telling you nonetheless that the Vice President asked for this report, but he wasn't doing it. He was just saying flat out that, that the Vice President had known this, and should have told the President. Otherwise -- and me also, me by name. And so this was frustrating to us and we wanted to get him to acknowledge that the public record was other than he was -- as he was saying. This wasn't the first time Chris Matthews had said something negative about, about the White House, and I had prior discussions about this with Mary Matalin who was for the first two years, as I mentioned, lo these many hours ago, had worked for the Vice President as our communications person. And so I called Mary to find out what she thought we could effectively do to try and get Mr. Matthews to acknowledge the public record and to stop saying these things in such an unqualified and incorrect fashion. I reached Mary by phone and she had her own view of where we were and relayed to me in depth her view of where we were. And -- but also in the course of it said, look, the thing for you to do is to call Tim Russert and she gave me his phone number which I wrote on my notes which I turned over to you guys. And so I called Tim Russert. Want me to continue?

Q. Yes. Actually, before we -- yes, continue.

A. Okay. So I called Tim Russert. I can't recall whether I got him on the phone right away or whether he had to call me back. When I eventually spoke to him -- this note
with Mary Matalin is dated on the 10th, and I think I called Mr. Russert sort of lateish on the 10th, either late afternoon or early evening and went through -- I, I got him on the phone, we had some -- we have mutual friends in common, I'd known him a little bit over the years, and then I, I didn’t want to take up much of his time, and I turned to our issues. And I said, I had two things that were bothering me. One is that some things that Andrea Mitchell was saying, and I think that may have been the comment on the 8th that we referred to before, but it might have been something earlier, but I said that, I’m not really calling you tonight about what Andrea Mitchell is saying. I’m calling you about what Chris Matthews is saying. And then I ran through for him what it was that Chris Matthews was saying and why it was wrong and on the public record wrong. That it seemed to me good reporting, he at least had to say that the White House has denied this, the CIA has denied this, the Vice President’s office has denied this. And Mr. Russert said -- after he got the facts about it, I am unclear, I apologize but I’m unclear as to whether he then said, I’ll have to call you back, but I think he said, I’ll have to call you back. And I think then there was a delay and then a second phone call with Mr. Russert. What I’m about to tell you is either in the second phone call, or if there was one phone call it was in the first phone call, I just don’t recall. I -- my sense of it is that there was a
delay, a sort of longish delay which I was uncomfortable with. I think the second phone call was on the -- that there was a second phone call and it was on the 11th because it was a long delay. In any case, it was longer than I anticipated it would be for him to get back to me is my recollection. In any case, one of these two times we had a fuller conversation in which he told me, you know, he understood what I was saying, that there wasn’t much he could do about what Chris Matthews was saying. He understood that it was not complete given that the public record was the other way. And then he said, you know, did you know that this -- excuse me, did you know that Ambassador Wilson’s wife works at the CIA? And I was a little taken aback by that. I remember being taken aback by it. And I said -- he may have said a little more but that was -- he said that. And I said, no, I don’t know that. And I said, no, I don’t know that intentionally because I didn’t want him to take anything I was saying as in any way confirming what he had said, because at that point in time I did not recall that I had ever known this, and I thought this is something that he was telling me that I was first learning. And so I said, no, I don’t know that because I want to be very careful not to confirm it for him, so that he didn’t take my statement as confirmation for him.

Now, I had said earlier in the conversation, which I omitted to tell you, that this -- you know, as always, Tim,
our discussion is off-the-record if that’s okay with you, and he said, that’s fine.

So then he said -- I said -- he said, sorry -- he, Mr. Russert said to me, did you know that Ambassador Wilson’s wife, or his wife, works at the CIA? And I said, no, I don’t know that. And then he said, yeah -- yes, all the reporters know it. And I said, again, I don’t know that. I just wanted to be clear that I wasn’t confirming anything for him on this. And you know, I was struck by what he was saying in that he thought it was an important fact, but I didn’t ask him anymore about it because I didn’t want to be digging in on him, and he then moved on and we finished the conversation, something like that.

Q. How did the -- just focusing on your complaint about Chris Matthews’ coverage, how was that resolved in --

A. Oh, it was -- sorry.

Q. -- the second conversation, if there was a second conversation, or the latter part of a long conversation?

A. He said, you know, there’s nothing I can really do, you’re going to have to talk to his producer. And so in short, I struck out trying to get Mr. Russert to intercede. As the Bureau Chief for NBC News I was hoping he would intercede with Chris Matthews and say, you know, this isn’t right, and this is NBC, you know, we have our standards and you shouldn’t say these things if there’s public denials on
the record. You should at least report them and I was hoping he would intercede with Mr. Matthews and get him to hopefully stop saying it at all, but at least put out our denials, the White House, and the CIA’s, and the Vice President’s denials, but he was unwilling or unable. In any case, he didn’t do that. He said we should call his producer.

Q. And I assume when you said his producer, you mean Chris Matthews’ producer?

A. Yes, thank you, sir, yes.

Q. And did he give you the name of the producer?

A. He did, yes.

Q. Do you remember what the -- the producer’s name?

A. I have a note somewhere. I think it’s Shapiro, I think.

Q. Did you actually call the producer?

A. Not that night, no, sir.

Q. Okay. What happened? Did you eventually call the producer?

A. I think -- I did not. I think we asked someone from the White House Press shop who knew the producer to call the producer.

Q. And do you know who that person was from the Press shop that called --

A. I think it was Adam Levine we asked to call.

Q. And did he achieve success, Mr. Levine?
A. No, I don’t think he did. This conversation, as I recall it, was as I say, was late the 10th or I think more likely the 11th. The 11th was the day that George Tenet’s statement came out and I had some, turns out vain hope, that when Director Tenet came out and said Vice President Cheney didn’t know about this report, we didn’t circulate a report to him, the CIA on its own initiative was the one who asked for the mission, and that the report that we got back from Ambassador Wilson was not definitive, and in fact that there was evidence in the report that Iraq had sought uranium from Niger. I thought all those facts, I was hoping, would temper what Mr. Matthews was saying. I think the very -- that was on Friday night. The following Monday night he was still saying the same thing, and so I think -- against what we hoped. So on Tuesday, I think, we spoke to Mr. Levine and asked him to call, but I don’t think we had any luck.

GRAND JUROR. Mr. Fitzgerald, just five minutes, if we could stand up and stretch a little bit?

MR. FITZGERALD. Okay, sure.

GRAND JUROR. Okay?

MR. FITZGERALD. Can it be two minutes? Just a --

GRAND JUROR. Two? Okay. Two and a half, five?

MR. FITZGERALD. I mean, do you need five minutes to stretch or do you mean, in five minutes to stretch --

GRAND JUROR. Well, can we stretch now for five
MR. FITZGERALD. Sure.

GRAND JUROR. Okay. A little water, whatever.

MR. FITZGERALD. Okay. If you could just step out and we'll step out for five minutes.

