



10/05/1995 | ABC News program 'Turning Point'

"Inside the Hate Conspiracy: America's Terrorists"

Brief Synopsis

Documentary reporting the events of 1983-84 when the anti-government hate group known as The Order took nearly \$4,000,000 in robberies, amassed a sophisticated arsenal of weapons and began assassinating their enemies.

Cast & Crew

- Barbara Walters: Anchor
Meredith Vieira: Reporter
Rudy Bednar: Senior Producer
Denise Schreiner: Producer
Howie Masters: Producer
Janice Tomlin: Senior Broadcast Producer
Wendy Roth: Broadcast Producer
Betsy West: Executive Producer ("Turning Point")
Lisa Soloway: Editorial Producer
Robert Pini: Publicist (Abc News)
ABC News: Production Company

ANNOUNCER

From ABC News, this is Turning Point with Diane Sawyer, Barbara Walters and tonight, Meredith Vieira.

MEREDITH VIEIRA, ABC NEWS

(VO) In a secret hideout, they took a solemn oath.

BOB MATHEWS

So stand up like men and drive the enemy into the sea!

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Their enemy, the government of the United States.

BRUCE PIERCE

I was tried for conspiring to seditiously overthrow the United States government and that is one of the proudest moments of my life.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Tonight you'll hear from the men who may have set the example for the deadly bombing in Oklahoma City.

DENVER PARMENTER

The Oklahoma bombing didn't surprise me.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

People seemed so shocked that it was domestic terrorism.

DENVER PARMENTER

I don't know why. I mean, that's what we did.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) What this group did was rob and kill in the name of revolution.

DENVER PARMENTER

We were all assigned someone to- to kill.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

Who did you get?

(VO) Their leaders had a hit list and a plan to blow up power lines, poison water supplies and sabotage the Los Angeles Olympics.

WAYNE MANIS, RETIRED FBI AGENT

This was undoubtedly the most organized group of terrorists that ever operated in the United States.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) How did these once law-abiding men turn into terrorists?

'TONY WALSH'

I couldn't get out. There was no way out. There was no way out of it.

ANNOUNCER

Turning Point. Tonight, 'Inside the Hate Conspiracy: America's Terrorists.'

MEREDITH VIEIRA

Good evening. I'm Meredith Vieira.

America was horrified by the pictures that came out of Oklahoma City almost six months ago: a federal building blown apart, hundreds trapped under the rubble. It was especially surprising when those arrested for the bombing turned out not to be terrorists from some foreign land, but Americans who served this country in the US Army.

But you might not have been so surprised at the idea of home-grown terrorism had you known the story that we're going to tell you tonight. It's a story about a group of men that was called 'The Order,' men who had a plan even more terrifying than what happened in Oklahoma City. They wanted to bring down an entire government.

Many of the members of The Order are talking publicly tonight for the first time, some of them in disguise because they live in fear for their lives. For the next hour, come with us as we go inside a 'made in America' terrorist group.

(VO) The wilderness of the Northwest has long been a haven for loners, pioneers and mavericks. In the autumn of 1983, a group of young men took that spirit of independence and turned it into terrorism.

1ST REPORTER

The fact is, the suspects, in two pickup trucks, shot out the windows and the tires of the armored car-

BRUCE PIERCE

These things happened and they're not considered crimes. They're considered acts of war.

2ND REPORTER

Portland police SWAT teams were beginning a major search for the-

RICHARD KEMP

I think we all justified it to ourselves in different ways and we told ourselves it was for a greater good.

3RD REPORTER

It involved the murder of a Jewish radio talk show host in Denver.

DENVER PARMENTER

We were all willing to give up our lives.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

Give up your lives for what?

DENVER PARMENTER

For our race.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) In the name of the white race, these men, most of whom had never been in trouble with the law, became the most wanted criminals in America, part of a group that robbed millions of dollars and killed to silence their enemies.

WAYNE MANIS, RETIRED FBI AGENT

This was undoubtedly the most organized group of terrorist type people to ever operate in the United States.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

They would become known as 'The Order' and launch what they called the 'second American revolution.' At the time of their arrest, some members were making plans to bomb public utilities, poison the water supplies of major cities and sabotage the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. Most of these men have never told their story before, never explained why they took up arms against their own government.

How does anyone become a terrorist? For The Order, it began with nine men, a secret ceremony and a solemn oath.

DENVER PARMENTER

The gist of it was that we were starting an order here.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

To do what?

DENVER PARMENTER

Basically, to bring down the government, to start chaos, to disrupt the system in the best way we could.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

You absolutely believed it.

DENVER PARMENTER

We absolutely believed it. There was no question in our mind that we could do it.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) This is the man who inspired that belief, the man who brought The Order together, Bob Mathews.

BOB MATHEWS

The fate of every last white man, woman and child on this planet lies squarely on the shoulders of us. We cannot fail.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Thirty year old Bob Mathews was a blue collar worker and farmer in Metaline Falls, Washington, a hard working family man with a baby face, which may have made what came out of his mouth seem acceptable.

