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COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND
OVERSIGHT

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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In the matter of: :

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WHITE HOUSE TRAVEL : DEPOSITION OF LISA WETZL

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Monday, June 17, 1996

Washington, D.C.

The deposition in the above matter was held in Room 2203,
Rayburn House Office Building, commencing at 5:05 p.m.

Appearances:

Staff Present for the Government Reform and Oversight
Committee: Barbara Olson, Chief Counsel; Barbara
Comstock, Majority Counsel; Kristi Remington, Investigator;
David Schooler, Minority Chief Counsel.

For LISA WETZL:

transcript. Do you understand that?

Ms. Wetzl. Yes.

Ms. Olson. You are accompanied by your counsel this morning. I ask that you be sworn in at this time by the court reporter.

THEREUPON,

LISA WETZL,

a witness, was called for examination by Counsel, and after having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION BY MS. OLSON:

Q Do you have any questions before we get started?

A No.

Q Can you just give a brief work history from college until today?

A From college till today? Okay.

In June -- I graduated in May of 1993. In June, 1993, I began a White House internship. In August of 1993, I was hired by the White House Personnel Security Office as a staff assistant. In -- and I am not sure of the exact date -- but in the fall of 1994, I was promoted to Executive Assistant, White House Personnel Security. September, I believe, of 1995, I left the White House and began to work for the Department of the Army.

Q I am sorry. The Department of?

A Department of the Army.

Q And what's your position with the Department of the Army?

A Confidential Assistant to the Secretary of the Army.

Q And for the record, can you state the person to whom you

the Update Project?

A While Tony was there?

Q Yes.

A No.

Q When Tony left, did he hand off his work to anyone?

A No.

Q What happened with the work that was progressing on the Update Project?

A As far as I could tell, it went by the wayside again.

Q Just to be clear, it went -- was not being worked on in June and August of 1993 until Mr. Marceca came?

A Nancy.

Q Just Nancy. Then it started out with Mr. Marceca in August of 1993 with some interns working on it, am I correct, after he finished --

A I don't know that interns were working on it. The interns were there for general office support. We all used them. So when you asked me who else was working on it, they could have helped him do light typing or whatever he needed, but I don't know that they helped him or what they helped him with.

Q He was working on it after he finished his 86s in the fall and perhaps interns were helping, and when he left in February it stopped again, to the best of your knowledge?

A Yes.

Q Did there come a time when you became aware of some problems with the Update Project at any time?

A Yes.

Q Can you describe what happened?

A Eventually I started up the project again or looked into starting up the project again because I knew it eventually had to be completed. And I came to understand, looking through Tony's work, just trying to reconstitute what he had done and what Nancy had done, that there were problems with the Update Project.

Q Can you describe what you discovered?

A Tony had separated his files from the rest of the files, I assume for easier access for him. I looked at those stacks of files and I -- the first thing I realized was that there were an awful lot of them, considering they were only A through G. And just working for the office -- it had been a couple of years at least -- I didn't think that there were that many holdovers.

Q Where were these files?

A In the vault, but on an empty row. It is hard to describe these machines if you have never seen one. They take up an entire wall. There are rows of bins. They are machines, so you push a button and this thing rotates around, and it is 15 rows and bins that you can put files in. His were separated from the rest of the files in just an empty row.

Q Did pretty much all files go into these giant file cabinets?

A Yes.

Q So everything you were working on, if you wanted to put it in a file, would be in those file cabinets?

A Right.

Q Can you describe what you discovered when you saw that there were a lot more than you figured should be from A to G? Was there a list with them?

A No, not that I saw.

Q As you were trying to pick up the project, what besides the files -- did you have to try to see what Mr. Marceca had done and where the project was at?

A I can't recall exactly what of Tony's was left there. I know he just left stuff there that he had been working on. I cannot recall what exactly. I didn't use it, so I don't know. I can't recall exactly what was there.

Q Was there any kind of index with the files or any list?

A Not that I can remember.

Q So when you discovered there was just this row of files, what did you do?

