

+ Mike
Piper

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

00:13:21

setting up microphones etc. Confirming names.

01:02:17

Q: Explain if you would Mr. Lane, how you came to be contacted by your client Liberty Lobby about this particular...

A: I'm the general counsel for Liberty Lobby, who's offices we're at the present time. On April 20, which was just after the bombing in Oklahoma, they called to tell me that they had just received a postcard that made reference a disaster in Oklahoma. The remarkable thing is, that it was sent from Oklahoma, and it was sent on the 17th of April, two days before the bombing, and it arrived the day after the bombing. Uh, I came over and urged everyone not to touch it, it was a little late, everyone had looked at it and handled it. And it was in fact a postcard, talking about a black day in Oklahoma, when there was a natural disaster dust storms, and how horrible it was and it was a postcard that I'm sure was available in Oklahoma for sale. With it came some material

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indicating that uh, there were various forces involved, a newspaper article, various forces involved in various kinds of anti-government activity, and they had been punished by the federal government, and indicating that maybe someone should do something about that. As I said, the remarkable thing is that it was sent from the city where the bomb was to explode two days before the bomb exploded. And so I talked with the folks here at Liberty Lobby and with Willis Kardo, and I knew Janet Reno the Attorney General from a case that I was involved in years before when she was the states's attorney in Florida, and an (innocent?) might have been in prison for twenty one years, not because of her, but uh, I discovered that, asked the governor to appoint special counsel, he appointed her, and she agreed with me that he should be released and he was released. So we had a professional relationship. I called the FBI number which they had posted for anyone who wanted information about the bombing. And I tried it 35 or 40, or 50 times, and it was always busy. And then I called the FBI, and they said no, you have to call that number. I said I have something which might be evidence, I don't know that it is, but it might be evidence and I think you ought to look at it. They said sorry, you gotta call the 800 number. They're right down the block here, so, but I had to go through the 800 number. I said I can't get through, they said too bad. So I wrote a letter to Janet Reno, the

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attorney general, and I told her about the FBI's lack of interest in the evidence, if it was evidence in this case, I enclosed the postcard and all of the material that came to Liberty Lobby, and received a letter, a short while after that, within a month or so from the Department of Justice, thanking me and saying they were going to look into it. Almost a year later, in February of 1996, just a couple of months short of a year, I received a phone call from an FBI agent, special agent, you know there only are special agents, they don't have any regular agents, special agent Larry Mackey of Oklahoma City. He called me on February 13, 1996, almost a year after I'd sent the material. He said we heard a rumor that you have some kind of a postcard, I said well, I don't have it any more, I sent it to Janet Reno and I heard from the Department of Justice that you have it, that the FBI has it. He said, we can't locate it in the files. I said you lost the evidence, which might show a conspiracy involved in the bombing. He said, well, I wouldn't like to say we lost it. I said well, you had it, and now you don't have it, is that correct? He said yes, I said that's pretty close to the definition of lost, what would you like me to do? And uh, he said you don't have a copy, and I said, oh yea, I made a copy. So, I sent him a copy of everything. The photocopy of the letter which I had sent the photocopy of the ? and both sides of the postcard, but I did say to Mr. Mackey, that I don't think you're going

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to be able to lift any fingerprints from the photocopy. It would be good if you could find the original. He said well, we can't find the original. And I never heard another word from anyone about it. So far as I know, it was never considered to be a factor in the FBI investigation, the grand jury investigation of the entire matter. The government can do what it wants with the grand jury. Unfortunately true. The history of the grand jury is very interesting. It started in England, because the crown representatives of the king, could have anyone indicted for anything. And the idea was let's have a grand jury, where the people stand between the tyranny of the crown and the ordinary English subject. And that's how it developed, and that's how it developed here too. It's a protection, for the American people. That's how it began, but that's not the way it exists any longer. You talk to any U.S. attorney, and they will say with a wink, I can indict a ham sandwich, I could be indicted right now for killing you while we're both sitting here talking, because the U.S. attorney's office is permitted to present false evidence to a grand jury, that's no reason for setting aside the indictment, they can withhold crucial evidence, they can do almost anything, and the courts have said, well, they are in control, in essence. You have to go very, very far to set aside a grand jury indictment. And, uh, in this case of course, one of the grand jurors raised questions, and he called me