BOB MATHEWS

If you have not yet fully committed yourself, then you have, in effect, betrayed your race. You have betrayed yourself.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Mathews had been toying with extreme views since childhood. At age 11, he stunned his middle class parents by joining the anti Communist John Birch Society. From there, he sampled one radical group after another, gradually becoming convinced there was a conspiracy to destroy the white race. Bob Mathews decided he wanted to do something about it.

ARYAN NATIONS LEADER

Hail his victory!

FOLLOWERS

Hail victory! Hail victory!

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) This is where Mathews would eventually recruit the most fanatic members of The Order: Aryan Nations, a gathering place in Idaho for right wing extremists. One of them was Bruce Pierce, an unemployed laborer seen in this video taken by an infiltrator in 1983.

BRUCE PIERCE

We felt that an inordinate amount of Jews were in key positions in media, finance, government, and they posed a threat to our continued existence, if their policies continued.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Leaders at Aryan Nations preached a doctrine called 'identity,' which claimed Jews were the spawn of Satan and therefore the mortal enemies of the chosen people of God, white Christians.

ARYAN NATIONS LEADER

One God, one nation, one race.

FOLLOWERS

One God, one nation, one race.

DENVER PARMENTER

This 'identity' doctrine gave me a view of the Bible that- 'Wow, this- this is it. This is the reason things are going wrong.'

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) For Denver Parmenter, a hard drinking Army veteran who worked as a guard at Aryan Nations, anti Semitism was a crusade.

DENVER PARMENTER

Blacks were just another issue used by the Jews to mingle or dilute the white race. Just take them back to Africa and, you know, let them live their lives. We'll live ours. But the Jews were- that's another matter.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

The Jews had to be killed.

DENVER PARMENTER

They had to be killed, yes.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Parmenter would prove to be a perfect recruit for Bob Mathews.

MORRIS DEES

Individuals who were inspired by the warped views of a Robert Mathews, who were willing to lay it all on the line, because most of them have nothing to lose.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Civil Rights attorney Morris Dees has made a name for himself squaring off in court against leaders of the radical right. Over the years, he's seen the movement begin to tap into the mainstream.

MORRIS DEES

A lot of people who had never had been anti Semitic or racist in their lives joined in with Robert Mathews. Two years before, if you had asked them would they have been involved in such a thing, they would have said, 'No,' and the fringe around them would have said, 'I wouldn't have believed this individual would have ever done this.'

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) In the early '80s, Dees formed an organization to monitor the ups. But back then, Dees wasn't aware of Bob Mathews or his powers of persuasion over people like the man we'll call 'Tony Walsh.'

'TONY WALSH'

He knew how to manipulate me, I guess. He knew what buttons he could push on me.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Walsh and his wife had moved to Washington state to escape the big city problems of Los Angeles. Mathews became his best friend and slowly played on the frustrations that had driven him there.

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(VO) Walsh and his wife had moved to Washington state to escape the big city problems of Los Angeles. Mathews became his best friend and slowly played on the frustrations that had driven him there.

(interviewing) What was his dream?

'TONY WALSH'

To have an area of America that was just for white people because he felt, you know, the white man made this country and they- you know, they don't have a country anymore, he felt, anyway.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

Did you think it was a good idea?

'TONY WALSH'

Yeah. Yeah, I thought it was all right.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) So did Richard Kemp, a high school basketball star who'd recently dropped out of college and left home. Mathews took him in and got him a job at the local dam.

RICARD KEMP

He was like the older brother I never had. Looking back, I'd say that he was my mentor.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Kemp says when he lost his job that Mathews blamed it on Affirmative Action and said it proved his point.

RICHARD KEMP

He was mad and blustered about, 'Losing the job because you're a white man and it's a definite attack on you because you're a white male.'

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Before Long, Kemp and Walsh were going with Mathews to Aryan Nations, whose members spent time taking potshots at pictures of Jews, like Israel's prime minister, Menachem Begin. They burned crosses, too. But by the summer of 1983, Mathews was getting tired of the symbolic cross burnings, tired of the play acting.

DENVER PARMENTER

He was one of the impatient ones, but I think we were all getting impatient. We were all getting impatient with it. We were tired of the talk. 'Let's- let's do something.'

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Events in America's heartland would help Mathews convince them to take action.

PROTESTER

I'm not leaving the land and I haven't given up possession of the land.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) The country was in a recession and with every foreclosure farmers saw their way of life disappearing. They blamed the politicians and bankers for selling them out.

PROTESTER

There's a conspiracy within the government and we can prove this.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Farmers who believed in a government conspiracy were talking of fighting back. One of them, Gordon Kahl, traveled the countryside promoting tax revolt and armed resistance. Gordon Kahl would soon become a martyr for the extreme right wing and a hero to Bob Mathews.

FBI AGENT

You got two station wagons coming at you.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) The confrontation began in North Dakota when US Marshals came to arrest Kahl for violating his probation on a tax conviction. Two Marshals were killed. Kahl escaped only to be hunted down in Arkansas by the FBI four months later. He and a sheriff were shot and killed as Kahl's hideout went up in flames.

