Monsour et al v. Menu Maker Foods Inc

Page 1 of 10

Doc. 104 Att. 10

Exhibit I

KENNETH GOODWIN 2/20/2006

	TETTI COOD 44 IT 2/20/2000				
1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	Page 1			
2	FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS				
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4	MARK MONSOUR, SHEILA)				
5	MONSOUR and MONSOUR'S, INC.,				
	Plaintiffs,)				
6	VS.) Case No. 05-1204-MLB				
7.	MENU MAKER FOODS, INC.,)				
8)				
9	Defendant.)				
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14	DEPOSITION OF KENNETH GOODWIN				
15	TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFFS				
16	February 20, 2006				
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Page 50 1 Q (By Mr. James) We are back on the record. Did you happen to discuss that pending 2 question with Mr. Wachtel during the break? 3 4 5 You correct my recollection if I'm Q 6 mistaken, but my understanding is I was asking you 7 about the second time that you had gone to Pittsburg 8 or gone to Monsour's? 9 A Yes. And you indicated that you thought it was 10 0

A Correct.

in April or May of 2002?

Q Okay. And then now back to who do you believe -- who did you go with on that trip?

A I believe it was with Creighton.

Q Do you recall anybody else that went with you?

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19 Q Do you recall what the purpose of that 20 second trip was for?

> Yes. Α

Q Tell me about that.

A I had received a call from Mark Monsour, who expressed some concerns about the amount of inventory that was still left in the warehouse.

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Q Okay. So you go down in April or May of 2002, in approximation, and this is in response to a call that you got from Mr. Monsour about a concern of inventory in the warehouse; correct?

A Correct.

Tell me about the call from Mr. Monsour, what you recall him saying.

A He just felt like there was still a lot of inventory left in the building, and had not seen much activity in regards to us purchasing inventory in the recent weeks, and called to find out what was going on.

So it's safe to say he expressed some concern about the amount of inventory that had not been purchased?

Α Yes.

Q' What was your response to him?

My response what that based on the inventory reports that he had been given, we felt like we had purchased most, if not all, of what we 21 felt like we could. But that I would discuss it with Creighton, and that was the reason for our trip down there, was so that I could walk around and look and see for myself what was still down there.

Q And obviously he didn't share that opinion

Page 52 1 or belief with you that you had purchased most of 2 what you could? 3

A His comments were, "There is a lot of inventory still in the building here." And wanted to know where we were at on purchasing it.

Q Do you recall the time frame between the telephone call from Mark Monsour and the lapse until you drove to Monsour's in Pittsburg?

A I don't recall the exact timing but it was relatively soon. I want to say the following week we went down.

Q The best of your recollection he called you in one week, the next week you and Creighton get in the car and drive down there?

A Correct.

Did you ever have any knowledge of any type of agreement between Dick Graves and Mark Monsour that all of the inventory would be purchased and taken between four and six weeks after the asset purchase agreement?

> I have no knowledge of that. Α

Nobody ever mentioned that to you?

23 I don't recall there being a specific time Α 24 table.

> Q But it's fair to say we discussed both

> > Page 53

times you have actually been on the Monsour property 2 in Pittsburg; correct?

A Correct.

4 Q Have you gone down there since Menu Maker 5 had taken over that, especially not Monsour's 6 anymore, have you visited your operations in 7 Pittsbura?

A I don't recall other than those two times.

10 Q After Mark telephoned you and says he has 11 this concern, what is your -- well, first -- strike 12 that. Do you recall anything else that was said in the conversation between you and Mark Monsour? And I 13 14 am specifically referring to the telephone call about 15 the concerns of the inventory. 16

Α No.

17 Q You indicated that you had met and talked 18 to Mark Monsour once in person, and now we have a 19 phone conversation with Mr. Monsour; did you ever 20 talk to him at any other time that you can recall?

A Yes.

Q Okay. Tell me about that.

23 A I received a telephone call from him I 24 believe in February of '02. He expressed his concern 25 about the cooperation that he was receiving from Ron

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Orr in regards to the produce segment of the business.

