

Sines, et al. v. Kessler, et al., 3:17CV72, 10/28/2021

1 (Jury in, 2:45 p.m.)

2 THE COURT: Have a seat, please.

3 All right. Mr. Cantwell?

4 MR. CANTWELL: Thank you, Judge.

5 Check, check. Can everybody hear me okay?

6 Ladies and gentlemen, thank you all so much for being
7 here.

8 I'm not used to this stuff, and I was really nervous
9 about the jury selection thing, but I think that this went
10 pretty well. I'm reasonably happy with the outcome. I think
11 you all are reasonably smart people, or better, and I think
12 before we're done here you're going to realize that I'm not
13 just blowing smoke at yous.

14 The plaintiffs are going to tell you that we're a
15 bunch of mean racists who take some perverse joy in harming
16 people because we believe that, deep down, our political goals
17 will be served by chaos and violence. Now, if any of you have
18 ever had the intellectual curiosity to read *Mein Kampf*, or if
19 there's a conservative who is well enough informed to know the
20 difference between Marxism and National Socialism, you already
21 know that this is Mother Jones-level ideological nonsense.

22 We're talking about right-wingers here. This is the
23 Unite the Right rally. Mainstream Republicans may wish to
24 distance themselves from us on the subject of race, due in part
25 to meritless lawsuits like the one here.

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1 But make no mistake about it: This was a right-wing
2 event.

3 Right-wing ideology is characterized by a desire for
4 order, tradition, stability, and rules. The use of force is
5 prohibited in all but defense of person and property and by
6 duly authorized agents of the government to enforce the law.
7 And if you've ever been involved in a violent, chaotic
8 situation before, then you understand that there is no paradox
9 in saying that these rules, the coercive powers of the state,
10 are in place to preserve our freedom. I call this the ordered
11 liberty which is characteristic of Western civilization. The
12 plaintiffs call it white supremacy. And the difference between
13 me and your favorite respectable Republican is that I will
14 defend that way of life by any name. I won't run away from it
15 just because some lunatic calls it racist and threatens to hit
16 me, which is exactly what happened at the Unite the Right rally
17 in August of 2017.

18 How does one go about uniting the right, if you
19 bother to think about that for a minute? When we hear from the
20 plaintiffs' experts, they're going to tell us that the very
21 name of the event, "Unite the Right," was about white
22 supremacy. But if any of you have ever casted a vote for a
23 Republican, you know that that's complete nonsense. Do you
24 unite the right through violent crime? No. And anyone who
25 says otherwise is insulting your intelligence.

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1 What is the principal divide on the ideological
2 right? From our view, it's race.

3 There are people, some of them quite well-meaning,
4 who continue to take literally the demonstrably false idea that
5 all men are created equal. Now, don't get me wrong. That's a
6 fine legal concept, that we treat all of our citizens fairly
7 and according to the same set of rules. But if all men were
8 literally created equal, the world would be an exceedingly dull
9 place. Sure, there would be no Down's syndrome, there would be
10 no retardation, there would be no birth defects or racial
11 differences, if all men were literally created equal. But then
12 we would lose that which the ideological left claims is our
13 greatest strength: Diversity. We wouldn't have it. There
14 wouldn't be any such thing. If we were all born the same, then
15 we truly would be the interchangeable machine parts they try to
16 make of us with their collectivist programs. But the reason
17 these ideas always result in mass murder is because they are
18 contrary to the nature of the human organism.

19 We don't want to hurt people because they are
20 different from us. A man is not equal to himself from one day
21 to the next. "I am not equal to my co-defendants," you'll keep
22 hearing all of us say. I am not looking for uniformity; just
23 order, stability, and a government which organizes policy in
24 tune with the nature of our existence. Give me this and I will
25 live in peace with my neighbors, as I expect that all of you

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1 likewise desire.

2 But if the people who want to insult me over my
3 political views call themselves a racial interest group, that
4 doesn't give license for them to break the law. It doesn't
5 make their racial group better than mine. And it doesn't
6 entitle them to relief from the laws at work in this case.

7 Black Lives Matter is an -- openly Marxist and openly
8 violent. They can't hide behind race in this court.

9 I don't know my co-defendants well enough to speak
10 for them, but that's a fine summary of how I see things. And
11 since what I'm talking about in terms of biological reality
12 cannot be changed through ideology, it is my idea that, to
13 unite the right, Republicans need to stop fearing the
14 accusation of racism.

15 A very wise man once told me that to solve the
16 problems in the black community, it's going to, quote, "require
17 that white people grow some backbone and courage and stop
18 fearing being called a racist." His name was Walter E.
19 Williams, and you'll hear that name again before we're done.
20 That's how you unite the right, not with violent crime.