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about it, after he'd been removed, because he wanted to ask a few questions about the possibility of other leads, other people being involved, and that may have gotten him the postcard (?), if they'd allowed him to, but the judge then removed him. And I can tell you if you ever exercise any independence on a grand jury, you will not be on a subsequent grand jury. That's the first list which the government develops, people to stay off of grand juries in the future. So this matter, which may or may not have been significant, but was certainly a very important lead, a very important clue to look into, it just disappeared, in the FBI files and later in the hands of the government.

07:40:10

Q **OK.**

A I traveled around the country, I did a million radio and TV shows, and I would always say it was not long after the Kennedy/Nixon debate, which Kennedy won because of Nixon's makeup. So anybody that ever put makeup on me, I would always say, are you the guy that did the makeup for Nixon? And everybody laughed, just that way. And one day I was in Los Angeles doing a

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television show, and I said are you the guy that put the makeup and he took his brush and he slammed it down, and he said I'm tired of those accusations, and he went on, and he said no, it's not a joke to me, and he went on and on yelling I at me, he wouldn't do my makeup anymore. I said, what's the matter? He said I am not responsible for that. I said listen, I say this to everybody, and he said yea, I'm sure you do. It was the guy. He said I did to the makeup, and then Nixon brought his own experts in and they removed all the makeup I did and his own people did the makeup, and to this day I'm still being blamed even by someone like you, who comes in here.

08:40:24

A To that one section about Mackey?

Q Yea, start with, are we sure that (?) Larry Mackey? It's funny, because one of the prosecutors names was Larry Mackey.

A The uh, phone call that I received from Oklahoma City, was from a man that said his name was special agent Larry Mackey of the FBI. And he called

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and he said is it true, I hear a rumor that you have a postcard or some evidence.

I said Mr. Mackey, I sent that to Janet Reno, I got a letter from the Department of Justice saying the FBI had it, and that was almost a year ago, Mr. Mackey. He said, I'm not sure we have it, we can't find it. I said you lost the evidence? He said I wouldn't say we lost it. I said well, you had it at one time, that's been confirmed, and now you don't have it, that's fairly close to a good definition of having lost it, isn't it? He said well, we don't have it now. He said I'm sure you don't have a copy. I said well, I do have a copy, and I sent him a copy of the postcard, the front and the back, the material that came with it, the envelope that it came in, a copy of the front and back of the envelope that it came in. I said however, I'll sent you all this material, but I don't think you'll be able to lift any fingerprints from a photocopy. It would be good if you could find the original document, and he said well, it's gone.

10:06:06

Q OK. Anything else? What was your, reaction to that now, what's your feeling about it?

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A And so, the FBI said the original document, which I sent to Janet Reno, the attorney general, which she turned over to the Department of Justice, who gave it to the FBI, was missing. Was gone. Clearly, this might have been important evidence showing that others were involved in the bombing, and were in fact predicting it uh, two days before it took place. I don't know if it would have been, but it's clear that this vital evidence that should have been examined, was never examined by the FBI, the Department of Justice, and never looked into by the grand jury.

11:05:19

Q So when you hear, I guess the last question is, when you hear these stories that this was the best investigation ever done, does this make you wonder about the other ones?

A I've heard it said that this was the most thorough investigation ever done by the United States government, I think they generally say since the Warren Commission Report, but that's very faint praise. The Warren Commission

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conducted about the worst investigation, a massive, very poor investigation, in which they questioned everybody except the relevant people. And it appears that the United States government did the same thing hear. They tend to cover their absolute failure to move in on the essential evidence by questioning thousands of people. And in the case of the Warren Commission for example they spent page after page after page, discussing Jack Ruby's mother's teeth. Which would not have even been relevant had it been charged that Ruby bit Oswald to death. But that's the way the government proceeds, they do massive documents, in the case of the Warren Commission 26 volumes, in the case of Oklahoma City, just many, many witnesses all basically who testify to things that don't lead to the question of who was involved in the bombing.

12:28:04

Q Perfect. Thank you.