Q Let me see if I can get the time line and the order down. Well, give me the order of when you had the first trip down to Monsour's, when you got the phone call about the Ron Orr concern, when you got the phone call about the inventory concern, and then the second time, could you put those in order for me?

A The first incident would be the trip down that we -- that Creighton and I took down to meet with the sales force, not -- soon after the sales force joined our sales force. That would have been the first incident. The second was the phone call I received concerning Ron Orr, and Mark's concerns there. And then the last would be the trip down I took in response to his concerns about how much inventory was left in the building.

- Q And we had the phone call before that trip that precipitated the last trip; correct?
 - A Correct, Correct,
- 21 Q Any other contacts you had with Mark 22 Monsour, conversations that you can recall?
 - None that I can recall.
- 24 Tell me more about the telephone call in 25 February, 2002, where he already had concerns about

communication between the two companies, specifically 2 he was waiting for Ron to supply average weekly sales 3 numbers on produce items. 4

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- Q Mark felt like he hadn't gotten those weekly sales numbers?
- A Yeah, Mark didn't feel like they had all the information they needed to begin supplying us with produce.
- Q And I guess I didn't ask, continue on the chain of command earlier. Is Ron Orr a parallel to you, or is he someone that is at a lower level?
- A At that time Ron reported to me. He was the purchasing manager, and also in charge of produce.
- Q So it was a natural telephone call. You were being contacted about one of your employees?
 - Correct.
- 18 And someone you were directly responsible 19 for?
 - Α Correct.
 - Did Ron admit to you that he hadn't been sending these average weekly sales reports?
 - A Ron had produced to me documents that he said had been faxed to Monsour's, and my response back to him was, "Well, let's send them again. They

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Ron Orr in regard to the produce, what do you recall Mr. Monsour saying?

A He asked me to get with Ron to facilitate better communication between Ron and his produce guy down in Monsour's -- Rick, I believe, but I'm not positive. And that was -- that was the conversation.

Q Do you recall what your response was?

A I told him I would be glad to speak with Ron and see if I could determine what obstacles there may be, what may be causing the problem between Ron and his produce quy.

Q So early February of 2002, Mark is telephoning you and expressing concerns about Ron Orr?

A I don't recall if it was early February, but I believe it was sometime in February, to my best recollection.

- 18 Q Fair enough, with that clarification. But 19 it's expressing concerns about Ron Orr particularly? 20
 - A Correct.
 - Q What did you do when you got that telephone call?
- 23 A I went in and spoke with Ron and told him that I had received a telephone call from Mark 24 Monsour, and that he was concerned about the

are saying they don't have it. They are looking for 1 2 information. You need to get ahold of Rick and find out what exactly they think they are missing." 3 4

Q So at this point it sounds to me like you feel like Mark is communicating to you saying, "Hey, we want to make this work," and you are, in turn, trying to make efforts to make it work as well; is that fair?

A Yes.

Q What did Ron say to you when you said, "Hey, let's send these again"?

A He was exasperated, it was my feeling. He felt like he had been performing the way he should have been, and didn't quite understand why I would have received a phone call from Mark.

- Q Did you feel like you were giving Ron a reprimand at this point?
 - A Oh, no.
- Q More just let's see what we can do to figure this out?
 - Α Yes.

22 Q There had been some testimony early on in 23 this case by Mr. Fairchild saying that he had heard Mr. Orr say that he didn't approve of the agreement 24 and he didn't like the agreement; had you heard Mr. 25

