OIC-302 Rev. 8-19-94)

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Date of transcription 05/01/98

SANDRA C. VERNA, Officer, United States Secret Service (USSS), Uniformed Division (UD), date of birth [redacted] was interviewed at the Office of the Independent Counsel (OIC), 1001 Pennslyvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20004. Present for the interview were Associate Independent Counsel (AIC) MICHAEL TRAVERS and AIC MARY ANNE WIRTH and Department of Justice (DOJ) attorneys GARY GRINDLER and JONATHAN SCHWARTZ. VERNA was advised of the identity of the interviewers and the purpose of the interview. VERNA provided the following:

VERNA has been employed by the USSS since October 5, 1988. After working outside of the White House Grounds for approximately six and one-half years, VERNA was assigned to the White House complex, without a permanent post, in April of 1995. VERNA retained this position until July of 1995, when she was moved to the East Wing of the White House as a relief officer. VERNA served in that capacity until August or September of 1995, when she was assigned to the West Wing [redacted] post. The [redacted] post is located in the corridor adjacent to the Oval Office. VERNA served at this post from August or September of 1995 through August of 1996. VERNA worked a rotating shift, which consisted of one week of day work (6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.), and one week of evening work (2:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.). VERNA would fill in at other posts from time to time. VERNA's main partner [redacted] was JOHN GERENA. VERNA also partnered with GARY BYRNE and DAN ORDAKOWSKI on occasion.

VERNA met MONICA LEWINSKY while LEWINSKY was working at the White House as an intern. This was prior to the government shutdown in November of 1995. LEWINSKY would always say hello, and chat with VERNA. LEWINSKY would pass VERNA several times a day at the E-6 post.

VERNA had heard a rumor that LEWINSKY and President WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON watched a movie together. VERNA asked LEWINSKY if the rumor was true. LEWINSKY told VERNA that the rumor was not true, but that the President had stopped into LEWINSKY's office in the East Wing to say hello. The President had been watching a movie in the East Wing theater. LEWINSKY

Investigation on 04/29/98 at WASHINGTON, DC File # 29D-OIC-LR-35063

by SA [redacted] Date dictated 05/01/98

AUTHENTICATED U.S. GOVERNMENT INFORMATION GPO

OIC-302a (Rev. 8-19-94)

29D-OIC-LR-35063

Continuation of OIC-302 of SANDRA C. VERNA, On 04/29/98, Page 2&a0v0H
&a0v0H

told VERNA that she had a college friend visiting her when the President stopped in.

VERNA advised that BAYANI NELVIS, White House steward, stood in the same area as VERNA w[redacted]. NELVIS was friendly, and they often conversed.

VERNA knew NELVIS to be friendly with LEWINSKY. Sometime around January of 1996, NELVIS showed VERNA a tie LEWINSKY had given him as a gift. NELVIS told VERNA that LEWINSKY had also given the President a tie, for either his birthday or Christmas.

Sometime after LEWINSKY was transferred to the Pentagon, VERNA overheard NELVIS speaking to LEWINSKY on the pantry telephone. NELVIS told VERNA this as he was speaking to LEWINSKY. VERNA told NELVIS to tell LEWINSKY she said "hi." VERNA does not recall the specifics of the telephone call.

NELVIS told VERNA that he had seen LEWINSKY on an official trip abroad that LEWINSKY had taken as part of her job at the Pentagon. NELVIS stayed at the same hotel as part of a Presidential trip. NELVIS told VERNA that he and LEWINSKY had dinner together. VERNA could not recall the location of this trip.

VERNA stated that NELVIS never told her that the President and LEWINSKY had a relationship.

VERNA also knew GLEN MAES, White House steward. VERNA did not speak to MAES as often as she spoke to NELVIS. MAES never suggested to VERNA that the President and LEWINSKY had a relationship.

While on duty [redacted] on one occasion, VERNA observed LEWINSKY upset and crying. This was at the time LEWINSKY was transferred to the Pentagon. LEWINSKY was crying and speaking to BETTY CURRIE. LEWINSKY was upset about being transferred. CURRIE told LEWINSKY that she could not do anything, and that LEWINSKY should speak to NANCY HERNREICH. HERNREICH then entered the corridor and told LEWINSKY that there was nothing she could do. HERNREICH and LEWINSKY then walked down the corridor together, away from VERNA.

OIC-302a (Rev. 8-19-94)

29D-OIC-LR-35063

Continuation of OIC-302 of SANDRA C. VERMA, On 04/29/98, Page 3&a0v0H
&a0v0H

VERNA advised that she did not know of an official or unofficial reason for LEWINSKY being moved from the White House.

VERNA was told by USSS Officer STEVE PAPE that LEWINSKY was escorted onto the White House grounds by White House Press Secretary MIKE McCURRY, on more than one occasion. PAPE told VERNA this after the LEWINSKY story became news. However, PAPE had observed McCURRY and LEWINSKY before the story broke.

VERNA advised that LEWINSKY had given her a Christmas card in 1995, and that VERNA had saved it. LEWINSKY also gave VERNA a birthday gift of soap and lotion in January of 1996, from CRABTREE AND EVELYN.

VERNA stated that USSS Officer CHRIS SEUBERT told VERNA that he was going to ask DEBBIE SCHIFF if she would sign a copy of a tabloid article about her. VERNA asked SEUBERT to get an autograph for her as well. VERNA never got the autograph.

VERNA advised that USSS Officer MIKE RICE told VERNA that he saw a copy of the same tabloid article, and that the President had signed it for SCHIFF. The autograph read, "You've been smeared with the best of us."

Sandra Verna, 6/11/98

OIC Deposition

Page 2 to Page

CONDENSED TRANSCRIPT AND CONCORDANCE
PREPARED BY:

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 490-North
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: 202-514-8688
FAX: 202-514-8802

Page 2

OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

----------x

DEPOSITION OF : Thursday, June 11, 1998

SANDRA J. VERNA : Washington, D. C.

----------x

Videotaped deposition of SANDRA J. VERNA before the Independent Counsel, held in the Conference Room of the Office of the Independent Counsel, Suite 490, 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20004, beginning at 10:14 a.m., when were present:

For the Independent Counsel:

MICHAEL L. TRAVERS, ESQUIRE
Associate Independent Counsel
MARY ANNE WIRTH, ESQUIRE
Associate Independent Counsel

Videographer: Craig W. Murphy
Court Reporter: Elizabeth A. Eastman

Page 3

PROCEEDINGS

VIDEOGRAPHER: My name is Craig W. Murphy and I am employed by Deposition Services, Incorporated.

The date today is June 11, 1998 and the time is approximately 10:14 a.m. This deposition is being held at 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W., Suite 490, Washington, D. C.

The name of the witness is Sandra Verna. This deposition of Ms. Verna is being taken In Re Grand Jury Investigation conducted by the Office of Independent Counsel.

At this time, the attorneys will identify themselves and the parties they represent, please.

MR. TRAVERS: Michael Travers, Associate Independent Counsel.

MS. WIRTH: Mary Anne Wirth, Associate Independent Counsel.

VIDEOGRAPHER: At this time, the court reporter will identify herself and swear in the witness, please.

COURT REPORTER: My name is Elizabeth Eastman.

WHEREUPON,

SANDRA JANE VERNA

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

Page 4

EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL:

BY MR. TRAVERS:

Q Could you state your full name, please?
A Sandra Jane Verna.
Q Could you give us the spelling of your last name?
A V, as in Victor, E-R-N-A.
Q How old are you?
A Thirty-one years old.
Q Can you tell us your exact job title?
A Officer.
Q Before we get started with the questioning, I would like to go over a few rights. We are deposing you today in lieu of a grand jury appearance. As you've seen, we've served you with a subpoena for an appearance before the grand jury. This deposition is being conducted instead of that. This proceeding today will be made available to the grand jury.

So, it is being conducted under the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, including the grand jury secrecy rule, Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 6(e).

You have the right to have attorneys present outside the room. In fact, you do have three attorneys outside the room, is that correct?

A Correct.
Q Can you tell us their names?

Page 5

A Mike Leibig, Gary Grindler, and I think Preston was his last name is out there? Anderson. I'm sorry. David Anderson. I can't remember them all.

Q Any time that you would like to consult with them, please let us know. We will temporarily adjourn the proceedings.

A Okay.

Q You have a right to consult with them at any time that you wish. You also have a right not to answer any questions the truthful answer to which would incriminate you. You do have an obligation to tell the truth. You may be prosecuted for perjury if you lie, if you are misleading, or if you answer "I don't know", or "I don't remember", if, in fact, you do know or remember.

Do you understand those rights?

A Yes, sir.

Q We also are conducting this deposition under an informal agreement with the United States Secret Service that, in conducting this inquiry, no questions will be posed for the purpose of seeking information that reveals protective techniques or procedures of the Secret Service, including security technologies, armaments, or devices within or around the White House complex.

If we ask a question that you believe you cannot answer without disclosing that sort of information, please

Page 6

just let us know and you can step out at that point and confer with your attorneys.

