

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA
CEDAR RAPIDS DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

RORY MEEKS,

Defendant.

No. 12-CR-91-LRR

FINAL JURY INSTRUCTIONS

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury:

The instructions I gave you at the beginning of the trial and during the trial remain in effect. I will now give you some additional instructions.

You must, of course, continue to follow the instructions I gave you earlier, as well as those I give you now. You must not single out some instructions and ignore others, because all are important. This is true even though some of those I gave you at the beginning of and during trial are not repeated here.

The instructions I am about to give you now are in writing and will be available to you in the jury room. I emphasize, however, that this does not mean they are more important than my earlier instructions. Again, all instructions, whenever given and whether in writing or not, must be followed.

INSTRUCTION NO. 1

In considering these instructions, attach no importance or significance whatsoever to the order in which they are given.

INSTRUCTION NO. 2

Neither in these instructions nor in any ruling, action or remark that I have made during this trial have I intended to give any opinion or suggestion as to what the facts are or what your verdicts should be.

INSTRUCTION NO. 3

It is your duty to find from the evidence what the facts are. You will then apply the law, as I give it to you, to those facts. You must follow my instructions on the law, even if you thought the law was different or should be different.

Do not allow sympathy or prejudice to influence you. The law demands of you just verdicts, unaffected by anything except the evidence, your common sense and the law as I give it to you.

INSTRUCTION NO. 4

I have mentioned the word “evidence.” The “evidence” in this case consists of the following: the testimony of the witnesses, the stipulations of the parties and the documents and other things received as exhibits.

You may use reason and common sense to draw deductions or conclusions from facts which have been established by the evidence in the case.

Certain things are not evidence. I shall list those things again for you now:

1. Statements, arguments, questions and comments by the lawyers are not evidence.
2. Anything that might have been said by jurors, the attorneys or the judge during the jury selection process is not evidence.
3. Objections are not evidence. The parties have a right to object when they believe something is improper. You should not be influenced by the objection. If I sustained an objection to a question, you must ignore the question and must not try to guess what the answer might have been.
4. Testimony that I struck from the record, or told you to disregard, is not evidence and must not be considered.
5. Anything you saw or heard about this case outside the courtroom is not evidence.

During the trial, documents were referred to but they were not admitted into evidence and, therefore, they will not be available to you in the jury room during deliberations.

Finally, if you were instructed that some evidence was received for a limited purpose only, you must follow that instruction.

INSTRUCTION NO. 5

There are two types of evidence from which a jury may properly find the truth as to the facts of a case: direct evidence and circumstantial evidence. Direct evidence is the evidence of the witnesses to a fact or facts of which they have knowledge by means of their senses. The other is circumstantial evidence—the proof of a chain of circumstances pointing to the existence or nonexistence of certain facts. The law makes no distinction between direct and circumstantial evidence. You should give all evidence the weight and value you believe it is entitled to receive.

INSTRUCTION NO. 6

The jurors are the sole judges of the weight and credibility of the testimony and the value to be given to the testimony of each witness who has testified in this case. In deciding what the facts are, you may have to decide what testimony you believe and what testimony you do not believe. You may believe all of what a witness said, or only part of it or none of it.

In deciding what testimony to believe, consider the witness's intelligence, the opportunity the witness had to have seen or heard the things testified about, the witness's memory, any motives that witness may have for testifying a certain way, the manner of the witness while testifying, whether that witness said something different at an earlier time, the general reasonableness of the testimony and the extent to which the testimony is consistent with any evidence that you believe.

In deciding whether or not to believe a witness, keep in mind that people sometimes hear or see things differently and sometimes forget things. You need to consider, therefore, whether a contradiction is an innocent misrecollection or lapse of memory or an intentional falsehood, and that may depend on whether it has to do with an important fact or only a small detail.

INSTRUCTION NO. 7

In a previous instruction, I instructed you generally on the credibility of witnesses. I now give you this further instruction on how the credibility of a witness can be “impeached” and how you are to consider the testimony of certain witnesses.

A witness may be discredited or impeached by contradictory evidence; by showing that the witness testified falsely concerning a material matter; by showing the witness has a motive to be untruthful; or by evidence that at some other time the witness has said or done something, or has failed to say or do something, that is inconsistent with the witness’s present testimony.