(Whereupon, the witness was excused at 3:29 p.m.)

(Whereupon, the witness was recalled at 3:40 p.m.)

GRAND JUROR. I just want to remind you, Mr. Libby, that you're still under oath.

BY MR. FITZGERALD:

Q. 2907, and --

A. Thank you.

Q. No problem.

MS. KEDIAN. Exhibit 60.

BY MR. FITZGERALD:

Q. And again, we'll deem that as an exhibit, and if we need to -- deem it marked as an exhibit. If we need to place it before the Grand Jury, we'll verify that all the sections are appropriate.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is that -- are those are your notes from July 10th and a telephone conversation you had with Mary Matalin?

A. They are indeed, sir.

Q. Okay. And you mentioned earlier that she had given you Russert's telephone number. Would that be listed at the
A. Yes, sir.

Q. And what's under MM, is that the time of the call?
A. No, I think that says not, 6:15 to 7:15. And I think what she's telling me -- she's telling me not to call somebody between 6:15 and 7:15. I think it's actually probably Russert that she's telling me not to call in that period. And if that's the case, I wrote it in the wrong place, but that's what I think it is. It might be her but --

Q. Okay. And below that does it say, re Niger, Niger -

A. Yes.

Q. -- and go broad?
A. Yes.

Q. There was other evidence --
A. No, I'm sorry, other countries.

Q. Countries?
A. Yes.

Q. And is that H is a bad guy? Is it Hussein?
A. Yes.

Q. Does it say something -- well, why don't you just read that sentence?
A. Yes. It says, "go broad, there were other countries, Saddam Hussein is a bad guy, this is feeding into the Democrats' case that Bush's credible -- credibility
something, keep saying our story." And she says, "we need
someone who can sum it up, Tenet-like" If I can editorialize
for a second?

Q. Sure.

A. She, she did not know at this point that we were
working on the Tenet statement very hard trying to get a Tenet
statement out, and I don’t tell her in this conversation, I
don’t believe. So she’s saying, we’ve got to get somebody out
there and while she’s saying that we’re struggling mightily to
get this statement out, but I didn’t tell her that because I
didn’t know if I was supposed to, as I recall.

Q. If you could skip to the first box --
A. Yes, sir.

Q. -- and just transliterate what’s there?
A. She says -- this is Mary Matalin again saying, "get
the New York Times, Sanger or someone, to expose Wilson's
story, give it to them."

Q. And the next box?
A. "Story has legs. Fits the Democrats theory for the
campaign," similar to what she said above, "will not go away,"
the Democrats and then something that doesn’t -- I didn’t
finish.

Q. And then the next sentence?
A. "Need to address Wilson motivation."

Q. And the next sentence?
A. "We need to get cable out declassified, President should wave his wand." This is referring to the notion that he could declassify anything he wants, if he says so, that's what she means by wave -- he should wave his wand, meaning he should use his power to declassify anything.

Q. And the next sentence?

A. "Call Tim. He hates Chris." That refers to Chris Matthews. "He needs to know it all. He needs to know the whole story and that Chris Matthews is not getting it right."

This is in relation to my request to her which is what spurred the phone call. How do we get Chris Matthews to stop saying these things without at least reporting our denials and preferably just stop saying these things because they're wrong?

Q. And then there's two parentheticals down below, one and two. Could you read what one says?

A. One says, [redacted]

Q. And the second one?

A. The second one says, "consider judgment of the intelligence community was that they," meaning the Iraqis were looking -- I didn't finish it, but for uranium is what it's saying.

Q. Okay.

A. And then it says, "eventually it will come out."

That all this stuff will come out, we need to get it out.
Q. So Matalin's advice is, let's get the Wilson story out there, we need to address his motivation, Tim needs to know it all, and part of that she says that

A. Yes, she's, she's colorful.

Q. And I'll take that -- we'll take that back as marked but not before the Grand Jury until a later time.

Now, in your conversation -- and as you sat there do you recall whether or not when you spoke to Mary Matalin you knew that Wilson's wife worked at the CIA?

A. As I -- this was before my call with Tim Russert and at the time of that conversation I don't believe that I knew that his wife worked at the CIA. Of course, I had written those notes a month earlier or so, but I had forgotten them, as best I recall.

Q. And if Mr. Grossman had told you about that as well, you did not remember that conversation when you spoke on this date with Ms. Matalin?

A. Correct.

Q. And if you had discussed this with the Vice President earlier in the week, you did not remember discussing that at the time of this conversation?

A. Correct, sir.

Q. And Mr. -- if you had discussed this with Mr. Fleischer over lunch you did not remember that fact at the time of this conversation?

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A. As best I recall, when I had this conversation, I didn't recall that fact. The reason I believe that is because of my conversation later that night with Tim Russert.

Q. And when you --

A. Or the next day with Tim Russert. Whenever he said --

Q. And the, the relevant conversation with Tim Russert where you tell us that he told you about Wilson's wife, you're clear that that happened either the 10th or the 11th?

A. Yes, I believe it was in, in the Chris Matthews' phone call. The notes with Mary show that I was talking to her on the 10th and looking to call Russert later that day. And as I say, I think it was in a second phone call that it happened, so it would have been the 10th or the 11th. Yes, sir.

Q. You had testified before the break that there was one call and maybe a second call to follow up, although perhaps it could have been a single call with, with Russert on the 10th or 11th?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And then a later call after the 14th to complain again?

A. To -- not to Russert but --

Q. Okay.

A. -- yes.
Q. Spoke to his producer, not to Russert?
A. That's when, I think, Adam Levine, at our request, may have called Chris Matthews' producer. Yes, sir.
Q. Okay. You did not talk to Russert again about --
A. No, sir.
Q. -- the Wilson matter after these one or two calls on the 10th and 11th of July?
A. To the best of my recollection, no, sir.
Q. Now, when you called Mr. Russert, were you calling him as a source?
A. No, I was off-the-record. I was trying to get his help to intercede with Chris Matthews.
Q. And you were calling him in his capacity as a Bureau Chief, as a supervisor, not as much as a reporter?
A. I was calling him as a person who might have influence on Chris Matthews. In my sense he had some responsibilities as a Bureau Chief. Yes, sir.
Q. When you met with Pincus before the June 12th article, you were going to him as a reporter to give him the administration's point of view. Correct?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. When you met with Judith Miller on July 8th you went to her as an administration official talking to a reporter to give her the background of the full story?
A. Correct, sir.
Q. When you called Russert, were you calling him as manager or as a reporter?
A. I was not trying to get him to write a story. I was trying to get him to exercise influence on Chris Matthews. I don't know technically whether he is the manager of Chris Matthews, but he's got a lot of -- he's a respected figure in the news industry and I thought moral persuasion from Tim Matthews -- from Tim Russert would have some influence but he chose not to exercise it as far as I can tell.