Kahl's death would galvanize the extreme right and drive Bob Mathews that much closer to action.

ARYAN NATIONS SPEAKER

We're remembered of the words of Jesus Christ-

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Three weeks later, at an Aryan Nations rally in Spokane, Washington, Mathews stepped forward when counter demonstrators tried to disrupt the speeches.

BOB MATHEWS

Get the heck out of here! I didn't come all the way down here to hear you! Go over there! Go across the barricade and let us be!

RICHARD KEMP

Before I even realized what happened, I was right by his side with the other men. I felt like I took a stand for the first time myself. When it was over, it was, like, 'Damn, I stood by him.'

DEMONSTRATORS

Death to the fascists!

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Bob Mathews had emerged as a leader.

(interviewing) What do you think it was about Bob that day that impressed them?

' TONY WALSH'

That he stood up. He stood up to the enemy. Very few white people do things like that, you know?

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) If Mathews inspired them, much of his inspiration came from an incendiary novel called The Turner Diaries, which describes the violent overthrow of the US government to establish a whites only homeland. That book became Mathews' bible. He memorized every word.

In September, the author of The Turner Diaries had Mathews speak to his neo-Nazi organization in Virginia.

BOB MATHEWS

The signs of awakening are sprouting up across the Northwest and no more so than amongst the two fist-ed farmers and ranchers, a class of our people who have been hit especially hard by the filthy, lying Jews and their parasitical usury system.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Bob Mathews was ready to launch his revolution.

BOB MATHEWS

So kinsmen, duty calls. The future is now! So stand up like men and drive the enemy into the sea!

DENVER PARMENTER

Next thing I know, we're- we're having a meeting in the barracks. There's eight or nine of us together, forming The Order.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) In Late September, Mathews brought Denver Parmenter and seven others to a barracks he'd built on his property and told them what they needed to do to save the white race.

BRUCE PIERCE

I think we probably all agreed that, 'Huh, we've arrived here at a decision. Now let's talk about what are first step will be.'

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Using The Turner Diaries as a blueprint, Mathews outlined his plan to turn the men into a force of elite commandos. They would operate underground, just like the group called The Order in the book. Their first mission was to raise a war chest for the extreme right, if not legally then through counterfeiting and robbery.

' TONY WALSH'

And then I said, 'Well, guys, if you got to- if you got to rob, let's- let's get rid of the evil. Let's- let's rob these drug dealers or porno book stores and stuff like that, you know?'

MEREDITH VIEIRA

And what were they going to do with the money, once they got the money?

' TONY WALSH'

Send it out to these organizations like Aryan Nations so they could expand.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) The men also debated whether or not to begin executing Jews and so called 'race traitors,' just like in The Turner Diaries.

DENVER PARMENTER

We were all assigned someone to- to kill.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

Who did you get?

DENVER PARMENTER

Some major network president- you know, ABC, NBC, CBS. I don't remember. If the group got broken up, you know, that was our target, to go out and get this guy.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

You, who had never focused a gun on anybody, when they said, 'and this is the person you're going to kill,' that was okay?

DENVER PARMENTER

We were bearing orders. This was war.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Civil Rights attorney Morris Dees was Bob Mathews' number one target.

MORRIS DEES

I'm not Jewish and certainly not anti Christ, but that's how I was labeled.

DENVER PARMENTER

We thought he was, at least at the time, we never questioned the fact that- someone said he was a Jew, he was a Jew. So he was an enemy of ours.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) When the planning was over, Mathews asked the men to stand and an infant was placed in the middle of the circle.

'TONY WALSH'

My baby. Bob asked me to have her there, so-

MEREDITH VIEIRA

Why would he want her there?

'TONY WALSH'

That was our race right there. That was our future. That was our future. That's why we were doing this.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) With Tony Walsh's 4 week old daughter looking up at them, Mathews had his new recruits repeat an oath.

BOB MATHEWS

Swear a sacred oath upon the green graves of our sires!

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) His words of revolution would now become theirs.

DENVER PARMENTER

From this moment on, I have no fear of death, no fear of foe, but I red duty to do whatever is necessary to deliver our people from the Jew and bring total victory to the Aryan race. I, as an Aryan' -

RICHARD KEMP

I was admitting to them or pledging myself to them, almost like a marriage vow, that I'm going to ride with them to the end.

DENVER PARMENTER

'We hereby invoke the blood covenant and declare that we are in a full state of war' -

BOB MATHEWS

So stand up like men and drive the enemy into the sea!

DENVER PARMENTER

-'and will not lay down our weapons until we have driven the enemy into the sea.'

MEREDITH VIEIRA

When you stood in that circle, what were you saying?

'TONY WALSH'

I just kept looking at my daughter, I guess, and justifying this, I guess.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Within a few months, Tony Walsh would no longer be able to justify anything.

'TONY WALSH'

I really didn't want anybody to die. IMDBODENVER PARMENTER

-'and will not lay down our weapons until we have driven the enemy into the sea.'

