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OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Date of transcription 08/03/98

MONICA S. LEWINSKY was interviewed under the terms of an immunity agreement between the Office of the Independent Counsel (OIC) and her. LEWINSKY was interviewed at the Office of the Independent Counsel, 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20004. Present for the interview were Associate Independent Counsel (AIC) MICHAEL EMMICK, AIC MARY ANNE WIRTH, AIC KARIN IMMERGUT, AIC CRAIG LERNER, AIC JULIE MYERS and Deputy Independent Counsel (DIC) ROBERT BITTMAN. Present representing LEWINSKY were PRESTON BURTON and ROBERT BREDHOFF. LEWINSKY provided the following information, beginning at approximately 10:25 a.m.

On January 4, 1998, LEWINSKY called BETTY CURRIE in the late afternoon to arrange a meeting with CURRIE. LEWINSKY went to CURRIE's home to give CURRIE a package to give to President WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON. LEWINSKY advised this was the first time she went to CURRIE's home to give CURRIE a package to give to CLINTON.

In the package was a book about the Presidents of the United States and a note. LEWINSKY cannot recall exactly when she purchased the book, but it occurred sometime after December 28, 1997. LEWINSKY advised she thinks she purchased the book on January 2 or January 3, 1998. LEWINSKY advised she withdrew \$40 from the RIGGS NATIONAL BANK automatic teller machine on Wisconsin Avenue in Georgetown to buy the book.

LEWINSKY advised she purchased the book at a book store next to the Christian Scientist book store on Wisconsin Avenue. LEWINSKY advised she and ASHLEY RAINES saw the movie "Titanic," which prompted her to write the note she enclosed with the book. LEWINSKY advised she was feeling very down when she wrote the note. LEWINSKY described the note as very romantic.

When LEWINSKY saw CURRIE, LEWINSKY asked CURRIE to give the package to CLINTON. LEWINSKY and CURRIE also spoke about LEWINSKY's New Year's Eve encounter with STEVE NEUWIRTH.

LEWINSKY advised she was at CURRIE's residence for approximately twenty minutes.

Investigation on 08/2/98 at Washington, DC File # 29D-OIC-LR-35063

CI [REDACTED]
by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 08/03/98

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LEWINSKY advised that giving CURRIE, on December 28, 1997, the box with some of the gifts CLINTON had given LEWINSKY, on December 28th made LEWINSKY feel she was assuring CLINTON that she was on the same team. LEWINSKY does not recall talking about the PAULA JONES case with CURRIE. LEWINSKY may have mentioned LEWINSKY's idea about settling the JONES case with CLINTON on December 17, 1997.

On January 5, 1998, LEWINSKY met with FRANK CARTER, though she can not recall the exact time. LEWINSKY advised CARTER asked her a few difficult questions about sex. LEWINSKY told CARTER she did not have sex with CLINTON. LEWINSKY advised the two went into detail about how a deposition is conducted. LEWINSKY asked if her parents could be present during the deposition. LEWINSKY did not consider the meeting a full preparation session for the deposition.

LEWINSKY advised CARTER told her the types of questions that would be asked during the deposition, including how LEWINSKY got her job at the Pentagon. LEWINSKY advised this worried her as she did not know how to answer questions related to her transfer to the Pentagon without the answers leading to her relationship with CLINTON. LEWINSKY was concerned that the attorneys for JONES would go to people at the White House to verify LEWINSKY's answers and, because some of those people did not like LEWINSKY, they would contradict what LEWINSKY said under oath.

LEWINSKY could not recall taking any items to CARTER's office on January 5, 1998, although she could have, but she definitely recalls doing so on another occasion.

CARTER told LEWINSKY that, in civil cases, a lot of things were done at the last minute, so she probably would not hear about her subpoena being quashed until later.

During one of her meetings with CARTER, LEWINSKY mentioned telling LINDA TRIPP about LEWINSKY's subpoena. CARTER got a copy of the Newsweek article regarding TRIPP and KATHLEEN WILLEY.

LEWINSKY left the meeting with the understanding CARTER was to draft an affidavit and LEWINSKY would pick it up later that day.

LEWINSKY received a copy of the affidavit on January 5 or 6, 1998. LEWINSKY was nervous about signing the affidavit and

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wanted VERNON JORDAN to review a copy of the affidavit and approve it. LEWINSKY thought that, by having JORDAN approve the affidavit, it was the same as having CLINTON's approval.