You have heard evidence that certain witnesses were once convicted of a crime. You may use that evidence only to help you decide whether to believe these witnesses and how much weight to give their testimony.

You have heard testimony from certain witnesses who stated that they participated in one or both of the crimes charged against the defendant. Their testimony was received in evidence and may be considered by you. You may give their testimony such weight as you think it deserves. Whether or not their testimony may have been influenced by their desire to please the government or strike a good bargain with the government about their own situation is for you to determine.

You have heard evidence that certain witnesses have made a plea agreement with the government. Their testimony was received in evidence and may be considered by you. You may give their testimony such weight as you think it deserves. Whether or not their testimony may have been influenced by the plea agreement is for you to determine.

These witnesses’ guilty pleas cannot be considered by you as any evidence of this defendant’s guilt. These witnesses’ guilty pleas can be considered by you only for the purpose of determining how much, if at all, to rely upon these witnesses’ testimony.

(CONTINUED)

INSTRUCTION NO. 7 (Cont'd)

Finally, you have heard evidence that certain witnesses hope to receive a reduced sentence in return for the witnesses' cooperation with the government in this case. If the prosecutor handling a witness's case believes the witness provided substantial assistance, that prosecutor can file a motion to reduce the witness's sentence. The judge has no power to reduce a sentence for substantial assistance unless the government, acting through the United States Attorney, files such a motion. If such a motion for reduction of sentence for substantial assistance is filed by the government, then it is up to the judge to decide whether to reduce the sentence at all, and if so, how much to reduce it. You may give the testimony of these witnesses such weight as you think it deserves. Whether or not the testimony of the witnesses may have been influenced by the witnesses' hopes of receiving a reduced sentence is for you to decide.

INSTRUCTION NO. 8

The government and the defendant have stipulated—that is, they have agreed—that certain facts are as counsel have stated. You must therefore treat those facts as having been proved.

INSTRUCTION NO. 9

Exhibits have been admitted into evidence and are to be considered along with all of the other evidence to assist you in reaching your verdicts. You are not to tamper with the exhibits or their contents, and you should leave the exhibits in the jury room in the same condition as they were received by you.

INSTRUCTION NO. 10

You have heard testimony from persons described as experts. Persons who, by knowledge, skill, training, education or experience, have become experts in some field may state their opinions on matters in that field and may also state the reasons for their opinions.

Expert testimony should be considered just like any other testimony. You may accept it or reject it, and give it as much weight as you think it deserves, considering the witness's education and experience, the soundness of the reasons given for the opinion, the acceptability of the methods used and all the other evidence in the case.

INSTRUCTION NO. 11

Reasonable doubt is doubt based upon reason and common sense, and not doubt based on speculation. A reasonable doubt may arise from careful and impartial consideration of all the evidence, or from a lack of evidence. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is proof of such a convincing character that a reasonable person, after careful consideration, would not hesitate to rely and act upon that proof in life's most important decisions. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is proof that leaves you firmly convinced of the defendant's guilt. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt does not mean proof beyond all possible doubt.

INSTRUCTION NO. 12

The Indictment in this case charges the defendant with two separate crimes.

Under Count 1, the Indictment charges that, between about 2005 and continuing through about April 2011, in the Northern District of Iowa and elsewhere, the defendant conspired with others to manufacture 100 or more marijuana plants, a Schedule I controlled substance.

Under Count 2, the Indictment charges that, during about April 2011, in the Northern District of Iowa, the defendant knowingly and intentionally manufactured, attempted to manufacture, aided and abetted the manufacturing of or aided and abetted an attempt to manufacture 100 or more marijuana plants, a Schedule I controlled substance.

The defendant has pleaded not guilty to each of these charges.

As I told you at the beginning of the trial, an indictment is simply an accusation. It is not evidence of anything. To the contrary, the defendant is presumed to be innocent. Thus the defendant, even though charged, begins the trial with no evidence against him. The presumption of innocence alone is sufficient to find the defendant not guilty and can be overcome only if the government proves, beyond a reasonable doubt, each element of the crime charged.