21 Violent crime unites the left. That's why leftists
22 say things like ACAB. "All cops are bastards" is what that
23 acronym stands for. At the one-year anniversary of the Unite
24 the Right rally, on August 12, 2018, their celebration over the
25 victory -- their victory over truth, leftists marched with a

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1 sign that said: "Last year they came with torches. This year
2 they come with badges." They were comparing us to the police.
3 And before we arrived in Charlottesville in August of 2017,
4 they chanted: "Cops and Klan go hand in hand," equating the
5 KKK with their local police department, because to them, we're
6 just like the cops. And on that point I hope you agree with
7 them. And there's going to be a lot of evidence to that effect
8 in this case.

9 The left-wing lexicon is a fascinating subject. When
10 Blee and Simi, their experts on the white supremacist movement,
11 use the terms "doublespeak" and "strategies of deniability,"
12 remember Plaintiff Wispelwey's favorite catchphrase:
13 "Diversity of tactics."

14 "Diversity of tactics." That's a key phrase I really
15 want all of you to remember throughout the course of this
16 trial.

17 You see, there are peaceful tactics and then there
18 are violent tactics, and then there are diverse tactics, which,
19 like all diversity, is the left's greatest strength. The
20 diversity of tactics makes this lawsuit possible, because
21 right-wing rallies only turn violent when leftists attack the
22 right-wing ralliers. But courts don't help confessed rioters.
23 You need somebody like Reverend Wispelwey to play the
24 sympathetic victim. He says, "Oh, I'm the peaceful religious
25 figure illegally blocking a public roadway with my friends in

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1 the revolutionary Communist Party. If you hit me, you're
2 mean."

3 And then, as Reverend Wispelwey told Slate magazine,
4 "battalions of Antifa" show up with, quote, "community defense
5 tools." That's what Plaintiff Wispelwey told Slate magazine in
6 an interview after these events.

7 So see how this works? "Diversity of tactics" is a
8 left-wing euphemism for political violence which is given cover
9 by ostensibly nonviolent co-conspirators.

10 If you watched the news in the end of 2020, you heard
11 about another one of those words: "Mostly peaceful protests."

12 The only time that you heard plaintiffs' counsel
13 mention Antifa in the course of their entire opening statement
14 was to deny any attachment to it. And before we're done here,
15 you're going to know that that was a lie, and that should
16 really upset you.

17 News flash: That's not how peaceful protest works.
18 If you tolerate the violence of your demonstration, it's a
19 riot. That's how it works.

20 This famous image came out last year of Jim Acosta in
21 front of a burning building with the lower third of the scene
22 said "Fiery but mostly peaceful protest." A lot of you saw
23 that. No. That's called arson. And it's illegal.

24 Another left-wing euphemism --

25 THE COURT: Mr. Cantwell, I hate to interrupt you,

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1 but an opening statement is basically to tell the jury about
2 your defense, and not to make, you know, a speech about --

3 MR. CANTWELL: The "diversity of tactics" line is a
4 phrase from Plaintiff Wispelwey, which I expect him to testify
5 to --

6 THE COURT: You can tell them what you're going to
7 tell them about your beliefs --

8 MR. CANTWELL: I expect --

9 THE COURT: -- and what you can prove about someone
10 else --

11 MR. CANTWELL: I expect Plaintiff Wispelwey --

12 THE COURT: -- other plaintiffs. All right?

13 MR. CANTWELL: That's all right.

14 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

15 MR. CANTWELL: When Mr. Wispelwey takes the stand, I
16 intend to ask him about a term called "community defense."
17 Now, that sounds nice, doesn't it, folks? Almost borders on
18 Republican sloganeering. Defense, community? Where do me and
19 Ted Cruz sign up? But remember what Reverend Wispelwey told
20 Slate: Antifa had community defense tools, as in weapons. And
21 community defense is something very different from
22 self-defense, otherwise they would just call it self-defense.
23 Community defense is the use of physical violence in advance of
24 what advocates say are undesirable political outcomes. If
25 these people speak, they will gain power. They will use it in

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1 ways I disagree with. So I will defend my community by using
2 violence to prevent them from speaking. That's what community
3 defense is.

4 And you're going to hear Mr. Simi and/or Ms. Blee
5 testify that we use double-speak. That's hypocrisy.

6 Let me move on to something that's probably already
7 painfully obvious. I'm not a lawyer. But contrary to the
8 popular cliché, neither do I have a fool for a client. There's
9 no such thing as a public defender in civil court, and I'm
10 poor. So I'm the best attorney that I can afford. And I
11 didn't even stay at a Holiday Inn Express last night. As a
12 matter of fact, I'm going to let you in on a little secret. I
13 don't have to tell you this because it's actually not really
14 relevant to the details of this case. But last night I stayed
15 at the Central Virginia Regional Jail. And when this case is
16 over, I'm going back to a federal prison, win, lose or draw.
17 I'm a fairly recently convicted felon because my mouth gets me
18 into trouble a lot. And last year I was convicted of
19 threatening a Nazi on the Internet because he wouldn't leave me
20 alone and he threatened the woman I wanted to marry.

21 I didn't have to tell you that, but there's like 100
22 different ways you might find out, and I don't want to step on
23 a landmine before we're done here and you think I was trying to
24 snow you.

