EXHIBIT 7

CONFIDENTIAL

Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

Transcript of Interview of Current Staffer 2

Review No. 21-6998 October 1, 2021

1	OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS
2	OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
3	
4	x
5	In re: CURRENT STAFFER 2, : OCE Review No:
6	: 21-6998
7	x
8	
9	
10	Interview of CURRENT STAFFER 2
11	Conducted Virtually
12	Friday, October 1, 2021
13	10:02 a.m. EST
14	
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19	
20	Job No. 403238
21	Page: 1 - 109
22	Transcribed by: Kevin Kiser

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Interview of CURRENT STAFFER 2, conducted
1
    virtually.
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13
          Pursuant to agreement, before Kevin Kiser,
14
    Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth of
15
    Virginia
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
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1	APPEARANCES
2	
3	ON BEHALF OF OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS:
4	SEAN M. QUINN, ESQUIRE
5	ANNIE CHO, EQUIRE
6	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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8	Washington, DC 20024
9	202.225.9739
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	ALSO PRESENT:
22	CARL HELLANDSJO, TECHNICIAN

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1
                        PROCEEDINGS
2
                MR. QUINN: Great, thanks for all. And
      then I just have a quick little read on myself
3
      just for the record.
4
                So today is October 1st, 2021, and we're
5
6
      conducting the interview of Current Staffer 2 by Zoom. Current Staffer 2
7
      Staffer 2 is not represented today speaking as Sean Quinn,
8
      investigative counsel at the Office of
9
      Congressional Ethics, and I'm here with Annie Cho,
      also at the OCE.
10
                The witness has been given a copy of 18
11
12
      USC 1001, and has signed the acknowledgment, and
      actually while we're on that point, Current Staffer 2, did you
13
      have any questions about the false statements act
14
15
      or that acknowledgment form --
16
                THE WITNESS: No.
                MR. QUINN: -- that you sent me?
17
                THE WITNESS: Not really --
18
19
                MR. QUINN: Okay.
                THE WITNESS: It's -- it's for the
20
21
      traditional legislative jargon. It was hard, but
22
      it was pretty understandable.
```

1	MR. QUINN: Yeah. I'm sure you're
2	familiar with the acts of the basics, just that we
3	have to let everybody know so
4	THE WITNESS: Sure.
5	MR. QUINN: that all statements act
6	makes it illegal to to lie, or make a material
7	omission to a congress congressional
8	investigator like myself.
9	THE WITNESS: And I just wanted to go
10	MR. QUINN: So with that being said
11	THE WITNESS: I'm I'm sorry. I just
12	wanted to point out to I'm here in the office by
13	myself today, so there's nobody else even in the
14	in our office suite here, so I'm totally alone.
15	MR. QUINN: Okay okay. Great.
16	That's good to know. And then also I'll say
17	thanks very much for your time this morning. We
18	appreciate it, I'm sure you're I'm sure you're
19	busy especially now in Congress, so it's pretty
20	much appreciated. And then also throughout our
21	time talking, if you have any questions for me
22	feel free to stop me or if you don't understand

1	the question that I've asked you, I can repeat it
2	or reword it, or if you just need a break for
3	water or bathroom. Feel free to stop me at
4	any point.
5	THE WITNESS: Thank you so much.
6	MR. QUINN: And then, yeah and then,
7	lastly, since we do have somebody transcribing
8	everything we're saying, let's just try not to
9	talk over each other. Makes it very hard to type
10	when two people are talking at the same time, so I
11	'll do my best and and then also, Kevin, if we
12	start talking too fast, just just let us know
13	and slow us down.
14	And and I think with that I'll just
15	ask, normally we start with a couple of questions
16	just kind of about what you did, if anything, to
17	prepare to talk to us today, so I don't know if
18	you spoke to anybody else or maybe looked at some
19	documents or look back to back at any notes.
20	BY COUNSEL FOR THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS
21	BY MR. QUINN:

```
today to, or that you've done recently to prepare
1
     for this interview?
2
3
                    The only thing that I really --
4
    really did was contact the -- the attorney that
5
    the office had said was available, made a phone
6
    call, but the individual call was never returned
7
8
               Okay.
          Q
               -- so not really, no.
          Α
10
               Okay. And was that -- that was Rob
          Q
11
    Walker?
12
               Yes.
          Α
13
               Okay. Great. And then -- and you
          Q
14
    haven't talked to anybody else about -- about
15
    those CE interview?
16
               The only one I think I've ever talked to
17
    is my fellow District Director. I mentioned it to
18
    her that I was going to be interviewed, Jean
19
    Potter, and then I also mentioned it to my former
20
    boss who you've interviewed before a [Former Staffer 1].
21
          Q
               Okay. Great. How about Representative
22
    Mooney or Michael Hough? Have you talked to
```

1	either of them about this?
2	A I I did mention to them that I
3	that was being Monday when I first found out about
4	it, Michael told me that he was actually in the
5	room with the congressman at the time so I'm
6	assuming they're both aware of this taking place
7	today.
8	Q Okay. Great. And did Michael say
9	anything to you about the interview or just noted
10	that you'd be participating?
11	A Yeah. Yeah. I mean, basically it was
12	just, you know, he resent out to the the one
13	form about keeping our records and everything and
14	then he also, you know, just said, Hey, be
15	straightforward kind of thing, you know, pretty
16	vague, nothing. No no questions really at all.
17	So
18	Q Okay okay. Good to know. Great.
19	Then why don't we talk a little bit just about
20	your background and and what you do for
21	Representative Mooney.
22	A Uh-huh.

1	Q Can you tell me when you started working
2	for Representative Mooney?
3	A It would have been the end of February
4	2019, that I came onboard here to be a district
5	representative in the Martinsburg office to kind
6	of work on issues in the eastern part of the
7	Second District of West Virginia. And then as my
8	time here has evolved because of my previous
9	history and work, I was given a title of Economic
10	Development and Outreach to liaison. So that's my
11	my role now and since [Former Staffer 1] left in June, Jeanne
12	and I have assumed sort of core District Director
13	roles.
14	I'm working with the the field reps
15	and she's working with the case management stuff
16	that goes on with the office primarily. So that's
17	kind of been the the split of duties, of
18	course, with the district this size, the
19	Charleston office, it's six hours away from the
20	Martinsburg office and so sometimes logistics can
21	be a little difficult, but it is what it is.
22	Q Right. And I think you said that you

1	are you are in the Martinsburg office; right?
2	A That's correct. Yeah. I live in
3	Jefferson County, West Virginia.
4	And again, my background, I was involved
5	with the Appalachian Regional Commission for 17
6	years in DC, and prior to that, I'm I'm
7	originally from Ohio and worked with the
8	Appalachian Program in Ohio both at the the
9	regional and state level so, I don't know, full
10	background was local economic development, rural
11	development in Appalachian, so that's why I
12	applied for the job to begin with it kind of it
13	kind of fit some of the things I used to do and
14	kind of gave me something during my, I guess, semi
15	retirement.
16	Q Right. Okay. Yeah. Sounds like a good
17	like a good fit.
18	A Yeah.
19	Q Can you other than just having that
20	general background that was kind of a good fit for
21	the position. Can you tell me how you came to
22	work for Representative Mooney?

1	A In all honestly, I saw an ad in the
2	Martinsburg Journal, I mean, the old-school stuff
3	and, like, you know, no LinkedIn or any other
4	sort of on on-site sort of job recruitment is a
5	traditional old ad and the paper that I responded
6	to and, you know, applied for the job back, it's
7	probably January of '19 and, quite frankly, the
8	reason I decided to work with the congressman
9	because I'm a conservative person myself, we
10	aligned pretty well with views on a whole host of
11	things that tend to be more conservative in
12	nature, so I I I couldn't see myself working
13	for somebody that didn't agree with on most
14	issues.
15	Q Okay. Let's go through just quickly a
16	little bit of the reporting structure in your
17	office
18	A Uh-huh.
19	Q who did you report to?
20	A Well, again, since [Former Staffer 1] left the office
21	in June, I really report to Mike Michael
22	Hough's and and Jean Potter and I try to

1	coordinate our our work together as much as we
2	can, we talk on a fairly regular basis as well.
3	Q Okay. And Jeanne is in the the
4	Charleston office?
5	A That's correct. That's correct.
6	Q And then who reports to you?
7	A Primarily, Susie Acevedo as a district
8	rep out of the Charleston office and then Rhett
9	Dusenbury is kind of a he's out of Elkins and
10	so he's he's not on either office, he's sort of
11	operates out of his homes for that central part of
12	the and then I guess sort of technically the
13	manager of the Martinsburg office, and Jeanne's
14	the manager at the Charleston office, too. So
15	Q Okay. Great. So so that's the
16	official side. Have you ever worked or done any
17	work for the campaign?
18	A A couple of minor things. I picked the
19	congressman up last summer, not this summer, but
20	the previous summer on my off time I've done,
21	like, a parade the first year in Ripley and and
22	Hurricane and even when I picked up the

1	congressman that was on, you know, off time, too.
2	So there are a very few campaign activities, quite
3	frankly. Most of it, it's been visits, and there
4	had been very few of those, quite frankly, too,
5	so, you know, stops in the district and stuff.
6	Q And when you say picked up the
7	congressman, you just you mean you drove him to
8	and from the event?
9	A Yeah. Yeah, he was at a
10	Q Okay.
11	A at a meeting in in Southwestern
12	Pennsylvania back in I think it was July of '20
13	and it was, I think it was a congressional
14	Republican event meeting and the gentleman that
15	usually does that work his mother-in-law passed
16	away and they needed somebody to go pick the
17	congressman up and so I said sure I can do it.
18	And then instead of being paid as a normal process
19	of reimbursement, actually, the congressman paid
20	me with a personal check, so
21	Q Okay.
22	A for the mileage and everything.

instead of submitting a mileage claim to the the campaign the congressman paid you directly the for the mileage to you? A That's my recollection.	for
the for the mileage to you? A That's my recollection.	
5 A That's my recollection.	he
	he
	he
6 Q Okay. Do you know do you know if	
7 then submitted a mileage request?	
8 A I have no	
9 Q or do you know how that worked?	
10 A I have I have no idea, yeah. I ha	ve
11 no idea how that worked.	
Q Okay. And then you you had mention	ned
that the person who would normally do that had	a
14 family emergency, who who is the person that	
15 would normally do that?	
A His name is Ranier Kissel. Ranier ha	S
17 since retired at the end of last year but he	
18 typically did at least some of of the driving	g
19 for the congressman, you know, depending upon to	he
20 circumstances and situation.	
Q Okay. And did he have a title with to	he
campaign or the official office?	

1	A You know, I'm sure he did. I'm not
2	recalling exactly what it was. He was a part-time
3	employee when I came on board and then also did
4	he he did more things on the campaign side, too,
5	see, he was kind of split in nature, so I I
6	really can't with with full extent of any real
7	knowledge sort of say how that worked. I just
8	knew he was an employee.
9	Q Okay. Got you. Okay. We can we'll
10	start talking about some of the more specific
11	things that we're looking at. One of the things I
12	wanted to ask you about is a trip from this year
13	in early August. I think it was August 2nd to
14	August 5th. Do you do you know what trip I'm
15	talking about?
16	A I know I met the congressman and his
17	wife and daughter in Moorefield High School for an
18	event there the Governors Art Caravan, I believe
19	it was called and we I staffed him at that
20	event and then we had lunch afterwards in
21	Moorefield.
22	Q And that was on the do you do you

1	recall that day that was the second?
2	A I believe it was the second, yeah. In
3	fact I had just submitted my expense report and
4	had that on there. So I could look that up for
5	you real quick if you like.
6	Q That's fine I actually I have a document
7	or two we can look out to kind of
8	A Okay.
9	Q nail down dates if we need need to
10	do that. But my impression from other folks that
11	we've talked to and and document that I've seen
12	is that it was like a it was a couple of day
13	trip maybe or there at least a few things plan,
14	for example, there was a visit to I'm not sure
15	I'm saying this correctly Blennerhassett Island.
16	Is that how you say that?
17	A Yeah. Yeah. That's how you say it.
18	Q Okay. Okay.
19	A That that was my understanding
20	Q Do you
21	A too, Sean I'm sorry.
22	Q Okay. Go ahead.

1	A Charleston after that point and
2	goodness, I think the congressman was leaving out
3	of Charleston and his wife and daughter was
4	staying or something like that, but I wasn't sure
5	and I know they were trip up there to Wood County
6	and and Blennerhassett Island, this historic
7	site, if you will. I don't know if you how
8	much you get into the US history, but it was
9	there's a book called The Pioneers that that
10	I've read that sort of documents, the settling of
11	the Northwest Territory, and Blennerhasset was
12	part of that discussion. So
13	Q anyway, I'm going off in other woods
14	a little bit
15	A Right.
16	Q But it's it's the right book.
17	A My lights have just shut off here so I
18	was just trying to
19	Q Okay. And Blennerhassett Island just so
20	I can get the geography down in in Wood County,
21	is
22	A Yeah. It's it's on Ohio River.

1	Q Okay.
2	A I believe it would be considered Wood
3	County, right. Parkers Parkersburg Wood
4	County, correct.
5	Q Okay. And there was also part of this
6	trip, was a was there a meeting with or
7	interview with folks in the at the Parkersburg
8	newspaper, do you recall that?
9	A That was my understanding that that was
10	going to take place whether it took place or not,
11	I'm not sure, but my understanding was they were
12	they were setting something for that to take
13	place.
14	Q Okay. So I think we're talking about
15	the same trip or at least we
16	A Yeah.
17	Q we believe
18	A I believe we
19	Q aired that out. Are were you
20	involved in planning any of the various stops on
21	that that kind of multi-day tour?
22	A No, I don't think I did. Like I said,

1	they had already said I picked up at Governor's
2	Art Caravan stop and I was just asked to staff him
3	there at that event, so that was the only role I
4	really played in that process. Yeah. Typically
5	when when there are visits by the congressman
6	to the to the district in the past, [Former Staffer 1] had
7	handled those. And since his departure, I would
8	work on things in this part of the district and
9	then the Charleston office would work on, you
10	know, those types of trips as well.
11	Q Okay, there were two other stops that
12	I've seen kind of associated with multi-day today
13	trip that I wanted to ask you about and see if
14	A Uh-huh.
15	Q you knew anything about it. If you
16	don't know anything about it just say so. One was
17	a meeting with somebody named Matthew Herridge.
18	Do you know are you familiar with that meeting
19	or do you know who that is?
20	A No, I don't believe so.
21	Q Okay.
22	A Name doesn't ring a bell.

1	Q I had oh, sorry. Go ahead.
2	A No, I just said that that name
3	doesn't doesn't sound familiar to me.
4	Q Okay. Let's see. I had if we can
5	pull up let's see. Carl, if we can pull up tab
6	2. So I was asking you about it, Current Staffer 2, just
7	because we had some folks produce some documents
8	to us and and one of them was a calendar invite
9	with or setting up a meeting with this
10	individual named Matthew Herridge, and it looked
11	like, from the calendar invite, you were the point
12	of contact for him, so I'll I'll just show that
13	to real quick and you can
14	A Yeah, please do. Because maybe I'm just
15	forgetting something.
16	Q Yeah. Let's see. So just for the
17	record, so that we can tell where oh, and,
18	Carl, you can mark this as Exhibit A. And this is
19	a calendar notification on Gmail titled, meet with
20	Matthew Herridge at on Thursday, August 5th,
21	2021, 3:30 to 4:30, and it looks like this
22	particular update was sent on July 30th, 2021, at

