

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA CRIME COMMISSION

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Verbatim report of hearing held
in the Offices of the Pennsylvania
Crime Commission, St. Davids,
Pennsylvania, on Tuesday,

February 20, 1973
4:00 P.M.

* * *

BEFORE: THOMAS J. CRAVETZ, ESQUIRE, Deputy Attorney General
Pennsylvania Crime Commission

ALSO PRESENT:

BARBARA BAILEY, ESQUIRE, Assistant Attorney General
Pennsylvania Crime Commission

LIEUTENANT ROBERT G. SHUCK, Pennsylvania State Police
APPEARANCES:

LEVY AND LEVY
Suite 710
The Fidelity Building
Chester, Pennsylvania 19016

BY: MELVIN G. LEVY, ESQUIRE
For - Marion P. Gobrecht



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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA :
:
COUNTY OF ADAMS :

I, Nancy J. Adelman, a Notary Public duly commissioned and qualified in and for the said Commonwealth and County, do hereby certify that there came before me on Tuesday, February 20, 1973, at 4:00 P.M., at the Offices of the Pennsylvania Crime Commission, St. Davids, Pennsylvania, the within named person who was sworn by me to testify to the truth and nothing but the truth of her knowledge touching and concerning the matters in controversy in this cause; that she was thereupon carefully examined upon her oath and the examination reduced to writing under my supervision; and that the transcript is a true record of the testimony given by the witness.

I further certify that I am neither attorney nor counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the parties to the action in which this transcript was taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties or financially interested in this action.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed
my hand and affixed my seal of office this 23rd day of
February 1973.

My Commission Expires:

March 8, 1976

Henry J. Adelman
Notary Public

MR. ORAVETZ: This is a hearing of the Pennsylvania Crime Commission which is conducting an investigation of the Philadelphia Police Department and allegations of corruption in that department. At the hearing today we are going to be asking certain questions of Mrs. Gobrecht. We wish to formally advise you that you have the right to refuse to answer any questions. You have the right to not say anything that may tend to incriminate you. You have an attorney present. Should you feel the need, you are free to consult with him before answering a question. I think we can begin the questioning now.

MR. LEVY: Before you do that, Mr. Oravetz, two things preliminarily. Initially, I assume that I will be entitled to receive a copy of the transcript of this testimony upon paying the charge for it. Is that correct, sir?

MR. ORAVETZ: Yes.

MR. LEVY: O.K. Secondly, may I call your attention and I'd like it stated for the record and place it on the record, Mrs. Gobrecht is ill. She is under the care and has been under the care of a doctor for quite some time, having had recent major surgery. She is here today nonetheless although she is suffering and is in discomfort at the present time and under medication at the present time. I have

a statement from her physician but I would like to offer for the record in substantiation of what I said. The interest being that she is here in response to the subpoena. She wants to testify and get this over with as expeditiously as she possibly can.

MR. ORAVETZ: We will accept the letter from the doctor. I would just like to ask Mrs. Gobrecht whether she feels that she can answer questions today, whether she can respond in an intelligent and knowing way to the questions. Do you feel capable of doing that?

MR. GOBRECHT: Yes, I can.

(An off-the-record conference was held.)

MR. ORAVETZ: Mrs. Gobrecht, I'd just like to ask you if you understand your rights in this regard as I have explained them to you at the beginning of this hearing insofar as your right not to testify against yourself?

MRS. GOBRECHT: I understand.

MR. ORAVETZ: You understand, and we have been given a letter to your attorney from your physician which describes your medical problems; but you do feel that you can go on with the testimony here today?

MRS. GOBRECHT: I can.

MR. ORAVETZ: Fine. I would just like to state that if you do feel at anytime that you feel ill or that you want to stop the hearing, please let me know and we will stop it immediately so that you can take a break or do whatever is necessary.

MRS. GOBRECHT: I shall do that.

MR. ORAVETZ: Thank you very much for coming today. We will begin the questioning.

MARION B. GOBRECHT, called as a witness, being duly sworn, testified as follows:

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q Mrs. Gobrecht, do you want to state your home address for the record, please?

A R. D. #5, west Chester.

Q And is that also your business address?

A Yes, it is.

Q What is your present occupation?

A Manager, partner in the motel.

Q And the name of that motel is?

A Sentinel Motel.

Q And how long have you -- are you part owner of the Sentinel Motel?

A Yes, I am.

Q And who are the others who have an interest in that motel?

A Rocco P. Urella.

Q Do you have an equal share? In other words, do you own it on a 50-50 basis?

A Well, yes, to the best of my knowledge.

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q There are only two of you who are part owners, you and Mr. Urella?

A Yes, now, we are.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q And how long have you had an ownership interest in the Sentinel Motel?

A Since 1963 upon my father's death.

Q Did you take over his interest?

A Yes.

Q O.K. How long has the motel been in your family? How long have you owned it, either you or your father?

A It's been in the family since '59.

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q May I ask what your father's name was?

A B. Thomas Bowen, B-O-W-E-N.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q Has Colonel Urella also had an ownership interest

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since 1959?

A With my father, yes.

Q O.K. Did you know -- how long have you known Colonel Urella?

A Well, I have known him since '59 but he was friendly with my father until my father left me the business.

Q Did you have an acquaintance with him though prior to 1959?

A A slight one, yes.

Q Does Colonel Urella have any active part in running the motel?

A No. I run the motel with help.

Q How often does he visit the motel?

A Whenever he has an opportunity, very seldom.

Q Would you say once a month, twice a month, once a week?

A Oh, yes, maybe once a week for a short period of time.

Q When he comes down, does he participate in anyway in the business? For example, handling the books or managing it?

A No.

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q Does he work at the desk?

A No. He looks over the books. That's it. If there is any discussion with regard to purchase of anything large, I'll discuss it with him.

Q How much time does he spend when he comes usually?

MR. LEVY: What period of time are you directing yourself to in these questions, presently?

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q Well, what did you have in mind when you were answering them?

A How ^{long} does he remain at the motel?

Q What period of time are we referring to in these questions here?