Do you understand that?

A Yes, sir.

Q Also, we understand that at this time the Secret Service and the Department of Justice is asserting a protective function privilege with regard to certain information and we will be generally seeking to obtain only non privileged information in this deposition. If we ask a question that you believe calls for privileged information, at that point please let us know, step outside and consult with your attorneys.

A Okay.
Q When did you join the United States Secret Service?
A October 5th, 1988.
Q Could you tell us what your assignments have been with the Secret Service since that time?
A Yeah. I wrote the dates down. Can I look at this, what I've done since then?
Q Sure.
A Okay. From October '88 to October of '90, when I got into training in February of '89, I was assigned to the Treasury Building. October of '90 to March of '94, I was assigned to 1310 L Street in our time and attendance section. From March of '94 to July of '94 I was the East Wing relief

Page 7

officer; from July of '94 to October of '94, the mansion relief officer; and from October '94 [redacted] I went out on light duty January of '95. I was pregnant with my daughter and on limited duty. So, I was assigned to our recruiting office. Then I went back to post E-6 about September of '95. And since October of '96 until present, I'm in our assignments and scheduling office.

[redacted]

Page 8

Q Okay. During the time that you were working at the E-6 post, say between October of 1995 -- I'm sorry, September of 1995 and approximately October of 1996?
A Right.
Q Which shifts did you work?
A [redacted]
Q Did you have a partner during this time?
A Yes. I was partners with John Gerena.
Q Did you work any other posts in the White House complex during this period?
A [redacted]
Q [redacted]
A Maybe in the West Wing on some occasions, but when I went to the assignments and scheduling office, I pretty much worked my days off over there whenever I could. So, maybe hit or miss, five or six times outside of that. But

Page 9

probably no more than that.
Q Do you recall when you first met Monica Lewinsky?
A I think it was probably when I came back from maternity leave, which would have been September of '95, after I had had my daughter. I don't recall meeting her prior to that.
Q How did you meet her?
A A lot of times when you are sitting there and you see new interns or volunteers walking by, you'd, you know, stop, ask them, hi, how are you, are you new, what's your name, where are you working, that kind of thing. And that's probably what started the conversation. I don't recall a specific conversation, but that's probably what had happened when I met her.
Q [redacted]
A Probably any of the posts I worked in the West Wing I would have seen her if she was working.
Q Could you describe for us how well you knew her during the time that she worked at the White House?
A I talked to her every day when I seen her there. She was going to get breakfasts, I would say hello to her, how was your day. In passing, I would talk to her.
Q What were typically the subjects of conversations?

Page 10

Anything aside from small talk like that?
A Small talk, you know, how are the kids, how are the family, what are you doing this weekend. She was always talking about being on a diet or telling me about her mom trying to fix her up with blind dates, just normal everyday conversation.
Q Did you at any time hear a rumor involving Ms. Lewinsky and having something to do with the White House movie theater?
A Yes. I remember hearing a general rumor that she had been in the movie theater and I asked her about it. I asked her about it specifically because at the time the President and the First Lady a lot of times would take a bunch of people into the movie theater and they would see a movie on the weekend, and it was fairly routine.
And I asked her, I said, did you go to the movie theater, and she said no, she had been working late in her office in the East Wing. She did say that the President had come out of the restroom that was right around the corner from where her office was -- they were kind of kitty-cornered -- and she was working late there and her friend was visiting from California. And she said he did come over, say hello to her and meet her friend from California, but she didn't go to the movie theater.
Q So, the substance of the rumor that you heard was

Page 11

that she had gone into the movie theater with the President to watch a movie and possibly with other people?
A That was the infer -- the only infer -- the general rumor that I had heard was that she had gone to the movie theater.
Q And when you asked her about it, she told you that that had not actually happened?
A Right. She said she worked late in her office.
Q Do you recall seeing Monica Lewinsky in the area near the E-6 post around the time that she was transferred from the White House to the Department of Defense?
A Yeah. It was probably like a week before she got transferred. I do remember seeing her over there.
Q Do you have a recollection of any specific incidents where you saw her in that area around the time?
A [redacted] There was a separate door. And she had walked in crying. She was very upset. Said she was leaving, she was being transferred. And she stopped to talk to Betty Currie. She went in and talked to Betty, and Betty came out in the hallway. They were just kind of outside the door, close enough for me to see, but all I, all I remember hearing was Betty saying, I can't help you, you'll have to talk to Nancy. And then Betty walked back in the office.

Page 12

Nancy Hernreich came out, started talking to her in the hallway and said there was nothing that she could do [redacted]
Q Let me make sure I understand this. So, Monica Lewinsky initially came down the hallway toward the Oval Office.
A Correct.
Q [redacted]
A Correct.
Q And she told you, I'm leaving?
A Yes. She said, I'm being transferred. I remember her -- I mean, not specifically word for word, but she said, I'm being transferred, and she was crying. She wasn't very happy.
Q Okay. What did you say to her in response?
A I don't remember word for word, but it was probably, I'm sorry to hear that. And then she went in and talked to Betty.
Q And you were able to observe her, at least part of her conversation with Betty Currie?
A Yeah. She looked upset. She didn't want to be transferred.
Q Where exactly was she having this conversation with Betty?
A Here's the secretary's entrance door. They were

Page 13

probably just maybe like two feet outside of the door going into the secretary's office [redacted]
Q [redacted]
A Correct.
Q About how many feet away would you say you were?
A She was probably maybe seven feet, six, seven feet away.
Q And do you recall exactly what you heard Betty Currie say to her?
A I just remember Betty saying, you know, there's nothing I can do, you'll have to talk to Nancy.
Q Could you hear what Monica said back to Betty at that point?
A No, I don't remember anything specific from that point.
Q Do you recall what Nancy Hernreich said to Monica when she came out beyond --
A I just remember Nancy saying --
Q -- what you've already told us?
A No, nothing. Just other than there was nothing she could do. And then they started walking away.
Q Did the conversation between Monica and Nancy Hernreich take place in the same location that you have described the conversation between --
A Right.

Page 14

Q -- Monica and Betty Currie?
A Right.
Q And after Monica finished speaking with Nancy Hernreich, in which direction did they walk away?
A [redacted]
Q And that's away from --
A Away from the Oval Office.
Q -- where you were --
A Right.
Q [redacted]
A Right.
Q Okay. Is there anything else that you recall about those conversations that you haven't --
A Nothing that I haven't mentioned.
Q -- described to us already?
Did you ever receive any gifts from Monica Lewinsky?
A Yes, I did, a birthday gift in January of '96. It was a, it was like a box of soaps. There was lotions in it. And there was like two bottles of lotion and a couple bars of soap in there. I still have it, but she had given that to me for my birthday.
Q Anything else?
A A Christmas card. I had gotten a Christmas card

Page 15

from her.
Q Do you recall when she --
A December.
Q -- had given that to you?
A December of '95 I got that Christmas card. I don't remember the exact date.
Q Did you ever give her any gifts in return?
A No, I did not.
Q Did you consider it unusual to receive gifts from a White House staffer?
A I have exchanged Christmas gifts with Betty and Nancy and Debbi prior to that. That was the first time I ever got a birthday gift from anybody, but Monica had -- she was just a gift-giving kind of person. Usually when I talked to Monica it was myself, Bayani Nelvis standing there, and we just all kind of talked about birthdays in general. And I know she had given Nel a tie for his birthday, and then my birthday was shortly thereafter that, and she had given me the lotions. And then from that point, I didn't run into her around her birthday, or I would have reciprocated and given her a gift back.
Q At the time that you saw Monica have the conversations with Betty Currie and Nancy Hernreich that you described, did you know of any official or unofficial reason why she was being transferred from the White House?

Page 16

A No, I didn't know why she was being transferred.
Q Since that time, have you heard from any source, other than the media -- let's exclude for the moment newspapers, the television -- any official or unofficial reason why she was transferred?
A Can you repeat that? I'm sorry.
Q Excluding things that you might have read in the newspapers or seen on TV --
A Uh-huh.
Q -- since the time that you told us about where you saw her talking to Betty Currie and Nancy Hernreich, have you heard of any official or unofficial reason why she was transferred to the Pentagon?
A Without revealing any privileged information, no. Anything I've read in the paper is pretty much, in regards to her being transferred, all that I knew.
Q Okay. Have you ever spoken with Officer Steven Pape about Monica Lewinsky?
A Yes.
Q What has Steven Pape told you?
A He -- I don't even know how we got on the subject. But with -- when all this first came out in the press, a lot of people had started talking, and he did say that he had seen her come in through the West Wing, or through the Southwest Gate to go to the West Wing while he was on shift.

