

POEM FOR LARRY CRAIG

Kenneth Goldsmith

Am I going to have to fight you in court?

No. No. I'm not going to go to court unless you want me there.

I don't want to be in court either, OK?

I don't either.

All, um, um.. Here's the way it works, um, you'll you'll be released today, OK, OK?

Alright.

I I know I can I can bring you to jail but that's not my goal here. OK? I'm trying to...

Well, let's let's don't do that. You you...

I'm not going to bring you to jail.

You you solicited me, I mean...

OK. OK.

We're gonna get in... we're gonna get into that. We can get into that..

OK. But but there's two ways. Yes, you can, you can, uh, you can go to court and you can plead guilty...

Yeah.

... and there will be a fine and you don't have to explain anything at all...

Alright.

... and you'll be done. Or if you want to plead not guilty, ee, uh, and I I can't make these decisions for you.

No, no just tell me where I am because I'm not guilty and... Guys, I need to make this flight.

OK. OK. And then if you plead not guilty then will I have to come to court and testify, right? OK. One of two things. OK? Can I explain that first?

Yes.

OK. Um, uh, tell me your age real quick, OK?

Yes. 79(?)

Um, the date is, uh, 6-11-07 at 12:28 hours. Um... Mr. Craig?

Yes.

Alright. Uh, here we go, hun? You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in the court of law. You have the right to talk to a lawyer now or have one present... a lawyer present during questioning. If you cannot afford a lawyer, one will be appointed to you at no cost. Do you understand each of these rights as I've explained them to you?

I do.

Do you wish to talk to us at this time?

I do.

OK, um, I just want to start off with, uh, your side of the story. OK, so, uh...

Well, I go into the bathroom here as I normally do. I'm a commuter too here.

OK.

I sit down, um, to go to the bathroom and, uh, you said our feet bumped. I believe they did, uh, because I reached down and scooted over and, um, the next thing I knew, under the bathroom divider comes a card that says police. Now, um... that's about as far as I can take it. I don't know of anything else. Uh, your foot came toward mine, mine came toward yours. Was that natural? I don't know. Did we bump? Yes. I think we did. You said so. I don't disagree with that.

OK. I don't want to get into a fisting match here...

We're not going to.

Good, uh...

I don't... uh, uh, uh, I am not gay. I don't do these kinds of things and I don't...

That doesn't matter. I don't care about sexual preference or anything like that -- you can get your stuff back here -- um, I don't care about sexual preference.

I know you don't. You're out to enforce the law.

Right.

But you shouldn't be out to entrap people here either.

This isn't entrapment.

Alright.

Um, you're skipping some parts here. But wha, what about your hand?

What about it? I reached down here by my foot like this. There was a piece of paper on the floor. I picked it up.

OK.

What about my hand?

Well, you're not being truthful with me. I'm kind of disappointed in you Senator. I'm really disappointed right now.

OK. I'm not... just so you know. Just like everybody...

Yep...

...I I I treat with dignity, I try to pull them away from the situation and not embarrass them...

I appreciate that. And you did that after I stepped out of the stall.

And I will say that every person I've had so far has told me the truth. We've been respectful to each other and then they've gone on their way. I've never had to throw anybody in jail because everybody's been truthful to me.

I don't want you to take me to jail and I think...

I'm not gonna take you to jail if you'll be cooperative but I'm not going to lie. I, I...

Did it come below the divider? Yes it did.

OK. Sir. We deal with people that lie to us every day.

I'm sure you do.

We deal with everyone like a gentlemen.

So do I.

I'm sure you do.

We deal with a lot of people that are very bad people. You're not a bad person.

No. I don't think so.

Yeah, I know, so, but what I'm telling you is that I don't want to be lied to.

OK.

OK? So, let's start over. You're gonna get out of here. You're gonna have to pay a fine and that'll be it. OK? And I don't call media. I don't do anything of that type of crap.

Fine.

OK?

Fine.

Alright. So let's start from the beginning. You're in the bathroom.

I went to the bathroom.

Then what did you do when you went in?

I stood beside the wall waiting for a stall to open. I got in the stall, sat down, and I started to go to the bathroom. Uh, did our feet come together? Apparently they did bump. Well, I don't dispute that.

OK, when I got out of the stall I know that... I noticed that other stalls were open. Was there any...

They were at the time. At the time I entered I I... At the time I entered I stood and waited.

OK.

They they were all busy, you know?

Were you looking at me while you were waiting? I could see your eyes. I could see you plant your fingers and look up.

Did I glance at your stall? I was glancing at a stall right beside yours waiting for a fellow to empty it. I saw him stand up. And therefore I thought it was gonna empty.