MR. LEVY: You would be in a better position than she to stated what period of time you are referring to in the questions.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q O.K. I think that's fair. We will limit it to the past two years.

A How long has he been?

Q In the past two years, would you say he has come down about once a week?

A I would say yes, yes.

Q And does he presently come down once a week?

A Yes.

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q And how long does he stay when he comes usually?

A Oh, a matter of a few minutes, a half hour.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q Does he ever come down and stay overnight or spend the weekend?

A At the motel?

Q Yes.

A No.

MR. LEVY: If I may, I think the witness' answers imply on the average. This is the situation.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q That's true. I think --

A Of course, if he has to spend an hour's time there, O.K., but usually it's not that long.

Q I understand. In the past two years, has he ever spent the night at the motel?

A At the motel?

Q Right.

A No, what for?

Q I'm just asking the question.

A No.

Q O.K. Were you -- I'm going to direct your attention to November 28, 1972 which I believe was a Tuesday. Were you working at the motel on that date?

A Yes, I was.

Q Was there any other employee working at the motel that day?

A Oh, yes, there are other help at the motel, not in my office.

Q O.K.

A Girls cleaning the units.

Q Was there anyone working in the office that day besides yourself?

A No.

Q There is a telephone number GL 9-2848. Is that the motel number?

A Yes, it is.

Q Is there any other -- is that the number which is listed in the phone book for the motel?

A Yes, it is.

Q Do you have any other phone number which is in the motel?

A We have a phone for our guests, a public phone.

Q O.K.

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q What's the number of that?

A Globe 9-9917, but that's for the guests' use.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q When a phone call comes in on the GL 9-2848 number, who usually answers the phone?

A I or if there is anyone that I have working there for the day or taking over for me for a certain length of time, they will answer it.

Q Did you work the entire day of November the 28th?

A I was there on the 28th, yes.

Q You were there the whole day?

A Yes, I was there the whole day.

Q Do you have any normal shift of working hours that you are at the motel?

A No, I'm there all of the time.

Q You are there on a 24-hour basis?

A That's right.

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q Do you live there?

A Yes, I do.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q And this telephone is -- is it adjacent to your living quarters or in your living quarters?

A In my office.

Q O.K.

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q Do you also have a number in your living quarters that is separate from the office number?

A No, I do not.

Q Do you have an extention of the office phone in your living quarters?

A Yes, I do.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q O.K. Did you receive a phone call from a Mrs. Gerald DeWalt on November 28 at approximately 11:30?

A I received a phone call but she did not identify herself if it was Mrs. DeWalt.

Q And did this person --

A At 11:30 --

Q In the morning.

MR. LEVY: The question was at approximately.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q At approximately 11:30.

A Well, --

Q Before noon?

A Before noon, fine, yes.

Q O.K. Now, this person that called, she did not identify herself?

A Absolutely did not.

Q Did she say whether or not she was calling for anyone?

A Yes, she did.

Q And who did she say she was calling for?

A Her conversation, as best I can remember, was will you take a message. I said yes. She said get the men out of the motel. Well, I -- get the men out of the motel, I didn't know -- I didn't know I had men in the motel and they were supposed to leave or what and I said, what men and she said Gerry told me to tell you or to give ^{you} this message and that's all I know. Well, I thought it was a crank call because I have received crank calls and I listened to it and I thought this is a crank call. So, I just hung up and evidently she hung up at the same time. She didn't say goodbye. I didn't say goodbye and that was the call.

Q O.K. Did she state to you they found the wire?

A She never said anything about a wire.

Q O.K. Did she state for whom the message was, who you were supposed to relay the message to?

A No. All she said was will you take a message and I said yes, not knowing what it was and she said it's either get the men out of the motel.

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q Did she ask to speak to anyone?

MR. LEVY: May I interrupt at this stage of the game and respectfully suggest that the questioning be by one person. If the second person has some questions, that at the conclusion of the first questioner's interrogation, the second person can come in.

MR. ORAVETZ: Mr. Levy, this is a hearing that we are conducting and Miss Bailey is asking the questions but as a hearing examiner, I am entitled to ask questions at anytime just as a judge may and I intend to continue to do it.

MR. LEVY: I understand that, but your remarks preceding this hearing, sir, related to an investigation that is going on with respect to the Philadelphia Police and very frankly I see no relevancy whatsoever to any of the questions that anybody is asking with respect to an investigation by the Crime Commission of the Philadelphia Police. If you want to talk about the Philadelphia Police, let's get down to cases.

MR. ORAVETZ: Do you have something else you want to say?

MR. LEVY: I am formerly requesting, for the record, that one person at a time do the questioning.

MR. ORAVETZ: Your request is rejected. We will continue to have the questioning primarily by Miss Bailey and I will ask any additional questions that I feel are necessary at anytime in order to fully complete the testimony.

MR. LEVY: If I deem it appropriate at any stage of these questions, if they don't relate to anything that in my opinion is relevant to an investigation by the Commission of the Philadelphia Police, I'm going to ask for a recess so that I can consider whether or not I want to advise the witness that there is no relevancy or pertinency to any of these questions and determine whether or not the questions will be answered on that basis alone.

MR. ORAVETZ: Fine.

MISS BAILEY: I think, Mr. Levy, that the subpoena was, the wording of the subpoena was somewhat broad in the Philadelphia investigation. I believe it asked Mrs. Gobrecht to come in and testify into broader areas.

MR. LEVY: The wording of the subpoena was the vaguest, broadest, most ambiguous wording that I have ever

seen but aside from that, it seems to me that the comments of Mr. Oravetz at the inception of this hearing take precedence over anything that was stated in the subpoena and the information that you have given us here today is that you are investigating a situation relating to the Philadelphia Police and this is what I am very anxiously --

MR. ORAVETZ: Mr. Levy, if you want to have this hearing conform with my remarks, I will inform you that the investigation of the Philadelphia Police has gone further than you think that it is and there are other matters that have related to the investigation itself which the Commission has found it necessary to investigate and I think we well know what those matters are.

MR. LEVY: I don't know what they are. All I know is what you said this hearing related to and what these questions are and in the interest of fair play, all I am seeking is to have one person at a time question Mrs. Gobrecht. That's all.

