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SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE
JANUARY 6TH ATTACK ON THE U.S. CAPITOL,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: SHEALAH CRAIGHEAD

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Washington, D.C.

The interview in the above matter was held via Webex, commencing at 2:04 p.m.

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2 Appearances:

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5 For the SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE
6 THE JANUARY 6TH ATTACK ON THE U.S. CAPITOL:

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██████████ Let's go on the record. It's 2:04 p.m. on June 8th, 2022, and this is a transcribed interview of Ms. Shealah Craighead conducted by the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol, pursuant to House Resolution 503.

At this time, I would like to ask you, Ms. Craighead, to introduce yourself. State your name and then spell your last name for the record.

Ms. Craighead. Hi, I'm Shealah Craighead. My full name is spelled S-h-e-a-l-a-h. My last name is Craighead, C-r-a-i-g-h-e-a-d.

██████████ Thank you very much. I notice you have counsel with you as well. Mr. Kaufmann, can you, please, start by introducing yourself.

Mr. Kaufmann. Sure. Adam Kaufmann here, K-a-u-f-m-a-n-n, of the law firm Lewis Baach Kaufmann Middlemiss.

██████████ Thank you, Mr. Kaufmann.

And, Jon, if you could introduce yourself and state your name as well.

██████████ Sure. Of course. I'm Jon Gryskiewicz. J-o-n, G-r-y-s-k-i-e-w-i, C as in Charlie, Z as in Zulu. I'm also with Lewis Baach Kaufmann Middlemiss.

██████████ Very good. Thank you, all.

So this will be a staff-led interview. If any members do decide to join, they can, and they'll probably join via the platform. And once they get on, I will try to let you know that they're here so you're aware. Sometimes if they have questions, what they'll do is they'll turn on their camera, and I will give up the floor to them for anything they might want to ask.

We'll now go through introductions on our sides of things. My name is ██████████

██████████ I am a senior investigative counsel for the select committee. With me today

1 in the room is [REDACTED], another senior investigative counsel for the committee, and
2 [REDACTED], Chief Investigative Counsel for the committee.

3 On the Webex platform, as I explained before we were on the record, there are
4 two official reporters, and they're going to be taking the official record of this interview.
5 So to help them in their efforts, we ask that you wait until each question that we ask is
6 complete before answering, and we in turn will wait until you're done with your answer
7 before asking our next question. And I just remind you that the stenographer can't take
8 down nonverbal responses like shaking your head. So, if you have a yes or a no, please
9 just state that.

10 We do ask that you provide complete answers based on the best of your
11 recollection. We know that a lot of these events happened over a year ago. And so, if
12 you don't remember, that's perfectly fine, then you can just say so. And if any of the
13 questions that I or any of us ask are not clear, please ask us to rephrase, we'd be happy to
14 do so.

15 Now, this interview is -- it's not a deposition, and so you are not being placed
16 under oath, but I do want to remind you like we do for everybody that it is unlawful to
17 deliberately provide false information to congress. So that's the logistics, do you have
18 any questions about that?

19 Ms. Craighead. No, I understand.

20 [REDACTED] Okay. Very good. And, just for planning purposes, if you need a
21 break at any point for comfort or otherwise, just let us know, and we're happy to
22 accommodate that.

23 Ms. Craighead. Thank you.

24 [REDACTED] Okay. So, with that, I understand that there is a statement that
25 you would like to read into the record and will certainly give you the time to do so. So

1 please go ahead whenever you're ready.

2 Ms. Craighead. Thank you. I appreciate that. I just wanted to sort of bring in
3 the history of the White House chief photographer position, which was first created in
4 1963 during the administration of John F. Kennedy. And the first person to hold the
5 position was Cecil Stoughton. And to date, there have been 12 official White House
6 photographers. I was honored to have been appointed to this position in 2017 by
7 Donald J. Trump, as only the second female to hold the position. I also appreciate the
8 opportunity to hold the related position of official White House photographer for multiple
9 administrations over the past 16 years.