Keep in mind that each count charges a separate crime. You must consider each count separately, and return a separate verdict for each count.

There is no burden upon the defendant to prove that he is innocent. Accordingly, the fact that the defendant did not testify must not be considered by you in any way, or even discussed, in arriving at your verdicts.

INSTRUCTION NO. 13

The crime of conspiracy to manufacture marijuana, as charged in Count 1 of the Indictment, has three elements, which are:

One, between about 2005 and continuing through about April 2011, two or more persons reached an agreement or came to an understanding to manufacture marijuana;

Two, the defendant voluntarily and intentionally joined in the agreement or understanding, either at the time it was first reached or at some later time while it was still in effect; and

Three, at the time the defendant joined in the agreement or understanding, he knew the purpose of the agreement or understanding.

If the government proves all of these elements beyond a reasonable doubt, then you must find the defendant guilty of the crime charged under Count 1. Otherwise, you must find the defendant not guilty of the crime charged under Count 1.

INSTRUCTION NO. 14

In considering whether the government has met its burden of proving a conspiracy, you are further instructed as follows:

The government must prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the defendant reached an agreement or understanding with at least one other person. It makes no difference whether that person is a defendant or named in the Indictment as long as you find beyond a reasonable doubt that there was at least one other co-conspirator.

The “agreement or understanding” need not be an express or formal agreement or be in writing or cover all the details of how it is to be carried out. Nor is it necessary that the members have directly stated between themselves the details or purpose of the scheme.

You should understand that merely being present at the scene of an event, or merely acting in the same way as others or merely associating with others, does not prove that a person has joined in an agreement or understanding. A person who has no knowledge of a conspiracy but who happens to act in a way which advances some purpose of one does not thereby become a member.

But a person may join in an agreement or understanding, as required by this element, without knowing all the details of the agreement or understanding, and without knowing who all the other members are. Further, it is not necessary that a person agree to play any particular part in carrying out the agreement or understanding. A person may become a member of a conspiracy even if that person agrees to play only a minor part in the conspiracy, as long as that person has an understanding of the unlawful nature of the plan and voluntarily and intentionally joins in it.

(CONTINUED)

INSTRUCTION NO. 14 (Cont'd)

You must decide, after considering all of the evidence, whether the conspiracy alleged in Count 1 of the Indictment existed. If you find that the alleged conspiracy did exist, you must also decide whether the defendant voluntarily and intentionally joined the conspiracy, either at the time it was first formed or at some later time while it was still in effect. In making that decision, you must consider only evidence of the defendant's own actions and statements. You may not consider actions and pretrial statements of others, except to the extent that pretrial statements of others describe something that had been said or done by the defendant.

It is not necessary for the government to prove that the conspirators actually succeeded in accomplishing their unlawful plan.

INSTRUCTION NO. 15

To assist you in determining whether there was an agreement or understanding to manufacture marijuana, you are instructed that the crime of manufacturing marijuana has two elements, which are:

One, a person manufactured marijuana; and

Two, the person did so knowingly or intentionally.

Keep in mind that Count 1 of the Indictment charges a conspiracy to manufacture marijuana and does not require the government to prove that the crime of manufacturing marijuana was actually committed.

INSTRUCTION NO. 16

If you have found beyond a reasonable doubt that the conspiracy charged in Count 1 of the Indictment existed and that the defendant was a member, then you may consider acts knowingly done and statements knowingly made by the defendant's co-conspirators during the existence of the conspiracy and in furtherance of it as evidence pertaining to the defendant even though they were done or made in the absence of and without the knowledge of the defendant. This includes acts done or statements made before the defendant had joined the conspiracy, for a person who knowingly, voluntarily and intentionally joins an existing conspiracy is responsible for all of the conduct of the co-conspirators from the beginning of the conspiracy.

INSTRUCTION NO. 17

The defendant may be found guilty of Count 2 of the Indictment under one of the following two alternatives: (1) the defendant manufactured marijuana; or (2) the defendant attempted to manufacture marijuana. Keep in mind that the defendant may be found guilty under one of these two alternatives even if he did not personally do every act constituting the offense, if he was an aider and abettor, as explained in Instruction Number 18.