MR. ORAVETZ: Well, you have two objections. One is one person questioning at a time and you have another objection as to relevancy.

MR. LEVY: I have not objected as yet as to relevancy.

MR. ORAVETZ: Let's wait until we get to that. We have dealt with your other objection.

MR. LEVY: You know I am raising the question, however, that I fail to see where any of these questions relate to an investigation of the Philadelphia Police. You said to me that you refuse to limit the questioning by one person at a time, as I understand it. Is that right?

MR. ORAVETZ: I have answered your objection. Do you have the last question I asked the witness?

(The reporter read back the following: "Question: Did she ask to speak to anyone?")

MR. ORAVETZ: And what was the answer?

MR. LEVY: She being Mrs. De Walt? Is she in the question Mrs. DeWalt, is that who we are referring to?

MR. ORAVETZ: Mr. Levy, I would like to ask the questions in my own way, if I may.

MR. LEVY: Well, I want to be able to understand the question so that if I feel it is advisable for me to advise the witness, I want to be able to do so.

MR. ORAVETZ: Mr. Levy, if the witness feels that she needs advice, she is free to turn to you.

MR. LEVY: And similarly if I feel that it's necessary for me to communicate with the witness, I'm going to do so

and I assume that you are not going to interfere with my right to do so.

MR. ORAVETZ: Mr. Levy, it's fine for you to communicate to the witness but it's not fine for you to coach her or to give her any hints as to how she should answer any questions. Now, that's a general matter and I don't think this particular objection rises to that. I think there is an ambiguity there which I will correct and we can go on.

MR. LEVY: That's all I'm seeking for you to do, sir.

MR. ORAVETZ: I think that the ambiguity didn't exist in the line of the questioning as it existed before but as it is now, let's stop this discussion, I think, because it's wasting time.

MR. LEVY: Well, with the exception of one thing. I want the record to show that there isn't the slightest indication in this hearing that there has been any effort on my part or anybody else's part to coach this witness and I think that your remarks are improper and are uncalled for, sir.

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q Mrs. Gobrecht, did the person who called you on the date in question ask to speak to anyone?

A She did not.

Q When you answered the phone, did you identify yourself or the motel in anyway?

A I said Sentinel Motel.

Q And did you say anything else?

A That was all.

Q O.K.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q Did the caller ask if Rocco was there?

A No, she did not.

Q Did you at anytime tell her that Rocco was not available?

A I did not.

Q Did you tell her to wait and you would write down the message while she was talking?

A I did not.

Q Did you tell her that you would see that Rocco would get the message?

A I did not.

Q You stated that you hung up on her?

A Well, we probably both hung up at the same time. Truthfully, I was very short with her because I didn't understand the message at all and I thought it was just a crank call of which I have gotten many.

Q How long would you say the conversation lasted?

A I couldn't tell you that, I don't know.

Q Well, would you say one minute, three minutes, five minutes?

A A minute maybe. I really don't know how long it lasted.

Q Did it consist of anything other than her delivering this message from Gerry?

A No.

Q Did you receive any other phone calls from a person, from this person with the same voice if you can recall, that day?

A No.

Q O.K. Now, did you place a call to Colonel Urella?

A Yes, I did.

Q Prior to noon on that day?

A Well, I can't give you the exact time but I did place a call to him.

Q And do you recall what phone number you called?

A His office.

Q Did you call through the State Police switchboard?

A I don't know. I just called a number that I have

for him. I don't know whether it's the State Police switchboard or not.

Q And do you recall who answered the phone?

A No, I don't know who answered the phone.

Q Was it Colonel Urella?

A No.

Q Did you get through to him with that phone call?

A No. He was -- everybody was out for lunch.

Q O.K. Did you leave any message?

A I did. I left a message with the girl who answered asking him to call out the line.

Q And --

A That it was important.

Q Can you explain to us what call out the line means?

A Yes. It's just a phrase which we have always used since we have been in business. My father started it and whenever he had to contact him, he would say call -- leave a message, call out the line and Mr. Urella would know exactly who to call.

Q And did he return the phone call?

A Yes.

Q Do you recall at what time?

A No, I don't recall what time.

Q Was it shortly thereafter or hours later?

A Oh, it wasn't hours later, no. The girl said they were out for lunch and I left word to have him call when he returned from lunch.

Q And would you say he called within an hour?

A Oh, within an hour.

Q O.K. And can you describe the conversation at that time?

A Yes. That morning I felt as though I was well enough to walk down to my mailbox. My mailbox is down at the bottom of my drive, to pick up my mail. I picked up my mail and in the mailbox there was a scrap of crumpled paper in the back so I thought I would clean it out. As I took it out, I could see there was lettering on this note, on this piece of paper and I read it as I was walking up the hill and in essence, I can't remember the wording now, was tell Urella or something Urella that we are going to firebomb his joint.

Q How long had it been since you had been down to the mailbox?

MR. LEVY: I think she is still answering your first question, can you tell us the contents of the conversation.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q Fine. Go ahead.

A I came back to the motel. I was terribly upset. My daughter was ^{at} the motel at the time and I discussed it with her and then I decided to call Colonel Urella.

Q O.K. Do you want to continue and just tell me what the conversation was when you spoke to him?

A Well, I then called his office and he was not there. He called -- oh, you want me to continue?

Q Sure, go ahead.

A Later on he called me back and I gave him the contents, read him the contents, what was on this piece of brown paper. He tried to alleviate my fears. He said just try to be calm. It's necessary for me to come down this afternoon and I will stop by.

Q Is there anything else?

A Well, that was all he said to be on the phone.

Q Did he give you any instructions at all with regard to the note?

A No.

Q Told you not to worry and that he would be down that afternoon?

A That's right.

Q Now, how long had it been since you had been out to the mailbox?

A Well, mail is picked up everyday. As I said, if I feel like walking, if I feel as though I am strong enough to go down there, it's down a hill and up a hill, I will go. If not, I will have one of my family pick it up.

Q O.K. So, you went sometime prior to noon on that day?

