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MR. DAVIS: I think we were introduced before.

My name is Richard Davis and with me is Judy Denny. The area of inquiry that we are going to focus on involves the investigation that has been conducted relating to an eighteen and a half minute gap in a recording of a conversation between yourself and Mr. Haldeman on June 20, 1972.

According to your daily diaries which were made available in connection with the hearings in front of Judge Sirica, that meeting took place approximately from 11:25 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., and in the course of asking questions it should be always assumed when I refer to the June 20 Haldeman conversation, it is to that conversation to which I am referring.

To begin, I would --

THE WITNESS: If I could ask one question there. This is just for information only. This matter of the eighteen and a half minute gap I know Judge Sirica considered to be his dish of tea and he had it all wiped around in open court. Is this a matter that the Grand Jury is already familiar with, or is the Grand Jury now investigating it?

I mean, it is perfectly all right, but I just wanted to know because the masses of material you sent to me, naturally you didn't send me any Grand Jury testimony because I have no more right to see it than any other citizen, but the material

you sent to me was all before Sirica in open court.

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bent to me was all before billed in open court

MR. DAVIS: You should be advised that in January, I believe, January of 1974, at the conclusion of the hearings in front of Judge Sirica, Judge Sirica referred the matter for investigation by the Grand Jury and the Grand Jury has been investigating the matter.

THE WITNESS: And the Grand Jury has heard the same witnesses that Judge Sirica had in open court.

MR. DAVIS: Of course, I cannot describe the exact witnesses. I think it should be safely assumed --

THE WITNESS: All right, all right, I have enough.

You have been investigating it. That's fine. I just want to
be sure the Grand Jury has everything that Judge Sirica
has.

MR. DAVIS: We are hopeful they have more.

I would like to begin by having marked as

Exhibit No. B-1 which I will show to you, a copy of the

subpoena which was issued in July, 1973, by the Grand Jury

requesting certain tapes.

(The document referred to was marked Exhbit No. B-1 for identification.)

THE WITNESS: You are interested in item 1-A, is that correct?

MR. DAVIS: That is correct, but just as a general matter, did you at the time this subpoena was served attempt

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HOOVER REPORTING CO., INC. 320 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002 (202) 546-6666 to focus on the content of the conversations? I am not asking for the content, I am just asking whether you attempted to focus or determine what had been said in the various conversations which are listed in the subpoena which is before you?

THE WITNESS: No, I don't recall having done so.

I just took a quick look at the magnitude of the subpoena and, incidentally, at this point I should also say that we, as you know, were contesting the process in court. You are talking about at the time it was delivered. We had no intention of, frankly, complying unless the court should so find and we thought maybe we could win in court, but we didn't.

MR. DAVIS: We are aware of that, and basically the question really is just as a preliminary matter to find out whether around the time the subpoena that was served you made an effort either through your own recollection or by checking other materials to learn what was said in the various conversations referred to in the subpoena.

THE WITNESS: If you are talking about this particular time, I don't recall focusing particularly. I should point out, however, that on the 4th of June that, as you are aware, because it has been publicly testified to, I understand, I listened to the, what I think were the Oval Office tapes with Mr. Dean and consequently if I saw the subpoena

and saw Dean's conversation on it, I would have assumed that I had heard it.

There was one section, however, that I didn't, that I have never listened to, and I hope I don't have to listen to any more tapes. Any of you who have gone through that agony -- I hope you won't have to either, particularly the EOB ones, but I didn't listen to the June 21 one. I saw Mr. Haldeman had notes on that and I relied on his notes.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q When you say June 21, you refer to June 20?

A No, I am sorry, March 21. But I did not listen at that time to this tape. That was not made available to me.

Q "This tape," that is referring to the June 20th tape.

A The one you are interested in, yes. It is 1-A.

MR. DAVIS: To have in front of you, in case you

want to refer to it in connection with the next few

questions, I would like to mark as Exhibit B-2 what evidence

has indicated are Mr. Haldeman's notes of his conversation

with you on June 20, which we are inquiring about.

(The document referred to was marked Exhibit No. B-2, for identification.)

BY MR. DAVIS:

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A Incidentally, I would hope you would get a better duplicating machine. These are very hard to read, the ones

I also will tell you --

you sent out to me.

Q I think you are probably aware the problem we faced making copies of copies, which are probably originally copied ten times over when we received them.

A I am not criticizing them, but if the Grand Jury would like to see, even with glasses it is hard to read, particularly when it is somebody else's writing.

Q Keeping in mind also that there is also some evidence which indicates that the meeting on June 20 between yourself and Mr. Haldeman was the first face-to-face meeting between yourself and Mr. Haldeman which took place after the burglary into the Democratic National Headquarters on June 17th --

A No, no, and I don't mean to interrupt a question, but I think it is very important to be sure that a question is not based on assumption that is totally incorrect. When you said this was the first face-to-face meeting I had with Mr. Haldeman, it was the first meeting I may have had in the White House, but you see the break-in occurred when I was in Florida and I rode with Mr. Haldeman back from Florida and, therefore -- and my plane is an office and I saw him on that occasion, too. I want to be

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sure the Grand Jurors know I talked to him on several occasions before June 20th.

Q We stand corrected. The first meeting back in Washington then I think would be more accurate in terms of stating the evidence.

A Well, the reason I think it is important, in terms of the evidentiary matter, is that the content is perhaps of interest. If this is the first meeting, it becomes extremely much more important. Well, I guess it is unimportant in your investigation. You want to find out what happened with the tape, so you can go ahead with your question.