Q. And when he told you the name of the producer you recall that might have been the name Shapiro that you had to call, do you know if you wrote it down?
A. I don't know if I wrote it down. There is a sheet where I have that name written down. I'm not sure whether it's the sheet -- a sheet I had when I was talking to Tim Russert. I might have just remembered it at that point. I did at some point write down that name and -- but whether it was with Russert or not, I don't know, sir.

Q. Okay. Now, when he told you -- and, and what's your best recollection of the words Russert used concerning Wilson's wife, what he said?
A. Did you know that his wife, or Ambassador Wilson's wife, Wilson's wife, whatever he said, did you know that his wife works at the CIA?
Q. And you said?
A. No, I don't know that.

Q. And his response?

A. Yeah, all the -- something like yes, yeah, all the reporters know it.

Q. And your response?

A. No, I don't know that. I wanted to be clear that I wasn't confirming anything.

Q. And why were you so concerned that you didn't confirm anything to Mr. Russert about something you weren't providing him?

A. I just -- because sometimes reporters will call you with something that you don't know and try and get you to confirm it. Sometimes reporters will call you and try to get you to confirm something. You may or may not know what they're calling you with is true or not. For example, before the President took a trip to the Azores before the Iraq war there were rumors among the press that he was going to go to the Azores and some reporters called me and said, "hey, we hear the President's going to the Azores, doesn't that mean everything's falling apart?" And I had to be very careful in talking to them to say, I can't -- I don't know anything about whether he's going to the Azores, I'm not confirming anything about whether he's going to the Azores, that sort of thing. I wanted to make sure that they didn't play off what I said to be, you know, confirmation they could then go out and print
something, and I didn’t want him thinking any -- that I was in any way confirming something about the wife because at the time I didn’t know it.

Q. And at the time did you think there was anything sensitive about whether his wife worked at the CIA that you wanted to make sure that you weren’t a confirming source for that fact?

A. Not sensitive in the sense of a classified factor or anything. I didn’t know it. I didn’t -- I had forgotten what I knew, and I didn’t know if it was true or false or anything. I didn’t want to be a confirmation of that.

Q. And as you sit here today, do you have a specific recollection of remembering that you had forgotten that you knew that Wilson’s wife worked at the CIA?

A. As I sit here today I have a specific recollection that I was surprised when Tim Russert said it, and I thought during that conversation -- when I said, "I don’t know," I thought I was actually being truthful. I was being truthful, I didn’t know as I sat there.

Q. And again, if Marc Grossman had told you in the past that Wilson’s wife worked at the CIA, your testimony is you had forgotten that as of the time you spoke to Tim Russert on July 10th or 11th? Is that correct?

A. Correct, sir.

Q. And it’s your testimony that to the extent that the
notes show that you had a conversation where Vice President Cheney, had told you some time prior to the Pincus article that Wilson's wife worked in the functional office of Counterproliferation, that you had forgotten that as of the time of the July 10th or 11th conversation? Correct?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And as you sit here today if Cathie Martin had discussed with you prior to July 10th that Wilson's wife had worked at the CIA, your testimony is that you had forgotten that fact by the time you spoke to Tim Russert on July 10th. Correct?

A. I'm sorry, repeat that one again.

Q. If, if Cathie Martin had told you about Wilson's wife working at the CIA prior to July 10th, it's your testimony that you had forgotten that fact when you spoke to Tim Russert on July 10th?

A. My testimony is I don't remember Cathie doing that, and I was surprised on July 10. I don't mean to say that if she told me, that I forgot it in those two days, I just don't recall her telling me that at all. And -- yes.

Q. And it's your testimony that if you had discussed Wilson's wife with Ari Fleischer over lunch that Monday, July 7th, that you did not recall it at the time that you spoke to Tim Russert on July 10th or 11th?

A. My recollection is that I was surprised when Tim
Russert told me this fact, and told me that all the reporters knew that. And from that I think I wasn't knowledgeable about it earlier in the week, just because I didn't remember it when he told me on July 10th and those were only a few days earlier. And that's just -- that is what I -- what left, what left the impression with me was when Russert said it, and I don't recall those earlier, those earlier conversations.

Q. And what did you do after -- and did Russert tell you who the reporters were, any of the reporters were, who were saying that Wilson's wife worked at the CIA?

A. No. No, sir.

Q. And did you check with the Press Office to tell people, hey, have you guys heard what all the press are saying, that Wilson's wife works at the CIA?

A. No, sir.

Q. Had anyone told you from the Press Office that we've been getting calls from the press calling up to find out if Wilson's wife works at the CIA?

A. I don't recall any discussion with the Press Office about that.

Q. And what did you do as a result of the fact that Russert told you something that you believed, you believed at the time was new to you, the fact that Wilson's wife worked at the CIA?

A. I don't believe I really did much of anything, but
there were subsequent events that I can describe for you if
you wish.

Q. Did you tell the Vice President about Russert
informing you this curious fact that Wilson's wife worked at
the CIA?

A. I don't recall if I told the Vice President at that
time what had been told to me. I'm not sure if I saw him at
that time and had a chance to tell him. I don't, I don't
recall telling him at that time.

Q. What's the next conversation you recall where you
discussed Wilson's wife's employment with anyone?

A. On what I believe to be the 11th, so I think later
the same day I heard from Tim Russert. We were still waiting
for Director Tenet's statement to come out and that was
holding us up from getting our story out because once, once
Director Tenet's statement came out we would have on the
record that the Vice President hadn't asked for the mission,
and didn't get the reports, etcetera, etcetera, so we were
waiting for Director Tenet's statement to get out and it was
still taking shape even as we went through the day of the
11th.

Towards the end of the day I went to see Karl Rove
to tell him where I thought we were on getting Director
Tenet's statement out which would be a very useful thing that
we were all waiting to get out. And I went up to Karl Rove's
office and told him about where we were on Director Tenet’s statement, that I thought we were going to get some useful stuff out of Director Tenet’s statement, I wasn’t sure that we were going to get everything that we would have wanted out of Director Tenet’s statement. And during this conversation Karl Rove said to me that he had had a conversation with Bob, Bob Novak. And I thought that -- my sense was that it was recent, although I didn’t -- I don’t know what gave me quite that sense. And he told me that Bob Novak had told him that -- Bob Novak had told -- Karl Rove told me that Bob Novak had told Karl Rove that he was going to be writing about Ambassador Wilson, my sense was that weekend, and that he had run into Ambassador Wilson in the Green Room. A Green Room is, in case, like me -- you know, if people don’t know what that is, is the room that people sit in when they’re waiting to go out on a television show, like the Chris Matthews show. They give you fruit and coffee and you sit there waiting for your turn to go on the air. And Karl Rove told me that Bob Novak had run into Ambassador Wilson in a Green Room at some point and, you know, had a bad taste in his mouth after running into Ambassador Wilson. I’ve forgotten exactly what it was, but somehow Ambassador Wilson sort of turned him off. And that he also -- that, that Bob Novak had concerns as to how Ambassador Wilson came to be chosen for this mission because Ambassador Wilson, in Novak’s view, as related to me from what Karl had
taken away from his phone call, Ambassador Wilson had -- might not be a fair and impartial reporter of all this, might have an axe to grind. And then the third thing that Karl told me was that Novak had told Karl that Ambassador Wilson's wife worked at the CIA. So this was confirmation of a sort, from what I had heard from Tim Russert that all the reporters know that Ambassador Wilson's wife works at the CIA. This was on the 11th, as I understand it.

