

N	Timecodes	Speaker	Text
1	00:00:11,930 00:00:13,869	Thomas Drake	(Counting in German) (counting in russian)
2	00:00:13,869 00:00:16,010	Interviewer	any Danish in there? I am from Denmark
3	00:00:16,010 00:00:20,510	Thomas Drake	no Danish No, I didn't learn any of the Scandinavian languages
4	00:00:21,410 00:00:26,630	Thomas Drake	nor did I ever monitor them them
5	00:00:26,630 00:00:27,769	Interviewer	no (laughing) ... only now
6	00:00:27,769 00:00:33,590	Thomas Drake	yes only now thats right, yes... yeah all languages are fair game
7	00:00:33,590 00:00:37,329	Thomas Drake	when you are in a surveillance state (N laughing in background)
8	00:00:37,329 00:00:40,390	Interviewer	thank you for being here
9	00:00:40,390 00:00:46,100	Interviewer	maybe Thomas, you could explain a bit about your background
10	00:00:46,100 00:00:48,890	Interviewer	before you... before you started your career in the NSA
11	00:00:48,890 00:00:53,440	Thomas Drake	well in terms of my career I spent a lotta time in the government
12	00:00:53,440 00:00:57,530	Thomas Drake	and as a contractor with the government, I actually took the
13	00:00:57,530 00:01:01,660	Thomas Drake	oath to swear to defend the Constitution four times in my government career
14	00:01:01,660 00:01:06,450	Thomas Drake	that started in the Air Force when I flew an RC 135's 'em...
15	00:01:06,450 00:01:08,940	Thomas Drake	in Europe during the latter years of the Cold War
16	00:01:08,940 00:01:12,950	Thomas Drake	when I was an air crew member I was also at CIA for short time
17	00:01:12,950 00:01:17,390	Thomas Drake	I was in the Navy as an Intel officer at the pentagon and then at NSA
18	00:01:17,390 00:01:22,630	Thomas Drake	as a senior executive in between I was a contractor with the government.
19	00:01:22,840 00:01:28,220	Interviewer	and you specialized in 'ehh... in software and engineering....
20	00:01:29,160 00:01:30,660	Thomas Drake	there was a time during

21	00:01:30,660 00:01:36,740	Thomas Drake	my earlier career when I was with several 'em...
22	00:01:36,740 00:01:40,510	Thomas Drake	commercial firms both private as well as publicly-held
23	00:01:40,510 00:01:43,350	Thomas Drake	In which I was on contract with the government
24	00:01:43,350 00:01:46,390	Thomas Drake	and also was doing consulting to industry during what I call
25	00:01:46,390 00:01:48,210	Thomas Drake	the go-go nineties of the Internet age
26	00:01:48,210 00:01:53,540	Interviewer	and if you should sum up what your expertise is?
27	00:01:53,540 00:01:57,270	Thomas Drake	well it's combination of things, your know leadership (N interrupts for paraphrasing)
28	00:01:57,270 00:02:02,380	Thomas Drake	'oh.. my my expertise... my expertise in summary organizational 'em...
29	00:02:02,380 00:02:07,860	Thomas Drake	leadership management, software engineering, systems engineering, information technology
30	00:02:07,860 00:02:17,109	Interviewer	it's kind of something that when I go back... when I read your story, is that it was
31	00:02:17,109 00:02:20,980	Interviewer	kinda a... fateful day, on the first day that you started...
32	00:02:20,980 00:02:23,799	Interviewer	it was also maybe the change both for the organisation,
33	00:02:23,799 00:02:29,599	Interviewer	for their country in US maybe even for the world, maybe you can...?
34	00:02:29,599 00:02:33,540	Interviewer	911 was a fateful day not just for myself personally
35	00:02:33,540 00:02:37,319	Interviewer	professional though I did not know that when I woke up
36	00:02:37,319 00:02:41,849	Interviewer	but it was 'eh, a huge and significant... as it turned out... fatefully
37	00:02:41,849 00:02:43,930	Interviewer	day for not just the nation
38	00:02:43,930 00:02:48,349	Interviewer	but also for NSA as an institution what I didn't know
39	00:02:48,349 00:02:52,849	Interviewer	early in that morning as how much would change because of 911.
40	00:02:52,849 00:02:55,740	Interviewer	especially in secret
41	00:02:55,740 00:02:57,280	Interviewer	It was your first day in the new job?
42	00:02:57,280 00:03:03,090	Thomas Drake	It was my first day reporting to my job in NSA, I had actually

43 00:03:03,090 00:03:05,409 Thomas Drake officially began, what they call interim (check) duty in the NSA

44 00:03:05,409 00:03:09,889 Thomas Drake as a senior executive late August of the previous month

45 00:03:09,889 00:03:14,909 Thomas Drake I had to go through orientation 'em... getting my clearances, badging

46 00:03:14,909 00:03:18,870 Thomas Drake and taking the oath to support and defend the constitution, at that time it was the

47 00:03:18,870 00:03:25,480 Thomas Drake fourth time I've done so I was scheduled to report as my first day on the job on 9/11

48 00:03:25,480 00:03:31,219 Interviewer you arrived as a senior executive

49 00:03:31,219 00:03:39,730 Interviewer in the NSA and... where a discussion had been going on

50 00:03:39,730 00:03:43,489 Interviewer for years regarding new about that

51 00:03:43,489 00:03:48,900 Thomas Drake that's... why I came to the NSA, is quite a story in itself, I mean in...

52 00:03:48,900 00:03:52,560 Thomas Drake in summary NSA was severely challenged by the internet and digital age

53 00:03:52,560 00:03:55,329 Thomas Drake they're having great difficulty making sense

54 00:03:55,329 00:04:03,810 Thomas Drake of large amounts of data or making sense of data at the extreme amount...

55 00:04:03,810 00:04:10,150 Thomas Drake they knew that they had a challenge but this is the digital age

56 00:04:10,150 00:04:13,279 Thomas Drake this is no longer the analog age in fact

57 00:04:13,279 00:04:16,540 Thomas Drake this completely overwhelmed their ability 'em...

58 00:04:16,540 00:04:22,390 Thomas Drake to actually figure out what the date was all about, making sense of it

59 00:04:22,390 00:04:28,450 Thomas Drake and so 'em... they were trying their best using their legacy thinking

60 00:04:28,450 00:04:32,080 Thomas Drake to deal with this new dynamic and they were... they were essentially

61 00:04:32,080 00:04:36,500 Thomas Drake overwhelmed and they were increasingly growing deaf... to say it that way in understanding

62 00:04:36,500 00:04:40,140 Thomas Drake what they're even collecting there was no problem in collecting it

63 00:04:40,140 00:04:43,880 Thomas Drake it was increasingly a problem in making sense of it so there ha...

64 00:04:43,880 Thomas Drake their are a whole lot of initiatives how do we continue

00:04:47,640 Drake to make ourselves

65 00:04:47,640 Thomas relevant, how to meet the challenges of the... of the  
00:04:51,690 Drake 21st century the even called

66 00:04:51,690 Thomas it a challenge problem...  
00:04:53,760 Drake

67 00:04:53,760 Thomas it was one of the critical challenge problems and so I  
00:04:58,280 Drake was one of

68 00:04:58,280 Thomas about a dozen people that were hired in under  
00:05:02,390 Drake general Hayden

69 00:05:02,390 Thomas the then director of the NSA to help them make that  
00:05:08,040 Drake shift

70 00:05:08,040 Thomas and that was at the maneger level and that was on a  
00:05:11,480 Drake technical level, as well as at the

71 00:05:11,480 Thomas process level, how do you actually do work and it  
00:05:16,260 Drake was, it was a severe challenge but

72 00:05:16,260 Thomas we are being dropped in from the outside and I was  
00:05:20,160 Drake being dropped in

73 00:05:20,160 Thomas at rather senior-level this was not a low-level position  
00:05:23,950 Drake this

74 00:05:23,950 Thomas was not a position in which your were way buried  
00:05:27,690 Drake deep... I was at the very senior

75 00:05:27,690 Thomas levels of NSA, so I became intimate familiar with all  
00:05:34,140 Drake the lead players

76 00:05:34,140 Thomas in the key positions, in fact I reported to the number  
00:05:38,860 Drake three person in the NSA

77 00:05:38,860 Interviewer How was the culture at that point?  
00:05:41,940

78 00:05:41,950 Thomas the culture of NSA was always 'eh.. quite hermetically  
00:05:47,440 Drake sealed

79 00:05:47,440 Thomas there was a... several decades before it became  
00:05:51,430 Drake much more public

80 00:05:51,430 Thomas ironically enough under general Hayden 'em... who  
00:05:57,910 Drake said we needed put a new face

81 00:05:57,910 Thomas on the NSA via public face he took... he actually took  
00:06:01,330 Drake a lot of heat

82 00:06:01,330 Thomas for that but for many many decades 'em... no one ever  
00:06:05,840 Drake actually uttered... if you

83 00:06:05,840 Thomas worked at NSA, you simply... I either work in the  
00:06:08,460 Drake defense department or

84 00:06:08,460 Thomas if you were a contractor I work for the Maryland  
00:06:11,840 Drake Procurement Office

85 00:06:11,840 Thomas you never uttered the words NSA and in fact the joke

00:06:15,840 Drake was that NSA meant

86 00:06:15,840 Thomas you 'never say anything' or 'no such agency' although  
00:06:25,830 Drake I've coined as 'no secret anymore'

87 00:06:25,830 Thomas so the institution was very insular the institution  
00:06:30,780 Drake largely promoted from within

88 00:06:30,780 Thomas it did not hire a whole lot from the outside  
00:06:34,210 Drake

89 00:06:34,210 Thomas and it had selected universities for which it recruited  
00:06:38,030 Drake

90 00:06:38,030 Thomas and yet this is the Internet age and so they were  
00:06:42,430 Drake increasingly challenged by

91 00:06:42,430 Thomas even the skill sets necessary to operate in the space  
00:06:45,280 Drake

92 00:06:45,280 Thomas another irony is that they didn't think there's any  
00:06:48,660 Drake secrets worth knowing

93 00:06:48,660 Thomas institutionally on internet because it was all open  
00:06:52,470 Drake

94 00:06:52,470 Thomas so who cares, no secrets worth knowing I can... I was  
00:06:56,930 Drake hearing that refrain

95 00:06:56,930 Thomas even, even prior to 9/11 and I had some insight I  
00:07:05,110 Drake mean I was a

96 00:07:05,110 Thomas contractor there it was not an unfamiliar environment  
00:07:07,680 Drake

97 00:07:07,680 Interviewer you came in and specifically talk about two project at  
00:07:11,820 that time

98 00:07:11,820 Interviewer and which... as I understand it was the start of your

99 00:07:18,290 Interviewer concerns of... of waste and misconduct within...