Page 17

Q Did he describe anything further about who escorted Ms. Lewinsky into --
A He did say --
Q -- the West Wing?
A -- Mike McCurry had escorted her on occasion.
Q Did he say how many times she had come in through the Southwest Gate?
A I don't remember specifically. I don't think it was any more than one or two, but I don't -- offhand. I don't remember.
Q And I believe you mentioned that Officer Pape told you this after --
A Correct.
Q -- the Monica Lewinsky story became public?
A Right.
Q Did he describe when the occurrences took place in which Ms. Lewinsky was escorted?
A No, I don't remember offhand.
Q Did you understand him to mean that that had taken place before the story became public in --
A Yes. Oh, yes.
Q -- January of 1998?
A Yes.
Q Have you heard anything that pertains to Ms. Lewinsky from Officer Michael Rice?

Page 18

A The only thing I recall hearing from Mike was that there was -- when the National Enquirer story came out, that one of the people that worked over in the West Wing, Debbi Schiff, had had the Enquirer article signed by the President. I think it said, you were smeared with the best of us, I think he said that it was written on there.
Q Now, when you say the National Enquirer article, do you mean the article -- well, why don't you explain to --
A There was an article that was in the National Enquirer.
Q -- us specifically what you mean?
A And on the front of it, Debbi Schiff had her picture on there and she was the West Wing receptionist. And I do recall him saying that she had showed him that she had it signed, autographed by the President. And it just said, you've been smeared with the best of us.
Q And the President had written that?
A Yes.
Q With his autograph?
A Yes. We all joked around about getting it signed, you know, oh, let's get it signed while we're over there. But she did get it signed.
Q When you say "we all" --
A The officers that were assigned over there or previously been assigned over there that knew Debbi. We

Page 19

joked around about having her autograph it.
Q And that's the Uniformed Division officers working in the West Wing near where --
A Correct.
Q -- Debbi works in the --
A Correct.
Q -- West Wing reception area?
A Correct.
Q Do you know whether Debbi Schiff signed any copies of that article herself?
A I think she signed Officer Seubert, Chris Seubert's. I didn't see it. He just said that she had signed it.
Q Could you spell his last name for us?
A S-E-U-B-E-R-T.
Q You said you hadn't seen that article signed by her yourself?
A No, I didn't actually see it. He said he was taking a copy over there to get it signed. And then later on in the day when I seen him, he said she did sign it.
Q Okay. Do you know Bayani Nelvis?
A Yes.
Q How do you know him?
A [redacted]

Page 20

[1] out there. So you ended up just talking to the stewards, and
[2] I talked to him usually whenever we were working over there
[3] together.
[4] Q [redacted]
[5] [redacted]
[6] A [redacted]
[7] [redacted]
[8] [redacted]
[9] [redacted]
[10] Q [redacted]
[11] [redacted]
[12] A Right.
[13] Q -- move around within a limited area? Is that --
[14] A Right.
[15] Q -- correct?
[16] A [redacted]
[17] [redacted]
[18] [redacted]
[19] [redacted]
[20] [redacted]
[21] Q [redacted]
[22] [redacted]
[23] A Whenever I was assigned there. And if -- it could
[24] be, you know, each time I was on post, or if he was there for
[25] just a short while. We always talked when I was on post.

Page 21

[1] Q And you were on that post for about a year, I
[2] believe you mentioned earlier, between September of 1995 and
[3] October of 1996?
[4] A Right.
[5] Q Is it fair to say then that most of the time that
[6] you were posted at those locations you had occasion to speak
[7] with him?
[8] A Uh-huh.
[9] Q How well do you know him after now speaking with
[10] him on those occasions?
[11] A I'd say he's a work acquaintance. I wouldn't say
[12] we are really good friends. I mean, we've talked about
[13] family and all that. But outside of the job, I really didn't
[14] know that much outside of the job.
[15] Q What kinds of matter did you usually talk about
[16] with Mr. Nelvis?
[17] A A lot of times my kids, you know, his son, or just
[18] everyday stuff. Nothing -- it wasn't just like a set of
[19] topics. I had just had my daughter. I was always bringing
[20] in pictures. We talked about my children a lot, you know,
[21] and vice versa. I mean, he would talk about his family and
[22] what they were doing. You know, just killing time kind of
[23] conversation pretty much while you're standing on post.
[24] Q Did you ever discuss Monica Lewinsky with him?
[25] A Probably after she left, you know, I had asked if

Page 22

[1] he had talked to her or seen her or said hello, because we
[2] all kind of talked. Whenever we had seen each other, we all
[3] talked and, yeah, I'm sure I did. You know, I know I asked
[4] him if he's talked to her or seen her.
[5] Q Do you recall what he responded on any of those
[6] occasions?
[7] A I remember him saying that she had called on the
[8] pantry phone. Actually I remember being there when she had
[9] called on the pantry phone. I don't know what the
[10] conversation was about. I just remember saying, hey, Nel,
[11] and he said, you know, oh, it's Monica. I said, oh, tell her
[12] I said hi, and just kind of went about my business and waited
[13] for him to get off the phone. But nothing, nothing more
[14] specific than that. Just tell her I said hi, how's it going,
[15] that kind of thing.
[16] Q Were you able to overhear any part of the
[17] conversation that he had with her on that occasion?
[18] A Not that I remember. I just remember him saying it
[19] was Monica and I said, tell her hi. But I don't even
[20] remember the day. I don't remember -- I just know after,
[21] after she was gone, I do remember being there one day when
[22] she had called. But.
[23] Q Do you remember on any other occasions Mr. Nelvis
[24] telling you, or discussing with him the fact that he had
[25] spoken with Monica on the phone?

Page 23

[1] A Can you repeat? It's pretty much what I just told
[2] you.
[3] Q Were there any other occasions on which you talked
[4] with Bayani Nelvis about Bayani Nelvis speaking with Monica
[5] Lewinsky on the phone?
[6] A I remember that one -- maybe one or two incidents,
[7] but I don't -- nothing that stands out, other than I had
[8] talked to Monica. Nothing.
[9] Q Did he ever tell you about any gifts that he had
[10] received from Monica Lewinsky?
[11] A He did say that he got a tie.
[12] Q Do you recall when he told you that?
[13] A I think it was, it was for his birthday. It was
[14] shortly after his birthday, and I remember him saying, oh,
[15] this is the tie that Monica got.
[16] Q So, when he told you this, he was wearing it?
[17] A Yeah.
[18] Q And he showed it to you?
[19] A Uh-huh. And I remember Monica saying, when she
[20] walked by, she said, oh, that's the tie I got him. But as
[21] for dates, time, I don't remember that. I just do remember
[22] her saying that that was the tie.
[23] Q Did she walk by and point that out at approximately
[24] the same time as he showed you the tie, or did those events
[25] happen on two different occasions?

Page 24

[1] A No, it was probably the same, it was probably the
[2] same day. I mean, I don't recall specifically, but I'm sure
[3] the day he showed me the tie was when he got it, and she
[4] probably came by.
[5] Q That would have been before she was transferred to
[6] the --
[7] A Oh, yeah.
[8] Q -- Pentagon?
[9] A Yeah. I know it was before I got my birthday gift.
[10] So, his birthday had to be sometime between September and
[11] December. But.
[12] Q Did Mr. Nelvis ever tell you about any gifts
[13] exchanged between Monica Lewinsky and the President?
[14] A I don't -- I don't recall Nel saying anything. I
[15] know Monica said she did get him a tie for, I think it was
[16] his birthday or Christmas, for the President. But I don't
[17] remember -- I don't remember specifically what occasion it
[18] was. But I just know she said that she had gotten him a tie.
[19] And I don't remember the occasion.
[20] And the only reason I remember that is because like
[21] another day in passing she said that was the tie. But I
[22] don't remember what it looked like. I don't.
[23] Q Was there ever a point at which Mr. Nelvis said to
[24] you something along the lines of Monica Lewinsky also gave
[25] the President a tie --

Page 25

[1] A No, I don't --
[2] Q -- just like she gave me one?
[3] A No, I don't remember Nel -- they could have been
[4] similar designs, but I don't, I don't remember. Is what you
[5] -- like they looked alike? Is that the way you were phrasing
[6] that, or?
[7] Q Well, I don't really mean to imply anything by
[8] that. Just did he ever suggest to you that Monica had given
[9] the President any gifts?
[10] A I don't remember him specifically saying, Monica
[11] got him a tie. I remember more so Monica saying, I got him a
[12] tie, versus Nel.
[13] Q Did Bayani Nelvis ever tell you that he had seen
[14] Monica Lewinsky outside the White House?
[15] A I think he ran into her on a trip. I'm not sure.
[16] I think -- I don't remember the trip. I know that he said
[17] that he was out on a trip and had run into her. But I don't
[18] remember, I don't know where the location was. I don't
[19] travel and I'm not one to follow up on the trips, you know,
[20] that -- a lot of guys when they travel, they're like, you
[21] know, oh, there's a trip going to LA or there's a trip going
[22] here or there. I don't follow the trips.
[23] So, when he said he was out on a trip, I didn't
[24] remember picking up the location but I do recall him saying
[25] that he had seen her out on a detail. They stayed in the

Page 26

[1] same hotel but she was assigned -- that was with her new
[2] job. She was assigned there with her new job.
[3] Q Now when you refer to trips, these are official
[4] trips?
[5] A Official trips, business trips.
[6] Q And when you say "out on a detail", that means?
[7] A Out on a detail with his job as a steward.
[8] Q So, this was a trip that he had taken in his
[9] capacity as a Presidential steward?
[10] A Correct.
[11] Q Was the President also along on that trip?
[12] A I believe so.
[13] Q And he told you that he had seen Monica --
[14] A He had seen Monica.
[15] Q -- on that trip? And she had also gone to the same
[16] place?
[17] A Right, with her job that she was at.
[18] Q Was that at her Pentagon job?
[19] A Yes.
[20] Q Did he say whether he had had dinner with her?
[21] A It was either dinner or lunch. Yes, he did.
[22] Nelvis had dinner with Monica -- it was either dinner or
[23] lunch, while they were on the trip.
[24] Q Did he tell you anything more about that --
[25] A No.