- Q Do you now recall anything about what was said in the conversation?
 - A What was said in this conversation?
 - Q That is right.
 - A No, I do not.
- O Do you recall whether at the time the litigation was going on involving these tapes during the summer and fall of '73, whether at that time you had a recollection as to what was in the conversation which was called for in that subpoena?
 - A This specific conversation?
 - Q Yes.
 - A No, I have no recollection of what was in this

HOOVER REPORTING CO., INC. 320 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002 (202) 546-6666 specific conversation.

Q For example, page 2 of the notes which have been marked as Exhibit B-2 refer to what is our counterattack, PR's offensive to top this and other items that you may see there.

Do you recall whether in this period that subject was being discussed by you and Mr. Haldeman?

A Now when you say "during this period," let me qualify it by saying that I learned about this in Florida. I saw Mr. Haldeman there and we rode back on the plane together. I saw him on the plane, and of course we discussed this to be terribly wrong, and also in my opinion utterly stupid activity, and from reading his notes I am sure all of these subjects were discussed, but as far as their being discussed at that time, I have no recollection whatever of it being discussed at that time.

I mean, for example, the bugging of our own place, the EOB office and other offices immediately came to my attention.

Q And there you are referring to the note in Exhibit B-2 which says be sure EOB offices thoroughly checked re bugged at all times, et cetera, is that correct?

A Could I -- if I could tell you why it appears in these notes, because in 1962 when I was running for Governor, we had been bugged, we found later, by Governor Brown, a

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very good, personal friend of mine. I don't mean that he probably authorized it, but his people bugged us. We were wondering why everything was getting out and we finally found a bug. In 1968, for example, we learned that not only was President and Vice President Agnew's plane under surveillance, and he himself was under surveillance by the FBI, but that the FBI was at one point directed to bug my plane. There are differing versions as to whether they did or did not do it. Mr. Hoover once told me that they did. But others have indicated that this was not carried out.

I want to point out that simply the fact that this stupid act occurred in Florida was not the only reason that I raised the problem of the bugging here because I knew that it was a common practice by the other side and they were experts at it, and I have been bugged at the congressional campaign -- I mean the gubernatorial campaign, even my plane possibly, at least ordered to be bugged this time by a Government agency, not by a campaign committee in 1968, and I consequently was very sensitive on the subject.

Q Do you recall whether anything was said in this conversation which related to the role of anyone in approving or knowing about the break-in or electronic surveillance prior to June 17, apart from Messrs. Liddy, Hunt, McCord and the four gentlemen from Miami?

A No, again you have made an assumption in your

question that I will have to qualify. You said did I recall anything that was said in this conversation. I have already said I do not recall this conversation at all. I have no independent recollection of it.

Q So is it fair to say that you don't recall whether anything in this conversation touched on the subject matter that I just referred to?

A I don't recall the conversation at all, as I have indicated.

Q Do you recall whether during the summer of 1973, following the issuance of the subpoena and the start of litigation, you had any conversation with Mr. Buzhardt or General Haig as to why the various items had been subpoenaed, and specifically why this item had been subpoenaed?

A I don't recall. I probably had conversations with, particularly Mr. Buzhardt, the counsel, as to the purpose of the subpoena. I don't recall it independently though.

Q I am talking not so much about the general purpose of the subpoena, but as to why the particular conversation that we are talking about here, the June 20 conversation, had been selected as part of the subpoena?

A No, I recall no conversation of that sort. As to why I would pick that one out over something else, I don't

know.

Q Now as has been testified in Judge Sirica's court and in those hearings, the week end of September 29 Miss Woods began listening to and transcribing various tapes. Without focusing on the dates specifically, but just focusing on whatever point she began that project, before she began that task, had you listened to the recording of your meeting with Mr. Haldeman on June 20th?

A I think really we can cut short a lot of time, and I understand that you need to ask the question several times to be sure I always answer it the same way, but you said or you have asked me now for the fourth time have I listened to the recording of June 20th. I told you that I did not listen to the recording of June 20, and I repeat it again. If you want to ask it again, we can go all day on it.

Q I believe the earlier question was as to whether you now recollect what was in the conversation.

A No. I don't mean to argue with counsel, because having sometimes been on the other side of the table as a congressman, you do sometimes come back to the same question without intending to be repetitive, but I am pointing out I have never heard this conversation that you have alluded to, this so-called eighteen and a half minute gap, and I add in that period I did not listen to the

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conversation which you have alluded to, this tape. This tape was not in my possession. I didn't have possession of it. It didn't come into my possession before and I have never had it in my possession.

The point is that -- let me say, when I talk about a tape being in my possession, I have noted from the records here that various people have indicated that among those who had access to the tapes was the President at all times. What I am saying is to the best of my recollection -- I didn't even recall where they were kept -- to the best of my recollection, unless they were obtained by somebody else and brought to me for the purpose of listening, I have no recollection of ever having heard this particular tape that you refer to. And in checking the record, I find that, or I should say my counsel, I guess, checked the records -- I hope they have -- I find no indication that this tape was ever checked out to me.

Q In your response you said unless someone took the tape and brought it to you to listen. I just want to cover that base. Do you recall any situation where somebody brought you the June 4 tape to listen to?

- A Oh, yes, June 4, as I told you.
- Q Focusing on this tape --
- A On this tape, no, I don't recall at any time that anybody brought this tape to me to listen to. I don't

recall it.

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Q At any point did you review, and generalizing the time period now to perhaps save some time, did you review any personal notes that you might have had which referred to what had taken place during this meeting? Do you know if any such notes exist?

A No, I don't know. Not having reviewed them, obviously I wouldn't know whether any existed.

Q But that is in terms of reviewing them recently, and my question really goes to reviewing them in 1973 and 1974, and I take it your answer would be that you don't recall reviewing any such notes.

A Yes -- you mean personal notes other than what you have put in evidence here?

