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HEARINGS

Before The

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Washington, D. C.

March 17, 1977

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1977

Bultman
LDR

U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
Washington, D.C.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice at 10 a.m. in Room 2220 Rayburn House Office Building, the Honorable Louis Stokes (Chairman of the Committee), presiding.

Present. Representatives Stokes (Presiding), Fauntroy, Burke, Dodd, Ford, Fithian, Edgar, Devine, Anderson, Preyer, and Thone.

Also present. Richard A. Sprague, Chief Counsel and Staff Director, Bob Tannenbaum, Bob Lehner, Steve Fallis, Al Lewis, Pat Orr, James Wolf, Rebecca Martin, Tom Howorth, Burt Chadak, Bob Morrison, Frank Kelly, Polly Brown, Hank Spring

The Chairman. The meeting will come to order.

We are still in executive session. Supposedly, only Staff are in the room.

Mr. Lehner. That is true.

The Chairman. There are several matters I thought we might take up this morning. We may have to adjust the schedule a bit, because Mr. Fithian is in a markup situation and has some matters that he wants to bring before the

1 Committee. I told him that we would try to adjust to his
2 schedule, whenever he can get over.

3 One of the things that we have to do is to prepare
4 our report for March 31 for the House. In that conjunction,
5 we have never done anything really with respect to the
6 ordering of the hearings printed, of at least the open
7 sessions that we have had.

8 I guess from the beginning there has never been any
9 order to the Court Reporters to prepare anything so we
10 are really behind in all of that.

11 Steven, is that your area?

12 Mr. Fallis. I will take care of it, if you want.

13 The Chairman. I think definitely we have to have
14 our hearings printed. Then it is up to the Committee
15 also to decide if any of the matters related to Executive
16 Session hearings are to be released publicly also.

17 Mr. Devine. Mr. Chairman, how far back are you refer -
18 ring--just since you became Chairman or prior to that
19 time?

20 The Chairman. I am really open for a discussion on
21 that, Mr. Devine. I don't know how much of what it is, I
22 try to think back of what we did under our previous
23 Chairman, whether there was anything much to be--

24 Mr. Devine. I think it was preliminary discussion rela-
25 tive to adoption of rules which was finalized since you
have been chairman.

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The Chairman. Right.

Mr. Devine. So, I am not sure that any useful purpose would be served in having those printed up because the final rules of what we adopt are used for legislation of the legislative report,

Do you know, John?

Mr. Anderson. NO, I do not think it would be useful. It would be just additional expenses to go ahead and transcribe and print hearings that were inconsequential as to what they produce. So, I think I would be agreeable to implementation of what you say, since you started your tenure as Chairman. That would be adequate.

The Chairman. All right. Then are there any matters you can think of related to sessions that we have had in Executive Session that we ought to release. I suppose that matters in relation to Mr. Sprague's explanations yesterday perhaps ought to be printed up, or we can have some discussion as to whether this should be.

Mr. Edgar. Mr. Chairman, is it proper and possible to have two records made, one from the public sessions since you have been Chairman, and one from the Executive sessions that would be held until we have a careful review of those?

The Chairman. You mean to have it printed up, Executive Session printed up, for our purposes.

Mr. Edgar. Yes.

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Mr. Devine. I might say, those have a way of getting out.

The Chairman. Yes.

Mr. Devine. And if they are printed up, of course, the Government Printing Office has them. Do you know how many copies are run off?

Mr. Edgar. I do not know what the Security provisions are.

Mr. Devine. I would imagine we could have them transcribed by the Reporter and retained in the custody of the Chairman until such time we feel that information can be released publicly.

Mr Edgar. I think we should have at least, have it typed up and put together by the recorder.

The Chairman. Well, I would entertain a motion that we do that.

Mr. Devine. Mr. Chairman, I would like to have the thoughts of counsel on whether he feels that the information he gave in Executive Session is of such a nature that it should or should not be revealed publicly at this time.

Mr Sprague. Mr. Devine, there are two things I would say. Each of the hearings in fact whether public or in executive session have been transcribed and are being transcribed, and we have the transcribed testimony in our office. So that which is from the Executive

1 Sessions is kept under lock and key, the others are there
2 and available. Both are available, so that everything is
3 being transcribed when you talk about printing, I think
4 you are talking about the taking of the transcribed notes and
5 arranging for the Printing Office to print them up.