A Sometime prior to noon. I don't usually go down, if I am feeling like it, before 11:30 because the mail delivery is not consistent as to a particular time but usually by 11:30 the mail is there.

Q So, you would place your going down to the mailbox between 11:30 and twelve?

A Around 11:30, around that time.

Q O.K. And no one had picked up the mail since approximately the same time, 11:30, the day before?

A That's right. We only have one mail delivery.

Q Had someone picked up the mail on the 27th of November?

A Yes.

Q Did you go to the mailbox before or after you got what you considered to be a crank phone call?

A I went before.

Q O.K. Did you tell Colonel Urella about this crank phone call?

A No, I didn't because it meant nothing to me. It was just a phone call that meant absolutely nothing to me. I thought it was a crank phone call.

Q Do you know who Gerry is?

A Gerry? Gerry DeWalt.

MR. LEVY: The question is did she know then or does she know now?

MRS. GOBRECHT: Now, I know.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q All right.

A But at that time, I didn't.

Q At that time, were you acquainted with a man named Gerry DeWalt?

A I know several Gerry's.

Q But at that time, were you acquainted with a man named Gerry DeWalt?

A At that time, yes, but I didn't know it was that Gerry DeWalt. I didn't know who it was because my concern was get the men out of the motel which meant nothing to me.

Q Did you inquire of the lady who called what motel

she was talking about?

A No, I did not. All she said to me was Gerry told me to tell you to get the men out of the motel. I believe that's what she said and she said that's all I know.

Q And what did you say in response?

A I said what men and she said Gerry said to get the men out of the motel and I thought this is one of those nutty calls again. So, I hung up.

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q Mrs. Gobrecht, how long after you got the mail did the call come through, do you recall roughly?

A How long when I got the mail did the call come?

Q Yes. Did I get that right? I believe you said you went to get the mail before the crank call came?

A That's right. I had the note and I was very very upset about it. Now, I can't give you an approximation of time.

Q Was it between -- well, it was before noon you say?

A Before noon, sometime before noon.

Q You were very upset about the note that said we are going to firebomb Mr. Urella's joint or something to that effect?

A Yes.

Q Did you save that note?

A I gave it to Mr. Urella.

Q Does he have it now?

A Yes.

MR. LEVY: To the best of your knowledge.

MRS. GOBRECHT: Oh, yes, to the best of my knowledge, surely.

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q Now, did you connect up the crank call with this note that you say you got?

A No, I didn't.

Q You didn't?

A No, I did not.

Q You didn't think that getting the men out of the motel might be connected with the firebombing?

A No, I did not.

Q O.K.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q Did you have anyone check around your motel to see if there were any strange men in it?

A Strange men?

Q In your motel.

A To look on the outside, no.

Q Did you do anything in response to the message to get the men out of the motel?

A I called Colonel Urella. That's all. As far as getting -- there were no men there to get out. I couldn't imagine what they were talking about. That's why I thought it was a crank call.

Q O.K. My question was did you do anything at all in response to the message? Did you take any action at all?

MR. LEVY: The telephone message or the written message?

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q Oh, I'm sorry, the telephone message, to get the men out of the motel?

A No. It didn't make sense to me, no.

Q O.K. Did you call the Media Barracks and tell them about the firebomb note?

A No, I did not.

Q Did Colonel Urella ask you to call the Media Barracks?

A I called him and he did not ask me to call the Media Barracks.

Q Did you call the Media Barracks or anyone there at anytime after the 28th of November?

A No. I thought calling him, he would take care of it.

Q Fine. Did any state policemen come to the motel about the firebombing to do -- to check anything out or --

A When?

Q In other words, did anyone come from the Media Barracks to take information about the firebombing?

A No, no, no.

Q O.K. Now, did Colonel Urella come to the motel at anytime on 11-28?

A Pardon me?

Q Did he come to the motel during the day of the 28th of November at anytime?

A Yes, he did.

Q And what time did he arrive?

A Sometime in the afternoon?

Q Can you place it?

A Middle afternoon, let's say. I didn't notice what time it was.

Q O.K. By the middle of the afternoon, could you say somewhere between two and four? Would that be fair to base it in that range?

A I would say so approximately.

Q When he arrived, were there any other state police personnel at the motel?

A At the motel?

Q Yes.

A No.

MR. LEVY: With him or before he got there?

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q Physically there that had arrived beforehand?

A No.

Q Who arrived with him?

A Lieutenant McCann and I believe a Lieutenant Weimer.

Q O.K.

A I believe it was Weimer. There was another man with him and I think his name was Weimer.

Q And do you recall what kind of a car they arrived in?

A No. I didn't look outside to see what kind of a car they had.

Q Do you recall whether it was one car or two cars?

A I didn't notice if there was one or two.

Q O.K. What occurred when he came to the motel?

A When he came in, I was practically in hysterics

and he tried to calm me down. He said, look, let me see the note and let me see what we can do about this and I discussed it with him. He said well, call the insurance company to see if we are protected in anyway which I did.

Q And when did you do that?

A It was either -- because of time element, I don't know whether it was that late -- it was so late that they wouldn't be there at the office or I did it the next day. I just don't remember after this length of time.

Q Did you reach the insurance company?

A Yes. I reached a Mr. Gaudio who is my agent.

Q And what is the name of the insurance company?

A Elio, Lobe and Margroft in Philadelphia.

Q And you say you either called them, Mr. Gordy?

A No.

Q Mr. Gordy?

A Mr. Gaudio.

Q Mr. Gaudio?

A Charles Gaudio.

Q And you spoke to him either --

A Yes, and I told him and he said I will call you back and give you the information.

Q And did he return your call?

A Yes, within a few days.

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q Mrs. Gobrecht, what did the note mean to you?
Did you feel as though the note threatened the motel?

A Yes, I did.

Q That's what you thought it meant by his joint, you thought that meant the motel?

A Well, it was in our mailbox so I would assume that it would mean the motel.

Q Do you know of any other properties that Mr. Urella has an interest in?

A Not to my knowledge. I don't know. You would have to ask him.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q Now, after he told you to call the insurance company, was there any other conversation?