Q That is correct.

A No.

Q Now do you recall whether or not you gave Miss Woods any instructions as to what she should do in connection with listening to the tapes and making whatever kind of transcript she could?

A Well, actually I didn't ask her to make transcripts. The purpose of this, as you may recall, was that we had decided that we would try to work out a compromise with the Special Prosecutor and with the Senate Investigating Committee whereby Senator Stennis would agree to listen to all

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from that.

of the tapes and then furnish any relevant material with regard to Watergate to the people involved, and thereby protect the principle of executive privilege. compromise was agreed to by everybody concerned and enthusiastically supported, incidentally, by Mr. Richardson, among others. He later changed his mind because Mr. Cox 6

disagreed, and you know the consequences that followed

So the purpose of this exercise was to get, basically, what I would refer to as the gist of what was on the tapes to see what parts of the tapes should be thoroughly then transcribed, if they were relevant, and that was Miss Woods' job that I thought she would be able to do in two or three days.

I must indicate, incidentally, why I thought she might be able to do it much faster than she eventually did do it. I mentioned that I listened to the tapes on June 4. If you will look at that list, you will find that they were virtually all tapes with Mr. Dean in the Oval Office, and if you, Mr. Ruth, have listened to the tapes, and you have, you will note that the Oval Office tapes can be heard fairly well. Also telephone tapes can be heard well. Tapes in the EOB office are virtually impossible to hear on occasion, and in fact I question some of the EOB transcripts, not because by any deliberate intent on the parts of

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the individuals preparing them but because they are impossible to hear, those that some of you will be questioning me on later today or maybe tomorrow.

But to come to your question, yes, Miss Woods was directed to go to Camp David, where it would be quiet, she would be away from the phones and we also wanted it to be done without a great deal of publicity. Mr. Bull was to go with her and the purpose was to get the gist of what were called then the nine subpoenaed conversations.

Q To make sure I understand correctly, at the point that Miss Woods was given this assignment, it was in connection with preparing for the compromise that you have referred to?

A Yes, that is my recollection, yes.

Q Now, while you were --

A Let me point out we hadn't closed the deal as far as the compromise was concerned, but we thought that that was the best way to proceed and we had to explore that as an option, and that was why we were doing it.

Q Now you have referred to Miss Woods going to Camp David to begin this process, and I would like to turn to that period now briefly. Do you recall -- the records indicate that it is September 29.

A Yes, I understand. I have looked at some of these logs that you have prepared and in order to make your

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HOOVER REPORTING CO., INC. 320 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002 (202) 546-6666 work easier, just ask me about it and if I don't I will ask for it. So I appreciate your suggestion that he show it to me. All right, September 22 is the date.

Q While at Camp David, do you recall the incident of your going over to the cabin where Miss Woods was listening and working on the tapes?

Miss Woods had gone up earlier in the morning, had driven up. I had a very busy morning that day, Chancellor Brandt, and a few other people, so I came up later in the day and I was hopeful that she had made some progress, and I did go over from Aspen, I walked -- it is about a hundred feet over to Dogwood. Incidentally, Dogwood is now famous because that is where Mr. Breschnev stayed.

Aspen, of course, is the Presidential cabin. I walked over to Dogwood where Miss Woods and Mr. Bull were and walked into the cabin and asked her how are you coming along.

She had been there three or four hours, because I was there -- I don't know -- mid-afternoon at some time.

MR. DAVIS: If you like, we can mark as Exhibit B-3 a copy of your daily diary for that date, which I think we suggested that your counsel review with you before this testimony. But why don't we have it now in front of you because you would like to refer to it.

(The document referred to was marked Exhibit No. B-3, for identification.)

investigation.

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HOOVER REPORTING CO., INC. 320 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002 THE WITNESS: My counsel furnished you this?

MR. DAVIS: I think this was furnished in 1973 in connection with the tapes hearings and we furnished it back, in essence, suggesting that it would be relevant to this

THE WITNESS: Incidentally, I know we can't go off the record, so don't take this down, please. Please don't let it out that I saw Senator Percy. Goldwater would be right down my throat.

Now we are back on the record. I realize we can't go on and off, but you have to have a little lift out of life here. I was amazed that I had seen him that day. So was he amazed.

All right, I have the diary.

Q Do you recall whether or not you listened to whate ever tape Miss Woods was working on at that time?

A Well, when I walked in she said, as I recall, that she was having a terrible time getting it off. She didn't know how she could possibly finish this work, and she had only three or four pages, as I recall -- I can't say, it could have been eight or ten -- but three of four pages of notes she had typed out. She said, you should listen to this thing and you will see what I mean. So I put the earphone on and I listened to the tape and she, she was -- I listened to it the day before, I imagine, two or three

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MOOVER REPORTING CO., INC. 320 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002 (202) 546-6666 minutes and I could see the problem. I don't recall or have any recollection whatever what I heard. I just recall that the tape was of extraordinary bad quality, you couldn't tell whether one person or two or three might be talking at times. There were noises, outside noises, inside noises and I just shook my head, and I said, well, do the best you can and let me know at the end of the day how you are getting along.

Q Do you recall anything else about that, your visit with Miss Woods over at the cabin, other than what you have just testified to?

A Well, assuming that the log is right, -obviously I am refreshing my recollection here -- assuming
the log was right, how long was I there -- seven minutes -I think that the conversation dealt only with that, with the
problem she was having in getting it done. That is all that
I can recall.

Q Now in these early stages when Miss Woods was beginning this process and before any conversation Miss Woods may have had with you about any erasure she may have made of a portion of any tape --

A I just don't like that word, but go ahead.

Q -- do you recall any conversation, other conversations you had with her about the tapes and, for example, the diary shows on September 29 that you met with

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her on other occasions, but just generally do you recall any other conversations?