10 The position of official chief White House photographer is a crucial to -- position to
11 the archival recording of the history of our country. The historical role is akin to the
12 Presidential diarist, if you will. For me, the duty to record in pictures the events of
13 individuals shaping the policies and history of this country is both a passion and a sacred
14 honor.

15 As chief photographer, I was a neutral observer. I was not involved in the
16 formation or execution of policy and, my duty to document -- my duty was to document
17 history. In my official position, I was a witness to history, and I did my best to record
18 events faithful, accurately, and while reserving judgment. So thank you so much for that
19 opportunity.

20 [REDACTED] Absolutely. And thank you for your statement, Ms. Craighead.

21 EXAMINATION

22

BY [REDACTED]

23 Q So we do want to go some of that -- through some of your background.
24 And you briefly touched on it. But it sounds like you have been a photographer and a
25 White House photographer for quite some time up and through the Trump

1 administration. Can you give us little bit of background when you first started as a
2 White House photographer?

3 A Sure. Absolutely. In 2005, I was hired to be the Vice President's photo
4 editor. And that would have been Vice President Cheney, and his photographer was
5 David Bohrer. I was hired to be his -- David Bohrer's photo editor. In about 4 months'
6 time, Mrs. Bush's photographer chose not to come back from maternity leave, leaving her
7 position open for an official White House photographer. I popped my portfolio in and
8 was awarded the opportunity to be an official photographer. My assignment was
9 mostly, technically, with Mrs. Bush. However, you do cover all the principals at some
10 point or another during the timeframe. So that was 2005 to 2009 with a brief exit to be
11 a campaign photographer for the McCain campaign. And then I finished out the
12 administration with the Bush administration.

13 Q Okay. And then -- oh, go ahead. I'm sorry.

14 A Oh, sorry. I realized you had two parts to that question. The second part
15 is that, in between that and 2017, I ran my own business contracting as a photographer
16 for a variety of clients in the D.C. area and beyond. And then, in 2017, about 4 days
17 before the inauguration, I received a call to be a photographer for the inauguration. So
18 Sean Spicer, who was then the Press Secretary -- was the -- called to ask if I would be
19 available to photograph the inauguration. That was on the Sunday prior to the actual
20 augmentation, which was on a Friday. And then I received a call on Monday to ask if I
21 could assume the role at 12 noon as the chief photographer, and then we would go from
22 there. So that pretty much changed my life for the next 4 years.

23 Q I can imagine. So you were chief photographer from day one of the Trump
24 administration all the way through the end?

25 A Yes. The official title is the Director of the White House Photo Department,

1 and then the Chief Photographer to the President. Under myself, I had initially hired 12
2 folks in the office, and then we -- I think we finished off with about 16 to 18, and that
3 would include volunteers and interns as well. The photographers, we had just five
4 photographers total, myself included: three -- myself and two others that supported the
5 President's schedule, one that supported the First Lady's schedule, and one that
6 supported the Vice President's schedule initially. Over the 4 years, that sort of changed
7 and evolved as it needed to, and additional teammates were added as needed.

8 Q As director, did you run the White House Photo Office?

9 A I did.

10 Q Did you have anybody that you reported to?

11 A Yes, I reported to the President, and then also, for management, the deputy
12 chief of staff as well as the director of administration.

13 Q You said deputy chief of staff, and I want to focus towards the end, like the
14 November 2020 through January 2021 timeframe, was that Tony Ornato?

15 A Correct. That was.

16 Q And how did you assign roles and responsibilities? Specifically, I'm thinking
17 about how you decided who would be photographing what on any given day.

