

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Date of transcription 06/09/98

DOUGLAS ROBERT DRAGOTTA, white, male, date of birth [REDACTED], Social Security Account Number [REDACTED] Officer, United States Secret Service (USSS), was interviewed at the Office of the Independent Counsel (OIC), 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20004. Present for the interview were Associate Independent Counsel (AIC) MICHAEL TRAVERS, AIC MARY ANNE WIRTH and Department of Justice (DOJ) attorneys ANNE WEISMANN and JANIS KESTENBAUM. DRAGOTTA was interviewed under the terms of an agreement reached between the OIC and DOJ. DRAGOTTA was apprised of the official identities of the interviewers and thereafter provided the following information:

DRAGOTTA has been employed by the USSS since November of 1996. In September of 1997, DRAGOTTA was assigned to a permanent position at the Southwest gate.

DRAGOTTA first recalls seeing MONICA LEWINSKY when DRAGOTTA was stationed at the [REDACTED] post, which is the 17th Street entrance to the Old Executive Office Building (OEOB). DRAGOTTA recalls sometime during the Summer of 1996, between 6:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., LEWINSKY came through the OEOB entrance. DRAGOTTA does not recall if LEWINSKY was an employee or a visitor.

DRAGOTTA advised that he was unfamiliar with the mechanics of working the [REDACTED] post, so he stayed in the background to watch how the system worked. DRAGOTTA recalls hearing other officers talk about LEWINSKY later that day. DRAGOTTA heard that LEWINSKY was caught having oral sex with the President in the Family Theater.

The second time DRAGOTTA saw LEWINSKY was in December of 1997. DRAGOTTA had heard nothing new concerning LEWINSKY since the incident at post [REDACTED]. DRAGOTTA advised that on a Saturday or a Sunday, LEWINSKY came to the Southwest gate and advised she was there to see BETTY CURRIE. DRAGOTTA asked for LEWINSKY's driver's license and entered her name into the WAVES system, where LEWINSKY's name did not appear. DRAGOTTA advised LEWINSKY she did not have an appointment.

DRAGOTTA told LEWINSKY to use the house phone. DRAGOTTA thinks LEWINSKY called BETTY CURRIE. CURRIE called

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by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 06/09/98

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DRAGOTTA and told him that LEWINSKY was there to see CURRIE and for DRAGOTTA to please let her in. DRAGOTTA told CURRIE he could not do that and then explained the appointment and WAVES clearance procedure to CURRIE.

DRAGOTTA advised that LEWINSKY had a shopping bag and he thinks there were two gift-wrapped packages in the bag. DRAGOTTA advised that the packages were the size of shirt boxes. Approximately every three minutes, DRAGOTTA typed LEWINSKY's name into the computer to see if an appointment had been made for her. LEWINSKY waited outside the Southwest gate the entire time, which lasted no more than fifteen minutes.

DRAGOTTA advised that LEWINSKY appeared to be perturbed when she was waiting. LEWINSKY was dressed in business attire both times he saw her. DRAGOTTA believes the second incident occurred before Christmas. DRAGOTTA advised that Officer JANNEY was also in the Southwest gate at the time. JANNEY x-rayed LEWINSKY's packages when she finally got into the White House complex. JANNEY did not tell DRAGOTTA what he saw in the packages.

Sergeant MILES BREY was also on duty that day, floating between the Southwest gate and his own post that day.

DRAGOTTA advised he does not partake in rumors.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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IN RE: :
GRAND JURY PROCEEDINGS :
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Grand Jury Room No. 3
United States District Court
for the District of Columbia
3rd & Constitution, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Thursday, August 13, 1998

The testimony of DOUGLAS ROBERT DRAGOTTA was taken
in the presence of a full quorum of Grand Jury 97-2,
impaneled on September 19, 1997, commencing at 2:26 p.m.,
before:

EDWARD J. PAGE
MARY ANNE WIRTH
Associate Independent Counsel
Office of Independent Counsel
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 490 North
Washington, D.C. 20004