I told Karl that I had heard from Tim Russert that Ambassador -- the same thing, that the ambassador's wife works at the CIA and that, that he -- that Karl -- that Tim Russert had told me that all the reporters know this. I don't remember the exact order of this conversation, but that's the sum and substance of what, of what we talked about with regard to that.

Q. First of all, do you know where the conversation took place?

A. Karl Rove's office.

Q. And if July 6th was a Sunday, so the 9th would be a Wednesday, the 10th is a Thursday and the 11th a Friday --

A. Correct.

Q. -- do you know which day of the week it was, which day or date?

A. It was after my conversation with Tim Russert, so I believe it was on the 11th, but I'm not -- it was certainly
after my conversation with Russert on the 10th. I believe it was on the 11th.

Q. And whatever day it was, you recall it being in the evening?

A. I tend to believe it was late in the day but, you know, in the West Wing everything feels like evening. There are not a lot of windows and I just don’t -- I don’t recall for sure. What I recall is being towards the end of the day because I had a pretty good sense of where Director Tenet’s statement was coming out, but it wasn’t yet out, but I had a feeling that, you know, we’re not going to get everything that we’d hoped to get.

Q. Whatever -- it was either after the -- it could be afternoon or evening but it wasn’t the morning as far as you recall?

A. I don’t. This is pushing my memory, sir, but I don’t, I don’t think -- my sense was it was later in the day, but I don’t have anything --

Q. And did you tell Karl Rove how you had responded to Tim Russert when he told you the fact that Wilson’s -- that he believed that Wilson’s wife worked at the CIA?

A. I don’t -- you mean, when I said that I don’t know? I don’t think so, I don’t know, I don’t think so.

Q. Did Karl Rove tell you what, if anything, he had said to Mr. Novak when Mr. Novak told him that he believed
Wilson's wife worked at the CIA?

A. No, Karl, you know, was animated that -- Rove was animated that Novak was animated about this. Novak's got a thing about this, he's writing about it sort of thing. He didn't tell me what he said back to Mr. Novak.

Q. Did he tell you one way or the other whether he told Novak, I know that too, or I didn't know that?

A. No, he didn't say anything like that.

Q. And what was Karl's reaction to the information and the fact that Mr. Novak was writing a column?

A. That Mr. Novak was -- I'm sorry, sir?

Q. Was writing a column about this?

A. He didn't give me a -- it was a fact. Novak's going to write about it.

Q. You had been sort of beaten up all week, the administration, both the President and the Vice President, about all the allegations stemming from the Wilson story. Was there a sense of relief that finally somebody is going to write something that will sort of respond to this?

A. He didn't use any words about that. He didn't seem distressed that he was writing about it. I think he thought it was a good thing that somebody was writing about it. But it was more body language and the tone in which he said things rather than any words he used, as I recall. And the more important thing to me was that the Tenet statement was about...
to come out, and the Tenet statement was going to have, you
know, directly on the facts rebut the things that Ambassador
Wilson had been saying.

Q. And were you pleased that a story was coming out
that weekend or thereafter about Wilson's background?

A. It didn't seem to me to be a key element, as key as
the Tenet statement. I was really focused on the fact that
the Tenet statement -- I hoped it would be a little better
than it looked like it was going to be, but I was -- it was
good enough, I thought, and I was eager to see it come out.
Unfortunately, it still wasn't out when I talked to him, which
as I say, I think was afternoon, and I was afraid that by the
time it came out it would miss the evening news. Now, there's
a timing to these things. If things don't come out at a
certain time of day you end up just getting in the overnight
newspapers. The overnight newspapers would be the Saturday
papers which are probably the least attended to papers of the
week. And so the timing was -- it was great to get the Tenet
statement out but it looked like it might actually miss the
evening news that night and we were eager to get it out, get
the truth out.

Q. Putting the Tenet statement aside, were you happy
that Mr. Novak was going to write a column responding to Mr.
Wilson's allegations?

A. Well, I didn't know what Mr. -- I didn't know what
Mr. Novak was going to say in his column, so if he said the right things, I'd be happy about it. I was glad somebody would be out there saying -- if he was going to address the merits. There were plenty of merits at this point including that we had all denied that the Vice President had sent him out. If that was in the column, that would be good. The stuff about the Green Room, I didn't see how that would, you know, I -- if, if, if Mr. Novak wrote a column which basically went at it the way Karl was saying, which is to go after the arguments about, you know, why did they pick this guy, I actually thought that would be something of a distraction because the real argument was here, was not so much why they picked him, it was the facts were clear that we didn't ask for it, no report came back to us. The report that came back, the NIE, and the January 24 document, were clear that Iraq was not seeking uranium from Niger. So there was no need to get dancy on this point and come around the sides. The straight ahead, here's what the facts are would be the better story. That's what I most wanted to come out.

Q. But sir, if people are saying the Vice President sent Wilson to Niger, and he didn't, isn't it fair to say the logical common man on the street question is, well, if the Vice President didn't send him, who did?

A. Yes.

Q. And if the story comes out, it's his wife who sent
him, doesn't that make it more powerful an argument to say
see, we told you Mr. Cheney had nothing to do with it?
A. If it came out that way, but I don't think I knew at
that point that it was his wife who sent him. All I knew is
his wife worked at the CIA. Thousands of people work at the
CIA. The, the point about it was his wife who suggested it, I
don't think I knew until the 14th when the column appeared.
Q. And what was it --
A. If you had told me that, if somebody said, yes, it
was going to be clear in the column that it wasn't us, that it
was the CIA who sent him, that would have been a good fact.
Yes, sir.
Q. What occasioned you and Mr. Rove to talk about the
fact that the two reporters knew that Wilson's wife worked at
the CIA?
A. Well, as I say, I came up to his office to tell him
about the Tenet statement. That the Tenet statement was about
to come out, you know, it was something we were waiting for.
You know, it was in our interest to get that statement out to
the press, the statement might come out too late for the
evening news and it might be some need to try and get the
statement out over the weekend to make sure people paid
attention to it, so I went up to talk to him about that. And
it was in that context that, that we talked about this
other --
Q. And did you know if you told Rove about whether or not Mr. Novak had called you that week?
A. I don't, I don't -- no, I did not tell Mr. Rove that I had -- Mr. Novak had called me that week. I don't know that I had spoken to Mr. Novak that week and, you know, my recollection is hazy on when I spoke to him, but I'm still sort of persuaded by my note that I didn't talk to him until later, but I don't know.