On January 5 or 6, 1998 LEWINSKY called CURRIE to tell her LEWINSKY needed to talk to CLINTON. (LEWINSKY advised that on her December 28, 1997 meeting with CLINTON, CLINTON told LEWINSKY to call CURRIE if LEWINSKY had any questions about anything related to the JONES matter.) LEWINSKY was very cryptic with CURRIE when they talked. LEWINSKY said she was going to sign something the next day and she needed to speak with CLINTON before doing so. LEWINSKY advised she wanted to make CLINTON nervous.

LEWINSKY advised CURRIE called at approximately 7 or 8 p.m. LEWINSKY was at the apartment of her aunt, DEBRA FINERMAN, when CURRIE called. LEWINSKY had told CURRIE that is where she would be. CURRIE transferred the call to CLINTON.

LEWINSKY told CLINTON she had spoken to CARTER and went over possible questions that would be asked in her deposition. CLINTON asked LEWINSKY what she was concerned about. LEWINSKY told CLINTON she was worried about giving "vanilla" answers to questions about how LEWINSKY got her job at the Pentagon. LEWINSKY was concerned that people at the White House, who did not like LEWINSKY, would "screw" her.

CLINTON told LEWINSKY to say that people in the Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) found the position and the people in the OLA recommended her for it. LEWINSKY said that she could answer that way. (LEWINSKY advised that explanation was true, but it was not the entire truth.)

LEWINSKY was reassured by what CLINTON said about her transfer to the Pentagon. LEWINSKY and CLINTON spoke about the affidavit. LEWINSKY advised she did not want to sign anything until she was reassured by the White House that she would not be "screwed." LEWINSKY asked CLINTON if he wanted to see the affidavit and CLINTON said no, he had seen about fifteen of them.

CLINTON advised he liked the book she had given him. LEWINSKY told CLINTON it cost \$40 and CLINTON asked why she paid so much for it. LEWINSKY brought up the subject of the note she gave him with the book. CLINTON said that LEWINSKY should not write things like that on paper. LEWINSKY advised CLINTON was referring to romantic items LEWINSKY had placed in the note. LEWINSKY assumed CLINTON threw away the notes she gave him.

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LEWINSKY advised the notes would be more incriminating than the gifts.

The telephone call lasted about ten minutes.

{LEWINSKY advised that on "ZEDILLO Day," she saw a cut-out of the Valentine's Day personal advertisement she had placed in the "Washington Post." LEWINSKY saw CLINTON's copy of the advertisement on the desk in the Oval Office study.}

LEWINSKY advised she was annoyed with CLINTON that day because of a photograph in the newspaper that showed CLINTON and HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON dancing together on a beach.

LEWINSKY advised that she has January 5 and 6, 1998 confused at this time.

LEWINSKY advised that on January 6, 1998, she received a call from CARTER saying the draft affidavit was ready. Later that day, LEWINSKY called JORDAN's office and was told by JORDAN's secretary GAYLE Last Name Unknown (LNU) that JORDAN was out of town. LEWINSKY stopped by CARTER's office in the afternoon and picked up the draft affidavit, which CARTER had left in an envelope on the first floor of his office.

LEWINSKY took the affidavit home, read it and underlined the areas she was concerned about. LEWINSKY was concerned about the last sentence in paragraph six which read "this would have lasted only a matter of minutes and would not have been a "private" meeting, that is not behind closed doors." LEWINSKY was also concerned about paragraph eight regarding seeing the President "with crowds of other people present."

LEWINSKY advised she had previously planned on signing the affidavit on January 6, 1998, but decided JORDAN needed to see the affidavit first. LEWINSKY copied the affidavit and dropped it off at JORDAN's office that afternoon. LEWINSKY did not tell CARTER she was showing the affidavit to JORDAN. LEWINSKY advised that having JORDAN's approval was the same as CLINTON's.

LEWINSKY advised that most of the changes made to the draft affidavit she showed JORDAN were LEWINSKY's ideas. LEWINSKY is sure JORDAN commented on the affidavit, but she is not sure if he suggested any changes. LEWINSKY advised she may have crossed out the items she had previously underlined during the course of her discussion with JORDAN. LEWINSKY advised she

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did not discuss the sexual relationship aspect of the affidavit with JORDAN and only spoke with him for about six minutes.

LEWINSKY told JORDAN she would talk to CARTER the following day to sign the affidavit. LEWINSKY expected JORDAN to let CLINTON know when the affidavit was signed. LEWINSKY asked JORDAN if she should give a signed copy of the affidavit to CLINTON and JORDAN said no. LEWINSKY advised JORDAN never said JORDAN did not want to see the affidavit.

