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PROGRAM The Morton Downey, Jr. Show STATION WOR-TV
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SUBJECT Sophia Casey and Daughter Bernadette Interviewed

MORTON DOWNEY, JR: Welcome to a very special edition of the Morton Downey, Jr. program. We are delighted tonight to have an exclusive visit from Mrs. William Casey, the wife of the former CIA Director, now deceased, Bill Casey; and their daughter, Bernadette Smith. She is joining us in just a moment.

I first want you to know that we sent the following telegram to Robert Woodwer -- Woodward. I beg your pardon. Mr. Bob Woodward. It says, "Dear Mr. Woodward. We are offering you a chance to respond to the charges made by Mrs. Casey on national television. We feel it is proper and American. The legacy of a man's life is on the line. You have destroyed it." It's signed, "Sincerely, The Staff of the Morton Downey, Jr. Show."

Mr. Woodward declined. That is typical of Bob Woodward.

Now, for those of you -- for those of you who don't know who Bill Casey is, you've been living inside of a light bulb all your life. Right?

[Laughter]

We are going to introduce you now to Mrs. William Casey and their daughter, Bernadette Smith.

Would you please enter, Mrs. Casey.

[Applause]

DOWNEY: Mrs. Casey, before tonight is through, I hope in the minds of all patriotic-thinking Americans we have cleared any of the false accusations that have been placed upon your

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beloved husband's head. It's interesting that they had to wait until he was dead before they did this, not having the courage to do it to the man while he was alive

SOPHIA CASEY: Yes.

DOWNEY: According to Bob Woodward, your husband, who is renowned for his distrust of the media, granted more than 48 interviews and had many conversations with Woodward between 1983 and 1987. Do you remember any of those?

MRS. CASEY: No, I don't remember them at all.

DOWNEY: What kind of a dad was your dad, Bernadette?

BERNADETTE SMITH: Dad was my best friend. He was an incredible person. He was kind of a Renaissance man. He loved his country. He loved history. He was involved involved in everything. We have a library that's incredibly extensive. His greatest line was, "The best part of writing a book is doing the investigation." And he would do all the reading.

He would never, ever do anything to destroy our country. And I think that's what Bob Woodward tried to do -- is trying to do with this book.

DOWNEY: Mrs. Casey, this is a terrible thing to ask you. But was he a good husband?

MRS. CASEY: Oh, he was a wonderful husband. Yes.

DOWNEY: No regrets?

MRS. CASEY: No regrets. He was just wonderful.

DOWNEY: Ever beat you?

[Laughter]

DOWNEY: Well, I mean the man's been made out to be a monster by Bob Woodward.

MRS. CASEY: Well, he may have been a tighter outside, but he was a lamb in the house.

DOWNEY: Was he?

MRS. CASEY: Yeah. Really was.

DOWNEY: What kind of, what kind of -- Bernadette, what kind of activities did your dad like to be involved in? I know

he loved his country. I know he believed in the job that he was doing. Did he bring the job home with him? Did he talk about it at home?

MRS. SMITH: Not really. Not even when he was a lawyer. When he got home he rested. He would read. He would love to go out to dinner, or mom -- he told mom that he taught her how to cook, because he took her to all of...

DOWNEY: I taught my wife how to cook. I understand.

MRS. SMITH: So he took her to good restaurants.

So he liked -- he loved the family. He was really a family person. He loved the extensive family. We lived with his mother when she was alive, and my mother's parents, had family and people around. He could go in the corner with people around and read a book and not be disturbed by people.

DOWNEY: What kind of activities did he like to get involved in, Mrs. Casey? I mean did he have any hobbies, anything that every red-blooded American could identify with?

MRS. CASEY: He loved golf.

DOWNEY: Uh-huh. Yeah. Every red-blooded American identifies with that.

MRS. CASEY: He loved golf. And -- well, that was really the only thing he had time to do. You know, he was very, very busy all the time. He always had meetings to go to or socials to go to, and then he worked very hard in the...

DOWNEY: Did he take you to a lot of those meetings and socials?

MRS. CASEY: Yes. We always went together.

DOWNEY: Did you feel he shared his life with you?

MRS. CASEY: Oh, yes. Definitely.

DOWNEY: Bernadette?

MRS. SMITH: I don't think -- I had so much of dad's life. He would include me in parties that -- you know, if I were in town, I went, even if I felt embarrassed about going. I was going to meet the people that he dealt with and the people that were important to him. It was very, very special to him. He included me in everything. He was wonderful. He took me around the world. I saw so much and experienced so much through his eyes that it was just special.