```
1
     3:05. And I don't know or -- I don't know if this
2
     went to you or not, Current Staffer 2. This was from another
     individual.
3
4
               (Exhibit A was marked.)
5
          Α
               Yeah. I --
               But it says, and so you can see that,
6
7
     Current Staffer 2 is --
8
          Α
               Yeah.
9
               -- contacting Matt Herridge to set up a
     time and location.
10
               I think there was some --
11
12
               Do you recall that or --
13
               -- there was some going back and forth
          Α
     about some of the meetings, and I kind of bowed
14
     out of setting things up like that because I had
15
16
     no idea who these people were, so I think other
     people kind of picked up the ball. I think that
17
     may have been initially their thinking in the
18
     office, but I don't recall that e-mail. I can
19
20
     look in my -- my personal Gmail to see if I have
21
     it. It's -- I see it's July 30th. Like I say, I
22
     -- I did not set up any meetings.
                                         I never
```

```
1
    contacted Matt --
2
         Q
               Okay.
3
               -- Herridge, to my recollection, at all.
         Α
4
    Is he a reporter --
5
         Q
               Okay.
6
         Α
               -- or do you know?
7
               I think he's just a -- a private
         0
8
    individual, not a reporter.
9
         Α
               Well, I know there was talk about Burger
10
    King owner or something like that. Is -- is that
11
    that --
12
               That's -- that's who I think it is.
         Q
    Yeah.
13
14
               Okay. Yeah.
                             That -- [Current Staffer 1]
         Α
15
    probably is the one who made the -- find -- made
    the appointment with him, I'm thinking.
16
17
               Okay.
         Q
18
               If you go to the Charleston office.
         Α
19
               Okay. Got it. Yeah. I'm sure these
         0
20
    things are -- are pretty fluid.
21
         Α
               Yeah.
22
               So I had just seen this, so I thought
         0
```

1 you might be the person to ask about it, but we 2 will -- we can move on from that. 3 And that's not -- that was my 4 understanding, that that -- and that he was either 5 an influential Republican or a donor or something, 6 but I had -- I had no -- no clue about that and 7 who set what up when. 8 0 Okay. 9 I know they had -- they had talked about me, as I recall, contacting some folks, and it's 10 11 like, I don't know anybody over there in that part of the states, so, you know. 12 13 Right. And -- and then is -- so 14 Blennerhassett Island and Wood County and 15 Parkersburg are -- they are not in Representative 16 Mooney's district; is that right? 17 Α They -- they -- they are not, no. 18 Okay. Q 19 Α Wood County is north of -- of the 20 border. 21 Okay. Do you recall, as planning for 0 22 this -- these trips were going on, if there was

1	any discussion about that, especially about the
2	fact that the these stops weren't in
3	Representative Mooney's district?
4	A And and this is an assumption on my
5	behalf. I know, again, the the newspaper has
6	coverage in parts of the district, you know, down
7	into Wirt County, Calhoun County probably, Roane
8	County maybe, also Park Parkersburg
9	Q Okay.
10	A is kind of a more central city for
11	that part of the state. So there would be
12	coverage from that paper, but, you know, the fact
13	of the matter is with redistricting coming up,
14	too, I I think there was probably and,
15	again, I'm making an assumption here and trying to
16	just understand the politics of it all. Trying to
17	get more exposure in that part of the state would
18	probably be a logical assumption to make.
19	Q Okay. And is that that's
20	representing McKinley's district; correct?
21	A That's correct, yeah.
22	Q Okay. Okay. One other stop that looks

1 like it was on the schedule for this August 2nd to 2 August 5th period was a trip to The Greenbrier. I 3 believe there's a dinner at The Greenbrier. Does 4 -- does that ring any bells for you? 5 Α My understanding was, after the Yeah. 6 Moorefield High School event, that they were going 7 to be going down there for a -- a late -- like, 8 early dinner, I think, perhaps, and then going to 9 Charleston that night. That was my recollection 10 of that day's sort of itinerary. 11 Okay. Do you know any -- anything about 12 the purpose for that -- that dinner? 13 Α Boy, I probably did at the time. I'm 14 trying to recall exactly what -- you know, who it 15 was with and why, and I -- I -- I just don't remember, to be honest. 16 17 MR. QUINN: We can -- there's one other 18 document I can show you, and I can let you kind of look through it. It's -- and it might refresh 19 20 your recollection a little bit. Let's see. Carl, 21 if you can pull up tab 1 and mark that as Exhibit 22 В.

```
1
               (Exhibit B was marked.)
2
               THE WITNESS: And that's the wrong --
               MR. QUINN: Yeah. I think we've got the
3
4
     wrong document up, Carl.
5
               THE WITNESS: Yeah.
6
               MR. OUINN: Or we had it for a second.
7
               THE WITNESS: Yeah, we did.
8
               MR. QUINN: And then it was --
               That looks like it's a typical planning
9
10
     document we use on trips and everything.
     BY MR. QUINN:
11
12
               Okay. I've seen them referred to as
13
     LBLs. Is that -- does that mean --
14
          Α
               Line by lines.
               -- line by lines?
15
          0
16
          Α
               Yeah. Yeah, exactly.
17
          Q
               Okay. So if you want to take -- this is
     a couple -- or a two-page document. Carl, can you
18
     give Current Staffer 2 control of the document? And then if you
19
20
     want to take a minute or two just to look through
21
     it. I'll say for the record, this is a -- as Current Staffer 2
22
     said, a line by line, basically agenda or calendar
```

```
of events from August 2nd to August 5th, on the
1
2
     second and third page, and at the bottom, it notes
     that it was revised on 8/2/2021. And we -- Current Staffer 2,
3
4
     just so that you see, at the bottom right, we
5
     apply our own numbering system to documents --
6
          Α
               Sure. Sure.
7
               -- so that we can identify them later.
8
     So for the record, this document has a Bates Stamp
9
     of WB 0210.
10
          Α
               All right.
               Okay. Yeah. Current Staffer 2, if you want to take a
11
12
     minute to look at that and then just let me know
13
     when you're -- when you're done scanning it.
14
          Α
               Yeah. Yeah. I -- I think that's a fair
     and accurate depiction of the trip. There may
15
16
     have been, as I recall, maybe a last-minute
17
     inclusion of some small group. It was -- it was
     something Susie had put together. I'm trying to
18
19
     think what the group would have been even --
20
     that's not listed there. I -- I think it was sort
21
     of a -- a last minute addition, either the evening
22
     of the 3rd or the 4th, but other than that, it's
```

```
-- I think it's a pretty accurate description.
1
2
    -- the -- the -- as far as The Greenbrier dinner,
3
    I don't know who the Lamptons are.
4
         Q
               Okay.
5
         Α
               I have no idea who they are. No matter
6
7
               Okay. Yeah, that's what I was --
         0
8
               -- what (inaudible) occurred, quite
         Α
9
              I'm assuming it did, but I don't even
    frankly.
10
    know whether it actually did or not.
11
              Okay. You said you're not sure if it
12
    occurred?
              Right. I'm -- I'm not even sure if it
13
         Α
14
    occurred.
15
         Q
              Okay.
16
               I'm assuming it --
17
               Sorry. It just cut out. Okay.
    I'll -- I'll ask a couple other just kind of
18
19
    general questions. If you actually scroll back to
20
    that first page.
21
         Α
               Yeah.
               So it looks like -- I can see that
22
         0
```

1 there's a column for who will be staffing 2 Representative Mooney at these events, and it 3 looks like you staffed him at the first event, 4 like you said, that Moorefield art show. 5 Α Right. Right. 6 And then do you have any idea how 0 7 Representative Mooney got from Moorefield then to 8 The Greenbar -- brier later that afternoon? 9 Yeah. They -- they had the family van. Α 10 Matter of fact, I -- when I -- I met him outside of the high school. That's what they were -- they 11 12 drove up in that van from their home. They had 13 driven up then, and that was my understanding. They'd be driving that -- to The Greenbrier and 14 15 then up to Charleston. 16 Okay. Okay. And then it looks like --Q 17 They went to Charleston that evening to 18 stay in a hotel, and then the next morning, for 19 the first event, which is a meet with Charleston 20 City police officers. [Current Staffer 1] is staffing 21 Representative Mooney. That's [Current Staffer 1]? 22 Α That's correct, yes.

