

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN RE: POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS

18 USC 2511 and
18 USC 2512

1.2

United States District Courthouse
3rd & Constitution Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Tuesday, July 17th, 1973

The testimony of E. HOWARD HUNT was taken in the
presence of a full quorum of the Grand Jury.

BEFORE:

JAMES F. NEAL, ESQ.
Assistant Special Prosecutor
United States Department of Justice

GEORGE FRAMPTON, ESQ.
Assistant Special Prosecutor
United States Department of Justice

MRS. JILL VOLMER
Assistant Special Prosecutor
United States Department of Justice

C O N T E N T SWITNESSPAGE

E. HOWARD HUNT

3

E X H I B I T SMarked for
Identification

Grand Jury Exhibit No. EHH-1

60

EHH-2

96

1 The issue of whether or not I was sufficiently re-
2 covered from the shock of my wife's death to stand trial I
3 think had been resolved by that time.

4 Q All right. Did you ever say to anyone, that might
5 have been picked up by Mr. O'Brien, that you thought a good way
6 to handle this or, in substance, the way to handle this -- you
7 had a psychiatrist, by the way, who was willing to testify that
8 you were unable to stand trial, isn't that a fact?

9 A No, sir.

10 Q You did not have such a psychiatrist?

11 A No, sir.

12 Q You didn't have a psychiatrist?

13 A No, sir, I did not.

14 Q Okay.

15 A I was examined by a Government psychiatrist.

16 Q Only a Government psychiatrist?

17 A Only a Government psychiatrist.

18 Q Okay. Now, then, you did have a conversation with
19 Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Paul O'Brien, about the middle of March, 1973,
20 did you not?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q Where did this conversation take place?

23 A It took place in the law offices of Hogan and Hartson.

24 Q That's the firm Mr. Bittman is a member of?

25 A Yes, sir.

1 Q Who was present at that conversation with you and
2 Mr. O'Brien?

3 A Only the two of us.

4 Q During this conversation did you say, in essence, to
5 Mr. O'Brien, first, you apologized for putting him in the middle,
6 and then explained that you only had a certain number of days
7 in which to get your affairs in order and that, again, commit-
8 ments had been made but had not been kept? Did you say those
9 words, in substance?

10 A In substance, yes, sir.

11 Q In substance, to Mr. O'Brien?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q And did you say you'd done a number of "seamy" things
14 for the White House?

15 A I may very well have, yes, sir.

16 Q Well, to the best of your recollection, did you?

17 A Yes, sir. In the context that I wanted him and his
18 principals to -- to remind him and his principals that Watergate
19 was not the only activity that I had engaged in for them.

20 Q And you used the word to describe the nature of those
21 activities, such as "seamy"?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q And you told him to deliver that message, that you had
24 done a number of "seamy" things for the White House, and that
25 if something didn't happen -- referring to your commitment, the

1 commitments -- you would have to review the alternatives. Did
2 you make statements, in substance, to that effect, to Mr.
3 O'Brien?

4 A Can we break that down in two parts, sir?

5 Q Yes, sir.

6 A Would you go into the first half of that? I would
7 like to respond directly to that in one context.

8 Q Well, why don't you just go ahead and tell us how
9 you put it. Tell us the conversation you had with Mr. O'Brien
10 in the offices of Hogan and Hartson in the middle of March,
11 1973.

12 A I did not tell Mr. O'Brien to deliver any messages.
13 That is one part I want to answer specifically.

14 Q Well, did you think Mr. O'Brien -- why were you telling
15 him this, then?

16 A Because I knew that he was a middleman of sorts.

17 Q You knew he would deliver messages, didn't you?

18 A Pardon me?

19 Q You knew he would deliver the message?

20 A I didn't know that he would deliver the message, no,
21 sir.

22 Q Were you saying this just to stop with Mr. O'Brien,
23 Mr. Hunt?

24 A I was hoping that, eventually, it would reach some
25 ears.

1 Q Okay. So what you're saying is you didn't say, in
2 so many words, I want you to deliver a message?

3 A Precisely. He deprecated his role to me very much.
4 He said he only saw people occasionally; that he was just a
5 middle man; he had no influence; he was glad to meet with me,
6 on that basis, so long as I understood, this sort of thing.

7 Q All right. Now, I certainly don't want, at any time
8 during the course of this interview -- and I've told you this
9 before, haven't I, Mr. Hunt?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q Anything but the truth from you, right? Nothing but
12 the truth, at all?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q And I don't want to put any words in your mouth at
15 all. You understand that?

16 A And I don't want Mr. O'Brien to put words into my
17 mouth.

18 Q And I don't want Mr. O'Brien to put words in your
19 mouth. Now, would you prefer to go through what you told Mr.
20 O'Brien in the middle of March, 1973?

21 A To the best of my recollection, yes, sir.

22 Q Yes, sir.

23 A Yes, sir. I had asked specifically for the meeting
24 with Mr. O'Brien because I was within a few days of sentencing.
25 I was in a very depressed physical and, certainly, mental

1 condition. My wife had been killed in December; I was coming
2 up for sentencing very shortly; my financial position was
3 extremely uncertain; I had no idea of what kind of sentence
4 Judge Sirica might meet out.