Well, of course at this time -- well, while her primary responsibilities were tapes, she also had other responsibilities as well. She came over to dinner, as you note. I had her over earlier to see what she had produced up to that time, and it was very little. I could see that the problem was very, very difficult. At some time in that day she told me, and I can't fix the time -- I don't recall it specifically -- she said, thank God I only have to do about an hour of this rather than, you know, the whole day, because she apparently had, she said, received a call from Washington -- I don't think she told me who it was from -- that only the Ehrlichman portion of the tape or the portion where Ehrlichman -- the portion in which Ehrlichman was present was subpoenaed and that, from reading the log, you got the impression it was a little shorter than she anticipated otherwise.

Q Have you previously discussed that question with General Haig or Mr. Buzhardt?

A I have no recollection of discussing it previously. It is possible we could have discussed it previously, as to how much of that was, but I don't know how it would have come up. Apparently, I note from the materials that your office has furnished to my counsel, General Haig

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initiated a call to Miss Woods and said Cox has made a mistake on the subpoena and on Item No. 1 you need only that portion of the conversation in which Ehrlichman is present, and she apparently had typed it off. She told me about that at some time when we were there over the week end, that that is all she had to do.

Q But prior to that time you don't recall your having any conversation with General Haig or Mr.Buzhardt about what was included within the item?

A I don't recall. I might have had, but I don't recall the conversation.

MR. DAVIS: I am going to ask that this be marked as Exhibit No. B-4.

(The document referred to was marked Exhibit No. B-4, for identification.)

THE WITNESS: There was a discussion at some time, and I don't know when it occurred, but my recollection is it was at this time, that it was a sloppily drawn subpoena. This is no reflection on you, because this thing had been going on so long that probably you were still in high school at the time.

MR. DAVIS: I wish that were true.

THE WITNESS: Certainly you were. So in any event, that was a sloppily drawn subpoena, but my best recollection

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HOOVER REPORTING CO., INC. 320 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002 (202) 546-6666 is that occurred after I learned from Miss Woods that Haig had called her and said Cox has said you have to only do this part or that you only have to do the part in which Ehrlichman is talking.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q Referring you to the front page, there is some evidence that that is a notation made by probably Mr. Bull some time during the week end at Camp David. I am going to direct your attention to the portion which says, "Haldeman" paren, after Dash, "at" and possibly says, to be fair, "RN's request."

My question is, do you recall ever making any specific request of Miss Eoods or to Mr. Bull that the Haldeman portion be listened to and summarized by Miss Woods?

A No, I have no recollection of that. On the contrary, I was very anxious for her to get the job done and I wanted her to do just as much as was required, but no more, and to listen to no more than was subpoenaed. I don't know what that meant. I don't recall it. It does not refresh any recollection of mine.

Q Did Miss Woods report to you or give you any indication at any time, really, as to what was the content of any portion of your conversation with Mr. Haldeman on June 20th?

A That is a very general question. Did she at any

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time ever tell me what was the content of the conversation?

With Mr.Haldeman?

A The only thing that Miss Woods ever told me about the conversation with Mr. Haldeman was about those portions that existed and that she had listened to. She said, apparently, something about scheduling, et cetera.

Q Is the conversation that you are referring to essentially the one which took place when Miss Woods reported to you the buzz which existed on the tape?

A Yes, I think -- well, she didn't tell me about it at Camp David because she hadn't reached that point. I know that she did not bring me over, as was the practice, as she finished any one of the tapes she would bring me over what she had done. While she was at Camp David, the reason she would come over, I would just tell her, well, bring what you have got, because I wanted to see how long the project is going to take, but when she came in, I think the transcript shows that that was on Monday, October 1, is that correct?

- Q That is correct.
- A You are asking about that conversation?
- Q I was asking more generally and was intending to get to the October 1 conversation in a few moments.
 - A Yes. Well, you have asked a general question.

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Q That is right.

A Well, let me get to a specific answer then. With regard to the time when the Haldeman portion of the conversation became an issue, the first time it became an issue was on October 1. While I was at Camp David, I have no recollection whatever of hearing even Haldeman's voice. Incidentally, I wouldn't swear it was Ehrlichman's either. It did turn out to be, from the content thereafter, and at times I wonder what I had had to drink that day when I heard my own voice. This is such a bad tape.

The Grand Jury should be rewarded by letting them listen to it. But, in any event, it was incredible, but Miss Woods came in in the afternoon of the first of October and she was very distraught. She told me that she had made some kind of a mistake. She did not describe it. I said, what kind of a mistake? Where was it?

She said, well, she said, I was trying to find if Ehrlichman was still around and I was listening to Haldeman, and she did not go into any details. As you will note from the log, the conversation was very brief. And I said, are you sure you were just listening to Haldeman, and she said, yes. She said, there was some kind of discussion about scheduling, and she did mention something about Ely, Nevada, which rang a bell with me, and then she said, I heard a buzz. And I said, well, if it was just the

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Haldeman thing, there is nothing to be worried about, forget it, because it is not subpoenaed.

I said, as far as the Ehrlichman part, you finished all of that, which she had, and she said, "Yes, all of that is done," and I said, "That is what they want. As far as this part, any mistake that has been made, there is no problem.

- Did she indicate to you the length of the buzz?
- She said it was very brief, very brief.
- Did she go into any kind of detail as to what had caused the buzz?
 - A No.
 - Or what she thought might have caused the buzz?
- No. My recollection here is that, only that she said -- first, that she was distraught; second, that there was some, that she made some reference to getting a telephone call.
 - But you didn't ask her how it happened?
- I know very little about such machinery, even though I had operated one at Newport, but, nevertheless, I was more interested in whether or not, frankly, evidentiary subpoenaed materials were involved.