```
1
          Q
               Okay. Okay.
2
               Yeah. My -- my understanding --
          Α
3
          Q
               Okay.
4
               -- is [Current Staffer 1] pretty much staffed him the
5
     whole time he was there. Once he got to
6
     Charleston, he was with him most of the rest of
7
     that trip, he and the fam -- he and -- and -- with
8
     the congressman and his family.
9
               Okay. All right. And then, if you look
     at this page that we're on right now, at 11
10
     o'clock on Wednesday the 4th, there's a tour of
11
     Gritt's Farm in Buffalo, West Virginia.
12
13
          Α
               All right.
14
               That -- now, by Wednesday, we are in
     Representative Mooney's district; is that -- is
15
16
     that correct? Buffalo, West Virginia?
17
               I -- I think it is. Again, even though
     it says I was -- details from me, actually [Current Staffer 1]
18
     took care of all that stuff, is my understanding.
19
20
     Because, like I say --
21
          Q
               Okay.
22
               -- my familiarity with that part of the
```

```
1
     district is very minimal.
2
               Okay. Got you. So you don't know
          0
     anything about -- or -- or do you know anything
3
4
     about the tour of Gritt's Farm?
5
          Α
               No.
                    I never -- I never even heard of
6
     Gritt's Farm until -- until this event, so I -- I
7
     really don't know much about it at all, to be
8
     honest.
9
               Okay. Okay. And then I'll ask first:
     Specifically for this trip, do you know if -- once
10
     they drove down to Charleston with the family car,
11
12
     was -- is that the vehicle they used for the --
13
     the rest of that weekend, or would -- would [Current Staffer 1]
     have been driving them? Do you know how that --
14
15
     that would have gone?
16
               I -- I don't know for certain. My -- my
17
     impression was -- was that they were going to
     drive separately and that [Current Staffer 1] would -- would
18
     follow them, but again, I -- I just don't know if
19
20
     that's what actually occurred or not.
21
          Q
               Okay. Great. I think -- I think that's
22
     probably all the questions that I have for you on
```

1	this document. So, Carl, you can you can pull
2	that down. And then, while we're talking about
3	driving in general, does well, when
4	Representative Mooney is is in the district or
5	or in the state, does he have somebody that
6	normally drives him? Does he have, like, a driver
7	or
8	A Typically, when again, prior to the
9	end of last year, Rainer would often do Rainer
10	Kissel would often do a lot of the driving. Not
11	all the time. It was kind of hit and miss, but
12	but Rainer would, on occasion, take him to
13	Washington, given the proximity of the residence
14	to the to the Capitol. So he would sometimes
15	do that. He would sometimes do things in the
16	district for the for the congressman. Sometime
17	make runs to airports, you know.
18	Rainer was sort of a do-all kind of guy,
19	you know, the type of guy I guess the congressman
20	likes to have around to to sort of
21	multifaceted in nature, so but then at the
22	other times, he would drive. I know on a on a

1 trip I made with him -- I quess it was earlier 2 this year. 3 We met on the way to -- to Moorefield, 4 and then off into Seneca Rocks in the -- in the 5 district there, too, where he drove because he was 6 going somewhere else after that and I was -- had 7 an intern with me, and so the -- the young guy who 8 was the intern was in my car and the congressman 9 was driving separately, so we make several stops. 10 But there are other times -- like 11 earlier this year, there was a Saturday event at 12 Jane Lew with the -- the Volunteer Fire 13 Department, and he had been in the district, and this was kind of on the -- on the back end of the 14 15 -- of a trip where I drove to Jane Lew and then 16 drove he and a -- and a -- I want to say at least 17 a -- one staffer back to the -- back to the eastern part of the state. So that would --18 19 Q Okay. 20 Say March, maybe. Something like that. Α 21 Okay. And then I just want to circle 0 22 back quickly. I know you talked about that --

1	that one campaign event where you had either
2	picked up or dropped off the congressman and
3	and he reimbursed you
4	A Yeah.
5	Q for that mileage personally. Do you
6	know if he did that with other staffers or if that
7	if that was common?
8	A My and, again, that time because
9	it was such an unusual event for me, but there had
10	been originally talk about being paid in gift
11	cards, and then a determination was made that that
12	was no longer an appropriate tool to use for such
13	reimbursements. And so that's where it came back
14	to him writing a a personal check to me for the
15	mileage that I accrued that day. That
16	Q Okay.
17	A was my understanding of how that
18	worked, anyway.
19	Q Okay. And do you do you recall when
20	that kind of policy changed happen, when when
21	it was decided that gift cards shouldn't be used
22	to reimburse staffers?

1	A Again, if my memory is correct, that was
2	either, like, July or August of 2020. And so it
3	it probably would have been right around that
4	period of time because, again, when that was
5	initially talked about, you know, even after the
6	fact, as I recall, that I was going to get
7	reimbursed with with a gift card. And then
8	they decided, no, that was not appropriate. So,
9	again, at the end of the day, it kind of became a
10	personal check being the reimbursement. It was
11	they say it was at the Nemacolin Resort there in
12	Southwestern Pennsylvania. I know it was
13	Q Okay.
14	A it was it was an event for
15	Republican members that they had planned on this,
16	like, I guess, on a Friday evening.
17	Q Okay. Just on the point of of those
18	of those gift cards, had had you been ever
19	had you ever been reimbursed, prior to that
20	policy change, with a gift card?
21	A Not that I recall. No.
22	Q Okay. Do you know do you know of

1	anybody that was or do you recall any particular
2	instances of that happening?
3	A Specifically, no. It's just my
4	understanding was was that was kind of the
5	the policy of the camp, was to use gift cards as a
6	as a tool for reimbursement when things could
7	not be written off as some sort of work-related
8	mileage. But as to it's specific individuals,
9	you know, Rainer comes to mind as a possibility.
10	Again, I don't even know there for sure whether he
11	was actually ever reimbursed in that way or not.
12	I just don't know.
13	Q Okay. I just want to make sure I
14	understood what you meant there. So you said the
15	gift card would be used and correct me if I'm
16	wrong. You said the gift card would be used to
17	reimburse somebody if it was determined that
18	mileage or something couldn't be written off as a
19	as a work expense?
20	A That's correct. Yeah. That was that
21	was before they changed
22	Q Okay. Had you

1	A what the policy was, yeah. I never
2	saw it written down
3	Q And when you say
4	A or anything like that, but
5	Q Okay. And when you say work event
6	sorry, work reason, do you mean like official
7	congressional work
8	A Right.
9	Q as opposed to campaign as opposed
10	to
11	A Exactly.
12	Q campaign work?
13	A Exactly.
14	Q Okay. Okay. And then just quickly, on
15	Rainer Kissel, you said that he he left can
16	you remind me when when he stopped working for
17	the for the member?
18	A My understanding was it was the end of
19	last year, so it would have been December of 2020.
20	Q Okay. And do you know why he left?
21	A Rainer's, I think, in his seventies, and
22	he had got his five years and so he was eligible

```
1
    for a modest pension at that point, is my
2
    understanding. And -- so, yeah. Yeah. He just
3
4
              Okay.
         Q
5
         Α
              -- wanted to -- to -- and he -- I -- you
6
    know, I think he still occasionally does some
7
    things for the congressman, you know, just on a
8
    personal basis. But he's not an official employee
9
    anymore.
10
              Okay. I think that's everything I have
11
    for that early August trip. Let me just look
12
    quickly and then I can move on. One thing I will
13
    ask you, just about that trip generally: Do you
14
    know -- were you involved in any of the payments
15
    for either hotels or meals on that trip, or
16
    seeking reimbursement for those?
17
              Yeah. The only thing that I was seeking
    reimbursement for was for that lunch in
18
19
    Moorefield. Matter of fact, again, it's on the --
20
    the -- the -- my recently submitted expense
21
    report, where I paid for both mine and the
22
    congressman's lunch.
```

1	Q Okay. And that was that was a
2	submission to get reimbursement from the MRA?
3	A Yeah. My as an official function.
4	Q Not
5	A Yeah. Yeah. It's typical
6	Q Official. Yup. Yup.
7	A reimbursement process for that trip.
8	I
9	Q Yeah. I just mean I'm sorry. Go
10	ahead.
11	A No. I just on that particular visit
12	I I claim mileage and that lunch.
13	Q Okay. Yeah. I just meant I wasn't
14	being clear. I just meant it was an official
15	reimbursement as opposed to a campaign
16	reimbursement?
17	A Correct. Right. That's my that's
18	what I understood that to be what you were asking,
19	yes.
20	Q Okay. And then, lastly, on that trip,
21	are you are you aware of any communications
22	with or discussions about addressing the trip with

1	the ethics committee?
2	A I'm not following what you're asking, to
3	be honest, Sean.
4	Q I I'll give you a little I'll give
5	you a little background. There was shortly
6	after that trip I'm sure you get these updates
7	from the ethics committee about certain issues
8	that they want to address or or raise for
9	members and staff. Sometimes they're referred to
10	as pink sheets. And there was an e-mail sent out
11	by the ethics committee shortly after it was a
12	few weeks after this trip, that clarified rules
13	about members making official visits to other
14	districts, to other members districts. In
15	particularly it was focusing on this idea of
16	redistricting happening and
17	A Right.
18	Q visiting districts that may become
19	part of your district. Does that ring any bells?
20	Were there any conversations about about that
21	ethics guidance or conversations
22	A With the congressman?

1	
1	Q with the ethics committee
2	A With the congressman?
3	Q or or with anybody in the office.
4	A The the only thing that we've talked
5	and this really wasn't so much related to that
6	trip it's just the idea that, like, I attended,
7	like, a public hearing on redistricting in Keyser,
8	which is technically outside of the district, but
9	very close to the district, and it was a regional
10	meeting and so it was like sort of a justified
11	thing.
12	But that the person that manages so
13	sort of the fiscal affairs, [Current Staffer 3], was
14	expressing concern that staff be aware that
15	out-of-district travel is being scrutinized very
16	closely and and you need to be aware of those
17	things, and and, you know, just, you know, be
18	be mindful of those things. And that is you
19	know, unless there's a really good reason to do
20	it, it probably should be avoided. That was kind
21	of a lot, but, yeah
22	Q Okay.
	g chay.

1	A the specific things from from the
2	ethics committee, no. I I I really don't
3	know much about that.
4	Q Okay. Do you remember when that
5	conversation with [Current Staffer 3] was?
6	A I didn't actually talk to [Current Staffer 3] about it,
7	but this was through Jean. Jean had talked to him
8	about it and she she had mentioned it to me
9	several times, you know, between, you know, August
10	and September. You know, that's been kind of a
11	theme for for her and the staff to to, you
12	know, just be cognizant of those things, and
13	and to to have good rationale for for visits
14	like that.
15	Q Okay. Got you. Yeah. It sounds like
16	that timing probably matches up with the ethics
17	committee notice so that's
18	A Yeah.
19	Q that makes sense. So that's
20	A I'm sure that's where [Current Staffer 3] was probably
21	getting that from and recognizing his, you know,
22	sort of cautious red flag, if you will, to those

types of visits and everything. Right. 1 2 Q Right. Right. Okay. Great. Then I 3 think we're done talking about that trip. 4 sort of a -- I don't want to call it a laundry 5 list because it's not particularly long, but a 6 couple different items that we can hit --7 Α Sure. 8 -- that I'll ask you about and you may 9 know nothing about them, and that's fine, you can 10 just let me know. But if something rings a bell 11 just -- just let me know and we'll kind of stop 12 and -- and talk about it a little bit more. 13 first thing I want to ask you about, there was a 14 -- I believe, a trip in March of this year to 15 Aruba that the member took with his family. Are 16 you familiar with that trip or do you know 17 anything about it? 18 Α Not really. No. I -- I may have heard 19 it in conversation that they were taking a 20 vacation, and I don't even recall much of that. 21 So, yeah, very gray, my background on trips to 22 Aruba.

1	Q Okay. And then I I know you started
2	in February of 2019 so you probably won't be
3	familiar with this, but there was a celebration in
4	2018 of the congressman's birthday that happened
5	on Capitol grounds, on the speaker's balcony. Do
6	you know do know anything about that birthday
7	celebration
8	A No. No. Uh-uh.
9	Q or ever had any conversations with
10	anybody?
11	A No.
12	Q Okay. Then we'll move on from that,
13	too. I think you probably will be a little
14	familiar with so our I think you know our
15	office conducts reviews of members spending and
16	conduct, and there was a previous review of of
17	some of Representative Mooney's spending and
18	conduct. And then we are now conducting this
19	this second unrelated review. So I wanted to ask
20	you about the the first one
21	A Sure.
22	Q that happened earlier this year.