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DOWNEY: How do you feel about the attacks that have been made on your dad? Is it tough to swallow?

MRS. SMITH: Oh, I'm outraged. Yes.

DOWNEY: Are you outraged? Are you hurt? Do all of the emotions come in here? You knew him.

MRS. SMITH: Oh, I -- well, it isn't the man I know. He describes a reckless type of person. My father wasn't. He was very thoughtful. He was very -- knew history, knew what he was doing, knew -- didn't move without really knowing what the ramifications were going to be.

DOWNEY: Let me give you this statement from Woodward, all right?

MRS. SMITH: Uh-huh.

DOWNEY: "Casey found Reagan strange and was struck by Reagan's overall passivity about his job and his approach to life."

Mrs. Casey, have you ever in your married life, as long as your husband, Bill, was a friend of Ronald Reagan's, have you ever heard him allude to anything like that about Ronald Reagan?

MRS. CASEY: Never. That was -- Bob Woodward put those words in Bill Casey's mouth. And I was outraged when I heard them. Bill held Ronald Reagan in very high esteem. He helped to elect him.

DOWNEY: He served him as campaign manager, actually, didn't he?

MRS. CASEY: Yes, he did. And he always found him to be a wonderful fellow. And when talked about him, he'd always say his ideas were so good and, "I'm here to help him get them in practice." So, he held him in high esteem.

That was such a ridiculous thing to say.

DOWNEY: We're going to go through more of this, all right? And we're going to meet an ex-agent in just a few minutes and some other people, some other friends of Bill Casey's.

We're going to ask the people at home if they'd like to call and talk with Mrs. Casey or with Bernadette Smith, by all means give us a call at 1-800-962-TALK.

If you're waiting for me to walk off the edge of a cliff tonight, folks, it might not happen. All right? I happen to be

very dedicated to these kind of Americans.

We'll be back in just a moment on the Morton Downey, Jr. Show.

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DOWNEY: Our guest in studio tonight for an exclusive interivew is a lovely American family, my friends, Mrs. Sophia Casey and her daughter Bernadette Smith, sitting with us.

Mrs. Casey, I'm going to give you a couple of other quotes from the Bob Woodward book. All right?

MRS. CASEY: Yes.

DOWNEY: "Casey said the President probably had no real friends other than Nancy." Your husband said that?

MRS. CASEY: Oh, that's -- of course not. That's ridiculous.

DOWNEY: You know, it's so amazing. If nothing else in the world would destroy the validity of this book, a statement such as that of a man like Ronald Reagan -- all right? -- who has spent his life having good friends. I can name a number of them that I know personally -- could be accused of having no real friends other than his wife.

And incidentally, there's nothing wrong with having your wife as your best friend. My wife is my best friend.

[Applause]

DOWNEY: In the book, the line -- and I find this interesting that this book didn't get released until Casey was dead. The book was completed. There was no real thread to make it worthwhile as a sales item until Bill Casey died. And then, at the last minute, Bob Woodward, through another one of his unnamed sources -- and God, don't we remember his unnamed sources from the past -- Bob Woodward supposedly said that Casey indicated with a nod, after brain surgery, that he had known about the diversions of funds. He said, "I believed."

Now, you were with your husband every day.

You were with your dad every day.

Did you see Bob Woodward? Did you see anyone disguised as an intern that you didn't know come in? Did you see anyone that you did not know in the room with your husband?

MRS. CASEY: Never. Never. I never saw anybody.

DOWNEY: Can you be sure that Bob Woodward did not get in there?

MRS. CASEY: I'm sure he never got into the room.

DOWNEY: Bernadette?

MRS. CASEY: He got into the hospital on January 22nd, but he never got into the room. Security saw him and chased him.

DOWNEY: Security saw him and chased him.

MRS. CASEY: Uh-huh.

DOWNEY: Bernadette?

MRS. SMITH: In that instance, he said he showed his credentials. He first tried to push his way in. Then he said, "I'm a friend of the family."

And they said, "No."

And then he said, "Well, I'm Bob Woodward."

And they said, "I'm sorry. That doesn't make any difference."

And then finally he did show his credentials.

There was no way. We were there. We weren't there for security. We had 24-hour security, four men at each -- I think it was three different shifts, around the clock. And there was always four or five men there. There was always someone at the door.

We just happened to be there because we wanted to be with dad. But there was no way, absolutely no way. We were there.

DOWNEY: Would your husband -- would your husband -- your father -- in any way, be involved in killing heads of state? Is that the man that you knew?

MRS. SMITH: No.