(Individual enters room and stated as follows:) "It is important, sir, we have to do it. "

THE WITNESS: Is this going to help you. This is an

anti-coagulant.

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HOOVER REPORTING CO., INC., 320 Massachusetts Avenue, N.C. Washington, D.C. 20002 (202) 546-6666 I think it should be recorded, I am taking anti-coagulants ordered by the doctors every day at twelve o'clock. That means that if I am ever in an accident and start to bleed I will bleed to death unless the doctor is there within ten minutes.

Want one?

All right, on the record.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q Do you recall, after Miss Woods made this report to you, and perhaps you would like to have in front of you the copy of the daily diary for October 1, which is marked as B-5.

O I think I have it, October 1.

MR. DAVIS: I think you have September 29. We will mark as B-5 the one of October 31, which I again should state for the record was supplied in July, 1973, in connection with the litigation.

(The document referred to was marked Exhibit No. B-5, for identification.)

THE WITNESS: That's all right. I know you wouldn't,

I mean, surreptitiously get them out. That is only done by

people that aren't either in the Special Prosecutor's

office or my office -- maybe not even in Mr. Miller's

office.

Now, what is your question about this particular matter?

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q It is just to put that in front of you, and I am going to ask whether you recall after Miss Woods made this report to you, do you recall what you did in connection with that report to contact Mr. Ziegler, Mr. Buzhardt or General Haig in any connection?

A No, as far as Mr. Ziegler was concerned, I did not talk to him about it at all.

Mr. Ziegler, and here I have to speculate in answering because I noticed I requested that he come over -- is that he would come over after his daily briefing. He also had an appointment every day to give me a report on the briefing. There was no discussion at all with him. I also noticed I talked to Mr. Rebozo. I most certainly didn't talk to him about that. But we go into that this afternoon, what we talk about, and then it notes that I talked with Mr. Haig.

Now I would say that this would indicate that I did not have a great deal of concern about what Miss Woods had done, but in the meeting with Mr. Haig I mentioned to him the fact that Miss Woods was having a terrible time with the tapes and that she just had made what she called a mistake

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on a portion of the Haldeman thing, and he recalled clearly that he had had, apparently based on a conversation he had with Mr. Buzhardt, informed Miss Woods on the 29th or 28th -- whenever she went to Camp David -- that the Haldeman portion of the tape was not subpoenaed, so he said, no problem.

Q During this period, do you recall, and I would say this would be prior to the change of position when it was was decided that the June 20th Haldeman conversation was included within the subpoena, prior to that taking place do you recall whether you had any conversation with Mr.

Buzhardt about what Miss Woods had reported to you?

A Well, I don't recall specifically a conversation with Mr. Buzhardt, but I would say that Mr. Haig, General Haig, would certainly not have told Miss Woods that a certain portion of the tape was not subpoenaed unless he consulted with Mr. Buzhardt, and it is very possible that I talked with Buzhardt about it, too, but I can't independently recall it at this time.

Q On October 31, 1973, hearings began before

Judge Sirica regarding the reported non-existence of two
other subpoenaed tapes and Miss Woods testified in those
hearings on November 8. Do you recall whether you had any
conversations with her about this time which related to her
testimony in the sense of relating to any problem that this

accident might --

A This is her first appearance?

Q This is her first appearance, yes, sir.

A Before answering that question, for the benefit of the members of the Grand Jury, since they will be seeing this log--I mean if I were in your position, and I am sure you have thought of this, what in the world was I spending that much time with Haig for. I spent twenty minutes with him, and then I apparently -- we spent over an hour and a half in the car. I mean, the presumption, if I were questioning, frankly -- I am not trying to help you do a job on anybody, but my point is you want the truth, and we were having very, very long discussions, and this may explain one of the reasons Haig didn't get there any sooner than he did, but that is when we had the Agnew crisis, and I remember that long drive in the country. That is when we decided that Mr. Agnew had to go then. He didn't go then, but he went later.

I know what that conversation was about, but I just wanted you to know it wasn't about this thing. Neither Haig nor I thought it was a problem at all, based on the fact that it was not subpoenaed, and we thought, too, it was just a technical matter, and we were thankful it hadn't happened on something that had been subpoenaed.

Q To move to Miss Woods, when she testified at the

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HOOVER REPORTING CO., INC. 320 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. first set of hearings, do you recall whether you had any conversations with Miss Woods about her testimony?

A No, I don't recall that I talked to her about her testimony.

We had a practice in our office, and I think it is probably the practice in most President's offices -- I hope it is -- it is even now, and it was a practice in the Eisenhower administration I know -- the President has got so many, many very, very important things to do -- I mean, I am not trying to build up myself, but all Presidents have -- that wherever possible you don't raise matters with him that are going to divert him from the job he was elected to do.

For example, you take Mr. Bull. I was rather shocked to learn, when he left -- Mr. Bull, who is no target of this investigation, incidentally, as I understand --

Q I must say that we can't, obviously, respond to that.

A I know you can't but you wouldn't be committed to it in any event, but he shouldn't be, I am sure, because I have known him a long time, Mr. Bull, who sits right outside my office and Miss Woods' office is down the hall a ways, and he had FOIA(b) 6 in attorney's fees when he left Government.

I said, how come? He said, because I have had to go down and testify so much.

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I said, I didn't know you were down there. I mean, I didn't know you were down there that much. I knew he had been down, but he never came in to talk to me about his testimony; he never came in to bother me about his testimony, or to ask me about it, and Miss Woods, above all, followed that practice, because she had been with me for twentyseven years, and she knew that I had -- it is probably one of the weaknesses, but it is one of the weaknesses I have and it is a strength in another way, I am quite singleminded. Some people can play cards and listen to television and have a conversation at one time. I can't. I do one thing at a time, and in the office of the Presidency I did the big things and did them reasonably well and screwed up on the little things, partly because the staff didn't bring them to me.