6 Mr. Devine. As part of Committee hearings and part
7 of the Committee report are two different things. The
8 different hearings there is no conclusion but the
9 Committee report contains them.

10 Mr. Sprague. I do not see from the hearings the
11 public hearings accept from the printing of rules which we
12 have gotten printed up and which will be distributed, what
13 else is to be printed from that.

14 The Executive Sessions, and I am happy for the notes
15 from the hearing yesterday that we had, I am happy for
16 that to be available to whomsoever this Committee wants to
17 have that available to. I do not think it is a matter
18 just for general dissemination, unless the Committee wants
19 to just have it published in the news media from here
20 to there.

21 It seems to me this was available more for the Committee
22 purposes should questions then arise but I have no
23 feelings one way or the other about it.

24 Mr. Devine. Mr. Chairman, I think from the standpoint
25 of Mr. Sprague, that he is entitled to be vindicated

1 at some time in the future on the charges having been made
2 by our previous Chairman but I am afraid if those are printed
3 up and made available to the public, that that is what will
4 hit the headlines, again it reopens the wounds and I do not
5 think that we are prepared to meet that at this particular
6 time.

7 I think after we are reconstituted, assuming that hap-
8 pens, why then that is adequate time for the answers to
9 be given to the charges made actually unless you feel
10 some useful purpose would be served in trying to do it
11 to the confrontation we are going to have with the House
12 one of these days under the Rules Committee.

13 The Chairman. Well, actually, I agree with you. I
14 was concerned because Mr. McKinney had warned us to have
15 this done in Executive Session and a couple of other members
16 had too, so that they could then be sent to the other
17 members or some of the other members and someone even
18 mentioned putting it into the Congressional Record.

19 I think, putting it in the Congressional record even
20 has the same, very same situation about it in terms of
21 the news media grabbing that and getting back off where we
22 now have them.

23 Mr. Edgar. Mr. Chairman.

24 The Chairman. Mr. Edgar.

25 Mr. Edgar. If they are transcribed and typed out which

1 I assume they will be in another 24 hours or so, couldn't
 2 they be circulated to all the members of our Committee and
 3 then at some point in the future some sections of them may
 4 be necessary to share with others in case there is a
 5 question around reconstitution time, but as for now, we
 6 would just keep them within the confines of this Committee.

7 I think they ought to be circulated to those members
 8 who were not present, who have some questions, who may want to
 9 take a look at the data that was provided yesterday by
 10 Mr. Sprague.

11 Mr. Sprague. My thought is that a copy of them should
 12 be available to be with each member of this Committee for
 13 whatever purpose that member may then want to use it
 14 because it was really so that if questions exist in your
 15 minds or if people are asking you questions, at least
 16 you have the information as I state it to be to respond and
 17 I am happy to have, for each of you, to have a copy of
 18 that for your own purposes.

19 The Chairman. Does that satisfy everyone then.

20 Mr. Devine. That is fine with me.

21 The Chairman. Then, Mr. Sprague, in regard to the
 22 hearings so that we have a clear understanding on that,
 23 ordinarily when a committee goes to the floor with any type
 24 of report accompanying that report of course there are
 25 the printed hearings that have been conducted by that
 Committee, that is what I had in mind in terms of at

1 at least my assumption of the Chair, that we would have all
2 that printed up as hearings of the Committee, with the
3 exclusion of course of anything that is in Executive Session
4 unless we thought there was something in the Executive
5 Session that should be released at that time.

6 Apparently there is nothing that anyone can think of.

7 Mr. Devine. I have not thought much about what we
8 have done in Executive Session, is there anything that anyone
9 feels should be brought out?

10 Mr. Edgar. Well, I think that whatever is sent to the
11 House Floor has to be on the issues of the two assassinations
12 problems and I think yesterday's record of the pleading of
13 the 5th is an important thing to have available and at an
14 appropriate time when we send over a report to have the
15 public record of that hearing make some sense. I do not
16 know what the choreography of that is when that takes place.
17 There may be two or three other public hearings that we may
18 have next week. I do not know what the plans are, that
19 may be included in that. Of course, with pleading the 5th
20 you do not have many pages of testimony but whatever we
21 can share with the House publicly to justify our existence,
22 I think is important to get beyond the March 30 deadline.