100 00:07:22,700 Thomas well there's been a misunderstanding because I  
00:07:26,770 Drake actually blew the whistle

101 00:07:26,770 Thomas on three primary areas 'eh... one of them had to do  
00:07:31,020 Drake with a major...

102 00:07:31,020 Thomas with what they calls a tran... the flywell (check)  
00:07:34,150 Drake transformation program

103 00:07:34,150 Thomas called Trailblazer Trailblazer was specifically  
00:07:37,620 Drake designed

104 00:07:37,620 Thomas in terms of it's requirements ...as the requirements is  
00:07:41,430 Drake what it

105 00:07:41,430 Thomas was intended to actually build 'em... and deploy or  
00:07:47,060 Drake design, develop and

106 00:07:47,060 Thomas deploy the 3 D's and it was designed to meet the  
00:07:51,180 Drake

107 00:07:51,180 Thomas challenges of the 21st century but it was the... it was

00:07:57,810 Drake the centrepiece contract

108 00:07:57,810 Thomas the NSA had chosen to put all of there eggs in one  
00:08:01,210 Drake basket, we gonna buy the

109 00:08:01,210 Thomas solution we're not gonna make it which in itself is quite  
00:08:05,680 Drake controversial 'eh...

110 00:08:05,680 Thomas especially with what I also discovered is that there  
00:08:08,240 Drake was

111 00:08:08,240 Thomas alternatives to Trailblazer that had already solved the  
00:08:11,430 Drake problem

112 00:08:11,430 Thomas so the solution was let's go out to the military  
00:08:14,870 Drake industrial complex,

113 00:08:14,870 Thomas let's spend billions of dollars because its a really big  
00:08:17,930 Drake problem

114 00:08:17,930 Thomas that requires really big money and we need a really  
00:08:22,240 Drake big contract vehicle

115 00:08:22,240 Thomas and trailblazer was that centerpiece contract and they  
00:08:26,360 Drake literally put all

116 00:08:26,360 Thomas their eggs in one basket it was launched with great  
00:08:29,460 Drake fanfare

117 00:08:29,460 Thomas in the spring of 2000 now 9/11 occurs, I was charged  
00:08:36,740 Drake with

118 00:08:36,740 Thomas finding the very best at NSA to put into the fight,  
00:08:39,709 Drake obviously

119 00:08:39,709 Thomas it been a systemic failure although the leadership did  
00:08:42,060 Drake not

120 00:08:42,060 Thomas look at it as a failure one of the typical responses by  
00:08:46,610 Drake NSA

121 00:08:46,610 Thomas leadership was 9/11 is a gift to the NSA we will  
00:08:49,310 Drake

122 00:08:49,310 Thomas get all the money we need and then some as if money  
00:08:54,459 Drake was the was the answer

123 00:08:54,459 Thomas money was never the answer in-fact money just  
00:08:57,910 Drake complicated, especially large amount

124 00:08:57,910 Thomas of money so I did that I went... I'd took the lead  
00:09:02,370 Drake

125 00:09:02,370 Thomas I was charged as a lead and I discovered other pro...  
00:09:05,860 Drake

126 00:09:05,860 Thomas a number of programs that can be used to truly  
00:09:10,480 Drake catapult the NSA into the 21st century

127 00:09:10,480 Thomas and make sense of all this enormous data and one of  
00:09:15,910 Drake those programs is called

128 00:09:15,910 Thomas Thinthread, an extraordinary program a revolutionary  
00:09:20,480 Drake

breakthrough program

129 00:09:20,480 Thomas Drake designed by the very best in NSA and by Americans  
00:09:25,990 who clearly evidence in

130 00:09:25,990 Thomas Drake demonstrated that mother is... you know, necessity  
00:09:29,470

131 00:09:29,470 Thomas Drake is the mother of all invention and so that ingenuity  
00:09:33,769 'em... that spirit of

132 00:09:33,769 Thomas Drake inventiveness 'em... creativity, had solved the big  
00:09:38,259

133 00:09:38,259 Thomas Drake challenge problem in the NSA which was how to  
00:09:41,949 make sense of all this data

134 00:09:41,949 Thomas Drake doing so while also providing critical intelligence  
00:09:47,879

135 00:09:47,879 Thomas Drake intelligence regarding real threats and also protecting  
00:09:51,600

136 00:09:51,600 Thomas Drake the rights of citizens and in the united states those  
00:09:56,389 rights are protected by

137 00:09:56,389 Thomas Drake the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution  
00:09:58,289

138 00:09:58,289 Interviewer and in some specifically, how would you say that...  
00:10:00,289 that it protect, protected information how in a in a brief  
way?

139 00:10:10,209 Thomas Drake you would encrypt, you would protect the actual data  
00:10:17,360 associated with any suspected citizen, period.

140 00:10:17,360 Interviewer and then get a warrant to?  
00:10:19,220

141 00:10:19,220 Thomas Drake yes, yes... that solution was rejected by NSA  
00:10:24,420

142 00:10:24,420 Thomas Drake ...and then the third the third 'eh... the third area which  
00:10:28,889

143 00:10:28,889 Thomas Drake I actually blew the whistle was the intelligence failure  
00:10:34,059 of 9/11

144 00:10:34,059 Thomas Drake and that's a whole story itself  
00:10:36,679

145 00:10:36,680 Interviewer I'm gonna ask to that as well because it's kinda  
00:10:41,980 parallel but first of all, in the debate today

146 00:10:41,990 Interviewer we hear a lot of officials say checks and balances  
00:10:46,569

147 00:10:46,569 Interviewer are built-in with these systems we don't  
00:10:48,449

148 00:10:48,449 Interviewer even need to... to manage them, they are build into  
00:10:53,959 the system?

149 00:10:53,959 Thomas Drake there are no checks and balances thats, thats... all  
00:10:59,110 those checks and

150 00:10:59,110 Thomas balances were removed in secret after 9/11

00:11:05,809 Drake

151 00:11:05,809 Thomas Drake that's the truth so the executive branch as a result of  
00:11:09,949 Drake the

152 00:11:09,949 Thomas Drake failure of 9/11 decided that the constitutions was in  
00:11:13,290 Drake the way

153 00:11:13,290 Thomas Drake an they unchained themselves in particular from the  
00:11:17,040 Drake fourth amendment

154 00:11:17,040 Thomas Drake in the deepest of secrecy said you know what we just  
00:11:19,800 Drake

155 00:11:19,800 Thomas Drake need all the data I mean this... this was an  
00:11:23,720 Drake extraordinary

156 00:11:23,720 Thomas Drake development even in US history where there's no  
00:11:29,269 Drake declared war

157 00:11:29,269 Thomas Drake the threat clearly was now Al Qaeda and Associated  
00:11:34,079 Drake movements

158 00:11:34,079 Thomas Drake that was clear even at the national security level  
00:11:37,540 Drake

159 00:11:37,540 Thomas Drake but instead of actually dealing with the threat directly  
00:11:42,410 Drake

160 00:11:42,410 Thomas Drake and 'em... very focused, because we had great  
00:11:45,540 Drake sympathy from the rest the world

161 00:11:45,540 Thomas Drake as a result of 9/11, in the depest secrecy they used  
00:11:50,449 Drake that as cover

162 00:11:50,449 Thomas Drake to simply acquire as much data as possible because  
00:11:54,680 Drake that was a away

163 00:11:54,680 Thomas Drake in which you could guarantee and this, this was the  
00:11:59,910 Drake theory 'if we build

164 00:11:59,910 Thomas Drake a really really big haystack will be able to find the  
00:12:05,879 Drake needle'

165 00:12:05,879 Thomas Drake and so the government unchained itself and I was  
00:12:10,569 Drake eyewitness to that

166 00:12:10,569 Thomas Drake and it was fundamentally departing from the  
00:12:17,790 Drake foundational 'em...

167 00:12:17,790 Thomas Drake practices and principles of a constitution Republic  
00:12:21,259 Drake

168 00:12:21,259 Thomas Drake and I knew that we were no longer just in a  
00:12:24,379 Drake

169 00:12:24,379 Thomas Drake vehicle were the wheels came off we were in an  
00:12:27,639 Drake entirely different vehicle

170 00:12:27,639 Thomas Drake a different form a governance a secret executive...  
00:12:31,439 Drake

171 00:12:31,439 Thomas Drake raw power being exercised without any public  
00:12:35,230 Drake knowledge



172 00:12:35,230 Thomas Drake in total violation to the Constitution and doing so  
00:12:41,369 without any regard to any checks

173 00:12:41,369 Thomas Drake or balances and manipulating the rest of government  
00:12:44,709

174 00:12:44,709 Thomas Drake including both the legislative and the judicial branch  
00:12:48,100

175 00:12:48,100 Thomas Drake basically manipulating the truth and hiding the truth  
00:12:52,769 from them

176 00:12:52,769 Thomas Drake so they didn't know what they were doing but this was  
00:12:57,990 all.. all ostensibly to provide

177 00:12:57,990 Thomas Drake for the defense of the United States and its interests  
00:13:02,069

178 00:13:02,069 Thomas Drake and so there was no public interests justification made  
00:13:07,100

179 00:13:07,100 Thomas Drake there was no probable cause public interest  
00:13:10,689 justification made

180 00:13:10,689 Thomas Drake no one knew about it except a very few of us  
00:13:13,809

181 00:13:13,809 Thomas Drake in secret and so that was the primary basis for my  
00:13:20,550 whistleblowing

182 00:13:20,550 Interviewer but parallel you were racing other concerns  
00:13:23,170

183 00:13:23,170 Interviewer and criticism specifically towards 9/11 investigative  
00:13:37,019 commission that was put up am I correct that...

184 00:13:37,019 Thomas Drake well the the other part of the whistleblowing  
00:13:39,589

185 00:13:39,589 Thomas Drake was the intelligence failures itself, of a 9/11  
00:13:41,829

186 00:13:41,829 Thomas Drake and I was a material witness and whistleblower  
00:13:45,720 providing

187 00:13:45,720 Thomas Drake material evidence to two 9/11 congressional  
00:13:52,720 investigations

188 00:13:52,720 Thomas Drake and I gave them thousands of pages of documents  
00:13:57,980 during the 2002 period

189 00:13:57,980 Interviewer how does this place... it's kind of an  
00:14:01,860

190 00:14:01,869 Interviewer internal ... raising concern as well is kind of...  
00:14:05,730

191 00:14:05,730 Interviewer bla bla bla how do you raise concern within an  
00:14:11,220 organisation like this?