Q. And did you talk to Andrea Mitchell during this time frame about Wilson and his wife?
A. I talked to Andrea Mitchell some time after I spoke to Tim Russert. I don't know exactly when it was other than it was after I spoke to Mr. Russert. I noticed later that NBC put out a statement about Andrea Mitchell and said that, that whoever she spoke to about this, she spoke to after the 14th. But I don't know -- I don't recall when I spoke to her.

Q. When you did speak to Andrea Mitchell, do you recall discussing Wilson's wife with her?
A. What I recall for sure is an awkward moment in that I was talking to her about all this, and I remember sort of being concerned about talking to her about the wife because Tim Russert had told me about it, and he had said all the reporters know. And as I was talking to her, I realized that I didn't know if Andrea Mitchell knew, and if Andrea Mitchell didn't know and I told her that, that I had heard this, and
she asked me where it was, I didn't want to lie to her and I didn't want to tell her -- it's a little bit convoluted -- I didn't want to tell her that Tim Russert had told me it if in fact Tim Russert had not told her because I didn't want to get her mad at Tim Russert for not having shared something with her that he had shared it with me, and that's what I most recall about it. I may have gone on to talk to her about -- that part I don't really recall -- but I recall this sort of dilemma about, about --

Q. So do you know whether or not you discussed Wilson's wife with her?

A. I don't recall whether I discussed Wilson's wife with her. I -- but I -- what I recall is this dilemma about not wanting to, to get her mad at Tim Russert and therefore get Tim Russert mad at me.

Q. So -- and let me make sure I understand this. So either you talked about it with her and you were worried as you talked about with her that you may reveal to her that Tim Russert had told you, or you didn't discuss it but you had the concern as the conversation was going that if it came up you might reveal that Tim Russert had told you?

A. Correct. I had the concern, yes, that's correct.

Q. Now, would that in your mind fix the conversation with Andrea Mitchell before July 14th when Novak's column would have printed that Wilson's wife worked at the CIA?
A. No, I don't, I don't know when it was. It was some time after Russert, I'm sure of that. It may have been, it may have been before the 14th. The only thing that fixes is the NBC statement that Andrea Mitchell didn't talk about this until after the 14th. But I don't, I don't know.

Q. Well, if Novak had already published in the newspaper that Wilson's wife worked at the CIA, why would you be concerned that you might tip her hand that you knew something?

A. I was afraid that she might ask me, you know, is this true, or when did you learn this, or something like that, that's all.

Q. And why couldn't you just tell her, I can't comment?

A. I could, but I don't usually like to obfuscate in that way, but I, I could. I just was concerned about --

Q. Let me see if I have this correct. You don't know whether the Mitchell conversation was before or after the Novak column, but you know it was after the Russert conversation?

A. Correct, sir.

Q. And you don't know whether you discussed --

A. I know it was after -- I'm sorry. I know it was after the Russert conversation because I remember having this dilemma about what I talked about with Tim Russert.

Q. And do you remember thinking about the dilemma, that
you're concerned that you may reveal to Ms. Mitchell that
Russert told you what reporters know about Wilson's wife?

  A. That's, that's what stuck in my mind. Yes, sir.

Q. And, and as you sit here today you don't know
whether you discussed Wilson's wife with Ms. Mitchell?

  A. I, I don't recall whether I discussed it with her or
not. What I recall for sure was this dilemma about it.

That's what I recall.

Q. And as you sit here today you're obviously saying
that as of that time you didn't recall learning this fact from
the Vice President even though that it had happened earlier.
Correct?

  A. Correct. Yes, sir.

Q. And you don't recall any conversation with either
Grossman, or Fleischer, or Cathie Martin concerning Wilson's
wife. Correct?

  A. Correct.

Q. But you do recall having a thought during a
conversation with Andrea Mitchell that if this comes up, it
could put me in an awkward position because I learned this
from Russert and not from any of those people that I may or
may not have talked to. Correct?

  A. Correct.

Q. Now, did there come a time when you took a trip on
Air Force Two on July 12th?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. And was that for the purpose of going down to the christening of the USS Ronald Reagan?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. And were you accompanied on that trip by your family?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. And was it your son's birthday?
A. Right, sir.
Q. And at that time were there -- reporters had been calling about various stories during those few days?
A. Yes.
Q. And was there an outstanding request by a reporter named Matthew Cooper?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. And is he with Time magazine?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. And were there other reporters who had made outstanding requests at that time?
A. Yes, sir. Most of these go to Cathie Martin, but there were a number of calls in during this period that she would know about. Often when reporters call for me, they get -- my assistant will just refer them directly -- either take a message and refer them to Cathie Martin, or refer them directly to Cathie Martin so that they can -- she can deal

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with it. And I think I was not talking to any press, or
generally not talking to press in that period until we could
get the Tenet statement out. So there, there were -- my
impression was that Cathie had a number of calls. The Time
magazine one that she wanted to address.

Q. And you recall that the 12th was a Saturday.

Correct?

A. Correct.

Q. And is it fair to say that on Air Force Two flying
down that you sat up front with the Vice President and your
family on the trip down to the USS Reagan?

A. No, sir. I sat with my family on the flight.

Q. Okay. And did you do any work on the way down?

A. My recollection is no, we did not do work on the way
down.

Q. And you didn't do any work other than being there at
the christening of the Reagan?

A. Correct, sir.

Q. On the way back did you address -- on the return
flight on Air Force Two, begin to address how to respond to
Mr. Cooper and others?

A. Yes, sir. Either on the return flight or actually
when we had landed at the return, but it was in that period.

Q. And did you have a conversation with Cathie Martin
about what it was that Cooper wanted to know?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. Do you recall reviewing an e-mail that came from Mr. Cooper raising certain questions?

A. I recall that there was an e-mail. Yes, sir.

Q. And did you -- and when you, when you discussed this with Cathie Martin is it fair to say that you were in a part of the plane away from the Vice President?

A. Yes, I, I think so, sir.

Q. And -- copy of the e-mail -- did there come a time when you went forward to see the -- let me just show you the e-mail first. Well, we'll come back to the e-mail.

Did there come a time you went forward to talk to the Vice President about how to respond to Mr. Cooper from the Post?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. And did you go forward with Cathie Martin or alone?

A. I don't recall. I think I was alone but I don't recall. She may have been with me.

Q. And did you discuss with the Vice President what it was that you were to say to the press?

A. Yes, sir. It was actually just a -- to give a fuller answer to your question one or two ago, I went forward to talk to the Vice President about what we were going to do about getting the Tenet statement out, answering the Time --
the questions from Time. But it was more -- it was broader than just the Time magazine questions. It was the whole issue of now the Tenet statement was out, what would we do?

Q. And did you have a discussion with the Vice President about what would be said to the press, in what language, and who would be the person to say it?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And what do you recall the Vice President telling you?