23 The Chairman. Yes, I think that is very important.

24 All right, we will then see--because none of the members
25 have even had a chance to correct any of the transcribed

1 testimony before it does go to the printer, so that has
2 to be done Also. So, if you will proceed to have that
3 done, I would appreciate it.

4 Mr. Sprague. Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman.

5 Mr. Edgar. Mr. Chairman, do we need any action
6 on Mr. Preyer's proposed budget?

7 The Chairman. Yes.

8 I talked to him regarding that this morning. He had
9 a markup in another Committee, also, said he would be
10 here as soon as he could get here but I had hoped that we
11 would be able to go ahead and take final action on that.

12 Mr. Ford. Do we have any preliminary work at this
13 point on the budget?

14 The Chairman. No, Mr. Ford, I think it is a matter of
15 his report in Executive Session prior to any release of
16 it in a public session.

17 Mr. Edgar. Here is a copy (handing).

18 Mr. Ford. I did not have a copy.

19 The Chairman. It is still in Executive Session and
20 not to be released publicly because we have not yet sat
21 with Mr. Thompson.

22 I talked to Mr. Preyer this morning about sitting
23 with him on it as we did with Mr. Dent in getting his
24 concurrence in it, and the procedure that we adopted was
25 that we will not release any information to the public

1 until such time as we have had the consent of both chairmen
2 from the House Administration.

3 I want to lay before the Committee two letters that
4 we received from Mr. Kenneth ^{Barton} Bruton, Jr. which I think
5 should be brought to the attention of the Committee along
6 with the reply that has been prepared by Mr. Sprague.

7 May we have the Clerk read this correspondence.

8 Ms. Martin. "The Honorable Louis Stokes, Chairman,
9 House Select Committee on Assassinations, U.S. House of
10 Representatives, Washington, D.C. Letter dated March 8.
11 "Dear Mr. Chairman.

12 "I submit herewith my resignation from the Staff of
13 the House Select Committee on Assassinations effect this
14 date or at such time hereafter as the members of the Select
15 Committee shall determine as fair and equitable. I resign
16 as a matter of province and not out of the belief that
17 the investigation should not be continued by some appropriate
18 body. The attention of the Select Committee is directed
19 to the fact that on or about January 11, 1977, while
20 acting in his capacity as Chief Counsel and Staff Director,
21 Richard A. Sprague represented to the Staff during the
22 course of the Staff meeting that, if certain Staff members
23 were to accept a 35 percent reduction in pay, that
24 he, Sprague, would see that such staff members were
25 reimbursed the full amount of the decrease in pay.

1 "In justifiable reliance upon the representations of
2 your agent, I tend to render professional services to the
3 Houae Select Committee which accepted such services. I
4 understand that there is an admission of Mr. Sprague's
5 representation in the record of the Committee proceedings
6 for Monday, March 6, 1977.

7 "I bring this matter to your attention so the
8 Committee, while a duly constituted legal body, may take
9 appropriate action to restore the pay reductions for
10 January and February of 1977.

11 "Of course if the matter can be resolved equitably
12 then litigation may be avoided. Also enclosed herewith
13 are copies of telephone bills which I incurred while per-
14 forming official duties as acting Staff Director and
15 Chief Counsel under the former Staff Henry P. Gonzales. I
16 trust this voucher will be issued promptly so I will be
17 reimbursed for my actual expenses. I shall look forward to
18 hearing from you as to the matter of the restoration of
19 the January and February, 1977 reduction in my pay so that
20 I may take appropriate action. I appreciate having had
21 an opportunity to serve on the Staff of the Select Committee.

22 "With kind regards, I am Kenneth E. Bruton, Jr."

23 "Enclosed telephone bills for official calls."

24 Mr. Ford. What are they--what is the amount?

25 Mr. Howorth. About \$40.00.

1 *Mrs. Martin* The second letter dated March 10.

2 "The Honorable Louis Stokes, Chairman, House Select
3 Committee on Assassinations, U.S. House of Representatives,
4 Washington, D.C.

5 "Dear Mr. Chairman.

6 "Enclosed herewith is a copy of a letter which was
7 mailed to my former law firm in Gainesville, Florida, on
8 Monday, March 7 1977 and which was received on Wednesday,
9 March 9, 1977, at 2 o'clock p.m.