MEREDITH VIEIRA

When you stood in that circle, what were you saying?

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I just kept looking at my daughter, I guess, and justifying this, I guess.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Within a few months, Tony Walsh would no longer be able to justify anything.

'TONY WALSH'

I really didn't want anybody to die. I didn't want it to go this

far. I really didn't want it to go that far.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

It would go much farther than Tony Walsh ever anticipated. When we return, The Order launches its revolution and the killing begins.
(Commercial break)

ANNOUNCER

Turning Point, 'Inside the Hate Conspiracy: America's Terrorists,' continues.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

How dangerous was The Order? Until now, the activities of this group amounted to little more than talk, but soon you'll see how a disorganized band of men with little or no criminal experience launched a crime wave.

(VO) The Order's revolution began on October 28th, 1983, in this seedy section of Spokane, Washington, a place they felt represented everything wrong with America. Bob Mathews and three recruits held up this porn shop and made off with \$369. For Bruce Pierce, it was an important first step.

BRUCE PIERCE

Well, we didn't get much money, but it's better to start small and work your way up. If we can't take this first little step, then we might as well unpack our bags and go back home.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) But their revolution was barely off the ground when it suddenly came to a halt. Using the presses at Aryan Nations, the group had begun printing counterfeit money. When Bruce Pierce tried to pass the poorly forged bills, he was arrested. Mathews saw his dream falling apart as members started to drift away.

'TONY WALSH'

I never saw Bob like that before. He was upset, real pale. I said, you know, 'What's the matter, Bob?' He says, 'I got to do something. Bruce is still in prison and I got to get him out. I'm letting-letting everybody down. I'm letting everybody down.'

RICHARD KEMP

He took off with a gun. We didn't see him again for three months. And he's talking about robbing a bank. For one, I didn't think he would follow through because he was scared to death.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Just before Christmas, 1983, Bob Mathews followed through. All alone and armed, he walked into this bank north of Seattle and left with nearly \$26,000, which he stashed in a child's trick or treat bag. Bob Mathews had good reason to smile again.

RICHARD KEMP

He comes back. He's euphoric. We're euphoric. The people that drifted away, now they're back again. He made it look so easy.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) By then, Bob Mathews had recruited Gary Yarbrough, a security guard at Aryan Nations who was also a convicted felon. He helped The Order perfect its criminal technique and the results were soon apparent.

In March, 1984, Order members rob an armored car at a shopping mall in Seattle. The take is \$43,000. April: A bomb is set off in a different part of town to divert police so The Order can hold up another armored car. It's Richard Kemp's first robbery.

RICHARD KEMP

Well, they already got it planned. They got away with all these other ones. I'm going to get away with it, too. At first, that's what I thought. Then I thought, 'I could die doing this. I guess this is going to prove myself once and for all, that I'm down for Bob, and I'll help him do anything.' All's I do is just jump out and wave a gun around. And the next thing I know, we're gone.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Gone with \$230,000 cash. There are no suspects and few clues. Bob Mathews begins fulfilling his promise to help bankroll the

extreme right.

RI CHARD KEMP

I felt almost like it was a Robin Hood type thing because I knew most of the money that we stole was being given away.

' TONY WALSH'

Bob would go around the country and meet with these people and, you know, give them a few thousand and say, 'There's more if- if I like the way your movement is going and if it's going in the right direction.'

RI CHARD KEMP

They say money gives you power. Well, I think the money gave him power, thinking that he was invincible, because things were happening and he was getting away with it.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) With money, The Order moved deeper underground. Most of the members who still held jobs quit them. They bought automatic weapons and were given security code names and false identities. Mathews brought in more recruits, including a professional counterfeiter and a street smart racist from the east coast named Tom Martinez.

TOM MARTINEZ

And he came to a- to a guy like me and big city and good place to launder. A street kid, he'll know how to launder the money more than these farm boys he was hanging around with. And that's exactly what he did. He used me.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

Appealed to your greed.

TOM MARTINEZ

For sure. We all have a little greed in us. At that point, I had a lot of greed that day.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) But when Martinez visited Mathews in Washington state, he knew laundering money was as far as he wanted to go. Mathews asked him to move out west permanently. He said no.

TOM MARTINEZ

No, there was something telling me not to move out there because I- I was afraid of what was going to be asked of me next. And the way things were going, I know it was going to come to murder.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) In May, 1984, it did come to murder. Ironically, their first victim was one of their own, Walter West, a member of Aryan Nations whom Bob Mathews suspected of talking too much. Mathews asked four of his men to carry out West's execution, among them, according to Tony Walsh, were Randy Duey and Richard Kemp.

' TONY WALSH'

They lured him into the woods and they- Richard tried to kill him with a hammer and he didn't kill him, though. That's when Randy- Randy put him out of his misery. He shot him, you know, to finish him off.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Randy Duey declined our request for an interview. Richard Kemp has never talked publicly about the murder.