Fax: 314,644,1334

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KENNETH GOODWIN 2/20/2006 Page 58 1 Orr say things like that. 1 That is my recollection of the 2 A Yes. 2 conversation. 3 Q Tell me what you recall Ron Orr saying? 3 So you don't remember the specifics of Q . 4 He was very concerned about Monsour's 4 what --5 ability to supply us with the produce that we needed 5 Α. No. 6 with the quality that we needed. 6 Q -- Dick said? 7 Q Is it safe to say that Ron didn't like the 7 Α No. 8 agreement? 8 Q Did you have any conversations with Ron 9 A That was the impression that I got. after that meeting with Dick and Creighton when you 9 10 Q Did you feel like he was upset that he had 10 first learned about the asset purchase agreement, to follow through with this agreement? 11 11 about his concern, his agitation, his not wanting it 12 A He was very agitated and felt like this 12 to work? 13 agreement was going to have a negative impact on our 13 MR. WACHTEL: Object to the form. Go 14 produce sales. 14 ahead. 15 Q Do you ever recall Mr. Orr saying, "This 15 I did have at least one conversation with 16 agreement is just not going to work"? 16 Ron. 17 A Yes. 17 Q (By Mr. James) Tell me about that 18 Q Let's do this, in part: when did you first conversation. Was it a pick me up, "Ron, you can do 18 19 learn that Ron felt that this was going to have a 19 this," or was it, "Ron, I'm your boss. You need to negative impact on Menu Maker produce sales? 20 20 follow Dick's instructions"? Give me a flavor for 21 A In that meeting that we had up in Dick's 21 that conversation. 22 office with Creighton, and the agreement to buy 22 A I wanted to give him an opportunity to 23 inventory was explained, and the agreement to 23 vent his frustrations and express his concerns so purchase produce was explained. 24 that I better understood what we might be faced 24 25 So before you ever got the call from Mark 25 with. Buyers tend to be very protective about their

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Page 59 expressing concerns about Ron Orr, you already knew that Ron Orr didn't like the produce agreement? A He was not in favor of the agreement.

- Q And you already knew that Ron felt it was going to adversely affect Menu Maker Foods?
 - A Yes.

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- And you had already heard Ron say he didn't think this agreement was going to work?
- O How did Mr. Cox or Mr. Graves respond when Ron said, "This isn't going to work. I don't like it," or he was agitated?
- A Mr. Graves explained to him that we were going to make every effort to make it work, and we would continue to do so until we determined it wasn't going to work.
- Q And was that in that original meeting when you first learned about the asset purchase agreement?
 - A Correct.
- 19 20 Do you recall -- I just want to be clear, is that just your recollection as a general 21 understanding of what Mr. Graves conveyed to Ron, or 22 23 do you specifically recall Dick saying, "We are going 24 to do everything we can to make this work until we

figure out that it's not going to work"?

- 1 product categories that they buy. And take a lot of 2 pride in -- especially in produce, take a lot of pride in the product that they -- that we would 3 4 deliver to our customers. 5
 - Q So it sounds like this was more what I think most people would consider a good management technique, you were just hearing out your subordinate about his concerns?
 - A Correct.

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- 10 Q Why did you feel like you needed to do 11 this? Did you feel that Ron didn't get to express 12 all his concerns to Dick before Dick said, "We are going to do it until it doesn't work, then we are 13 14 going to quit"; is that why? 15
 - A Yeah, part of being a manager is understanding where your people are at, where their heads are at, and to get ahead of any potential problems that might be arising.
 - Q So is it safe to say that what you just described for me, that was your purpose in meeting with Mr. Orr after the meeting?
 - A That's correct, I wanted to better fully understand, because the produce business is a kind of a business of its own, and it's not one that I understand completely, and wanted to have a better

16 (Pages 58 to 61)