10 "On Tuesday, March 8, 1977- immediately following
11 the acceptance by the House of Representatives of Chairman
12 Gonzales' resignation, I mailed you my formal resignation
13 from the Staff of the Select Committee, a copy of which is
14 also enclosed.

15 "On Sunday, March 6, 1977, having completed my final
16 reports to former Chairman Gonzales, I moved all of my pos-
17 sessions from my partment and flew to Florida.

18 "A number of people in Washington knew I was leaving
19 Washington and resigning from the Committee. I was not
20 going to tender my formal resignation until such time as
21 the House accepted the resignation of Mr. Gonzales, for to
22 do so would leave Mr. Gonzales without counsel. Since I had
23 decided to resign immediately upon the acceptance by
24 the House of the regisnation of Mr. Gonzales, I saw no
25 reason to stay in Washington where the Committee was to
hold a meeting as my presence at that point would simply

1 provoke unnecessary confrontation.

2 "On Wednesday, March 9, 1977, at 12:15 p.m. I learned
3 from Congressman Gonzales' office that the Select Committee
4 held a special meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 1977, for the
5 sole purpose of firing me, notwithstanding the fact that
6 my resignation was already in the mail to you and that the
7 letter which I received on March 9 directed me to report
8 to the Committee offices that same day. It is implicit
9 in Mr. Lewis' letter that since I was not in the Staff
10 offices since February 9, 1977, that I was not performing
11 duties for the Select Committee.

12 "Enclosed for your information is a copy of a telegram
13 which I received from former Chairman Gonzales on February 11,
14 1977. As you are no doubt aware, both at the request of
15 former Chairman Gonzales as well as Congressman Richardson
16 Preyer, Congressman Walter Fauntroy and Congressman Christo-
17 fer Dodd, I did not go to the Committee Staff Offices so as
18 to not cause unnecessary confrontations. However, I
19 enclose herewith copies of correspondence between myself
20 and Richard Sprague and Majority Leader Wright relating to
21 my continuing efforts to resolve some of the problems con-
22 fronting the Select Committee.

23 "I bring this chronology to your attention as well
24 as the copies of documents which I have enclosed because I
25 can only construe the calling of a special meeting to "fire"

1 me as a vindictive act on the part of Mr. Sprague who
2 could have determined from a number of sources that I
3 had already returned to Florida and intended to submit
4 a formal written resignation as I, in fact, did.

5 "Accordingly, I will appreciate it if you will advise
6 me as to the following: (a) whether a meeting of the
7 Select Committee was held on Tuesday March 8 1977 and if so,
8 was that meeting held in compliance with the rules of the
9 House and the rules of the Select Committee and what
10 official action was taken?

11 "(b) The position of the Committee as to whether my
12 resignation is accepted or whether I was "fired" and the
13 effective date of the acceptance of my resignation or my
14 "firing". I shall look forward to hearing from you. You
15 may feel free to call me at my home in Florida 940-372-8021
16 should you wish to discuss this matter personally.

17 "With kindest regards, I am sincerely

18 "Kenneth E. Bruton, Jr."

19 The Chairman. O.K.

20 Is there any discussion regarding those letters or
21 any comments that the members have?

22 Mr. Ford. Was he fired, Mr. Chairman, or his
23 resignation accepted?

24 The Chairman. AT a meeting that was called as I recall
25 the same day that I was appointed Chairman, we met in my

1 office. It was brought to my attention at that time or
2 to the Committee's attention at that time by Mr. Sprague
3 that both Mr. Bruton and a lady whose name I do not now recall
4 had not worked since the 11th day of February, I believe,
5 and for that reason we were asked to terminate their services.

6 And the Committee at that time took a course of action
7 and we sent our correspondence out that day notifying both
8 persons as I recall it that their services were terminated.

9 Mr. Ford. I mean, did we accept the letter of resig-
10 nation?

11 The Chairman. That had not at that time come in.

12 I think there is a date on that letter.

13 Mr. Ford. I was at that meeting that day, Mr. Chairman
14 I do not recall that, probably--maybe I left-- out of the
15 office but I do not recall our taking up any business
16 on whether we should relieve him, fire him or accept his
17 resignation.

