

the task force's work was suspended?

Mr. Schumacher. Yes, sir.

Mr. Shays. Now we're going to get into specifics later, but do you think sufficient work was done to develop leads that you were investigating in 1999 and early 2000?

Mr. Schumacher. I'm sorry, would you repeat that?

Mr. Shays. We're going to get into more specifics later, but do you think sufficient work was done to develop leads that you were investigating in 1999 or early 2000 or do you think more work needed to be done?

Mr. Schumacher. More work needed to be done.

Mr. Shays. I would like to ask Mr. Stephens--Mr. Chaison, is that how you say your name?

Mr. Chaison. That's correct.

Mr. Shays. You both will have to switch the mic back and forth.

Mr. Burton. You need to point the mic right at your mouth and have it relatively close.

Mr. Shays. Mr. Stephens, could each of you please provide a short summary of your law enforcement background and experience.

Mr. Stephens. I've been a police officer with Houston Police Department for 20 years and 6 months. I spent a short time in patrol, made sergeant and went to the homicide division for 10 years. I've been in the narcotics for 6 years.

Mr. Shays. Mr. Chaison.

Mr. Chaison. Yes. I've been a police officer for 21 years. I've worked out of the Special Operations Division where we have provided security for the President, Vice President and any dignitary that came to the city of Houston. I was assigned to narcotics in 1993 where I have worked since then.

Mr. Shays. And you are an undercover officer at times.

Mr. Chaison. That's correct.

Mr. Shays. Mr. Allen.

Mr. Allen. Yes I've been a police officer 17 years. I have worked in narcotics 9 years. I have worked as a polygraph examiner 4 years.

Mr. Shays. It's my understanding that all three of you have been involved in the joint task force with the DEA to investigate the Rap-A-Lot organization, is that correct, Mr. Stephens?

Mr. Stephens. Yes, sir, it is.

Mr. Shays. Mr. Chaison.

Mr. Chaison. That's correct.

Mr. Shays. Mr. Allen.

Mr. Allen. That's correct.

Mr. Shays. When were you on the task force and what were your assignments, as best you can tell us? Again, we will go down. Mr. Stephens.

Mr. Stephens. In October or November 1998 Jack Schumacher came to the Houston Police Department, to the Narcotics Division, and requested assistance from a squad to help him with an investigation which was the Rap-A-Lot case. My captain at the time then assigned my group and myself to work on that case with Agent Schumacher, and we stayed on the case until it was closed.

Mr. Shays. Mr. Chaison--when you say until it was closed, not that you had finished your work, Mr. Stephens, is that correct?

Mr. Stephens. That's correct.

Mr. Shays. The work still needed to go on, is that correct?

Mr. Stephens. Yes, sir.

Mr. Shays. Thank you.

Mr. Chaison.

Mr. Chaison. Yes, after our group was assigned to assist the DEA, my primary function was a case agent and UC--UC being undercover officer.

Mr. Shays. When were you assigned?

Mr. Chaison. In September 1998.

Mr. Shays. Mr. Allen.

Mr. Allen. My role started in September 1998 also. My primary assignment was case agent and undercover officer.

Mr. Shays. I want each of you to give me the date on which your work was suspended. Mr. Stephens.

Mr. Stephens. I don't know the exact date, but it was in the period between September 20 and 25, I believe, 1999.

Mr. Shays. Mr. Chaison.

Mr. Chaison. September 1999.

Mr. Allen. September 1999.

Mr. Shays. In all three cases, gentlemen, you were involved