

Tab 29

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OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Date of transcription 08/19/98

MONICA S. LEWINSKY was interviewed pursuant to an immunity agreement between the Office of the Independent Counsel (OIC), LEWINSKY, and her attorneys. Present for the interview were Associate Independent Counsel (AIC) MICHAEL EMMICK, AIC KARIN IMMERGUT, and AIC MARY ANNE WIRTH. Representing LEWINSKY was attorney PRESTON BURTON of the law offices of PLATO CACHERIS. The interview was conducted in Suite 490, 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. beginning at 11:03 a.m. LEWINSKY provided the following information:

LEWINSKY indicated that she is taking two anti-depressants, Zoloft and Serzone.

LEWINSKY, who was 24 years of age when approached by the OIC on January 16, 1998, was not prepared to wear a wire and/or record telephone conversations. The request to do so was a lot to handle that day and LEWINSKY relied on her advisors, who included her parents and BILL GINSBERG. LEWINSKY tried to protect the President at first but no longer feels this is the thing to do. The proffer that LEWINSKY prepared in late January, 1998 is correct. LEWINSKY is now disappointed and angry with the President for several reasons:

1. The President denied that he had sexual relations with "that woman."
2. The President, in his speech to the nation on August 17, 1998, did not recognize the suffering this has caused LEWINSKY.
3. The President lied.
4. The President's staff has said unkind things about LEWINSKY, including labelling her as "the stalker."

LEWINSKY does not recall the book Geek Love and did not recognize a copy of it.

The President was conscious of the labels on his ties and liked the ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA and HUGO BOSS ties that she gave him. With the exception of the LEWINSKY gift ties, the President did not talk about ties very much. The President certainly knew

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SA [REDACTED]
by CI [REDACTED] Date dictated 08/19/98

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that LEWINSKY had given him the HUGO BOSS red tie with small black squares. The President must have recalled that LEWINSKY gave him the "birthday tie," a yellow ZEGNA, since he wrote her a thank you note and wore it weekly during the 1996 Presidential campaign.

On April 7, 1996, LEWINSKY advised the President by telephone that she had been transferred to the Pentagon. Sometime during the next week, the President told LEWINSKY that EVELYN LIEBERMAN had fired her because LEWINSKY and the President were paying too much attention to each other. The President said that LIEBERMAN did not care what the President did after the election.

On August 4, 1996, between 12:00 and 12:30 p.m., LEWINSKY caused herself to be walking on 16th Street north of the White House. The President had not called LEWINSKY in a little while and she wanted him to see her as a reminder that they had not seen each other in awhile. LEWINSKY knew that the President regularly returned from church each Sunday at about that time and also knew that he sat on the right hand side of the car. The President saw LEWINSKY, but probably thought that it was accidental. The President called her as a result of this "chance" sighting.

On a Sunday in September 1996, LEWINSKY was walking in the same area with her aunt, DEBRA FINERMAN, and she presumes that she was sighted by the President, but she did not see him. The President either called her or left a message that he had seen her.

The President advised LEWINSKY that when he was on vacation at Martha's Vineyard in August 1997, representatives of the BLACK DOG store sent over to his vacation compound a number of BLACK DOG items. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] took the items they liked and the President took the leftover items to use as gifts. The President knew that LEWINSKY liked these items and gave the bag to her at Christmas time. He gave the remaining BLACK DOG items to BETTY CURRIE. LEWINSKY had asked the President to buy her a BLACK DOG T-shirt on one occasion.

LEWINSKY believes that many of the gifts that the President gave LEWINSKY were gifts that he had received, i.e., the New York skyline pin and the Rockettes blanket. The President said that he had obtained the hat pin in Santa Fe, the bear in Vancouver, and the sunglasses in Union Station while shopping with [REDACTED].

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LEWINSKY did not discuss the "talking points" with anyone but LINDA TRIPP.

LEWINSKY may have mentioned to her mother and aunt that she had tried to convince LINDA TRIPP to file an affidavit to avoid TRIPP testifying about her knowledge of LEWINSKY's relationship with the President. This was to protect LEWINSKY's reputation and TRIPP's job. LEWINSKY may have alluded to a possible betrayal by an unidentified friend when she met with the Christian Scientist counselor on Fifth Avenue in New York. LEWINSKY may have mentioned LINDA TRIPP to her friends, NEYSA ERBLAND and ASHLEY RAINES, but would not have provided any detail about TRIPP to them.