A. Vice President was -- dictated to me what he wanted me to say to the press. He specifically said he wanted me to make the statement on-the-record to Time magazine because he wanted it, he wanted it, he wanted it to draw -- he wanted it to get some attention. And he felt if I put my name on it, it would get more attention than just a senior administration official, or however else they wrote it up. So he dictated things for me to say and he instructed me to say it -- with Time magazine, to give it basically word-for-word quote that he dictated, some background material that he wanted me to use, and for me -- with regard to the quote to use my name, which I don't usually do.

Q. And did you actually write down word-for-word what it is that he wanted you to say?

A. I did, sir, on a card that I turned over to you all.

MR. FITZGERALD. Okay. Why don't we jump to that.
MS. KEDIAN. Okay.

MR. FITZGERALD. That's Bates 2892 and 2893, the originals. Sorry about that. We can come back to e-mail if we need to but --

BY MR. FITZGERALD:

Q. And before we get to the text of it, did the Vice President indicate who should actually speak to the reporters, as between you and the press people?

A. Yes, he wanted me to do it, is that what you mean?

Yes, he wanted, he wanted the press people, meaning Cathie Martin?

Q. Yes.

A. He wanted me to do it.

Q. And why did he want you to speak to the reporters as opposed to Cathie Martin using your name?

A. Well, usually when you give a -- you could give a statement from Cathie Martin to me, but he wanted me to give the statement. He wanted to make sure it was done exactly correctly and he wanted me to give it in name, and so I called -- so I was the one who called.

Q. And is it fair to say that sometimes you would have a press person give an exact statement, a quote, in your name if you write it out and say, call a reporter, here's what I have to say, and attribute it to my name?

A. Yes, they could, but in this case he wanted to not
just a direct on-the-record statement but also some points on deep background and background, as we discussed earlier today, and those there was no direct text for. That was something you would have to talk your way through and he wanted me to do that.

Q. Okay. And do you recall what he told you to say on background and deep background?

A. It's in the notes. But my recollection was that he wanted me to say -- first, he had a long direct quote. On background, deep background, he wanted me to talk about the -- what was in the NIE, I think, that Director Tenet had now talked about on the record. It would be faster if I looked at the --

Q. Yes, why don't you take a look at the notes.

A. Thank you. Thank you.

Q. If we could focus on the back of 2893.

MS. KEDIAN. It's a different number for him.

MR. FITZGERALD. Oh, I'm sorry. The back of the card.

WITNESS. Yes, sir. Where it says deep background?

MR. FITZGERALD. Yes, well --

MS. KEDIAN. It's 1734.

BY MR. FITZGERALD:

Q. I'm sorry, the first page. Was there a reference here crossed out --
A. Magazine --

Q. -- deny, deny Wilson, VP --

A. -- VP link.

Q. -- link --

A. Yes.

Q. -- and then on record?

A. Yes. In other words, if I could explain? The top part of this page are notes that I had made to talk about with him when I got some time with him, which would -- on the way back or on the ground, and I had written down the magazines as a reference to Time and Newsweek. Time -- both Time and Newsweek had calls into us. And the question that I was writing down, does he want us to deny the VP/Wilson link on the record. Does he want me to, you know, do you want to do it on the record either in his name, my name or Cathie’s name or somebody’s name? And we covered that point and I crossed out the line. And then he dictated what he wanted us to say.

Q. Okay. And then the dictation on the first page of this card has on the record on the left column?

A. Yes, that’s correct.

Q. And if we could turn to the other side of the column -- card, if you could transliterate what this card says?

A. Under deep background, sir, or the whole thing?

Q. The whole thing.
A. VP was maybe unaware of Joe Wilson trip and didn't know about it until this year when it became public after the State of the Union.

Q. And what was the part that was crossed out? You said, did not know anything?

A. Did not know anything, right. He, he got more specific.

Q. And then if you could read what it says under deep background?

A. Only written record of Wilson trip included a statement that the former Prime Minister of Niger was saying that he had been approached by the Iraqi officials in what he believed to be an official -- to be an effort to acquire uranium in 1999. That's the point from the second part of the Wilson cable, and he thought on deep background I should make sure that people understood that.

Q. Okay. And the next bullet point?

A. He didn't see this until recently. That he saw the NIE last fall, which I, meaning the Vice President, took to be authoritative. This is all stuff to say on deep background.

Q. And then the next reference?

A. Deep background, as an administration official as opposed to, I guess, deep background, a senior administration official. That I should give a straight report on the NIE which was covered in -- also covered in Tenet's statement and
not Report said -- oh, that the NIE said that the -- it was
the NIE, not the, not the Wilson report, I guess, that said
that Iraq had begun to vigorously pursue trying to procure
uranium. So that I think there was some ambiguity in the
Tenet statement. He wanted it very clear that it was the NIE
six months after Wilson’s trip where the CIA and the
intelligence community was saying affirmatively that they had
tried to procure uranium, and that’s what he had taken to be
authoritative.

Q. Okay. And at this point do you know if you talked
to Vice President Cheney about the 12th about the conversation
you believe you had on the 11th, perhaps the 10th, with Mr.
Russert, and then later with Mr. Rove where reporters were
indicating that Wilson’s wife worked for the CIA?

A. I don’t recall. It’s not on my list here of things
to raise with him that day. I don’t recall if I talked about
it to him the previous night.

Q. And you recall discussing with Rove, but you don’t
recall whether you discussed it with the Vice President?

A. Correct. I recall with Rove in part because of the
Novak bit that he had done. I don’t recall whether I
discussed it with the Vice President. I’m not sure if I -- I
don’t know that I saw him in, in that sort of a setting after
my discussion with Rove because my discussion with Rove may
have been later in the day, and I had no private time with him
in the morning, and then I went into this. So I don't, I don't recall.

Q. And to the extent that it was written out pretty much verbatim what your statement would be on the record. Correct?

Q. Yes, sir.

Q. And it's written out verbatim what your statement would be on deep background. Correct?

A. Just about. Yes, sir.

Q. And why couldn't you allow Cathie Martin, the press person, to make the calls and attribute the statement to you?

A. I did what he told me to, sir. He said he wanted me to make the call. He was concerned that he wanted it done right. He said, I want you to make the calls. Cathie Martin went with me and sat with me and listened to me as I made the call to Cooper, but he wanted me to make the call, I didn't fight it. He said me make the call, I made the call.

Q. Did you get the sense that he had any concerns about whether she could handle this correctly?

A. I think he felt he had more confidence in me making this call, especially when it got into this stuff about the NIE, which I was more familiar with than Cathie. He had confidence that I would be able to get it out --

Q. And --

A. -- in a better fashion.
Q. -- tell us about the calls you made to the press.

A. We went into a lounge at -- we were on the airplane and we needed a land line phone or, you know, a phone where we could have a good connection. So we went into the lounge at Andrews Air Force Base, and we found a phone that we could use. And we sat down to make the phone calls, we being Jenny Mayfield, my assistant; Cathie Martin; and I. And we tried to call three or four reporters at that point. Matthew Cooper from Time Magazine; Evan Thomas, who had calls into us from Newsweek magazine; Glen Kessler from the Washington Post; and later I talked to Judith Miller. I think we tried her then but I'm not sure if we didn't try her later. And I wanted to -- you know, it was a Saturday, everybody had spent the whole day doing this commissioning ceremony and I wanted to get everybody out of there, so we tried to place all the calls right there from Andrews while we were all together. We were unable to reach Glen Kessler at first. Well, we did reach him shortly thereafter. We were unable to reach Evan Thomas at all for a while but we did reach him later. And -- but we did reach Matthew Cooper while we were sitting in the lounge and so I had a conversation with Matthew Cooper in the lounge.