(interviewing) I just wonder if you acknowledge what this group did that you were a part of. That was the first time that this turned into more than just waving a gun and running off with some money. And it wasn't a euphoric moment anymore. Something else was happening the moment Walter West died. You can't talk about it.

RI CHARD KEMP

Can't talk about it.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

How did you find out that Walter West had been murdered.

' TONY WALSH'

Rich told me.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

Kemp.

' TONY WALSH'

Yeah. Because he told me what happened, you know? And he did it for Bob. That young kid did it for Bob.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) The body of Walter West was never found. A week later, according to several Order members, Bob Mathews and a few of the men met secretly to plan other assassinations. They discussed killing Morris Dees, the Civil Rights lawyer who had come to The Order's attention for monitoring the radical right. And they argued about whether it was time to begin carrying out their oath to rid the world of Jews.

ALAN BERG

You apparently feel that the Jews are part of a communist conspiracy, is that correct?

JACK MOORE

Well, as I went into the study of communism, I came-

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) When this exchange was broadcast from the studios of KOA in Denver, The Order was listening. The program was run by liberal talk show host Alan Berg. This night, Berg was tangling with a leader of the extreme right, Jack Moore from Mississippi.

JACK MOORE

I have been on programs like this many, many times before and I've

Jack, you have barely been interrupted so far, Jack, so don't give me that. Don't give me that garbage. You haven't been interrupted at all, man.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Berg's combative style had brought him national attention and fame. More than anything, Berg, who was Jewish, hated anti-Semitism and he went after those who preached it.

ALAN BERG

I'll hang up on you if you- if you-

JACK MOORE

(unintelligible) Go ahead. Most of you hang up, coward!

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) This February broadcast was typical. It may also have made Berg a marked man. David Lane, a member of The Order old enough to have rooted for Hitler in World War II, was listening to Berg that night and phoned in.

DAVID LANE

I think the Jews are still firmly in control of the Soviet Union. I think they're responsible for the murder of 50 million white Christians.

ALAN BERG

You think so, huh?

DAVID LANE

Yes, I do. And I think-

ALAN BERG

I think you're sick. I think you're pathetic. I think your ability to reason and use any logic is- (crosstalk)

DAVID LANE

Why don't you put a Nazi on your program and then you'll have somebody to-

ALAN BERG

Sir, you are a Nazi by your very own admission.

DAVID LANE

That-

ALAN BERG

Thanks so much. (unintell

ALA

ALAN BERG

You think so, huh?

DAVID LANE

Yes, I do. And I think-

ALAN BERG

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ALAN BERG

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DAVID LANE

That-

ALAN BERG

Thanks so much. (unintelligible) That's right. You heard it.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) The Order would not forget this confrontation. In June, David Lane and Bruce Pierce were reportedly part of a hit team assembled by Bob Mathews who led them south to Denver to assassinate Alan Berg.

It was just after 9:00 PM on June 18th when Alan Berg's VW beetle made the turn off Colfax and headed up the street to his driveway. They watched as the VW passed by and pulled out after him. As Berg made the turn up his short driveway to his garage door, the other car blocked the road behind him. Instantly, 13 45 caliber slugs burst from the automatic weapon. A silencer muffled the blast and Berg was probably dead before he hit the ground.

TOM HANEY, DENVER POLICE

I can remember the crime scene, the victim's body here in the driveway, you know, the massive destruction. We didn't have eyewitnesses. The only evidence that we had were shell casings and bullets. You know, it was clear early on, immediately, that this was an assassination, a hit, an ambush.

PETER JENNINGS, ABC NEWS

Police in Denver say they have no firm leads yet, but-

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) The Order's crimes were now making national news, but no one knew who was committing them.

KEN HAMBLIN

I'm going to talk to you this sunny Colorado morning about a friend I once had and his name was Alan Berg. Last night-

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) The next morning in Denver, another KOA radio talk host, Ken Hamblin, eulogized his friend and challenged Berg's killers.

KEN HAMBLIN

And I found myself speaking to them. I found myself saying, 'You can't kill ideas. You can't kill words. You can only kill the man.'

Who are you? Who are you people? You reached out with all of that power to kill him? No. You didn't show strength, sir. You didn't show strength.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) That morning, Mathews and his hit team were already on their way north out of Colorado. Some Order members say Bruce Pierce was the trigger man.

(interviewing) Were you there when Alan Berg was killed?

BRUCE PIERCE

I have no comment. I'm sorry.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

He talked about it?

'TONY WALSH'

Oh, yeah.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

Proud of it.

'TONY WALSH'

Proud of it. He was bragging about how the gun jammed on the 13th bullet and how 13 means something. You know.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Back in the Northwest, some Order members were shocked at the

news of the murder. Most were not.

(interviewing) Was Berg even, in your mind, a person?

DENVER PARMENTER

He was a Jew and therefore worthy of death, in my mind at that time.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

End of story.