18 A Great question. Well, based on the President's schedule, our timeframe
19 typically was to cover from when the President steps into -- out of the residence on to his
20 official schedule for the day, and then heads back up to the residence. So we
21 really -- any time the President was sitting in the Oval Office on campus or off campus, we
22 always had a photographer covering. So, typically, it would start with an A.M.
23 photographer and a P.M. photographer. And I would be resolve -- or involve the three
24 of us -- myself, Tia Dufour and Joyce Boghosian, who was my deputy director, based on
25 the schedule, days off that they had previously had or didn't have or trips that they had

1 taken or didn't take to sort of get everybody the necessary time off they needed and
2 support. But ourselves, make sure the primary office was the Oval Office that was
3 supported. And when I wasn't photographing, I was typically doing administrative work
4 or any other meetings or anything that needed to take place that couldn't happen while I
5 was actually photographing. So --

6 Q It sounds like -- oh, go ahead. I'm sorry to cut you off.

7 A I was going to say specifically led to the three of us were really the team that
8 covered the President. On occasion, you would have the First Lady's photographer
9 would be at an event or on the schedule, or the Vice President's photographer, we all sort
10 of overlap at times as well. So sometimes it would be based on their schedules, too.

11 Q It sounds like there wasn't a lot of photography happening in the residence.
12 I believe you mentioned it would start when the President generally would leave the
13 residence and come to the West Wing. Do you remember taking any photographs after
14 the election in November or early November of 2020 up until January 6th in the
15 residence?

16 A So the residence is considered the principal's personal space, and we would
17 photograph there upon invitation, not on -- not upon official duty. And if there is an
18 official meeting, it would be often we would be invited in to photograph the top, say it
19 was in his office in the residence or in a space up there. For personal events, it might
20 have been a family dinner or a birthday or celebration, or something that would be -- we
21 would be invited by the member of the First Family that was organizing it that wanted us
22 to come up to document that for them. The only time that I was up there between
23 November and January 20th was once and it was to photograph -- requested by the
24 President to photograph his bathroom vanity because he wanted to document it for -- my
25 understanding was that he wanted to document it for future design.

1 Q Okay. Do you remember, roughly, when that was?

2 A I am going to give you an estimate. I want to say it was probably in the
3 timeframe of -- I want to say it was in the last few days, to be honest, just recollecting in
4 my head. But I want to say it was probably within the last few days.

5 Q After January 6th?

6 A Outside of the administration, January 20th.

7 Q Okay. You think it was after January 6th, though?

8 A I'm not a hundred percent sure. I'm not a hundred percent confident to
9 answer that. I do know that it was in January, and it was towards the end. I just can't
10 give you the exact date.

11 Q Fair enough.

12 A Yeah.

13 Q And so tell us the process when you take pictures, what do you do with
14 them, where do they go, and who has copies?

15 A Sure. So we started taking the photographs in the camera, and then I hand
16 off -- I handed off my SD cards, or the cards in the camera to my editor, who would then
17 go through in the process of that we did for post-production is you number all the photos
18 in chronological order. There's a specific style. I can go into that next. Then, from
19 there, we put in the metadata, and we choose sort of the A edit. That would be, you
20 know, your first rough draft. And then we bring them into the post production process,
21 which would be in any of your software programs of choice, Lightroom or Photoshop.
22 And then, from there, we adjust the levels and choose the highlight photos to make into
23 paper prints, to share with the President or the requested principal or First Lady or Vice
24 President. It was the same for all the photographers. We always have sort of the
25 same system in place for each person. Every image that we take is government record.

1 And so it is very important to note that we did not delete -- at least I can speak for
2 myself -- but the ground rules for our team is that if you can't do it in Photoshop, don't do
3 it -- if you can't do it in the dark room, don't do it in Photoshop. So, if you -- you know,
4 we were very -- we adhered very much to making sure we weren't doctoring the files in
5 any way, unless it was something that was a generally ethically approved in the photo
6 industry, doctoring of -- cropping or adjusting the levels, so to speak. Then the second
7 part of that is that every image is done with property you didn't delete, even though if
8 they were throwaway frames or expressions that weren't flattering. Or, in between
9 meetings, I often would photograph the floor or my sneakers so that my editor would
10 know that a new meeting had started. Oftentimes meetings look the same on the
11 schedule. They are congruent, and they kind of run together. And so to note that this
12 might have been an economic meeting and then we are going to a different economic or
13 finance meeting, I would just photograph a throwaway frame so that my editor would
14 know that there's a new meeting started. We are following the schedule as well.

