

MITI Coding: Transcript 2

T: Hi Joe. How are you?

C: Oh, I'm alright.

T: Well, thanks for coming in today. Do you know why you're here?

C: Oh, yeah. I didn't have much choice. The judge sent me here. I got busted at a DWI checkpoint with some pot. I didn't know they had drug sniffing dogs at those things.

T: So you're not real happy about being here, it sounds like.

C: I'd rather not. Yeah, you could say that.

T: So you got caught with pot at a DWI checkpoint.

C: Yeah, you know I saw this DWI checkpoint from miles ahead and I wasn't worried because I hadn't been drinking. A cop comes over and I roll down my window and all of the sudden this German Shepard comes up and starts barking. Like I said, I didn't realize they would have drug sniffers at these check points.

T: So you thought you were safe because you weren't drinking.

C: Yeah, exactly. I just figured I'd tell the officer I hadn't had anything to drink; he might wave that flashlight they got with the breathalyzer on the end and I'd be through.

T: Had you been smoking pot that day?

C: Oh yeah. I was stoned.

T: And you don't consider that under the influence?

C: Not really. I mean, it doesn't seem to affect my reflexes or anything, I can still respond pretty quickly. Cars pull out in front of me, whatever, I've never had a problem with it. I pretty much drive stoned all of the time.

T: So you smoke pot a lot it sounds like.

C: Oh yeah. I'm a wake and baker. I mean I have one with my coffee in the morning. Sometimes I'll come home and have another one at lunch, on my lunch hour. Yeah, and when I get home, two or three joints.

T: So you pretty much smoke pot all day.

C: Yeah. I like it. It relaxes me, calms me down.

T: And you don't see that as a problem.

C: No, no, no. It's purely recreational. You know I can still think.

T: Hmm. Alright, Alright. Well, you know there's been a number of studies that have been done that have found that excessive pot use can have incredibly detrimental consequences.

C: Yeah you know I read those studies every once in awhile and I don't know, sometimes they just don't make any sense to me. Like you know they say it lowers your sex drive, well it doesn't lower my sex drive. They say it affects your memory, well actually I have noticed a few memory things here and there but it's not like you know I always leave my keys around or anything. So I don't think it's as bad as those studies make it out to be.

T: So you're different from everyone else.

C: No. I think it's just not that bad for anybody really. It's not as bad as alcohol.

T: Well, what do you make of the results of the studies, then?

C: I don't know a bunch of B.S.?

T: Alright. Well, you do realize as part of your probation your going to have to submit urine samples.

C: Yeah, I know. I got to quit while I'm on probation. That sucks man. Six months – nothing.

T: How do you think your going to do that?

C: Well, you know, I've quit in the past for a week or two here and there. It's not like I get the shakes or anything. You now, I mean again, pot's not like alcohol, you know. So I don't think I'm going to have a big problem with it. I'll probably just take up smoking again.

T: You said you quit pot in the past.

C: Yeah, yeah. You know once I got this job up in Alaska, which I thought was going to be pot heaven man. But it turns out I'm out in the middle of nowhere with guys who don't smoke pot so I couldn't get any so all of a sudden I find myself going cold turkey.

T: Well, you were able to do it.

C: Yeah, it wasn't the end of the world, you know. It's just that life goes down a little bit smoother when you're a little bit baked.

T: So things are easier for you when you're stoned but you were able to quit pot for two weeks.

C: Oh yeah.

T: That's amazing. That's great! I'm really happy for you, Joe.

C: Well, you know. Drop me off in the middle of nowhere and don't give me any pot and I won't smoke.

T: You think that's the only way you'll be able to do it?

C: Oh, no, no. There's been a couple of other times where I quit for a week here and there you know. Once when I was trying to get a give a urine sample and you know, so I quit for a week before that and pounded a bunch of grapefruit juice right before.

T: Um hmm. Grapefruit juice?

C: Yeah. They said that was supposed to clean you out but it didn't really work actually. I didn't get the job.

T: Because of your pot use.

C: Yeah, yeah. The urine came back positive.

T: That might be seen as problematic.

C: Yeah. I guess except I just got a job where they don't test you.

T: Is it as good of a job?