25 I'm sorry. Sometimes it's going to look like I don't

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1 know what's going on, because I don't. One of the ways I could
2 have stepped on that landmine is by coming out about some of
3 the difficulties I've had trouble preparing for this trial. So
4 I'm going to ask you to bear with me while I find my way
5 through this thing. And since I don't figure any of you are in
6 the habit of being jurors, I think that we're kind of in this
7 thing together. And if I'm lucky, you're going to feel that
8 way too by the time we're done.

9 Here's one thing I do know: I did not conspire to
10 commit racially motivated violence in August of 2017 or any
11 other time, and I didn't conspire to do any of this other crap,
12 either. There's a few guys who were convicted of conspiracy to
13 riot. And you'll notice before we're done here that those guys
14 are conspicuously absent from the courtroom. I think only one
15 of them have been deposed, and in the testimony you're going to
16 see from him, the plaintiffs don't even ask the guy about our
17 relationship because they knew before they asked him that there
18 wasn't one.

19 I didn't invite those guys. I don't think I ever met
20 those guys. And let me tell you: That makes it hard to
21 conspire.

22 There's a bunch of other people who should be in
23 prison for this thing. We'll usually refer to them as Antifa,
24 Communists, Reds, that kind of thing. You may recall, as I
25 said, the only time they mentioned this was to deny any

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1 involvement with them. And you're going to know that that's a
2 lie before we're done.

3 I really, really, really don't like these people.
4 And I'm toning it down right now because we're in polite
5 company. I told you before that my mouth gets me in trouble.
6 And before we're done here, you're going to see how that might
7 turn out to be the case. The plaintiffs are going to go
8 through every nasty thing I've said for the last decade and
9 that's why this thing is going to take a month. There's really
10 just that much of it.

11 And that's partly because I'm a professional
12 entertainer. It's what I do for a living. I'm a very talented
13 and dare I say good-looking host and producer of a live,
14 uncensored, open phones talk show called the Radical Agenda. I
15 made a brief attempt at standup comedy a few years back, I
16 started doing the YouTube thing, and then I was invited to be
17 the cohost of a nationally syndicated broadcast talk radio show
18 called Free Talk Live, which was nationally syndicated on over
19 160 FCC-regulated stations across this country.

20 Then my mouth got me in trouble. Some left-wing
21 activist on Twitter, who happened to be black, tweeted at me
22 with some identity politics nonsense about feminism, like that
23 was going to intimidate me. And to make the point that this
24 was not going to work on your humble correspondent, I gave him
25 a three-word answer. And that answer was "shut up, nigger."

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1 That's what I said to him.

2 And there's a lot more to it. There always is. And
3 we don't need to get into the weeds on this. But depending on
4 how you calculate, you might say that that began the journey
5 that caused you and I to meet. I got banned from Twitter. I
6 got fired from the radio. It made the news, and the publicity
7 got a lot of new people to check out my uncensored,
8 Internet-only entertainment product called the Radical Agenda.

9 On August 11 of 2017 this was how I made 100 percent
10 of my income. I'm very good at my job, in part because I don't
11 care who I upset as long as I entertain my audience. Though
12 largely based on true stories, the show is marketed as fiction
13 because it prioritizes entertainment value and shock value in
14 particular over accuracy. That is a calculated business
15 decision, as well as a matter of artistic integrity.

16 And to this you might say isn't it a contradiction of
17 terms to prioritize integrity over accuracy? And to this I
18 would respond absolutely not. Not in art. That's not how art
19 works and I am an artist. In art, anything is possible.
20 Things like common sense extremism, which is the tag line, the
21 catch phrase of my product, the Radical Agenda. Of course
22 "extreme" and "common" are contradictory terms. It's either
23 or, a binary choice, it's like male or female. It's impossible
24 to be both common and extreme.

25 So when I start the show and I say it's a show about

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1 common sense extremism where we talk about radical, crazy,
2 off-the-wall things like yada, yada, yada, that's me having
3 enough faith in you, the listener, to know that this is a gag.

4 I'm pretty sure the plaintiffs are going to play for
5 you a clip where I added sort of a disclaimer to the show intro
6 where I say specifically that, quote, "The listener is hereby
7 warned to interpret as fiction anything" --

8 (Reporter clarification.)

9 MR. CANTWELL: That's my radio voice and it doesn't
10 work for the reporter. I apologize, ma'am.

11 The quote was, "The listener is hereby warned to
12 interpret as fiction anything they are not able to verify in a
13 more reliable fashion." That's the quote.

14 Ma'am, if I -- if I do that again and I just repeat
15 it slowly afterwards, would that work for you? Because I kind
16 of want to get the idea across: There's a theatrical component
17 to it. I don't think I have a whole lot more of that anyway.

18 I made that decision right after this lunatic Bernie
19 Sanders supporter named James Hodgkinson tried to gun down the
20 Republican Freedom Caucus in Alexandria, Virginia. Some of you
21 might remember that story. It was right before the events at
22 the heart of this dispute.

