

Quotes

"Did I really say that?"

"I haven't committed a crime. What I did was fail to comply with the law."

David Dinkins, New York City Mayor, answering accusations that he failed to pay his taxes.

"They gave me a book of checks. They didn't ask for any deposits."

Congressman Joe Early (D-Mass) at a press conference to answer questions about the House Bank scandal.

"He didn't say that. He was reading what was given to him in a speech."

Richard Darman, director of OMB, explaining why President Bush wasn't following up on his campaign pledge that there would be no loss of wetlands.

"It depends on your definition of asleep. They were not stretched out. They had their eyes closed. They were seated at their desks with their heads in a nodding position."

John Hogan, Commonwealth Edison Supervisor of News Information, responding to a charge by a Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspector that two Dresden Nuclear Plant operators were sleeping on the job.

"I didn't accept it. I received it."

Richard Allen, National Security Advisor to President Reagan, explaining the \$1000 in cash and two watches he was given by two Japanese journalists after he helped arrange a private interview for them with First Lady Nancy Reagan.

"I was a pilot flying an airplane and it just so happened that where I was flying made what I was doing spying."

Francis Gary Power, U-2 reconnaissance pilot held by the Soviets for spying, in an interview after he was returned to the US.

"I was under medication when I made the decision not to burn the tapes."

President Richard Nixon

"Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life."

Brooke Shields, during an interview to become spokesperson for a federal anti-smoking campaign

"I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body."

Winston Bennett, University of Kentucky basketball forward

"I support efforts to limit the terms of members of Congress, especially members of the House and members of the Senate."

Vice-President Dan Quayle

"Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country."

Mayor Marion Barry, Washington, D.C.

"Sure, it's going to kill a lot of people, but they may be dying of something else anyway."

Othal Brand, member of a Texas pesticide review board, on chlordane

"Are you any relation to your brother Marv?"

Leon Wood, New Jersey Nets guard, to Steve Albert, Nets TV commentator

"Beginning in February 1976 your assistance benefits will be discontinued. Reason: it has been reported to our office that you expired on January 1, 1976."

Letter from the Illinois Department of Public Aid

"The Holocaust was an obscene period in our nation's history ... this century's history ... We all lived in this century. I didn't live in this century."

Dan Quayle, then Indiana senator and Republican vice-presidential candidate during a news conference in which he was asked his opinion of the Holocaust

Lawyers in action

before you divorced him?
A: A lot of things I didn't know about.

Lawyers typically aren't funny - unless by accident. Case in point: The following questions from lawyers were taken from official court records nationwide. They were compiled by a client of the Salt Lake City law firm of Johnson & Hatch.

Q: What is your brother-in-law's name?

A: Borofkin.

Q: What's his first name?

A: I can't remember.

Q: He's been your brother-in-law for years, and you can't remember his first name?

A: No. I tell you I'm too excited. (Rising from the witness chair and pointing to Mr. Borofkin.) Nathan, for God's sake, tell them your first name!

Q: And who is this person you are speaking of?

A: My ex-widow said it.

Q: Did you tell your lawyer that your husband had offered you indignities?

A: He didn't offer me nothing; he just said I could have the furniture.

Q: So, after the anaesthesia, when you came out of it, what did you observe with respect to your scalp?

A: I didn't see my scalp the whole time I was in the hospital.

Q: It was covered?

A: Yes, bandaged.

Q: Then, later on... what did you see?

A: I had a skin graft. My whole buttocks and leg were removed and put on top of my head.

Q: What can you tell us about the truthfulness and veracity of this defendant?

A: Oh, she will tell the truth. She said she'd kill that son-of-a-bitch, and she did!

Q: Are you sexually active?

A: No, I just lie there.

Q: What is the meaning of sperm being present?

A: It indicates intercourse.

Q: Male sperm?

A: That is the only kind I know.

Q: What is your name?

A: Ernestine McDowell.

Q: And what is your marital status?

A: Fair

Q: Are you married?

A: No, I'm divorced.

Q: And what did your husband do

Q: Officer, what led you to believe the defendant was under the influence?

A: Because he was argumentary and he couldn't pronounce his words.

The court: Now, as we begin, I must ask you to banish all present information and prejudice from your minds, if you have any.

Q: Mrs. Jones, is your appearance this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

A: No. This is how I dress when I go to work.

Q: Did he pick the dog up by the ears?

A: No.

Q: What was he doing with the dog's ears?

A: Picking them up in the air.

Q: Where was the dog at this time?

A: Attached to the ears.

Q: What is your relationship with the plaintiff?

A: She is my daughter.

Q: Was she your daughter on February 13, 1979?

Q: Now, you have investigated other murders, have you not, where there was a victim?

Q: ...and what did he do then?

A: He came home, and next morning he was dead.

Q: So when he woke up the next morning he was dead?

Q: Could you see him from where you were standing?

A: I could see his head.

Q: And where was his head?

A: Just above his shoulders.

Q: ... any suggestions as to what prevented this from being a murder trial instead of an attempted murder trial?

A: The victim lived.

Q: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?

A: Yes, I have been since early childhood.

Q: The truth of the matter is that you were not an unbiased, objective witness, isn't it. You, too, were shot in the fracas?

A: No, sir. I was shot midway between the fracas and the naval.