

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

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 DEPOSITION OF : Thursday, September 3, 1998
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 JOHN D. DEARDORFF : Washington, D. C.
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Deposition of

JOHN D. DEARDORFF

before the Independent Counsel, held in the Conference Room of the Office of the Independent Counsel, Suite 490-North, 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20004, beginning at 10:40 a.m., when were present:

For the Independent Counsel:

MARY ANNE WIRTH, ESQUIRE
Associate Independent Counsel

EDWARD J. PAGE, ESQUIRE
Associate Independent Counsel

Court Reporter:

Elizabeth A. Eastman

Deposition Services, Inc.

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P R O C E E D I N G S1
2 WHEREUPON,

3 JOHN D. DEARDORFF

4 having been called for examination by the Office of the
5 Independent Counsel, and having been first duly sworn by the
6 notary, was examined and testified as follows:

7 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

8 BY MS. WIRTH:

9 Q Could you please state your name for the record,
10 your full name?

11 A Full name is John David Deardorff.

12 Q Can you spell your last name, please?

13 A D-E-A-R-D-O-R-F-F.

14 Q You are a sergeant in the Uniformed Division of the
15 Secret Service, is that correct?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q How long have you worked for the Secret Service?

18 A I started January 10th of 1972, which is 26 years,
19 11 months, or 10 months, whatever it is.20 Q You have been a sergeant for approximately 21
21 years, is that correct?22 A Approximately, yes, 21 years, October 9th, I
23 believe.24 Q This last time around, how long have you been
25 assigned to the White House? And when I say this last time

1 around, I mean, the most recent tour of duty that you've had
2 at the White House in your career.

3 A Right. I'm pretty sure it was August of '94 when I
4 came back down for this time.

5 Q Okay. So, approximately four years?

6 A Right.

7 Q Can you tell us what your assignment has been, or
8 assignments have been since August of 1994 as a sergeant in
9 the Uniformed Division?

10 A From August '94 to February '95, I was unassigned,
11 which means anything, you know, they have. And from February
12 '95 through August of this year, August the 16th, I was
13 assigned to the -- I was one of the supervisors in charge of
14 the East Wing Mansion and West Wing areas.

15 Q And since that date, since August 16th of 1998, you
16 are unassigned, is that correct?

17 A Correct.

18 Q I'm going to ask you if you recall an incident that
19 happened at the Northwest Gate of the White House on December
20 6th, 1997? Do you recall hearing about it?

21 A I recall hearing about it, yes.

22 Q When that incident occurred, you were not on duty,
23 is that correct?

24 A Correct.

25 Q In fact, you came on duty that day approximately

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1 what time?

2 A I was supposed to start my tour of duty at 2
3 o'clock, 1400 hours.

4 Q Two o'clock in the afternoon?

5 A Right.

6 Q At the time that you came on duty, did you have an
7 opportunity to talk to Sergeant Keith Williams?

8 A I did.

9 Q Sergeant Keith Williams is another Uniformed
10 Division sergeant in the Secret Service, is that correct?

11 A Correct.

12 Q Can you tell us what the nature of your
13 conversation was with Sergeant Williams at that time?

14 A Well, the nature of the conversation was in
15 reference to an incident or situation that occurred earlier
16 that day at the Northwest Gate.

17 Q What did he tell you about it?

18 A To the best of my knowledge, he said something
19 like, you were, you'd better be glad you weren't working
20 today, you know, like day work or something to that effect,
21 you weren't working today. Of course, I -- what do you mean,
22 you know. Basically I had heard about the incident.

23 Q So, Sergeant Williams said something to you to the
24 effect of you'd better be glad you didn't work today. And
25 you took that to mean, I take it, that --

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1 A Something had happened.

2 Q -- something had happened that was not so pleasant,
3 correct?

4 A Correct.

5 Q Did he proceed to tell you what had happened that
6 day?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Do you remember, to the best of your memory, what
9 he told you had happened?

10 A Well, to the best of my recollection, it was in
11 regards to an appointment showing up at the Northwest Gate
12 and there was some kind of -- I guess they had to hold this
13 appointment up a little bit, not, you know, let it directly
14 in, because normally I think they call inside anyway to the
15 Lobby. But just that, you know, they -- there was some kind
16 of a situation because of that, you know, the person being
17 held up.