192 00:14:11,220 Thomas Drake to raise concerns as a whistleblower  
00:14:15,499

193 00:14:15,499 Thomas Drake or simply to just bring up issues up concern, I was  
00:14:21,589 doing so was a

194 00:14:21,589 Thomas Drake whistleblower there are procedures even within NSA  
00:14:25,499 Thomas Drake

195 00:14:25,499 Thomas Drake administratively to do so and that's that's normal that's  
00:14:29,339 Thomas Drake directed...

196 00:14:29,339 Thomas Drake or the accountability for that rests with the  
00:14:32,449 Thomas Drake

197 00:14:32,449 Thomas Drake inspector general's office unfortunate the inspector  
00:14:36,410 Thomas Drake general's office

198 00:14:36,410 Thomas Drake was completely corrupted it was not independent, it  
00:14:39,869 Thomas Drake reported

199 00:14:39,869 Thomas Drake to the director of the NSA so they certainly were  
00:14:45,939 Thomas Drake compromised

200 00:14:45,939 Thomas Drake or I would say co-opted by the leadership structure  
00:14:50,819 Thomas Drake institutionally in the NSA

201 00:14:50,819 Thomas Drake 'em... but I did go directly to my supervisor who was  
00:14:55,819 Thomas Drake the number

202 00:14:55,819 Thomas Drake three person and who headed up the signals  
00:14:59,429 Thomas Drake intelligence Directorate

203 00:14:59,429 Thomas Drake and then 'em... she would not deal with what  
00:15:02,970 Thomas Drake

204 00:15:02,970 Thomas Drake I was bringing to her attention it was clear that she...  
00:15:05,800 Thomas Drake

205 00:15:05,800 Thomas Drake as conflicted as she was she was simply going to go  
00:15:09,970 Thomas Drake along

206 00:15:09,970 Thomas Drake with the corporate decision and not stand up to it it  
00:15:14,089 Thomas Drake and so I ended

207 00:15:14,089 Thomas Drake having a conversation with the lead attorney at NSA  
00:15:18,420 Thomas Drake

208 00:15:18,420 Thomas Drake and that lead attorney was the one who had helped  
00:15:22,569 Thomas Drake approve...

209 00:15:22,569 Thomas Drake was part of the small team of lawyers who said it was  
00:15:26,420 Thomas Drake all legal

210 00:15:26,420 Thomas Drake any he flat out told me 'you don't understand Mr.  
00:15:30,069 Thomas Drake Drake

211 00:15:30,069 Thomas Drake this is the secret 'em... surveillance program the the  
00:15:35,459 Thomas Drake

212 00:15:35,459 Thomas Drake foundational programs that which Edward Snowden  
00:15:39,739 Thomas Drake later discloses and has

213 00:15:39,739 Thomas Drake been disclosing through journalists and reporters  
00:15:44,649 Thomas Drake 'em... with actual documentation

214 00:15:44,649 Thomas Drake I had documentation then tha I gave to these 9/11  
00:15:48,029 Thomas Drake congressional (unclear) investigations

215 00:15:48,029 Thomas Drake but back, right after 9/11. this the first week in October

	00:15:51,199	Drake	
216	00:15:51,199 00:15:54,239	Thomas Drake	I'm confronting the lead attorney in the office...
217	00:15:54,239 00:15:59,649	Thomas Drake	in the office of general counsel and he says 'it's all legal, the White House approved
218	00:15:59,649 00:16:01,869	Thomas Drake	it, don't ask any more questions, we are the
219	00:16:01,869 00:16:05,149	Thomas Drake	executive agent for this program and I knew that was...
220	00:16:05,149 00:16:08,850	Thomas Drake	that was my full moment of truth I'd already had evidence
221	00:16:08,850 00:16:12,209	Thomas Drake	significant material evidence prior to that first week in October
222	00:16:12,209 00:16:17,449	Thomas Drake	that the government in secret was off the rails, right
223	00:16:17,449 00:16:22,329	Thomas Drake	and was in total violation of the Constitution and I knew that moment
224	00:16:22,329 00:16:26,800	Thomas Drake	that Pandora's box had been opened up and I knew in that moment
225	00:16:26,800 00:16:29,860	Thomas Drake	that I could not remain silent that if I remain silent that
226	00:16:29,860 00:16:34,759	Thomas Drake	I would be come... complicit in a crime I would accessory to a crime, I would...
227	00:16:34,759 00:16:39,350	Thomas Drake	I would an eye-witness to a crime and because I remain silent, I was as guilty as
228	00:16:39,350 00:16:41,689	Thomas Drake	they were and so I chose to speak up and speak out
229	00:16:41,689 00:16:46,669	Thomas Drake	I did so within the system for a number years until I no longer could...
230	00:16:46,669 00:16:48,669	Interviewer	were..
231	00:16:48,760 00:16:53,660	Thomas Drake	That within NSA, in terms of...
232	00:16:53,660 00:16:58,670	Thomas Drake	your avenues to disclose wrongdoing whether it's administrative,
233	00:16:58,670 00:17:06,360	Thomas Drake	inefficiencies, is it... administrative errors or even illegality when wrongdoing at
234	00:17:06,360 00:17:09,269	Thomas Drake	that level or threats to public safety, health those... that that's the classic
235	00:17:09,269 00:17:12,360	Thomas Drake	definition of whistleblowing even within the government
236	00:17:12,360 00:17:15,049	Thomas Drake	its also similar definition for those who blow the whistle
237	00:17:15,049	Thomas	in the corporate world now there was a whole other

00:17:18,779 Drake set

238 00:17:18,779 Thomas avenues available to me and I'd mentioned that I  
00:17:22,799 Drake ended up being a cooperating witness,

239 00:17:22,799 Thomas material witness and whistleblower on two 9/11  
00:17:26,339 Drake congressional (unclear) investigations

240 00:17:26,339 Thomas I also was a contact in this period 'em... late 2001  
00:17:33,210 Drake going in to 2002

241 00:17:33,210 Thomas both formally and informally with other staff  
00:17:39,070 Drake associated with the

242 00:17:39,070 Thomas intelligence committees these are the very  
00:17:41,220 Drake committees

243 00:17:41,220 Thomas that were raised because a severe abuse by NSA and  
00:17:46,730 Drake other its interments of national

244 00:17:46,730 Thomas government... of 'eh...national power within the  
00:17:49,880 Drake

245 00:17:49,880 Thomas US government during the 1970s they were standing  
00:17:54,490 Drake committees

246 00:17:54,490 Thomas they had special oversight they have the clearances  
00:17:59,149 Drake and the ability

247 00:17:59,149 Thomas to su... subpoena... had subpoena power to ensure  
00:18:02,490 Drake that the

248 00:18:02,490 Thomas secret side of government remained within the  
00:18:06,140 Drake confines of the

249 00:18:06,140 Thomas Constitution and the law... and the law of the land and  
00:18:10,000 Drake the statutes

250 00:18:10,000 Thomas that existed I went to them as a whistleblower  
00:18:13,850 Drake

251 00:18:13,850 Thomas now under what's statute did I go to them? that was  
00:18:17,940 Drake the intelligence community

252 00:18:17,940 Thomas whistleblower protection act of 1998 but it turned out it  
00:18:24,549 Drake was an exposure policy

253 00:18:24,549 Thomas not, not a disclosure policy so I was, I was even within  
00:18:31,860 Drake channels

254 00:18:31,860 Thomas I was exposed as a whistleblower and I knew that  
00:18:37,240 Drake then and in fact

255 00:18:37,240 Thomas a later or a subsequent investigation in which I was a  
00:18:40,860 Drake part of

256 00:18:40,860 Thomas involved the Department of Defense inspector  
00:18:44,269 Drake general's office

257 00:18:44,269 Thomas the office inspector general they have a statue going  
00:18:49,130 Drake back to 19...

258 00:18:49,130 Thomas 1978 the Intelligence Whistleblower Protection Act

	00:18:52,450	Drake	
259	00:18:52,450 00:18:55,860	Thomas Drake	actually was a modification to that act dealing specifically with
260	00:18:55,860 00:19:00,110	Thomas Drake	employees and contractors assigned to the intelligence agencies or
261	00:19:00,110 00:19:05,200	Thomas Drake	departments including the FBI and the CIA as well as others and there was a
262	00:19:05,200 00:19:08,049	Thomas Drake	particular paragraph that's dealt specifically
263	00:19:08,049 00:19:11,950	Thomas Drake	with those who worked either as an employ or as a contractor
264	00:19:11,950 00:19:15,419	Thomas Drake	with the National Security Agency I actually go directly to either the
265	00:19:15,419 00:19:18,960	Thomas Drake	Department of Defence of Inspector general or to the
266	00:19:18,960 00:19:22,380	Thomas Drake	congressional committees the intelligence committees
267	00:19:22,380 00:19:26,769	Thomas Drake	there was one other avenue the office of special counsel
268	00:19:26,769 00:19:29,960	Thomas Drake	the problems was at that time they did not have the ability
269	00:19:29,960 00:19:37,159	Thomas Drake	to 'eh... accept 'eh... classified 'em... disclosures and so they would have...
270	00:19:37,159 00:19:39,510	Thomas Drake	it would have been an referral on... it if they had referred it on
271	00:19:39,510 00:19:46,620	Thomas Drake	under, under their 'eh... rules, I would have been exposed through a different channel
272	00:19:46,620 00:19:50,019	Thomas Drake	so I chose to go directly to the congressional committees and later to
273	00:19:50,019 00:19:55,079	Thomas Drake	the Department of Defence Offices the Inspector General by doing so, I was exposed
274	00:19:55,080 00:20:00,000	Interviewer	did you... to which point did you feel that you raising concerns
275	00:20:00,000 00:20:04,049	Interviewer	would be heard and change some point was there a point were
276	00:20:04,049 00:20:07,450	Interviewer	you figured out, this is taking me nowhere and only harming me?
277	00:20:07,450 00:20:12,169	Thomas Drake	I was actually clear going into the 2004 time frame
278	00:20:12,169 00:20:16,120	Thomas Drake	as the Department of Defence... Now I had already gone to the intelligence committees
279	00:20:16,120 00:20:20,220	Thomas Drake	there were classified reports that were issued there was the 9/11 Commission

