

- 1 -

## OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Date of transcription 1/29/98

On 1/29/98, a federal Grand Jury subpoena was served on **DAVID GROBAINE, owner** of Briarwood Bookstore, Maryland Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland. Service of the subpoena was effected at his place of business. The subpoena specified his appearance before the Grand Jury on February 3, 1998 as well the production of documents relating to the sale of a book as specified in the subpoena.

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Investigation on 1/29/98 at Annapolis, Maryland File # 29D-OIC-LR-35063  
by [REDACTED] Date dictated 1/29/98

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- 1 -

## OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Date of transcription 1/29/98

DAVID GROBAINE, owner of Briarwood Bookstore, Maryland Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland, was interviewed at this place business at which time he provided the following information:

During March or April of 1997, the President of the United States along with an entourage, which included among others, Governor Parris Glendening, visited his bookshop. At that time, he recalled that President Clinton looked around the shop and looked at some of the books that were for sale. At one point, the President read aloud some poetry from one of the books. The President was interested in one of the other books, however, GROBAINE could not presently recall the exact item. GROBAINE stated that the President did not at any time read any limericks. He is sure of that fact because the book which he was reading was written in the mid-19th century and the limerick was not invented until around the turn of the 20th century.

At some point after the visit, GROBAINE received a telephone call at his shop from an unknown female who advised she wanted to purchase a book. She advised that her father or uncle (GROBAINE could not recall which) worked with the President and that she and her relative wanted to give the book to the President as a present. GROBAINE described the woman as adamant that she find the book the President liked and obtain it.

During the call GROBAINE advised the woman the book recalled as the one of interest. She said she was located in Washington, DC and that she was going to come to Annapolis to make the purchase. GROBAINE recalled that she was unable to arrive at the shop prior to the 6:00 PM closing time. As an accommodation, he provided her with a telephone number where he could be reached that evening. GROBAINE said that he played the mandolin and banjo and was scheduled to practice with his musical group that night.

The woman did, in fact, call him from what he believed was a cellular telephone, said she was ten minutes away, and that she wanted to meet him. GROBAINE met her at his store whereupon she purchased the book. GROBAINE recalled that she paid either by check or credit card. He further stated that would have a record of the credit payment. If she paid by bank check, he ~~would be able to retrieve record of the sale by looking at his~~

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by [REDACTED] Date dictated 1/29/98

29D-OIC-LR-35063

Continuation of OIC-302 of DAVID GROBAINÉ , On 1/29/98 , Page 2

bank deposit slips which note the amount of each check along with the last name of the customer.

**GROBAINÉ** does not recall the name of the customer. **He** was displayed a newspaper photo of **MONICA LEWINSKY** at which time he stated it was possible that it was the same person, but he was not sure. **He** said that he has not been reading any newspapers or watching much television, so he was not familiar with the individual or the situation in general.

**He** described the woman as an attractive person about 5 feet 4 or 5 inches tall.

**GROBAINÉ** further stated that he would inquire with his music group associate as to the name of the woman customer in that he discussed the matter with him.

- 1 -

## OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Date of transcription 3/6/98

DAVID GROBANIE, owner of the BRIARWOOD BOOKSHOP, Maryland Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland, telephone number [REDACTED], was interviewed, at which time he provided the following information:

A book entitled The Presidents of the United States, published by D. APPLETON AND COMPANY in 1898, bearing Office of Independent Counsel Bate stamp number **V002-DC-00000471**, was displayed to GROBANIE. He examined the book and stated with certainty the book was never in his store and specifically that he did not sell the book to anyone, including President CLINTON on the occasion of his visit to BRIARWOOD BOOKSHOP, or the woman customer who told him she was purchasing a book for the President of the United States.

GROBANIE said he has purchased every book which has been for sale in his store and the book described above has never been in his inventory.

GROBANIE also examined the first page of the book and noted a faint pencil marking which indicated a price of \$45.00. The price marking was located about one inch from the top of the page and about one and one half inches from the right side of the page. GROBANIE said he always, without fail, places the price of a book in pencil in the uppermost portion of the right corner of the first page leaving virtually no margin between the marking and the corner of the page. He displayed several examples of his technique on books currently for sale in the store.

Regarding the woman with whom he made arrangements to meet at his shop after normal business hours to purchase a book for the President, GROBANIE stated that he has recalled that the woman purchased a book entitled History of Peter the Great, 1814 edition. The price of the book was \$200.00, however, GROBANIE recalled that he thinks he charged her \$150.00.

Within a few weeks of the President's visit to his shop, GROBANIE received a series of four telephone calls from an unknown woman over a period of two weeks. During the first call,

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Investigation on 3/5-6/98 at Annapolis, Maryland File # 29D-OIC-LR-35063

by [REDACTED] Date dictated 3/6/98

29D-OIC-LR-35063

Continuation of OIC-302 of DAVID GROBANIE, On 3/6/98, Page 2

she asked GROBANIE if he had any suggestions for a book to be given as a present for President CLINTON. She next called and asked him about the hours of operation of the store. During the third call, she made arrangements with GROBANIE to meet him at his store after normal business hours, in view of the fact that she was traveling from Washington, DC, or Virginia, and was unable to arrive at the Annapolis location before the shop's 6:00 p.m. closing time. The fourth, and last, telephone call GROBANIE received was on the evening of their appointment. She called from what he believed was a cellular telephone, advising him that she had arrived in Annapolis and would be at the store in about ten minutes.

During their meeting at the store, she made several comments to GROBANIE about President CLINTON, from which he inferred that she was quite enamored of CLINTON. Referring to CLINTON's visit to the store, she said, "wasn't it just wonderful meeting him? I think he's a wonderful man." GROBANIE recalled thinking at the time that she was interested in either getting a job or pursuing a career in politics.

GROBANIE could not recall the method of payment used for the purchase of the book, saying that it could have been by credit card, check, or cash. GROBANIE has examined his credit card sale records for calendar year 1997, and could not find any record of a sale in the name of MONICA LEWINSKY. He has also checked his bank deposit slips reflecting records of purchases made by check, with negative results. He displayed his bank deposit slip forms indicating where he writes the last name of the person writing the check. GROBANIE also reviewed sales by credit card in 1997, in the name of MARCIA LEWIS; however, he was unable to locate any such record.

During his record search of purchases (other than cash), he located only one sale which fit the criteria of the correct price, time frame, and female purchaser. This was a sale on March 27, 1997, to a **BETTIE DEEN** for \$157.50 (\$150.00 purchase price and \$7.50 state sales tax). He could not recall the name of the book bought by DEEN. GROBANIE said that the name **BETTIE DEEN** did not seem to fit with his recollection of the name the woman in question provided to him at the time.

29D-OIC-LR-35063

Continuation of OIC-302 of DAVID GROBANIE . On 3/6/98 . Page 3

GROBANIE has seen several pictures of MONICA LEWINSKY and said that although he was not sure, the woman customer could have been her. He recalls she may have been about 5' 4" or 5' 5" tall with long brown hair. He described her as pretty.