First Alternative: Manufacturing Marijuana

The crime of manufacturing marijuana has two elements, which are:

One, during about April 2011, the defendant manufactured marijuana; and

Two, the defendant did so knowingly or intentionally.

If the government proves both of these elements beyond a reasonable doubt, then you must find the defendant guilty of the crime charged under Count 2 under this alternative. Otherwise, you must find the defendant not guilty of the crime charged under Count 2 under this alternative.

Second Alternative: Attempting to Manufacture Marijuana

Count 2 of the Indictment also charges the defendant with attempting to manufacture marijuana. The crime of attempting to manufacture marijuana has two elements, which are:

One, during about April 2011, the defendant intended to manufacture marijuana;

and

Two, the defendant voluntarily and intentionally carried out some act which was a substantial step toward manufacturing marijuana.

(CONTINUED)

INSTRUCTION NO. 17 (Cont'd)

A substantial step, as used in this instruction, must be something more than mere preparation, yet may be less than the last act necessary before the actual commission of the substantive crime. In order for behavior to be punishable as an attempt, it need not be incompatible with innocence, yet it must be necessary to the consummation of the crime and be of such a nature that a reasonable observer, viewing it in context, could conclude beyond a reasonable doubt that it was undertaken in accordance with a design to violate the statute.

If the government proves both of these elements beyond a reasonable doubt, then you must find the defendant guilty of the crime charged under Count 2 under this alternative. Otherwise, you must find the defendant not guilty of the crime charged under Count 2 under this alternative.

INSTRUCTION NO. 18

The defendant may also be found guilty of manufacturing or attempting to manufacture marijuana, as charged in Count 2 of the Indictment, even if he personally did not do every act constituting the offense charged, if he aided and abetted the commission of the manufacture of marijuana or an attempt to manufacture marijuana.

In order to have aided and abetted the commission of the manufacture of marijuana or an attempt to manufacture marijuana, the defendant must, before or at the time the crime was committed:

- (1) have known that the manufacture of marijuana or an attempt to manufacture marijuana was being committed or going to be committed; and
- (2) have knowingly acted in some way for the purpose of causing, encouraging or aiding the commission of the manufacture of marijuana or an attempt to manufacture marijuana.

For you to find the defendant guilty of manufacturing or attempting to manufacture marijuana by reason of aiding and abetting, the government must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that all of the elements of manufacturing or attempting to manufacture marijuana were committed by some person or persons and that the defendant aided and abetted the commission of that crime.

You should understand that merely being present at the scene of an event, or merely acting in the same way as others or merely associating with others, does not prove that a person has become an aider and abettor. A person who has no knowledge that a crime is being committed or about to be committed, but who happens to act in a way which advances some offense, does not thereby become an aider and abettor.

INSTRUCTION NO. 19

You are instructed as a matter of law that marijuana is a Schedule I controlled substance. You must ascertain whether or not the substances in question as to Counts 1 and 2 were marijuana. In so doing, you may consider all of the evidence in the case which may aid in the determination of that issue.

In determining whether the defendant is guilty of the offenses charged in Counts 1 and 2, the government is not required to prove that the amount or quantity of the controlled substance was as charged in the Indictment. The government need only prove beyond a reasonable doubt that there was a detectable amount of marijuana.

If you find the defendant guilty of the offense charged in Count 1, you will need to determine whether the defendant conspired to manufacture: (1) 1,000 or more marijuana plants; (2) at least 100 but less than 1,000 marijuana plants; (3) at least 50 but less than 100 marijuana plants; or (4) less than 50 marijuana plants. If you find the defendant guilty of the offense charged in Count 2, you will need to determine whether the defendant manufactured or attempted to manufacture, or aided and abetted the manufacturing of or an attempt to manufacture: (1) 1,000 or more marijuana plants; (2) at least 100 but less than 1,000 marijuana plants; (3) at least 50 but less than 100 marijuana plants; or (4) less than 50 marijuana plants.

The burden of proof is on the government to establish the quantity beyond a reasonable doubt.

INSTRUCTION NO. 20

The term "manufacture" means the production, preparation, propagation, compounding or processing of a drug or other substance. The term "production" includes the planting, cultivation, growing or harvesting of a controlled substance.

