

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
2 ----- X
3 IN RE: POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS :
4 18 USC 2511 and :
5 18 USC 2512 :
6 ----- X

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

August 3, 1973

The testimony of WILLIAM O. BITTMAN was taken in
the presence of a full quorum of the Grand Jury.

BEFORE:

RICHARD BEN-VENISTE, ESQ.
Assistant Special Prosecutor
United States Department of Justice

GERALD GOLDMAN, ESQ.
Assistant Special Prosecutor
United States Department of Justice

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

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1 A I did receive an envelope during that period of time,
2 and I am not sure whether it was in December or not. I just
3 don't know.

4 Let me tell you why I have difficulty with it. I
5 was out of town from December 22nd until late January 2nd.
6 Mr. Hunt was also out of town sometime after his wife was
7 killed, when he went to Florida with his family.

8 I think it somewhat unlikely that I did receive an
9 envelope for him during that period of time, but I could have.
10 I did receive envelopes for him.

11 Q Between October 13th and to date --

12 A Not including the one on October 13th?

13 Q Not including the one on October 13th, how many
14 envelopes have you received in a fashion similar to the fashion
15 you received the one on October 13th for yourself or for Mr.
16 Hunt from this Mr. Rivers or Mr. Baker?

17 A None of them were for myself.

18 Q Well, how many for Mr. Hunt then?

19 A You say in the same fashion?

20 Q Either to your office or your home.

21 A I believe there were four. There might have been
22 three, but I believe there were four.

23 Q Can you describe how those were delivered, and
24 approximately when those were delivered?

25 A I can't give you the dates except for the last one.

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1 I would receive a telephone call either at my office or at
2 my home, and a man who identified himself as Mr. Baker on
3 the phone.

4 Let's say for example, it was at my home. I usually
5 work late and don't get home until eight, nine, or ten o'clock
6 at night.

7 I would get a call in the evening: "Mr. Bittman,
8 this is Mr. Baker. Will you be home at 11:30 tonight?" I
9 would say, "Yes, I will."

10 He would say, "Will you deliver an envelope to Mr.
11 Hunt?", and I would say, "Yes, I will." He would say, "We'll
12 leave it in your mailbox", and I would say, "Fine."

13 I would then go out to the mailbox at approximately
14 11:30 or whatever time it was. I would get the envelope,
15 bring it into my home.

16 The next morning I would call Mr. Hunt and tell Mr.
17 Hunt about the telephone call. He would come to my home at
18 about 7:30 in the morning. I would give him the envelope, un-
19 opened. He would take it to his home, and that would be it.

20 That same modus operandi took place in all the
21 instances with respect to the envelopes that I received at
22 my home. They were all delivered to Mr. Hunt unopened.

23 Q To the best of your recollection this occurred three
24 or four times during that period -- let's say December to
25 April 1st, December of '72 to April of '73.

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A That's my recollection.

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Q

I believe you told us that to the best of your recollection there were two of these deliveries in late January or early February, 1973, and a final delivery sometime about March 21, 1973.

5

6

A

I am not certain at all when these envelopes came in except for the last one, because I think it was within two or three days before he was sentenced.

8

9

The other envelopes that I gave to Mr. Hunt really would have no significance to me whatsoever, so I have no idea when that took place.

11

12

Q

But other than the final envelope which you received on or about March 21, it is your recollection that there were two or three others and they were received in late January or early February? Is that correct?

15

16

A

I would say possibly one in December. I just don't know. The others would have been January or February. Yes, sir.

18

19

Q

When did Mr. Hunt make payments of legal fees to your firm, on what dates?

20

21

A

Well, the legal fees that Mr. Hunt paid to me in January and in April came directly from the proceeds of his deceased wife's insurance policies.

23

24

Q

The dates and the amounts?

25

A

The dates were, as I said before, January 23, I

90 1 ticket, a transfer. We did assist him in that sense. I
2 didn't do it personally, but someone in our firm did.

3 Other than that, we had nothing else to do with it.

4 BY MR. FRAMPTON:

5 Q Going back to the envelopes which were delivered to
6 you for Mr. Hunt, it is your testimony, is it, that when the
7 individual, Mr. Baker, called up to arrange to make these
8 deliveries to you, that he told you that these envelopes were
9 for Mr. Hunt?

10 A Absolutely.

11 Q Did the envelopes, when they arrived, have anything
12 written on them, on the outside of them?

13 A I don't think anything was written on them.

14 Q They were just plain blank envelopes?

15 A They were blank envelopes and they were left in
16 my office.

17 Q Did Mr. Hunt subsequently tell you what was in the
18 envelopes?

19 A He did.

20 Q What did he tell you?

21 A In connection with his Grand Jury proceedings, he
22 told me that there was cash in the envelopes.

23 Q Did he tell you how much cash was in each of the
24 different envelopes that he received?

25 A Eventually in his testimony before the Senate and

91 1 the Grand Jury, I learned that.

2 Q What did you tell you were the amounts?

3 A He told me that in the first envelope there was
4 \$15,000, \$12,000 of which he sent to these friends, the Cuban
5 Americans, \$3,000 of which he kept for living expenses.

6 He said that the next delivery of \$50,000 could
7 have come in either one or two packages or envelopes. He's
8 not sure, totalling \$50,000, and the last delivery of \$75,000.

9 That is what I learned from Mr. Hunt in connection
10 with his testimony before the Grand Jury and before the
11 Senate committee.

12 Q Since you had already received two cash payments
13 yourself which had been opened by you or in front of you in
14 July and October, 1972, weren't you well aware that these
15 envelopes in fact contained cash?

16 A I was not well aware.

17 Q When you passed them to Mr. Hunt?

18 A I was not well aware.

19 Q You were not well aware of that?

20 A I was not. Mr. Baker never told me there was any
21 cash in those envelopes.

22 BY MR. BEN-VENISTE:

23 Q Did you suspect that there was?

24 A I would say particularly with the last payment be-
25 cause of the timing of it, shortly before he went to jail.

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1 But I had no specific knowledge that there was cash in those
2 envelopes.

3 Q Short of opening them, the entire history of your
4 dealings with people who identified themselves as Rivers and
5 Baker indicated to you, did it not, that the probability was
6 that there would be cash in those envelopes?

7 A Well, I never thought about it in those terms. My
8 recollection is, Mr. Ben-Veniste, that those first two payments
9 came from Rivers. Baker was a new entity.

10 I now know from Mr. LaRue's testimony that he claims
11 that he's the one who called me in October.

12 Q Well, Mr. LaRue has testified here. My question is
13 simply whether at the time you thought it probable that they
14 contained cash.

15 A I can't say I thought it probable. If I thought it
16 probable, I would have made no notation at my home and I
17 would be able to tick off, chapter and verse, the dates of the
18 receipts and every word that Mr. Baker told me had I thought
19 there was anything unusual about it.

20 Q Did you inquire of Mr. Baker or anyone else as to
21 why you were receiving these envelopes?

22 A I did not, and I wish I had.

23 Q Did there come a time when you had a conversation
24 with Mr. McCord -- I have just one or two more questions and
25 then we'll be finished. Some of the Grand Jurors have to