23 That thing really bothered me for a number of
24 reasons, not the least of which, it was sort of a crescendo to
25 a lot of the political violence that was going on at the time.

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1 And as I said, it was in close temporal proximity to what we're
2 doing here.

3 I went to Charlottesville, Virginia in August of 2017
4 with that terrible event fresh in my mind. The plaintiffs want
5 you to think that I added that disclaimer to my show because I
6 was planning to commit a crime, and this was my way of covering
7 it up or some kind of nonsense like that. But before we're
8 done here, you're going to know that I'm not an idiot, and
9 since you're not either, I don't think you're going to buy it.

10 I'm going to do my best to make this fun for
11 everybody here. If I can make plaintiffs' counsel laugh at
12 jokes they shouldn't be laughing at, like it's involuntary, I'm
13 going to consider myself very proud of myself. But of course
14 here for our side anyway, accuracy matters more than
15 entertainment in this courtroom. But then again, you've
16 probably noticed that most comedy, most art, most
17 entertainment, even the purest fantasy productions feature
18 monsters, wizards and ghosts, have enough truth in them to make
19 them real to us.

20 It's not a chore to suspend disbelief because we can
21 relate, whether it's a boy seeking a girl's affection, conflict
22 over scarce resources, or civilizational scale warfare, all of
23 our entertainment products -- books, movies, TV -- all involve
24 a plotline, a plotline with a conflict, a conflict which
25 appeals to our deepest Darwinian survival and reproduction

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1 instincts. And that is what the Radical Agenda is.

2 If you were paying any attention at all to what was
3 happening between 2014 and 2017, it should come as no surprise
4 at all to you that entertainment products emerged which
5 challenged and capitalized on the prevailing left-wing
6 narratives about race in America. I am the host and producer
7 of one of the most commercially successful such products ever
8 created. And that is why I'm being sued instead of the
9 hundreds of nobodies who came and risked their lives to see me
10 say something in public.

11 I'm not going to ask you for anything that I wouldn't
12 ask you to give a pornographer or a gangster rapper. You don't
13 have to agree with me or like my artwork. The truth is, you
14 don't even need to believe I'm particularly trustworthy,
15 although I'd like to think I am, and obviously that would be
16 ideal. All you need to do is pay attention to the evidence in
17 this courtroom and do what Judge Moon tells you to do, and I'm
18 going to win this thing, no context. It's not even going to be
19 close.

20 I am accused of participating in a racially motivated
21 violent criminal conspiracy, not hate speech, which for the
22 time being is still perfectly legal in the United States. And
23 whatever they tell you, they would very much like that to
24 change. I told you I was glad you were smart because I need
25 you to be. The plaintiffs are going to try to trick you. They

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1 will show you racism and they will show you violence and they
2 will say, aha, gotcha, Nazi, racially motivated violence.

3 But smart jurors are going to notice a couple of
4 things conspicuously absent from that equation, most notably a
5 link between the racism and the violence. A lot of these
6 plaintiffs look as white as me, and for the non-white
7 plaintiffs, with the exception of Mr. Fields's guilty plea,
8 you'll find no connection between the violence and the racism.
9 And I don't think that Mr. Fields's guilty plea is very
10 credible, actually, personally.

11 The other big glaring hole in this story is the
12 conspiracy. If I show up in Charlottesville to say Nazi things
13 and some nutcase decides to commit a hate crime, I'm not
14 legally responsible for that, unless I enter into an agreement
15 with a co-conspirator to make this happen.

16 But there's not just holes in the story, there's also
17 a giant elephant in the room. The plaintiffs are like racism,
18 violence, pay no attention to the armed communists who started
19 the fight or you're a racist too. You might have noticed
20 weapons and protective gear and communist symbols in some of
21 the plaintiffs' opening exhibits. So not only am I lucky that
22 you're smart, I'm also exceedingly fortunate that you're not a
23 bunch of sniveling cowards who would betray your civic duty to
24 avoid being called a racist.

25 Come to think of it, I'm also probably pretty

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1 fortunate that you're not a bunch of closet racists, because
2 this way you don't need to hide your true views by throwing me
3 under the bus.

4 No matter how the plaintiffs or their parade of
5 partisan Democrat swindlers tries to frame it, this case is
6 about hate speech. The plaintiffs are going to try to shoehorn
7 size 12 hate speech allegations into size 5 conspiracy heels.
8 They have to do this because the Constitution of the United
9 States gives them no other way to punish the people whose
10 speech they want outlawed.

11 They tell you they believe in freedom of speech.
12 You're going to know that's not true before we're done here.
13 And it should piss you off that they lied.

14 They've hired some very well-paid people to
15 complicate things, but at base, like I said before, this is
16 pretty simple. Here's racism, here's violence. Blame the
17 racists for the violence and give us lots of money from this
18 guy who can't afford a lawyer. That's a trick and you
19 shouldn't fall for it.