18 And I don't know exactly what happened inside, but,
19 you know --

20 Q Can I ask you a couple questions?

21 A Sure.

22 Q Did Sergeant Williams tell you the name of the
23 person who was held up at the gate?

24 A As far as I know, can remember, it was Monica.

25 Q Did he say Monica Lewinsky?

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1 A Just Monica, I think.

2 Q Just Monica? Is that the first time that you heard
3 her name, or heard reference to that person?

4 A As far as I know, it is.

5 Q Did Sergeant Williams tell you whether it had been
6 alleged that anybody at the gate had disclosed information to
7 Monica that they shouldn't have?

8 A I believe that was -- happened in -- there was some
9 kind of a conversation that, of course, I wasn't privy to,
10 but that occurred in the booth or the gate, you know,
11 Northwest Gate area. Evidently it was overheard and I guess
12 some -- whatever happened started at that point.

13 Q So, are you telling us that Sergeant Williams told
14 you that Monica had overheard some information at the
15 Northwest Gate from Secret Service Officers? Is that right?

16 A (Witness nodded indicating an affirmative
17 response.)

18 Q You have to answer verbally.

19 A Yes.

20 Q Did he tell you what the nature of the information
21 was that Monica had overheard?

22 A That there was also an appointment at that time,
23 you know, in the Oval, you know, I guess.

24 Q That the President had another guest?

25 A Another appointment, right.

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1 Q Did Sergeant Williams tell you who that person was?

2 A Well, I found that out -- well, I'm not
3 particularly sure if I heard that from Williams or Chinery.

4 Q And by Chinery, you are referring to --

5 A But it was --

6 Q Excuse me -- you are referring to Secret Service
7 Officer Brent Chinery?

8 A Correct.

9 Q He is in the Uniformed Division?

10 A Right.

11 Q And you're friendly with him?

12 A I worked with him for a while.

13 Q In any event, either from Sergeant Williams or from
14 Officer Chinery, you learned the name of the President's
15 guest that day, correct?

16 A As far as I know it was -- yes, I did, and it was
17 Eleanor Mondale, I believe.

18 Q Okay. Now, did Sergeant Williams tell you what, if
19 anything, happened that day as a result of Monica overhearing
20 information regarding another appointment of the President's
21 at the gate?

22 A Well, just that later he had -- called into Betty
23 Currie's office, and I don't know what transpired, you know,
24 in the interim. But that he was called to Betty Currie's
25 office and, of course, went in, and he met with her and the

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1 President there.

2 Q Okay. Did Sergeant Williams tell you that he spoke
3 directly with the President at that time?

4 A There was a conversation. I don't know if he
5 talked to the President, or the President talked to him.
6 But.

7 Q Okay. But there was a conversation between
8 Sergeant Williams and the President?

9 A Or among them.

10 Q Yes?

11 A Right.

12 Q Okay. Did Sergeant Williams tell you that the
13 President had said anything to him?

14 A Just that, from what I can remember, you know, he
15 wanted to know who had talked out at the gate or something,
16 you know. I don't know how it was phrased. But that he
17 wanted to know the officer's name, or whoever it was.

18 Q Did Sergeant Williams tell you whether the
19 President had said anything about any consequences that might
20 flow from the disclosure of information at the gate?

21 A Could you restate that, or say that again?

22 Q Did Sergeant Williams tell you whether the
23 President had said anything to him about what might happen to
24 the person who disclosed the information at the gate, if that
25 had happened?

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1 A From how I heard it, it -- there was some talk that
2 he wanted the officer fired.

3 Q Did Sergeant Williams tell you that the President
4 had told him that that person could be fired or would be
5 fired?

6 A As far as I know, it was -- it came from him.

7 Q It came from the President?

8 A Yeah.

9 Q Do you remember what Sergeant Williams told you the
10 President had said to him about what could happen to the
11 person who had done this?

12 A I don't know if he said anything about what would
13 happen, just that he was visibly upset and he said, you know,
14 something about firing the officer.

15 Q And when you say visibly upset, are you referring
16 to the President?

17 A Right.

18 Q And that the President said something about firing?

19 A As I heard it.

20 Q And it was your understanding from your
21 conversation with Sergeant Williams that the President had
22 said this directly to Sergeant Williams, is that correct?

