

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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IN RE: POSSIBLE VIOLATIONS :  
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18 USC 2511 and :  
18 USC 2512 :  
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United States District Courthouse  
3rd & Constitution Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

February 13, 1974

The testimony of FRED CL. LARUE 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

KAREN S. SCHENBERG  
14 Wade Court  
Baltimore, Maryland 20760  
(301) 340-2119

1 Bittman in the afternoon, do you recall whether that was a  
2 telephone call in Mr. Bittman's office?

3 A That would certainly be my recollection so certainly  
4 my assumption that the call would have been made through his  
5 office, yes.

6 Q If it were not to his office, if he had left already  
7 it would have been to his home, I take it?

8 A That would be true.

9 Q So you would place that at sometime in the latter  
10 part of the afternoon or the early evening?

11 A The first call?

12 Q Yes.

13 A I would place it in the afternoon.

14 Q Now prior to making that call, I take it you had had  
15 discussions with other people concerning whether to make this  
16 delivery.

17 A That is correct.

18 Q That day had you spoken to Mr. Dean and Mr. Mitchell?

19 A That is correct.

20 Q Now starting with Mr. Dean, can you tell us what Mr.  
21 Dean told you in substance?

22 A My best recollection of that phone call is that Mr.  
23 Dean called me. He stated that he had had a request for a  
24 delivery of money to Mr. Bittman for Mr. Hunt's attorneys fees  
25 and for Mr. Hunt's expenses, living expenses.

1 Q Okay.

2 A He indicated to me that he was passing this informa-  
3 tion on to me for whatever purpose I wanted to make of it,  
4 that he was not going to have any further involvement, contact,  
5 in the delivery of monies to the so-called Watergate defendants,  
6 and that I would have to exercise my own judgment to decide  
7 what to do about this request.

8 I told Mr. Dean that unless I was authorized by  
9 someone that I would not make this delivery, at which point  
10 he suggested that I call Mr. Mitchell.

11 Q Did Mr. Dean in that conversation indicate that there  
12 was a sense of urgency about this?

13 A Yes. I recall that he indicated there was a sense  
14 of urgency. To the best of my recollection he mentioned some-  
15 thing to the effect that Mr. Hunt was due to be sentenced, I  
16 think within the next two or three days, and he did imply a  
17 sense of urgency about it, yes.

18 Q I take it Mr. Dean identified an amount of money in  
19 the course of that conversation that Mr. Hunt was asking for?

20 A That is correct. My recollection is that there was  
21 \$75,000 required for attorneys fees, and \$60,000 required for  
22 his living expenses.

23 Q Now I take it you had a conversation with Mr.  
24 Mitchell following that with Mr. Dean.

25 A That is correct.

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2119

1 Q Can you recall to the best of your recollection the  
2 substance of that conversation?

3 A As it relates to the delivery of this money, I can,  
4 yes. I told Mr. Mitchell of my conversation with John Dean,  
5 indicating that Dean was not going to be involved any further  
6 in the authorization and distribution of money.

7 I told Mr. Mitchell that we had had a request for  
8 \$75,000 for Mr. Hunt. He asked me what it was for. I told  
9 him to the best of my knowledge it was for attorney's fees,  
10 and he said that under the circumstances, he said, "I think  
11 you ought to pay it", which I proceeded to do.

12 Q Is it a fact then that you didn't mention to Mr.  
13 Mitchell the request for \$60,000?--

14 A This is my best recollection --

15 Q Mr. LaRue, let me finish the question. \$60,000  
16 for maintenance.

17 A To the best of my recollection this is true. I  
18 think this was a decision I made myself. It was certainly  
19 a rather large sum of money involved, quite frankly approach-  
20 ing the amount of money which I had on hand at that time.

21 The only amount of money I recall discussing with  
22 Mr. Mitchell was the \$75,000 which was delivered.

23 Q Was there anything in the conversation you had with  
24 Mr. Mitchell by which Mr. Mitchell indicated that he had or  
25 had not heard of this request earlier than the time of your

1 conversation?

2 A Nothing that would indicate to me one way or the  
3 other.

4 Q Now in fixing the date of these events, do you  
5 recall that the date following this delivery of money you  
6 learned that Mr. Mitchell was in Washington?

7 A I don't specifically recall Mr. Mitchell being in  
8 Washington on that particular day. I do recall him being in  
9 Washington a couple of times in this time frame, but as far  
10 as the specific date, I can't recall.

11 Q Now independently do you have any recollection of  
12 the precise date of the request to Mr. Millican to deliver  
13 the funds?

14 A The precise date of the request?

15 Q Yes.

16 A The date would be on the day he delivered it. It  
17 would have been that specific day.

18 Q I mean can you recall of your own recollection, or  
19 through any of your own notes, what day this was? We know it  
20 was in late March from your recollecting the events, but  
21 specifically can you recall the precise day?

22 A I can't specifically recall the precise day. No,  
23 sir.

24 Q All you can be sure of is that it was the evening  
25 of the dinner party with Mr. Unger?

1 A That is correct.

2 Q At which you had the problem with your fireplace?

3 A That is right.

4 THE FOREMAN: Mr. LaRue, could you in any way estab-  
5 lish that? I think you testified that this was the day that  
6 Mr. Unger arrived in Washington.

7 THE WITNESS: My personal opinion is that Mr. Unger  
8 is an attorney and keeps probably a lot better records than I  
9 do, travel vouchers and so forth. I would imagine he could  
10 determine that date.

11 THE FOREMAN: So you could provide that for us then?

12 THE WITNESS: I could?

13 THE FOREMAN: Through Mr. Unger?

14 THE WITNESS: I think Mr. Unger could provide that.  
15 I don't have any access.

16 BY MR. BEN-VENISTE:

17 Q Now you had asked Mr. Millican to provide the same  
18 service for you on two prior occasions.

19 A That is correct.

20 Q And on those occasions did you telephone Mr. Bittman  
21 identifying yourself as Mr. Baker?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Can you tell us the circumstances of the first time  
24 that you used Mr. Baker as an alias?

25 A Yes. This would be back in I think October of 1972