

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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IN RE: POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS :  
:  
OF 18 USC 2511 and 2512 :  
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43.1

Grand Jury Room No. 3  
United States District Courthouse  
3rd & Constitution Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Thursday, February 14, 1974

The testimony of JOHN W. DEAN, III, was presented  
to a full quorum of the Grand Jury.

BEFORE:

RICHARD BEN-VENISTE, ESQ.  
Assistant Special Prosecutor  
U. S. Department of Justice

JILL VOLNER  
Assistant Special Prosecutor  
U. S. Department of Justice

GERALD GOLDMAN, ESQ.  
Assistant Special Prosecutor  
U. S. Department of Justice

GEORGE T. FRAMPTON, JR., ESQ.  
Assistant Special Prosecutor  
U. S. Department of Justice

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1 me for the job I'd done during the campaign. This was the  
2 only issue that they'd had, and they really hadn't been able  
3 to make an issue out of it, and I responded that I didn't  
4 think it could be contained indefinitely.

5 And he tried to give me a little bolstering chat  
6 and I recall he did kind of a fist in hand type of motion,  
7 telling me that he had confidence in me and that I should  
8 deal directly with him and he thought that everything would  
9 be all right and things of that nature.

10 Q Did there come a time, around this period, where  
11 you had some discussion about the use of written interroga-  
12 tories?

13 A Yes. That's correct.

14 Q And what was the substance of the discussion about  
15 interrogatories?

16 A Well, that if push came to shove, the matter of  
17 White House people appearing before the Senate Committee could  
18 be resolved by their submitting -- going no further than to  
19 submit the written interrogatory, which was a document that  
20 could be controlled as to the amount of information that was  
21 provided. The theory being that it would give the appearance  
22 of being forthcoming and yet a controllable element which no  
23 one could cross examine.

24 Q Now, going to the mid-March period, Mr. Dean, you  
25 had meetings with the President on March 13th, March 17th and

1 March 21, according to the President's logs and, indeed, the  
2 Grand Jury has heard the conversation on March 13 and two on  
3 March 21.

4 You have testified before the Senate Select Com-  
5 mittee with respect to these meetings in some detail. And  
6 have you been able, since your Senate Select Committee testi-  
7 mony, to refresh your recollection with regard to the March  
8 17th meeting, for example, with any documentation?

9 A Yes, I have. Last week, in New York, when I was  
10 in the Southern District, they asked me -- they presented me  
11 with a document that did not relate to the meetings that you  
12 are specifically referring to but, rather, another meeting,  
13 and it was a document that I was aware of that I had totally  
14 forgotten about and had never seen before.

15 It's a public document and it's a memorandum of an  
16 exchange between Mr. Buzhardt and Mr. Thompson, who is the  
17 minority counsel of the Senate Select Committee. I scanned  
18 the document out of curiosity because there were things on  
19 there -- which I'd never seen the document before -- and it  
20 did bring to mind several things.

21 In constructing my Senate Testimony I had only my  
22 memory and newspapers. So I had to pick, initially, the  
23 dates and the times and the substance of the meetings from  
24 sheer recollection.

25 Before I testified, Mr. ~~D~~ash confirmed the time

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1 frames of the meetings, because he had a copy of the logs  
2 from the Presidential meetings and they did coincide with my  
3 recollection of the dates I'd met with the President.

4 At the time, I didn't keep a diary or anything of  
5 that nature. So when I saw this document, it gave me a very  
6 haunting feeling about the meeting on the 17th -- that I  
7 possibly had confused dates on the 13th and the 17th, or that  
8 there were things that had occurred on the 17th that I had  
9 totally forgotten about, only some of which I've been able  
10 to remember by looking at this document.

11 Q Do you recall whether the subject of Gordon Strachan's  
12 possible knowledge in advance of the Watergate break-in came  
13 up during the March 17th meeting?

14 A Well, again, I don't have a crystal clear recollec-  
15 tion of what happened on the 17th. I recall that such a con-  
16 versation did occur and the 17th could very well have been the  
17 date it occurred on.

18 Q And what was the substance of that?

19 A That Mr. Strachan was an individual who possibly  
20 knew in advance that there was going to be a break-in. I  
21 might add that I told -- I never asked Mr. Strachan this ques-  
22 tion, really, point blank, as I never asked a lot of people  
23 the question in that manner.

24 Q Now, I take it that, with respect to your testimony  
25 about the meetings in March, you've done your best, without

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1 listening to tapes, to differentiate between the meetings  
2 but that statements that you attribute to one meeting very  
3 well may have occurred in another meeting, or have been re-  
4 peated in substance at the various meetings. Is that, as a  
5 general matter, correct?

6 A That is correct. I was -- when I prepared my  
7 Senate testimony, I was aware of things that occurred that I  
8 couldn't put in any particular meeting and, sometimes, I  
9 omitted them for that reason thinking they would come up in  
10 cross examination at the Senate hearings, which they didn't.

11 Q Mr. Dean, did there come a time around the latter  
12 part of March when you learned that Howard Hunt was threaten-  
13 ing to reveal certain matters if his demands for payment of  
14 substantial amounts of money were not met?

15 A Yes, I did learn such a fact.

16 Q From whom did you learn this information?

17 A From Mr. Paul O'Brien.

18 Q In substance, what did Mr. Paul O'Brien tell you?

19 A Mr. O'Brien reported that he had had a meeting with  
20 Mr. Hunt and Mr. Hunt had told him, at the meeting, a number  
21 of things. One particularly of which was that he should take  
22 a message to John Dean.

23 I said, "Why Dean?" And he said, "I raised the  
24 same question with Mr. Hunt and his response was, 'Well, you  
25 just take this to Dean,'" which O'Brien was doing. He told

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