20 Beyond the fact that you're smart, I don't think
21 you're going to fall for this because there's actually a lot of
22 evidence to the contrary, it turns out. You see, I'm smart
23 too. I don't think you're going to fall for this. I'm sorry.
24 I knew there was going to be Antifa there. And while most of
25 America only heard about them in 2020, me and my associates

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1 have known about them for many years. They hunt us like
2 animals, and they are violent and they are dishonest.

3 So when I came to Charlottesville, I wore a body
4 camera. You might have noticed it when the plaintiffs showed a
5 picture of me wearing the Radical Agenda T-shirt. You might
6 have seen it clipped to my collar. You're going to see at
7 least two videos from that during this trial.

8 Let's start with the obvious: Why does the guy who
9 traveled across state lines to commit the crime wear a body
10 camera? Why do his co-conspirators let him do something so
11 reckless?

12 Conspiracy, the judge told you, involves an unlawful
13 purpose. The plaintiffs tell you that we came here planning to
14 get away with this. Why am I recording video of the whole
15 thing? I'm not a cop. This wasn't a secret. The plaintiffs
16 didn't have to drag this evidence out of me. It wasn't found
17 in a search warrant. I wore the body camera and recorded
18 because I was afraid that somebody might try to hurt me, and
19 I'd have to defend myself, and I wanted to make sure that
20 nobody had to take my word for what happened.

21 Again, I don't expect you to trust me. That's the
22 whole entire point here. I'd certainly prefer to earn your
23 trust, but one of the things you're probably going to hear me
24 say in several different interviews that gets played here,
25 because I say it all the time, is that I knew long before I

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1 showed up in Virginia that I'm going to be a profoundly
2 unsympathetic defendant in a courtroom if I get charged with a
3 crime.

4 So I brought the body camera to protect myself. And
5 as you're going to see before we're done here, it's a very
6 fortunate thing that I did. It's also a good thing I saved the
7 videos before I went to University of Virginia on August 11th,
8 because the plaintiffs' co-conspirator, Lindsey Elizabeth
9 Morris, an Antifa criminal from Philadelphia, stole it from me.
10 And I should be able to show you two different angles of that
11 theft, from other cameras that picked it up. More on that
12 later.

13 The first body camera video takes place in the
14 Walmart parking lot in Charlottesville on August 11, 2017 at
15 something we called the Radical Agenda listeners meet-up. This
16 was the only event of the weekend that I could accurately be
17 described as having organized, and despite the best efforts of
18 Antifa, there was no violence at that event.

19 One of the ways I used to make money on the Radical
20 Agenda -- there's a premium content subscription service called
21 a paywall. For a monthly fee, users gained access to
22 members-only, exclusive bonus content. Since I was afraid of
23 Antifa, but I wanted to meet my listeners before the event, I
24 disabled news silence on the website and announced the meet-up
25 details behind that paywall so that only existing paying

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1 customers could see it. You couldn't find out I was going to
2 do it and then quick pay the ten bucks, okay? Which tells you
3 something in and of itself: I'm trying to avoid the people who
4 say I'm conspiring to attack them.

5 You're going to see a lot of that nonsense in this
6 case, and it's obviously ridiculous. The plaintiffs told you
7 in their opening statement that the torch march of the evening
8 of August 11 was supposed to be a secret. Okay. So we had a
9 secret rally that was designed to attack a bunch of innocent
10 students. Really? Is that what they want you to believe? You
11 should be insulted by that.

12 I've got some printouts from my website to show you
13 how that paywall feature works. It works very well actually.
14 But that didn't stop Mike Longo, Jr. and Paul Minton and some
15 other Antifa criminals from confronting us in the Walmart
16 parking lot. The logical conclusion is that they were paying
17 me money before this went down so that they could spy on me and
18 my listeners. Who is conspiring against who here? Huh?

19 But it gets worse than that. You're going to see on
20 that video, I pull up to the Walmart, I get out of my car, I
21 wait for my listeners to show up. They quickly do, we all get
22 to shaking hands. We're having a fine time. And then Antifa
23 shows up. They're all white, as usual, but we know it's them
24 just because they've got that kind of scumbag look to them.
25 You know the type.

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1 Now, I was legally carrying a gun at the time, a
2 Glock 19 semi-automatic pistol in my waistband in the small of
3 my back. I tucked my shirt in behind the holster to let these
4 violent criminals know that violence was not going to be a
5 viable option for them that day, but I did not take it out of
6 the holster, point it or threaten them or any of the other
7 lunatic crap that they ran and told the 9-1-1 operator
8 immediately afterwards.

9 In the video you're going to see the cops show up,
10 and they question us, and they say hey, we got a report of a
11 guy that pulled a gun on someone. And I say to the cops, hey,
12 I got a body camera right here. I did nothing of the sort. So
13 you go ahead, take this. I'm happy to cooperate with you. We
14 got nothing to hide.

15 But the cops didn't take my camera because the guy
16 who called in the false report didn't want to take credit for
17 making a false report. The complainant didn't show up and the
18 police sent us on our way.