280 00:20:20,220 Thomas Drake which was really the public Commission that took  
00:20:25,039 Thomas Drake everything that the two

281 00:20:25,039 Thomas Drake congressional investigations did and then actually had  
00:20:28,299 Thomas Drake their own

282 00:20:28,299 Thomas Drake commission an independent commission are to  
00:20:33,360 Thomas Drake investigate 911

283 00:20:33,360 Thomas Drake they had a formal report and it was public, I never was  
00:20:39,330 Thomas Drake asked,

284 00:20:39,330 Thomas Drake interestingly enough, to appear before that  
00:20:42,980 Thomas Drake Commission

285 00:20:42,980 Thomas Drake a lot of people have assumed I was I wasn't, I know  
00:20:47,210 Thomas Drake why as others

286 00:20:47,210 Thomas Drake did told me later the information I've had provided

287 00:20:50,630 Thomas Drake the 9/11 congressional investigations was... was  
00:20:56,580 Thomas Drake white-hot evidence

288 00:20:56,580 Thomas Drake of wrongdoing and of illegality and prima-facie  
00:21:00,200 Thomas Drake evidence

289 00:21:00,200 Thomas Drake that NSA was culpable in 9/11 NSA had critical  
00:21:04,139 Thomas Drake intelligence

290 00:21:04,139 Thomas Drake and they had not shared informations that if they had  
00:21:07,450 Thomas Drake shared

291 00:21:07,450 Thomas Drake probably would have stopped 9/11 all by itself and  
00:21:13,730 Thomas Drake they engaged in a massive coverup

292 00:21:13,730 Thomas Drake to protect the fact that they actually had that  
00:21:18,169 Thomas Drake information and did not share

293 00:21:18,169 Interviewer there were several other with those who tried... who  
00:21:24,570 Interviewer also raised concerns on these

294 00:21:24,570 Interviewer issues Benney and Wicky and...

295 00:21:26,720 Thomas Drake I, I had NSA colleague's who at this point were retired,  
00:21:31,840 Thomas Drake I was still

296 00:21:31,840 Thomas Drake there and in fact, I remained in NSA until April 2008,  
00:21:37,539 Thomas Drake they retire in the fall

297 00:21:37,539 Thomas Drake of 2001 Diane Rourke who was at the time

298 00:21:42,049 Thomas Drake the professional staffer who had the NSA account in  
00:21:47,039 Thomas Drake terms of oversight

299 00:21:47,039 Thomas Drake She was on the house intel committee 'em... that  
00:21:51,630 Thomas Drake particular 'em...

300 00:21:51,630 Thomas Drake she also retired in April 2002 they ended up filing a  
00:21:57,590 Thomas Drake hotline complaint

301 00:21:57,590 Thomas with the Department of De... Defence Office Inspector  
00:22:00,840 Drake General regarding

302 00:22:00,840 Thomas Trailblazer and Thinthread had actually solved their  
00:22:04,269 Drake

303 00:22:04,269 Thomas requirements for Trailblazer before Trailblazer was  
00:22:09,380 Drake even launched

304 00:22:09,380 Thomas and yet they had rejected that solution which is in...  
00:22:12,429 Drake itself

305 00:22:12,429 Thomas 'em... I'm getting in to the weeds here... was a  
00:22:16,340 Drake violation of Federal Acquisition Regulations

306 00:22:16,340 Thomas on which NSA as a Department of Defense agency  
00:22:20,149 Drake

307 00:22:20,149 Thomas was required to follow and they didn't it was  
00:22:27,000 Drake developed... Thinthread was developed

308 00:22:27,000 Thomas for just a few million dollars Trailblazer, this is pre-  
00:22:31,399 Drake 9/11

309 00:22:31,399 Thomas was a four billion dollar program so they filed the  
00:22:37,000 Drake hotline

310 00:22:37,000 Thomas complaint in September 2002 I was actually  
00:22:41,679 Drake referenced in that

311 00:22:41,679 Thomas hotline complaint as an unnamed senior official and it  
00:22:45,720 Drake wouldn't

312 00:22:45,720 Thomas have taken much to identify who I was just based on  
00:22:49,059 Drake the description of me

313 00:22:49,059 Thomas although unnamed and that's infact what happened...  
00:22:53,389 Drake when they launched

314 00:22:53,389 Thomas their investigation 'em... they ended up contacting me,  
00:23:00,269 Drake formally in 2003

315 00:23:00,269 Thomas so I got in 2004 they are preparing their in a report  
00:23:03,139 Drake (unclear)

316 00:23:03,139 Thomas there's a final report 2005 it was clear that non of this  
00:23:06,980 Drake

317 00:23:06,980 Thomas is going to make any difference now this point we're  
00:23:10,590 Drake talking

318 00:23:10,590 Thomas in 2005, its four years on, I did one final attempt within  
00:23:15,610 Drake the system

319 00:23:15,610 Thomas I wrote a letter to general Alexander which got me into  
00:23:21,100 Drake all kinds of hot water,

320 00:23:21,100 Thomas severe retaliation to include losing losing my job, I  
00:23:24,220 Drake effectively

321 00:23:24,220 Thomas I had no position left they gave me... it was a make...  
00:23:28,100 Drake makeup job

322 00:23:28,100 Interviewer how did retaliations start, when did you notice for first  
00:23:33,590 time I 'now it's on me'?

323 00:23:33,590 Thomas  
00:23:36,370 Drake 'oh... that actually started early 2002

324 00:23:36,370 Interviewer can you say...  
00:23:37,460

325 00:23:37,460 Thomas  
00:23:42,789 Drake well, my rist... the retaliation against me within the  
system

326 00:23:42,789 Thomas  
00:23:50,909 Drake started by virtue of my cooperation with the 9/11  
congressional

327 00:23:50,909 Thomas  
00:23:56,009 Drake investigations and during the first one I was pulled  
aside by my reporting official

328 00:23:56,009 Thomas  
00:24:01,269 Drake I was severely warned, now this is the way it was  
characterized

329 00:24:01,269 Thomas  
00:24:06,850 Drake they're looking for leakers be careful Tom now this  
was not leakers to the press

330 00:24:06,850 Thomas  
00:24:13,179 Drake this was leakers to Congress and in particular those  
who were cooperating with official

331 00:24:13,179 Thomas  
00:24:19,389 Drake investigations which NSA employees like myself  
under subpoena

332 00:24:19,389 Thomas  
00:24:25,480 Drake because the committee had subpoena power were  
be, were being directed to come before

333 00:24:25,480 Thomas  
00:24:31,330 Drake the committee and the investigators to testify, provide  
eye-witness evidence

334 00:24:31,330 Thomas  
00:24:36,590 Drake which I did and here I was pulled aside during my  
cooperation

335 00:24:36,590 Thomas  
00:24:42,639 Drake with this first investigation for 9/11 the first  
congressional investigation of 9/11

336 00:24:42,639 Thomas  
00:24:46,399 Drake essentially, the message was absolutely clear 'you do  
not want to cooperate'

337 00:24:46,399 Thomas  
00:24:54,579 Drake 'do not tell the truth you've been warned' that was the  
opening shot is was extremely chilling message

338 00:24:54,600 Interviewer what was to follow?  
00:24:56,639

339 00:24:56,639 Thomas  
00:25:03,370 Drake all kinds retaliation right I lost my job within the signals  
intelligence Directorate

340 00:25:03,370 Thomas  
00:25:07,049 Drake I had a team of people, remember I reported to the  
number three person

341 00:25:07,049 Thomas  
00:25:11,909 Drake that team was disbanded I ended up having to find  
other work

342 00:25:11,909 Thomas  
00:25:15,950 Drake but it ultimately resulted in having no job at all

343 00:25:15,950 Thomas so I'll... I left realising the hammerings was on the wall



00:25:19,009 Drake (unclear)

344 00:25:19,009 Thomas and accepted all those... I formally applied for... I was  
00:25:22,830 Drake visiting professor

345 00:25:22,830 Thomas of behavioural science at the National Defence  
00:25:25,570 Drake University

346 00:25:25,570 Thomas where I taught leadership, strategy... strategic  
00:25:31,120 Drake leadership,

347 00:25:31,120 Thomas information strategies and leadership ethics  
00:25:33,900 Drake

348 00:25:34,100 Interviewer at this time without your knowledge there was an  
00:25:39,780 investigation going on on you?

349 00:25:39,789 Thomas well here's... this is quite a story and I'm in the  
00:25:46,470 Drake process of writing a book

350 00:25:46,470 Thomas with Jesselyn Radek about all this in the larger  
00:25:50,370 Drake context

351 00:25:50,370 Thomas actually from all the postworldwar II era to what does  
00:25:54,389 Drake this mean for the future

352 00:25:54,389 Thomas I just can not find a publisher usually... No one wants  
00:25:57,710 Drake to touch it

353 00:25:57,710 Thomas to date, no one yet wants to touch it but that's a story  
00:26:02,899 Drake in itself so

354 00:26:02,899 Thomas its, its 2005, we are now in a 2006 and 2005  
00:26:14,549 Drake December

355 00:26:14,549 Thomas a blockbuster article is published in the New York  
00:26:21,299 Drake Times revealing for the first time

356 00:26:21,299 Thomas publicly the existence of what became known as the  
00:26:26,370 Drake so-called warrantless wiretapping program

357 00:26:26,370 Thomas which in itself is just the tip of the iceberg this caused  
00:26:31,759 Drake a huge response

358 00:26:31,759 Thomas from within the government and they launched two...  
00:26:35,860 Drake

359 00:26:35,860 Thomas two weeks later on December 30th the Department of  
00:26:40,500 Drake Justice launched

360 00:26:40,500 Thomas a massive criminal national leak investigation seeking  
00:26:48,340 Drake out the sources for

361 00:26:48,340 Thomas the New York Times article I knew then that I we get  
00:26:53,149 Drake caught

362 00:26:53,149 Thomas up in the dragnet of that investigation... the reason  
00:26:58,690 Drake why

363 00:26:58,690 Thomas given all the whistle-blowing I had already done, there  
00:27:03,139 Drake was very few people

364 00:27:03,139 Thomas that had any specific knowledge or awareness of the

00:27:08,230 Drake secret surveillance programs

365 00:27:08,230 Thomas it was that closely held so... and those we had  
00:27:14,370 Drake significant knowledge

366 00:27:14,370 Thomas about the secret surveillance programs were the  
00:27:18,730 Drake people who knew about Thinthreat

367 00:27:18,730 Thomas the reason for that is that there was a component of  
00:27:21,409 Drake Thinthread

368 00:27:21,409 Thomas that was actually used by the secret surveillance  
00:27:25,629 Drake program

369 00:27:25,629 Thomas without any controls at all to collect en' mass... it  
00:27:31,470 Drake starting with

370 00:27:31,470 Thomas telephone numbers and that was domestic such that  
00:27:35,519 Drake all domestic phone

371 00:27:35,519 Thomas numbers were caught up with, with a few companies  
00:27:40,539 Drake that 'em...