LEWINSKY advised she was unaware of JORDAN's telephone calls that same day to NANCY HERNREICH and CLINTON. After looking at all the telephone contact that was made between JORDAN and CLINTON as reflected on a chart of phone records presented to her by the OIC, LEWINSKY advised that it seems suspicious.

LEWINSKY advised she does not recall what she did during the evening of January 6, 1998, but she did feel relieved to be signing the affidavit. LEWINSKY felt that her involvement in the JONES matter would be over.

On January 7, 1998, LEWINSKY met with CARTER at 10:00 a.m. LEWINSKY does not recall bringing any items with her. LEWINSKY did bring a copy of the draft affidavit with her. LEWINSKY advised she and CARTER met in CARTER's office. On previous occasions, she and CARTER met in a conference room.

LEWINSKY advised CARTER had three versions of the affidavit to show her. There was not much difference between the three drafts. LEWINSKY advised none of the affidavits mentioned her having a sexual relationship with CLINTON.

LEWINSKY advised that it was her idea not to put anything in the affidavit about being alone with CLINTON. LEWINSKY advised CARTER suggested the language used when describing the procedure of getting CLINTON's signature on official documents.

LEWINSKY thought the statement in her affidavit that she could not fathom any reason why she was subpoenaed was not completely false. LEWINSKY felt the JONES case was about sexual harassment and LEWINSKY was not sexually harassed. LEWINSKY advised LEWINSKY lost her job at the White House because of her sexual relationship with CLINTON. LEWINSKY advised she was involved in a consensual sexual relationship with CLINTON.

LEWINSKY advised she met with CARTER for one hour to an

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hour and one half. LEWINSKY advised she recalled walking down the hall to have the affidavit notarized. LEWINSKY recalls walking down the hall rationalizing to herself that she did not have a sexual relationship with CLINTON, when, in fact, she had. LEWINSKY rationalized lying about having a "sexual relationship" with CLINTON because they never had sexual intercourse.

LEWINSKY advised she does not have a direct memory of JORDAN's involvement with CARTER after LEWINSKY hired CARTER. LEWINSKY advised that after she looked at the chart of phone records presented to her by the OIC, she believes JORDAN's involvement may have been more substantial than she previously believed.

CARTER told LEWINSKY that he would send a copy of the affidavit to PAULA JONES' attorney, DAVID PYKE. LEWINSKY thought it was obvious that CARTER would apprise BOB BENNETT of her affidavit. LEWINSKY just wanted to do what CLINTON and BENNETT wanted her to do. LEWINSKY may have called JORDAN to let him know the affidavit was signed.

LEWINSKY's goal with the affidavit was not to give the JONES people a "little snag of yarn so they could pull the whole sweater apart."

LEWINSKY advised she was relieved since her conversation with CLINTON, on December 17, 1997, that he was assured she was comfortable with the situation.

LEWINSKY advised she left CARTER's office and soon left for New York to be with her mother. LEWINSKY advised she told her mother about the affidavit, but does not recall her mother's reaction. LEWINSKY took a signed copy of the affidavit with her to New York so she could have it in her possession.

On January 8th, LEWINSKY advised she had an interview at McANDREWS & FORBES (M&F) that did not go well at all. LEWINSKY advised she had previously met with RICHARD HALPERIN and someone else from M&F, so she was not sure why this meeting was necessary. LEWINSKY was very concerned after this interview, because, in addition to the interview going poorly, LEWINSKY had not yet heard from BURSON & MARSTELLER (B&M). LEWINSKY was also concerned that her poor showing at the interview would be a bad reflection on JORDAN.

LEWINSKY called JORDAN several times after the interview to advise him how the interview went. Initially,

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LEWINSKY left JORDAN messages, but she eventually spoke to him. LEWINSKY sensed that JORDAN was annoyed that nothing had come up yet in the form of a job for LEWINSKY. JORDAN called LEWINSKY back and said that he had spoken to the chairman of M&F, and JORDAN told LEWINSKY not to worry. JORDAN told LEWINSKY someone from M&F would be calling her back to arrange for another interview.

Later that day, JAYMIE DURNAN, or DURNAN's secretary, called LEWINSKY to arrange a meeting for the following day. LEWINSKY advised she may have called JORDAN later that evening, but she did not fax anything to JORDAN's office from her mother's apartment.

On January 9, 1998, sometime in the morning, LEWINSKY called LINDA TRIPP. LEWINSKY told TRIPP she was calling from a pay phone because LEWINSKY was concerned about calling TRIPP from home. LEWINSKY thought JONES' attorneys might be tapping her phones.