19 From there it was on to an interview I had scheduled
20 with a reporter from Vice News Tonight on HBO. HBO, the
21 company that gave you The Sopranos and Game of Thrones and
22 stuff. Great entertainment products, let's say. I expect the
23 plaintiffs to play some choice clips from that slickly edited
24 Emmy Award-winning production from the Home Box Office company.
25 If necessary, I've got the full unedited audio of the two

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1 interviews I did with that reporter in two different states
2 because I was concerned that she would take me out of context.
3 So I brought my own pocket audio recorder with me to make a
4 complete unedited recording.

5 So now, remember what I asked you to think about when
6 I told you that I had a body camera. Ask yourself again: Why
7 is the guy who is plotting to commit a crime hanging out
8 talking to reporters and creating unedited recordings for his
9 own release on his website? Why are his co-conspirators going
10 along with all of this fame whoring? Obviously this is the
11 behavior of an activist and a performance artist, not a
12 criminal conspirator.

13 But wait. There's more. Like a Billy Mays
14 commercial. After the first Vice News interview, my
15 co-defendant Jason Kessler and someone who is conspicuously not
16 a co-defendant, who called himself Kurt Vandal, invited me to a
17 so-called leadership meeting. You'll have the opportunity to
18 see those messages, I think, but it's just an undisputed fact
19 that I was invited at sort of the last minute.

20 Which brings us to an important point which you've
21 heard some of my co-defendants say, and I should touch on
22 briefly. I don't really know my co-defendants that well. As a
23 matter of fact, I noticed -- pardon me, Richard. I noticed
24 Richard has like a stuffed animal in his bag there, and it
25 occurred to me, I didn't know that Richard had kids. And if

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1 you think that I'm going to enter into a criminal conspiracy,
2 risk going to prison, for a guy I don't even know if he's got
3 kids or not, you're out of your mind. I wouldn't to that.
4 That's insane.

5 I really don't know my co-defendants. I knew them
6 even less on August 11, 2017. I shouldn't speculate too much
7 about what you're going to see regarding that, but you're not
8 going to see the kind of closeness that a conspiracy such as
9 the one alleged by the plaintiffs requires. There's a lot of
10 "nice to meet you" type stuff going on here.

11 As a matter of fact -- pardon me while I try to piece
12 this all together here. To the best of my knowledge, I have
13 never met Michael Hill and Michael Tubbs. The first time I met
14 James Fields, I was in jail, and so was he. The first time I
15 met Azzmador was at that leadership meeting on August 11. The
16 first time I met Tom Rousseau was at the same meeting. I saw
17 Jeff Schoep, or "scoop," whatever his name is, once before
18 C'ville at an event in Pikeville, Kentucky. I might have
19 shaken his hand. I don't really know if I did, to tell you the
20 truth.

21 I texted Matt Heimbach in Charlottesville. "This is
22 Cantwell." And it was just before -- I forget if it was August
23 11 or what it was. I think it was August 11. Because before
24 that day, he wouldn't have recognized my phone number to
25 receive a text from it.

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1 The plaintiffs have told you that the majority of
2 planning was on Discord, but you might have noticed for all
3 their talk about me, they didn't show you any of my Discord
4 messages. That's because they were thoroughly uninteresting.
5 And I only actually joined the Charlottesville 2.0 Discord, I
6 know it was in the month of August. Let's just say August 1st.
7 It might have been later than that actually. I was not an
8 administrator of the chat server. I was not in any of the
9 leadership channels. I think I posted to it maybe 13 times and
10 I had joined that month.

11 So not to throw the organizers of the event under the
12 bus or anything, but I just wasn't one of them. It's just a
13 fact of this case. I didn't conspire to hold a legal event,
14 much less commit a crime. I was invited to speak by a
15 defendant by the name of Augustus Invictus, who has defaulted
16 on this suit, who isn't here. So, you know, I don't know what
17 to say about what he did.

18 But I was only invited to the so-called leadership
19 meeting at the last minute after the location had changed.
20 Now, leaders make decisions like this, about changing the
21 location of the meeting. They don't get informed of the
22 meeting's existence after the other guys' plan goes to pot.
23 But I did go to the so-called leadership meeting. And the
24 plaintiffs allege that we conspired at that meeting to commit
25 racially motivated violence. As a matter of fact, they didn't

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1 mention that in their opening statement, which was kind of
2 interesting because they mentioned it in their complaint.

3 When I was -- when they served us with this lawsuit,
4 they didn't know I had that body camera video. Now, I can tell
5 you that I -- spoiler alert: I have a video of the meeting. I
6 deny that I conspired to commit racially motivated violence
7 anywhere, much less at this meeting. So they say there was a
8 racially motivated violent criminal conspiracy hatched at the
9 meeting. I say there wasn't. And guess what, there's a video
10 of the whole thing.

11 You will have the chance to judge for yourself who is
12 telling the truth, and more importantly, who is lying to you,
13 based on that video.