15 And then -- so, from there, the images were stored on a server that was offsite.
16 And the server -- and all of the images from the photographers were stored there. And
17 then, at the end of the administration, they were delivered in to the National Archives.
18 And what I learned from this process that I didn't know -- realize during the Bush
19 administration because I wasn't privy to that part of this, was when you end the
20 administration, you transfer the files over. But I thought it might have been as easy as
21 handing over the hard drive servers, but it is not. It is really a streaming process of
22 information flowing over the period of time. So it does take quite a bit of time to
23 transfer all of the files over to NARA at the end of the administration. And, at the end of
24 this particular administration, the -- both the First Lady took a copy of her images; we
25 transferred a copy of the images over for the President for him -- his archives; and then a

1 third copy went to NARA.

2 Q And, just so I get the lay of the land, where was your office itself when you
3 were working at the White House?

4 A Sure. It's on the ground floor of the White House in the actual complex
5 itself. It sits in a diagonal direction from the Sit Room, and it sits just below the
6 President's Oval Office area.

7 Q Okay. So the Situation Room is down there. Was anybody else down
8 there as well?

9 A Oh, yeah, you have a variety of offices down there. You have -- well, first is
10 the Navy Mess. Then you have, oh, a couple of the offices that flanked -- or the rooms
11 that flanked me were the men's restroom, and then we had two offices on the left side
12 that would sort of rotate through various, various departments.

13 Q Okay. All right. So that's all I have on the background. If you guys have
14 anything?

15 [REDACTED] No.

16 [REDACTED] Can I?

17 [REDACTED] Yes.

18 [REDACTED] Were you going to go into the specifics of the day?

19 [REDACTED] We are.

20 [REDACTED] Ms. Craighead, on any given day, what level of access did you have
21 to meetings, and how would that work about whether you could go in or have to stay
22 out?

23 Ms. Craighead. Sure. Good question. So we followed the President's
24 schedule, official schedule. So, if there was a meeting that was on that schedule, we
25 would be poised to go in, grab photos at the top, or stand on the lawn or depending on

1 the specific meeting or intuition. I think it is a little bit varied there, but -- and then we
2 would remove ourselves or be asked or dismissed by the President, or sometimes a
3 member who is sitting in the meeting would say things. It just really depended on the
4 day and the meeting. For access, it was truly -- we followed that and were allowed
5 most, if not all meetings. Any private meetings that weren't on initial, official schedule
6 were sort of at will. The thing about our position is that we are there to document
7 history and on behalf of FOIA, but also you have a fine line to respect your principal's
8 request and manner and wishes as a person as well. So the access was generally until
9 denied.

10

BY [REDACTED]

11

Q All right. Very good. Well, I am going to ask you about a few days, but I
12 want to start with January the 6th. And before we go through the kind of tiktok of the
13 day, what was your understanding or -- what were the expectations for the day of
14 January 6th, to the best you can recall, before you actually got to work and started with
15 it?

16

A Sure. What I can recall, to the best of my knowledge, is that the day was
17 going to start with the event on the Ellipse. And, after that, I don't recall that there
18 were any official meetings after that. It was very -- I think that was the only thing on our
19 schedule for that day. So I had a photographer start with the President, and it was Tia
20 Dufour. And then I was out on -- I preset out on the lawn to be in the head-on position.
21 So I actually had to leave a little earlier. So it was one of those moments where you
22 always have the President covered, and you place your team strategically to get the most
23 advantageous photos of the event. And then we had another photographer who loaned
24 and then took over photos from the roof as well of the White House. So --

25

Q Was that other photographer, was that Joyce?

