

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN RE: POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS

18 USC 2511 and
18 USC 2512

271

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

January 30, 1974

The testimony of HARRY R. HALDEMAN 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

JILL VOLNER
Assistant Special Prosecutor
United States Department of Justice

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

GEORGE T. FRAMPTON, JR., ESQ.
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1 have added that "through Mr. Higby", prior to the time that
2 you received a large number of tapes on or about April 25th.

3 A That is not my belief or recollection, no.

4 Q It is your testimony that the first time you ever
5 had a tape or tapes in your possession was the occasion some-
6 time in late April, around the 25th, when you received a large
7 number of tapes all at one time?

8 A Yes. I have no recollection of any -- the only
9 reason I'm hesitating is I am trying to be sure because, as I
10 am not sure of dates, I don't have a log on dates and a fix
11 on dates, but as we have reconstructed and did in Judge Sirica's
12 Court, the date, the April 25th date, would seem to me to be
13 the time that I listened to the tape for the first time. That
14 was the first time I had a tape.

15 Q Now on that occasion that you received, among other
16 things the April 21st tape --

17 A March 21st.

18 Q I'm sorry, March 21st tape, can you recall how it
19 was that you received a large number of other tapes?

20 A No. We have gone through this before and I --

21 Q Well, not before this Grand Jury.

22 A Oh, I thought we had when I was in here. I'm sorry.
23 I don't -- the only basis would be that I had asked for or
24 the request had been made for the tapes covering a number of
25 conversations. The intent, as I recall it, was to listen to

1 the March 21st one.

2 It may well have been that there was an intent or
3 a contingent intention to listen to others. I don't recall
4 that, but I do recall there being a number of tapes delivered
5 at the time that I first received the tapes.

6 Q Did Mr. Higby play some role in furnishing these
7 tapes to you?

8 A I'm not sure. As I have testified before, it is
9 possible and not at all unlikely that in requesting the tapes,
10 I asked Mr. Higby to get them for me, to contact Mr. Bull, who
11 was I guess at that time the contact point or the custodian
12 of the taping system, or that I called Mr. Bull direct. I am
13 not sure which. I could have done it either way. It would
14 have been a very normal procedure either way.

15 Q Now you don't recall the circumstances with any
16 particularity as to why it was you were furnished with a large
17 number of tapes. If the number twenty-two is something about
18 which you cannot testify with some clarity, I will state to
19 you for the record that this is the number that is indicated
20 was removed at the time.

21 I think you have testified that it was a large number
22 of tapes, certainly more than a dozen, I think your testimony
23 was.

24 A I'm not sure that it was put that way, but I think
25 in Judge Sirica's Court questioning, I said that I had no basis

1 and no reason to question the logs that I think you had, or
2 the listing of the tapes that had been checked out at that
3 time, and I would so testify today that I have no basis for
4 questioning that list of tapes made or the number of tapes.

5 I can't confirm that that's it, but I have no reason
6 to question it.

7 Q Going back to the date that you received them, do
8 you recall being surprised at the number of tapes that were
9 furnished to you?

10 A No, I don't.

11 Q So that on the basis of that you would think that it
12 was within your contemplation at the time that you were to
13 receive a number of tapes?

14 A That I can accept as a conclusion. I don't have a
15 recollection of having expected a number, but I also have no
16 recollection of being surprised at the number.

17 Q Now what did you do after you received the tapes and
18 the tape recorder that was furnished along with them?

19 A I listened to the March 21st tape.

20 Q Where did you do that?

21 A In a small annex office off the reception room to
22 my office.

23 Q For how long did you listen to that conversation?

24 A I'm not sure. I think my log gives some indication
25 as to that. I don't remember what it was, but it was long

1 enough to go through it and make notes on the tape.

2 Q What did you listen to for March 21st?

3 A I listened to the recording of the meeting between
4 the President and Mr. Dean at which I was present for the
5 latter portion of it.

6 Q Did you listen to the portion of the conversation
7 during which Mr. Dean was present with the President only?

8 A I think so, yes. It is my recollection that I
9 started at the beginning of the President's meeting with Mr.
10 Dean.

11 Q And you listened through to the end of it?

12 A That would be my best recollection, yes. I think I
13 did.

14 Q Did you listen to some portions more than once?

15 A Yes, in the sense of not being able to discern what
16 was said, and going back in a short jump and listening to a
17 replay of a segment or something that was said that I didn't
18 understand or didn't hear.

19 Q Did you take notes?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Did you listen to any other conversation aside from
22 the one you described on that date?

23 A No.

24 Q What did you do after you finished listening to the
25 March 21 tape?

1 A I believe -- and I don't know that I went directly,
2 but I think I did -- that I went to the President's office.
3 My recollection is that it was the EOB office. I gave him
4 a rundown on the content of the tape.

5 Q Did you physically give your notes to him on the
6 content of the tape?

7 A No, I didn't. I'm almost sure I didn't.

8 Q Did you use your notes in making this report to the
9 President?

10 A Yes, I'm sure I did.

11 Q Do you recall what you said to the President in
12 substance and what he said to you?

13 A No, except that I tried to review for him the content
14 of the tapes and answer questions that he had regarding specific
15 points in the conversation that I heard on the tape.

16 Q What questions did the President ask you?

17 A There were a number of them. We had had some dis-
18 cussion at this point or at an earlier session. I am not sure.

19 Q What is your best recollection?

20 A My recollection is that there was discussion back
21 and forth on a number of the points that were discussed within
22 the tape as to what specifically was said and what the tape
23 indicated.

24 My listening to the tape was under difficult circum-
25 stances, and I am not sure that I was able to answer all of

1 the questions that were raised. There was discussion of
2 specific points.

3 Q Well, what do you recall?

4 A I don't have any recollection of specifics. We talk-
5 ed about this before here and you asked, as I recall, the same
6 kind of questions and I had the same problem.

7 I volunteered then and I can now to going back and
8 trying to reconstruct point by point, and I can work from the
9 notes to do that, and do it maybe more accurately.

10 Q You think you are able to discuss what questions the
11 President asked you and what your responses were by reviewing
12 your notes?

13 A I'm not sure that I could.

14 Q Let me ask you specifically whether the President
15 asked you if Mr. Hunt was paid his money?

16 A I don't believe so.

17 Q You don't believe so?

18 A I don't believe so, no.

19 Q Do you recall having a conversation with the
20 President about whether the payment of money to Hunt constituted
21 an unlawful act in substance?

22 A There was discussion of that at various times subse-
23 quent to March 21st. I can't put a fix on what was dsicussed
24 by whom at what time.

25 Q Let's have your narration of what you do recall, and