A Yes. He said he couldn't spend too much time because he either had to go to a meeting in Kenneth Square and then he had a call from the governor that the governor wanted to meet with him.

Q Did he say whether he was on his way to Kenneth Square or on his way back from Kenneth Square?

A That, I can't answer. I don't know.

Q Do you recall any other conversation?

A Yes. When he said he had to go -- get back to Harrisburg, he was in a hurry, he had to get back to Harrisburg because there was some trouble with -- now, this is what I am saying. I can't remember exactly with some men at a motel. Now, when he said that, I said well I received an odd message this morning, I said, which I didn't pay any attention to and I related to him the message, that I have a message for you. Gerry said to -- told me to tell you to get the men out of the motel and that's all I know. That's the message and he turned around and said to me Gerry, Gerry who? I said I don't know. He said could it have been Gerry DeWalt, Gerry DeWalt's wife because it was a female voice. I said I have never spoken to the woman. I haven't the faintest idea who it was but I was very short with the person and not too pleasant. So, he said, well, it doesn't mean anything to me. So, he and the other men decided they were going to leave. I did say to him who would do such a thing. They were working, I believe, on this Ham case in Kenneth Square at the time and one of them and I don't know which one it was said could it possibly be any of this Ham's associates because they lived in the vicinity, in the area where I live, could they have put the note in the box.

Q Now, you are referring to the note that you received concerning the firebombing, not the message on the phone?

A The firebombing, yes, the firebombing note.

Q All right. Fine. O.K. When you told them about the message that you received on the phone, did they -- did he say anything else other than to ask you if you thought it was Gerry DeWalt's wife?

A No, not to my recollection, he didn't say anything.

MR. LEVY: The witness has already stated that Mr. Urella said it doesn't mean anything to me.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q I understand. I meant any other comment other than those two.

A No.

Q O.K. I'm sorry. How long after that did he leave the motel?

A Matter of minutes.

Q How long would you say he was there, an hour, half an hour?

A No. He was there a very short time.

Q Did he stay and have anything to eat?

A Oh, no, no, 20 minutes, a half hour.

Q And --

A Because he was in a hurry. He was in a hurry to get back to Harrisburg.

Q And when he left, did he tell you that he was going back to Harrisburg?

A He said -- now, whether he told me he was going directly to Harrisburg or over to Kenneth Square, I do not remember, but he was going out or had to get back to Harrisburg.

Q Now, while Colonel Urella was present, did any state police personnel other than those men that were already there come to the motel?

A No.

Q Did either Lieutenant Weimer or Lieutenant McCann ever leave the motel while he was there and then return?

A No.

Q After Colonel Urella left, did he leave with both of the lieutenants who came with him?

A Yes They all went out at one time.

Q Did any state police personnel come to the motel, this is on that same day, after he left?

A No.

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q Mrs. Gobrecht, where was Colonel Urella during the time that he was at the motel? Where in the motel was he?

A In my apartment where I live.

Q O.K. And where were the other police, the state policemen?

A They came in with him.

Q Did you stay inside the entire time?

A Oh, yes.

Q So, is it possible that other persons may have arrived and been outside without you seeing them?

A I don't follow you.

Q Well, could other persons have arrived at the motel but not come to your apartment where you were with Colonel Urella without you knowing it?

MR. LEVY: What other kind of persons are you talking about?

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q Would you answer that question?

MR. LEVY: I think the question is incapable of being answered in the form in which it's asked.

MR. ORAVETZ: I would like to see if Mrs. Gobrecht

can answer that question.

MR. LEVY: I don't see how any person can because the question is confusing. Can you clarify the question, sir?

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q Mrs. Gobrecht, do you understand the question?

A No, really, I don't, other policemen came to the motel?

A Yes. O.K. Is it possible that other policemen could have come to the motel and been outside without you knowing about them?

MR. LEVY: Anything is possible, sir.

MR. ORAVETZ: I'm asking the witness. Would you kindly stop interrupting.

MR. LEVY: Do you want me to object to the question? The question is incapable of being answered by an intelligent person. It's possible that there could be ten state policemen outside her motel now. If she is inside and they are outside, how would she know the answer to that question?

MR. ORAVETZ: Then, the answer is yes.

MR. LEVY: Anything is possibly. Certainly, I'm saying that.

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q Is that your answer?

A How am I supposed to answer? I was inside.

Q You were inside the whole time?

A I was inside.

Q You weren't watching the parking lot from the motel?

A No. Nobody parks in front of my windows.

Q O.K. So, it's possible that somebody could have parked somewhere else other than in front of your window and you wouldn't have seen them. Is that correct?

A As Mr. Levy said, anything is possible. You could have a half a dozen guests come up there and park.

Q So, you don't know for sure that no other state policemen came to the motel that afternoon. Is that right?

MR. LEVY: Wait a minute. I think that is a grossly unfair question. The witness is attempting to answer your questions to the best of her ability.

MR. ORAVETZ: Mr. Levy, I am asking her questions which are probing her answers and I think we are getting somewhere and I think you are obstructing the questioning.

MR. LEVY: I think you are misleading the witness, sir.

MR. ORAVETZ: I certainly am not.

MR. LEVY: Well, I think you are and, therefore, I am objecting. For you to ask questions of this nature is grossly unfair.

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q Mrs. Gobrecht, did you hear the question?

A Would you mind repeating it?

A I will repeat the question for you. Now, you stated earlier that to your knowledge at least no other state policemen came to the motel other than the ones you named on the afternoon in question. Is that right?

A That's true.

Q Now, I asked you then that you can't be certain of that because you weren't watching the parking lot the entire time. Isn't that correct?

A To the best of my knowledge, I saw no other state policemen there.

Q You weren't watching the parking lot so it's possible that other state policemen could have driven up?

A Anybody could have driven up.

Q O.K. Thank you.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q Did Colonel Urella return after he left? You said

he left after a few minutes. Did he return at anytime that same afternoon?

A No.

Q Do you recall when was the next time that he visited the Sentinel Motel after that date?

A I couldn't answer that truthfully. I don't know whether it was the next day or the following day. It's quite possible that he may have come.

Q O.K. Have you spoken with Colonel Urella about your appearance here today?