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Page 86 Page 88 belief that the freezer had been shut down, quit So sometime in the spring of 2002 or 1 2 working, product thawed, refroze, and that was our 2 shortly after you had been pulling inventory? 3 speculation. I don't know if anybody knew that for 3 Correct. 4 certain. But based on the problems that we were 4 To use your words, you contacted the Baron 5 having, we felt like the frozen goods were a loss. 5 Spices people; correct? 6 Q So in May of 2002, to the best of your 6 Correct. 7 recollection, you told Mark or Jim, whoever you met 7 Do you recall who you talked to at Baron Q 8 with, "Hey, everything that is in the freezer we 8 Spices? 9 can't use"? 9 A Rick Remming. 10 A I don't believe -- I did not personally 10 What was the subject of your conversation communicate that. I believe that was communicated by 11 11 with Mr. Remming? either Creighton or Dick. 12 12 Spices lose their robust flavor over time, 13 Q So that's probably something that you 13 and I asked Rick to go down there and take a look at 14 decided, and then you communicated to Mr. Cox or Mr. the inventory, and see what was still of good dates 14 Graves, and then to your understanding, they 15 15 that we should purchase, and would they take care of 16 communicated that to Mark Monsour? 16 anything that wasn't -- it's not uncommon for a 17 A That is my understanding, yes. 17 supplier to reimburse you for product that you have 18 Q Were you the one that made that call? I to throw away because it didn't sell in a timely 18 19 am just trying to get a feel as far as who made the 19 fashion. decision who went and looked in the freezer and said, 20 20 Kind of keep a good relationship with you Q 21 "Hey, based upon my knowledge, we can't use any of 21 as a big customer? that stuff"; would that have been you? 22 22 A Correct. 23 A I believe that was a group consensus. 23 So if I understand your response 24 Q You and Mr. Cox? 24 correctly, you were kind of wanting Rick Remming to 25 Yes. go down and do an evaluation and tell you about the 25 Page 87 Page 89 1 Anybody else in on that --1 quality of these spices? 2 I don't recall who else was there. 2 A Based on the purchase dates that we saw on 3 Q And I take it at this point in May of 2002 3 the inventory reports given to us by Monsour's, I had 4 when we were doing this inventory evaluation -- well, 4 concern that several of the products were very old, 5 strike that. That's a bad question. Prior to that 5 and needed to be destroyed. 6 second trip, had you made any efforts to help 6 Q Do you recall what -- do you recall what 7 Monsour's sell products to other people? 7 percentage of the products Rick said thumbs up, you 8 A Yes. 8 guys should take and sell? 9 Q Okay. Tell me about those. 9 A I do not. 10 A I made contacts to several vendors. 10 Q But I take it though, and I jumped to an 11 Q Let me interrupt you right there. assumption, did Mr. Remming follow through on your 11 12 Α Okay. 12 request and go down there? 13 0 Do you remember the vendors that you 13 A Yes, he did. 14 contacted? 14 Do you recall the time frame as to when he 15 Well, three come to mind; Baron Spices, 15 went down there and gave it a look-see? Degraffenreid pickle, and Rotella Bakery. 16 16 A I believe it was within a week or two of 17 MR. JAMES: Off the record. 17 our conversation. 18 (WHEREIN, a discussion was held off the 18 Q Do you recall, Mr. Remming did give you an 19 record.) 19 opinion as far as what was good and what wasn't good; 20 (By Mr. James) All right. Back on the 20 correct? record. When did you contact the Baron Spices 21 21 A Correct. 22 people? 22 Q Did he give you the rebate or the credit, 23 A I can't say for certain, but it was not whatever the term is for the spices that he didn't 23 24 long after we started pulling inventory from 24 think were good? Monsour's. 25 A He reimbursed, and I don't know if it was

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Page 90 Menu Maker Foods or Monsour's for the obsolete inventory. I do not recall whether we bought it all and he reimbursed us, or if he just reimbursed Monsour's for -- but there was a reimbursement for old product.

- Q So you took some and somebody got reimbursed for the rest?
 - A Correct.

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- Q Do you have any idea of the overall value of the spices that were present at the time?
- A I would guess not more than 1,500 to \$2,000. Spices don't cost a lot of money. And -but that would just be a guesstimate on my part.
- Q Just so we are clear, and I understand you are guessing, I want that to be clear, that 1,500 to 2,000, is that the total value of all of the spices down there?
- Α Correct.
- Q Do you recall any other conversation that 19 20 you had with Mr. Remming about the Baron Spices, 21 other than what we have talked about?
 - Α
- 23 The Degraffenreid pickles, you indicated 24 that you had contacted somebody at Degraffenreid; do 25 you know who you contacted?

And Mr. McCauley did that? 1

- 2 I don't believe -- I don't recall his specific resolution, but I do not believe that he 4 covered all of the cost associated with outdated 5 product.
 - Did he tell you, "Hey, Mr. Goodwin, these pickles are thumbs up, go ahead and take those," or were all of the pickles outdated?