DENVER PARMENTER

End of story.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) For Bob Mathews and his recruits in the Northwest, there would be no turning back. That July, near Lake Mendocino in northern California, in broad daylight, Mathews and 11 others lay in wait with automatic weapons. They'd been tipped off by a new member of The Order who worked at Brink's. As an armored car labored slowly up this hill, they surrounded it with pick up trucks and flashed a threatening sign. It was Brink's guard Aaron Davis' first week on the job.

AARON DAVIS

I said, 'Why are they slowing down?' I said, 'We have to go around them.' And that's when that sign went up, 'Get out or die.' I said, 'Well, it must be a joke,' until they stood up and started firing.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) The armor piercing shells passed easily through the bullet proof windshield.

AARON DAVIS

And you think you're going to die and, you know, hope that it's over with, if you die, die quickly.

DENVER PARMENTER

We just formed a line from the door of the truck to the pick up and we just passed it. Mathews was in the vehicle and I was in one of the lines.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

Bags of money.

DENVER PARMENTER

Bags of money.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) The pick ups were abandoned a mile away and all 12 Order members escaped with \$3.6 million, at the time the largest armored car heist in US history.

WAYNE MANIS

Never in my career had I seen anything to compare to this.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) FBI case agent Wayne Manis would spearhead the nationwide investigation into The Order.

WAYNE MANIS

They had sophisticated weaponry, plenty of ammunition. Their equipment, I would say, was certainly as good as that being used by the FBI at the time.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) But now the FBI had a solid lead. Bob Mathews had dropped a traceable gun in the back of the Brink's truck. The hunt was on and would eventually lead investigators to assassination target Morris Dees.

MORRIS DEES

I'll never forget this agent, who identified himself and said that-that- let me know that there was a serious threat against my life from a white supremacy group.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

Did he name the group?

MORRIS DEES

No. But that doesn't mean that I'm going to, you know, back off from what I'm doing because you got some nut out there that wants to shoot you in the back.

WAYNE MANIS

It was just a war to them. It was a war to us. We were every bit as committed to the task as they were.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Back in the Northwest, Order members argued with Bob Mathews that it was time to lay low. Mathews would have none of it.

'TONY WALSH'

He wouldn't slow down. He wouldn't slow down one bit. Bob couldn't wait. Bob had to keep going. Go, go, go, go, go.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Mathews made plans for a paramilitary camp deep in the woods to train an army of believers. They would take his revolution to the next level.

DENVER PARMENTER

One of the plans was to blow up or create havoc at the Olympics. If innocent people had to die, then- for the cause, then, again, that was just a means to justify the end.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Bob Mathews knew the authorities were closing in, but he was so busy looking for the enemy behind every tree he missed the traitor standing right next to him.

ANNOUNCER

Turning Point, 'Inside the Hate Conspiracy: America's Terrorists,' will continue in a moment.
(Commercial break)

ANNOUNCER

'Inside the Hate Conspiracy: America's Terrorists,' tonight's Turning Point, continues.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

Now the incredible story of how the FBI was able to track down and infiltrate this band of terrorists. It began when Tom Martinez, the man who helped The Order launder that counterfeit money, was arrested on the east coast Martinez agreed to cooperate with the FBI. He told them The Order was responsible for the Brink's robbery and for the murder of Alan Berg. Most importantly, he agreed to take the FBI to The Order's leader, Bob Mathews.

(VO) Friday, November 23rd, 1984 - the beginning of the end for Bob s Tom Martinez flies into Portland, Oregon, having told Mathews he's willing to talk about going underground with The Order. What Mathews doesn't know is that Martinez has made a deal with the FBI.

TOM MARTINEZ

I said, 'I can take you to Bob Mathews' and they were, like, in shock. I said, 'Under two conditions. You don't reveal me and no one gets hurt. And you got to promise that.'

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Mathews meets the plane, but seems nervous and he's brought along Order member and ex convict Gary Yarbrough.

TOM MARTINEZ

We took off, going about 80 miles an hour in the streets of Portland. And as I glanced behind me, the fellow behind me, Yarbrough, has a machine gun in his hands.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Mathews suspects he's being followed and turns down a dead end street. Martinez panics, afraid of what will happen if agents tailing them show up.

TOM MARTINEZ

And when we pulled into this weird area, my heart just started throbbing, thinking, 'What do these guys plan on doing? Are they going to kill me? Do they know I'm working for the Feds?'

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Luckily for Martinez, the FBI has lost his trail, but now he has no protection as Mathews drives to a nearby motel and no choice but to go along when Mathews takes him upstairs and gives Martinez his new assignment.

TOM MARTINEZ

He wasn't asking me, he was telling me now, 'You're going to be part of a cell to kidnap and murder Morris Dees.' And he said, 'We're going to torture him.'

MEREDITH VIEIRA

And he said, 'We're going to torture him. We're going to find out information from Dees. We would murder him, bury him and throw lye in the ground.'

MORRIS DEES

Well, that's kind of- you know, it's kind of chilling.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

And did you have any doubt in your mind that he meant it?

