Speak loud, Mr. Turner, into the machine.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM C. TURNER

Mr. TURNER. My name is William C. Turner. I have lived in Phoenix or Scottsdale, AZ since 1953. Most of that time, I have served as head of a firm of international management consultants, except for the period 1974 to 1977, when I served as the American Ambassador to the OECD in Paris.

During the period from approximately 1955 to 1965, I was reasonably active in the Republican Party and held a number of party positions. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Gordon Marshall, who is also a member of this panel, joins me in this statement.

During the 1962 general election, at the request of the Republican county chairman, Gordon Marshall and I organized a group of Republican volunteers to serve as poll watchers, or challengers, as described in State statutes, in some of the heavily Democratic precincts in the Phoenix area. This followed what we recall being more limited but similar efforts in 1958 and 1960.

A committee of lawyers was also formed by William Rehnquist and Jim Bush, who you just heard, to provide legal counsel and support of poll watchers and other Republican election officials as requested.

Shortly before the election, an evening meeting was held at the Phoenix Women's Club, in which the poll watchers and members of the lawyers committee were briefed by Mr. Rehnquist and Mr. Bush as to their legal rights and responsibilities in challenging unqualified voters under the Arizona statutes.

A central telephone number was given to each volunteer so they could contact committee members for advice or assistance, if required. They were also given appropriate credentials, signed by the Republican county chairman, as official Republican challengers.

On election day, Mr. Marshall and I periodically visited some polls in which difficulties had been reported. The balance of the day was spent at county headquarters. We also met and talked with various members of the legal committee, including Mr. Rehnquist, at Republican headquarters, as well as at some of the polls as they were dispatched to deal with problems during the course of the day.

Bill Rehnquist's job was to organize and supervise the legal committee. It is our recollection that he accompanied us to a few of the polling places where problems were reportedly occurring. This was for the purpose of advising poll watchers and other Republican election officials of their rights when their work of challenging unqualified voters was impeded or credentials questioned by Democratic election officials, or by attorneys from the Democratic county committee who were functioning in a similar capacity for that party.

To the best of our recollection, at no time in our presence, or in the reports of anyone talked with that day, did Bill Rehnquist or any other attorney on the committee, for that matter, assume the role of challenger or engage in harassment or intimidation of voters. Their mission was to assist their Republican poll watchers and other election officials in carrying out their responsibilities of

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challenging unqualified voters, principally on the basis of residence or valid registration.

Since the unaccustomed sight of Republican poll watchers was quite unwelcome at some of the heavily Democratic precincts, there was considerable tension and stress. This resulted in occasional confrontation between Republican members of the legal committee, poll watchers and other election officials, with their Democrat counterparts. The Republican effort was successful and a substantial number of unqualified voters were effectively challenged, principally because they did not meet residency requirements or had invalid registration.

To our knowledge, there was no formal protest by the Democrat Party organization or by any individual voters to the county attorney, who was also a Democrat, concerning the conduct of any Republican poll watcher or attorney on that day, including Mr. Rehnquist. If there were any unreported expressions of concern at that time, some 24 years ago, when memories were still quite fresh, the county attorney was apparently not sufficiently impressed with their credibility or merits to take any action.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.

Mr. Ralph Staggs.

Mr. STAGGS. Is this one on?

STATEMENT OF RALPH STAGGS

I am Ralph Staggs, a semiretired homebuilder from Phoenix, AZ, a native Phoenician. I have held considerable offices in—organizational offices—in the Republican Party in Arizona since 1952, up through precinct committeeman and including 4 years as a Republican national committeeman.

I would like to state for the record that I have known Associate Justice Bill Rehnquist politically since late 1959, and in my opinion, there is not a more honorable man in my total acquaintances than William Rehnquist.

I have never observed any remote biases or prejudices by Bill Rehnquist during his political and social activities that I'm aware of.

I would like to state that I have no information in regards to the 1960 general election, the November general election. I do have information on the 1962 November general election, as I was Republican county chairman for Maricopa County at that time.

I have no information as to the activities of the November general election in 1964.

On November 6, 1962, I was Maricopa County Republican chairman of the Republican party. I would like to point out here, because of historical practices by the Democrat Party to vote tombstones, to vote voter registrations from vacant lots, empty houses, and moved-out residences, the State Republican Committee instructed all county chairmen to set up a program to prevent illegal and/or fraudulent voting. I would be glad to describe that later.

Senator BIDEN. Are you from Chicago or Phoenix?

The CHAIRMAN. Senator, he has a right to——

Mr. STAGGS. I am not from Cook County.