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- A I believe there were some that were still 9 10 good.
 - Okay. So some of the pails of pickles you take and some are outdated. And you believe that he didn't reimburse somebody for the outdated pickles?
 - A I don't recall what his final resolution was.
- 16 Q Do you have any idea on the value of the 17 pickles?
 - A No.
 - Q What would you guess a hundred pails of pickles can be purchased for?
- 21 A Well, depending on what they are, I -- you 22 know, roughly \$1,200.
 - Q The only other vendor I recall you telling me you contacted was a bakery, and I forgot their name?

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- A Dave McCauley.
- When do you recall giving Mr. McCauley a call?
- A A similar time frame as Baron Spices, within a couple weeks of us beginning purchase.
- Q Same type of deal, did you ask Mr. McCauley to go down and look at the Degraffenreid pickles there?
- A Yes, and the reason I contacted him was, one, he was close in proximity to the Monsour's warehouse, but two, one of the dead inventory items that Gene had been trying to sell off was quite old and he had a fairly substantial amount of that product.
- Q By that product, you mean a bunch of pickles?
- A Yes, a bunch of pickles. It seems to me maybe a hundred cases or a hundred pails of pickles. So I was very concerned about that product and asked him to go down and do the same thing, evaluate the inventory.
- Q The same procedure with Baron, did you ask Mr. McCauley to evaluate what was good and give a credit for the rest that was there?
 - A Correct.

Α Rotella.

- Q Okay. Tell me about who you contacted at Rotelia Bakery?
 - Bud Dougherty. Α
- Q Oh, is this the memo that you were telling me about earlier that you found from Rotella?
- Q So what was the purpose of contacting Rotella?
- A To do a similar inventory evaluation, to have him look at the product. Those are all breads, and have a short shelf life. I picked vendors that we both did business with because I felt like that was the best place to start where we could, you know, hopefully have a little bit of leverage with that vendor to go in and provide us some relief or Monsour's relief on some obsolete inventory.
 - Q That seems to make some sense. Do you know where the Rotella bakery -- do you know where they are based out of?
 - A Omaha, Nebraska.
 - Q Did Mr. Dougherty, you recall him going down there because he issued the memo?
 - A Correct.
 - Q If I recall from your previous testimony

24 (Pages 90 to 93)

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the entirety of the Rotella bread was not 1 2 salvageable; correct? 3

- A I think that there was some good product there.
- Q Do you have any idea as to the estimated value of the Rotella bread?
 - A I do not.

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- Q And do you know whether Mr. Dougherty gave a credit to somebody based upon that out of date --
- A I believe he did, yes. There was one other vendor.
- 12 Q That's what I was going to ask you. Any 13 other vendors that you recall? Sounds like you 14 recall one.
 - A Yes, Con Agri, their meat division.
 - Q Okay. So the other vendor was the Con Agri meat division; who was your contact there?
- A I can picture him. He is from Nixa, 18 19 Missouri, and I don't recall his -- I'm terrible with 20 names.
- 21 Q That's fine. That's okay. Tell me about the resolution -- well, first of all, what was Con 22 23 Agri going to evaluate?
- 24 A They had a lot of meat products, some 25 fresh, some frozen. Our first concern of course was

1 Do you have any guesstimate as to the 2 value of these Con Agri meat products? 3

- No.
- 0 Any other vendors that you contacted to try to help Monsour sell inventory?

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- A There were several, but I don't recall specifically who they were.
 - Q Vendors that you contacted?
 - Α Correct.
- Q Okay. So you think in addition to these four, there is at least a couple others that you just can't think of.
 - A At least a couple.
- Q Did you make any other efforts to help Monsour sell its inventory, other than what we have already talked about? You don't need to repeat anything that we have discussed.
- A We were trying to work with the supplier community, but we ran into some major obstacles.
- Q So you don't think, other than the vendors listed, and the ones that you have mentioned, that any other produce - I'm sorry -- dry, frozen goods you were able to help sell; is that correct?
- A The vendors we contacted were reluctant to assist us because of outstanding balances with their

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the fresh product. And I asked him to go evaluate the situation down there.

Q And what was Mr. Dougherty's - well, first of all did Mr. Dougherty go evaluate? MR. WACHTEL: I don't think it's Mr.

Dougherty.