They didn't think it was big either. But I have taken too long to answer the question. What I am going to say is, no, I didn't discuss Miss Woods conversation with her. I have no recollection of a discussion with her as to how she should testify, what she would do. I knew she was worried about it. I knew she was going down, but --

Do you recall any conversations with Mr. Buzhardt or General Haig in connection with how Miss Woods might respond to questions during this first hearing which might somehow involve her accidental erasure that had been

reported to you?

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Assuming it was accidental, right. You see, I am helping you now.

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0 Do you recall any such conversation with Mr. Haig or with Mr. Buzhardt?

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I don't recall a conversation. One could have I don't recall any. And I emphasize again that the reason that I don't -- I think my recollection in this instance, which, of course, is just pure recollection, is correct, because I don't have access to any notes or anything of that sort in this period, because I didn't consider it a problem. Haig didn't consider it a problem. Buzhardt didn't consider it a problem that time, and I don't

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believe, for that reason, that they would have brought it up

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to me around that period of time, October 1, 1973, when we

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had some pretty rugged problems.

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Mr. Bull had the tape, the June 20th tape, largely for

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purposes of transporting it, the evidence indicates generally

Now with the exception of some isolated times when

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that between September 29, 1973, and November 13, 1973, when all the original tapes Miss Woods had were returned to

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General Bennett, that this tape that we have been talking

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about was in her custody. Do you recall whether during that entire time period you ever went into Miss Woods' office

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when she was working on this tape, apart from you talked about

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the Camp David incident?

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No, I have no recollection of that.

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Let me point out that at the time we had our conversation on October 1, she was finished with this tape.

I am sorry, with the June 20th tape on October

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She was finished with the October 1st tape.

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first, and I only say that, but in direct response to your

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question, the answer is I had no reason to go into her

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office. I would have her come into mine if I felt there was something to be done. Now during this period she worked on these

tapes in Key Biscayne also, and I mean to include that in the following question: Do you recall ever being present when Miss Woods

was working on the tapes at all, apart from the September 29 visit to Dogwood cabin?

So that you can get the geographical situation in mind, my house at Key Biscayne is over at the bay. The hotel where the staff stays is over on the seaside, about two miles away. I never visited on this trip, While I have been to the hotel on other occasions, on this trip I never went to Miss Woods' quarters, where she stayed, General Haig, Bull, the Secret Service, and the rest.

My question was a little broader. I was 0 including that, but in terms of that entire period, whether

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it was Key Biscayne or at the White House or the EOB, were you ever present on any other occasion, apart from the Camp David experience, when Miss Woods was actually working on the tapes?

A On the tapes?

Q On the nine tapes?

A Or this tape?

Q The tapes generally?

A The tapes generally. Being in her office when she was typing them off, you mean, or something like that?

Q Well, when she had the tapes out and was listening or typing?

A I don't have any recollection. Not in Florida, certainly, because the tapes were always over there in her apartment. They were never brought over to me, and as far as her office in Washington is concerned, when she returned from Florida, I have no recollection of walking in to look at the tape process because I, frankly, wanted her to get the job done and I didn't think we ought to bother her.

Q Do you recall generally what the first awareness you had wasthat there was a buzzing sound or other kind of gap of greater dimensions than was reported to you by Miss Woods in the earlier conversation?

A Here I am testifying because, as far as the date is concerned, on the basis of having my memory refreshed

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from the documents that you have furnished to me, I know that I was informed of it, of course, as far as the date is concerned. It was in the middle of October.

Q I would suggest that it was, in terms of the documents we have produced to you, that there is testimony that it was in the middle of November.

You are exactly right, the middle of November. I appreciate your correcting me, because it shows you how you can slip back and forth. It was the middle of November. It was after Miss Woods had testified for the first time before the Grand Jury -- I mean, before Mr. Sirica, who was even tougher than the Grand Jury, but anyway --

. 0 Do you recall how it was brought to your attention or who brought it to your attention?

> A Who --

Do you recall who brought to your attention the fact that there was a gap of larger dimension than Miss Woods had reported?

General Haig. General Haig. My recollection is clear on that. I don't recall which office I was in, but he came in and said that, you know, about this tape, that we find that -- I mean, Rose had thought it was four minutes, or something like that, or there had been some discussion, which was very brief, and now the counsel have found that it is eighteen and a half minutes, and I practically blew my

stack, and I said, why, what business has counsel gotten to this. This tape she was told was not subpoenaed; they changed their minds, and he said, well, I guess they have. I said, well, let's take another look then. I said, we have done enough to damage the Presidency already by agreeing to turn over confidential information, and I am not going to turn over anything that is not absolutely required by the subpoena.

I also, frankly, told Buzhardt that when I talked to him about it, that I said I want an absolute check to make sure that we weren't discussing a non-subpoenaed tape.

Q And did Mr. Buzhardt give you that assurance, or do you recall anything further about the conversation with Mr. Buzhardt?

A No, I don't recall. Over those days, you will note from the logs, I was traveling some. In November, and that was another rather interesting period, too, the period you remember of the confirmation of Mr. Ford was on my mind, and so forth, but in any event Mr. Buzhardt, to shorthand it, only said that talking with the other lawyers, Garment and all, that they agreed that despite the fact that it was a sloppily drawn subpoena, that actually the Haldeman portion of the conversation, as well as the Ehrlichman portion, was subpoenaed.