14 Now, you might be asking yourself, how did they get
15 this video? Was it an undercover cop, a snitch, hot mic? No.
16 It's my body camera tape. I wasn't surreptitious. It wasn't
17 accidental. I was afraid that Antifa might try to hurt us, so
18 I was recording for my own protection.

19 And here we find ourselves facing nearly precisely
20 such a false accusation. It's a good thing I never expected
21 you to take my word for it because we have an objective record
22 of the entire nearly two-hour meeting so you can judge what
23 happened without trusting anybody.

24 Since the plaintiffs allege a criminal conspiracy,
25 what's most important about this video is what you don't see.

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1 Same thing for the Walmart parking lot video. So when it's my
2 turn to go here, if they let me, which I think they're going
3 to, we're going to watch this whole thing from front to back,
4 from beginning to end, because they say it's a violent criminal
5 conspiracy. Let's see when I get out of my car and when I get
6 back into my car and you tell me when the crime happens.

7 Now, you will hear a couple of racist jokes. We're
8 sort of notorious for these things. You'll hear us talking
9 about pepper spray, firearms, armor. You'll even hear some
10 brief mention of running people down with a vehicle and getting
11 in a gun fight. But what you won't hear is a conspiracy to
12 commit any crime, much less a violent one.

13 You'll also hear me tell Jason Kessler, quote, "If
14 we're going to do it at all, I want the cops involved," end
15 quote. You'll hear Jason agree, and Defendant Kline, who has
16 abandoned this litigation, but is on the video, he tells us
17 that the police are indeed on board. Well, I guess this
18 conspiracy goes pretty deep, huh? The cops are in on it now?

19 So after a long day of being conspired against but
20 conspiring against nobody, I go back to my hotel room without
21 my co-defendants, and the next time I see them is at the
22 University of Virginia. I should be kind of careful about what
23 I say here because I don't actually know how much I'm going to
24 be able to get into evidence, but I am sure -- you've already
25 seen it. They played it in their opening. You see a picture

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1 of me pepper spraying a guy. And the plaintiffs are going to
2 say aha, gotcha, Nazi. There's our hate crime. But if you
3 paid any attention, you might have noticed that the guy I
4 pepper sprayed -- pretty white for a hate crime. So I'm lucky
5 that you're smart. Smart jurors ask questions like: Hey, I
6 thought that guy Chris was all right. Why did he pepper-spray
7 that guy? And then you're going to be able to look at the
8 video. And you're going to be like: Wait a second. That guy
9 was fighting before Chris pepper-sprayed him. Aha. I knew
10 Chris wouldn't pepper-spray a guy for no reason.

11 And you're going to notice, as I said: Hey, wait a
12 second. If this is some kind of racist conspiracy, why isn't
13 Chris pepper-spraying those black guys? And the simple answer
14 to that is: They weren't the threat. They weren't fighting.

15 A fight broke out. I wasn't happy about it. I did
16 what I thought I had to do. All the people fighting turned out
17 to be white. If the blacks fought, I'd have fought the blacks.
18 I'm an equal opportunity guy. I had nothing against those
19 white people for being white.

20 Now, you can imagine the body camera video of this
21 was pretty intense. But, unfortunately, I don't have it. The
22 camera got stolen during the fighting by Lindsey Elizabeth
23 Moore, who is a Philly Antifa. You're going to see two
24 different angles of video that this happened. And then I get
25 pepper-sprayed by the same guy you saw me pepper-spray in the

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1 plaintiffs' opening statement. And then I'm out of the fight
2 and it's basically -- it's basically over.

3 Now, that fight was pretty busy: A lot of people, a
4 lot of different angles of video, a lot of action. I'm going
5 to try to show you as much of it as I can. Some of it is
6 pretty amazing, but I still don't totally get the rules of
7 evidence, so I'm not going to make a bunch of promises right
8 now, in case I can't keep them.

9 I can tell you what you're definitely not going to
10 see. You're not going to see me pepper-spray a Jewish man
11 named Christopher Goad or a transgender Asian calling himself
12 Emily Gorcenski.

13 The plaintiffs are going to tell you that I pleaded
14 guilty to two counts of misdemeanor assault and battery, one on
15 each of these two names. And it's true I pleaded guilty to
16 those two charges. But that does not prove the plaintiffs'
17 claims. They just told Mr. Spencer it doesn't matter that he
18 wasn't charged. It doesn't matter that I was. As a matter of
19 fact, I sued Goad and Gorcenski for malicious prosecution, and
20 to avoid liability for filing a false report, Goad and
21 Gorcenski signed a mutual release of all claims with me, so
22 they are not parties to this suit. Neither is the guy that I
23 pepper-sprayed, by the way. They are not parties to this suit.
24 They never were. I can't sue them and they can't sue me.
25 That's the terms of our agreement.