LINDA TRIPP said that MICHAEL ISIKOFF had misquoted her in the Newsweek article that was issued in the summer of 1997. KEN BACON asked TRIPP to let him know if she was going public with any more information; BACON had gathered a lot of information about TRIPP from the Internet and was concerned. LEWINSKY was worried that BACON and BERNATH were going to fire TRIPP. BERNATH was irritated that TRIPP had not told any of her superiors about her previous testimony in the Whitewater matter. TRIPP said if that happened she would write a "tell all" book. This would expose LEWINSKY.

LEWINSKY said there are two possibilities concerning KATHLEEN WILLEY:

1. The President could be telling the truth.
2. Maybe something consensual happened since TRIPP advised that WILLEY had been sending notes to the President for a long time.

LEWINSKY told TRIPP that the President told LEWINSKY that WILLEY had called HERNREICH about ISIKOFF's call to WILLEY. While LEWINSKY was in Madrid, TRIPP advised her telephonically that there was something about WILLEY in the DRUDGE Report. LEWINSKY asked TRIPP if she had told ISIKOFF about the WILLEY call to HERNREICH. TRIPP was evasive and did not admit that she had. LEWINSKY did not confront TRIPP about this disclosure, because LEWINSKY was wary of TRIPP, so she did not tell TRIPP until much later that she had seen the President on July 14, 1997.

The President once said, "I know you think I have 100 other girlfriends but I don't." This was the only time that he

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ever referred to LEWINSKY as a girlfriend.

LEWINSKY never had an open discussion with the President about whether oral sex is "sex." However, after having a relationship with him, LEWINSKY deduced that the President, in his mind, apparently does not consider oral sex to be sex. Sex to him must mean intercourse. LEWINSKY said that her use of the term "having sex" means having intercourse, although oral sex would constitute an "affair." LEWINSKY believed that the President's refusal to allow her to bring him to "completion" was his way of "drawing a line."

At some point, LEWINSKY asked the President if he wanted to see her affidavit. The President put her off by saying that he had seen a lot of affidavits.

On December 17, 1997, the President said that other women on the PAULA JONES witness list were girlfriends from Arkansas from years ago. The President never discussed DOLLY KYLE BROWNING or others on the list with LEWINSKY. LEWINSKY later heard that [REDACTED] may have been a former girlfriend in Arkansas. [REDACTED] always had an icy stare for LEWINSKY. Neither [REDACTED] nor [REDACTED] concealed their daggers well. LEWINSKY made an off-handed comment to the President about GENNIFER FLOWERS and he laughed.

The book given to the President on December 6, 1997 was the THEODORE ROOSEVELT antique book. The antique book purchased after December 28, 1997 was entitled, "Presidents of the United States." This book was purchased at the shop next to the Christian Scientist store in Georgetown and was given to BETTY CURRIE to give to the President on January 4, 1998.

The President never told LEWINSKY to turn over to FRANK CARTER all of the gifts that he had given her.

LEWINSKY never discussed VERNON JORDAN with the President until she began looking for a job in New York in October 1997. LEWINSKY figured that asking JORDAN for help was one more "iron in the fire" in trying to get a New York job.

LEWINSKY discussed the settling of the PAULA JONES case with LINDA TRIPP on December 8, 1997, and with the President on December 17, 1998. During the conversation on December 17th, LEWINSKY is 99% sure that the President told her that if she had to testify she should say that LEWINSKY was at the Oval Office to visit BETTY CURRIE or to bring papers to the President. LEWINSKY

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is 100% sure that the President suggested that she might want to sign an affidavit to avoid testifying.

Once when BETTY CURRIE was gone, LEWINSKY asked the President why he could not clear her into the White House. The President responded that he could not because they (the Secret Service) make a list of everyone who comes to see him.

At 12:38 p.m., AIC MARY ANNE WIRTH entered and asked LEWINSKY whether she had ever been taken by another woman to the Oval Office and let in to see the President. LEWINSKY could only recall that she could have been escorted as an intern by TRACY BECKETT to take PANETTA's mail to the Oval Office, or possibly could have gone with KARIN ABRAMSON to deliver the poem that LEWINSKY wrote to the President on behalf of the interns. LEWINSKY was never escorted into the Oval Office and left with the President by any woman other than BETTY CURRIE. AIC WIRTH exited at 12:42 p.m.

The interview ended at approximately 12:50 p.m.