1 A Yeah, Joyce Boghosian.

2 Q So you were not assigned to the President on the 6th. Was that right?

3 A No, correct. I assigned Tia, and then that allowed us to preset and then
4 sort of work logistically to make sure. We also -- I don't think I mentioned this, but we
5 have a team of photo editors and staff assistants, and we have a master printer in the
6 photo office. So just making sure that we had all of our angles covered and a game plan
7 ready to go for that day because it was a fairly large event. Although, I will sort of make
8 note that it was a political event. So it wasn't -- there is a different legal avenue that we
9 take when it's a political event versus a nonpolitical event. And so a political event
10 would allow us to photograph this for history but not release it, any of the images on
11 social media or any social outlets. So it is sometimes slightly confusing, and the lines
12 were blurred because he is making, you know, official statements, but it really comes
13 down to the funding, I believe. I want to say please don't quote me on that because I
14 don't know specifically how that -- that's definitely not my area of expertise. I'll just say
15 that. But basically how I navigated this with my team was, who is paying for this event?
16 Is this an official government event, or is this a privately funded political event? So
17 that's where -- or not privately funded -- was this a political event? So that's how we
18 knew the difference of releasing photos for social media versus not releasing photos for
19 social media.

20 Now the difference, though, is that we are -- and so, based on that, that event on
21 the Ellipse, in my recollection and knowledge, was a political event. So while we weren't
22 going to release any photos for social media, we still covered it as we would because, at
23 the end of the day, you never know what can happen. Obviously, we are always poised
24 to photograph and cover the President as if this were an official event for a variety of
25 reasons just for history in any capacity. And that's not just on January 6th; that's in

1 every day of the administration, whether it's a personal time off the record where they go
2 off campus to -- when he went off campus to golf or President Bush went mountain bike
3 riding. It is still an official Presidential event, but it is on personal time. You still cover
4 it like you would, but you don't release the images, so to speak, to the public. And so
5 that day was a political event I was supposed to cover as needed.

6 Q Okay. That's very helpful. I appreciate that. And, actually, one of the
7 documents that we wanted to show you -- I think I'm sharing it now. I don't know if you
8 can see that. But this is an email from the morning of the 6th. And that timestamp is
9 off by 5 hours. So that's actually, I believe, 8:35 in the morning. It looks like you sent
10 an email saying a reminder that today is a political event. Is that email, this email, is
11 that a reflection of what you just explained that the rally on the Ellipse on the 6th was
12 based in your estimation a political event?

13 A Exactly. Exactly. So it was just a -- we would still share the photos visually
14 with the President and Dan Scavino, and it was a note from me to remind everybody that
15 we're not releasing any of the images for social media.

16 Q And you mentioned sharing them with the President and Dan Scavino.
17 Why those two?

18 A Dan Scavino is our gateway to images. We'd work with him on social
19 media, approval for images to post, or what was appreciated or not appreciated. You
20 know, just feedback on images. So I worked closely with Dan and the editing team to
21 make sure Dan had the photos that he needed for those social media posts.

22 And then, with the President, we gave the President every day a folder of images
23 that we print on paper that would sum up the day in review. And that's not uncommon.
24 Every President had a system with their chief photographer to review photos from each
25 day, or it was just different for each person and in their preferences. President Trump

1 preferred tangible paper prints rather than photographic prints. It's less expensive and
2 more quickly to deliver them to him. Versus, I believe, President Obama looked at them
3 differently with Pete. Maybe perhaps a computer screen or a revolving digital frame.
4 President Bush received his images with Eric Draper in a different -- every 2 weeks in a
5 photo book. So everybody has their own system.

6 Q And, speaking of January 6th, specifically, I'm going to jump ahead a little bit,
7 but do you remember the President, Mr. Scavino, or anybody else in the White House
8 asking you to edit any of the photos or delete or otherwise manipulate the photos that
9 you or any of the other photographers took that day?

10 A No, I do not recall that at all.

11 Q Okay. I want to go back to the political event question really quickly, do
12 you remember where you got information about the event so that you were able to
13 determine it was a political event?

14 A Oh, I don't recall specifically on this event. But typically what I would do is
15 ask counsel's office just to reconfirm that they were on the same page. Or if it I wasn't
16 sure -- I mean, at any of the rallies where the obvious is a political event, but I think for an
17 event such as this or the RNC event on the lawn -- I would always double check where the
18 parameters lied on those types of events. So I would imagine consistently I would just
19 check with counsel's office on that.