LEWINSKY advised TRIPP's tone was different than her most recent calls. TRIPP told LEWINSKY about TRIPP's visit with NORMA ASNES. According to TRIPP, a friend of ASNES's told TRIPP to get a job in New York in the public relations field. TRIPP also told LEWINSKY that TRIPP now thought it was good to be vague on the truth when it came to the deposition.

LEWINSKY told TRIPP that LEWINSKY had had no contact with JORDAN, CURRIE or CLINTON since December, even though that was false. LEWINSKY told TRIPP that LEWINSKY had not heard anything about job offers. Neither of these things was true, but LEWINSKY told TRIPP this because LEWINSKY was wary of TRIPP ever since TRIPP said she was going to tell the truth about LEWINSKY's relationship with CLINTON. LEWINSKY did not tell TRIPP that LEWINSKY had signed the affidavit. TRIPP told LEWINSKY not to sign the affidavit until LEWINSKY had a job.

LEWINSKY advised this call with TRIPP put LEWINSKY at ease, so LEWINSKY agreed to meet TRIPP when LEWINSKY returned to Washington, D.C.

On January 9, 1998, between 11:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., LEWINSKY met with ALLAIN SEIDMAN and two other people from REVLON. LEWINSKY was very excited to work in the area of public relations that they discussed with her. LEWINSKY may have referenced her previous interview at M&F, and she may have referred to JORDAN. LEWINSKY also interviewed with the Human

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Resources manager at REVLON.

LEWINSKY advised she called JORDAN after the interview to let him know it went well. LEWINSKY advised she received a telephone call from SEIDMAN, in which LEWINSKY was offered a position at REVLON as a floater in the public relations department. LEWINSKY was advised her salary would be approximately \$40,000.

LEWINSKY recalled being annoyed at the salary and she complained to JORDAN about it. JORDAN told LEWINSKY to quit whining.

LEWINSKY does not recall calling CARTER on January 9, 1998. LEWINSKY did call CURRIE from a pay phone at the PIERRE HOTEL, to tell her about the job offer. LEWINSKY thinks CLINTON may have been out of town. LEWINSKY may have asked CURRIE to tell CLINTON about the job offer.

LEWINSKY advised that, in all the times she tried to reach JORDAN, she only got through to him half the time.

LEWINSKY does not recall what she did on January 10, 1998, except for the afternoon, which she spent looking for a tie to give JORDAN. LEWINSKY recalls that on January 11, 1998, STEVE NEUWIRTH called and said he did not want to see LEWINSKY that night or ever again.

LEWINSKY advised that on January 12, 1998, LEWINSKY sat by the phone awaiting a call. CARTER paged LEWINSKY and when she returned the page, CARTER advised her that he had submitted her affidavit to PYKE.

LEWINSKY called CURRIE on January 12, trying to get a recommendation from the OLA. LEWINSKY was also trying to find out if CURRIE had told CLINTON about LEWINSKY's offer.

LEWINSKY traveled on a 6:00 a.m. train from New York to Washington, D.C. LEWINSKY met JORDAN at 9:30 a.m. in JORDAN's new 4th floor office. LEWINSKY met with JORDAN for five minutes and gave him a tie and a pocket square as a sign of her appreciation.

JORDAN was not as warm with LEWINSKY as he had previously been. JORDAN quoted the Bible in referring to helping others. LEWINSKY perceived this to be the end of her working relationship with JORDAN.

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LEWINSKY advised she and CURRIE started using the code name "KAY" when they paged each other because someone once saw CURRIE's pager, which contained a message from LEWINSKY. The code name "KAY" was LEWINSKY's idea, because both she and CURRIE knew WALTER KAYE. The code name "MARY" was used for LINDA TRIPP.

LEWINSKY may have received a page from CURRIE on January 13, 1998. LEWINSKY faxed a letter on January 13 or 14, 1998 regarding references at the White House. LEWINSKY mentioned JOHN HILLEY as a person who should write her recommendation. LEWINSKY thinks JOHN PODESTA's name may have come up during a conversation with CURRIE as the person who would arrange for LEWINSKY's reference.

LEWINSKY advised that she told TRIPP several lies during her meeting with TRIPP on January 13, 1998. LEWINSKY told TRIPP she had not signed the affidavit when, in fact she had; LEWINSKY told TRIPP she had not heard about a job, when in fact she had; and LEWINSKY told TRIPP she was taking PAXIL, when she was not. LEWINSKY advised she tried to shift things so that TRIPP thought the situation was everyone against TRIPP and LEWINSKY.

LEWINSKY advised she does not know what she would have done if TRIPP had accepted her offer of the condominium in Australia. LEWINSKY thought the offer could be compared to someone saying they would give someone their first-born. LEWINSKY advised she would have spoken to CURRIE and CLINTON to ensure TRIPP did not lose her job.