372 00:27:40,539 Thomas they didn't have access.. direct access to but we're  
00:27:44,590 Drake talking all the major talkers

373 00:27:44,590 Thomas cooperate with the government secret to provide them  
00:27:49,029 Drake

374 00:27:49,029 Thomas telephone records on a regular basis no warrant, no  
00:27:54,980 Drake secret court warrant,

375 00:27:54,980 Thomas let alone a warrant that was the only vehicle... now  
00:27:58,200 Drake there was

376 00:27:58,200 Thomas other avenues the government was also using but in  
00:28:01,830 Drake terms of

377 00:28:01,830 Thomas the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act That was  
00:28:04,950 Drake supposed to be the exclusive

378 00:28:04,950 Thomas means by which you could dock that type of activity  
00:28:09,509 Drake and you had to have

379 00:28:09,509 Thomas a warrant for every instance of a US person  
00:28:12,990 Drake

380 00:28:12,990 Thomas now remember, after 9/11 they completely separated  
00:28:19,139 Drake themselves from the Constitution

381 00:28:19,139 Thomas they just said we want the data, thats all so here I  
00:28:25,360 Drake am... I recognize

382 00:28:25,360 Thomas that I would get caught up in that investigation and I  
00:28:31,679 Drake knew then that it was a matter of when,

383 00:28:31,679 Thomas not if it turns out 'eh... there was a  
00:28:37,139 Drake

384 00:28:37,139 Thomas New York Times article published in summer of 2010  
00:28:42,019 Drake hand in which it was

385 00:28:42,019 Thomas revealed for the first time that they put  
00:28:44,159 Drake

386 00:28:44,159 Thomas five full-time prosecutors (telephone ringing)  
00:28:57,929 Drake (telephone ringing)

387 00:28:57,929 Thomas (telephone ringing) chatter...  
00:29:06,950 Drake

388 00:29:06,950 Thomas chatter... chatter...  
00:29:12,970 Drake

389 00:29:12,970 Thomas chatter... up  
00:29:18,980 Drake

390 00:29:18,980 Thomas Its hard to go back through this whole ordeal  
00:29:33,700 Drake

391 00:29:34,780 Thomas so I had all this dirty knowledge,  
00:29:36,280 Drake

392 00:29:36,289 Thomas I had been corroborating with all these investigations  
00:29:40,299 Drake both internally and externally

393 00:29:40,299 Thomas but all within channels and during his entire time  
00:29:44,269 Drake

394 00:29:44,269 Thomas every time I was asked to testify or I provided  
00:29:49,299 Drake

395 00:29:49,299 Thomas eye-witness material evidence both in oral form as  
00:29:55,850 Drake well as written form

396 00:29:55,850 Thomas I always invoked the the Intelligence Committee  
00:29:58,070 Drake

397 00:29:58,070 Thomas Whistleblower Protection Act I knew, although I had  
00:30:02,799 Drake no redress procedures

398 00:30:02,799 Thomas I had no recourse in the court system that was the  
00:30:08,059 Drake only statute on the books

399 00:30:08,059 Thomas the actually Act that protected me and there were...  
00:30:12,179 Drake

400 00:30:12,179 Thomas there were 'em... what they call reprisal if you are a  
00:30:18,789 Drake reprised against

401 00:30:18,789 Thomas then you can actually file 'eh... a reprisal complaint  
00:30:23,120 Drake there's

402 00:30:23,120 Thomas actually... this is the office inspector-general which  
00:30:25,919 Drake actually took

403 00:30:25,919 Thomas place later when it was clear that my cooperate...  
00:30:29,059 Drake

404 00:30:29,059 Thomas my cooperation with them 'eh... was grounds for  
00:30:33,759 Drake reprisal

405 00:30:33,759 Thomas which is not supposed to occur right so when they  
00:30:39,899 Drake launched this massive

406 00:30:39,899 Thomas national security leak... criminal leak investigation as  
00:30:45,710 Drake a result to

407 00:30:45,710 Thomas the New York Times article I knew it was just a matter  
00:30:51,009 Drake of when, not if

408 00:30:51,009 Thomas Drake that I would end up being visited in some manner and  
00:30:55,070 I knew

409 00:30:55,070 Thomas Drake there was a distinct possibility that I could lose my job  
00:30:58,679

410 00:30:58,679 Thomas Drake and I knew that it could be even more serious, I  
00:31:01,529 actually knew that

411 00:31:01,529 Thomas Drake and I grew up in the 1970th that was the period  
00:31:05,149

412 00:31:05,149 Thomas Drake which I was a very young teenager that was my civic  
00:31:10,179 awakening to what happens

413 00:31:10,179 Thomas Drake with power corrupting itself as Lord Acton had said...  
00:31:15,669 that famous axiom

414 00:31:15,669 Thomas Drake the power tends to corrupt but absolute power,  
00:31:18,950 corrupts absolutely

415 00:31:18,950 Thomas Drake I was there growing up in America seeing the  
00:31:23,889 Pentagon papers and Watergate

416 00:31:23,889 Thomas Drake in a President who actually resigned his office  
00:31:26,179

417 00:31:26,179 Thomas Drake and what are the articles impeachment was actually  
00:31:30,379 the abuse of

418 00:31:30,379 Thomas Drake instruments of national power against American  
00:31:35,009 citizens

419 00:31:35,009 Thomas Drake and we had dealt with that and here I am on a much,  
00:31:38,899 much larger scale

420 00:31:38,899 Thomas Drake but, but being conducted because the advance in the  
00:31:42,429 technology

421 00:31:42,429 Thomas Drake on an extraordinary bad... 'eh... vast, vast scale  
00:31:45,570

422 00:31:45,570 Thomas Drake so I knew then that I would eventually get caught up  
00:31:48,610

423 00:31:48,610 Thomas Drake and because it was a matter of when and not if and...  
00:31:51,980

424 00:31:51,980 Thomas Drake how do you defend yourself against that because I  
00:31:56,840 couldn't roll back the clock

425 00:31:56,840 Thomas Drake but I, I was also a whistleblower there was one  
00:32:01,850 Avenue

426 00:32:01,850 Thomas Drake that was the third rail you go outside the system and  
00:32:07,830 you

427 00:32:07,830 Thomas Drake disclose what you know to the press and I did that in  
00:32:16,559 February of 2006

428 00:32:16,559 Thomas Drake with a reporter from a newspaper in the United States  
00:32:20,830

429 00:32:20,830 Interviewer an that was the Boltimore Sun articles...  
00:32:23,610

430 00:32:24,789 Thomas Drake Siobhan Gorman who now works as the national security correspondent for The Wall Street Journal  
 00:32:28,110

431 00:32:28,110 Interviewer can you explain why this switch saying I need to go external now  
 00:32:35,450

432 00:32:35,450 Thomas Drake all other avenues been exhausted  
 00:32:37,090

433 00:32:37,090 Interviewer can you start over again  
 00:32:38,570

434 00:32:38,570 Thomas Drake the reason I went to the press which is considered...  
 00:32:43,269 is called the fourth the state

435 00:32:43,269 Thomas Drake its kinda the final defense if all else fails... even  
 00:32:46,879 Jefferson said

436 00:32:46,879 Thomas Drake if I had to... what do I do you know... give up  
 00:32:50,769 government or give up

437 00:32:50,769 Thomas Drake the press 'eh... I'll give up the government  
 00:32:52,470

438 00:32:52,470 Thomas Drake we have to have a press paraphrasing Jefferson okay  
 00:32:56,710 (laughter)

439 00:32:56,710 Thomas Drake so as much as he hated the press, right so...  
 00:33:02,399

440 00:33:02,399 Thomas Drake but here is... in this national security climate post-9/11  
 00:33:07,370

441 00:33:07,370 Thomas Drake it was... if you go to the press you're asking for trouble  
 00:33:13,110

442 00:33:13,110 Thomas Drake and I already knew this is the other thing I knew  
 00:33:16,399

443 00:33:16,399 Thomas Drake all this dirty knowledge about the secret surveillance  
 00:33:19,789 programs in particular

444 00:33:19,789 Thomas Drake I already knew something I blown the whistle on  
 00:33:24,960 within the system

445 00:33:24,960 Thomas Drake that NSA was spying on journalist and reporters, it  
 00:33:29,210 wasn't just

446 00:33:29,210 Thomas Drake mass dragnet collection of meta data information  
 00:33:32,860

447 00:33:32,860 Thomas Drake phone records and internet usage and credit card  
 00:33:35,789 infoma...

448 00:33:35,789 Thomas Drake all that was part of the secret surveillance program  
 00:33:38,429

449 00:33:38,429 Thomas Drake I already knew that (unclear) that a special program  
 00:33:42,559

450 00:33:42,559 Thomas Drake are cut out which they were specifically targeting  
 00:33:48,539

451 00:33:48,539 Thomas Drake journalists and reporters and the reason they're were  
 00:33:52,779 doing that was

452 00:33:52,779 Thomas Drake if there's any attempt by anybody from the inside  
00:33:56,730 Thomas Drake

453 00:33:56,730 Thomas Drake to disclose state secrets they would know or have a  
00:34:01,230 Thomas Drake good...

454 00:34:01,230 Thomas Drake good sense in knowing who that was I already know  
00:34:04,460 Thomas Drake this, so...

