

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
NORTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

No. 2:23-cr-7

vs.

Hon. Robert J. Jonker
United States District Judge

NATHAN WEEDEN,

Defendant.

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GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED VOIR DIRE

May it please the Court, the government requests the following questions be included in the voir dire of the jury:

1. Have you, or has any close friend or family member, ever been involved in a dispute with the federal or local government? What was it about?
2. This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Have you, or has any close friend or family member, ever had any dealings with this agency? Under what circumstances?
3. Have you, or has any close friend or family member, ever been questioned by a federal or state investigative officer? If so, please explain. Do you feel you or friend or relative were treated fairly?
4. Have you, or has any close friend or family member, ever been the victim of bullying or any other verbally or physically threatening conduct? What were the circumstances?

5. Have any of you, or a relative or close friend, been charged with or convicted of a felony offense, or gone to jail for any reason?

6. Have you, your spouse, or any close relative or friend been a victim of a crime?

a. Describe when and where; the nature of the crime; and the result of any charges.

b. Do you feel like the criminal justice process and the outcome were fair?

7. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution says Congress can't make laws that abridge the freedom of speech. Does anyone here worry that the First Amendment is under attack? If so, in what way?

8. Does anyone worry that the government does too *little* to address threatening speech and actions? If so, please explain.

9. The defendant is charged with conspiracy against civil rights, and with damaging religious property. Among other things, you'll hear that he is charged with putting swastikas and white supremacist symbols on a Jewish synagogue.

a. Has anyone ever felt unsafe in a church, synagogue, temple, or other house of worship? If so, why?

b. Does anyone here have strong feelings about the current conflict in Israel/Palestine? What are those feelings?

c. Have you been following news about antisemitism in the United States? Do you have any strong feelings about what's going on?

d. What news sources do you rely on to stay informed about these and other issues?

10. You will see firearms and photographs of firearms as evidence in this case.

a. Do you have strong feelings about firearms ownership?

b. What role, if any, do you believe the federal government should play in the regulation of firearms?

c. Do you feel differently about any specific types of guns?

d. If you have firearms, what do you mostly use them for?

11. Have any of you ever had to do active shooter drills at work or school?

Do you feel such drills are necessary or unnecessary? Why?

12. Does anyone here have strong feelings, one way or the other, about the federal government?

a. Does anyone believe that the federal government gets too involved in matters that should be left to the state?

b. What role, if any, do you think the federal government should play in protecting individual rights?

13. Does anyone have concerns about the trustworthiness of the FBI? If so, why?

14. Have you, or has a close friend or relative, ever belonged to a militia?

a. If so, please explain.

b. Do any of you believe that the government is either overly suspicious, or not suspicious enough, of militia organizations?

Please explain.

15. This is a criminal case. If the defendant is convicted, I would have to determine the sentence. Does that fact that a sentence could include a term of imprisonment raise religious or philosophical concerns for any of you? Would any of you rather not be called upon to decide the guilt or innocence of the accused?

Respectfully submitted,

MARK A. TOTTEN
United States Attorney

Dated: December 23, 2023

/s/ Nils R. Kessler
NILS R. KESSLER
Assistant United States Attorney
P.O. Box 208
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-0208
(616) 456-2404
nils.kessler@usdoj.gov