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1 What I actually pleaded guilty to wasn't actually
2 even an attack on either of these individuals. They changed
3 their stories a few times. But ultimately, they say that they
4 were affected by my overspraying when I pepper-sprayed the guy
5 you saw in the picture during plaintiffs' opening statements,
6 the guy we talked about before. An accident, in other words.
7 That's what I pleaded guilty to.

8 Now, I could have gone to trial, but I was facing
9 40 years in prison if convicted. And I was offered a plea
10 agreement: Plead guilty to the misdemeanors and go home right
11 now, or go to trial and risk it all. Ladies and gentlemen, I
12 am no coward. But I am not stupid, either. And with all due
13 respect to the process we're in the middle of, I don't trust
14 the system that much. So if you tell me to choose between a
15 100 percent chance of going home right now with my Second
16 Amendment intact or the possibility, no matter how slim, that I
17 do 40 years in prison, I'm going home. And anybody that don't
18 like it can kiss my ass. You'd do it, too.

19 Now, the only reason I'm telling you this is because
20 it's true. My conviction is not evidence of a racially
21 motivated violent conspiracy, and it wouldn't be even if it was
22 for something I actually did. So that's August 11th in a
23 nutshell. Long day, let me tell you. Hell of a thing. The
24 main event was scheduled for August 12th. What a weekend.

25 Now, the thing about August 12th is I actually don't

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1 know a whole lot about August 12, because I got pepper-sprayed
2 by Mike Longo, Jr. first thing in the morning, same guy who
3 confronted me at the Wal-Mart parking lot, same guy you'll see
4 in video on August 11th at UVA. First thing in the morning, I
5 get pepper-sprayed as I'm literally walking to the park. I'll
6 tell you what: That kind of cramped my style a little bit.
7 Twice in as many days.

8 So after I got out of that park and my eyesight
9 recovered, I went back to my hotel room and found out about the
10 car wreck the same way most of you did. Sad thing, let me tell
11 you. Girl dead. Bunch of people hurt. Innocent man spends
12 the rest of his life in prison. That was not nice. It's
13 enough to make a man cry, matter of fact. Made me cry. The
14 whole thing, not the wreck itself. The media gave me a
15 nickname. There's a video of me that became rather famous, of
16 me in tears. They called me the Crying Nazi. Literally adding
17 insult to injury. Fucking vultures.

18 So what I've told you here is what I can prove, at
19 least this much, to you. I have higher ambitions for this
20 trial. The easiest thing for me to do is come in here and say
21 I didn't do what they're accusing me of. There's just no
22 evidence. I don't have to do anything. I don't have to go
23 through this spiel. I don't have to show you what happened. I
24 can sit in that chair and I can ask people: Did I hurt you?
25 Did I conspire with you? And everybody is going to say no,

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1 because there's no evidence I conspired with anybody.

2 But what happened that day was important. And what's
3 happening here is important, too.

4 My website is christophercantwell.net. When this is
5 over, I hope you all become die-hard fans and together we can
6 try to save the country. But for now, just try to find -- real
7 hard, try to find the part where I enter into an agreement with
8 a co-conspirator to commit a crime. These guys are going to
9 waste a month of your life on that goal, and they're going to
10 fail, because it's not true, and they know it's not. And that
11 should piss you off almost as much as it pisses me off, even if
12 you share their ideological viewpoint. And I say that with all
13 sincerity, because as much as I don't want our politics going
14 any further left, I genuinely appreciate diversity of opinion
15 and lively debate.

16 Did I -- oh, that mic. Sorry.

17 A lively debate -- I should skip that paragraph
18 after -- there are changes this country is going through.
19 Anybody who refuses to engage in an honest debate is going to
20 be left out of the conversation. If you don't want me and my
21 associates ruling this country unopposed, you need to send a
22 very clear message to the violent Communists and the corrupt
23 elites that caused us to meet today.

24 Calling somebody a racist is not an excuse to use
25 violence. If you want to avoid fascism in America, you'd do

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1 well not to censor and disarm your populace.

2 Calling somebody a racist is not an excuse to abuse
3 the legal system. And it's certainly no excuse to steal a
4 month from decent people like you.

5 Thank you very much for indulging me. My name is
6 Christopher Cantwell, and I'm looking very much forward to your
7 verdict, unanimous or otherwise. Thank you.

8 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

9 Mr. Campbell?

10 MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Your Honor. May it please
11 the Court.

12 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is
13 Dave Campbell, and I represent James Fields in this lawsuit.

14 I'm not here to defend hate. I'm not here to defend
15 white supremacy. I'm here to defend James Fields to the extent
16 that is possible.

17 In that regard, I'm not going to attempt to get you
18 to believe that Mr. Fields did not intentionally drive his
19 vehicle into a crowd of people, as you've seen in the video
20 multiple times, and will see many more times, I'm sure.

21 Similarly, I'm not going to try to make you believe
22 that Mr. Fields did not attend Unite the Right, that he did not
23 march with members of Vanguard America, or that he was not
24 given a shield of that same organization. At the end of this
25 case, primarily, I will be asking you to be fair.