A Right. There was this row of files; I knew they were Tony's and I knew they were the Update Project and I knew the goal of the Update Project, so I assumed too many people. I glanced at the names on the files. Then I knew that some of these files has been mistakenly ordered, or I assumed had been mistakenly --

Q How did you know that?

A Because I recognized a name that I knew did not work at the White House anymore.

Q Do you remember what name it was?

A Marlin Fitzwater.

Q What did you do once you saw a file with Mr. Fitzwater's name on it?

A I thought to myself, Tony ordered the whole list -- did not figure out who was still there and who wasn't still there, and had ordered these files; and I was exasperated because I realized I would have to try and sort it out.

Q What do you mean by he "ordered the whole list"?

A Although I didn't see the list specifically that Tony worked off of, at that point I was fairly confident -- I had seen other Secret Service lists, so I had a general idea of what his list looked like; and I thought to myself, he ordered -- because the Secret Service list had had lots of people from the previous administration on it, I thought to myself, he didn't stop to figure out who was still here, which I had taken for

last investigation that that person had. That is important because every five years someone has to be updated and a new investigation done. And to me, when I took over the project, that was where my sense of urgency came from, from having to get this over with, to figure out who was still there, who we were responsible for; because I thought -- and it later turned out to be correct -- that people were due for updates.

And so when we got the report, we checked the date. If they needed an update, we would contact them to fill out a new SF-86 and we would start a new investigation with the FBI and put the old reports in their files. If they were not due for an update, I would make a note when they were due for an update, and then just put the report in the file and it would go in the regular files.

Q When Tony left, did you take on the responsibility for continuing the work on the Update Project?

A Take on the responsibility --

Q Or were you assigned the responsibility?

A Assigned, no. There was no one left to do it. I did it later, started working on it because I was aware that it had to be done.

Q Therefore, you saw that there were too many files that Tony had?

A Right.

Q Did you look through those files to find which ones fit your new list?

A Yes.

Mr. Wilson. Do you mean, did she look through the files themselves or did she look at the names on the files?

Mr. Schooler. The names on the files.

The Witness. The names on the files, yes.

BY MR. SCHOOLER:

materials she found that Nancy Gemmell had left.

Ms. Olson. She stated that once she found Marlin Fitzwater's file, recognized it, you looked for lists.

BY MS. OLSON:

Q At any point did you alert anyone else of what you had discovered?

A I saw Marlin Fitzwater's file. I saw his name, and the sheer number of the files that there were A through G, I deduced from that that there were, you know, several, at least, files there that we did not need; they were not current employees.

That is when I thought -- then I looked through some of Tony's stuff to see what he had done. I can't remember exactly what his list looked like.

Then I looked through Nancy's stuff to see what she had done. I found them both pretty much useless and started from scratch, trying to figure out who had worked there.

Q Did you inform anyone that you had found Marlin Fitzwater and others' files?

A I told Craig Livingstone that I believed Tony had ordered files we didn't need and may have said we have -- Marlin Fitzwater's file is there. I said, "Craig, Tony ordered all these files of previous administration people that we don't need."

Q What was his reaction?

A I don't remember because there wasn't any kind of strong reaction or any instructions or anything that I can recall.

Q Did he instruct you to do anything?

A No. With those files or in general?

Q With those files.

A No.

Q Did he act like he knew about them and give you any indication that he knew about them?

A Honestly, I cannot remember his reaction. He didn't seem concerned, and I didn't feel that it was -- you know, I wasn't overly concerned; I was more frustrated.

Q Did he go and look at them to check out what you had just told him?

A No; I don't think so.

Q Do you know why those files were separate from all the other files, on their own row?

Mr. Wilson. Wait. So we are clear, what do you mean by "those files"?

Ms. Olson. Mr. Marceca's files that had the "Marlin Fitzwater" name along with other Bush administration individuals.

Mr. Wilson. So we are clear, I think what she has testified to is that those files also included a number of files for people who were current Clinton administration -- who were employed in the Clinton administration. Is that clear on the record?

Ms. Olson. No. Let's make it clear.

BY MS. OLSON:

Q What do you mean by "number of files in the current Clinton" -- was it half and half?

