

Today is Wednesday, January 31, 1973. We are in Lt. Colonel William Cooper's Office. Present are Sergeant Raymond Hussack, Lt. Robert G. Shuck, and Trooper Gerald T. Dewalt. The time is 3:00 p.m.

Sergeant Hussack and Lt. Shuck are going to ask Trooper Dewalt questions relative to the incident at the George Washington Motor Lodge on November 27 and 28, and questions about other related information.

Q. Now, Trooper Dewalt, if at anytime you feel an answer would incriminate you, advise us before you answer that question.

What is your full name?

A. Gerald Thomas Dewalt.

Q. What is your occupation?

A. Pennsylvania State Policeman.

Q. You have been a Pennsylvania State Policeman for what period of time?

A. Twenty-two (22) years.

Q. What is your present assignment with the Pennsylvania State Police.

A. I am assigned in the Attorney General's Office for the investigation of corruption of the City of Philadelphia.

Q. In connection with these duties, where is your working Headquarters?

A. George Washington Motor Lodge, King of Prussia.

Q. How long have you been at the George Washington Motor Lodge?

A. Since the end of October - beginning of November.

Q. Beginning with the end of October, or anytime prior thereto, were you contacted, either personally or by telephone, by any member of the State Police and questioned as to the duties you were performing?

A. Yes, I was.

Q. Who contacted you?

A. I talked to Cpl. Metro Kardash.



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- Q. Did you talk to Cpl. Kardash in person or on the telephone?
- A. Usually on the telephone.
- Q. When, to the best of your recollection, did you have the first conversation with Cpl. Kardash?
- A. Beginning of October.
- Q. Of what year?
- A. Of 1972.
- Q. What was the content of that conversation?
- A. Where I am presently staying with the detail at the time.
- Q. Where were you staying?
- A. At the Marriott Motor Lodge, Philadelphia.
- Q. What else did you discuss with him?
- A. What type work I was doing, what I was assigned to in the city.
- Q. Tell us in your own words, as close as you can remember, what the conversation consisted of?
- A. Just, in general, what I was presently assigned to in the city, what I was working on.
- Q. During this conversation between you and Cpl. Kardash, was there an understanding reached that he could feel free to contact you at any time and you would furnish information relative to the work you were doing?
- A. No, there was no understanding. He would call me whenever he wanted to, but we didn't agree on it.
- Q. In other words, there was no spoken agreement, but it was understood between the two of you?
- A. Right.

Q. During this conversation did he ask you any specific questions as to who was being investigated by you and/or any other member of your detail?

A. Yes. He asked what I was working on and I said gambling and vice and that I was assigned to the west and southwest Philadelphia and I was working with Al - Trooper Pistone.

Q. Did he ask you to mention the names of the people you investigated?

A. No, he did not.

Q. Did Kardash tell you, Gerry, that the information would be supplied to another party?

A. No, he didn't say, it was never discussed. I would assume, naturally, that it would go to...

Q. Go where?

A. To where he was assigned to. He was with Internal Security.

Q. Your understanding was that the Internal Security Squad worked for whom?

A. The Commissioner of the State Police.

Q. During this telephone conversation, how did he pose the question to find out what type of work you were doing?

A. You know Kardash, quite blunt. What are you doing, what are you working on.

Q. Were arrangements made that you were to contact him?

A. He said he would keep in touch. I would see him. I would be in court and I would see him in the halls.

Q. Where were you the first time he called you?

A. I was at home. It was on a Sunday, I believe.

Q. And you were at home. After this date did you have other telephone conversations with Cpl. Kardash - how long after would you say was the next call?

A. Sometimes once every two weeks. Some of the time I would be back in Pittsburgh for court. He just couldn't catch up.

Q. Are you saying Trooper Dewalt it was a hit and miss, that sometimes he would contact you within a week, sometimes two weeks?

A. Yes. Nothing was really set, just when he could catch up.

Q. Did you place telephone calls to his home?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you remember what his telephone number was?