455 00:34:04,460 Thomas Drake how do you contact someone in the press without  
00:34:07,590 Thomas Drake getting noticed

456 00:34:07,590 Thomas Drake I had to take extraordinary means which I will not go  
00:34:11,280 Thomas Drake to here... extraordinary technical

457 00:34:11,280 Thomas Drake beans to make that even that initial contact possible  
00:34:15,809 Thomas Drake

458 00:34:15,809 Thomas Drake knowing I could be compromised and assuming I  
00:34:19,669 Thomas Drake would be compromised

459 00:34:19,669 Thomas Drake all the time or at anytime by virtually any contact with  
00:34:24,040 Thomas Drake a reporter

460 00:34:24,040 Thomas Drake no matter what form it took so... I crossed  
00:34:30,619 Thomas Drake

461 00:34:30,619 Thomas Drake you know... I crossed over in a space which I'm now  
00:34:38,319 Thomas Drake wide open

462 00:34:38,319 Thomas Drake and I could now lose my job or worse I knew that  
00:34:41,950 Thomas Drake

463 00:34:41,950 Thomas Drake there was an administrative policy in NSA that if you  
00:34:47,079 Thomas Drake had unauthorized contact

464 00:34:47,079 Thomas Drake reporter, you would get... under administrative  
00:34:49,790 Thomas Drake procedures you could

465 00:34:49,790 Thomas Drake lose your job because they no longer trust you  
00:34:51,490 Thomas Drake

466 00:34:51,490 Thomas Drake to hold the security clearance which is the condition to  
00:34:55,879 Thomas Drake continue employment

467 00:34:55,879 Thomas Drake so I went to the press with what I knew in the public  
00:34:59,290 Thomas Drake interest

468 00:34:59,290 Thomas Drake I was eyewitness to the government unchaining itself  
00:35:02,630 Thomas Drake from

469 00:35:02,630 Thomas Drake the constitution, the very foundation and bedrock of  
00:35:06,040 Thomas Drake our government

470 00:35:06,040 Thomas Drake That grant experiment launched over two...  
00:35:08,579 Thomas Drake twohundred and twenty years ago

471 00:35:08,579 Thomas Drake I was eyewitness to a massive, fraud, waste and  
00:35:09,569 Thomas Drake abuse

472 00:35:09,569 Thomas Drake I was eye-witness... to the most significant of all the  
00:35:16,980 Thomas Drake

473 00:35:16,980 Thomas Drake intelligence failures of NSA which is 9/11 and I knew

00:35:22,339 Drake the NSA was culpable

474 00:35:22,339 Thomas all this dirty knowledge how do I share that  
00:35:25,319 Drake

475 00:35:25,319 Thomas in a way that is quote-unquote unclassified but still  
00:35:31,740 Drake provides what's

476 00:35:31,740 Thomas crucial for, for... in the public interest  
00:35:34,510 Drake

477 00:35:34,510 Thomas so I did that with the reporter over a period of about a  
00:35:40,300 Drake year and a half

478 00:35:40,300 Thomas now I knew that I would eventually get caught up in  
00:35:43,589 Drake the dragnet

479 00:35:43,589 Thomas I knew actually as early as April that I who was on the  
00:35:49,359 Drake radar

480 00:35:49,359 Thomas and I was put under se..severe surveillance both  
00:35:55,540 Drake electronic and physical

481 00:35:55,540 Thomas and then in November of 2007 after my other  
00:36:00,829 Drake colleagues including Dianne Roucke

482 00:36:00,829 Thomas 'eh... were raided in July 26 of 2007 I was raided  
00:36:06,190 Drake

483 00:36:06,190 Thomas by a dozen FBI agents... had warrants to search my  
00:36:16,840 Drake house, search my car and search my university office

484 00:36:16,840 Interviewer how does it feel when you suddenly have  
00:36:24,220

485 00:36:24,220 Interviewer people outside your house... when... where, where  
00:36:28,920 you at that point?

486 00:36:28,920 Thomas I was getting ready to go to work  
00:36:30,440 Drake

487 00:36:30,450 Thomas I was upstairs and I looked out the window and I saw  
00:36:34,130 Drake all these agents streaming across

488 00:36:34,130 Thomas the front yard and of course my heart goes up my  
00:36:36,530 Drake throat

489 00:36:36,530 Thomas because now, whed had showed up it was no longer if  
00:36:40,430 Drake

490 00:36:40,430 Thomas when is now in the front yard I heard this rather  
00:36:43,510 Drake

491 00:36:43,510 Thomas loud knock several times at the front door and I knew  
00:36:51,890 Drake the night...

492 00:36:51,890 Thomas the nightmare had now begone the true nightmare  
00:36:55,880 Drake and it was

493 00:36:55,880 Thomas fraught with uncertainty  
00:36:58,960 Drake

494 00:36:58,960 Interviewer we have to be brief here, but if we go into that then an  
00:37:05,240 investigation started?

495 00:37:05,240 Thomas well the investigations was already under

00:37:06,720 Drake

496 00:37:06,730 Thomas Drake way remember I was already caught up in that  
00:37:09,140 Drake

497 00:37:09,140 Thomas Drake I was clear from as early as April of 2006 at the time  
00:37:16,270 Drake the raided me and you read

498 00:37:16,270 Thomas Drake the search warrant it was clear that the primary focus  
00:37:20,059 Drake was

499 00:37:20,059 Thomas Drake the New York Times article and they assumed...  
00:37:25,490 Drake wrongly, that I

500 00:37:25,490 Thomas Drake was the... centerpiece culprit, I was the source  
00:37:32,000 Drake

501 00:37:32,000 Thomas Drake I was the ringleader that was providing... because  
00:37:35,750 Drake there was no evidence

502 00:37:35,750 Thomas Drake which meant I must have been a really really good  
00:37:38,680 Drake spy

503 00:37:38,680 Thomas Drake no evidence... because there was no evidence that  
00:37:42,640 Drake may me even more suspicious

504 00:37:42,640 Thomas Drake it's one of the ironies in this investigation  
00:37:45,880 Drake

505 00:37:45,880 Thomas Drake where there is no evidence means that there must be  
00:37:49,240 Drake evidence we just haven't

506 00:37:49,240 Thomas Drake found it yet, so let's go... let's go take him out  
00:37:51,910 Drake

507 00:37:51,910 Thomas Drake so I was unceremoniously visited 'hmm by the FBI,  
00:37:58,640 Drake and (cough) they took

508 00:37:58,640 Thomas Drake away all kinds of personal affects electronic paper you  
00:38:03,760 Drake see it.

509 00:38:03,760 Interviewer this wasn't just finding evidence there was actually  
00:38:10,480 Interviewer manufactured evidence

510 00:38:11,040 Thomas Drake well again, it's quite a story  
00:38:12,589 Drake

511 00:38:12,589 Thomas Drake so one of the reasons they came was to take of the  
00:38:17,210 Drake street

512 00:38:17,210 Thomas Drake anything that would make NSA culpable it's important  
00:38:21,750 Drake to say that

513 00:38:21,750 Thomas Drake it wasn't just looking for evidence to prosecute and  
00:38:28,430 Drake perhaps even indict me

514 00:38:28,430 Thomas Drake as part of that prosecution but it was to take evidence  
00:38:32,319 Drake of the street

515 00:38:32,319 Thomas Drake I had unclassified evidence from all of the  
00:38:36,770 Drake whistleblower

516 00:38:36,770 Thomas Drake disclosures that I had made within the government  
00:38:41,140 Drake



517 00:38:41,140 Thomas Drake I was actually informed to keep what I could that was unclassified  
00:38:44,670

518 00:38:44,670 Thomas Drake obviously the classified stuff I left behind I dint actually  
00:38:51,690 keep the classified

519 00:38:51,690 Thomas Drake so I kept all that but that didn't matter to the  
00:38:53,550 government

520 00:38:53,550 Thomas Drake they'd, they ended up doing what was called a forced  
00:38:58,150 classification review

521 00:38:58,150 Thomas Drake made out of parts of that both electronic as well as the  
00:39:02,550 paper

522 00:39:02,550 Thomas Drake 'em... they turned it in to classified and then they said  
00:39:09,349 that I'd had caused

523 00:39:09,349 Thomas Drake exceptionally grave damage which is the highest form  
00:39:12,170 of damage

524 00:39:12,170 Thomas Drake to the national security of United States now that  
00:39:18,839 was.. (cough) excuse me

525 00:39:18,839 Thomas Drake That was November 2007 now they revoked my  
00:39:25,420 clearance, my ability

526 00:39:25,420 Thomas Drake to actually earn a living with respect to the ticket you  
00:39:29,859 need to continue

527 00:39:29,859 Thomas Drake work in a very secret environment so I was put on  
00:39:34,200 administrative leave

528 00:39:34,200 Thomas Drake I corroborated with the FBI for five months I provided  
00:39:40,270 them prima-facie evidence

529 00:39:40,270 Thomas Drake the movement illegality and wrongdoing to say it that  
00:39:46,059 way, 'em... that I, that I

530 00:39:46,059 Thomas Drake did and and why? well I had an opportunity  
00:39:51,309

531 00:39:51,309 Thomas Drake to disclose with agents at the FBI what the truth was,  
00:39:56,520 they didnt want to hear

532 00:39:56,520 Thomas Drake the truth they wanted to know 'em... what I was hiding,  
00:40:01,140 what evidence

533 00:40:01,140 Thomas Drake there was to support what was clearly a pretextual  
00:40:05,460 investigation

534 00:40:05,460 Thomas Drake now it's important to understand nobody knew about  
00:40:09,950 this, I mean all this

535 00:40:09,950 Thomas Drake although it was public in terms of the raid, neighbours  
00:40:15,890 were quite

536 00:40:15,890 Thomas Drake aghast about when it happened you just don't show  
00:40:21,079 up at someones

537 00:40:21,079 Thomas Drake Street, you know, this is rural... we call it rural  
00:40:24,869 suburbia...

538 00:40:24,869 Thomas Drake in Maryland, you don't just show up with a dozen  
00:40:28,650 agents, right

539 00:40:28,650 Thomas Drake unless there was something going on some people  
00:40:31,809 thought their had been a

540 00:40:31,809 Thomas Drake 'ah... basically a house raid or a house break-in, they  
00:40:35,790 weren't sure...

541 00:40:35,790 Thomas Drake course it's not obvious that it was the government until  
00:40:39,819 a spokesperson showed up

542 00:40:39,819 Thomas Drake on camera camera crew showed up from broadcast  
00:40:44,069 television

543 00:40:44,069 Thomas Drake are two of them, later in the morning They were there  
00:40:48,250 for the duration

544 00:40:48,250 Thomas Drake of the raid, I was atop of the NewsHour locally 'eh...

545 00:40:52,680 Thomas Drake that evening, late that night and the next morning

546 00:40:55,970 Thomas Drake then it all disappeared next two and a half years I was  
00:41:03,630 waiting

547 00:41:03,630 Thomas Drake for something worse to happen and it's a long story  
00:41:10,150 but in April 2010

548 00:41:10,150 Thomas Drake this is, this is a dramatic (helicopter noise)

549 00:41:13,510 Interviewer can we just hold two seconds

550 00:41:15,510 Interviewer (helicopter noise)

551 00:41:19,270 Interviewer chatter...