```
1
     Were -- were you aware of that review as that was
2
     ongoing?
3
               I mean, you know, once it -- well, I
4
     forget whether it was roll -- I think it was roll
5
     call. One of the -- you know, it became public,
6
     but, you know, in -- in conversations with [Former Staffer 1],
7
     he had mentioned and -- that there was a review
8
     going on and everything. This goes back, you
     know, late winter, spring at the very -- at the
9
     very latest, you know, I was aware of it.
10
               Probably a little prior to that even,
11
12
     that there was some conversations taking place
13
     probably maybe even in the late last year perhaps.
14
     I'm not exactly sure when I first became aware of
15
     it, but, yeah, it was probably through [Former Staffer 1].
16
               Okay. And -- and what had -- what had
17
     [Former Staffer 1] told you about what was going on as far as
     you remember?
18
               Yeah. My -- my discussions with him and
19
20
     -- they were strictly about, like, the trip. I
21
     want to say it was in May of '20, where I set up
22
     meetings for both Michael Hough and the
```

1	congressman. Although my most of my meeting
2	set-ups were for Michael as opposed to the
3	congressman. I think Rainer took care of the
4	congressman's arrangements, as I recall. But I
5	set up a couple of stops for Michael to make that
6	were nearby where they were staying. I was a part
7	of that.
8	Q Okay. And what was can you just go
9	into a little detail about which trip that was,
10	when it was, and and where they were going?
11	A That would've been the one to to the
12	Smoke Hole Resort.
13	Q Okay. Was this a staff an all-staff
14	meeting?
15	A No. No. This was just my
16	understanding was was that they were going to
17	the congressman and Michael and and perhaps
18	family were going to be there for the weekend and
19	or a day or two. I'm not sure what what the
20	specifics of the itinerary were, but that you
21	know, we were setting up meetings to go along with
22	that visit as well.

1	Q Okay. And remind me of the time frame
2	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	of that trip again.
3	A I'm thinking it was May of of '20.
4	It sounds right. I could I could certainly
5	find out and look that up if need be. That was
6	one of the the items, as I recall, with the
7	initial investigation. That was one of the things
8	that was talked about.
9	Q Okay. I think that I can follow up with
10	you
11	A Sure.
12	Q if we need to, but I think I think
13	May 2020 serves our purposes for right now. Okay.
14	And then you so you said that that trip was
15	planned and you were setting up some meetings
16	related to that trip.
17	A Correct.
18	Q Do you do you recall what me do
19	you recall what what those meetings were, who
20	they were with?
21	A Yeah. Yeah. The one meeting was with
22	the Hampshire County Economic Development

1	Authority director, her name is Eileen Johnson
2	Ms. Eileen Johnson, and she's out of Romney, West
3	Virginia. And then the second meeting, and the
4	again, these are both for Michael. The second
5	meeting that I set up was with Commissioner Gene
6	McConnell from Pendleton County, West Virginia.
7	Q Okay. And then back to kind of back
8	to our our review. You said that you had
9	talked to [Former Staffer 1] about that kind of in the context
10	of he was collecting information about that trip
11	because the OCE had asked about it?
12	A Yes. Yeah. He asked me to go
13	back through my records to look at e-mails that
14	I'd had, like, with the scheduler, [Former Staffer 2]
15	or or Michael, or anybody else in that time
16	frame to to kind of corral those, if you will,
17	and forward those back to him. So that he would
18	have those as part of what he was putting together
19	for you-all is
20	Q Okay.
21	A is my understanding. Yeah.
22	Q Right. Yeah. That sounds about right.

```
We worked closely with [Former Staffer 1] on that so -- I'm sure
1
2
     that was a thankless task for him, collecting all
3
     those documents. So --
4
               I know he put a lot of time into the --
5
     the -- the whole putting things together. Yeah.
6
     I don't know -- it's like I said, I know he was
7
     very busy in that stretch doing things.
8
               Were there any other particular trips or
     items that -- that my office was inquiring about
9
     that you are involved in as far as collecting
10
     documents or providing information?
11
12
               No. My only -- and, again, this is just
     my personal sort of observation. It seemed like
13
     there may have been some confusion with some of
14
     those visits and some of the all-staff --
15
16
     retreat that we had. I know -- I believe it was
     in October of -- of '19 that we had a staff
17
18
     retreat at Smoke Hole Ranch, that was indeed an
19
     all-staff retreat. And then I want to say --
20
     trying to think when last year's was, it may have
21
     been October, a few days before the election. I
22
     know that -- in Canaan Valley Resort, and -- and
```