- Q (By Mr. James) I'm sorry. The Con Agri man, we can't remember his name, did he go evaluate the products at Monsour's?
- A There was a problem, and I don't recall that he specifically went to evaluate the products. 12 I called him, and he called -- made a couple phone calls and called me back, and stated, because 13 Monsour's had an outstanding balance with their 14 company, they were not interested in any kind of 15 16 reclamation process.
 - Q So based upon that memory, you don't believe that the unnamed Con Agri individual ever went to the Monsour facility?
 - A I don't believe he did.
- 21 Q Do you recall whether -- did Menu Maker purchase any of the Con Agri meat products, do you 22 23 remember?
 - A I don't recall specifically, but I would guess that we did.

1 companies.

- Q I understand that. Any other efforts that you can think of that you made to help Monsour sell the outstanding dry and frozen goods?
- A They were given -- they, Monsour's were given the names of some salvage folks. I don't -- I believe Ron provided some names and numbers, but I'm not positive who it was, but there was some salvage enterprises.
- Q So you think the only other thing that was done was give them these salvage numbers and say, "Hey, contact them and see what you can do."
 - A That's all that I'm aware of, yes.
- Q I take it from the term "salvage," we are talking cents on the dollar purchasers?
 - A Correct.
- And I have from my watch that we have been going for about two hours. Do you need to take a break?

THE WITNESS: Yeah, a quick break would be nice.

(WHEREIN, a recess was taken.)

(By Mr. James) Back on the record after a brief break. Mr. Goodwin, were you the individual that was going to be in charge of the inventory

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	purchased from Monsour's? When I say inventory, I am referring to the dry and frozen goods, not the produce? A That responsibility fell on me first. Q So it's safe to say Dick or Creighton or somebody above you made this asset purchase decision, but you were the guy that was going to make it work on the dry and frozen goods end? A Correct. Q You used a little clarifier, at first, what do you mean by that, that you were the one in charge of it first? A I guess what I should say is I was ultimately responsible for it and from there I formulated the plan to purchase the inventory, and instructed my purchasing staff on how to proceed. Q Did Mr. Graves or Mr. Cox give you any other instructions other than we are going to go purchase this inventory, get it done, type stuff? A Oh, there were several rules to work by that were explained at that initial meeting. Q That you got from either Mr. Graves or Mr. Cox? A Correct. Q Tell me about those rules.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	A Yes. Q And basically with those instructions, it was your deal, you were to go make it happen? A Correct. Q And you knew that it was important to move fast on this inventory because some of it probably was going to expire, as we previously talked about? A Yes, the perishable items became our immediate focus. Q When did you make arrangements to go get perishable items? It's my understanding you didn't go down there again, you went before the agreement and then sometime in that May time frame that you have estimated, when did we make the arrangements to go get the perishables? A We were provided with an inventory product list and that's what we worked from, their inventory product list, and we went through and identified, or my staff did, the perishable items. Q When did you do this identification? A The very same week that we were told this is what we are doing. Q So you think within a week of the asset purchase date signature you identified these			
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Page 99 A We only bought it if we sold it to our customers or theirs. Q Okay. A When I say "theirs," those customers we were acquiring through the addition of their sales staff. Q The second rule that you recall? A We were not to pay more for it than current market value. Q Third rule? A It had to be in good condition, and wholesome. Q Any other rules, or does that represent what you recall? A We were to do it as quickly as possible. Q You were just told quickly as possible, no time frame though as to complete it by this time; correct? A I don't recall a specific time frame. Q Okay. So basically with those instructions well, who gave you those instructions? Was that Mr. Cox or was that Mr. Graves? A Both. Q In one meeting they said, "Hey, Ken, this is how we are going to do it"?	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25	Page 101 A Correct. Q How soon do you think the perishable items were taken from Monsour's and got out in the market? A As soon as they were identified we tried to get them here. We tried to buy them immediately. Q Did we have some perishable items that Menu Maker didn't take? A I don't recall. Q You have no idea of the percentage of the perishable items that Menu Maker was able to take or wasn't able to take? A No. Q Is there anybody else that would know that information more than you? A Not that I am aware of. Q Just some time has passed and we just don't remember? A I never calculated percentages of inventory pulled when I went through this process. Q So other than we know that there were some perishable items that were left, and weren't used, and some were taken, no additional information other than that? And if you don't remember, you don't remember. A We may have taken it all. I'm not			

