13 and also with the Justice Department.

14 When we did this, one week prior to
15 going to the Justice Department, one of our
16 members, his name is John Rodriguez, was also
17 supposed to go with me to Washington, D.C.,
18 together with the rest of the executive board
19 of our organization. We waited a few days,
20 John never showed up; only to find out that
21 John was found in his apartment dead.

22 At that point, we decided to go to
23 Washington, we did talk with the FBI and we
24 did talk to the Justice Department, who told
25 us to come back to New York and deal with the

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2 local people here first, which we did.

3 We went to the United States Attorney's
4 Office and we met with Ms. Bloom, who at that
5 time was in the area of civil rights. Who --
6 at the time, after leaving her office, I felt
7 very disgusted because nothing really came out
8 of it.

9 We also complained to our legislators
10 of the tactics that were being used on us. We
11 complained to the Black and Puerto Rican
12 Legislative Caucus at that time. At one point
13 Al Vance sent letters to the Commission
14 because we also filed with this Commission of
15 Human Rights on the State level, and also with
16 the EEOC, and also at the National Labor
17 Relations Board.

18 We have serious, serious problems with
19 these agencies, such as the National Labor
20 Relations Board, the Equal Opportunity
21 Commission, because, as we filed some of our
22 papers, some of the people at the Commission
23 who are unionized workers who we feel, in our
24 opinion, were given -- that were taking in
25 some of our intakes, that were interviewing

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2 some of our members, people who were
3 interviewing me, were not doing it properly,
4 were not really getting to the meat of what e
5 going on.

6 Also at the time that all this was
7 going on, certain members of our organizations
8 were coming out of work, in one particular
9 case, Mr. Tony Cancel, who is going to testify
10 here later on as to those incidents that
11 happened to him when he was coming home from
12 work -- an Hispanic person put a gun on his
13 side and then a white person jumped in front
14 front of him and put a gun to his forehead,
15 told him to drop the case. At that time we
16 had filed a case in federal court and, also,
17 Tony had filed a case with the Equal
18 Opportunity Commission.

19 Only to say that in all these years
20 that we have filed with the Equal Opportunity
21 Commission, nothing got accomplished. Every
22 time that we went there to try to file a class
23 action suit, we were met with a person by the
24 name of Al Cursesey who gave me such a hard
25 time, who told us that we couldn't file these

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2 papers -- and all kinds of things were
3 happening.

4 We also have with us a girl that's
5 going to be testifying today. Her name is
6 Gladys Lopez, with no relation to me, but who
7 was also, after completing the apprenticeship
8 program and actually getting a college degree,
9 she was thrown out of the union two weeks ago.

10 I did a radio talk show with the Deputy
11 Commissioner of the New York City Commission
12 on Human Rights and Gladys also appeared on
13 that show, on that radio talk program. This
14 was Tuesday. Wednesday I went into work, I
15 was transferred, and Thursday I was fired.

16 These are just some of the things that
17 have happened.

18 I ran for the executive board of my
19 union. As I was running for the executive
20 board, my daughter was beat up. A lot of
21 other similar situations.

22 We have a fellow by the name of --

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Take your time.

24 There's no big rush.

25 MR. LOPEZ: -- Charles Calloway, who is

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2 our executive officer, who also is going to
3 testify while working a person took out a gun
4 on the job on him -- and I'll let Charlie tell
5 you the rest of it.

6 While we were trying to incorporate
7 UTB, another incident was that a person by the
8 name of Carmine Scialto came to the job where
9 I was working. He approached me, he told me
10 he wanted to talk to me. He said to me -- I
11 said to him, "That's perfectly fine. You want
12 to talk to me, let's go in the room and we'll
13 talk." He said to me, "No problem." I said,
14 "There's no problem with me neither."

15 So we went into the room, and he says
16 to me, "You are Samuel Lopez, aren't you?"
17 And I said, "Yes, I am." He said, "Well, do
18 you know James McCarrin, who happens to be a
19 business representative in Local 3?" I says,
20 "Yes, I do know who Mr. McCarrin is." He said
21 to me, "Well, Mr. McCarrin has got a lot of
22 muscle and we are going to get rid of you F'in
23 F'in Puerto Ricans."

24 I said to him, "You know, I thought
25 that's what I heard you say. Would you mind

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2 repeating that to me again?" He said, "Sure.
3 I'm going to repeat that. Short and brief and
4 right to the point."

5 So he said -- he repeated it to me
6 again. He asked me if I knew Mr. McCarrin. I
7 told him yeah. He said, "Well, we are going
8 to get rid of you F'in F'in Puerto Ricans."

9 At which point he looked at me because
10 he saw that I had said, oh, okay, that's what
11 I thought I heard him say, and he said to me,
12 "Are you wired up?" because he thought I had a
13 wire on me. I said, "No, I have something
14 better than a wire, I have a real, live
15 person," and that person happened to be
16 Charles Calloway.

17 So, I asked Charlie to repeat
18 everything. He repeated everything. I asked
19 Charlie if he had a problem with testifying to
20 that in court. Charlie said no. We looked at
21 Carmine. I asked him if he had anything else
22 to tell me. He told me no. And with that, he
23 just left the job. Later on, he came back as
24 a shop steward.

25 I'm going to be testifying to these

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2 things at a latter part of the day and I'm
3 going to go into it in detail. I just want to
4 just briefly -- and I know I did a lot of
5 jumping around from one thing to another, but
6 I just wanted to give you some of the
7 highlights of some of the things that have
8 been going on.

9 And I just hope that, you know, that
10 out of these hearings that something -- and I
11 pray every night -- that something will come
12 out of this because so many people have
13 suffered and so many people have been going
14 through so many things, and it is like nobody
15 listens.

16 The United States Attorney's Office
17 don't listen. The FBI doesn't listen. The
18 Justice Department don't listen. Today -- I
19 called two weeks ago Al Vans office, who
20 happens to be the chairman of the Black and
21 Puerto Rican Legislative Association
22 Organization; I invited them to come here, the
23 Commission wrote them letters. I know they
24 are in Albany, but they also have offices and
25 staff people that could have been here. And I

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2 will tell you, that after I finish here, I
3 will get on those telephones, because if these
4 people are in Albany dealing for us and
5 looking after our interests, I think that this
6 is one of the areas where they should touch
7 and start looking into, which is the building
8 and construction area, not only for minority
9 contractors, but for those people who work in
10 this industry, in the electrical and
11 construction industry.

12 I also am going to contact Hector Diaz,
13 who happens to be the chairman of the Hispanic
14 Task Force. I called his office and I let his
15 office know that these hearings were going to
16 take place. And I will call them again,
17 because there is nobody here from his office.

18 So I just want to thank you for taking
19 the time to listen to what I have to say, and
20 I will be back this afternoon.

21 Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

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24 (Continued on next page.)

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