TOM MARTINEZ

Oh, he definitely meant it. That's when it just clicked in me that he's crazier than crazy. You could see it in his eyes.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Martinez makes an excuse to leave, then slips out to a nearby restaurant. Much to his relief, the FBI finds him. He tells them about the plot to murder Morris Dees and then returns to his room, number 14. At dawn, Tom Martinez gets a call. It's the FBI. 'It's going down now,' the agent tells him. 'Don't come out of your room.'

TOM MARTINEZ

And I went over to the peek hole and I could see Bob come out on the balcony. I never in my life was so scared. I heard a shot fired. I heard voices yelling. And I heard running, like a thumping sound, running.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) It's Bob Mathews racing from the motel. In the gunfire, an FBI agent and the motel manager are wounded and Mathews himself is shot in the hand. Still he manages to escape.

TOM MARTINEZ

Next thing you know, I hear sirens. Police are out there and cameras, news people, reporters.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Yarbrough is arrested at the scene, but the FBI has no idea where Mathews has gone and something he's left behind suggests authorities had better find him fast, a hand written threat from Bob Mathews to the government: 'Surrender now or face daily firefights with the heavily armed warriors of the White American Revolutionary Army.'

Two days later, Mathews is on a ferry to Whidbey Island just north of Seattle, where he writes a formal declaration of war, confirming his intent to do battle. He summons Bruce Pierce and others to his hideout.

BRUCE PIERCE

I signed and I'm proud that I did sign. It was more of a formality, in my eyes.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

'We declare ourselves to be in a full and unrelenting state of war.'

BRUCE PIERCE

State of war against the United States government. But nothing has changed. I still feel the same way.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) After Pierce leaves the island, Mathews decides to go public with a letter to the media. Included in it, a warning for 'the traitor in room 14,' Tom Martinez. 'We will find him,' Mathews writes, 'and when we do, we will remove his head from his body.'

Mathews also has a message for Richard Kemp, the young man who'd once idolized him, but had now distanced himself from the group.

BOB MATHEWS

This, unless you change your mind, will be the last time I ever talk to you.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Mathews has an Order member phone Kemp and play this audiotape.

BOB MATHEWS

I hope that you know what you are doing.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) They are some of the last recorded words of Bob Mathews.

BOB MATHEWS

As for myself, I will never submit nor surrender. My conscience is clear.

RICHARD KEMP

I think his last words were, 'You guys are going to have to live with that.'

BOB MATHEWS

Good bye (unintelligible).

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) At dawn on December 7th, the enemy Mathews hated so much finally catches up with him. Another informant, who has never been identified, has tipped off the FBI and more than 75 elite federal agents have descended on Whidbey Island, including FBI investigator Wayne Manis.

WAYNE MANIS

I remember thinking that finally, after all this work, I'm going to come face to face with Bob Mathews.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Within hours, other Order members on the island give up without a fight, but not their leader.

FBI AGENT

We're continuing to negotiate with the subject or subjects in the house as of about five minutes ago.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Over the next 32 hours, the FBI tries to get Mathews to surrender. Ron Edwards from the county sheriff's office listens to the bizarre negotiations.

RON EDWARDS

One of the things that he wanted was that all of the blacks to be put on boats and shipped back to Africa.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) By the next afternoon, Mathews is refusing to talk anymore. Five SWAT team officers storm into the house only to find him barricaded on the second floor. When Mathews opens fire with an assault rifle, Manis and Edwards are right outside.

WAYNE MANIS

I saw bullets splattering through the wall directly over my head.

RON EDWARDS

The roar of the weapon that Mathews was using was- it was unbelievable.

WAYNE MANIS

Well, I've been involved in gun battles during my tenure in the FBI, but never anything like this.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) After 10 minutes, the SWAT team is ordered back. A second gun battle erupts that night when a helicopter is called in.

WAYNE MANIS

And then there was silence.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) A decision is made. Flares will be used to light up the ground floor. A fire begins, then spreads.

RON EDWARDS

The whole time the house is burning, he was still firing. He wouldn't give up.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) The leader of The Order never emerges from his safe house.

BOB MATHEWS

I will never submit nor surrender. Good bye (unintelligible).

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Bob Mathews' war with the government has finally come to an end.

FBI AGENT

I feel quite certain that he succumbed to the heat, smoke.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) One by one, The Order members hear the news.

REPORTER

The next morning, one body was found in the smoking rubble.

TOM MARTINEZ

I felt it was- it was my fault that he was dead and I thought of him burning in fire. Was he thinking of me? Was he blaming me? Was he cursing me?

RICHARD KEMP

Somehow, I couldn't even bring myself to cry when it happened because I knew that Bob was the catalyst for everything that was happening and that maybe it could be over once and for all now.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) It wasn't over for Bruce Pierce. In this audiotape made after Mathews' death, he seems to be planning more terrorist attacks.

BRUCE PIERCE

-use timed devices in the water supply to contaminate the water of a major city.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

Were you seriously, Bruce, considering poisoning a water supply?

BRUCE PIERCE

Actually, at that time, I can't say whether I was serious or not serious. But, theoretically speaking, when one is at war, one has to do such things, unfortunately.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Armed with an arsenal of weapons, Pierce and a handful of others take off across the country, vowing to carry on Bob Mathews' revolution.