A Oh, yes. I told him I was subpoenaed.

Q Did you have a discussion with him about your testimony?

A Absolutely not.

Q Now, were you present at the Sentinel Motel on the evening of November 28?

A Yes.

Q And you were working in the office?

A Well, I was in my apartment, yes.

Q Was there anyone else working in the office at that time?

A No.

Q Did you call the DeWalt home that evening?

A Yes, I did.

Q And do you recall when the first call was placed?

A The first call?

Q O.K. Well, any phone call?

A What time?

Q Yes.

A It was sometime in the evening. Just what time it was, I can't tell you.

Q And who were you calling at that time?

A I called Gerry to find out if it was his wife who had called me and the reason I did that was because I was very short and rude to the person on the phone. That's in view of the fact that Colonel Urella had asked me if it was Mrs. DeWalt.

Q O.K. Do you recall who you spoke with?

A Gerry DeWalt.

Q Did you make only one phone call?

A Yes. I made one phone call.

Q Do you recall whether it was early in the evening or late in the evening?

A No. It was not early in the evening. It was approximately, oh, after nine o'clock or so, I would think.

Q And what was your discussion with him?

A I asked him if it was his wife who had called. He said yes. I said Gerry, I want to apologize and I wish you would tell her that I am sorry I spoke very shortly to her. I said I wasn't very pleasant. I said I didn't know it was your wife. He said that's all right, that's perfectly all right.

Q Do you recall any other conversation you had with him?

A It was strictly personal.

Q Did it involve he and his wife's coming to the motel that weekend?

A In the course of the conversation, I believe he did say something about we had thought about coming down. Now, whether he had meant -- whether he meant just when, I don't know. He said I thought we might come down some weekend.

Q Did he tell you that he was planning to stay at your motel the weekend that would be December 27?

A He said no time. He just said we had thought about coming down some weekend.

Q And do you recall what your response was to that?

A Anytime you'd like to come down.

Q Did you have any discussion at all about the incident at the George Washington Motor Lodge involving an alleged wiretapping?

A Absolutely not.

Q Did he give you any information at all?

A No. He gave me no information.

Q Do you recall how long you talked to him on the phone?

A I don't recall how long but we were talking about personal matters.

Q Well, can you recall three minutes, five minutes?

A Well, you know when you are talking about personal matters and just general conversation, time will get away from you. I can't tell you whether it was three minutes or five minutes.

Q How long have you known Gerry DeWalt?

A Oh, I have known Gerry DeWalt for about, oh, about approximately 14 years.

Q And in what capacity have you known him?

A He used to patrol out in the area where I am and he once in a while he'd patrol. He'd come in and stop by and have a cup of coffee.

Q O.K. Have you met with him in social situations outside of his work?

A No.

Q Now, do you recall what else you talked with him

about on the phone the night?

A Well, just personal. He was having marital problems and I did ask him a few things about his marital problems and everything seemed to be getting straightened out. I was talking to him about my handicapped grandson who has had many brain operations and how he is getting along and his activities or what he can do and what he can't do. It/^{was}just general conversation.

Q Can you place any time range at all on the conversation?

A Really, I can't. I can't tell you whether it was five minutes, ten minutes, fifteen minutes. I don't know.

Q Well, was it as much as 20 to 30 minutes?

A Well, when you are talking on the phone, time gets away from you and it could possibly have been but I didn't take note how long I talked.

Q When was the last time you talked to Gerry DeWalt prior to that phone call?

A Well, it goes back some while. He stopped in for a cup of coffee one time on his way home. I couldn't tell you just when that was but it was a while.

Q Was it summer or fall?

A Well, I would say the fall, somewhere.

Q September or October?

A I can't give you the date. I wouldn't know. I don't even know the month but he did pop in one day and he sat down and had a cup of coffee.

Q When is the last time you talked to him on the telephone?

A Oh, I wouldn't know.

Q Had you talked to him that fall on the telephone?

A I couldn't tell you when it was. Periodically, he would just call to say how is everything going or how is your little grandson. I couldn't tell you when it was.

Q Well, could you say he called you within the last six months prior to that phone call?

A I really don't know. I couldn't answer that question.

Q Does -- do you talk with him fairly often?

MR. LEVY: What does fairly often mean?

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q Once a month?

A Oh, no, no.

Q Once every two months?

A I can't tell you how often I talk to him. I mean just once in a while or he'll stop in.

Q O.K. Has he been doing this for a period of time?

A He did it for a period of time, stopping in at the motel. I would say it was in 1971 when he was having a great deal of marital problems.

Q Did he call you any day after the 28th, within the next week say?

A No, no.

Q Have you talked to him since that time?

A No.

Q Did you talk to him on the 29th of November?

A The 29th of November?

Q Which would be the next day?

A No.

Q Were you at the Sentinel Motel on the 29th?

A Yes. I'm there all of the time.

Q Were you there on the evening of the 29th?

A I'm there all of the time.

Q Do you recall receiving a phone call from the DeWalt home at 9:26?

MR. LEVY: On what date?

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q The 29th.

A No.

Q Would you explain why telephone records would reflect that you received a phone call --

MR. LEVY: That who received a phone call?

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q That your number, GL 9-2848, is that correct?

A Yes, that's my number.

Q Would you explain why a phone call was placed to that phone number on November 29th at 9:26 P.M.?

MR. LEVY: From whom?

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q From the DeWalt home.

A No, I do not. I haven't the faintest idea.

Q Was there anyone else with you that evening?

A I'm there all of the time.

Q But was there anyone else there on the night of the 29th?

A I couldn't tell you that. I don't know who I had there on the night of the 29th.

Q Do you recall whether Colonel Urella was there that night?

A I don't recall.

Q Do you recall whether there was any other state police personnel there that night?

A No, not to my knowledge.

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q Mrs. Gobrecht, does the same number go into each of the motel rooms?

A No. We have no phones in any of our rooms.

Q I see. Thank you.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q Did Gerry DeWalt and his wife stay at the Sentinel Motel on the weekend of December 2 and 3?

A No.

Q Do you recall whether or not there were any plans for them to stay there?