20 Q Okay. So, on the day of -- I want to walk through -- when do you
21 remember arriving at the White House, if you do, and where did you go?

22 A My arrival, I don't recall the time that I came in. It was probably about -- I
23 think it was probably about 8 or so in that timeframe. I park on campus. So I parked
24 and then came through the gates and then probably went directly to my office and
25 started my coffee. That day was really cold, and so I probably changed into cold

1 weather gear as well and made sure that the team was set up with whatever they needed
2 logistically to cover the event as well.

3 Q Do you remember interacting with anybody that morning like Mr. Ornato or
4 Mr. Meadows or other more of the senior staff at the White House?

5 A No, not off the top of my head.

6 Q How about Mr. Scavino?

7 A No, not directly other than just to -- yeah, I don't recall.

8 Q Okay.

9 A Other than just to sort of say, hey, these photos aren't political -- I mean,
10 these photos are political, not otherwise.

11 Q And did you see the President or any members of his family that morning
12 before the rally on the Ellipse?

13 A No. I didn't go up to the Oval Office that morning before the event. I
14 believe I came in, grabbed my gear, changed into cold weather gear, and then worked
15 with my team on logistics and just went straight to the event.

16 Q We understand that Ms. Dufour ended up taking pictures consistent with
17 what you said earlier of the President and his family on the morning of the 6th inside the
18 Oval Office. Did you ever learn about what happened or what was going on in the Oval
19 Office while Ms. Dufour was taking photos that morning?

20 A I did not.

21 Q Do you remember Ms. Dufour saying anything to you about the President's
22 interactions over the phone with the Vice President that morning?

23 A No.

24 Q Do you remember hearing about those interactions from anybody that the
25 President said to the Vice President that morning?

1 A No, I don't.

2 Q You said earlier you went down to the rally on the Ellipse, how did you get
3 there?

4 A I walked.

5 Q Okay. Do you remember what time about you made it down there?

6 A It would have been somewhere in the timeframe of an hour before go time
7 for the President. So whatever time he was scheduled to speak, I probably navigated
8 my way down there, starting about an hour before just to navigate the crowd and make
9 sure that we had the best locations needed.

10 Q And I am going to show you a picture that we have. Bear with me just a
11 moment.

12 A Okay.

13 Q Okay. So this -- can you see that picture I just put up?

14 A Yes.

15 Q All right. This is page 1 of exhibit 1. And I believe the metadata in here
16 shows that this is something that you would have taken. Do you recognize this picture?

17 A I do.

18 Q Okay. Tell us about this. Just where you were, if you stayed in this spot
19 for the entire rally?

20 A Sure. I did stay in the spot for the entire event. We were pretty packed in
21 with -- I was with -- head on with press. And I was flanked by press, so I didn't really
22 move around a lot. I was on the platform. So I just stayed there as the primary
23 head-on photographer. Joyce was roaming. I think we also had one more
24 photographer. I want to say Carl, who was our master printer. I actually think he was
25 in the monument window, or something of that nature. I feel like we had one more

1 photographer out there. And then I didn't move, though, until he left the speech and
2 went back to the White House, and then I walked back.

3 Q And did you have Secret Service or anybody kind of protecting you while you
4 were there?

5 A No. Just me.

6 Q Did you have a radio to hear what was going on with respect to the
7 President and his movements?

8 A I did not.

9 Q So you were just kind of in the position of everybody else who was there
10 that day just waiting for President to come out and didn't know exactly when or what he
11 might say?

12 A Correct. The only thing that I could probably add to that would have been
13 perhaps an email chain with staff that would have said that he was coming out or moving
14 out or something of that nature, but I don't recall specifically. That would have just
15 been the only communication that probably could have happened that day.

16 Q From where you were at the rally, do you remember seeing the Secret
17 Service confiscate any prohibited items, guns, knives, anything that could be potentially
18 dangerous?