552 00:41:36,400 Thomas Drake I will just cut to the chase

553 00:41:39,680 Thomas Drake So on April 2010 I was formally indicted

554 00:41:45,950 Thomas Drake under ten, ten felony counts facing thirty five years in  
00:41:50,230 prison

555 00:41:50,230 Thomas Drake by the department of justice and they made it very  
00:41:52,980 very public

556 00:41:52,980 Thomas Drake I was the first whistleblower since Daniel Ellsberg,  
00:41:57,109 charged in like manner

557 00:41:57,109 Thomas Drake I was charged with five counts of espionage one for  
00:42:01,510 obstruction of justice

558 00:42:01,510 Thomas Drake and four for making false statements to FBI agents

559 00:42:05,890 Thomas Drake now the real nightmare... because now I was under  
00:42:10,180 formal indictment and I have to

560 00:42:10,180 Thomas go through the justice system of the United States  
 00:42:12,290 Drake

561 00:42:12,290 Thomas I'm booked, they take my fingerprints you get the mug  
 00:42:16,900 Drake shot

562 00:42:16,900 Thomas there's an arraignment, I plead not guilty to all ten  
 00:42:22,280 Drake felony counts, the government

563 00:42:22,280 Thomas try to make a case that I was a flight risk the judge  
 00:42:25,280 Drake didn't accept it

564 00:42:25,280 Thomas but they did confiscate my passport and they put me  
 00:42:30,160 Drake under severe travel restrictions

565 00:42:30,160 Thomas the only thing they didn't do was... to put a, a...  
 00:42:32,079 Drake

566 00:42:32,079 Thomas an ankle brace on me, to track me but I had to get  
 00:42:36,940 Drake special permission from the court

567 00:42:36,940 Thomas with the government having right of first refusal to  
 00:42:39,520 Drake travel outside

568 00:42:39,520 Thomas the local area I'm now a criminal defendant I had  
 00:42:44,390 Drake already

569 00:42:44,390 Thomas exhausted all my funds I... I was essentially bankrupt  
 00:42:48,460 Drake and broken

570 00:42:48,460 Thomas I was declared indigent before the court after I filed  
 00:42:51,260 Drake the paperwork

571 00:42:51,260 Thomas I was appointed to federal public defenders I was  
 00:42:56,010 Drake unable to find any other 'ah...

572 00:42:56,010 Thomas private attorney who would represent me pro bono...  
 00:43:00,390 Drake because I had no money left

573 00:43:00,390 Thomas no one else came to my support... right and so I do  
 00:43:05,010 Drake was behind several eight-balls

574 00:43:05,010 Thomas (check) I'm facing public trial and facing the  
 00:43:09,210 Drake

575 00:43:09,210 Thomas distinct prospect that I can end up in prison for any  
 00:43:17,040 Drake number of years so... in the end?

576 00:43:17,040 Thomas In the end (N voice in background)  
 00:43:20,069 Drake

577 00:43:20,069 Thomas In the end the combination of criminal defence 'em...  
 00:43:25,160 Drake by my attorneys

578 00:43:25,160 Thomas within the system before the judge the extraordinary  
 00:43:31,400 Drake 'eh... a defense led by

579 00:43:31,400 Thomas Jesselyn Radack in the court of public opinion from  
 00:43:34,569 Drake the Government Accountability Project

580 00:43:34,569 Thomas I was able to turn the tide and it was clearly that it was  
 00:43:40,299 Drake in the public interest

581 00:43:40,299 Thomas I wasn't a leaker, I was a whistleblower I was able to

00:43:43,329 Drake hold of the government

582 00:43:43,329 Thomas 'em... I ended up pleading out to a minor  
00:43:47,150 Drake misdemeanour

583 00:43:47,150 Thomas for exceeding unauthorised use of a computer they  
00:43:50,160 Drake dropped as a...

584 00:43:50,160 Thomas 'em... the condition was that they dropped all ten  
00:43:51,910 Drake

585 00:43:51,910 Thomas felony counts, there was no jail time, there was no  
00:43:55,069 Drake fine

586 00:43:55,069 Thomas I had community service of 240 hours and one-year  
00:44:02,569 Drake probation...

587 00:44:02,569 Thomas and I was able to keep my freedoms I was able to  
00:44:05,599 Drake keep my

588 00:44:05,599 Thomas liberties, I was able to retain my rights as a citizen  
00:44:10,130 Drake

589 00:44:10,130 Thomas a sovereign citizen means more to me now than ever  
00:44:14,760 Drake

590 00:44:14,760 Thomas they were never taken away so...  
00:44:17,069 Drake

591 00:44:17,069 Interviewer you went to meet Snowden Snowden has remarked  
00:44:24,440 that he

592 00:44:24,440 Interviewer might have been inspired by actions of you an other  
00:44:25,380 whistleblower

593 00:44:25,380 Interviewer for any people who is sitting out there witnessing  
00:44:26,480 illegal, waste, fraud, mismanagement

594 00:44:26,480 Interviewer at work maybe not advice but what could you say  
00:44:42,309 what is there you

595 00:44:42,309 Interviewer hope for them you advice for them?  
00:44:46,220

596 00:44:46,220 Thomas Blow the Whistle I've actually called for maximum  
00:44:50,640 Drake

597 00:44:50,640 Thomas exposure and disclosure see the real challenge in  
00:44:54,339 Drake

598 00:44:54,339 Thomas today's world with technology and this is, I mean, this  
00:44:57,710 Drake is...

599 00:44:57,710 Thomas the irony for me in terms of more than a passing  
00:45:00,609 Drake student

600 00:45:00,609 Thomas of history and politics is that history is not kind when it  
00:45:03,390 Drake comes

601 00:45:03,390 Thomas to surveillance states and empires, its just isn't  
00:45:06,079 Drake

602 00:45:06,079 Thomas And here we have a technology... technology that  
00:45:08,809 Drake allows

603 00:45:08,809 Thomas the government to have brought and vast access to

00:45:14,040 Drake information about its own people

604 00:45:14,040 Thomas and other people information... the vast majority of  
00:45:18,640 Drake people

605 00:45:18,640 Thomas we're doing nothing wrong at all so if you're exposed  
00:45:24,460 Drake or you

606 00:45:24,460 Thomas come across information the government or  
00:45:28,140 Drake corporations

607 00:45:28,140 Thomas are up to no good they engage illegality, they engage  
00:45:31,520 Drake in wrongdoing

608 00:45:31,520 Thomas they are a threat to public safety or health then blow  
00:45:35,290 Drake the whistle but be

609 00:45:35,290 Thomas well aware what the risks are and assume that no  
00:45:39,770 Drake channels

610 00:45:39,770 Thomas especially in the government is safe and if you go to  
00:45:45,460 Drake the press

611 00:45:45,460 Thomas you no doubt, not only will you be put under  
00:45:48,609 Drake surveillance

612 00:45:48,609 Thomas you may face the prospect like I did and others have  
00:45:51,690 Drake faced

613 00:45:51,690 Thomas I was just the opening shot I was the foundational  
00:45:55,369 Drake example

614 00:45:55,369 Thomas they wanted to make the... I was going to be the  
00:45:59,200 Drake prime example

615 00:45:59,200 Thomas plant that stake of national security... through me  
00:46:05,569 Drake

616 00:46:05,569 Thomas this is what happens when you dare speak truth to a  
00:46:09,020 Drake power

617 00:46:09,020 Thomas I was fortunate and I was able to retain my freedoms  
00:46:13,319 Drake and liberties and rights

618 00:46:13,319 Thomas I was able to restore my voice but whistleblowers  
00:46:19,180 Drake given what I went through

619 00:46:19,180 Thomas (unclear) intended to send a very chilling message  
00:46:21,619 Drake

620 00:46:21,619 Thomas this is what happens when you stand up to power  
00:46:24,210 Drake

621 00:46:24,210 Thomas and criminalising those who dare bring out information  
00:46:30,089 Drake about the criminal activities

622 00:46:30,089 Thomas particularly secret activities by their own government  
00:46:34,170 Drake

623 00:46:34,170 Thomas so it's a very dangerous world in which... especially  
00:46:39,319 Drake when it comes to national

624 00:46:39,319 Thomas security matters to be a whistleblower however there  
00:46:43,210 Drake are avenues to support

625 00:46:43,210 Thomas Drake you... obviously have to lawyer up and you need to  
00:46:47,480

626 00:46:47,480 Thomas Drake engage with organisations that provide support and  
00:46:52,640 efficacy for whistleblowing

627 00:46:52,640 Thomas Drake because you're not alone and I've dedicate the rest of  
00:46:56,190 my life

628 00:46:56,190 Thomas Drake to defend the life, liberty and the pursuit of  
00:46:59,140 happiness...

629 00:46:59,140 Thomas Drake those extraordinary words those... ennoble rights  
00:47:03,410 amongst which are

630 00:47:03,410 Thomas Drake likely libertypersuitofhappyness(fast and unclear)  
00:47:05,930

631 00:47:05,930 Thomas Drake including support and advocacy for whistleblowers  
00:47:10,809 because I do have a voice and there is whistleblowers

632 00:47:10,809 Thomas Drake right now, whistleblowers tat I've gotten to know  
00:47:13,680

633 00:47:13,680 Thomas Drake are either overseas like Edward Snowden, who still  
00:47:19,200 actually has

634 00:47:19,200 Thomas Drake a voice but under some constraints but there's  
00:47:22,920

635 00:47:22,920 Thomas Drake others like John Kuriaku who I have got to know very  
00:47:26,760 very well

636 00:47:26,760 Thomas Drake whose is currently incarcerated in Loreto, in  
00:47:33,770 Pennsylvania for 30 months

637 00:47:33,770 Interviewer last question how do we go forward from here?  
00:47:38,799

638 00:47:38,799 Thomas Drake how do we go forward from here in terms of  
00:47:40,470

639 00:47:40,470 Thomas Drake the future do we want, what kind of a society do we  
00:47:45,660 want to keep?

640 00:47:45,660 Thomas Drake look here's... here's... what comes to mind because  
00:47:49,609

641 00:47:49,609 Thomas Drake I'm here in England (laugh) I'm here the United  
00:47:53,030 Kingdom

642 00:47:53,030 Thomas Drake I've lived in England, I consider the United Kingdom a  
00:47:57,730 second home

643 00:47:57,730 Thomas Drake I flew reconnaissance missions during the end of the  
00:48:04,030 Cold War against which country?