23 A Right.

24 Q Do you remember anything else about your
25 conversation with Sergeant Williams that day about the

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1 Q So, this was a meeting between Betty Currie,
2 Sergeant Williams, Captain Purdy, correct?

3 A As I understand it.

4 Q Do you have any information as to whether the
5 President was involved in that encounter as well? Or do you
6 not know?

7 A I'm not, I'm not positive if he was involved in
8 that or not.

9 Q Did Sergeant Williams tell you anything about
10 whether the President ever spoke directly to Captain Purdy at
11 any time, whether Sergeant Williams was present or not?

12 A I'm trying to think back of what he told me.
13 I was led to believe he did, he was there with
14 Captain Purdy.

15 Q That who was there?

16 A That the President was there.

17 Q Okay.

18 A Or I am assuming, one or the other.

19 Q Okay. Did you ever hear about any conversation
20 between the President and Captain Purdy?

21 A I haven't heard of any conversation between those
22 two. I wasn't told of any.

23 Q Okay. Other than the conversation that you've
24 already told us about between the President and Sergeant
25 Williams, have you heard of any other conversations that the

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1 President had with anybody about the Northwest Gate incident?

2 A Not that I can recall right now.

3 Q Okay.

4 BY MR. PAGE:

5 Q Did Sergeant Williams say where he was when he
6 talked with the President?

7 A In Betty Currie's office, I'm pretty sure is where
8 he said he was.

9 Q Did he say where the President was?

10 A As close as I can remember, he said he came into
11 Betty Currie's office.

12 Q Did Sergeant Williams ever mention anything about a
13 door being cracked?

14 A No.

15 Q Did you believe Sergeant Williams when he was
16 telling you this?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Did he ever try to, to you, change his story about
19 this, or to modify the facts, or give you additional facts,
20 or subtract or take away any facts?

21 A Not to my knowledge.

22 Q When he was telling you this, was he still agitated
23 at all?

24 A He seemed concerned, but not, you know -- all
25 frustrated, I guess.

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1 Q When you say "concerned", can you help us
2 understand that?

3 A Well, I believe that if something happened like
4 that, you know, you would, anyone I guess would be, you know,
5 a little uneasy or like not knowing what's going to come of
6 it, or whatever. I don't know his feeling on it.

7 BY MS. WIRTH:

8 Q Has it been your experience, as a sergeant for the
9 past 21 years, have you ever had an encounter with the
10 President, with any President, about the behavior of anyone
11 you supervised or about any incident that occurred under your
12 supervision?

13 A I personally have never had a situation like that.

14 Q Any such conversation with any President?

15 A No.

16 (Off the record.)

17 BY MR. PAGE:

18 Q Sergeant, I believe you said the other day when we
19 took your statement at the United States Secret Service that
20 your conversation with Williams took place in the basement?

21 A Of the Old Executive Office Building, Old EOB.

22 Q What is that room again?

23 A This is where, you know, the sergeants' office is,
24 our locker room, and where we change, you know, the shift
25 change is in the basement, the hallway outside, you know,

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1 before you go into the sergeants' office.

2 Q Did he initiate the conversation or did you?

3 A I didn't know anything about the incident. Well,
4 he did, in answer to your question.

5 Q Was he confiding in you at the time, or what was
6 the purpose of him telling you this, if you know?

7 A Well, people pass along information all the time
8 like that.

9 Q Was it safe to say that for him it was a big deal?

10 A I would say so because, you know, like I, you know,
11 referred to earlier, things like that don't happen every day.

12 Q Are you pals with him, so that he would be sharing
13 details about this with you as a result of being a friend, or
14 do --

15 A Well, perhaps a peer and perhaps friendship. I
16 don't know what his motivation was. But we do live in the
17 same area also, and have carpooled occasionally, you know.

18 Q Did he ask you or solicit your opinion about what
19 he should do, or whether you thought anything, or there might
20 be repercussions from this event?

21 A Not to my knowledge.

22 MS. WIRTH: That concludes the deposition.

23 (Whereupon, at 11:00 a.m., the deposition was
24 concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER - NOTARY PUBLIC

I, Elizabeth A. Eastman, the officer before whom the foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby certify that the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing deposition was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said witness was taken by me electronically and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me; that said deposition is a true record of the testimony given by said witness; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this deposition was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

NOTARY PUBLIC FOR THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

My Commission Expires:
July 31, 2000