How long do you think you stood in front of that stall?

Oh, a minute or two at the most.

OK. When you went in the stall, then what?

I sat down.

Did you do anything with your feet?

Positioned them? I don't know. I don't know, at the time. I'm a fairly wide guy. I...

I understand.

I tend to spread my legs...

OK.

... when I lower my pants so they won't slide. OK? Did I slide them too close to yours? Did I...? I looked down once your foot was close to mine.

Yes.

Did we bump? Uh, you said so. I don't recall that but apparently we were close.

Yeah. Well, your foot did touch mine on my side of the stall.

Alright.

OK. And, then with the hand, um, how many times did you put your hand under the stall?

I I don't recall. I I remember reaching down once. There was a piece of toilet paper back behind me and I recall picking it up.

OK. Was your was your pa... palm down or up when you were doing that?

I don't recall.

OK. I recall your palm being up. OK?

Alright.

Let me pick a piece of paper up. Your palm would be down when you pick something up.

Yeah, it probably would be. I recall picking the paper up.

And I know it's hard to describe here on on tape but actually what I saw was your fingers come underneath the stall, so you're actually ta... touching the bottom of the stall.

I don't... I don't recall that. I don't believe I did that. I don't... I don't do those things.

I saw I saw your left hand and I could see... I could see the the gold wedding ring when when it went across. I could see that. You know I can. I can see...

Wait a moment. My left hand was over here...

I saw... there's a...

...and my right hand was next to you.

I could tell it was my, uh, I could tell it was your left hand because your thumb was positioned in a, uh, face-forward in a certain motion. Your thumb was on this side, not on this side.

Well, we could dispute that. I'm not going to fight you in court but I I reached down with my right hand to pick up the paper.

I'm telling you that I see that so I know it's your left hand. Also I could see a gold ring on this finger so it's obvious that it was the left hand.

Yeah, OK. My left hand was in the direct opposite of the stall from you.

OK.

You you travel through here frequently, sir?

I do, um, almost weekly.

Maybe you've been successful in these bathrooms before?

I go to that bathroom regularly.

Do you partake in any of other activity?

No, Absolutely not. I don't seek activity in bathrooms.

It's embarrassing.

Well it's embarrassing for both of us. I'm not going to fight you.

I know you're not going to fight me, but that's not the point. I would respect you and I still respect you, I don't disrespect you but I'm disrespected right now and I'm not trying to act like I have all kinds of power or anything but you're sitting here lying to a police officer!

Uh uh, well... I I I don't want...

It's not a judgment that came from somebody else! I'm being serious to this, OK? I'm trained for this and I know what I'm

doing! And I saw you put your hand under there and you're gonna sit there... admit it!

I I put my hand down.

You put your hand and rubbed it on the bottom of the stall with your left hand...

But wait a moment!

... and I I'm not dumb. I can tell...

If I if I had turned sideways... that was the only way I could get my left hand over there.

Not that hard for me to reach all... from my hand to that. It's not that hard. It does happen every day up here now. OK?

Alright.

I'm just I'm just... I guess I'm just... I want to say I'm disappointed in you, mister. I just really am. I expected from the guy we get out of the hood that you... I mean, people vote for you!

Yes. They do and...

Unbelievable. Unbelievable!

I'm a respectable kind of person and I don't do these kind of...

Where's your respect right now, though?

But I didn't use my left hand. I reached down with my right hand like this just to pick up a piece of paper.

Was your gold ring on your right hand at any time today?

Of course not. Try to get it off. Look at it.

OK, then it was your left hand. I saw it with my own...

Alright. You saw something that didn't happen.

Embarrassing. Embarrassing. Alright. This is embarrassing!
The date is 6-11-07 at 12:36 and we're done.
OK?

Postscript: The Accusers

JONES

My first thing I said to myself is what a hypocrite, this guy came to see me, and, um, you know, I I didn't know what to do. It was almost like the haggard thing, like, now what do I do when I I know this information? But what really set the tone for me with Craig was, he said he was gonna resign. OK? Listen. In my mind I thought, fine, you know, that's what he should do. I think, you know, I don't need to worry about it. I didn't want to make it an issue, you know, that's not what I was into, coming out every time I knew someone was gay that was seeing me, that was not my thing. Um, but what made me change my mind and what really kind of angered me was when he was renege... when I heard rumors that he was renegeing on his resignation, um, when I started seeing blurbs where Craig may actually, you know, not resign that's when I contacted you guys. Um, because that's when I started getting, like, this is not right. You know, he was doing the right thing to resign but now that he's gonna backtrack and renege on that, that was not right because I knew this guy was a hypocrite. The one that stands out about his man, besides the fact that I recognized him and heard him and recognized his voice when he spoke was, here's a man, who within the first five minutes of seeing me said, Do you follow politics Mike? which is such a strange statement anyway to begin with. And then he didn't follow up on it. He basically changed the subject. When I said yes, he said, oh, gee, it's cold outside. And that's in my mind... you have to understand, people in my business, you know, we're pretty good about figuring out people very quickly by based on things they say and things they do, and so when he said that, in my mind I said, oh, he's a politician, um, which was not my first by any means but... but it didn't matter