A No. What was separate was, rows 1 through 15 in the file machine were all of the files that we had on people, you know, that were up to date and that -- our working files; put it that way.

The row after row 15 was separate. That was Tony's stuff, Tony's project. We called it Tony's row.

Within that row, after he left, I looked at this row, trying to figure out what he had done, had gotten accomplished, and it was files A through G.

Within A through G were files of people we needed, previous administration employees who still worked there, that we

would need their file then.

I believe that is what you were trying to clear up. There were files we needed and files we didn't need in that group A through G.

Q Do you know what relationship with files you needed and didn't need that were within Tony's row?

Mr. Wilson. You mean the ratio of needed to not needed?

Ms. Olson. Yes.

The Witness. At that time, no. It took me months to figure out who was still there and who wasn't. There was a greater proportion of people we did not need anymore.

BY MS. OLSON:

Q When you first discovered the Fitzwater and other files, when was that? Do you remember what month?

A I can't remember exactly what month I started working on it.

Q It was after February of '94, I take it?

A It was after the fall of '94, way after Tony had left.

Q After you discovered the files, how long did they stay there before you boxed them up?

A I can only estimate. I started -- when I was promoted to executive assistant is when I, you know, felt I could start this project on my own and get it over with, because I knew it had to be done. That was in the fall of '94. So sometime after the fall of '94 I started looking into this project and trying to finish it.

Tony's row, after I started, it was there for at least a few months -- I can't be sure -- while I tried to figure out which of those files we still needed to keep.

Q So Mr. Marceca leaves in February of '94, and is it your statement that you then started to pick up the project after the fall of '94?

Q Can you tell me what you recognize about it and what handwriting you don't recognize having seen?

A These are the lists that I would have -- I would either personally put together or have the interns put together of things we were archiving to Records Management, and we would keep a copy and give one to Records Management.

And you asked what I didn't recognize on here -- all this stuff. I know who Terry Good is, but this writing here is not ours, and this at the top, "White House Security Office," is not ours. Box 1 may be ours, but I am not sure.

Q So when you delivered the first page of Deposition Exhibit 2, it would have "box 1" with the typing?

A Right.

Q Did you actually deliver it to Records Management, the boxes?

A They were right next door to us. I either did it -- I either walked over with an intern or -- I mean, I had archived a few things besides this, and so it was either I who -- I don't think I physically carried it, I think I made an intern physically carry it over, but I either went with them or told them where to go.

Q The handwriting that you said that you didn't recognize on this piece of paper says, "Received in ORM by Terry Good on 12-1-94."

Do you recall, when it was carried over there, if there were notations made when it was received or other archiving that they regularly made notations that they had received it and dates?

A That they received it, did Records Management make a mark on there? I don't know?

Can I point out one thing? These are two different lists for different archives.

Q Okay. Because we received it together.

I would go to page 2. Below that it says, "Enclosure filed,

oversize attachments," and then has a line with "CF 159" stamped on the same first page of Deposition Exhibit 2. Do you know what that is?

A No.

Q Have you ever seen that on any other lists that you have turned over to archives?

A I didn't see the lists after I turned them over to Records Management, so no.

Q Do you recognize this type of markings from any other list that might have been turned over at another time as being some sort of regular markings on these?

A I never saw the list after I gave it to them, so no.

Q Under the stamp of enclosures, it says, "One box filed 12-2-94." Do you have any recollection if the date that you sent it over to Records Management was 12-01 or 12-02-94?

A It easily could have been.

Q You don't have a recollection of the exact date?

A I know I archived this stuff before I archived the other ones.

Q So all the items that are listed on this first page with box 1, does that mean they are within one box, these documents, or --

A Yes, I believe so. These are all old office paperwork basically that I didn't feel comfortable just throwing away, but we had no use for them, and they were taking up space. So I filled up a box with as much stuff as I could fill, and had an intern make a list of pretty much what I was putting in there, and archived it.

Q The first thing on there is a master -- United States Secret Service master list, 93, volume 1. Do you know if that was one of the lists that you were looking at?

A I can't remember, because there were different access lists that they would give us. The Secret Service gave us a