Page 27

[1] Q -- occasion?
[2] A No.
[3] Q Did Bayani Nelvis ever suggest to you that Monica
[4] and the President had a relationship of any kind?
[5] A No, he did not.
[6] Q Did he ever tell you anything about Monica and the
[7] President talking to each other on the phone?
[8] A No, he did not.
[9] BY MS. WIRTH:
[10] Q The business trip that you just testified about
[11] that Nelvis told you that he had run into Monica?
[12] A Uh-huh.
[13] Q Do you have any recollection whether that trip was
[14] abroad or was it a trip within the U.S.?
[15] A That, I don't recall. Like I said, I didn't follow
[16] the trips because I don't travel, and I didn't think -- I
[17] didn't ask.
[18] Q All right. I want to go back to the beginning of
[19] your testimony just for a moment, when you were talking about
[20] how you would run into Monica sometimes, you know, in
[21] everyday work, almost on a daily basis, I think you said.
[22] A Uh-huh.
[23] Q [redacted]
[24]
[25]

Page 28

[1] A It was probably any of the posts that I was at. It
[2] would be like you walking by the receptionist out here; hi,
[3] how are you doing, you know.
[4] Q Generally, where would you run into her? Where
[5] would she be coming from and going to, if you know?
[6] A When I first met her, she was there -- I believe
[7] she started out as a volunteer, and then there was the
[8] government shutdown, and then she worked in Leon Panetta's
[9] office. So I'd see her walking back and forth. She would
[10] pass my posts pretty much.
[11] Q Which post would that be?
[12] A [redacted]
[13]
[14]
[15]
[16]
[17]
[18]
[19]
[20] Q And during the part of the time at least that you
[21] would see her, she was working -- do you know where in the
[22] White House her job was located?
[23] A I think when she went over to the East Wing she was
[24] in Legislative Affairs.
[25] Q Do you know for what reason she was in the West

Page 29

[1] Wing when you would see her?
[2] A Oh, I don't know. I mean, it could be to deliver
[3] paperwork. I mean, they had offices on both sides. I don't
[4] know why she would, other than the breakfast run. But.
[5] Q That's on the way to breakfast?
[6] A Yeah. A lot of times I would -- because they have
[7] they can go down to the Mess and get breakfast in the
[8] morning. That's usually when I would see her in the morning.
[9] Q And would it be necessary to walk by the Oval
[10] Office to go to breakfast, for someone like her from the East
[11] Wing?
[12] A No. But if she was walking by and she seen that I
[13] was there, she might say hello, or how's it going, running
[14] downstairs.
[15] BY MR. TRAVERS:
[16] Q You mentioned previously that Officer Steven Pape
[17] told you about at least one occasion on which Ms. Lewinsky
[18] had come to the Southwest Gate and been escorted by Mike
[19] McCurry?
[20] A Uh-huh.
[21] Q Did he describe anything else about that incident?
[22] A No.
[23] Q Have you ever heard any rumors or stories connecte
[24] with Monica Lewinsky that have to do with someone finding
[25] stained tissues or towels in --

Page 0

[1] A No, I did not.
[2] Q -- the vicinity of the Oval Office?
[3] A Uhn-uh.
[4] Q Have you ever heard from another Secret Service
[5] Officer a rumor that Monica Lewinsky was having a
[6] relationship with the President?
[7] A No, I did not.
[8] MR. TRAVERS: I think that's all we have then.
[9] (Whereupon, at 10:46 a.m., the proceedings were
[10] concluded.)
[11] * * * * *
[12] CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER - NOTARY PUBL
[13] I, Elizabeth A. Eastman, the officer before whom
[14] the foregoing deposition was taken, do hereby certify that
[15] the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing
[16] deposition was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said
[17] witness was taken by me electronically and thereafter reduced
[18] to typewriting by me; that said deposition is a true record
[19] of the testimony given by said witness; that I am neither
[20] counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties
[21] to the action in which this deposition was taken; and,
[22] further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney
[23] or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or
[24] otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.
[25]
NOTARY PUBLIC FOR THE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

IN RE:

GRAND JURY PROCEEDINGS

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

Grand Jury Room No. 3
United States District Court
for the District of Columbia
3rd & Constitution, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Tuesday, July 21, 1998

The testimony of SANDRA J. VERNA was taken in the presence of a full quorum of Grand Jury 97-2, impaneled on September 19, 1997, commencing at 11:30 a.m., before:

JACKIE M. BENNETT, JR.
SOLOMON WISENBERG
Deputy Independent Counsel
TIMOTHY SUSANIN
MARY ANNE WIRTH
EDWARD PAGE
Associate Independent Counsel
Office of Independent Counsel
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 490 North
Washington, D.C. 20004

1 PROCEEDINGS
2 Whereupon,
3 SANDRA J. VERNA
4 was called as a witness and, after having been first duly
5 sworn by the Foreperson of the Grand Jury, was examined and
6 testified as follows:
7 EXAMINATION
8 BY MR. SUSANIN:
9 Q Ms. Verna, if you could please be seated and state
10 your name and spell your last name for the record, ma'am.
11 A Sandra J. Verna, V as in Victor, e-r-n-a.
12 Q Ms. Verna, my name is Timothy Susanin. I'm an
13 Associate Independent Counsel with the Office of Independent
14 Counsel and this is a grand jury that's been empaneled by
15 a United States district judge here in the District of
16 Columbia to investigate possible obstruction of justice
17 charges on the part of Monica Lewinsky and others in the
18 case of Jones v. Clinton. Do you understand that, ma'am?
19 A Yes, sir.
20 Q And do you recall that you gave a deposition in
21 lieu of grand jury testimony in this matter on June 11th of
22 this year, 1998?
23 A Yes, sir.
24 Q Ms. Verna, at the outset of that deposition, the
25 prosecutor reviewed some rights and responsibilities with

1 you. I'm going to briefly review those now.
2 A Okay.
3 Q First of all, you, as you're probably aware, have
4 the right to counsel. While you don't have the right to have
5 counsel here in the grand jury room with you, you do have the
6 right to stop the proceedings if you need to and step outside
7 and consult with your attorney. Do you understand that,
8 ma'am?
9 A Yes, sir.
10 Q Do you have an attorney here today?
11 A Yes. Mike Leibig.
12 Q Any other counsel here on your behalf today?
13 A The Secret Service attorneys, Matt Dates and Tom
14 Dougherty.
15 Q Any others?
16 A Anne Wiseman from Justice Department is here also.
17 Q Any others?
18 A No.
19 Q Okay. Let us know if you need to stop at any time.
20 A Okay.
21 Q You also have a right against self-incrimination.
22 In other words, if the truthful answer to a question would
23 tend to incriminate you, you have the right not to answer the
24 question. Do you understand that, ma'am?
25 A Yes, sir.

1 Q I also wish to tell you that I as well as my
2 colleagues from the Independent Counsel's office here today
3 as well as the grand jurors are bound by an oath of secrecy
4 to not reveal the matters that take place here this morning.
5 Do you understand that?
6 A Yes, sir.
7 Q You, however, are not so bound by an oath of
8 secrecy. Do you understand that?
9 A Yes, sir.
10 Q You also are testifying under oath today and have a
11 responsibility to tell the truth. Do you understand that,
12 ma'am?
13 A Yes, sir.
14 Q And lastly, although depending on your previous
15 answers this shouldn't be a problem, we ask you to please
16 give a verbal answer so the court reporter can hear your
17 response.
18 A Yes, sir.
19 Q Ms. Verna, you are an officer with the uniformed
20 division of the United States Secret Service. Is that
21 correct?
22 A Yes.
23 Q And from September of 1995 until October of 1996,
24 you worked at the White House. Is that right, ma'am?
25 A Yes. Let me just double check. I've been at the