On January 14, 1998, LEWINSKY called TRIPP from a pay phone at the WATERGATE Apartments and told TRIPP to have NORMA ASNES get TRIPP a Democratic attorney. TRIPP was scheduled to see KIRBY BEHRE that day to sign an affidavit. TRIPP had told LEWINSKY to get TRIPP pulled out of meetings if LEWINSKY called TRIPP at work.

LEWINSKY prepared the "talking points" at her home computer on January 14, 1998. TRIPP told LEWINSKY she had fired KIRBY BEHRE as her attorney and hired a new one. TRIPP told LEWINSKY she did not want it to look like she was not a "team" player. TRIPP had previously told LEWINSKY that she gave BEHRE a sealed envelope, containing the written summary of the information LEWINSKY had told TRIPP about LEWINSKY's affair with CLINTON, in case anything happened to TRIPP.

LEWINSKY felt pressure to hold TRIPP's hand during

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TRIPP's affidavit. LEWINSKY drove TRIPP home that evening and gave her the talking points. TRIPP seemed glad to have some guidance for the affidavit.

On January 15, 1998, LEWINSKY returned a page from CARTER. CARTER asked LEWINSKY if she ever received courier packages from the White House. LEWINSKY said she had not received any packages from the White House via courier, but had sent some there using a courier. CARTER said that someone from BENNETT's office had called and mentioned the existence of courier records of items sent to the White House, referencing LEWINSKY.

LEWINSKY went home and called SPEEDY COURIER service and, without identifying herself, asked if they would ever turn over records. The respondent said they would not turn over records unless they had been subpoenaed. This made LEWINSKY think the courier service had been subpoenaed.

LEWINSKY returned CURRIE's page. CURRIE said that MIKE ISIKOFF had called asking about CURRIE's intern. {LEWINSKY advised CURRIE must have known about LEWINSKY'S involvement in the JONES case, but cannot remember specifically speaking about it with her.} CURRIE said ISIKOFF started asking about courier records.

CURRIE was nervous. LEWINSKY then "freaked out." At that time, LEWINSKY thought it made more sense that CARTER had asked about the records. LEWINSKY thinks CLINTON was out of town because she recalls CURRIE saying she would tell CLINTON when he returned. CURRIE later paged LEWINSKY and LEWINSKY called her. CURRIE asked LEWINSKY to drive her to JORDAN's office. CURRIE's husband had her automobile for the day.

LEWINSKY then called TRIPP and suggested that MARK HOFFMAN from the Pentagon must have been the source of the courier records leak to Newsweek. LEWINSKY advised TRIPP not to talk to Newsweek, if contacted.

LEWINSKY thinks CURRIE went to see JORDAN because JORDAN acted as "damage control." CURRIE may have been concerned about CURRIE's involvement with the LEWINSKY matter. LEWINSKY waited at the "FRONT PAGE" restaurant and had onion soup while CURRIE met with JORDAN. LEWINSKY advised it was raining that day and there was an O.J. SIMPSON interview on the television while she ate.

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CURRIE met with JORDAN for approximately twenty minutes. When CURRIE returned to LEWINSKY, CURRIE explained that she had had a drink with JORDAN in his office. CURRIE said she would wait to see CLINTON before deciding what to do. CURRIE said she would call CLINTON in the Residence, first thing in the morning, to let him know CURRIE needed to speak with him.

LEWINSKY considered the discovery of the courier receipts a "big deal" and advised she could sense a lot of tension from CURRIE. LEWINSKY sensed the situation getting out of control.

On January 16th, LEWINSKY went to a gym on Connecticut Avenue and called CURRIE from a pay phone there. CURRIE said she had spoken to CLINTON, who said not to respond to the inquiries from Newsweek.

LEWINSKY advised she felt very low and depressed on January 16, 1998.

LEWINSKY advised she can not easily discuss any further details of January 16, 1998 at this time, as she feels guilty about getting everyone involved.

On January 18, 1998, LEWINSKY was paged by CURRIE. LEWINSKY was told by her attorney, BILL GINSBURG, not to return the pages. LEWINSKY was paged numerous times by CURRIE during that time frame. LEWINSKY returned a couple of the pages by calling CURRIE from a pay phone and leaving cryptic messages, hoping CURRIE would be able to figure out what was happening. LEWINSKY advised on one occasion, she said something about "HOOVER," hoping CURRIE would make the connection to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. LEWINSKY felt responsible for the crisis they were in.

The interview ended at approximately 2 p.m.