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1 After this is over with, you have a right if you so choose to
2 talk about your appearance and what occurred here with
3 anybody you choose. On the other hand, Ms. Wirth, myself,
4 the court reporter, all members of the grand jury may not.
5 There is one exception to that rule and that is
6 that if a judge orders that what took place or occurred here
7 today be disclosed in a case, in a trial or in some other
8 kind of legal proceeding that that's an exception to that
9 rule. Do you understand that?
10 A Yes.
11 Q In making your appearance before a federal grand
12 jury, you have certain rights and responsibilities and I'd
13 like to go over them with you briefly before we start asking
14 you questions. Do you understand?
15 A Yes.
16 Q One of these rights that you have is called your
17 Fifth Amendment right to not incriminate yourself if a
18 truthful answer to the question would tend to incriminate
19 you. Do you understand that?
20 A Yes, I do.
21 Q You also have the right to step outside during the
22 questioning and consult with your attorney who I understand
23 is Matt Bates who is here on behalf of the Secret Service as
24 well as your behalf. Do you understand that?
25 A Yes.

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1 PROCEEDINGS
2 Whereupon,
3 DOUGLAS ROBERT DRAGOTTA
4 was called as a witness and, after having been first duly
5 sworn by the Foreperson of the Grand Jury, was examined and
6 testified as follows:
7 EXAMINATION
8 BY MR. PAGE:
9 Q Would you tell us your full name, please?
10 A Douglas Robert Dragotta.
11 Q Officer, my name is Ed Page and to my left is
12 Mary Anne Wirth. We both work for the Office of Independent
13 Counsel and one or both of us will be asking questions of you
14 today on behalf of the grand jury, as well as some of the
15 members individually may ask you questions. Do you
16 understand that?
17 A Yes.
18 Q To you left is the court reporter that I'm pointing
19 to. It's her job to take down the questions and the answers.
20 Do you understand that?
21 A Yes.
22 Q Do you understand that what goes on in here today
23 is secret under federal rules of criminal procedure in that
24 the only person who can say anything about what has occurred
25 here today, questions and answers, things like that, is you?

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1 Q Do you understand further that you're under oath
2 now and that you can't say you don't remember if that's not
3 accurate; you can't say "I forget" if that's not accurate;
4 and that you're obligated to tell the truth and that you may
5 not mislead the grand jury in your testimony? Do you
6 understand that?
7 A Yes.
8 Q Do you have any questions for us before we ask ours
9 of you?
10 A No.
11 A JUROR: Could you spell your last name?
12 THE WITNESS: Dragotta is spelled D-r-a-g-o-t-t-a.
13 BY MS. WIRTH:
14 Q Officer Dragotta, you've been employed by the
15 Secret Service since November of 1996. Is that right?
16 A 1995.
17 Q Okay. And are you a member of the uniformed
18 division?
19 A Yes, I am.
20 Q And have you been assigned to work at the White
21 House since a certain date?
22 A Yes.
23 Q And when did you become assigned to work at the
24 White House?
25 A That would be after I got out of training April of

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1 '96.
 2 Q Okay. And what has your assignment been since
 3 then?
 4 A I started off as a swing officer and then in
 5 September of '97, I started working at the southwest gate.
 6 Q Okay. Have you seen Monica Lewinsky?
 7 A Yes.
 8 Q When was the first time you saw her?
 9 A I believe it was some time in '96, to my best
 10 recollection, maybe in the summertime.
 11 Q Okay. And do you remember what day of the week it
 12 was?
 13 A No, I don't.
 14 Q Were you working the southwest gate?
 15 A No, I was not.
 16 Q Where were you working?
 17 A A post, ██████ the 17th Street side of the old
 18 building.
 19 Q Old Executive Office Building?
 20 A Mm-hmm. And I wasn't exactly working the post. I
 21 was a new officer on on-the-job training and I was just kind
 22 of floating around.
 23 Q Okay. What do you remember about your encounter
 24 with Ms. Lewinsky that day?
 25 A I didn't have a personal encounter, I just saw her

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1 come in and I heard some fellow officers say some things
 2 about her.
 3 Q When you say "come in," come in where?
 4 A Through the entrance off 17th Street.
 5 Q To go to the White House?
 6 A I don't know where exactly she was going. She was
 7 entering in the old building.
 8 Q Entering into the old building?
 9 A Right.
 10 Q So she could have been going to the Old Executive
 11 Office Building?
 12 A Exactly.
 13 Q Okay. And do you remember anything about the time
 14 of day? What shift you were working?
 15 A I believe it was -- I think it was day work.
 16 Q Which would be 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.?
 17 A Exactly.
 18 Q Okay. So somewhere in that timeframe?
 19 A Mm-hmm.
 20 Q Anything remarkable about that incident at all?
 21 A A couple of the officers just said there was a
 22 rumor that she was -- or she was caught in the family theater
 23 with the President or something like that.
 24 Q Okay. And is that why you remember the incident?
 25 A Yes.