A No, no plans, and the only thing, as I told you before, in our conversation he said we thought we would come down some weekend and that was it. He didn't say when or if.

(An off-the-record conference was held.)

Q Do you know a person by the name of James Kelly?

A No, I do not.

Q Do you know any friend of Gerry DeWalt's whose name is James Kelly?

A To the best of my recollection, I don't recall that name at all.

Q Do you ever recall Gerry DeWalt stating to you that he was planning to stay at the Sentinel Motel on the weekend of December 2 because he was going to visit the Kelly's and that there was no room in the Kelly's house for him to stay?

A I don't recall him mentioning any name at all. As I told you before, he did mention in our conversation he had thought maybe he and his wife would come down but they didn't have definite plans.

Q Did Gerry DeWalt ever talk to you about his work or where his assignment was?

A No, never.

Q Did you know where he was assigned, what location?

A I didn't know what he was doing.

Q You said that he stopped by sometimes on his way home?

A He did one time that I can recall. He stopped in and had a cup of coffee.

Q You stated that you thought that was in the fall sometime?

A I believe it was. I'm not too sure.

Q Did he tell you where he was on his way from?

A No. He was on his way home.

Q Were you aware that he was working on an investigation in Philadelphia?

A No, I did not know where he was working.

Q Do you know a Lieutenant Herman Faola?

A No.

Q Have you ever heard any talk about him?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Has Colonel Urella ever mentioned his name to you?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Do you know a Lieutenant Steven Luchanski
(phonetic)?

A I have heard of his name and I have met him once.

Q Do you recall when that was?

A Oh, quite a long while ago.

Q Has it been longer than a year?

A I would say maybe a year, maybe nine months.

Q Do you know what his assignment was in the state
police?

A No. I don't know what he did.

Q Were you aware that he was a member of the internal
security unit?

A No, I did not.

Q Did Colonel Urella ever mention his name to you in

the past year?

A No. He never mentioned his name to me. As I say, he and the Colonel stopped down or he was with the Colonel. They came in and that's when I met him.

Q Did you have any conversation with him at that time?

A No. He just stopped in. I didn't have any conversation with him.

Q Do you know a Colonel Metro Cardash (phonetic)?

A The name is vaguely familiar, Cardash, the name is familiar.

Q Do you know how you recall that name?

A I don't know whether it's just that I read it in the paper or whether I have met him. Over the course of the year, the Colonel would bring certain people in the motel just as he was stopping by, is everything all right. He may have somebody with him but as far as knowing these people, I don't know them.

Q Do you recall Corporal Cardash as a friend of Gerry DeWalt?

MR. LEVY: First, you said he was a colonel.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q I'm sorry, Corporal.

A I wouldn't know that.

Q Gerry has never talked about Corporal Cardash?

A He never mentioned him.

Q Do you know a Corporal Curtis Gyatt (phonetic)?

A The name is familiar.

Q Do you recall -- excuse me, go ahead.

A And I believe that I have met him but that was some while ago too.

Q Do you know a -- you said you knew a Lieutenant James McCann?

A Yes

Q And Lieutenant Richard Weiner?

A Yes.

Q Had you seen them at the Sentinel prior^{to} that date, the November 28 date?

A Well, --

MR. LEVY: Ask that question again please.

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q Had you met or had -- we'll take them one at a time. Had you met -- was that the first time you had met Lieutenant James McCann, on November 28?

A No. I had met him before.

Q Did he come to the motel with Colonel Urella?

A Yes. He has been to the motel with Colonel Urella.

Q Do you recall whether he came with him frequently?

A I wouldn't say frequently.

Q Had you met Lieutenant Richard Weimer prior to the 28th of November?

A I don't know whether it was prior or if it was during the Ham case and I believe he was working on it and Colonel Urella was working on it at the same time. Now, I don't know whether it was prior to the 28th. I know he was there several times.

Q On November the 28th, do you recall seeing either a Lieutenant Steven Luchanski or Corporal Metro Cardash or Corporal Curtis Gyatt at the motel?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Were you aware that these three men were working on an investigation in the Philadelphia area?

MR. LEVY: When, when?

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q At that time.

A No. I didn't know what they were doing, what their capacity was.

Q Were you aware prior to November the 28th that

there were state policemen, personnel, working out of the George Washington Motor Lodge?

A I don't know.

Q Had you heard any conversation?

A None at all.

Q Had Colonel Urella ever mentioned the fact that there were state troopers working out of there?

A No, he did not.

Q Has Colonel Urella met, to your knowledge, did he meet with Lieutenant Luchanski, Corporal Cardash and Corporal Gyatt at the motel on November 28th?

MR. LEVY: Which motel?

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q The Sentinel Motel.

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Were you present with Colonel Urella the entire time he was at the motel?

A On the 28th?

Q Yes.

A Yes. He came into the motel and I talked with him there.

Q And then when he left, he got in his car and drove away?

A He went out the door. I didn't watch him get in the car and drive away but he and the gentlemen who were with him went out and I closed the door.

Q Do you recall hearing the sound of a motor?

A No. I don't recall. We have guests there who start their cars. I really don't know.

Q Do you recall talking to anyone in the DeWalt home on October the 20th in the evening around eight o'clock?

MR. LEVY: What year?

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q '72. This is all '72.

A October?

Q The 20th.

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Were you present at the motel on October 20th?

A Yes, I was.

Q In the evening?

A I am -- let me put it this way. I am there 90 percent of the time.

Q O.K.

A There are occasions when I do go out. If I have to go to the doctor's office or such but I don't recall October. What was the date?

Q October 20th.

A Do you know -- no, I don't recall.

Q Do you know who might have been there to receive a phone call from the DeWalt household?

A To my motel?

Q That's right.

A No, I do not.

MR. LEVY: To receive or send?

BY MISS BAILEY:

Q To receive, anyone at the motel to receive a phone call?

A I don't recall that at all.

Q Do you know who would have been at the motel on October the 15th at 10:35 P.M. to receive a phone call from the DeWalt household?

A No, I do not. I am there most all of the time. The 15th of October and the 20th of October. I don't remember that at all. I don't remember that at all, not to my knowledge.