```
that was an all-staff meeting as well.
1
2
               So at least in the reporting that I saw
     on -- in the publications it looked like there may
3
4
     have been some confusion as to, you know, what was
5
     what, you know. Because I know there was a visit
6
     that the Congressman made the Canaan Valley in
7
     December of one year and that was different than
8
     that. Then there was also that Smoke Hole Ranch
     event that -- that he and Michael went to. Their
9
10
     visit was, I believe, in like I say, in May of
     ^{\prime}20, and ^{--} and we also use that resort as an
11
12
     all-staff retreat in the fall of '19, I believe.
13
               Right. Right. So -- great. So
          0
     multiple -- multiple stops at the same --
14
               Yeah. Yeah.
15
          Α
16
               -- at the same spot? Okay. Any other
          Q
     -- so -- any other conversations with [Former Staffer 1] or
17
18
     anybody else in the office that -- that you can
     recall about kind of collecting information or
19
20
     documents that reflect --
21
          Α
               [Former Staffer 1] would've been in conduit for that
22
     information. And so I was relayed to kind of my
```

1	primary funnel, if you will, for any information
2	that would be forward through [Former Staffer 1]. Michael may
3	have asked me indirectly a time or two, but I
4	don't even recall that specifically, to be honest.
5	Q Okay. Yeah. I was actually just going
6	to run through a couple of names real quick and
7	A Yeah.
8	Q and you can tell me if you recall any
9	specific conversations.
10	A Sure.
11	Q So how about how about with [Former
12	Staffer 2]? I know that she was somewhat involved
13	in that process as well.
14	A Yes.
15	Q Did you have any conversation with her?
16	A No. I would no. I just coordinate
17	with [Former Staffer 2] primarily through e-mail. We would
18	have a phone call on occasion, just, you know,
19	making sure that she got the information that I
20	was providing or, you know, that, hey, I just got
21	some e-mails from you, got us to chat about this
22	because as a scheduler of course, she was taking

1	care of all that stuff and everything. So, yeah.
2	Q Okay. And then how about [Former Staffer 3]?
3	Any conversations
4	A Yes.
5	Q with her about about that process?
6	A Just indirect type of things, just an
7	investigation was underway. Of course, she was
8	handling some of the she was as my
9	understanding is [Former Staffer 3] was both staff and
10	campaign and that she was handling a lot of the
11	expenses of the campaign and trying to keep track
12	of that and it was kind of kind of jumbled up a
13	little bit. [Former Staffer 3] was a young lady, kind of
14	really had no didn't have a lot of experience
15	doing that kind of thing. And so there was, you
16	know, I guess some issues or problems with that,
17	but I I wasn't aware of the specific so much.
18	I know she was nervous. If you will,
19	just trying to handle all those things and
20	everything. She she popped into the office
21	here on occasion when because she would work
22	over at the congressman's house on occasion, too,

1 and -- and that type of thing in the campaign role 2 that she played. She'd -- she'd, you know, like I 3 said be (inaudible) times on occasion in her role 4 as a -- as a staffer as well, but not a whole lot. 5 Okay. And then how about with Michael Q 6 Hough? Any particular conversations about the 7 review or -- or collecting documents? 8 Α Nothing in -- nothing in specific 9 He and I that I can recall. I mean, Mike system. 10 would -- would send out sort of the notifications 11 to, you know, save all the documents, save all the 12 e-mails, you know, be honest, straightforward, be 13 cooperative, you know, just sort of a general sort 14 of, you know, making staff aware and that you may 15 be contacted. And if you are, you know, please 16 follow through accordingly, you know, on a 17 professional, honest, ethical way, you know, that 18 type of thing. 19 Okay. And then lastly, Representative 0 20 Any -- any conversations with him about 21 the review or -- or the response to the review? 22 Α No. Nothing that I can recall of any

specific nature.

Q Okay. Okay. And then just kind of moving on down that laundry list. One of the things I want to talk about is the -- is the use of staff for what potentially could be personal errands. If you either ever -- ever seen that or had any concerns about that. We can start kind of generally and -- and then I'll -- I'll ask you some more specific questions, but I guess a direct question being -- have -- have you ever had any concerns about staff being used for personal errands?

A Yeah. I mean, there were some sort of times where people would be like, you know, running one of their kids to class. Heard rumblings that, you know, previous staff members had sort of babysit the younger child before that type of thing, you know, I've heard rumblings about Ranier doing things for the family, you know, car repairs, that type of thing. So -- and in all honesty, yeah, you know, I definitely had heard sort of, kind of I'm blurring other lines,

1 if you will. 2 Okay. We can run through some of those 3 specifics. Let's -- let's take those couple of examples that you gave me just kind of one-by-one 4 5 quickly. So first you said running -- running kids to class? 6 7 I know the oldest son took some Α Yeah. 8 classes at Blue Ridge here in Martinsburg, the 9 -- the community college or the technical and 10 community College here. And my understanding was 11 is that there had been times where perhaps 12 somebody gone to pick one of the kids, you know, 13 pick him up that type of thing. I don't think it 14 was a normal part of the -- of the schedule, but 15 just on occasion when there was need, I think Mrs. 16 Mooney probably did a lot of that. Again, I'm 17 speculating on that -- that type of thing. 18 When you say Mrs. Mooney did -- did a 19 lot of that, you mean made those requests? 20 It was just -- would happen on No. No. 21 a -- and I don't even know who would make the 22 request quite frankly. I know one time I was with

1	the literally the the community college is
2	like a half-mile off Interstate 81 and sign out
3	one time I was driving somewhere. It's been a
4	long time ago, probably back '18 and like, Oh, can
5	we drop my son off at school?
6	You know, and like I said, it was a
7	very, very minor blip off what the normal route
8	would have been. Certainly seemed very reasonable
9	thing to do at the time. Now, like I said for
10	other things where, you know staff had babysat or
11	picked up one of the kids somewhere, that type of
12	thing.
13	Q I think maybe I misunderstood what you
14	had said earlier. Did you mean if that normally
15	was Mrs. Mooney that would pick up the
16	A Yeah. That was my understanding that
17	she would probably be the one who was doing that
18	or even even (inaudible) Lala possibly. I
19	I'm not sure specifics like it probably varied
20	from day to day and time to time.
21	Q Do you remember who told you that they
22	had picked up the older son from Community

1	College? Do you know who might have done that.
2	A Maybe Rainer, you know, it's possible.
3	Q And then you mentioned babysitting
4	sometimes. Do you recall any specific incidents
5	or any any specifics staffers that might have
6	done that?
7	A Yeah. This this goes back to when
8	Hannah, I think, Mansell Hannah Mansell if
9	you heard that name, that she was part staff, part
10	campaign and I heard from others, you know, that
11	sometimes she would take care of the kids, watch
12	the kids on occasion while she was working in the
13	house on the campaign staff. But, again, I
14	that was second, third-hand information. So
15	wasn't anything I can specifically attest to. You
16	know, actually. Did it occur when it occurred or
17	anything like that?
18	Q Okay. And then quickly this on on
19	those first two running kids to classes or baby
20	sitting. Do you know did those happen sort of
21	during traditional work hours like, you know, 9:00
22	to 5:00 or 9:00 to 6:00?

1 I'm -- I'm sure they did. I'm sure they 2 did. Yeah. 3 You also mentioned Rainer doing car 4 Can you go into a little more detail 5 about that? 6 Α This is the idea that I know the -- the 7 Mooney's had older vehicles typically, and Rainer 8 would on occasion make sure they were operational, 9 I guess if you trying to make because he's -- he's 10 -- he's very skilled in that regard. And so he 11 was -- I think he was pretty helpful to the 12 Mooney's as far as the maintenance of their 13 vehicles, helping them was in that regard. Not -not -- not solely him, of course, but -- but just 14 15 would -- would take care of some things when they 16 needed to be done if they were minor nature, that 17 type of thing. 18 Okay. And -- and just to make sure I 0 19 understand, you don't mean that he would take the 20 car into like a car repair shop. You mean he 21 would -- he would actually do the repairs on the 22 car?

1	
1	A Probably both, I'm guessing.
2	Q Okay.
3	A Sometimes it would be to a repair shop,
4	sometimes he would do work himself. That's my
5	understanding.
6	Q Okay. I have some kind of examples we
7	could go through or or not actual examples,
8	just kind of hypothetical situations. But is
9	there anything before we go through that kind of
10	list? Anything else off the top of your head that
11	that you can think of that falls into that
12	category of things that seemed like they might
13	have been personal errands?
14	A You know, I I I can't I can't
15	really think of anything. At one time I did a
16	little work for the daughter. She was doing a
17	saying what the daughter was calling a read
18	program for for for children and it was a
19	nice school project. And I got a couple of
20	contexts for her, you know, but it wasn't anything
21	very time-consuming or anything else, but, no.
22	Other than that, not really, you know.

1	Q Just taking that maybe that example of a
2	that situation. Just having an example. Do
3	you recall who who originally asked you to help
4	her with that project?
5	A I think they communicated through [Former Staffer 1]
6	to me and then I exchanged a couple of e-mails
7	with the daughter.
8	Q Okay.
9	A Yeah.
10	Q And then like I said, we can go through
11	a couple sort of hypothetical or sort of typical
12	instances and and you can tell me if they ring
13	a bell, or if you think of any new
14	A Okay.
15	Q So maybe we can talk about the tasks for
16	particular family members. Do you remember
17	anything that you did for let's take Grace
18	Mooney first?
19	A No. No. I've never done anything for
20	Grace.
21	Q No? Okay. Or how about I think you've
22	mentioned represented Mooney's mother, Lala?

1	A Yeah. No.
2	Q Any recall
3	A No. I mean, you know, I consider Lala a
4	friend and we communicate on personal e-mails and
5	stuff, but have not really done anything on office
6	time that would sort of go beyond, you know, what
7	would normally take place. You know, like I said,
8	I consider her a friend and somebody that
9	obviously cares a lot of about her son. She's
10	probably she's she's probably his most
11	ardent supporter and she gets out and about and
12	visits a lot of folks and everything. As as,
13	you know, for an 80-year-old woman, she's the
14	sweetest lady. So, yeah.
15	Q Okay. Any more sort of driving related
16	tasks that you can think of or specific incidents
17	where where you think the the trip was for a
18	personal purpose as opposed to official or
19	campaign?
20	A Nothing that involved me. The the
21	only time, quite frankly I can recall that I did
22	anything on a personal basis that Jane road trip

1	earlier this year where it was a Saturday and
2	congressman, after that trip, instead of going
3	home, went to her home in Virginia, sort of, I
4	guess it'd be east of the Winchester area to visit
5	a friend that they were having a little get
6	together with folks for UFC or one of them, I
7	don't know.
8	Probably UFC type fight thing and you
9	know, I claim mileage. I forget whether it was to
10	the district office to my house, but I didn't
11	claim anything beyond that. Just sort of aid
12	those costs because I knew they were legitimate
13	cost to make beyond what I should claim. So
14	Q Okay. Right.
15	A Yeah.
16	Q Do do you recall about how long that
17	that detour to that friend's house was?
18	A For me, is probably a round trip of 60
19	maybe 70 miles from, you know
20	Q In addition in addition
21	A in addition to what I would have
22	claimed. I I don't know the exact figure

1	the exact number, but it was probably something
2	close to that. And that and that would be the
3	the grand total. So 30, 35 miles each
4	direction.
5	Q Great. And then just thinking about
6	that as an example. How how was that request
7	made to you or or described to you?
8	A Yeah. I mean, we were we were we
9	were driving headed back. He said, Oh, by the
10	way, could you run me over to this friend's house?
11	We're going over there and then my understanding
12	was the son was already there and they were going
13	to drive back in their personal vehicle, you know,
14	that type of thing. So
15	Q Did was there any recognition from
16	Representative Mooney that this was a personal
17	favor or a personal trip as opposed to work or did
18	it come as kind of just a standard type of work
19	request that he would make? Can you drive me
20	A It was Saturday and it was Saturday
21	evening and it was getting late and they they
22	

1 we were getting probably back later than 2 anticipated perhaps, I'm not even sure about that. 3 Can I run them over there? Would that be okay? 4 And I said sure. 5 Q Okay. 6 Α You know, and it was not asked that I 7 not report it or anything. I just took it upon 8 myself to say look, that's not something I can 9 claim officially. So I didn't. 10 Great. For -- in any discussion that 11 you -- that you have with anybody else, either 12 Rainer or discussions about like Hannah looking 13 after the kids. Did you get an impression from those individuals about -- about how they received 14 15 those requests? Did they understand them as 16 personal errands that they could turn down or did 17 -- or was this just seen as sort of, you know, 18 understood that this was part of your -- your job 19 as far as -- yeah. Was it -- was it understood 20 that that was, you know, standard or -- or a 21 normal part of their job? 22 Α I -- I know that such requests probably

```
1
      -- well, not on a regular basis, were not
2
      infrequent either. I never had a conversation
      with Hannah about those things like I said.
3
      Rainer I would talk to on occasion and, you know,
4
5
      just I think he, [Former Staffer 1], [Former Staffer 2], others kind of
      would express concern that, you know, some of
6
7
      these things were certainly not appropriate, if
8
      you will, and sort of go beyond what should be
      asked of a staff person. I can say I don't --
                Did --
10
                -- regular, but I -- but on the other
11
      hand, I -- they -- they did occur on -- on number
12
      of occasions.
13
                Okay. Did -- did you ever get an
14
15
      impression from them or have a conversation about
16
      whether or not they felt comfortable saying no to
      the congressman?
17
                No. I -- I mean, I -- [Former Staffer 2] probably
18
      would be uncomfortable saying no, I would think.
19
20
      That was my impression. I don't think [Former Staffer 1] would
21
      be uncomfortable saying no, you now, Rainer,
22
      because you'd have to understand who Rainer is and
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1	and he's really kind of a very strong supporter
2	of the congressman, felt like it was you know,
3	I mean, he he would sometimes express concern.
4	But the other hand, he would also
5	willingly do it. It wasn't like so I don't
6	know whether he felt uncomfortable saying no or
7	not, but it seemed like he was willingly wanting
8	to do things, just be helpful and supportive over
9	the time that he was with the congressman.
10	Q Okay. Understood. Did you ever hear
11	about any tasks related to dry cleaning or or
12	laundry the personal attire?
13	A I mean, vaguely I may recall like
14	fearing like maybe Hannah pickup the laundry or
15	something like that. I I have no direct
16	knowledge of that occurring. Just sort of
17	indirect conversations that, you know, hadn't
18	occurred and that would have been a very I may
19	have heard that once or twice, you know, during my
20	tenure here. Nothing recently in that regard,
21	but, yeah, I I can't say that I've never heard
22	it.

1	Q Okay. And then, just generally, you
2	know, you know, I know Rainer retired, and I I
3	don't think Hannah spoke to the congressman
4	anymore
5	A No. She had been throw
6	Q so there is you know. Okay. In
7	hearing about turnover in the office or or
8	people leaving, did you ever get the impression
9	that anybody left or that part of the reason for
10	their departure was because they wouldn't do these
11	sorts of tasks for the congressman?
12	A The only person that I that I got the
13	impression left that was encouraged to leave, let
14	me put it that way, maybe would be [Former Staffer 3], just
15	because she was not doing the best of work on
16	tracking the finances and and and so forth.
17	Then off course recently there was [Former Staffer 6] who was
18	dismissed for I would kind of call it
19	insubordination.
20	Q Okay. Yeah, we can come one of the
21	laundry list items is is [Former Staffer 6] so we can we
22	can come back to that in a second. So you said

```
you -- your impression about [Former Staffer 3] departure
1
2
    was -- was more related to the quality of her work
3
    and less to do with --
               Well, I mean --
4
5
               -- agreeing to or not agreeing --
6
               -- she left to get another job. I'm
          Α
7
             I'm -- I'm talking over you. I apologize.
    sorry.
8
          0
               No.
          Α
               She left to --
10
          Q
               Go ahead.
11
               -- get another job on the Hill. I
12
    believe it was Congressman Livingston's office in
13
    Louisiana is my recollection. It's like I said, I
14
    don't think she was fired. I do know there was
15
    displeasure with some of her work performance.
16
          Q
               Okay.
17
               So it -- it may have been sort of a
18
    mutually -- a mutual thing, if you will.
19
               Okay. But did -- did you -- I had
20
    originally asked the question, you know, did
21
    anybody depart basically because they wouldn't do
22
    those sorts of personal errands. And -- and you
```