644 00:48:04,030 Thomas Drake East Germany in the Warsaw Pact, right  
00:48:07,730

645 00:48:07,730 Thomas Drake I was a German Russian linguist I got to know that  
00:48:12,109 environment very very well

646 00:48:12,109 Thomas Drake never did I imagine there would also be ,you know  
00:48:15,520

647 00:48:15,520 Thomas Drake the city on a hill this... the... the wanted principles and practices  
 00:48:20,130

648 00:48:20,130 Thomas Drake of constitutional 'em... democracy would actually use  
 00:48:24,569

649 00:48:24,569 Thomas Drake the Statsi surveillance template as the PlayBook for a  
 00:48:30,520 surveillance state

650 00:48:30,520 Thomas Drake the world has never seen a virtual surveillance state  
 00:48:33,480

651 00:48:33,480 Thomas Drake the... we've never seen in terms of scope and  
 00:48:36,510

652 00:48:36,510 Thomas Drake scale, in partnership mind you, with GCHQ what does  
 00:48:42,730 this mean?

653 00:48:42,730 Thomas Drake Magna Carta does that mean anything the Magna  
 00:48:47,280 Carta

654 00:48:47,280 Thomas Drake was seminal in separating out the Divine Right of  
 00:48:51,890 Kings

655 00:48:51,890 Thomas Drake you weren't just subject to the whims of a king  
 00:48:55,569

656 00:48:55,569 Thomas Drake what's happening here... citizens with rights citizens  
 00:49:00,280 who are opposed (supposed)

657 00:49:00,280 Thomas Drake to have protections are now having those routinely  
 00:49:05,559 violated in secret

658 00:49:05,559 Thomas Drake and through these extraordinary agreements and  
 00:49:08,420 partnerships

659 00:49:08,420 Thomas Drake and arrangements with corporations to what?  
 00:49:12,789 becomes subjects

660 00:49:12,789 Thomas Drake of the state for surveillance purposes with the  
 00:49:17,280 argument that if you've done

661 00:49:17,280 Thomas Drake nothing wrong you have... there is nothing... to hide,  
 00:49:21,329 which means

662 00:49:21,329 Thomas Drake there's no privacy under that that's a presumption  
 00:49:25,079

663 00:49:25,079 Thomas Drake that the presumption of no privacy It means privacy is  
 00:49:29,400 fair game

664 00:49:29,400 Thomas Drake anything that's personal is fair game because we  
 00:49:33,280 need to ensure that you're up

665 00:49:33,280 Thomas Drake to no good is that really the society we wanna liv in  
 00:49:36,450

666 00:49:36,450 Thomas Drake what I am also present to... I'm present to George  
 00:49:40,520 Orwell and the...

667 00:49:40,520 Thomas Drake his book 1984 or even Animal Farm but 1984... do we  
 00:49:47,549 really want to become Winston

668 00:49:47,549 Thomas just sort of ignore the fact that we have all this

00:49:49,950 Drake

669 00:49:49,950 Thomas  
00:49:53,359 Drake stuff looking at us in various ways is that what we want

670 00:49:53,359 Thomas  
00:49:57,740 Drake I don't think so... see we're canaries... is whistleblowers, especially in the

671 00:49:57,740 Thomas  
00:50:01,349 Drake national security space we are the canaries in that coal mine

672 00:50:01,349 Thomas  
00:50:06,819 Drake I've made it to come out of that coal mine I have a voice now but I'm...

673 00:50:06,819 Thomas  
00:50:12,280 Drake am I'm extremely fortune...

674 00:50:12,280 Thomas  
00:50:16,430 Drake all the others have served time in prison, are in prison

675 00:50:16,430 Thomas  
00:50:20,849 Drake or facing prison or ended up having to escape the United States

676 00:50:20,849 Thomas  
00:50:26,250 Drake to have any hope of remaining free that Edward Snowden

677 00:50:26,250 Thomas  
00:50:32,859 Drake so this means more to me than anything sovereign human beings

678 00:50:32,859 Thomas  
00:50:37,010 Drake if we don't have rights as citizens and if we have led government is run

679 00:50:37,010 Thomas  
00:50:40,109 Drake roughshod over that In the name of National Security, what else

680 00:50:40,109 Thomas  
00:50:42,869 Drake will occur? that a very slippery slope,

681 00:50:42,869 Thomas  
00:50:47,030 Drake we don't want to go down look I had a conversation recently

682 00:50:47,030 Thomas  
00:50:52,359 Drake with a couple from Germany is it... it was chilling language

683 00:50:52,359 Thomas  
00:50:58,690 Drake they said... you need to know something Tom at least we know, we live in a post fascist

684 00:50:58,690 Thomas  
00:51:01,470 Drake society you live in a pre fascist society

685 00:51:01,470 Thomas  
00:51:05,750 Drake and don't even know it so all this kabuki dance, that its...

686 00:51:05,750 Thomas  
00:51:08,270 Drake we need this for national security we need to make sure that

687 00:51:08,270 Thomas  
00:51:13,450 Drake we revile all threats, look even the United States, they claimed that

688 00:51:13,450 Thomas  
00:51:17,740 Drake the secret surveillance programs were responsible for detecting stopping or

689 00:51:17,740 Thomas  
00:51:24,619 Drake preventing 54 terrorist events or incidents it turns out it was a complete lie that



690 00:51:24,619 Thomas Drake at best one might have been stopped or prevented  
00:51:29,869 what does that tell you... now, its just...

691 00:51:29,869 Thomas Drake we need it as an insurance policy just in case... where  
00:51:34,720 do we go with this

692 00:51:34,720 Thomas Drake in a surveillance state or in national... in a national  
00:51:38,230 security regime

693 00:51:38,230 Thomas Drake everything is suspicious you need the controls  
00:51:42,880

694 00:51:42,880 Thomas Drake so what happens to society history is not kind  
00:51:47,079

695 00:51:47,079 Thomas Drake and the technology unfortunately is... is becoming so  
00:51:52,910 persistent as I

696 00:51:52,910 Thomas Drake experienced myself several years ago even in this  
00:51:58,640 country, when I was seeing

697 00:51:58,640 Thomas Drake all the traffic cameras, this is just a benign form of  
00:52:03,869 surveillance

698 00:52:03,869 Thomas Drake if even... out where I was in Wales I was out on  
00:52:09,680 vacation in Landeno (check spell)

699 00:52:09,680 Thomas Drake Before I went to my first reunion for the... for my RC  
00:52:14,200 135 crew

700 00:52:14,200 Thomas Drake I'd never been back, right and this was like our first  
00:52:16,470 real

701 00:52:16,470 Thomas Drake reunion twenty-plus years later I mean and they said  
00:52:22,549 yes Tom

702 00:52:22,549 Thomas Drake even when you don't see them the very next one, it  
00:52:25,799 knows were you

703 00:52:25,799 Thomas Drake were last time your license plate was detected  
00:52:28,010

704 00:52:28,010 Thomas Drake and if you exceed the average speed limit even  
00:52:33,589 though it may be a hundred miles difference

705 00:52:33,589 Thomas Drake guess what? you get a ticket because they know what  
00:52:37,750 that average speed

706 00:52:37,750 Thomas Drake is it's calculated, well I understand that  
00:52:41,420

707 00:52:41,420 Thomas Drake in terms you do...do... as a society how much  
00:52:45,780 surveillance

708 00:52:45,780 Thomas Drake can we actually stand if you want perfect security  
00:52:49,839

709 00:52:49,839 Thomas Drake there is no privacy, there is no liberty there are no  
00:52:52,589 freedoms

710 00:52:52,589 Thomas Drake it's not a zero-sum game Benjamin Franklin the  
00:52:57,809 United States

711 00:52:57,809 Thomas Drake said it perfectly and I'm paraphrasing him 'those who

00:53:02,680 Drake would seek a little safety

712 00:53:02,680 Thomas for the sake of security will lose both' we end up  
00:53:09,359 Drake giving up both

713 00:53:09,359 Thomas I don't wanna do that and the last thing that I want to  
00:53:14,569 Drake say in terms of context

714 00:53:14,569 Thomas I don't know many people overhear here follow Star  
00:53:18,049 Drake Trek, I have followed Star Trek

715 00:53:18,049 Thomas and the Star Trek movies and all the Star Trek, you  
00:53:21,640 Drake know, they have all the different

716 00:53:21,640 Thomas series and there is a whole new series of Star Trek  
00:53:24,319 Drake

717 00:53:24,319 Thomas movies, well the original cast did a series a Star Trek  
00:53:27,609 Drake movies

718 00:53:27,609 Thomas one of those was... the second one was called the  
00:53:31,799 Drake wrath of Kahn

719 00:53:31,799 Thomas and Kahn actually came back up in the more recent  
00:53:35,760 Drake Star Trek movie

720 00:53:35,760 Thomas go back to when Kirk was very very young as well as  
00:53:38,400 Drake Kahn

721 00:53:38,400 Thomas well in that movie Spock sacrifices his life for the sake  
00:53:43,910 Drake of the Star Trek crew

722 00:53:43,910 Thomas at his best friend Captain Kirk runs down to the  
00:53:48,210 Drake engine room after Scottie sais

723 00:53:48,210 Thomas you gotta get down here jim So he runs down to  
00:53:54,789 Drake Spook and 'why Spock, why?'

724 00:53:54,789 Thomas and he simply says the famous line from Star Trek  
00:53:58,510 Drake

725 00:53:58,510 Thomas but its everything to me 'the needs at the many  
00:54:02,680 Drake outweigh the

726 00:54:02,680 Thomas needs of the few or the one' it's about who we are as  
00:54:08,510 Drake human beings

727 00:54:08,510 Thomas it's about the essence of our ability to associate and  
00:54:12,660 Drake create

728 00:54:12,660 Thomas were, were, were extraordinary in terms of who we  
00:54:17,220 Drake are

729 00:54:17,220 Thomas we're at our best when we're working with each other.  
00:54:20,670 Drake Not when we are at odds, not when

730 00:54:20,670 Thomas we are divided And a surveillance state takes us apart  
00:54:24,500 Drake

731 00:54:24,500 Thomas it fragments who we are, I will resist that for the rest of  
00:54:30,250 Drake my life

732 00:54:30,250 Thomas with every fibber in my being because life liberty and  
00:54:36,440 Drake

733	00:54:36,440 00:54:40,190	Thomas Drake	the pursuit of happiness is really worth it and who dare
734	00:54:40,190 00:54:44,760	Thomas Drake	and who would dare to come up to take that away from us
735	00:54:44,760 00:54:47,540	Thomas Drake	not the government
736	00:54:50,180 00:54:51,751	Interviewer	thanks for sharing you story