C: It doesn't pay quite as much as the one that I lost, or didn't get actually.

T: But that doesn't concern you at all.

C: Well I'd like to be making more money but you know, I also like to do pot.

T: Alright, alright. Well, so you're going to quit pot and smoke cigarettes.

C: Well, probably, I mean I don't know I'd rather not go back to smoking cigarettes but I've got to do something and I don't want to start drinking because my old man, he's an alcoholic and I just don't want to go there – that guy, he's practically homeless.

T: Um hmm. Has he ever been arrested for his drinking?

C: Oh, yeah. He's got like 10 DWIs. You know how this state is man. They just keep arresting him and putting him right back out.

T: I'm confused as to why you see this difference between alcohol and pot. You don't want to be like your father and he's got some alcohol problems and been arrested but you're somehow different.

C: Well, I mean, look I smoke a joint and I don't swerve all over the road. A deer runs out in front of me and I can slam on the brakes and stop. I've driven drunk a couple of times, I shouldn't have but I can definitely tell the difference. Driving drunk, I'm like all over the place and practically falling asleep at the wheel. It's not the same with pot.

T: It does impair you though.

C: Well, not that I can tell really.

T: Maybe you're not just seeing it.

C: Well I guess that I can't prove that I'm not impaired but I've never gotten any traffic violations while driving stoned and I drive stoned all of the time.

T: No traffic violations but you did get arrested.

C: Yeah, stupid checkpoint man.

T: It sounds like you feel that this is totally unreasonable and for some reason you should be exempt from this.

C: Well, yeah. I think pot should be legal. I mean at least as legal as alcohol.

T: So legalizing it is the problem, not the fact that you had how many joints in your possession?

C: At the time I had like four.

T: Four joints?

C: Yeah and a little bag, a little dime bag.

T: Four joints and a dime bag?

C: Yeah.

T: And they didn't get you for distribution?

C: He tried but he couldn't make it stick. It wasn't quite enough for distribution. And I didn't have like scales or anything like that. Those were at my house.

T: It sounds like you lucked out, I guess.

C: Well, yeah, if you can call it that, yeah.

T: So how are you going to go about quitting pot? Have you been smoking up until today?

C: No, no. I quit right after as soon as I found out I was going to be on probation because I'll probably have to give a test, a urine sample, in a week. So, yeah, I haven't smoked for the last week.

T: Oh that's great Joe. That's really great.

C: Oh, yeah, great.

T: Well, what's it been like for you?

C: It's been alright. I'm more irritable. Drivers really hackle my nerves man. I just want to carry rocks in my car and throw them out the window at people sometimes because they just drive me crazy. When I'm stoned, I'm just like, "Hey man..." I don't care, but yeah, I'm edgy. My boss is really getting on my nerves.

T: But you've gone a week without smoking, doesn't that make it worth it?

C: Well, no. I'd much rather be smoking but I know I have to give that urine test.

T: I'm surprised that you don't see some of the negative consequences. It's apparent to me that you have some reasons to quit and I'm just wondering what would have to happen for you to see that you need to quit.

C: Um, well, I guess if I got into a car crashed while I was driving stoned and it was because I was driving stoned or if I lost my job, for example. You know, obviously the threat of jail is going to make me quit. I'm not going to smoke for the next six months because if I pass a dirty urine, I go to jail for the next six months instead of probation.

T: Joe, do those things really have to happen to you? You've done so well for one week, don't you think you can quit forever?

C: I probably could if I wanted to but, well I'm sure I could if I wanted to, but I don't want to. I like pot, I like the way it makes me feel, the relaxation.

T: So you see no reasons at all to quit – for good.

C: Well, you know, I guess maybe my memory would get better. I see lapses in my memory that are probably as a result of the pot. I don't know, it's not like I have to remember that much stuff. I get by.

T: So you right now you don't have very much motivation.

C: Nothing besides going to jail.

T: Well, I'm glad for now that you're not going to be smoking and I'm really happy that you came today.

C: Yeah, this wasn't too bad.

T: Well, I'm glad that you liked it.

C: Yeah, I was expecting much harsher treatment.

T: Good, well I'm glad that it was worth it and I hope that I see you next week.

C: Oh, you will.

T: Alright. Bye Joe.