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mentioned [Former Staffer 3] but it sounds like maybe her
1
2
     departure had more to do with the quality of her
3
     work --
               Yeah -- yeah --
4
          Α
5
          0
               -- or was it also --
6
               -- that -- that --
          Α
7
               -- or what -- okay.
8
               No. I -- I don't know of anything
     specific in that regard for anybody that they were
9
     asked to do something and they didn't do it, and
10
     therefore were -- were kind of forced out. I
11
12
     don't have any recollection of anything like that.
13
     The only --
14
          0
               Okay.
               -- staff turnover evident, you know,
15
16
     within the last three to six months, you know,
     there's been a -- a -- a number of folks leaving.
17
     Anything I would say about their departures would
18
19
     be speculative. I know [Former Staffer 1] situation and he's
20
     got a -- he got a great job at
                                                  and I
21
     told him, I -- I thought it was, like, his perfect
22
     job. So I -- I think that was a natural thing for
```

1	him. I know he had been kind of looking to leave
2	at some point and COVID kind of reduced those
3	opportunities, if you will.
4	But this seemed like a natural move for
5	him to make. You know, [Former Staffer 2] departure,
6	Lynn's departure, Garrett's departure, I mean,
7	again, they were all going to other folks. So I
8	think there was probably, even in [Former Staffer 1] case,
9	concern about sort of the investigations, and
10	where that was leading, and everything, and that
11	that may have played a role in their decisions.
12	I I can't speak to what their actual rationale
13	was or not in regard to the ethics issues with the
14	congressman.
15	Q Okay. Understood. Let's and then
16	just quickly just to make sure I understood the
17	full story on [Former Staffer 1]. Other than than the
18	, was there was there anything else
19	kind of leading to his departure, any any
20	concerns of either his work or or his
21	willingness to do sorts of the sort of personal
22	errands that we talked about?

1	A Yeah. I'll tell you [Former Staffer 1] was held in
2	very high regard by, I think, both Michael and the
3	congressman for the the thoroughness and
4	professionalism of his work. And I can attest to
5	that myself that that [Former Staffer 1] was a was a great
6	district director. And the the only thing I
7	can say to to to [Former Staffer 1] and the and the
8	congressman was that there would there would be
9	some frustration, you know, primarily him not
10	getting out and and being out and about as much
11	as, you know, he would like.
12	I think there was I think probably
13	there was a general consensus amongst most staff
14	that they wish he was out in the field more,
15	meeting with constituents, talking to folks,
16	having events, you know. I know in my life I've
17	been around number of political folks,
18	congressman, even senators, and it feels like
19	they're a little more active than Congressman
20	Mooney.
21	Q Okay. All right. So then then,
22	generally, he departed on pretty on good terms,

1	I guess?
2	A Oh, yeah. Yeah. Without a doubt. I
3	mean, I think they both the congressman and
4	Michael would would say they really hated to
5	see him go just because he was so professional and
6	so dependable.
7	MR. QUINN: Okay. Great. We've been
8	going for about an hour and 20 minutes. I hope
9	we'll wrap-up relatively soon, probably in the
10	next 20 minutes or so. But do you need to take a
11	break either for water, or bathroom, or anything?
12	THE WITNESS: I got a couple of water
13	here. I'm great. I'm fine. If you need to do
14	so, I'm good, too. So whatever you need to do,
15	Sean.
16	MR. QUINN: Why don't why don't we
17	take a quick five-minute break off
18	THE WITNESS: Okay.
19	MR. QUINN: the record. I'm just
20	going to look back at my notes and make sure we've
21	covered most things and then I'll try to tighten
22	everything up so that we can get out of here

1	THE WITNESS: Sounds good.
2	MR. QUINN: quickly.
3	THE WITNESS: All right.
4	MR. QUINN: Okay. So so then Kevin,
5	we can go off the record and then I'm just going
6	to mute my video and audio for a few minutes and
7	why don't we I'll turn everything back on in
8	about five minutes.
9	THE WITNESS: Sounds good.
10	MR. QUINN: Okay. Okay. Great.
11	THE REPORTER: Off record
12	MR. QUINN: Thanks, Current Staffer 2.
13	THE REPORTER: 11:19 a.m.
14	(Whereupon, a recess was taken.)
15	THE REPORTER: Back on the record.
16	11:24 a.m.
17	BY MR. QUINN:
18	Q Okay. The only thing I just reviewed
19	my notes almost making sure I'd covered
20	everything. The the one thing I did want to
21	ask you about a little more quickly, the issue of
22	the gift card being used as a reimbursement