19 A No, I don't recall that.

20 Q Do you remember any discussions about those types of weapons or
21 dangerous objects?

22 A No, I don't.

23 [REDACTED] Would you receive security briefings in advance of events just to
24 have a sense of what was expected and if there were any concerns?

25 Ms. Craighead. Um, yes, but not for this event. It might have been for an event

1 like North Korea, but not an event of this nature.

2

BY [REDACTED]

3

Q Was there anything that you saw while you were at the rally that stood out
4 in your mind or stands out in your mind now looking back at it as an indicator of potential
5 violence or that something was up for that day?

6

A No, I don't know that there is anything that stood out, specifically, about
7 violence. I do recall being on the platform with press and observing the reactions were
8 coming in as Vice -- President Trump was in making his communication, but it wasn't -- it
9 was more of uncertainty, I guess. I feel like the crowd was -- from my vantage point, the
10 crowd was very much into -- enthusiastically into being in that space from my vantage
11 point. I think it would have been different, perhaps, maybe from a different location,
12 but I can't attest to that. From where I was at, everybody seemed to be very excited to
13 be there and then sharing in that moment. I think, personally, I was probably becoming
14 a little bit more concerned as the Vice President's notes were coming out and his letter, I
15 believe, or his words, you know. And then hearing the President speak against him
16 openly is concerning -- was concerning for me. But I think the crowd wasn't really
17 offering any of that vibe of concern or fear.

18

Q Okay. So you mentioned the Vice President and his had notes coming out.
19 We understand that, just before 1 o'clock, the Vice President released, essentially, a letter
20 that said that he was not going to take any actions to change the outcome of the election
21 in the joint session. I'm paraphrasing my own words here. Is that who you were
22 referring to, though, when you said the Vice President's notes?

23

A Correct, yes.

24

Q Okay. And you heard about that from the press at the rally on the Ellipse?

25

A I did, yes.

1 Q Why did that raise your concerns?

2 A It raised my concerns because it was not in alignment with what the
3 President had hoped for or requested, in my opinion.

4 Q How did you know what the President hoped for or requested of the Vice
5 President?

6 A That knowledge comes from, well, listening to his statements or his tweets
7 or his social media expressions.

8 Q Is there anything, any conversations that you're aware of inside the White
9 House where the Vice President -- excuse me, the President, expressed his entire to have
10 the Vice President do something on January 6th?

11 A No.

12 Q And did you see, when you were at the rally on the Ellipse, the crowd or any
13 part of the crowd start to move towards the Capitol while you were there?

14 A That crowd was behind me from that vantage point of the photo that you
15 showed. So the crowd in front of me was very poised and stayed there for a duration of
16 the President's speech. The crowd behind me, I am not sure when -- if or when they
17 moved, as my focus was generally typically straight on.

18 Q Do you remember them starting to head that direction, though, before you
19 left the rally site?

20 A Yeah, after the President departed is when I started moving off the platform,
21 and then you could see everybody dissipating at that timeframe. So there was a natural
22 break when most folks would have been moving.

23 Q Okay. I'll stop there to see if anybody has any questions about the rally.

24 BY [REDACTED]

25 Q Yeah, just briefly, Ms. Craighead. We understand from other witnesses

1 that the area that was sort of through the metal detectors for the Ellipse rally was not
2 completely full, yet there were some people outside of that security perimeter that were
3 sort of in the direction of the Washington Monument. Do you recall there being space
4 inside but some people that didn't enter through the secure area on the outside?

5 A Um, I would have to see a photo to confirm that, to be honest. I recall the
6 President noting that in his speech and the Ellipse being probably as full as it could have
7 been, and then the photos -- the folks on the -- by the monument, I recall seeing that
8 being pretty packed in. But I couldn't give you a conformation on it that was in a
9 secured area or not. I wouldn't be answering that accurately.

10 Q I see. And I appreciate that. You were in a secured area yourself, it
11 sounds like, the whole time, either on the platform or some distance back from it?