(on camera) What happened to the men who escaped? Did the FBI succeed in tracking them all down? Some surprising developments when we return.

(Commercial break)

MEREDITH VIEIRA

It took the FBI four months to capture most of the remaining members of The Order. In that time, a hard core group of them continued to plan an attack on the Los Angeles water supply. Another member killed a state trooper. Finally, almost a year after Bob Mathews' death, the soldiers in his revolution were put on trial in Seattle, Washington. The charges: conspiracy and racketeering.

(VO) In September, 1985, authorities stood guard outside the Seattle federal court house with submachine guns.

(on camera) Inside, 10 Order members sat behind two tables, their chairs literally bolted to the floor, US Marshals were so concerned they'd use them as weapons. The defendants sat here for 16 weeks and listened to the testimony against them. The most damning came from men who had once sworn total loyalty to their comrades.

(VO) Among them Tony Walsh, Bob Mathews' best friend, who broke down as he testified; Tom Martinez, the FBI informant who led the authorities to Mathews; and Denver Parmenter, who once belonged to The Order's inner circle and renounced everything to become the government's star witness.

DENVER PARMENTER

It was the logical thing to do. I mean, do I- how can you go on and be a martyr when you don't believe in it anymore?

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Ten remained silent and were convicted, including Randy Duey, who received 100 years; Richard Kemp, who once called Bob Mathews his mentor - Kemp was sentenced to 60 years; and Bruce Pierce. For his role in The Order's crimes, including the murder of Alan Berg, he eventually was sentenced to 252 years.

(interviewing) So, essentially, you gave your life for this.

BRUCE PIERCE

Yes.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

And that's okay.

BRUCE PIERCE

In the end, we're going to win.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Only a quarter of the four million stolen dollars was ever recovered. The rest was reportedly distributed uce Pierce. For his role in The Order's crimes, including the murder of Alan Berg, he eventually was sentenced to 252 years.

(interviewing) So, essentially, you gave your life for this.

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MEREDITH VIEIRA

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BRUCE PIERCE

In the end, we're going to win.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Only a quarter of the four million stolen dollars was ever recovered. The rest was reportedly distributed among the radical right.

LOUIS BEAM, RADICAL RIGHT LEADER

Do you have it in you to be strong, to be brave, to stand up for your folk and your people and to act like a white person? Do you?

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) The same faces and voices of hate that once inspired Bob Mathews are still out there, inspiring a growing extremist fringe.

DENVER PARMENTER

They did destroy The Order, but they didn't destroy the movement. It still exists.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) The proof for Denver Parmenter came just five months ago.

DENVER PARMENTER

The Oklahoma bombing didn't surprise me.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

You know, people seemed so shocked that it was domestic terrorism.

DENVER PARMENTER

I don't know why. I mean, that's what we did.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Timothy McVeigh, accused of the Oklahoma City bombing, is reported to have studied The Order and, like Bob Mathews, passed out copies of The Turner Diaries, the extremist handbook for the violent overthrow of the federal government.

RICHARD KEMP

The day it happened, first thing I thought of was that damn book, The Turner Diaries. And that book has got a part in there about where you take a Ryder truck and put it in the bottom of a federal building.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) The bomb in Oklahoma City was a mixture of fuel oil and fertilizer and was detonated shortly after 9:00 AM, just like in The Turner Diaries.

RICHARD KEMP

Even though the book reads like some- some sick science fiction, there's people that take it seriously.

TOM MARTINEZ

This is going to happen again. It doesn't take 20 people to plant a bomb. One person it takes, and you're going to see another Order, if you mark my words.

BRUCE PIERCE

And although we may have lost- temporarily lost a battle, we haven't lost the war. Time is on our side.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) To the extreme right, Bob Mathews is a martyr, but he has left

another legacy. His son, Clinton, is now 14 and already active in the movement for which his father lived and died.
(Commercial break)

MEREDITH VIEIRA

The men you heard tonight who testified against their former comrades have renounced their racist beliefs. Most served short prison terms and went on to establish new identities because of threats against their lives. One of them, Tom Martinez, the counterfeiter who led the FBI to Bob Mathews, spends time lecturing against racism.

Now a look at our next Turning Point.

1ST PHYSICIAN

There he is!

2ND PHYSICIAN

Here's your son!

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) The unforgettable true life tale of a family and their search for a miracle. When a mysterious genetic disease strikes two of their young sons, Brad and Vicky Margus begin a race against time.

VICKY MARGUS

They're your children. They're counting on you.

MEREDITH VIEIRA

(VO) Their quest leads them to a medical breakthrough that could help us all. Barbara Walters with one of the most inspirational stories you'll see this year.

(on camera) That's our broadcast for this evening. Don't forget to watch a special Nightline Viewpoint after local news, 'The Media and the Trial.' Among Ted Koppel's guests, Johnnie Cochran. For ABC News, I'm Meredith Vieira. Good night.