MRS. CASEY: I know Bob Woodward has that in the book, but he doesn't understand it. He doesn't understand the situation at all. It was a covert action, which he doesn't understand and he doesn't -- he blames it all on my husband. But that's ridiculous.

MRS. SMITH: Well, first of all, it never happened that way. I've heard that. The story is reported completely wrong. Dad would never break a law of the land. It just was not in his nature. Covert action is collecting information. That's very important for our national security. But he's not going to go around killing people, especially heads -- I mean anyone, not even -- it just is ridiculous, absolutely ridiculous.

DOWNEY: Let's break here for a second and see if we can involve our audience, anyone in our audience who wants to have some comments.

Young man.

MAN: Yeah. I read Mr. Woodward's fairy tale, and it reminded me of Mother Goose. You know, it's great. He had no substantiation in any part of that book. It's great to accuse someone of something when they're not around to defend themselves.

I personally think that your husband, and your dad, was a great American, a great patriot. He did one hell of a job for this country. And to turn around and try to rip him apart just to put some bucks in his own pocket, Mr. Woodward should be taken and ripped apart and rip that money out.

If he could substantiate anything, if he really got into that hospital room and spoke to your dad, he'd have no problem sitting on this stage with Mr. Downey and yourselves and proving it. The proof is he did not, he would not, and he didn't have the guts to come down here.

He's a bum!

[Applause]

DOWNEY: My staff has put together a great deal of research. Now, I know -- I know you're watching at home, Bob Woodward. All right? Because I know you want to figure out how you can take this and turn this into some more bucks for yourself. A great deal of research has been done by my staff, who I might add are all liberals. All right? They don't hold my same political persuasions. Here's what they've turned up:

In "The Final Days," all right? That's a book by Woodward and Bernstein. The book described a meeting between Richard Nixon and former Cabinet officer Robert Finch, who I believe was from California. It turned out later that neither author had interviewed Finch at all, had never spoken to Finch. Those are the words of Finch. All right?

Let's go on.

William Safire, not noted for being a wild-eyed conservative. All right? He's a columnist for the New York Times. He nailed Woodward and Bernstein for a totally inaccurate involvement of an account of a dinner conversation involving himself. He says he is certain of that because he made notes of the entire conversation.

Another Woodward lie.

Dr. Walter Tkach. All right? He was the White House doctor during the Nixon Administration. Responding to a Woodward-Bernstein report quoting him as saying, "Mrs. Nixon was becoming more and more reclusive and drinking heavily," Dr. Tkach said, "I am infuriated. And I can assure you that what they have published about Mrs. Nixon is absolute nonsense. But what can you do about irresponsible young journalists who have absolutely no regard for the truth?"

Neither author had talked to Dr. Tkach.

Oh, I know we've got to get going here. But I've got some more information I want to pass on.

John Osborne. All right? He covered the White House for the liberal New Republic -- said of "The Final Days": "It, on the whole, is the worst job of nationally-noted reporting that I've observed in 49 years in this business. Woodward's alleged commitment to careful checking was blown sky-high in the Janet Cooke case."

Do you remember this? This is the young lady who won the Pulitzer Prize for the Washington Post, which is Mr. Woodward's paper. She won the Pulitzer Prize for this, and later admitted it was all a false story she had created. Woodward was her editor and was supposed to check out the facts. He checked them out, found out she was telling the truth. She admitted it was a lie.

Here is a guy whose informants are always unnamed. We had Deep Throat. We all remember Deep Throat. We're not talking about Linda Lovelace, either. All right? We had Deep Throat. And what about in Deep Throat? They always gave just enough information so that everyone started guessing who Deep Throat could be. And they kept that going for years and sold the book like crazy. Deep Throat has never surfaced.

Now, you tell me, if you were Deep Throat, would you write your own book and make \$15 million like that [snaps fingers]? Damn right you would.

Woodward is a liar.

We'll be right back. And listen, we're going to take a look at Woodward through the eyes of a former CIA agent.

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DOWNEY: We have enumerated some of the imaginations and imaginings of Bob Woodward, the author of many best-selling books. I have read all of them, with the exception of this one, because I don't intend to put another dime into this guy's pocket. And God knows he's become a multimillionaire on the backs of other people through his lack of talent, but his obvious propensity for telling a lie.

We have with us John Greaney, who is the Executive Director of the Association of Former Intelligence Agents, also a CIA agent for 15 years, and an attorney for a good number of years.

John, good evening to you, sir.

JOHN GREANEY: Good evening, Morton. Nice to be here.

DOWNEY: Nice to have you with us.