5 Q Now, what I'm interested in is what you said to Mr.
6 O'Brien. I do understand that position.

7 A I covered all these matters with him.

8 Q Then what I read to you, the substance of that con-
9 versation with the exception, then, that you didn't say, "I
10 want you to deliver a message."

11 A So far, yes, sir.

12 Q Now, with the word "seamy" things for the White House,
13 did you mention any name there?

14 A I never knew who he was dealing with.

15 Q No. In respect to the "seamy" thing, did you mention
16 any name?

17 A I may have said Dean. I may have concluded that he
18 was dealing with John Dean.

19 Q You did the "seamy" things for Dean?

20 A No, sir.

21 Q All right. Did you mention anyone's name for whom
22 you had done these "seamy" things in the White House?

23 A I read press accounts that I said Ehrlichman. I did
24 not say Ehrlichman.

25 Q Forget the press accounts. What do you recollect

1 you said?

2 A I have no recollection that I put a name on it. I
3 said, "I have done a number of seamy things for the White
4 House." The context being that they should take these into
5 consideration as added reason for their obligations to me to
6 help me out of my present plight, which has frightened me to
7 death.

8 Q You have no present recollection of having mentioned
9 Mr. Ehrlichman's name in the course of that?

10 A No, sir, I do not.

11 Q Very well. Now, we understand that what you've been
12 testifying to here today is not something from press reports,
13 right?

14 A Correct.

15 Q What you testified here today is the truth, as well
16 as you know. Not what you've heard from any press reports?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q And no one in here has tried to get you to say any-
19 thing about press reports, you understand that?

20 A Perfectly.

21 Q Did he say to you -- did Mr. O'Brien respond to you
22 about why you didn't contact some of your friends rather than
23 going through him?

24 A He was rather specific about it.

25 Q What did he say?

1 A He said, again -- he assumed a self-deprecatory role
2 and stated that he was a man of little or no influence. He
3 was a message carrier. A middle man, if you will.

4 He said, "Chuck Colson is your friend. Why don't you
5 write him a memorandum?"

6 Q What did you say with respect to that? You've already
7 had one conversation with Mr. Colson. You told him about the
8 "ready". What did you say? What did you say in response to
9 that?

10 A I believe -- first of all, I believed that Mr. O'Brien
11 was a man who was involved with Mr. Mitchell.

12 Q Now, what did you say to him?

13 A So, against that background --

14 Q Yes?

15 A -- I believed Mr. O'Brien to be a Mitchell man rather
16 than a Colson man. I felt that what he wanted was something
17 on the record that could involve Mr. Colson. And so I don't
18 believe I gave him a direct response.

19 To the best of my recollection, I gave him something
20 that I could -- I said, "On the other hand, Chuck hasn't been
21 involved so far. I don't see any reason to involve him now."

22 Q All right. Now, did this conversation with Mr. O'Brien
23 occur about the middle of March, about a week prior to your
24 scheduled sentencing? Is that the best of your recollection?

25 A Approximately, yes, sir.

1 Q And you said that your commitments had not been met
2 and you mentioned that you'd done a number of "seamy" things
3 for the White House; and if the commitments weren't met, you
4 might have to review the alternatives. Correct?

5 A I would put it a different way, sir, to the best of
6 my recollection. That I said that the commitments had not
7 been kept and, accordingly, if I were suddenly to become a
8 very poor man, that I would no longer have options available
9 to me which were currently available.

10 Q And did you mention "seamy" things you had done for
11 the White House?

12 A I had done that previously.

13 Q But in the same conversation?

14 A Yes. I had done seamy things for the White House,
15 yes, period.

16 Q And that if the commitments weren't met, and you
17 would become a poor man, you might have to review the alter-
18 natives?

19 A And see what other steps could be taken on my behalf.

20 Q Now, a few days thereafter, you received a package,
21 didn't you?

22 A Yes.

23 Q How much was in that package?

24 A \$75,000.

25 Q That was the last package you've received to date?

1 A Yes, sir. I also, at that time in the conversation
2 with Mr. O'Brien, told him specifically what my legal fees had
3 amounted to, at that time.

4 Q You said, as a matter of fact, you counted up to
5 about \$70,000 living expenses and \$60,000 legal fees, something
6 like that?

7 A Whatever it was.

8 Q Does that sound about right?

9 A I would guess 50 or 60.

10 Q And a few days after this conversation with Mr. O'Brien
11 you received a package of cash amounting to \$75,000?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Okay. Now, Mr. Frampton is going to question you
14 about some deliveries of money, okay?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q And then you'll be excused for the time being. I'm
17 going to meet our good friend, Mr. Glanzer, so would you all
18 excuse me, and then I'll see you all back at 2:00 this after-
19 noon. Thank you very much for your patience, members of the
20 Grand Jury; and, Mr. Hunt, I'll talk to you later. Okay?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q Excuse me. One thing before I go, if I may. I'll
23 show you what has been marked for identification as Grand Jury
24 Exhibit EHH-2, 7/17/73, and I'll ask you if you recognize that?

25 A I recognize it.