Q And you do not know who might have been there to receive the phone calls?

A Well, I receive the phone calls if I am there and I am there 90 percent of the time, maybe 99 percent of the time.

Q If you did not talk to anyone from the DeWalt household on these dates, can you explain why phone calls to the GL 9-2848 number were registered?

A I couldn't answer that question. I do not know.

Q On those dates and at that time.

A I do not know.

Q Were you aware that Lieutenant Luchanski, Corporal Metro Cardash or Corporal Curtis Gyatt were at times in the month of November staying at the George Washington Motor Lodge?

A I know nothing about that.

Q Did you receive any phone calls from any of those three persons?

A Never.

Q Did Colonel Urella ever tell you that these men were investigating troopers staying at the George Washington Motor Lodge?

A He didn't discuss his work with me at all.

Q When you spoke to Gerry DeWalt on the evening of November 28th, didn't he give you all of the details of the wiretapping incident up until that point when he made the phone call?

A He did not.

Q Did you have any discussion with him about a basketball game?

A He told me about his son playing basketball, what a star he was. That was our personal conversation.

Q Did you tell Gerry DeWalt that it was a good thing that his wife called that morning?

A I did not. All I did was ask whether or not she was the one who called and wanted to apologize for being so short with her.

Q Why did you decide to call Gerry DeWalt?

A For the simple reason the Colonel had said to me was -- Gerry. He said well, was it Mrs. DeWalt who called. I said I don't know and when I thought about it, I thought well, if it was Gerry's wife, I certainly didn't act too pleasant to her on the phone. I'll call Gerry and find out if it was his wife.

Q Did Colonel Urella ask you to call him?

A No, he did not.

Q Did you speak with Colonel Urella by phone either that evening or on the -- during the following week by phone?

A Oh, yes.

Q Did you talk to him that night, on November 28th?

A I can't remember. Maybe he called me. I don't know. I really couldn't tell you that.

Q Did you relate to him that you had called Gerry DeWalt and that his wife had made that phone call?

A That night, I don't recall whether he called me that night or not but if I told him, it was after that time. Whether it was that night or later on.

Q But did you at anytime after that relate to him that you had called Gerry DeWalt --

A And Gerry told me it was his wife.

Q And what did Colonel Urella say?

A He didn't say anything really. He said oh, was it or he had really no comment on it.

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q Mrs. Gobrecht, did you ask Gerry DeWalt or his wife at any time what she meant by the phrase get the men out of the motel?

A No, I did not.

Q Did it ever occur to you?

A No, because it made no sense to me.

Q Wasn't your curiosity aroused?

A No. All I could think of, the men out of the motel, I was thinking of my motel and I didn't have any men there. I didn't know what the message really was.

BY MISS BALLEY:

Q Have you talked to Mrs. DeWalt since November 28th?

A No.

Q That night that you talked to him, did you inquire of Gerry DeWalt what the message meant?

A No. I thought if Gerry wanted to give me any information, he would. All I did was ask him if it was his wife who called. He said yes. I said, well, Gerry, I'm sorry I was so short with her and he said oh, that's all right, that's all right, think nothing of it or passed some remark.

Q You have a fairly good relationship with Gerry DeWalt, don't you?

A We are friends, yes.

Q In other words, you talk fairly openly. He tells you about his problems.

A His problems, yes. He was having marital problems and he used to discuss them with me.

Q And you would tell him about your family?

A Yes, just family, just general conversation, mostly it was about my little grandson who has been extremely ill.

Q Well, why did you feel a hesitancy to ask him about the meaning of a phone call?

A Well, I felt if he wanted to tell me anything, it would be up to him to tell me anything. I just asked him if it was his wife.

Q Didn't it concern you that Mrs. DeWalt called you out of the blue and gave you this message?

A No. It didn't concern me at all.

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q Was that because it was a prearranged plan for them to call you under certain circumstances?

MR. LEVY: Prearranged between whom?

BY MR. ORAVETZ:

Q Between you and Trooper DeWalt?

A There was nothing prearranged at all.

Q But you never thought further of that phone call or message?

A No, I didn't.

MISS BAILEY: Lieutenant Shuck, any questions you would like us to ask?

LIEUTENANT SHUCK: No.

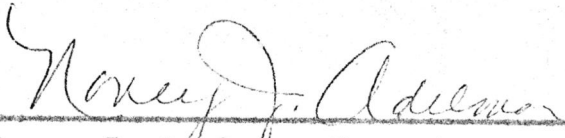
MR. ORAVETZ: You have anymore?

MISS BAILEY: No.

MR. ORAVETZ: That concludes our questioning today. I would like to thank Mrs. Gobrecht for your patience

and apologize for any stress that we have put you under for coming here today. We realize you do have a physical condition and we are very appreciative of your taking the time and effort to come here and answer the questions for us and thank you, Mr. Levy.

I hereby certify that the proceedings taken by me before the Pennsylvania Crime Commission are fully and accurately indicated in my notes and that this is a true and correct transcript of same.


Nancy J. Adelman, Reporter
289 Oak Lane
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325

Colonel Rocco URELLA advised he wished to furnish the following information concerning telephone calls received by him at his office in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday, November 28, 1972. On that Tuesday morning, he recalls receiving telephone calls relative to the State Police investigation of the Ridgeway Homes for Retarded Children, as well as a phone call relating to the killing of the two police officers in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, and another call from the District Attorney of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

At approximately noon on that date, he received a message from his office while he was at lunch which concerned a fire bomb threat received by the woman manager of the Sentinel Motel, Route 202, Delaware County. This motel is owned by Colonel URELLA. He advised his manager to notify the State Police Barracks at Media, Pennsylvania, and told her he would come right down.

Colonel URELLA also stated that Lieutenant Stephen LUCHANSKY had received a collect telephone call at approximately 12:30 p.m. on November 28, but he was not aware of the particulars of that call.



Colonel URELLA stated he drove down to Delaware County in connection with the fire bomb threat and the next official telephone call he received was when the Governor reached him at approximately 3:00 p.m. concerning a conference to be held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, that same evening with Governor SHAPP.