to me, it does... it didn't... that's not what I was in business for was to really figure all that out or try to trap people. But it was a clear indication that he was a politician to me. And then he did something that {sigh} only a few people did who saw me through the years and that is he kept his clothes on.

Um, elaborate on that, please.

Well, he took his sweatshirt off and he had a t-shirt on and he undid his zipper and he pulled his penis out and he performed oral sex on me. Yeah, I sent him into the room and that's where they can disrobe or whatever they want to do. I always stay out of the room...

Oh, I see. OK.

...while they do that and so there's... I have hooks and hangers on my walls so they can hang up their coats, whatever... So, when I went in there, when he said he was ready, um, I just saw the t-shirt on and, that was... and he was laying on the table with his clothes on and it was like no big deal. So, I was just kind of touching him around and he wanted me he wanted me to be nude which I was and, um, he was kind of playing with me a little bit and then, you know, after I got an erection for him, that's when he undid his zipper and pulled his penis out. So he was stroking, as he was you know, performing oral sex on me...

He was stroking...

His penis.

OK.

But my penis was clearly in his mouth.

And how long did that go on?

It probably went on for about twenty minutes. Now the only way I knew he had basically reached his moment was, you know, his moaning and groaning. Alright? So, I just assumed he had reached orgasm. And then, you know, he wanted my penis out of his mouth so then I figured out that was... He reached his his moment. That was it. I handed him... I have hand towels there. I handed him a towel and I left the room. So he got kind

of cleaned up, went to the bathroom and cleaned up, because I have a bathroom for, you know, my clients have a bathroom there if they want to take a shower or clean up, whatever they wanted to do. And that was it. He was actually, you know, less than an hour.

PHILLIPS

He led me into the, uh, back door but the comments that he was, um, making to me, uh, going down the alley into the house about, um, re... just remember, you've never been here, you don't know me. You've never been here, you've never been here. And he was hyperconscious, uh uh uh, suspicious, uh, and, but, we went on through the back of the house, um, and on up to what seemed like a guest room upstairs, um, where we... He kept his pants on so he was fully dressed the whole time. He hung his, uh, suit jacket on the, uh, top corner of the door of that room and, uh, had me strip down and we were fondling each other and, uh, kissed and then, uh, he had me, uh, lay back. He performed fellatio on me and then, um, I did on him. He, uh, left the room for a moment and came back with, uh, condoms and, um, some, uh, lotion or something he uses as lubricant that he, uh, wanted, uh, uh, to, you know, for me to offer him anal sex or me to receive him. And I I did and he again commented, just remember, you don't know me, and, uh, it it it was getting really uncomfortable for me, um, and, uh, the graphic detail about, you know, what occurred during the, uh, anal sex and, uh, that the mess that was created, he was absolutely frantic about it and didn't want me going in the bathroom to clean myself up. He just wanted me to get my clothes back on and leave. And I, eh, I had just never been treated that way by a man before and, you know, he led me back down the stairs, uh, where, you know, going up to have sex he was... he seemed half-way attentive, touching me,

stroking my face, even though he was constantly telling me, you know, uh, you don't know me, you haven't been here. He was half way attentive after the sex he just wanted to get me out of there. It was, uh, it was going back through that I recall looking, uh, back over at a table where there was an envelope like you'd find, you know, with a flower arrangement or or a gift, uh, that had Suzanne Craig written on it and that, uh... but then we, uh, he herded me out the back door and when we were almost there he took a twenty out of his pocket and shoved it in my pocket and he said, remember, you haven't been here. Just remember, I can buy and sell your ass a thousand times over. And, you know, opened the door and scooted me out and that that, for a twenty-one year old kid, that really hurt to be treated like that, and I think it's because of feeling that hurt I just... that was constantly in my head, that encounter. Uh, and, uh, so, you know, I, I, you know, I went back to my car and I, uh, you know, drove home and probably, in an hour and a half of traffic, uh, you know, with soiled underwear and feeling totally humiliated, uh, and I I didn't hear that voice again, uh, until the end of August when this all just, you know, came back to me.