Q. And what did you tell Matthew Cooper?

A. I had not met Matthew Cooper before, so Cathie introduced us. She said that, you know, we wanted to have
this phone call in response in part to his questions, that
some of the conversation would be on-the-record, some of it
would be on deep background, some of it might be off-the-
record, but we would have different layers of, of press
conversations.

So I -- after she finished that preliminary, I
talked to him about the Tenet statement and I gave him this
quotation on-the-record that we had here, and I think I also
covered some of these background points with him in the phone
call. And so I went through that, that the Vice President had
asked a question that -- this is same thing, isn't it?

Q. Without --
A. Yes.

Q. -- repeating -- without repeating what is in the
statement that had been agreed that you would tell him, did
you have a discussion with Mr. Cooper about Wilson's wife?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. Tell us about that conversation.
A. I went through -- just a little bit of preliminary.

I went through these points and I went through what Tenet had
said that, you know, the day before in his statement, you
know, I hope you noticed Director Tenet's statement the day
before, which is why we were making these calls, which said
that I -- that he hadn't made the, he hadn't made the request
and he hadn't gotten the reports on it. And after all of
that, Matthew Cooper said, "well then why does Wilson say it?"

And you know, I was a little taken aback because here we have
the Director of Central Intelligence saying the Vice President
didn't request it, the Vice President saying he hadn't
requested it in his statement, White House spokesman etcetera,
etcetera. And instead of sort of saying, oh, well, I see that
he didn't request it, he said, well, why does Wilson say it?

Wilson, of course, had said earlier in the week that someone
had told him that the Vice President had asked for his
mission. So I said, well, I don't know why he said it. You
know, I said, we're off-the-record, and he agreed. And I
said, someone -- I don't know why he said it, but I would have
thought -- off-the-record, I would have thought that, that the
CIA wouldn't tell somebody who is going on a mission who asked
about it. And you know, conversation the Vice President has
about these things are supposed to be confidential. But if he
did -- if they did officially -- they wouldn't officially tell
such a thing. If they did officially tell someone, they would
tell them the right thing, which was that the CIA decided to
do it, which is what Director Tenet had said in his statement
the day before. So I wouldn't have thought that officially he
heard this, which -- but it -- you know, it's possible he
heard something unofficially. And if he heard something
possibly unofficially, you know, maybe he knows somebody there
and somebody said something to him that was wrong because it
was unofficial. And in that context, I said, you know, off-the-record, reporters are telling us that Ambassador Wilson’s wife works at the CIA and I don’t know if it’s true. As I told you, we don’t know Mr. Wilson, we didn’t know anything about his mission, so I don’t know that it’s true. But if it’s true, it may explain how he knows some people at the Agency and maybe he got some bad skinny, you know, some bad information. So that was the discussion about Ambassador Wilson’s wife.

Q. And his response?
A. I don’t recall specifically what he said about that. I recall the response, "why does he say it," because that’s what led into this conversation.

Q. And it’s your specific recollection that when you told Cooper about Wilson’s wife working at the CIA, you attributed that fact to what reporters --
A. Yes.

Q. -- plural, were saying. Correct?
A. I was very clear to say reporters are telling us that because in my mind I still didn’t know it as a fact. I thought I was -- all I had was this information that was coming in from the reporters.

Q. And at the same time you have a specific recollection of telling him, you don’t know whether it’s true or not, you’re just telling him what reporters are saying?
A. Yes, that’s correct, sir. And I said, reporters are
telling us that, I don’t know if it’s true. I was careful
about that because among other things, I wanted to be clear I
didn’t know Mr. Wilson. I don’t know -- I think I said, I
don’t know if he has a wife, but this is what we’re hearing.

Q. Did you have any further conversation about Wilson
and his wife with Cooper during this phone call?

A. I don’t think so and I don’t think I had a
subsequent phone call with him. That was it for Mr. Cooper.

Q. And consistent with your practice would Cooper have
to call you back to verify the quote in his article to say
here’s what, what I attribute to Lewis Libby?

A. No, that -- this would be an exception because I
gave it to him on-the-record the first time, and I read it,
and I read it slowly so that he could get it down correctly.

Q. And any other reporters that you discussed Wilson’s
wife with on that day, July 12th?

A. Yes, sir. I talked to three other reporters that
day. Towards the end of the day I believe I talked to Judith
Miller, and I know that I discussed it with Judith Miller, New
York Times, and the discussion was pretty much as I just
described with Ambassador -- excuse me, with Matthew Cooper.

Q. Why don’t you describe the conversation for us?

A. I said, that -- I went through all about the Tenet
statement, that the Tenet statement had just come out, you
know, please pay attention to the Tenet statement which said that we didn’t know about the trip, that we didn’t get the report, that the report was not definitive, that the NIE actually comes out and says that Iraq had begun to vigorously pursue acquiring uranium, and that -- and I did not use this text, as an exact quote, I did not use it exactly again, but I went through some of the same points with her. And I don’t remember exactly how it came up, but I said to her -- sorry, but I --

Q. No, no, I’m just checking for my own self. Please continue.

A. I’m sorry, I don’t mean to hold you up here. I said to her that, that I didn’t know if it was true, but that reporters had told us that the ambassador’s wife works at the CIA, that I didn’t know anything about it. But if that were true, that may explain how he got this unofficial -- I went through the same officially/unofficially sort of breakdown, trying to shorten it for you.

Q. No, please, don’t shorten it. We’re --

A. Okay.

Q. -- we’re not going to finish today, break everyone’s heart, so we’ll just cover it -- you know, once so we don’t have to cover the Miller conversation again.

A. I also spoke to Evan Thomas. And with Evan Thomas --
Q. I just wanted to finish the Judith Miller conversation. Was there something that triggered it, your conversation with Judith Miller, to discuss Wilson's wife's employment in the way that Cooper had asked you, "why is Mr. Wilson saying this?"

A. I think there was. I don't recall exactly what it was. Something that she said -- I thought something that she said, I think, triggered it. That's my, my vague recollection about it. You know, it had been something that was important to Tim Russert. It was something that, you know, Cooper still wanted to know at this point and I think partly by the time I talked to Judith Miller I was thinking, you know, the reporters seem to have this unopen -- unanswered question, and the question is, was, Wilson had said that someone had told him that the Vice President requested the mission. He said that on national television earlier in the week. And even with the explanation from George Tenet, it leaves unanswered this question well, how did he happen to hear it? And so, you know, I was pretty ready to explain that I didn't think he would have heard it officially, but he might have heard it unofficially, but I think there was something that she said that led me into it.