Now when I was told that finally -- I think

however, my recollection is that it occurred just after I had addressed the Governors' Conference. If you will check the logs and pull out the dates, I would appreciate it, but I addressed the Governors' Conference in Kansas City, I think it was, and one of the governors asked me is there any other bombshell going to come.

I said I didn't think so. I was aware at that time of this eighteen and a half minute thing, but I was still not convinced that, and had still not made up my mind that it was subpoenaed, so under the circumstance I said I hope not.

Then after the Governors' Conference, Haig said
he had a call and that, first, it was subpoenaed; second,
that as far as the tape was concerned that they thought this
ought to be disclosed to Judge Sirica, and, third, that, and
all of these things occurred there, and when we got back to
the White House where there was a further discussion about
it that evening; third, that it could not be reconstructed
because that was another point that I made, even though it
was a non-subpoenaed tape, I said, see if you can reconstruct
it and see if we can find any notes as to what was on it.
And all they were able to do -- they couldn't reconstruct
it -- they found it was subpoenaed and they found Haldeman's
notes, these rather benign notes, and as to what is on them
as far as anything that the Special Prosecutor is interested
in --

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HOOVER REPORTING CO., INC. 320 Massachusetts Avenue, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20002 (202) 546-6666 Q And in terms of the portions of the conversation in which you requested a determination as to whether it could be reconstructed or whether notes could be located, was that part of the initial discussions on the day that you first learned that it might be a subpoenaed tape?

A I don't know which date it occurred. It was during the whole period. You know how these things are. I can't say that on the initial day I said, gee, go back and see if you can reconstruct it.

Q We are only asking if you do have the recollection? We understand the problem.

A Yes, you understand, but all I can tell you is over all of that time period all of these things were discussed and I wouldn't affirm or deny what somebody else said with regard to whether, they talked to me on the 14th and I said, well, maybe it was the 16th, I just don't recall. I do recall all of them were discussed with me and mostly at my initiative.

Q Did General Haig or Mr. Buzhardt or Mr. Powers communicate to you anything about what was the cause of the eighteen and a half minute gap during this period?

A Now, we could spend the rest of the day if we went into that, but I can only say this, that these amateurs, and let me say to you, ladies and gentlemen, if you are not a lawyer you will be one day, so we will say,

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HOOVER REPORTING CO., INC. 320 Massachusetts Avenue, N.C. Washington, D.C. 20002 (202) 546-6666 ladies and gentlemen, as lawyers when you have a technical problem, don't try to solve it yourself. These clowns -- pardon the expression -- they go in, they try to re-create this and that and the other thing and instead of getting an expert in right away to find out about the noise, of course they did and they told me, well, we don't know, we think maybe a lamp caused it or maybe it had to be done by a lamp and a typewriter on of a certain type may have caused it, and then at another time they said, well, we are not sure, it must have been done in another way.

All that they knew was that they were able to get at it, and they eventually did call experts in, and they were also trying to do it, incidentally, working with a copy at this time -- they didn't work with the originals, so there is no question about their doing any erasure, as far as I know -- at least they told me they were working with copies.

In any event, all of this discussion and whether it occurred or what day it occurred, I can't tell you, but it was over a period of time as to how it might have happened. All they said is that you had to have the record button on and you had to have -- in this case Miss Woods was using a foot pedal -- when I listened to the tape I have not done that, but of course when you are not typing you don't need a foot pedal, you can just listen the other

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I should point out, in terms of time, that this conversation about what caused it and who caused it, and so forth and so on, these conversations occurred after the Governors' Conference -- I mean after we got it down to Sirica's court -- because then it was an issue, a public issue. Before that time I was, frankly, so tied up with other things that all that I was doing was waiting for them to give me a recommendation.

Now you understand what they were doing in this period was, I am sure, trying to find out whether they could reconstruct it and what caused it. But as far as my conversation with them, the conversations that I just referred to occurred after the Governors' Conference, when they all, in their great wisdom, had determined that it was a subpoenaed tape, that it could not be reconstructed, and that they didn't know how it happened, but that it had to be done, they thought, manually, which, incidentally, I have learned from -- of course, every expert in the country now is an expert on the tapes -- but I have learned it can be done apparently technically, as well, and I think that there is no reason this should not be in the record.

I saw recently where a Cleveland authority on tapes points out that malfunctions of a machine often erase. This I understand is not evidence for you --

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Well, we appreciate, of course anything that you might want to contribute relating to what might have caused it.

Yes. I don't know how it happened.

You have mentioned that it now became a more public issue. At this point do you recall whether or not you contacted or had anybody contact Mr. Haldeman to see whether he had a more complete recollection as to what was on the June 20th tape?

I don't recall that, but Mr. Haldeman's notes came into our possession, and I think what happened there is that I asked either Higby or Buzhardt -- not Higby, --

General Haig?

Haig or Buzhardt -- I don't know which one -- they worked interchangeably, to see whether we could -- you see, we had had earlier, as you know, we had earlier the problem of what were called the - quote - two missing tapes - end quote. They were not tapes missing at all. They were simply unrecorded conversations. So under the circumstance I wanted to do everything possible in cooperating with the Special Prosecutor, if we couldn't have a recording, to give them what we did have, so I authorized or asked somebody to get a hold of Haldeman and get his notes. I don't recall when or how.

Do you recall whether during this time or at any

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to get his recollection of the meeting?

point you requested though that Mr. Haldeman be contacted

I don't recall that.

Or did you have such a conversation with Mr. Haldeman?

A No, I don't recall that. I note you were referring to the Haldeman notes. That was his recollection. I imagine it is all he could recall.

Now I think we could, given one of your earlier responses to this, ask more of a summary question: During the second round of hearings Miss Woods testified on several occasions, Mr. Bull testified on several occasions, Mr. Buzhardt testified and General Haig testified. Do you recall whether you discussed with them the content of their testimony?