A. Not off hand. I didn't call him that many times.

Q. Did he ever call you at the George Washington Motor Lodge?

A. Not to my knowledge. If he did I didn't get the call.

Q. When you would call him where did you place the call from?

A. From a pay phone.

Q. As close as you can recall, the next conversation you had with Corporal Kardash, what did it consist of?

A. When he called me he usually said the same thing. He said what was I doing, how's the big crime fighter in the City of Philadelphia.

Q. Did he ever ask questions about specific people who were being investigated by you or other members assigned to the detail?

A. No, he didn't.

Q. During the course of the conversation did you mention the names of the people that you were investigating?

A. Not other than Emmytocci.

Q. What did you mention in relation to Emmytocci?

A. He was a prize fighter I used to watch. He's sort of punchy now. He said why are you investigating him, I don't know who he is.

Q. What did you tell him?

A. He is a bookie in west Philadelphia and he is a punchy ex-prize fighter I used to see fight.

Q. From the beginning of October to the time you moved to the George Washington Motor Lodge, about how many conversations did you have with Cpl. Kardash?

A. Ten, maybe five. I'll say ten.

Q. Would you say then you had between five and ten conversations with Cpl. Kardash between October, the beginning of October, and October 25 when you moved to the George Washington Motor Lodge?

A. No, better make it five.

Q. After you moved to the George Washington Motor Lodge when did he first contact you?

A. It was the following Sunday I got a call. It was so infrequently that I never kept track. I would say it was that Sunday. It should show up on something.

Q. It is your recollection that he called you?

A. Yes.

Q. Where did you receive the call?

A. At home.

Q. What questions did he ask you during this conversation?

A. I don't want to seem - what's doing, what are you working on now.

Q. During any subsequent telephone conversations you had, that he called you/or you called him, did he ask you for certain room numbers at the George Washington Motor Lodge?

A. Yes.

Q. What rooms was he interested in?

A. Where the most activity was and I said, I gave him 208, 213, 214.

Referring to Kardash

Q. What was in room 208 at the Motor Lodge?

A. It is where we used to keep our reports in a metal cabinet.

Q. Did any of the telephone calls to and from the detail go over the telephone from room 208?

A. Generally there, and one man was assigned to answer the phone there. It was Trooper Bugjo.

Q. What was in room 213 at the Motor Lodge.

A. That was the room assigned to Cpl. Charles Todd.

Q. What was Cpl. Todd's duty - a crew leader?

A. Yes.

Q. Who was in room 214?

A. Sgt. Matthew Hunt.

Q. What was Sgt. Hunt's capacity with the detail at the time?

A. He coordinated - he was the coordinator.

Q. So it would appear that the most pertinent data being telephoned to the detail would come in over the phones in rooms 214, 213 and 208. Is this correct?

A. I would assume so.

Q. Do you recall an approximate date when you had this conversation with Cpl. Kardash with relation, say to Thanksgiving?

A. It was just before I went on leave. Probably a weekend, he would have called me at home.

Q. And you were on leave from November 19 through November 25, 1972?

A. Correct.

Q. After you returned to work from leave, did you contact him or did he contact you?

A. I don't recall - no, that's a fact.

Q. From your telephone conversation with Cpl. Kardash prior to November 27, did he indicate to you that he or any people associated with him would be coming to the Motor Lodge?

A. No, sir. He did not.

Q. Did you assume this is why they were coming to the Lodge and had asked for a particular room number.

A. I would assume.

Q. Did Cpl. Kardash ever mention who was associating with him in any type of work he was doing?

A. No.

Q. Did Cpl. Kardash ever mention to you the possibility of he or other people wiretapping rooms 208, 213 and 214 at the George Washington Motor Lodge?

A. No, sir. He never did.

Q. On the evening of November 27, 1972, when the wire was discovered in the crawl space over rooms 175, 181 and 182, were you aware of this?