18 Mr. Dodd. Oh, yes we took that.

19 The Chairman. Yes, Mr. Sprague brought it to our
20 attention and we took action formally.

21 Mr. Devine. Mr. Chairman, I think one glaring error
22 in the allegations is the fact that a meeting was called
23 for the sole and specific purpose of firing him. That
24 was not the purpose of the meeting being called, it was
25 our first organizational meeting which, after your having

1 been named chairman, we took up a number of things and that
2 was actually incidental if I recall.

3 The Chairman. One of the items on the agenda,
4 yes.

5 Mr. Devine. Yes.

6 Mr. Anderson. What about his charge that he was promised
7 a 35 percent pay cut; that it would be restored?

8 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, we prepared for the
9 Chairman, Mr. Stokes' response to the first letter. This is
10 the first I have heard of the second letter.

11 With regard to that statement, as I believe I said
12 at the session that we had previously, there was not a
13 promise that a pay cut in fact would be restored.

14 What I said to the Staff, at the initial Staff meeting
15 and what I also said to this committee when I was asked
16 the question about it by Mrs. Burke, was that what I advised
17 the Staff was that I would use my best efforts to see that
18 those that were on the Staff when we would get our new budget
19 would then have the amount of money that had been taken out
20 of their pay, put back in for an interim period until they
21 were made whole again. There was never an assurance that
22 they would get that, and secondly part of what was the
23 condition was that they still be on the Staff when we
24 were recreated and had our new budget.

25 And that is stated in the proposed response by the

1 Chairman.

2 Mr. Devine. Is that your proposed response?

3 The Chairman. Now, we have a proposed response to
4 the first letter.

5 The second letter has just come in a few days ago into
6 my office. Mr. Sprague has not seen that yet. The Clerk
7 can read this proposed reply to the first letter.

8 Ms. Martin. Letter dated March 16 1977.

9 "Mr. Kenneth E. Bruton, Jr.,
10 "3301 Northwest 27th Terrace,
11 "Gainesville, Florida, 32605."

12 "Dear Mr. Bruton.

13 "I am in receipt of your letter of March 8, 1977,
14 submitting your resignation from the Staff of the Select
15 Committee on Assassinations and your request for reimburse-
16 ment for certain phone calls and restoration of the pay
17 reductions you agree to for January and February of 1977.

18 "Your 'resignation' of course, was obviated by the
19 action of the Select Committee on March 8, 1977 terminating
20 your employment with the Committee's staff. The Committee
21 will reimburse you for any phone calls made in pursuit of
22 Committee business. Before any vouchers are processed,
23 it will be necessary for you to submit to me the names of
24 persons you called and a brief statement of the subject
25 matter of each call for which you desire reimbursement.

"In our view, however, you have no valid claim for

1 réstoration of your voluntary pay reduction for January and
2 February of 1977.

3 "Sincerely, Louis Stokes, Chairman. "

4 The Chairman. Approximately how much money are we
5 talking about in terms of this claim?

6 Mr. Howarth. About \$2300.

7 The Chairman. About \$2300.

8 Mr. Howarth. Through March 8.

9 The Chairman. Are there any questions or comments?

10 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, may I also bring to your
11 attention that other people have left our staff voluntarily
12 and as to them as well, they have been advised that anybody
13 leaving the Staff prior to recreation and the getting of
14 a new budget, if we get that, does not get any of that pay
15 differential back.

16 So the people leaving know that that same rule applies
17 to them as well.

18 So, I want the Committee to be aware that there is
19 nothing being done aimed at Mr. Bruton that is any different
20 than anybody else.

21 The Chairman. Mr. Dodd.

22 Mr. Dodd. Mr. Chairman, just in response, I apologize
23 for arriving late. The March 10 letter addressed to you
24 from Mr. Bruton in which he lays out the chronology of
25 events and so forth following his activities, I would like

1 the record to reflect that when he points out at the bottom
2 of the first page of his letter as you are aware and, Con-
3 gressmen Preyer and Fauntroy and myself, the reason he
4 didn't go to the Committee office was not to avoid unnec-
5 essary confrontations, that was a request that was made by
6 myself and Congressman Preyer and Fauntroy, over the weekend
7 which Mr. Sprague was notified that his services were no
8 longer needed by Mr. Gonzales, it was our opinion that
9 particular time given the heat of the situation, it was
10 probably advisable to stay away from the office for a
11 period of time in order to prevent the exacerbation that
12 could occur with his presence there. It was not inferred
13 that he should stay away forever. I think it was made clear
14 two or three times within the first day or two of the
15 following week.