Page 5

1 White House the whole entire time I've been there.
2 Q Let me ask that a little bit more specifically,
3 then. From the dates I just mentioned, that is, September of
4 '95 through October of '96, [redacted]
5 [redacted]e.
6 A Yes.
7 Q Would that be right?
8 A Yes, sir.
9 Q And during the course of that assignment that you
10 had from September of '95 to October of '96, you had the
11 occasion to meet and to get to know Ms. Monica Lewinsky.
12 Is that right?
13 A Yes, sir. Yes.
14 Q And did there come a time that Ms. Lewinsky was
15 transferred from the White House to the Pentagon?
16 A Yes.
17 Q Can you tell the grand jurors, Ms. Verna, whether
18 you heard any officer of the Secret Service discuss the
19 reason for the transfer?
20 A There had been rumors, nothing specific told to me
21 by anybody, but I believe it was on Easter Sunday, they
22 said that on the afternoon shift on Easter Sunday that
23 Ms. Lewinsky had brought over -- I don't know if she brought
24 over papers or what she brought over to the Oval Office, went
25 inside, the officer on post, John Muskett, told me that while

Page 6

1 he was standing there, it was not unusual for the White House
2 to call the post if the President didn't answer the phone and
3 he said the phone rang, you know, they knocked on the door,
4 there was no answer.
5 My understanding, he said that the operator called
6 Harold Ickes' office and he came down, went into the Oval
7 Office, came out and a couple of minutes later Monica came
8 out and walked down the hallway. But I was not working that
9 shift, so I can't verify it.
10 Q So you were not working on Easter Sunday.
11 A No. No, I was not.
12 Q During the incident you just described.
13 A Right.
14 Q Let me back up and ask you a few questions, a few
15 follow-up questions about what you just described.
16 You said that you heard rumors, but not anything
17 specific.
18 A I heard about it from the officer that was working
19 that post.
20 Q Okay. And is that Officer John Muskett?
21 A Yes.
22 Q Did you hear about the incident from anyone else?
23 A Not that I can recall specifically. We all passed
24 it along to each other on post because it was a permanent
25 assignment, just in case somebody had asked about it, so that

Page 7

1 we would all know about it, but I heard that directly from
2 him the next day.
3 Q So is it fair to say he told you about the incident
4 and that's separate from you and the others on that post
5 discussing the incident.
6 A Right. Yes, sir.
7 Q Do you remember anyone with whom you discussed the
8 incident after Officer Muskett told you?
9 A Probably passing it on to maybe another post
10 officer, but I don't remember anyone specific that I would
11 have said that to.
12 Q Do you know if you would have told that to your
13 post partners at that time?
14 A Probably. I don't -- I don't recall specifically
15 passing it on to anybody, I just remember him telling me.
16 Q Okay. Can I at least ask you then who your
17 partners were? Who you worked with on that post at that
18 time?
19 A The majority of the time I was partners with John
20 Gerena. He's assigned to the Foreign Missions Branch now.
21 BY MS. WIRTH:
22 Q How do you spell his last name?
23 A G-e-r-e-n-a. And at the time, there were post
24 changes but he specifically was my partner the majority of
25 the time.

Page 8

1 BY MR. SUSANIN:
2 Q Let me ask you, do you recall how long after
3 this Easter Sunday incident Officer Muskett told you about
4 it?
5 A It was probably the next day. I told him, you
6 know, when he was schedule for the post, I said, "Oh,
7 nothing's going to happen on Easter Sunday." I said, "Go
8 ahead and work the post." Because he hadn't worked it
9 before, so that was why he specifically told me the next day,
10 you know, "This is what happened."
11 Q Do you recall where you were when Officer Muskett
12 told you about the incident?
13 A No, not offhand.
14 Q Were the two of you alone?
15 A Probably. It was probably before work, before roll
16 call.
17 Q Do you recall if anyone else was nearby when he
18 told you about the incident?
19 A I don't remember offhand.
20 Q Do you recall what your response to Officer Muskett
21 was? Did you say anything to him about the incident?
22 A No, we probably joked about it. I don't remember a
23 specific response.
24 Q Let me back up and talk about the incident itself,
25 Ms. Verna. You said that this took place Easter Sunday.

Page 9

1 Would that be Easter of the same spring when Ms. Lewinsky was
2 transferred to the Pentagon?
3 A Yes. She was transferred probably like a week
4 later. A week or so later.
5 Q Okay. So does it sound accurate to you that this
6 took place around Easter of 1996?
7 A Yes, sir.
8 Q Do you have an independent recollection that it was
9 1996?
10 A I would assume. I was still assigned there. And,
11 like I said, I don't have the exact date that she was
12 transferred, but it was probably within a week, week and
13 a half, of her being transferred.
14 Q With the incident coming before her transfer.
15 A Correct.
16 Q And with regard to the incident itself about which
17 Officer Muskett told you, did he tell you who he was -- let
18 me back up. What was he doing at the Oval Office on Easter
19 Sunday, Officer Muskett?
20 A [redacted]
21 Q And did he tell you whether he was working by
22 himself or with anyone else?
23 A He was probably with somebody else, but I don't
24 know who that was.
25 Q And was that because he didn't tell you or because

Page 10

1 you don't remember if he told you?
2 A I don't remember if he told me.
3 Q And you told the ladies and gentlemen of the grand
4 jury that Ms. Lewinsky on that Easter Sunday arrived at the
5 Oval Office with papers, I believe?
6 A Yes. I think that was the way that I had heard it.
7 She brought something over, said she had something for the
8 President.
9 My understanding, I don't know if she knocked on
10 the door or whatever, but somehow she ended up going into the
11 Oval Office. And it's not unusual on a weekend when the
12 secretarial staff isn't there, if the President doesn't
13 answer the phone, the White House operator does call the post
14 phone and say, "I have an important phone call for him, could
15 you just knock on the door?"
16 Q Let me get to that phone call in just a minute.
17 Did Officer Muskett tell you where the President was at the
18 time Ms. Lewinsky arrives on the scene?
19 A No. No.
20 Q Did Officer Muskett tell you whether he let
21 Ms. Lewinsky into the Oval Office?
22 A I don't remember him specifically saying "I opened
23 the door." You'd have to ask him. I don't recall
24 specifically.
25 Q Without specifics, did he give you the impression

Page 11

1 that at some point Ms. Lewinsky after arriving with the
2 papers went into the Oval Office?
3 A Yes.
4 Q And do you know sequentially whether that happened
5 before the phone call that we're talking about?
6 A Yes. Based on the way I heard it, yes, she went in
7 before the telephone call.
8 Q Let me ask you about the reference you just made to
9 a post telephone. [redacted]
10 [redacted]
11 A Right. Mm-hmm.
12 Q So as you're looking at that main door, the
13 entrance to Betty Currie's office would be to your left?
14 Is that right?
15 A Correct.
16 Q And the pantry door to the hallway would be to your
17 right? Is that correct?
18 A Right. Mm-hmm.
19 Q Now, as you're standing looking at the main door,
20 where is the post telephone?
21 A Here's the main door, off to the side is a
22 little -- a little credenza thing in the post, so the phone
23 sits right there on that.
24 Q Is that a little table when you say credenza?
25 A Yes. Yes.

Page 12

1 Q A little phone table?
2 A Yes. It had drawers on it.
3 Q And is that to the right of the door?
4 A To the right of the door.
5 Q I'm going to ask just for the sake of a clean
6 record here that we make sure that we don't speak at the
7 same time. I might be trampling your lines, you might be
8 trampling mine, but let's -- if you could just wait until
9 I finish the question and I'll try not to do that to you.
10 A Mm-hmm.
11 Q Thanks. Is the table that the telephone is on on
12 the wall that the door is in?
13 A It's on the same wall, just a few inches from the
14 wall. Just -- it's there.
15 Q Okay. In other words, it's not on the wall across
16 from the doorway.
17 A Un-uh.
18 Q It's not on the other side of the hallway, is that
19 right?
20 A Right.
21 Q It's on the same side of the hallway as the Oval
22 Office door.
23 A Yes, sir.
24 Q Okay. And did Officer Muskett tell you who
25 answered the phone when it rang?