```
method. I know you said that policy sort of
1
     changed -- changed at one point. Can you remind
2
3
     me when you think that -- that happened?
4
               Yeah. Again, it -- it was at July or
5
     August of 2020.
6
               Okay. Go.
          0
7
               So that -- remember that visit was to
8
     Nemacolin. The original conversation primarily
9
     with [Former Staffer 3] was that I'd be reimbursed with a gift
     card. And then --
10
11
          Q
               Right.
12
               -- that later -- and it sort of in
13
     process of getting that turned around. Said, Oh,
     we -- we shouldn't do that. So we're going to
14
     just -- he ended up giving me a personal check for
15
16
     it.
               Okay. And then do you recall -- do you
17
     know how that -- how that policy change happened,
18
19
     or who recommended it, or who identified it as an
20
     issue?
21
                   [Former Staffer 3] didn't really go into much
22
     detail about it. So I don't recall much of the --
```

the logic. I -- I -- Mike -- Michael may have 1 2 said something in passing about the -- the -- the 3 reasons why, but I don't even recall what those 4 were to be honest. It was kind of confusing to me 5 anyway as to why they originally thought it was, 6 you know, sort of a proper reimbursement tool and 7 -- and then what it's not. And then do you recall any other uses 8 for those gift cards or -- or did you see any other use for those gift cards? 10 11 No. Aside from what I saw in the -- in the report that came out, you know, that they were 12 13 used on a -- I quess, on a variety of ways and I'm -- I'm not even sure specifically how they were 14 15 used beyond, you know, like for campaign related 16 expenses and that type of thing. But yeah. 17 Q Okay. Okay. Great. Then let's move on 18 to talking quickly about [Former Staffer 6]. I know you 19 mentioned you were aware some of the circumstances 20 of his departure. 21 Right. Α 22 Q And can you just -- can you just tell me

about that generally?

A My impression about what happened there was that he was in a conversation with a gentleman who I had also talked to before too and actually had meetings with Chuck de Caro. And original meetings were to you'd like to meet with a congressman and he had some concerns about international relations affairs. He had a background that, you know, he was a CNN reporter a while back. He had done instruction at military for military officers in the past. He had been a special ops guy himself back when he was much younger.

So, you know, certainly I took a meeting with the guy and I recommended actually that the -- the congressman meet with him. They didn't want to. I guess that was an irritant to Chuck. And he told me as much and began writing some series of articles in the American Greatness, I guess it's a podcast or something or it's actually on the web, too, written articles that were pretty scathing of the congressman and Michael in

1	particular. Congressman (inaudible) with him as
2	well. And you know, they his wife is the
3	former Headline News anchor for CNN.
4	And so they live in Harpers Ferry, so
5	they're constituents as well. And I told folks,
6	you know, I don't agree with I don't think I
7	told this to Michael or the congressman, but I
8	think I basically felt like, you know, Chuck was
9	kind by of an East Coast kind of guy and kind of
10	had the same mentality that, like, a President
11	Trump would have, that if if he wouldn't, you
12	know, if if you diss me, I was going to diss
13	you harder kind of thing. And so I think that was
14	kind of the the logic of Chuck's motivation in
15	doing some of those articles.
16	I think from what I understand, [Former Staffer 6]
17	was sort of a mole for him in the office. Chuck
18	never told me that. He never gave me a name. But
19	as putting connecting the dots, it appears to
20	[Former Staffer 6] was that individual. And from what my
21	understanding with the investigation they did,
22	they found out that he had had correspondence with

1	and conversations with Chuck and was divulging
2	internal matters that were were very
3	unprofessional in nature and led to his dismissal.
4	Q Okay. And so you said you said that
5	you had had some initial meetings with Mr. de Caro
6	
7	A And even conversations
8	Q when
9	A after the fact, too. Even after some
10	of the articles had been written he had called me
11	a couple of times, and I'd even met with him a
12	couple of times because I was still trying to
13	encourage them to meet with him. And again, that
14	was, yeah. They just thought he was this crazy
15	guy, and a mean guy, and they didn't want anything
16	to do with him. Everything. And my final
17	conversation with him was probably maybe two
18	months ago.
19	And I said, pretty much, Chuck, you
20	know, I understand your frustration. I wish
21	they'd meet with you, too, but they're not. And,
22	you know, you know, you're doing a lot of harm to

1 the -- the most conservative guy in the state as 2 far as members of Congress, and is that what you 3 really want? Because Chuck always portrayed 4 himself as very a conservative guy. And so --5 excuse me, I got a --6 MR. QUINN: Hope no complaints if you 7 need to take a break. 8 You know -- you know, look at where 9 you're headed with this and is this what you're 10 really want to do just because he won't meet with 11 you? And so I don't know how much influence, if 12 any, that had with Chuck, but I've -- there have 13 not been any articles since then. 14 So like I say, I was trying to kind of 15 look out for the congressman's mom in the process and just kind of have conversations with her about 16 17 her meetings with Chuck. And, again, those were 18 all sort of not -- not on any official capacity, 19 but just sort of off the record stuff that I and 20 her and I had private conversations about with 21 Chuck -- about Chuck, if you will, and I was just 22 kind of looking out for her, too, but -- and that

1	was the nature of things.
2	Q So was was Chuck in conversation with
3	Lala also?
4	A They actually he met with Lola met
5	with Chuck and his wife for a lunch one Saturday,
6	awhile back, I would say probably April, maybe.
7	Something like that.
8	Q April of 2021?
9	A Yeah yeah. It was this year. It was
10	April or May, something like that.
11	Q I think we'll return to the kind of
12	specific interactions with with Chuck. But I
13	wanted to ask more generally about policies around
14	interacting with the press or how staff interact
15	with the press. Is is that part of do you
16	consider that part of your duties
17	A No. As a matter of fact
18	Q one of them is to interface with the
19	press?
20	No. No. It's not an policies during
21	clearing the office about that, you know, really
22	the communications director, Chief of Staff,

1	the congressman, are the only people that should
2	be talking to the press. And then the Chuck
3	situation, his original representation was not as
4	a member of press. It was as a like constituent
5	it's kind of morphed into him writing articles
6	and becoming a member of the press at that point.
7	And so, yeah, the original thing was
8	just same as a constituent, and, quite frankly,
9	you know, his motivation, again, he had some
10	concerns, he wanted to, you know, be the
11	congressman about international concerns, China,
12	you know, Russia, had a really good background and
13	those types of issues. But then, that also
14	morphed into more his idea that I really liked to
15	sit down and helped the congressman do a better
16	job of of standing up for conservative values.
17	And he's on the same committee as AOC
18	and Maxine Waters, the Financial Services
19	Committee and Chuck's idea was he should be going
20	after those folks all the time and given his
21	background, you know, as a as a Hispanic
22	himself, you know, he couldn't be he could

1	consider himself a minority, if you will. And so
2	nobody could say he was this white guy going after
3	women of color or other ethnic origin, that type
4	of thing. And his idea was, you know, you got
5	this bully pulpit, you should use it and you
6	should, you know, dress better.
7	His background in TV, you should make
8	your appearances, you know, he was saying, I went
9	to help him do a better job of doing his job. And
10	they just, you know, turned the deaf ear to all of
11	that stuff. My my words to, like, Lynn Hatcher
12	and others, [Former Staffer 1], was, you know, if he would just
13	meet with this guy, I don't think he's a type of
14	guy that would, you know, after you met with him
15	and maybe you might like, you know, I mean, they
16	he brings a lot of things to the table that
17	some expertise that maybe helpful. He's not
18	wanted to get paid for anything.
19	I don't want to be paid for anything. I
20	just want be, you know, help this guy do his job,
21	you know. That was his kind of mindset. So
22	whatever reason that never came to fruition and I

1 could say, my last contact with Chuck was just try 2 to encourage him to cease and desist, if you will. 3 Okay. So you said last contact was 4 about two months ago. Can --5 Yeah, give or take. Yeah. Α 6 0 Do you recall the -- the first time you 7 spoke to him? 8 Α I think our first meeting --9 Like when that was. 0 10 It was like a meeting request and I Α 11 think it was March of this year. And I did set 12 something up for -- for him to also meet with 13 senator Capito's office as well. So we had a joint meeting in our offices here in Martinsburg 14 15 to have, you know, that again, was more on the international side of things and that was kind of 16 17 the initial point of a conversation, like I say, then they kind of morphed into this more, I can be 18 19 a help to the congressman, help him do a better 20 That's appearance and sort of rhetoric and iob. 21 everything. 22 And then I think at some point,

1 obviously Mr. Hough and Representative Mooney 2 became aware of Chuck -- or Mr. de Caro, weren't 3 happy with those interactions and -- and they 4 warned staff off of speaking to Mr. de Caro; is 5 that right? 6 Right -- right. 7 Okay. And when do you -- do you recall 0 8 when that happened? 9 That would probably be June of this Α year. And I did have conversations with Mr. de 10 11 Caro after that. Quite frankly, I did not contact 12 He contacted me on my personal cell phone. 13 And so those conversations were response to him 14 calling me. 15 Okay. And do -- were Mike -- Mike Hough 0 and Representative Mooney were in those 16 17 conversations? I don't know about specific -- the 18 Α 19 specific conversations, but I think in general 20 they were aware that I had talked with him and at 21 some point they -- they came back to me and said, 22 look, like you really just need to quit talking to

1 this guy. And so I did. You know, and he I 2 again, like I said my last conversation was more 3 of Chuck you just need to cease and desist. 4 You're not -- this is not going to go anywhere. 5 And, you know, let's -- let's, you know, 6 hopefully damage has already been done -- done and 7 -- and anymore damage would not be helpful to the 8 cause, so to speak. If you're really a 9 conservative guy and want to see conservative 10 things happen, you're going after the one true 11 conservative in the West Virginia delegation that 12 really sort of stands for conservative values and 13 so forth. So that was my -- that was my message 14 to Chuck, in the last time I talked to him. 15 MR. QUINN: Okay. I want to understand a little bit. I'll -- I'll preface some of these 16 17 questions with saying I understand this can be 18 sensitive issues, particularly for you since 19 you're still on Representative Mooney's office. 20 So if -- if anything we've talked about today --21 so I'll preface that with, if anything, we talked 22 about today is particularly sensitive for you, I

1	hadn't explained before, but when witnesses
2	cooperate we itemize their names and reports
3	actually can can we go off the record for one
4	second while I just explained that?
5	THE REPORTER: Off the record about
6	11:38 a.m.
7	(Whereupon, a discussion was held off
8	the record.)
9	THE REPORTER: Back on the record, 11:40
10	a.m.
11	BY MR. QUINN:
12	Q So I wanted to ask, you know, I know you
13	said that there at some point, was a warning to
14	stop not to talk to Chuck. And that's all of your
15	conversations with Chuck continued after that? It
16	sounds like maybe Mike and Representative Mooney
17	were generally aware that you were in contact with
18	him, but maybe not, you know, appraised of the
19	specifics of your conversation?
20	A Right.
21	Q Does that sound about accurate?
22	A Yeah. I don't know after how much

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awareness they had or didn't have, but, you know my motivation was again, kind of twofold, well, threefold. I was trying to look out after his mother a little bit because I knew she was still in contact with him to some level, or was planning to be. And so I was trying to be sort of a quardian of her, if you will, on case she needed any help, guidance, that type of thing. And then, again, I was also concerned about the nature of the articles, that they were hostile in nature and that they were doing damage. I was trying to, at the end, like I say, especially trying to encourage him to kind of just turn off the spigot it so to speak, You know, basically asking where it's just going to go. You

turn off the spigot it so to speak, You know,
basically asking where it's just going to go. You
know, you -- you had your fun and you -- you kind
of, you know, made light at some things and saying
but at the end of the day, where is this going to
go? What's -- what's your goal here and you
really want to maintain sort of having somebody
with some real solid conservative values, then
you're really kind of going after the wrong guy,

1 you know, that type of things. 2 So again, I don't know what really 3 happened to her or what his motivation was to stop 4 and whether he will continue at some point in the 5 I don't know. I have no idea. But that future. 6 was the extent of it. 7 And I guess, and the third thing, guite 8 frankly, and I was at the August 2nd lunch and we 9 talked about Chuck in Moorfield, and, you know, 10 both the congressman and his wife were both like, 11 Oh, we've seen people like this before, and we 12 just did not even talk with them. And I'd hoped 13 that they would actually -- I thought there was 14 somebody to talk about, except both, just from 15 getting him to be more cooperative, but also there 16 could be some things they could learn from him 17 given his past background and TV and -- and he was a Screen Actors Guild member. 18 19 He was a consultant to JAG and NCIS 20 television shows and had some expertise that they 21 kind of overlooked, I think, or didn't want to

factor into the equation. I was just trying to be

22

1	helpful to the member and and I really thought
2	that the end of the day there there could be
3	some things that might be some benefits that he
4	could offer, but I cannot that was not
5	something they thought and so ultimately that's
6	their call to make.
7	Q Okay. Do you know was the congressman
8	aware that his mother and Chuck
9	A Yeah.
10	Q were having conversations?
11	A Yeah. And they were both him
12	especially, he was very direct to his mother
13	about, you know, not talking to him.
14	Q Okay. And then we've talked about how
15	you piece together or it's your opinion that Chuck
16	was also talking to [Former Staffer 6]
17	A Yeah.
18	Q And and and you talked about
19	basically sort of an investigation or an internal
20	investigation that maybe like and the congressman
21	did to figure out who was talking to Chuck. Can
22	you can you tell me what you know about that

1	that process or that situation?
2	A You know, I don't know much about it
3	except that they were they were basically going
4	through, you know, staff, official e-mails and
5	and and sort of correspondence things.
6	Their original assumption was that they
7	had been hacked, you know, and I I doubted that
8	was very much the case because, and I don't know
9	Chuck super well, but I know him well enough to
10	to relay thing that that was not something in
11	his own way, he's a man of integrity, too, and I
12	would never think he would stoop to that level of
13	of and I don't know that he had the
14	expertise to do it quite frankly, but, again, I
15	think that was their original assumption.
16	And then once they started going through
17	and kind of did the internal investigation and
18	found out what [Former Staffer 6] was doing, they realized
19	that, you know, he was the leak, so to speak.
20	Q Okay. So I wanted to ask since since
21	you were in conversation with Mr. de Caro and some
22	of those conversations were after staff had been

1 warned not to talk to him. And I guess you 2 understood that they were sort of doing an 3 investigation to under -- to figure out where the leaks were coming from. Did you have any concern 4 5 that you were going to be, you know, kind of swept 6 up in that or -- or that they might say that you 7 were the source of those leaks. 8 I mean, you know, that crosses your 9 I mean, I know I had nothing -- I didn't 10 feel like I had anything to hide that's why I 11 think I'm with you today, too, quite frankly, I --12 I don't -- my motives in this whole process to try 13 and be of help to the congressman, not to harm 14 him. And so -- and -- and to help his mother as 15 well as who I genuinely like and who, I think an 16 awful a lot of, you know, so like I say my -- my 17 motivations I -- I guess they were multiple 18 motivations, if you will, in the whole process. 19 In that dialogue. I don't -- I don't 20 know that I talked to Chuck Mr. de Caro after I 21 knew there was an internal investigation going on, 22 I just -- those time frames were very close

1	together. That internal investigation didn't			
2	start until in the late July, the earliest would			
3	be my guess. I'd have to look back and see			
4	precisely, but that sounds about right.			
5	Q Okay. And I don't want you to speculate			
6	too much, so just let me know if you don't have an			
7	answer to this, but you you described that you			
8	weren't too concerned about the investigation			
9	because you knew your motivations and and felt			
10	like your conversations with Mr. de Caro were kind			
11	of in Representative Mooney's interest			
12	understanding that it appears [Former Staffer 6] was let go			
13	because of his communications with Chuck, how do			