A. Yes, I was.

Q. At this time, did you associate this wire and wiretap with any person?

A. Yes.

Q. Who did you associate it with?

A. Like I said, I assumed whoever I had been talking to.

Q. And who would that person be?

A. I would say Cpl. Kardash because I talked to him.

Q. On the evening of November 27, 1972, did you give any thought to calling anyone to warn them?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Who did you give some thought to calling?

A. I really didn't know who to call.

Q. What name were you considering calling?

A. I was thinking of Kardash. I was thinking of....that's about it other than calling the motel.

Q. Did you consider calling Col. Urella that time?

A. I was thinking of calling Mrs. Gobrecht.

Q. If you called Mrs. Gobrecht and gave her the information, where would it go from there?

A. I would assume the Commissioner.

Q. Did you call anyone on the night of November 27?

A. No, I didn't.

Q. On the morning of Tuesday, November 28, 1972, did you call anyone from the George Washington Motor Lodge?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Who did you call?

A. My wife.

Q. Where did you place the call from?

A. My motel room, 207.

Q. What time did you call your wife?

A. I would say approximately 11:00 a.m.

Q. What was the content of your conversation? Just tell us as closely as you can recall.

A. First I said do you have a pencil and I gave her a telephone number - GL9-2848 - and, of course, she said what for. And I said just tell the party that answers the phone, say they know about the wire and she says to me what do you mean. What's a wire. I said never mind about that just call and say they know about the wire, that's it.

Q. Where did you call your wife?

A. My home.

Q. What's your home telephone number?

A. 377-0543.

Q. Did you tell her the name of the person who would answer the phone at the number you had furnished?

A. Yes, I did. A lady by the name of Marion would answer the phone.

Q. Was there any preset arrangement for you to get a message to Mrs. Gobrecht in the event there was any difficulty encountered by Kardash in any of his work?

A. No.

Q. Did you inform your wife to tell Mrs. Gobrecht that you were passing the information along?

A. Yes.

Q. Would Mrs. Gobrecht recognize your name?

A. Yes.

Q. She would recognize you as being what, or in what way - a State Policeman?

A. Yes.

Q. Did she know you were an acquaintance of Col. Urella?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know who owns the Sentinel Motel?

A. I thought it was - I think half and half. I don't know if he owned...

Q. But you did know that Col. Urella owned an interest in the motel?

A. For years.

Q. Prior to November 27, 1972, did you have any other telephone conversation with Mrs. Gobrecht from the Sentinel Motel.

A. I must have.

Q. Do you recall who you talked to during those phone calls?

A. I would say Mrs. Gobrecht.

Q. Did you ever talk to Col. Urella, Cpl. Kardash, Lt. Luchansky, Cpl. Guyette, Lt. McCann, Cpl. Flanagan or Lt. Weimer, that they were calling you from the Sentinel Motel?

A. If I got a call it would have been from Col. Urella or Mrs. Gobrecht.

Q. So you are saying if you got a call from there it would more and likely have been Mrs. Gobrecht. How long have you known Mrs. Gobrecht?

A. I would say about three - four years. I remember when they opened up.

Q. Just an approximate time.

A. Three - four years.

Q. Did you ever have a conversation with Col. Urella in front of Mrs. Gobrecht in which you discussed State Police business?

A. No.

Q. On the night of November 28, did you go home?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. What did you do that evening after you arrived home?

A. I went to a basketball game.

Q. What time did you arrive from the basketball game?

A. Shortly after 10:00, maybe quarter after.

Q. Did you receive a telephone call after you arrived home?

A. Yes.

Q. Who was the caller?

A. Mrs. Gobrecht.

Q. What conversation took place during that telephone call?

A. We discussed the reservation I had made for the coming weekend, where I had been earlier and...

Q. Where you had been earlier, you mean the basketball game?

A. Right. How come I am home as late as I am, that everything was a mess, that the Colonel was meeting with the Governor.

Q. Who said the Colonel was meeting with the Governor?

A. Mrs. Gobrecht, and the Attorney General.

Q. Did Mrs. Gobrecht say that the Colonel had been to the motel earlier?

A. I would have to say a phone call from him, he very well could have been there.

Q. At this time was Mrs. Gobrecht aware of the wiretap incident in the Motor Lodge?

A. Was she aware - yes.

Q. During the course of your conversation did she ask you questions as to what occurred at the George Washington Motor Lodge?