Page 13

1 A I believe he did.
2 Q And could you tell us again who was on the phone?
3 A The White House operator.
4 Q And tell us again what she said to whoever
5 answered.
6 A I believe she said she had a call for the President
7 and he hadn't answered. But, like I said, you'd have to ask
8 him because he took the call.
9 Q I understand this is just based on what --
10 A Right.
11 Q -- was passed on to you. And based on what was
12 passed on to you, what happens after the operator says,
13 "I've got a call for the President"?
14 A My understanding is that they knocked on the door,
15 there was no answer or no response --
16 Q Let me interrupt you again. That would be the main
17 Oval Office door that we're talking about?
18 A Right. And then they just hung up. Normally, when
19 she calls the post like that, she'll tell you there's a phone
20 call, you knock on the door, and she ends up hanging up
21 anyway and then rings the other phone again. So when they
22 knocked on the door, there was no answer.
23 Q And what happened next, as it was relayed to you?
24 A The way it was relayed to me was within the next
25 couple of minutes Harold Ickes came walking down the hallway

Page 14

1 and instead of going in the main Oval Office door, he went in
2 through Betty Currie's door and went into the Oval Office
3 that way.
4 Q And did he come from the direction -- as he's
5 coming down the hallway, did he come from the direction of
6 Betty Currie's office or did he come from the other direction
7 which would be the end that the pantry's on?
8 A From the other direction.
9 Q Which?
10 A The side of the pantry. He was coming from his
11 office.
12 Q And why did he go into the Oval Office suite?
13 Did Officer Muskett tell you?
14 A No. I don't recall him specifically saying why he
15 went in there, but I think it was because the operator called
16 him for the phone call.
17 Q And when you say the operator called "him" --
18 A Called Harold Ickes.
19 Q You mean the operator called Harold Ickes.
20 A Right. And said he didn't answer.
21 Q And what happens after Harold Ickes walks in
22 through Betty Currie's door?
23 A My understanding is he just was in there for a few
24 minutes and then came out, walked back down the hallway
25 towards his office and then a couple of minutes later Monica

Page 15

1 came out. I don't know which door she came out, but they
2 said she came out of the office.
3 Q Okay. So Officer Muskett told you a few minutes
4 after Ickes comes back out and walks down the hall, Monica
5 comes out of the Oval Office suite.
6 A Right.
7 Q And Officer Muskett didn't tell you which door.
8 A No, I don't recall him saying which door.
9 Q Now, did Officer Muskett tell you whether he
10 followed Mr. Ickes into the Oval Office suite?
11 A No. I don't think he did.
12 Q Okay. Did he give you the impression whether he
13 followed Mr. Ickes into the suite or whether he waited in the
14 hallway?
15 A He would have stayed in the hallway.
16 Q Is that the impression you had from the story?
17 A Oh, yes. That's his post. He would have stayed
18 out there.
19 Q Did Officer Muskett tell you whether he had any
20 conversations with Mr. Ickes about what happened in the time
21 Mr. Ickes was inside the Oval Office suite?
22 A No.
23 Q Did Officer Muskett tell you what he thought
24 Mr. Ickes might have seen while he was in the Oval Office
25 suite?

Page 16

1 A No.
2 Q Let me ask you, Ms. Verna, in addition to this
3 incident, did you hear from any other United States Secret
4 Service officer about any other incident involving
5 Ms. Lewinsky and the President?
6 A There was a northwest gate incident where she was
7 delayed coming in the northwest gate. I don't know the date
8 of that, I just remember general -- oh, no. I'm sorry. From
9 Brent Chinery, I talked to Brent Chinery, but I don't
10 remember the day.
11 She apparently showed up at the northwest gate,
12 said she had an appointment. She didn't have an appointment.
13 They told her to use the outside phone to call. I don't know
14 where she called, if it was Betty Currie's office, I don't
15 know where she called from that point, but I just know there
16 was a big fiasco out there, that she was detained. But as
17 for specifics, I don't know specifics.
18 Q Okay. Let me back up and ask you, you were
19 transferred from the West Wing to the assignment and
20 scheduling office in October of 1996. Is that?
21 A Yes, sir.
22 Q Can you tell the grand jurors whether you recall
23 whether this northwest gate incident that you just spoke
24 about happened before you transferred in October of '96 from
25 the West Wing or after?

Page 17

1 A It was probably after.
2 Q And why do you say that? What makes you think it
3 was probably after?
4 A Because -- I'm trying to think. I was still there
5 after she left, about a week and a half after Easter. I
6 don't recall anything happening the time that I was still
7 there.
8 It had to be [redacted] because I don't
9 remember anything specific because I would have heard about
10 it more so working over there than just in the office.
11 Q Ms. Verna, when you say it had to be after you
12 transferred [redacted], do you mean by that it had to be after
13 you transferred out of the West Wing in October of '96?
14 A Yes, sir.
15 Q And you said that Brett Chinery told you this
16 incident?
17 A Brent Chinery.
18 Q Brent? Is that B-r-e-n-t?
19 A Yes, sir.
20 Q Can you spell the last name for the court reporter?
21 A C-h-i-n-e-r-y.
22 Q And is that another Secret Service officer?
23 A Yes, sir.
24 Q Is Mr. Chinery also in the uniformed division?
25 A Yes, sir.

Page 18

1 Q Where were you when he told you about this
2 incident? Do you recall?
3 A [redacted].
4 I don't remember specifically.
5 Q [redacted]
6 A [redacted]
7 [redacted]
8 [redacted].
9 Q [redacted]
10 A [redacted].
11 Q [redacted]
12 A [redacted].
13 Q [redacted]
14 A Mm-hmm.
15 Q Was anyone else with you when Mr. Chinery told you
16 about this incident?
17 A I don't recall.
18 Q And when he told you about this incident, he told
19 you that Ms. Lewinsky was calling to get into the White House
20 from the northwest gate?
21 A Right. I don't know if she didn't have an
22 appointment. It was so vague. I [redacted]
23 [redacted]
24 [redacted]
25 [redacted]

Page 19

1 Q Did he tell you what Ms. Lewinsky's demeanor was
2 during this incident where she's at the northwest gate?
3 A Not offhand. No.
4 Q Did he tell you whether she was detained at the
5 northwest gate as a result of these phone calls back and
6 forth?
7 A I know she was detained, but I don't know for how
8 long.
9 Q Did Mr. Chinery give you the impression that it was
10 for a matter of minutes or a relatively lengthier amount of
11 time that she was detained?
12 A I'd say it was probably lengthy, but I don't know
13 how long.
14 Q And how did Mr. Chinery know about her being
15 detained at the northwest gate?
16 A The post officers, I believe, called his post.
17 You'd have to ask him. I don't recall who made the calls or
18 when, based on him telling me the situation, but I just know
19 there was an incident at the northwest gate.
20 Q Ms. Verna, what was the context in which Officer
21 Chinery told you this incident?
22 A They all knew that I talked to Monica when she was
23 over in the West Wing, so I think it was more or less like,
24 you know, she got delayed at the gate, it was a big scene
25 kind of thing, more so than spreading gossip or anything.

Page 20

1 They all knew that I talked to her.
2 Q And that's because you were somewhat friendly with
3 her?
4 A Yes.
5 Q Did he tell you whether as part of the big scene
6 that resulted from this incident the President was in any way
7 involved in the incident?
8 A Now, I don't know specifically for sure because I
9 wasn't there, but my understanding was that two of our
10 officials were called in to the Oval Office to meet with the
11 President, but I don't know. I don't know if that's true, I
12 don't know for certain.
13 Q And when you say that that was your understanding,
14 where did you get that understanding from?
15 A From Brent.
16 Q And do you know who those two officials were?
17 A I believe it was Sergeant Keith Williams and
18 Captain Purdie, Jeff Purdie.
19 Q Did Officer Chinery tell you what the upshot of
20 that meeting was?
21 A No. He just -- you know, oh, they got called in
22 and got in trouble, but nothing more specific than that.
23 Q Did Officer Chinery tell you what those two
24 officials said to the President?
25 A No.

Page 21

1 Q Did he tell you or give you the gist of what the
2 President may have said to them?
3 A No.
4 Q Did he tell you whether anyone else in the Oval
5 Office suite including Betty Currie or others was on the
6 scene during this meeting?
7 A No.
8 Q Did anyone else tell you about this incident other
9 than Mr. Chinery?
10 A No. Not that I can recall.
11 Q I want to double back now to the incident that
12 Officer Muskett told you about on Easter Sunday and ask you
13 the same question. Did anyone other than Officer Muskett
14 tell you about that incident?
15 A Not that I can recall.
16 Q At your deposition, Ms. Verna, on June 11th of this
17 year, you testified about observing Ms. Lewinsky crying.
18 A Mm-hmm.
19 Q Upon finding out that she was going to be
20 transferred out of the White House. Is that correct?
21 A Yes, sir.
22 Q What's your recollection as to when that happened
23 with regard to Easter Sunday? The Easter Sunday incident.
24 A It was probably somewhere within that week or week
25 and a half after Easter Sunday. It was shortly thereafter.

Page 22

1 I mean, I'd say probably no more than a week and a half.
2 Q Where was Ms. Lewinsky when you observed her
3 crying?
4 A [redacted]
5 [redacted] and I remember that the President was not there, and
6 she had come down the hallway, like coming to Betty Currie's
7 office.
8 Q Is that from the pantry end or from the opposite
9 end?
10 A No, from the other end. From the opposite end.
11 She was coming across --
12 Q I'm sorry. Let me just clarify that for the
13 record. From the pantry end or opposite from the pantry?
14 A Opposite from the pantry.
15 Q Thank you.
16 A She was coming down the hallway and she was crying
17 and, you know -- I said, "What's wrong?" And she said,
18 "I'm being transferred." And then she went into Betty's
19 office.
20 Betty came out in the hallway and she was talking
21 to her just outside of her door, probably maybe like two feet
22 away from her door, and she was crying and I just remember
23 Betty saying, you know, "There's nothing that I can do.
24 There's nothing that I can do. You'll have to talk to
25 Nancy."