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1 Q Seeing her?
 2 A Mm-hmm.
 3 Q Okay. Did you ever see her again?
 4 A Yes, on another occasion when I was working at the
 5 southwest gate.
 6 Q And when was that?
 7 A December of '97, some time in December of '97.
 8 Q Do you remember that it was early or late December,
 9 in the middle somewhere? Do you have any recollection?
 10 A I don't know exactly, but I think it was towards
 11 the end of December.
 12 Q Do you remember who else was working that day?
 13 A I remember Officer Janney specifically, but I don't
 14 remember who else was assigned with me at the gate
 15 specifically.
 16 Q Do you remember what day of the week it was?
 17 A No, I don't.
 18 Q Do you remember that it was a weekend?
 19 A It might have been a weekend. I want to say a
 20 Sunday because it seemed slow, but I didn't take any notes or
 21 anything, so I don't know exactly.
 22 Q Okay. Do you remember the time of day?
 23 A I think it was in the morning time. I believe it
 24 was in the morning some time.
 25 Q Okay. Did you speak to Monica Lewinsky that day?

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1 A Yes, I did.
 2 Q And what was the nature of your conversation with
 3 her?
 4 A Well, she approached the gate, she said she's here
 5 for an appointment. I asked her for her ID. I got her ID.
 6 She was not in for an appointment and I advised her of that.
 7 Q Now, did she say who she had an appointment with?
 8 A Yes. She said she was here to see Betty Currie.
 9 Q And did you check the WAVES system?
 10 A Yes, I did.
 11 Q And you found that her name did not appear in the
 12 WAVES records?
 13 A That's right. It did not.
 14 Q As a person with an appointment.
 15 A That's right.
 16 Q When you told her that, did she say anything?
 17 A She got kind of huffy and puffy. She said she's
 18 here to see Betty and that she should be cleared in. Meaning
 19 she already should have been cleared in. And I said, well,
 20 she's not in. I gave her ID back and then I told her that
 21 she could use the house phone to her left.
 22 Q And when you say "She's not in," you meant --
 23 A She hasn't been cleared in the system.
 24 Q Okay. So you told her to use the house phone?
 25 A That's right.

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1 Q And did she do that?
 2 A Yes, she did.
 3 Q Did you overhear her conversation?
 4 A No, I did not.
 5 Q Do you know who she called?
 6 A No, I do not.
 7 Q Did anybody call you after that call?
 8 A Yes. I believe Betty Currie called down to
 9 Baker-4, the southwest gate, and said, "Is Monica there?"
 10 Q Who did Betty speak to?
 11 A Me. I said, "Yes, she is." She said, "Yes, she's
 12 here to see me. Could you let her up?"
 13 Q Then what did you say?
 14 A I told Betty that she wasn't cleared in the system,
 15 so I can't let her up.
 16 Q Okay. Was Betty in essence asking you to sidestep
 17 the WAVES procedure?
 18 A I have no idea what Betty was asking me to do.
 19 Q When Betty asked you let her up, had you explained
 20 to Betty that Monica was not in the WAVES system?
 21 A I just explained our policy, that she has to be
 22 cleared in.
 23 Q Was that before or after Betty asked you to let her
 24 in?
 25 A After.