Q. Okay.

A. Evan Thomas?

Q. Yes.
A. I recall, recall that I did reach Evan Thomas eventually. I was home at this point. And I told Evan Thomas -- I, I drew his attention to the Wilson statement -- excuse me. I drew his attention to the Tenet statement that had come out the day before. Evan was calling me in part because we were going to meet about something else. And he said, "I got it," my recollection. In other words, when I, when I laid out what, what Tenet had said, that we hadn’t asked for it, that we didn’t get the report, that the report was not definitive, that the NIE in fact said -- that the NIE in fact said that Iraq had been looking for six months after Wilson’s report -- the CIA had not taken Wilson’s report to be definitive, he said he got it, and he wanted to move on, and I just moved on. So I did not discuss it with Evan Thomas.

Q. And are you sure you did not discuss it with Evan Thomas?

A. Pretty sure.

Q. Do you recall being interviewed by the FBI and telling them you couldn’t recall whether or not you discussed it with Evan Thomas?

A. As I say, I’m pretty sure I did not discuss it with Evan Thomas because I remember him saying it. I don’t recall discussing it with Thomas. I do think I recall him saying I didn’t -- that I got it, and so I don’t think I talked to him
Q. And did you talk to Glen Kessler that day?
A. I did.
Q. Okay.
A. We didn't get Glen Kessler -- excuse me. We didn't get Glen Kessler while we were in the -- at Andrews, but we got him on a cell phone while we were in the car driving back from Andrews to my house, which is like a 40 minute drive or something. And so while Cathie Martin and, and Jenny Mayfield were still with me, along with my family in the van, I spoke to him about this stuff. Kessler was, Kessler was, was contacting me primarily about Colin Powell's February 5th presentation. He was interested in the origins of the presentation that Colin Powell had made back on February 5th. And -- but I think he also wanted to know about this, or in any case, it was an occasion for me to make sure that he, from the Washington Post, paid attention to George Tenet's statement. So we talked a lot about Powell's February 5th presentation, and we also talked about the, the Tenet statement. Sorry. Lost thought -- I lost focus there for a second. We also talked about the Tenet statement at that point. And what I recall about this conversation was that Glen Kessler was at the zoo with his kids, and yet he was able to have this lucid conversation, something that I could never do with my kids at the zoo on a sunny day with, you know,
hundreds of people milling around. And at one point he said, give me a moment here to get located, and then -- because he wanted to get someplace where he could see his kids. But then he was able to have this conversation, which I thought was pretty impressive actually, and we talked about this stuff.

Q. Did you talk about Wilson's wife working at the CIA with Glen Kessler?

A. I don't know for sure. What I -- I believe I did have a conversation with Glen Kessler about, about Ambassador Wilson's wife. I tend to think it was later, not in this conversation, but it was possibly in this conversation. And so possibly I did. I'm not sure. I'm pretty sure I did have a conversation with Glen Kessler about Ambassador Wilson's wife eventually, but I just don't know if it was this conversation.

Q. And do you know if you spoke to, or made attempts to speak, to Andrea Mitchell that day?

A. No. Well, I did speak to Andrea Mitchell at some point in that period but I don't know if it was before or after the --

Q. And how about Mark Matthews of the Baltimore Sun? Do you know if there was any effort to speak to him?

A. I don't think I did talk to him. I don't know if he was one of the ones Cathie wanted me to talk to or not. I don't know Mr. Matthews, Mark Matthews, and I don't, I don't
Q. Do you know if you ever spoke to Mark Matthews about this topic at all?

A. In this weekend, I don’t think so in this weekend. I think it was just those four. But I don’t know him. It’s possible. You know, after you’ve had a few of these conversations, they run together.

Q. One last name, Mike Isikoff. Do you know if you spoke to him that weekend?

A. I don’t think so. I do know -- I now know Mike Isikoff. I don’t think I really knew him then. I met him at -- I had met him but I really had a long conversation with him subsequent to that, and I don’t think I talked to him that weekend. He would also be Newsweek, so he would be duplicative of Evan Thomas, I think.

Q. We’ll wrap -- we’re going a little bit late. I’ll just take a minute to wrap something up.

When the Novak column came out on July 14th, did you -- you knew it was coming from your conversation with Rove. Had you ever heard or seen an advance copy of the Novak column?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did anybody indicate to you whether or not anyone had received a draft column either by fax or by e-mail?

A. I’ve never heard that, sir.
Q. And do you have any recollection of when it is that you discussed with Vice President Cheney, his comments about whether or not Ambassador Wilson had been sent on this trip by his wife as a junket?

A. I know that there -- that Vice President Cheney asked -- made some comments like that. I think of them in my mind as later, you know, later in July or August or later, asking not so much in me, but just sort of how did he come to be sent on this? I don't know if he also made them earlier.

That sort of runs together for me.

MR. FITZGERALD. Why don't we adjourn --

WITNESS. Can I just make one other comment about this stuff? I get a lot of information during the course of a day. I probably get -- you know, after this all came up I sort of for a few days tried to take a census of how many pages of stuff I get in a day, and I tend to get between 100 and 200 pages of material a day that I'm supposed to read and understand and I -- you know, I start at 6:00 in the morning and I go until 8:00 or 8:30 at night, and most of that is meetings. So a lot of information comes through to me, and I can't possibly recall all the stuff that I think is important, let alone other stuff that I don't think is as important. And so when a lot of this -- a lot of stuff that comes to me, what I will normally do is I'll gather my staff together and say, hey, what happened here? You know, there was some meeting we
had on, let's say, Iraq. What did, what did people say, or what happened last week when we had that meeting? Did State agree to do something, or was the Defense Department supposed to do something? And we'll sort of pool our recollections of it and that almost always bring me a fuller recollection of what's happened. I haven't done that here because as I understand it, you don't want me to do that here. I'm happy to do it at some point, but I haven't. So I apologize if my recollection of this stuff is not perfect, but it's not in a way that I would normally do these things. I would normally -- in the normal course of what we do in a day, I would bring the staff together or ask the Vice President and go through all this, and I haven't done that here, and I apologize if there's some stuff that I remember and some I don't, but it's -- I'm just trying to tell you what I do in fact remember.

MR. FITZGERALD. Okay. We'll pick it up from there. I'm going to ask the foreperson to advise the witness he remains under subpoena. We'll talk with your counsel and with the Grand Jury about scheduling so we minimize the disruption, and I apologize. Another matter ran long today and we'll sort that out at the convenience of yourself, counsel, and the Grand Jury and us. So thank you. And I apologize for running a bit over, but we'll see --

GRAND JUROR. Thank you, Mr. Libby.

WITNESS. Thank you.
(Whereupon, the witness was excused at 4:38 p.m.)
CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript, to the best of my skill and ability, from my stenographic notes/electronic recording.

November 21, 2006

Deborah H. Powers, Court Reporter

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