Page 23

1 So then Betty went back in and then Nancy Hernreich
2 came out and pretty much said the same thing, "There's
3 nothing that I can do." And then they started to walk away
4 like they were going to exit.
5 BY MS. WIRTH:
6 Q When you said they started to walk away, who did?
7 A Nancy Hernreich and Monica.
8 BY MR. SUSANIN:
9 Q Ms. Verna, did you hear about any other incidents
10 involving Ms. Lewinsky in the West Wing from any other
11 officers of the Secret Service?
12 A Not that I can recall offhand.
13 Q When you testified at your deposition on June 11th,
14 you were asked whether you heard any rumors about a
15 relationship between Ms. Lewinsky and the President and you
16 said no, you had not. Do you recall that testimony?
17 A That I had not?
18 Q Correct.
19 A No, I recall saying that I had heard a general
20 rumor that she had been in the movie theater with the
21 President over in the East Wing and I asked her about that
22 just because when the Clintons first came in, I believe,
23 Friday or Saturday nights they'd take 30 or so people and
24 they'd go watch a movie and I recall saying to her, "Were
25 you in the movie theater with the President?"

Page 24

1 And she said her office in the East Wing was like
2 catty-corner to where the theater was and when the President
3 went to use the restroom, he saw her and her friend over
4 there and came over and said hello and talked to her and
5 that's what she told me happened. But as for anything else
6 involving the President, no. Unless I'm just misinterpreting
7 the question.
8 Q Well, let me show you a copy of your deposition
9 from June 30th and ask you to look at page 30, line --
10 A Okay. Here it is. Having a relationship with --
11 Q Let me just get the question out so we can keep a
12 clean record. I'm going to ask you to read lines 4 to 7 out
13 loud if you could.
14 A Okay. "Have you ever heard from other Secret
15 Service officers a rumor that Monica Lewinsky was having a
16 relationship with the President?" "No, I did not."
17 Q And by that time, you had already testified in the
18 deposition about the movie theater incident, is that correct?
19 A Right. Right. I was just mixing up the questions,
20 that was my misunderstanding.
21 Q Okay. So at the time you said no in your
22 deposition to that answer that we just read --
23 A Right.
24 Q -- did you mean no in addition to the movie
25 theater --

Page 25

1 A Right. Right.
2 Q -- incident you just testified about?
3 A Yes, sir. Because you hadn't asked me that, so I
4 wanted to make sure that was on the record.
5 Q Okay. And at the time you said no to hearing any
6 other rumors, however, you had not testified about the
7 Officer Muskett incident in your deposition. Is that right?
8 A That's right, sir.
9 Q And can you explain why that is?
10 A Because that fell under privileged information.
11 MR. SUSANIN: Thank you, Ms. Verna. Let me see if
12 my colleagues have questions.
13 THE WITNESS: Okay.
14 MS. WIRTH: I have some.
15 MR. WISENBERG: I have a few.
16 MS. WIRTH: Do you want to go first?
17 MR. WISENBERG: You can go first.
18 MS. WIRTH: Okay.
19 BY MS. WIRTH:
20 Q I think you testified that Officer Muskett told you
21 about this incident that happened on Easter Sunday the next
22 day?
23 A Yes. I remember it to be the next day.
24 Q Okay. What was his demeanor like when he talked to
25 you about this? Was he --

Page 26

1 A Well, see, when I had told him to take the post, I
2 said, "Oh, nothing's going to happen." A[redacted]'t
3 [redacted] tour groups
4 coming through and they want to know about the furniture and
5 the rugs or they're not quite sure who should be walking
6 around or who shouldn't, so I said, "Oh, nothing's going to
7 happen on Easter Sunday."
8 So the next morning, it was like, "Oh, I'm going to
9 kill you because the post phone rang, it was the operator."
10 And just like little things that he wasn't sure of as
11 routine.
12 Q Was he seriously upset or --
13 A No. No.
14 Q -- just joking or -
15 A No, he was just joking.
16 Q Okay. And do you know whether John Muskett told
17 anybody besides you about this incident?
18 A I don't know.
19 Q Do you know if he told Officer Byrne about the
20 incident?
21 A [redacted]
22 Q But you don't know that for sure.
23 A I don't know that for sure. I mean, I could even
24 have related it to Gary, I just don't recall.
25 Q Now, you testified that John -- I think you said

Page 27

1 Gerena?
2 A Gerena.
3 Q Was your partner around that time.
4 A Right.
5 Q Do you know whether John Gerena knows anything
6 about Monica Lewinsky?
7 A I'm sure he knows who she is, but other than that,
8 I don't know.
9 Q Did he ever tell you whether he had seen Monica
10 Lewinsky in the vicinity of the Oval Office? Or do you know
11 whether he has?
12 A Probably because she was an intern and then a
13 permanent passholder, so she did have business in the West
14 Wing so I'm sure she did. I just know -- I talked to her, so
15 I probably paid attention to it more.
16 Q Do you know if John Gerena has had any specific
17 encounters with Monica Lewinsky?
18 A I don't know offhand.
19 Q Did he ever discuss whether he had ever seen Monica
20 Lewinsky with the President with you?
21 A No.
22 Q I think just to make the record clear, at one
23 point where you were discussing what had been told to you
24 about the Easter Sunday incident you said something like
25 they said that Monica came out a door and you didn't know

Page 28

1 which one she came out.
2 A I meant John.
3 Q You meant John by the word they? So there was
4 no one in addition to Mr. Muskett that you spoke to about
5 this?
6 A No. Not that I can recall.
7 BY MR. SUSANIN:
8 Q John is Mr. Muskett?
9 A Yes.
10 Q And when you said you may have told the Muskett
11 incident to Gary, that's Officer Byrne?
12 A Right.
13 Q B-y-r-n-e?
14 A Mm-hmm.
15 BY MS. WIRTH:
16 Q Have you had any conversations with Gary Byrne
17 about this incident? The John Muskett incident, the Easter
18 Sunday incident?
19 A Probably, but I don't remember specific locations
20 or times.
21 Q Do you remember anybody that you've talked to about
22 the Easter Sunday incident besides John Muskett?
23 A Well, probably Gary because he was on post.
24 Maybe one of the other officers that was there just passing
25 it along, but not anyone specific.

Page 29

1 Q Do you remember anything that Gary Byrne said to
2 you about this incident? About the Easter Sunday incident?
3 A No.
4 Q Just to switch topics for a moment, when you were
5 talking about the northwest gate incident, you said you had
6 heard that two supervisors, Captain Purdie and Sergeant
7 Williams, were called up to the Oval Office.
8 A Mm-hmm.
9 Q And you said something like you heard that they got
10 in trouble.
11 A Mm-hmm.
12 Q Do you have any more specific information about
13 what you mean by that?
14 A No. No. Just that, you know, that was the whole
15 purpose that they got called in there. I don't know, maybe
16 because she was delayed. I don't know.
17 Q Did you ever hear any specific thing that was said
18 to them in the Oval Office by anybody?
19 A No. No.
20 MS. WIRTH: Thank you.
21 BY MR. WISENBERG:
22 Q It's Officer Verna, correct?
23 A Right.
24 Q My name is Sol Wisenberg. I don't think we've met
25 before.

Page 30

1 You've already talked about the movie theater rumor
2 that you had heard and I don't know if this was previous in
3 time to the Easter Sunday event, but did you want to speak to
4 that?
5 A No, I was going to say it had to be before Easter
6 Sunday.
7 Q Okay. So in light of the earlier thing you heard,
8 now you've heard a story where somebody, a colleague, is
9 complaining to you about the active weekend it turned out to
10 be, Harold Ickes goes in one door, Monica Lewinsky goes out
11 another door, what, if any, speculation was there by you, by
12 Officer Muskett, by anybody else, about what had been going
13 on?
14 A We didn't speculate. I didn't see what happened
15 behind that door. I mean -- she just -- my understanding was
16 she just came out and I wasn't going to assume.
17 Q Okay. So there was no speculation that you
18 witnessed on the matter.
19 A No.
20 Q Or engaged in yourself.
21 A No.
22 Q Is that correct?
23 A Mm-hmm.
24 Q Now, why would he consider this -- well, let me
25 rephrase it. What did you think when he related this story

Page 31

1 to you?
2 A I was kind of surprised.
3 Q Okay. And why is that?
4 A I don't know. Just because -- the way she left so
5 quickly, I was surprised, but I don't know what happened that
6 day. I liked Monica. She had never said, "Oh, I'm working a
7 weekend and going to the Oval Office" or nothing, so it did
8 surprise me, but I wouldn't say it was totally unusual.
9 Somebody is usually around there to answer the telephone on
10 the weekend or maybe he needed papers. I was just surprised
11 it was her.
12 Q It was unusual enough for Muskett to have kind of
13 mentioned it to you as being a more eventful weekend than he
14 had planned. Is that a fair statement?
15 A That's a fair statement. I don't think it was so
16 much that it was because of her, it was because of the way --
17 you know, the operator had called and the whole handling of
18 the situation. I think if it would have been anybody, I
19 think he would have relayed it the same way.
20 Q He did say that she left quickly?
21 A Yes, he did.
22 Q And do you know if he said -- I think you've
23 spoken to this -- do you recall if he said what door she
24 left from?
25 A I don't recall if he said what door. I don't

Page 32

1 remember offhand.
2 Q Did you hear the story come back in any way? You
3 know how sometimes somebody can tell you a story about an
4 event that occurred and three weeks later you're hearing it
5 from -- it's like it's going around the block and coming back
6 and you've heard it from somebody else. Has that ever
7 happened with respect to this story?
8 A Could have, but I don't recall specifically. I
9 mean, that's pretty much the rumor mill they all kind of
10 generate through, but I don't recall it just specifically,
11 because I heard it from John, so I wouldn't have really paid
12 attention to if I was hearing it from somebody else because I
13 heard it right from him.
14 Q With respect to this or any other incident
15 involving Monica Lewinsky, has anybody ever said that Ickes
16 or anybody else came in and found Monica with her head on
17 the President's lap?
18 A No, I had never heard that.
19 Q Until I've just said it right now?
20 A Right.
21 BY MR. PAGE:
22 Q Ms. Verna, my name is Ed Page. We haven't met, bu
23 I work for Ken Starr and I'm one of the lawyers assigned to
24 his staff, so I would like to ask you a few questions at this
25 time.