At what time?

At around the time they were giving it. I ask it generally in light of your earlier response.

No. Let me say, first, that they were all aware of, with regard to the disclosure of testimony. In fact, Mr. Rhyne, a very close friend of mine, in the second goaround was representing Miss Woods and told her that she couldn't even tell me what she was testifying about, but the point is that as far as what their testimony had been, they followed the rules that people are supposed to follow with

regard to testimony before a Grand Jury.

As far as each of them was concerned, I can't recall any extended, or as a matter of fact any specific conversations in which we discussed what the testimony would be. I was only following it in terms of what the facts might be and to me the most intriguing part of it was this great panel of experts, what they were going to come up with.

I had every confidence that Miss Woods'
testimony would, and any member of my staff's, testimony
would be, I thought, as responsive as they could make it.

And if the import of your question is did I coach them, did I tell them what to say, did they ask me what to say, the answer is, no.

Q During the course of your testimony this morning, you have told us about the report that Miss Woods made to you regarding the brief buzz which she may have caused on, I guess, October 1. Now apart from that, has Miss Woods ever told you that she was responsible for or caused the erasure of the entire eighteen and a half minutes of the conversation?

A No, on the contrary, she has always denied that the buzz that she heard was more than four and a half to five minutes, and she cannot explain how eighteen minutes could have occurred. She doesn't, incidentally, charge that anybody else did it or was there, and she doesn't know, but

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or

she says her best recollection is that it was a very brief buzz and that is what she had told me.

Q Now has Mr. Bull ever indicated to you that he caused or was responsible for the erasure of any portion of that tape?

A No, no, never.

Q Has anybody else ever indicated to you that they were responsible for or caused the erasure of that tape?

A I want to assure the Special Prosecutor and his staff that I, of course, had the most intensive investigation made to see if anybody else had had access who might have done it, including even the Secret Service, and they said, no. When I say, they said no, the reports were unanimous. They had no other occasions that anybody else who had access to the tapes could have done it.

Q You referred to the investigation. Do you recall who was charged with that responsibility?

A Well, just Haig generally, and he was so busy with other things. How many people he asked, I don't know.

Q So --

A Yes, I should emphasize that I didn't write a memorandum saying, ordering an investigation. It was simply a conversation. I said to him, I said, let's find out how this damn thing happened.

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You have enough on the tapes. Apart from what we have discussed today, and I

I am sorry, I wasn't supposed to use profanity.

would assume you may be aware from the public testimony, do you have any other information as to who might have been responsible for and who might have caused the erasure of that tape?

A No, I have none.

MR. DAVIS: I am going to now consult with the two representatives from the Grand Jury to see if they have any further questions that they would like to ask.

THE WITNESS: Sure. Do anything you like.

BY MR. DAVIS:

(Counsel and jurors withdraw from conference room.)

Just to make sure we understand the terms of this request of General Haig, if I understand it correctly, and I want you to correct me if I am misstating it at all, you made a generalized request of General Haig to see if he could determine anything as to what or who was responsible, and he reported back to you, I assume orally, that he had no better explanation than anybody else. Is that a fair statement?

I think a more accurate statement is that rather than my calling Haig in and saying, look, now you conduct an investigation into this thing, it is that in our conversations about it, and Buzhardt might have been present

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at some, I said, let's do everything we can to find out how this has been caused and if anybody else might have caused it, and Haig's evaluation -- which he is a very honest man -- I mean, in evaluating with all of the bark off -- plus there is no evidence whatever to indicate that anybody else could have done it.

Now let me say this does not mean that this

Special Prosecutor's office and the Grand Jury should not

proceed on a more thorough way in questioning every other

individual who might have had access.

If you are interested in my view as to what happened, it is very simple. It is that it was an accident. My view as far as Miss Woods' role is that I believe her totally, but I guess I would be expected to because she has been with me so long and she is deeply religious, but she doesn't wear it on her sleeve; she has it here in her heart, and she would never lie to me, and under these circumstances when she said that she didn't erase anything, that she didn't hear anything, she doesn't know what is on it, I believe her. I realize that is not evidence, but it is at least my opinion, but the other point that I make is that with regard to the others, anybody else, I don't know of anybody else, General Haig doesn't know of anybody else, Buzhardt doesn't know of anybody else, and also the important thing is that the panel of experts could not really find a basic

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agreement as to even how it occurred. They do, up to a point, but there are so many, from having cursorily, giving a cursory reading of the report, there are so many loopholes that they just aren't going to get caught on that.

I don't know how it happened.

Q Without of course going into the experts' report or any of that, I just want to ask one question based on your last response, and that is when you say that it is your opinion that it was an accident, are you saying that the entire eighteen and a half minutes took place or the entire eighteen and a half minute gap was created by Miss Woods' accident that she reported to you?

A No, I am not saying that at all. I am saying that I think whatever occurred, and assuming that it was an erasure, which I think could be assumed based on the fact that the experts did find scraps of words, -- Miss Woods doesn't like the word erasure because she said she didn't hear anything, and of course I believe her.

My point is as far as anything she did, it was an accident. As far as the balance of it, she could have done it all and it would have been accidental, some malfunction of the machine. She could have. She doesn't think so. She says it was only four and a half to five minutes. That is what she testified to, and that is what she told me personally. As far as some third person, another person

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I mean I wish we could find it.

MR. DAVIS: I think we all do.

THE WITNESS: I mean this is pretty good stuff.

MR. DAVIS: I think that is all of the questions on this subject. Thank you very much.

(Whereupon, at 12:45 p.m., the deposition was recessed, to reconvene at 1:45 p.m. the same day.)