[Applause]

DOWNEY: I don't want to make any mistakes on this show. All right? I'm sure Bob Woodward would love to be able to have me into a lawsuit. All right. So I want to make sure I have everything down pat.

GREANEY: Please go ahead.

DOWNEY: I want to ask you some questions.

GREANEY: Please go ahead.

DOWNEY: You've read Woodward's book.

GREANEY: Yes, I have.

DOWNEY: What's your honest opinion?

GREANEY: I think it's false. I agree with Mrs. Casey. It lacks veracity and truth. And also, the Bernadette statement was very true, that intelligence is the front line of national defense for our national security. And I'd like to comment on what is one of the most damaging aspects of this book, in the way the lies come out. And that is that it embarrasses the United States, particularly with its allies, around the world. And we need the support of the free countries of the world in the intelligence business. There's a great deal of liaison that's

necessary to go on. And Bob Woodward has denigrated the CIA with these lies in such a way that it makes the conduct of future business very difficult. And that's damaging to the security of the United States.

DOWNEY: Isn't it interesting when you take a look at Bob Woodward's history? His history indicates an attempt to damage each and every section of our government. He went after the Supreme Court. He went rightfully after Nixon, probably with erroneous information. But I'll say he went rightfully after President Nixon. And now he goes after our intelligence agency, the CIA, through the guise of an imagined talk with a man who was dying of a brain tumor.

GREANEY: Well, I think on that aspect, I think there's a point that hasn't been covered that is worth considering. And that is that I think the Washington Post comes in for some major criticism, as well. And that relates to ethics in journalism. The media are very quick to jump on people. For example, they jumped on Gary Hart. They jumped on Joe Biden.

DOWNEY: Well, they jumped on them for jumping on people too.

GREANEY: ...on ethics.

[Applause]

GREANEY: The very point that you make about Bob Woodward's alleged interview with Mr. Casey in the hospital room. If in fact that had taken place, that was significant information which certainly should have been published and certainly should have been given to the Iran-Contra investigating committee, not wait until you're going to sell books and use it as the main intrigue for the sale of the books.

DOWNEY: Very good point.

GREANEY: And I think that ethics were involved.

DOWNEY: I think you're absolutely right.

Do you think that anything will ever happen to Bob Woodward that will allow the name of Bill Casey to be cleared? Do you feel Bill Casey's name is really cleared in the minds of Americans who can hear a show like this, who can watch a program like this, and who can discern for themselves what the truth is? They don't have to be pounded by me or you or anyone else.

GREANEY: Well, fortunately, I'd like to say that I didn't work for Mr. Casey, but I knew Mr. Casey through our association. He was on the board of directors of our association

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before he became DCI. And I think people recognize the good that he did for this country. He was a tremendous leader and instilled a great sense of confidence and ability in the intelligence community. Not only CIA, but the entire intelligence community. And he was a leader and recognized as a leader in the Free World.

And I think that reputation is going to stand up. I don't think -- I think Bob Woodward is a transient.

MAN IN AUDIENCE: A communist.

DOWNEY: I think Bill Casey would have done anything that was required of him to protect the security of this nation, feeling that he was protecting all of the citizens, not just those with money, not just those without money, but all of our citizens. And I think Bob Woodward has committed a grievous error in assuming that the American people are so naive and so stupid that they're going to buy the story that is in the book.

Do yourself a favor. Read the excerpts. Don't put a dime into his book. It'll be excerpted all over the place because he's like the old rock-and-roll days. I mean you'd have rock-and-roll groups appearing six places in one night, and they were all supposed to be originals. Woodward is not an original. Nothing he's ever done is original. Woodward is a liar.

[Applause]

DOWNEY: I'd like to poll our audience. In your loudest voices, yea or nay. Have we proven that Bob Woodward is a liar? All in favor say yea.

[Shouts of "yea"]

DOWNEY: All opposed say nay]

[No "nays"]

DOWNEY: Mrs. Casey, Bernadette Smith, thank you. Thank you for what you gave us in Bill Casey. Thank you for what you gave us tonight.

MRS. CASEY: Thank you.

DOWNEY: Do you think Bill Casey is an honest man?

MRS. CASEY: Oh, yes.

DOWNEY: Do you think Bob Woodward is a liar?

MRS. CASEY: Yes, I do.

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DOWNEY: Bernadette?

MRS. SMITH: He's a liar, and he knows he's a liar.

DOWNEY: And that's what makes it great.

Bob Woodward, you're sitting at home. You know you're a
liar!

[Cheers]

We'll be right back and we're going to talk about
smoking....