16 Mr. Ford. . What date are we talking about?

17 Mr. Dodd. The dates of that, what was that, Thursday,
18 the date of that Thursday that we received that.

19 Mr. Sprague. I think it was about on the 10th.

20 Mr. Dodd. 10th or 11th of February.

21 Mr. Howorth. 10th of February.

22 Mr. Dodd. That was on a Thursday and then the Con-
23 gressional recess over that weekend the following Monday
24 Mr. Bruton came back to Washington but remained in his
25 apartment rather than go down to the offices but it was

1 never our intention at least certainly not mine that he
 2 should remain away from the offices indefinitely, it was
 3 just during that heated period I just wanted the record to
 4 reflect that. That allegation.

5 The Chairman. Right. I think that is good to have
 6 in the record.

7 Mr. Ford. Mr. Chairman.

8 The Chairman. Mr. Ford.

9 Mr. Ford. I am wondering whether or not--he was
 10 under the impression that he was working for the Chairman
 11 Gonzales at that time--whether or not he had that impression,
 12 that he was to work out of his house or work out of
 13 Mr. Gonzales' office or what--have you, whether or not we
 14 should reconsider our action maybe and accept his resigna-
 15 tion. I am not concerned about the 30 or 35 percent reduc-
 16 tion he received or whether he should be compensated for
 17 that any more than we compensate others who resigned
 18 voluntarily, that we have to come back and do the same
 19 thing but if we are talking about March 8, the letter of
 20 March 8 and we are thinking in terms of this man is gone
 21 now from the Staff, why couldn't we just accept his
 22 resignation because we all know that we had some problems
 23 with the, you know, the Staff in this Committee, with
 24 the Chairman of this Committee at least and certain staff
 25 people.

1 I just do not think that we ought to penalize a
2 person and discharge him from the Staff when at the
3 same time he has shown a good-faith indication of his
4 intent there to resign, why don't we just accept it and
5 call him and pay him the \$40 for his phone bills if he can
6 justify them and get it over with?

7 The Chairman. Any comments?

8 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman, it does not make any
9 difference to me, as long as he is not here.

10 Mr. Ford. Well, that is a known fact now, though.

11 The Chairman. Well, we did send a letter to him in
12 which we said "you are terminated as of this date." I suppose
13 in order to give consideration to what you are--

14 Mr. Ford. You see, we can address this letter, Mr.
15 Chairman, we could address it to him March 8, we met on
16 March 8, is that correct, in your office?

17 The Chairman. I think it was the 8th, wasn't it?

18 Mr. Sprague. I do not know.

19 Mr. Ford. And can we just address it to his letter
20 addressed March 8, and the Committee would accept his resig-
21 nation.

22 Mr. Sprague. Mr. Chairman.

23 The Chairman. Mr. Sprague.

24 Mr. Sprague. May I suggest that maybe a response to
25 him might be that after reviewing that claim that

1 he is making, it is the opinion of the Committee that he
2 does not have a valid claim in terms of the salary,
3 but in the interest of trying to be accommodating, that if
4 he will, let us say, sign a release as to all such claims, the
5 Committee might perhaps be willing to reconsider the action
6 of the dismissal and accept the resignation as of that date,
7 couched in language that would be appropriate.

8 Mr. Devine. It would have to be carefully worded because
9 we do not want to hold it up like a bribe.

10 Mr. Sprague. That is correct.

11 Mr. Devine. We want the record to reflect a resignation
12 rather than firing in order that you drop your claim.

13 Mr. Edgar. I think that perhaps legal language sounds
14 appropriate but I think as a matter of fact it would be
15 looked upon by him as another act of aggression on our
16 part toward him and I think that what Mr. Ford is suggesting
17 is that we just resolve the matter as quietly as possible,
18 and in fact he was fired on the same day he wrote the letter
19 of resignation, I think, or very close to that, and it was
20 a matter of that letter being in the mail and I think,
21 just a brief note to him saying, we are now in receipt
22 of your letter of resignation and in receipt of your
23 second letter, we feel that your compensation is not
24 justified, 35 percent claim, but we do, however, feel that
25 we can at this time accept your resignation as opposed to