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1	shorted our inventory. We've got less inventory on	1	goods.
2	hand, which causes a lot of problems, as you can	2	A As far as purchasing it and making
3	imagine.	3	decisions on purchasing it would have been
4	Q Sure.	4	Q The people
5	A The customers need to purchase a product,	5	A my staff, myself and Ron.
6	we don't have it because of that situation.	6	Q So there might have been some other people
7	Q What is the next complaint you recall from	7	doing some leg work?
8	Mr. Carpenter that you specifically if you recall	8	A Correct.
9	any?	9	Q But nobody else making decision?
10	A Specifically, I don't.	10	A Warehouse people and so forth.
11	Q Okay. How about Mr. Metcalf, what	11	Q One of the concerns that you had
12	complaint do you specifically recall of his, the	12	previously told me with the purchase of the Monsour's
13			inventory was that you were going to be required to
14	A With him it was frying oil.	13	buy less from your normal suppliers, and sometimes
15	Q Okay.	15	they wouldn't sell in that small a quantity; is that
16	A And there was a large quantity of frying	16	a fair statement?
17	oil on their inventory report. We tried to purchase	17	A Yeah, their I think what I said was,
18	it.	18	you know, vendors have minimum shipment requirements,
19	Q Similar to the french fries?	19	usually based on pounds or cases. And so when
20	A Similar to the fries, yeah, we didn't get	20	whatever we bought from Monsour's, we didn't buy from
21	it.	21	them, so that greated some netertial matters from
22	Q Anything other than frying oil with Mr.	22	them, so that created some potential problems for us
23	Metcalf that you can recall he had a complaint about?	23	as far as getting all of the other products that we needed.
24	A Not specifically, no.	24	
25	Q Okay. Were you ever familiar with the	25	Q Did it cause potential problems or did it
	Q Skay. Were you ever farming with the	23	cause problems? I mean can you remember, hey, that
	Page 115		Page 117
1	estimated value of the inventory being in the	1	was a problem, or is that just one of the concerns
2	\$750,000 to \$800,000 range as outlined in the asset	2	that up front you said, hey this could be a problem?
3	purchase agreement? That's probably a bad question.	3	A Yeah, it it was just potentially a
4	Let's try it again. In the asset purchase agreement	4	problem. I don't think we had very many issues in
5	I will represent to you there is a representation of	5	that regard.
6	a value of \$750,000 to \$800,000; have you ever heard	6	Q Can you think of any specific issues that
7	those numbers before?	7	you had in that regard?
8	A I didn't become aware of those numbers	8	A Nothing that we didn't overcome.
9	until the when I was informed of the details of	9	Q Did the purchase of Monsour's and the
10	the lawsuit.	10	asset purchase agreement, did it positively affect
11	Q So at the time, in the '02 time frame when	11	your bonus, negatively affect your bonus or no effect
12	you were visiting with Mr. Cox and Mr. Graves you	12	at all?
13	didn't know that number; correct?	13	A No effect.
14	A I don't recall ever hearing that number.	14	Q So when you heard what Mr. Cox and Mr.
15	Q Did Mr. Cox or Mr. Graves ever ask you to	15	Graves instructed you to do, you didn't have any
16	give a dollar valuation at any time of the Monsour's	16	concern that it was going to affect your year-end
17	inventory?	17	bonus.
18	A No.	18	A Yeah, I guess there was a slight concern.
19	Q To your knowledge, did they ask anybody to	19	Q But nothing that materialized?
20	give a valuation of the Monsour's inventory?	20	A Well, in retrospect, yes. Everything I
21	A Not to my knowledge.	21	purchased, or everything we purchased from Monsour's,
22	Q Is there anybody else involved in this	22	
23	inventory process other than who you proviously	22	not through normal supplier channels, did not bring

placed the order through the direct supply channel.

Q And that rebate program directly affects

the rebates that you would normally get, had you

23

24

25

24

23 inventory process other than who you previously

named? And when I'm saying "inventory process," I'm

saying Menu Maker taking the Monsour's dry and frozen