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JUNE 26, 1996

HEARING
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT REFORM
AND OVERSIGHT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ONE HUNDRED FOURTH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

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Mr. STROMAN. My understanding is that this is not a deposition consistent with—or pursuant to an H. Res. 369; that you are—the testimony—the witness is here voluntarily and he is going to give a sworn statement.

Is that correct?

Ms. OLSON. That's precisely correct. He is here just to give a sworn statement and state what he knows. I am just going to ask him who he is, where he lives and what company he has.

My only other real question is why did he decide to do this.

Okay?

Mr. STROMAN. Okay.

EXAMINATION BY MS. OLSON:

Question. If you could give your full name?

Answer. My full name is Dennis Michael Casey, C-A-S-E-Y.

Question. And can you just tell us what you do for a living?

Answer. Yes. I own a public relations firm and I function also as a political consultant and a political analyst.

Question. And where is your public relations firm located?

Answer. In Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Question. And when you function as a political analyst, is that out of your firm?

Answer. Yes, it's one of the services we provide through the firm.

Question. At this time, I would just ask you, do you have a statement to make?

Answer. Yes, I do.

Question. Would you please give that statement?

Answer. Yes, ma'am.

In 1984, I was hired to assist in the Primary Election effort of former United States Senator Gary Hart in Pennsylvania. Specifically, I assisted in scheduling the candidate and directing the political activities in western Pennsylvania. The campaign—

Question. I don't mean to interrupt you, but you need to go a little slower. Okay.

Answer. The campaign used my private office at 1502 East Carson Street on the South Side of Pittsburgh, and an office also existed in the Westin William Penn Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh. My office was for statewide staff and the hotel office was for national staff members.

I first came in contact with Craig Livingstone in the William Penn Hotel. A meeting was held because of concern that local and State labor leaders and some prominent public officials were strongly allied behind the candidacy of Walter Mondale.

Mr. Livingstone had a legal pad with him and he began to report on some of the peccadilloes and vulnerabilities of these persons in hopes of either neutralizing them or getting their support switched from Mondale to Hart. I do not recall the names of the leaders at this time, but I do recall a number of them were from the Beaver County area of which Mr. Livingstone was a native. I should note, too, that's a strong labor section and a heavy Democratic voter registration area.

I was greatly upset with Mr. Livingstone, as I viewed the matters he was reporting as personal matters that would adversely affect the lives and families of these people. I told him that I wanted no such work done in this area and that I felt the mere gathering of this information could harm the efforts of Senator Hart and that any attempt to use the information would cause the labor leaders to support the opponent even more adamantly, in my opinion.

Mr. Livingstone disagreed, and I reinforced my direction to him to stop that type of work. He, as I recall, left the room angrily.

That evening I met Mr. Marceca, who I understand was a member of the Hart national campaign staff assigned to Pittsburgh. He seemed like an affable man when a group of us were having an after-work cooling-out session at Mario's Restaurant, adjacent to my then office.

He talked to me about the worth of Mr. Livingstone's information, and I recall he stated it was time for the Hart campaign to play "hardball" with the dirt Mr. Livingstone had gathered. I stated I would have no part of it and that was not how I viewed the political process as working.

The next morning, I came in my office and was informed that Mr. Marceca had been in my office prior to my arrival and had removed money from the petty cash box. I checked the drawer and \$200 was missing.

I tracked him down through telephone calls and whatnot, and he apologized, but he said that he needed the funds urgently to get handbills printed and distributed concerning an upcoming visit by the Senator to the South Side. He said he also needed the money to pay community children or urchins to distribute the fliers door-to-door.

The next day, young children began to show up at the office asking for their pay. I tried to reach Mr. Marceca, but was unable to do so. I paid them from my pocket. I think it was \$5 or \$10 each, as I recall. I tried to reach Mr. Marceca, but he did not get back in touch with me.

Shortly thereafter, the woman who owned a print shop down the street approached me and asked to be paid for the fliers. I paid her. I again attempted to call Mr. Marceca. My call was not returned.

At that point, I approached my codirector, Dan Calegari, who I will deviate from the statement for a moment, is from Hill, New Hampshire, as I recall. He was sent in from New Hampshire to Pittsburgh. And I told him about this apparent theft.

We called a man whose name I recall was Page Reese in the Washington Hart office, who was in charge of national staff, I understand. I told Mr. Reese that in my opinion, Mr. Marceca had committed theft and that he would not be permitted back in my office.

The next day, Mr. Marceca telephoned me to state that he had been reamed out by Mr. Reese, and I remember the quote—it stayed in my mind all these years—you guys got me good, right between the eyes, and he slammed down the phone after that.

That night, a Gary Hart confidante, Billy Shore, who was a member of the Senator's personal Senate staff, arrived in Pittsburgh. In a meeting at the William Penn Hotel, with Dan Calegari in attendance, I aired my concerns about the campaign tactics of these men and I stated that unless they were distanced from the campaign, I would resign.

Billy called Washington. I don't know who he spoke with down here, and to the best of my knowledge, both men were not seen around the Pennsylvania campaign again, that I was aware of.

I never heard of these guys again until I read newspaper accounts of the FBI files matter. I then saw on CNN a film clip of Mr. Livingstone and it triggered my memory of the events. And that's really what I know about these gentlemen.

Question. To the best of your memory, is the statement which you have given a truthful statement?

Answer. Oh, yes, ma'am.

Question. Can you just tell us, in your own words, why you are here today?

Answer. It's going to take a minute. I've been in the political consulting business for 33 years and in the last several years, I have seen what I regard as thug elements entering the business. In 1994, I did a congressional campaign for a gentleman named Ron Klink of Pennsylvania.

His opponent in that period hired a private detective to research the adoption records of Mr. Klink's children, to research me and to research my child who at that time worked in Washington. Let me rephrase that. My oldest daughter who worked in Washington.

I was revulsed by that, and I firmly believe I have an obligation to the people, the 99 percent of the people in this industry who work on issues, who work honestly to get people elected, to make sure that this sort of thing doesn't happen. And if it happens at the White House, and I stress, if it happens at the White House, it has to stop.

I also realize I am putting myself at a great deal of personal and professional risk by doing this. I went to church before I called the committee to reflect on what I should do and I decided that this was the right thing to do, and I cannot judge innocence or guilt of these men or anything like that. I only know this period of time what happened, and that's why I am here today.

Ms. OLSON. Do you have anything, Mr. Stroman?

EXAMINATION BY MR. STROMAN:

Question. Do you have any specific knowledge of the matters involved in the White House file controversy?

Answer. No, sir. No, sir. None whatsoever.

Mr. STROMAN. Okay.

Ms. OLSON. Any other questions?

Mr. STROMAN. No.

Ms. OLSON. Ms. Comstock.

Ms. COMSTOCK. I don't, either.

The record is down.

The WITNESS. Thank you.

[Casey Exhibit No. 1 was marked for identification.]

[Whereupon, at 3:35 p.m., the deposition was concluded.]