A. No. I volunteered the information.

Q. How much information did you volunteer to Mrs. Gobrecht with relation to the Motor Lodge?

A. Namely that the wires were found leading to three rooms.

Q. This is the night of the 28th when you were talking to Mrs. Gobrecht, the guy in the crawl space, the Lieutenant, the whole bit.

A. Oh yes, the Lieutenant attempted to run over Sgt. Hunt, three other guys were seen running from the area. I told her that one was identified as being Guyette that a man was seen in the crawl space by the maintenance man.

Q. In other words Trooper Devalt did you give her all of the information that was available to you at the time.

A. Yes. I had left prior to 6:00.

Q. Did Mrs. Gobrecht mention the telephone call you had directed your wife to make to her that morning?

A. Yes.

Q. What did she say in connection with the call?

A. That it was good that I called.

Q. After she received the call, did she say what she did?

A. No. I would assume...

Q. Did she thank you for making the call?

A. I would say yes. She just said it was good I called.

Q. Did she ever say she called anyone to pass the information along?

A. No, not to me.

Q. She didn't mention it to you?

A. No.

Q. Did she directly indicate to you that the information you furnished to her was given to Colonel Urella earlier that day?

A. No, she didn't say anything to me about it.

Q. Can you think of anything else, any other topic, that was discussed during this telephone conversation.

A. I wasn't too happy about the whole thing.

Q. Did you tell her this?

A. Yes.

Q. During this conversation, did Mrs. Gobrecht mention to you the name of any person who had been involved in the wiretap incident at the George Washington Motor Lodge? Did she volunteer that?

A. No.

Q. Subsequent to November 28, after November 28, did you receive any telephone calls from Mrs. Gobrecht or Colonel Urella, or anyone associated with him requesting additional information as to an investigation being conducted into the wiretap at the Motor Lodge?

A. No.

Q. Now going back earlier in the year in 1972, did you have any personal conversations or telephone conversations with Colonel Urella?

A. Earlier in 1972 - I know I talked to him.

Q. From the beginning of October when you went from an investigative detail in Erie, up to November 28, 1972, did you received any telephone calls from Colonel Rocco P. Urella?

A. Approximately three or four.

Q. When he did contact you, where did he call you? At the Marriott?

A. Usually home.

Q. He would call you at home?

A. Usually at home.

Q. During these telephone conversations with Urella, did he ask you questions relative to investigations you were conducting?

A. He didn't directly ask about investigations - how are you doing, how's it going. Nothing pertinent - nothing big - nothing like Specter or Creamer or things like that.

Q. Did he ever ask if you knew about the Caldonetti affair?

A. No. If he would have asked me I would have told him my opinion of it. It was a rotten deal.

Q. After November 28, 1972, did Col. Urella contact you and ask you any questions in relation to the George Washington Motor Lodge wiretap incident?

A. No.

Q. On November 29, 1972, you left your home at R.D. #1, Palmerton. Where did you go?

A. Mahoning Valley exit of the Turnpike. I signed on and went down the Northeast Extension down to Valley Forge.

Q. Were you in Harrisburg on the date of November 29, 1972?

A. No, sir. I was not.

Q. Did you enter the Turnpike at Harrisburg East on that morning and travel to Valley Forge?

A. No, sir. I did not.

Q. With relation to the Pennsylvania Turnpike, Trooper Dewalt, normally when using the highway did you pay or did you get a free ticket by using your badge?

A. I usually paid.

Q. Trooper Dewalt why did you normally pay instead of riding free on the Turnpike?

A. First, there was usually heavy traffic at the toll gate, because it would tie up traffic. Second reason is for the fact that if I wanted to go home for the night without being missed - so they couldn't check - if I had paid.

This statement is concluded at 4:10 p.m., January 31, 1973.