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1 Q Okay. And when you explained to Betty that she had
 2 to be cleared in, what did Betty say?
 3 A Okay. No problem.
 4 Q Had that ever happened before where Betty Currie
 5 asked you to let her in?
 6 A No, I had never spoken to Betty before.
 7 Q Okay. All right. Did Monica Lewinsky have
 8 anything with her that day?
 9 A Yes. She did have -- I believe a handbag and then
 10 also like a shopping bag.
 11 Q And did you look inside the bag?
 12 A I did not look inside, but I could see inside the
 13 bag and it looked they were wrapped gifts of some kind or
 14 wrapped boxes.
 15 Q Do you have any memory of what they looked like,
 16 what size they were, what kind of paper was on them?
 17 A Not exactly. Just maybe a standard size shirt box
 18 or something.
 19 Q More than one gift?
 20 A I think like two, it was a full bag, so --
 21 Q Okay. And do you know what happened -- did she say
 22 who those presents were for? Did Monica say?
 23 A No, she did not.
 24 Q Do you know what happened to the presents?
 25 A Once she was cleared in eventually, I processed her

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1 in. I brought her in and gave her a pass. That's when
 2 Officer Janney took the bag and X-rayed the gifts and then
 3 she departed from there.
 4 Q Did you watch that X-ray process?
 5 A No, because the X-ray is all the way on the other
 6 side of the driveway, so you can't really see over there.
 7 Q Did Officer Janney ever tell you what was in the
 8 boxes?
 9 A No. I never really asked or anything.
 10 Q Is there any particular reason why you think that
 11 this incident happened in December 1997? Is there anything
 12 that makes you think it was December?
 13 A I just remember it being December from the rumor
 14 that I heard about her back in '96, from Delta-2, because
 15 I recognized her face.
 16 Q But I'm asking whether there's any particular
 17 reason why you remember that this incident that you're
 18 talking about right now where she comes in with the gifts
 19 happened in December of 1997, that particular month.
 20 That's all.
 21 A I just know it was because when the story broke in
 22 the press, I mean, it was this -- I guess January or February
 23 or some time around there, it was a month or so after.
 24 Q All right. This incident with her had just
 25 happened a month before?

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1 A I guess. Yes. Maybe two months before. So it was
 2 fresh in my mind.
 3 Q Do you have any memory of anything Christmassy sort
 4 of happening around that time that helps you place this?
 5 A Well, being that they were gifts, that kind --
 6 Q Do you have any particular memory that they were
 7 Christmas presents?
 8 A I don't know exactly what type of presents they
 9 were, but --
 10 Q Okay. But it could have been a month or two
 11 before.
 12 A Of?
 13 Q You said a minute ago when I said -- let me
 14 represent to you that January 21, 1998 the story broke in the
 15 press about Monica Lewinsky.
 16 A Is that when it --
 17 Q I'll represent to you that that's the date.
 18 Q Okay. And you said a moment ago that when this
 19 story became public, it was a month or two before that this
 20 incident had happened. Is that right?
 21 A Well, December, I know it happened in December.
 22 Q Okay. Okay. Do you have any memory whether it was
 23 before or after Christmas?
 24 A No, I don't. For some reason, I want to believe it
 25 was the 15th, December 15th or after, for some reason. I

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1 don't know why.
 2 Q Okay. Do you have any records that would show what
 3 day it was
 4 A No, I didn't take any notes or anything.
 5 Q Do you have any records anywhere that would
 6 indicate what date you worked? Was it unusual for you to
 7 work a weekend?
 8 A No. Not at all. My days off are Friday and
 9 Saturday, so I'll be there Sunday. Back then, they were
 10 Sunday, Monday, so I was there Friday, Saturday. So --
 11 Q So if it was a weekend, this would have been a
 12 Saturday?
 13 A No. Well, not necessarily because I work a lot of
 14 my days off, so I'm there most of the time.
 15 Q I see. Okay. Is there any record anywhere that
 16 would help you place the date of this particular visit?
 17 A No, I don't have anything. I mean, I looked
 18 through my -- I keep track of what I work, what shifts and
 19 stuff, but I don't have any notes or anything to indicate
 20 when she came in.
 21 MS. WIRTH: Any questions?
 22 (No response.)
 23 THE FOREPERSON: Officer Dragotta, you are excused.
 24 And thank you for your testimony.
 25 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

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1 MS. WIRTH: Thank you.
 2 (The witness was excused.)
 3 (Whereupon, at 2:38 p.m., the taking of testimony
 4 in the presence of a full quorum of the Grand Jury was
 5 concluded.)
 6 * * * * *