14	you think they were different? Do you think his			
15	his motivation was different or			
16	A Oh, yeah. No no. I think there was a			
17	purposeful intent on his part to to feed			
18	information to Mr. de Caro that was used in those			
19	articles to, I guess, inflict pain/damage on the			
20	congressman and Mike and everybody else, you know,			
21	so in that, his motivation I would think is is			
22	almost a 180 from mine as to and why he			

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wanted to -- why he did that, I -- I have no clue.
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2
     [Former Staffer 6] was -- is a bright young man. I think the
3
     congressman genuinely liked him. I think Michael
4
     genuinely liked him.
5
               And why he saw fit to kind of, sort of
6
     feed that process is beyond my ability to
7
     comprehend that, if you will. You know, And I
8
     would -- I would offer that there's two shots. I
     -- there was -- I had a legitimate concern, you
9
10
     know, I mean, I -- I -- I know my -- in my own
     heart what it was, but their interpretation of
11
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     what I was doing at some point I, you know, I
13
     said, you know, who knows, you know, at the end of
     the day I can, you know, if it came -- came to,
14
     like, was my head held -- help -- head-held high,
15
16
     so to speak.
17
               But I certainly didn't know the
     interpretation Michael or the congressman might
18
19
     make in that regard as well so --
20
               Okay. Did -- did you end up ever
21
     having, as a result of that investigation, did you
22
     ever end up having a conversation with Mike or the
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representative that was sort of, you know, like Come to Jesus moment about communications with Chuck, did they say like, Hey, you need a cut -you need to cut communication --Α Yeah. No. Yeah, I mean, I tried to be upfront with them. I'm sorry. I talk over you again, I apologize. I -- I tried to be upfront with them as much as I could. Like I say, at that -- at that August 2nd lunch, you know, we did talk 10 about some -- to some degree, and I -- I -- I'm almost a hundred percent sure I have not talk with 11 12 Chuck after that lunch. And so, yeah, I mean, no, 13 they -- they just had a different interpretation 14 of him and who he was and, you know, at -- at the 15 end of day it was all who made their call as to 16 whether or not to -- to use him. 17 Like I said, my attitude was you could 18 have avoided all of these issues and problems with 19 him had you just taken the time to -- to meet with 20 him and -- and perhaps and -- and again, whether 21 or not they would have ever taken him up on his 22 offer to help I'd have no idea, probably not. But

1	at least meeting with the guy and giving him a
2	sort of chance to offer some guidance and
3	direction I think whether, you know, spend a half
4	hour, go have coffee with him in Harpers Ferry or
5	something, you know, but
6	Q Right.
7	A they didn't see fit to do that.
8	Q Okay. And and then focusing again a
9	little bit on on [Former Staffer 6], we, as I sort of just
10	explained to you, keep witnesses anonymous and
11	and don't disclose who we talk to and and don't
12	talk to.
13	So I'm not making any representations
14	about whether or not we have talked to [Former Staffer 6] but
15	of our understanding from Representative Mooney
16	and his counsel is that they are concerned about
17	our perception of of [Former Staffer 6] firing and have
18	explained to us why why [Former Staffer 6] was let go and
19	and in that process, have have essentially
20	made the argument to the the OCE that they
21	believed [Former Staffer 6] spoke to the OCE and that that is
22	not the reason that they that they let him go.

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Have you heard anything about those
1
     sorts of concerns that part of the [Former Staffer 6]
2
3
     departure had to do --
4
          0
               No.
5
               -- with his involvement with OCE?
6
               No. I -- they -- really until your
7
     request to interview me, I never even made the
8
     connection that [Former Staffer 6] and you already had talked
9
     or may have talked and that I certainly had no
10
     inclination or -- or that even the slightest
     motivation in his dismissal had to do with any
11
12
     conversations he had with your all's office. No.
13
               Okay. Are there -- are there any other
          0
     members of the press that -- that you've had
14
15
     communications with other than to Chuck de Caro to
16
     the extent that we're going to call -- try to call
17
     a member of the press?
               Right. Exactly, I know. It's kind of a
18
          Α
19
20
          Q
               Any -- any --
21
          Α
               -- I have not that I can -- that I can
22
              I mean, I've been to a few events where
     recall.
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1
      I've had a photograph taken and, you know, or had
2
      some remarks said at an event where maybe some
      things talked about that I said like in a letter
3
      or something from the congressman but had as to
4
      being interviewed or having conversations with or
5
      anything like that, no.
6
                Okay. And then how about in the process
8
      of that internal investigation, did you hear about
      either [Former Staffer 6] or any other staffers speaking to
10
      any other members of the press?
                No. No.
11
12
                And then how about anybody else talking
      to Mr. de Caro? Any other staff members other
13
      than you and [Former Staffer 6]?
14
15
           Α
                Not -- let me think. I did not -- I
16
      mean, [Former Staffer 2] talked to him initially, I believe as
      far as the scheduling requests and I don't even
17
      know if that's accurate or not, but I think that's
18
      true. But aside from that, I -- I don't know of
19
20
      anybody else on-staff that aside from answering a
21
      phone call or something like that would have --
22
      [Current Staffer 1] may have. No, but I think [Current Staffer 1] may have
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1
      -- he may have contacted [Current Staffer 1] or something, but
2
      I think that was very minimal --
3
                Yes.
                -- but going to say other than that, I
4
      don't know of anybody.
5
                Okay. I think we're almost done, just
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7
      looking through some of my notes. I'm making sure
8
      I didn't miss anything.
                One thing I'll ask you, going back to
10
      talking about the first review and collecting
      documents and information, I -- I know we talked
11
12
      about [Former Staffer 1] involvement in that process and
      [Former Staffer 2] and I think [Former Staffer 3] to some extent, and did
13
      -- did you ever have any conversations with them
14
15
      or concerns on your own about whether documents
16
      were being collected thoroughly or whether
      documents were being deleted or withheld from the
17
      OCE or tampered with in any way?
18
           Α
                Not whatsoever. No.
19
                Okay. Then last couple of questions for
20
21
      you are just kind of more general questions. Is
22
      -- is there anything that we haven't talked about
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1	today that you see as a concern that you would			
2	want us to be aware of? You know, we've talked			
3	about some various trips and using staff for			
4	personal errands. Any other issues that that			
5	you've noticed in your time at Representative			
6	Mooney's office that that you think we should			
7	be aware of?			
8	A You know, I I think some of those			
9	things you're you're already aware of, you			
10	know. I think staff has always, you know, that			
11	I've been around, you know, this place express a			
12	little bit of concern of, you know, him just being			
13	a little I'm trying to think of the right			
14	words. I don't I don't think it's intentional			
15	sort of thing. Just not being thorough and			
16	thinking it through how what should be considered			
17	an expenditure.			
18	I know a couple of times I've ended up			
19	eating costs just because he bought some things			
20	and I put on on my card and he said, Well, just			
21	write those off, and I never felt comfortable			
22	writing them off, because they seemed more			

1	personal in nature than they were sort of
2	legitimate. Like, it was beyond just, you know,
3	buying a loaf of bread at a at the at the
4	garden market or something that wasn't just for
5	lunch right then that was going to be taken home,
6	you know, that type of thing.
7	You know, it's just kind of gray areas
8	and things, but I just, you know, I I I
9	always erred on the side of caution on those
10	things and I don't think he necessarily does.
11	I'll just put it that way.
12	Q Okay. Do do you have any specific
13	recollections about those sorts of things, that
14	costs you might have eaten that that you think
15	the congressman considered official, but but
16	you weren't comfortable with?
17	A Yeah. I mean, I can say I just the
18	one thing that always came to my mind was that the
19	Wardensville garden market, this would have been
20	it's been a while ago. It was probably I
21	don't know whether it was in 2020 or 20 it's

1	when, but it was just he bought several items				
2	that clearly were for I thought for family use				
3	and I just wasn't comfortable putting them on my				
4	expense report, you know. I can't say I				
5	Q Okay. So so you were at you were				
6	at a grocery store and and you had purchased				
7	them on your card, but he was taking them				
8	A Yeah, it was actually a				
9	Q taking them home?				
10	A a garden market kind of sort of a				
11	thing where they grew there things and they made				
12	it was like a bakery and, you know, that type				
13	of thing and and it was a good stop for him to				
14	make him say hello to folks and and you know,				
15	the the congressman I mean, you know, the				
16	initial report talked about him going to lunch and				
17	shaking hands and then claiming that as a campaign				
18	expense and and, you know, I've seen him do				
19	that as far as lunches and stuff.				
20	But I've also stopped at the other				
21	places spur of the moment. We'll be going				
22	somewhere else and, Hey, let's stop here for a				

1	second. I want to say hi to folks. And I think				
2	he generally enjoys sort of the impromptu visits				
3	and likes to to get out and sort of take				
4	people's temperature as to what's going on and				
5	it's, you know, it's not just to write-off for				
6	lunch, you know, it's actually, you know, he				
7	legitimately likes to hear from folks and just				
8	everyday folks. Somebody has to call the office				
9	or have a have a need, so somebody that's a				
10	constituent, Hey, I'm your congressman.				
11	What's going on? You know, that type of				
12	thing. So I've seen him do that on a number of				
13	occasions, so.				
14	Q Okay. Just at that that line the				
15	line gets blurred sometimes between the				
15 16	line gets blurred sometimes between the A Yeah.				
16	A Yeah.				
16 17	A Yeah. Q official expenditure and personal				
16 17 18	A Yeah. Q official expenditure and personal expenditure?				
16 17 18 19	A Yeah. Q official expenditure and personal expenditure? A Oh yeah. Absolutely. Absolutely.				

1	A No, not that comes to mind. I mean, you			
2	know, like I say, it's at times, I just think			
3	there's a general sort of frustration with			
4	sometimes how he can be a little be little			
5	lackadaisical about issues like that and, you			
6	know, that's at those concerns before.			
7	Q Actually you know one thing that that			
8	has just jogged my my memory or something that			
9	we that I asked you about we looked into in the			
10	first review was related to a shed that that's			
11	at his house that was built with			
12	A Yeah .			
13	Q with campaign money. Do you know			
14	anything about that shed or or how that's used?			
15	A No. No.			
16	Q No?			
17	A Yeah.			
18	Q Okay. And then aside from any			
19	particular issues, are there any individual that			
20	you think would be particularly knowledgeable			
21	about the stuff that we talked about today that			
22	you think that we should we should talk to?			

1	A Yeah, I mean, you know, I I have
2	mentioned Rainer's name before, and I hate to
3	bring him into it, because I know he's an older
4	gentleman and this is going to it it'll be
5	hard it's hard on him, you know, just
6	emotionally, I think, to have to go through
7	something like this, but obviously he's done a lot
8	of work for the congressman in the past and has
9	has been a friend as well as an employee, you
10	know, and.
11	You know, [Current Staffer 1], in the Charleston
12	office is somebody that's helped the congressman
13	on occasion with with staffing him and stuff,
14	you know, but other than that, really can't think
15	of anybody that would be beyond who we've talked
16	about and everything already so.
17	Q Okay. Okay and so you think Rainer and
18	[Current Staffer 1] would be knowledgeable on the issue of
19	of personal errands?
20	A I don't know about [Current Staffer 1] so much in the
21	personal side of things, you know, but just
22	knowing that [Current Staffer 1] has been with the congressman

1	on several occasions, he may be somebody that can
2	offer some insight.
3	MR. QUINN: Okay. Then I think with
4	that, I'm sorry that we went longer than we
5	originally anticipated, but I think with that,
6	that's all the questions that I have.
7	THE WITNESS: Okay.
8	MR. QUINN: Unless, Annie, are you
9	Annie, are you thinking of anything else that I
10	might have missed and that we should talk about?
11	MS. CHO: I think you covered it all.
12	MR. QUINN: Okay. Great. Well then,
13	I'll reiterate. Thank you very much for for
14	your time. I'm sure you're busy and so we really
15	appreciate you taking the time to answer our
16	questions and I think we we'll be out of your hair
17	now. So if if you don't have anything else for
18	me or any questions, then we can go ahead and go
19	off the record.
20	THE WITNESS: Yeah. Not not at this
21	moment, Sean. I appreciate it. Thanks for your
22	I know you're doing your job and being a

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professional but I also appreciate that.
1
2
               MR. QUINN: Okay. Great. Thank you
3
     very much, Current Staffer 2. Kevin, we can go ahead and go off
4
     the record.
5
                THE REPORTER: Off the record 12:03 p.m.
6
                (Off the record at 12:03 p.m.)
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1	CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER - NOTARY PUBLIC
2	I, KEVIN KISER, the officer
3	before whom the foregoing deposition was taken, do
4	hereby certify that said proceedings were
5	electronically recorded by me; and that I am
6	neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by
7	any of the parties to this case and have no
8	interest, financial or otherwise, in its outcome.
9	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
10	my hand and affixed my notarial seal this 8th day
11	of October, 2021.
12	
13	
14	Notary Registration No.: 7637508
15	My Commission Expires: 9/30/2024
16	
17	Jain Jimen Jaine
18	- Jame Jame 1
19	KEVIN KISER, NOTARY PUBLIC,
20	FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
21	
22	

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSCRIPT 1 2 I, Andrew Hatziyannis, do hereby certify 3 that the foregoing transcript, to the best of my ability, knowledge, and belief, is a true and 4 5 correct record of the proceedings; that said 6 proceedings were reduced to typewriting under my 7 supervision; and that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to 8 9 this case and have no interest, financial or 10 otherwise, in its outcome. 11 12 13 14 Andrew Hatziyannis 15 Planet Depos, LLC 16 October 8, 2021 17 18 19 20 21 22

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Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

ERRATA SHEET

Page	Line	Correction	Reason
8	22	Mooney not Moody	spelling
9	12	add "staff"	not included in text
10	2	Mooney not Moody	spelling
10	10	Liaison not "to gaze on"	incorrect
10	18	drop of	should not be included
12	3	no not know	incorrect spelling
13	21	parades not I prayed	incorrect
14	1	my not your	incorrect
15	16	Ranier Kissel not Ryan Castle	incorrect
16	4	side not site	incorrect
20	6	not added	incorrect
50	21	a few not two	incorrect
51	5	visit not list	incorrect
51	6/7	add "to the Cannan Valley Resort"	correction
53	21	office not officer	incorrect
55	20	for not to	incorrect

This errata sheet is submitted subject to 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (commonly known as the False Statements Act).

Witness Name:		
Witness Signature:		
Date:	11-19-21	

Subject to the Nondisclosure Provisions of H. Res. 895 of the 110th Congress as Amended

ERRATA SHEET

Page	Line	Correction	Reason
54	/	congressmen's not consussand	incorrect
56	9	Martinsburg	incorrect
58	9	Mansell not Mansdowne	in correct
64	4	add "each direction"	te clarify
69	12	Johnson not Livingston	incorrect
71	6	Lynn not Lauren	incurrent
75	/3	pricess not protest	incorrect
78	1	Sentence not clear	not sure what was being said
79	16	anything not everythins	incorrect
32	4	member not matter	incorrect
83	5	pulpit not pump	incorrect
33	11	Lynn, not Glen Chick	incorrect
84	19	a not at	,
33	5/6	delete "I was planning	net sure when was being said
88	14	spiset not speck	incorrect
92	13	to not the	incorrect

This errata sheet is submitted subject to 18	.S.C. § 1001 (commonly known as the False
Statements Act).	

Date:	11-19-21	
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Page	Line	Correction	Reason
94			
93	22	opposite not idea	incorrect
97	15	Chuck not Carl	incorrect
98	13	de Caro hot Takero	in correct
101	19	Wordens with not worden's seed	incorrect
102	/3	Stop not stuff	incerrect
102	17	shaking not your	incerrect
102	20	he has not I've	Incorrect
104	3	Sense net sent	Incorrect
104	11.	built not filled	incorrect

This errata sheet is submitted subject to	18 U.S.C.	§ 1001	(commonly	known as	the False
Statements Act).					

Witness Name:		
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