Page 33

1 John Gerena, where is he currently assigned?
2 A He's assigned to FMB, a truck unit.
3 Q And tell us --
4 A The bike patrol. I'm sorry, the bike patrol unit.
5 Q F --
6 A M-B.
7 Q M-B? What's that stand for?
8 A Foreign Missions Branch.
9 Q On the bike detail?
10 A Mm-hmm.
11 Q He's still a member of the Secret Service?
12 A Yes, sir.
13 Q Uniformed division?
14 A Yes, sir.
15 Q I believe I heard you say that you have talked to
16 Monica Lewinsky when she worked or was at or in the West
17 Wing?
18 A Mm-hmm.
19 Q Is that correct?
20 A Yes, sir.
21 Q What did you speak with Monica Lewinsky about?
22 A Pretty much just general things. My children,
23 my family. She was always saying her mother was trying to
24 fix her up with blind dates because she said she needed a
25 boyfriend. She worked late a lot. She passed me every

Page 34

1 morning when she went to breakfast and we just talked about
2 general things.
3 Q You also said that you liked Monica.
4 A Yes.
5 Q Is that correct?
6 A Mm-hmm.
7 Q Why was that?
8 A Because she was nice. She had a nice personality,
9 good conversation. She was just nice. You know, a lot of
10 times, you see people over in the West Wing and they -- you
11 know, don't even speak or say hello. She always made an
12 effort to say hello and how's your day. You know, we'd talk
13 for a couple of minutes each time I saw her.
14 Q You also at least I heard you say that you were
15 surprised that it was her regarding the Easter Sunday event.
16 A Yes.
17 Q Why were you surprised?
18 A Well, I don't -- she didn't normally work on a
19 weekend [redacted]t. I don't recall seeing her
20 on a weekend that late. If anything, during the week, her
21 being there on my [redacted] shift I remember seeing her, but not
22 on a weekend.
23 Q So is it fair to say that you were surprised
24 because it was out of the ordinary for Monica Lewinsky to be
25 in the White House there on a weekend, on a Sunday?

Page 35

1 A I thought so. On Easter Sunday, yes.
2 Q You said Muskett told you that he got a call from
3 the White House operator on this Easter Sunday that we've
4 been talking about.
5 A Mm-hmm.
6 Q Correct?
7 A Yes, sir.
8 Q Where does that operator work within the White
9 House?
10 A To be honest, I don't know what room she's in.
11 Q How would she or that person who is the operator on
12 that day have made the phone call to Muskett? In other
13 words, what would have had to have happened first for Muskett
14 to get a phone call at his location [redacted]
15 A She would have tried to ring the President at his
16 desk in the Oval Office or there's a phone -- here's the
17 President's desk and there's another desk behind that has a
18 phone on it, too. She probably tried one of the lines and he
19 didn't answer.
20 Q And what prompts her or that person to pick up the
21 phone and call Muskett?
22 A Probably just because of location because he's
23 right outside the door. On a weekend, usually the
24 secretarial staff isn't there late in the day, it was Easter
25 Sunday. Just call the post phone.

Page 36

1 Q I'm trying to get, though, why the operator --
2 what happens first before the operator calls the post phone?
3 A I'm sure most of the calls for the President go
4 through the operator, so when she got the call and she rang
5 the phones and there was no answer, it must have been an
6 important phone call, I would assume, so she called the post
7 phone so that the officer on post would knock on the door to
8 see if he could get a response, to say there's an important
9 phone call for you she's trying to get through.
10 MR. PAGE: Thank you.
11 MR. SUSANIN: Ms. Verna, we're going to ask you to
12 step outside the grand jury room for a moment, please.
13 THE WITNESS: Sure. Just wait out here?
14 MS. WIRTH: Yes.
15 MR. SUSANIN: Please, ma'am.
16 (Witness excused. Witness recalled.)
17 MR. SUSANIN: Ms. Verna, we are back on the record
18 with a few questions from the grand jurors that I will relay
19 to you.
20 THE WITNESS: Okay.
21 BY MR. SUSANIN:
22 Q The first question is you made reference to roll
23 call taking place when you spoke about the [redacted] in the
24 Old Executive. Is that roll call procedure documented in any
25 way?

Page 37

1 A Yes. Every morning at 6:30, you attend roll call.
2 They call off the names, go through anything important to
3 pass on. It's a daily procedure. But in my office, we do
4 not attend the roll call because we start a half hour early,
5 so it would have been probably in the scheduling office or in
6 the hallway. I would not have attended a roll call.
7 Q Okay. Do you know if there are logs, then, kept of
8 what happens at roll call?
9 A It's pretty much attendance for the shift to make
10 sure that everybody's there and then we have a briefing book
11 that they read through each morning.
12 Q Do you know for a fact that there's an attendance
13 log or are you surmising?
14 A No. Well, I mean, they read through the names on
15 the sheet of everybody that's supposed to work and if anybody
16 is late or not there, you know, they just call assignments
17 and scheduling to see if the person maybe called in sick or
18 if we made a mistake on scheduling. But from that point,
19 what the sergeants do with it, I don't know.
20 Q Okay. So it sounds like you presume they write
21 down who's absent but you don't know what's done with that
22 log.
23 A Right.
24 Q Is that fair to say?
25 A That's fair to say.

Page 38

1 Q Who would know?
2 A One of the sergeants.
3 Q Within what office?
4 A Pretty much anybody. You can ask the officials,
5 the watch commander or somebody more specific with Secret
6 Service, but I don't know offhand.
7 Q Let me ask you about the conversation that you said
8 you had with Monica the day you saw her crying. As you
9 testified about it, it seems like it was a brief
10 conversation.
11 A It was very brief.
12 Q Okay. Is there anything that you -- any follow-up
13 questions you asked her or any additional statements she made
14 to you in that conversation that you have not told the grand
15 jury about?
16 A No. Like I said, by the time she said "I'm being
17 transferred" and then progressed to Betty's office, she
18 walked away with Nancy and I did not have a chance to talk to
19 her that day.
20 Q Can you give the grand jurors an idea of how long
21 the exchange between the two of you took that day?
22 A It was a matter of saying "I'm being transferred"
23 and she was crying and then she walked away.
24 Q Did she ever stop and talk to you or was she moving
25 the whole time you had your exchange?

Page 39

1 A No, she was -- I mean, she was pretty much moving.
2 She was crying and she was trying to go in the office to see
3 if they could do anything. She was more concentrated on
4 going to the office to ask them rather than stopping in and
5 having a conversation with me.
6 A JUROR: Did you ever put anything together about
7 here she was being transferred and that -- you had all these
8 friendly conversations with her and also heard the story
9 about her being in the Oval Office?
10 THE WITNESS: No, I know she -- from talking to
11 her after, I know she didn't want to be transferred. She
12 liked her job. She liked working there. But she never
13 specifically said anything as to why she thought she was
14 being transferred.
15 A JUROR: Did you have any questions in your mind
16 as to possibly the reasons why she was being transferred out?
17 Because of what it was that you knew that had happened on
18 Easter?
19 THE WITNESS: See, I don't know. I mean, I could
20 assume that, but -- and people get transferred there a lot,
21 so I don't know specifically if it was because of that
22 incident. It fell right afterwards, so you would probably
23 think that it could have been because of that.
24 A JUROR: Did you ever know of anybody else who was
25 crying on being transferred out of the White House?

Page 40

1 THE WITNESS: No, sir.
2 MR. SUSANIN: I'll ask the foreperson at this time
3 if Ms. Verna may be excused.
4 THE FOREPERSON: Yes, she may.
5 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
6 MR. SUSANIN: Thank you.
7 Thank you, Ms. Verna.
8 THE FOREPERSON: Thank you.
9 (The witness was excused.)
10 (Whereupon, at 12:15 p.m., the taking of testimony
11 in the presence of a full quorum of the Grand Jury was
12 concluded.)
13 * * * * *