INSTRUCTION NO. 21

Intent may be proven by circumstantial evidence. It rarely can be established by other means. While witnesses may see or hear and thus be able to give direct evidence of what a person does or fails to do, there can be no eyewitness account of the state of mind with which the acts were done or omitted. But what a defendant does or fails to do may indicate intent or lack of intent to commit an offense.

You may consider it reasonable to draw the inference and find that a person intends the natural and probable consequences of acts knowingly done, but you are not required to do so. As I have previously mentioned, it is entirely up to you to decide what facts to find from the evidence.

INSTRUCTION NO. 22

The government is not required to prove that the defendant knew that his acts or omissions were unlawful. An act is done “knowingly” if the defendant is aware of the act and did not act through ignorance, mistake or accident. You may consider the evidence of the defendant’s acts and words, along with other evidence, in deciding whether the defendant acted knowingly.

INSTRUCTION NO. 23

You will note that the Indictment charges that the offenses were committed “between about” and “during about” certain dates. The government need not prove with certainty the exact dates or the exact time period of the offenses charged. It is sufficient if the evidence establishes that the offenses occurred within a reasonable time of the dates or period of time alleged in the Indictment.

INSTRUCTION NO. 24

Throughout the trial, you have been permitted to take notes. Your notes should be used only as memory aids, and you should not give your notes precedence over your independent recollection of the evidence.

In any conflict between your notes, a fellow juror's notes and your memory, your memory must prevail. Remember that notes sometimes contain the mental impressions of the note taker and can be used only to help you recollect what the testimony was. At the conclusion of your deliberations, your notes should be left in the jury room for destruction.

INSTRUCTION NO. 25

In conducting your deliberations and returning your verdicts, there are certain rules you must follow. I shall list those rules for you now.

First, when you go to the jury room, you must select one of your members as your foreperson. That person will preside over your discussions and speak for you here in court.

Second, it is your duty, as jurors, to discuss this case with one another in the jury room. You should try to reach an agreement if you can do so without violence to individual judgment, because your verdicts—whether guilty or not guilty—must be unanimous.

Each of you must make your own conscientious decision, but only after you have considered all the evidence, discussed it fully with your fellow jurors and listened to the views of your fellow jurors.

Do not be afraid to change your opinions if the discussion persuades you that you should. But do not come to a decision simply because other jurors think it is right or simply to reach your verdicts.

Third, if the defendant is found guilty, the sentence to be imposed is my responsibility. You may not consider punishment in any way in deciding whether the government has proved its case beyond a reasonable doubt.

Fourth, if you need to communicate with me during your deliberations, you may send a note to me through the Court Security Officer, signed by one or more jurors. I will respond as soon as possible either in writing or orally in open court. Remember that you should not tell anyone—including me—how your votes stand numerically.

Fifth, your verdicts must be based solely on the evidence and on the law which I have given to you in my instructions. Each verdict, whether guilty or not guilty, must be unanimous. Nothing I have said or done is intended to suggest what your verdicts should be—that is entirely for you to decide.

INSTRUCTION NO. 26

Attached to these instructions you will find the Verdict Forms and Interrogatory Forms. The Verdict Forms and Interrogatory Forms are simply the written notices of the decisions that you reach in this case. The answers to the Verdict Forms and Interrogatory Forms must be the unanimous decisions of the jury.

You will take the Verdict Forms and Interrogatory Forms to the jury room, and when you have completed your deliberations and each of you has agreed to the answers to the Verdict Forms and Interrogatory Forms, your foreperson will fill out the Verdict Forms and Interrogatory Forms, sign and date them and advise the Court Security Officer that you are ready to return to the courtroom. Your foreperson should place the signed Verdict Forms and Interrogatory Forms in the blue folder, which the court will provide you, and then your foreperson should bring the blue folder when returning to the courtroom.

Finally, members of the jury, take this case and give it your most careful consideration, and then without fear or favor, prejudice or bias of any kind, return the Verdict Forms and Interrogatory Forms in accord with the evidence and these instructions.

March 7, 2013
Date



Linda R. Reade, Chief Judge
United States District Court
Northern District of Iowa