12 A Correct. Yes, sir.

13 Q Okay. And did you see -- I think [REDACTED] might have asked you little bit
14 about this, but did you see anything sort of stacked up or confiscated out at the area of
15 the security entrance, the magnetometers or anything like that?

16 A No. And, to be honest, I don't actually know where those magnetometers
17 would have been because I came in from an area that was from the secured location of
18 the White House Complex. So that was my route was from the White House down to
19 the Ellipse. If I can be more specific, my route would have been from the White House
20 south down to the Ellipse. And then -- so I believe the areas that you're referring to
21 would have been on the other side of where that crowd was. And I had no need to go
22 over there, so I didn't. But I don't know if I would be able to effectively point that out
23 where that location.

24 Q Well, no, I appreciate it. Thank you.

25 A Sure. Thank you.

1

BY [REDACTED]

2

3

4

5

Q We do have several photographer -- photos, excuse me, from the 10th where the President was and kind of staged before he spoke and then went after he spoke. Were you ever in the tent with the President or his family on the rally on the Ellipse?

6

A No, I was on the platform the whole time.

7

Q Was that Tia Dufour in the tent with the President?

8

A Yes. Tia was the assigned photographer.

9

Q And why didn't you assign yourself to the President that day?

10

11

A The honest answer is that we -- he wanted Tia to be the photographer with him.

12

Q Okay.

13

14

A So I assigned myself in an area that would not be directly with him but still be able to support the position.

15

16

Q Now, you mentioned leaving the rally site after the event ended after the President was finished speaking.

17

BY [REDACTED]

18

19

20

Q Before you go there, do you know why, Ms. Craighead, why he wanted Tia? Did he say sort of the reason? I mean, you're the veteran. You're the boss. Why did he express preference for her that morning as opposed to you?

21

22

23

24

25

A It was actually not directly through him, so he probably -- he told a member of the staff. I'm not sure who. And, for one reason or another, with no specific understanding on my part, he was just moving, gravitating in a different direction with a different photographer that he felt more comfortable with. There wasn't anything specifically that I did or didn't do that would have prompted that. I think it is just for

1 him is who he felt more comfortable with at that exact time --

2 Q -- happen on previous occasions where he had expressed a preference for
3 Ms. Dufour as opposed to you or some other photographer?

4 A I think that it was -- it was not the first time, but I don't know that I could
5 cover you specific examples or timeframes of when.

6 Q And did that happen, whenever those times where he expressed a
7 preference or was more comfortable, happened kind of late in the administration in the
8 post-election period?

9 A Correct, yes, sir.

10 Q Okay. And, when you said it was conveyed to you through a White House
11 staffer, with whom did you normally interact? Was it sort of the Outer Oval folks?
12 Molly Michael and the people that worked just outside of the Oval?

13 A Yes. It would have been probably Molly or a member of either the Oval
14 Office or the director -- or the deputy chief of staff, the DCOS --

15 Q The --

16 A -- might have you just said something, you know, "why don't you assign this
17 photographer on this today," or something of that nature.

18 Q Okay. And do you recall who it was on or before the 6th who conveyed
19 that to you?

20 A I don't. I want to say it was probably Dan Scavino or Tony Ornato, but I
21 don't recall which of the two it was?

22 Q Yeah. Okay. Thank you. Sorry, again.

23 BY

24 Q Yeah, that's quite all right. All right. So I think we were at the point of
25 you leaving the rally. How did you get back to the White House?

1 A I walked.

2 Q Okay. Where did you go?

3 A The opposite direction that I came. So, basically, I went from the Ellipse
4 north up to -- through the gates, and then I can only remember the names of the
5 gates -- so I apologize on that --

6 Q That's quite all right.

7 A -- through security and then into the West Wing, into my office. I probably
8 handed off my cards to my new editor, Dan Hansen, and then changed out of my cold
9 weather gear clothes into something more appropriate and probably my suit.

10 Q Okay. All right. So you went back to your office. That's on the ground
11 floor of the White House, right?

12 A Correct, yes.

13 Q And how long did you stay there before you went anywhere else?

14 A I don't know that I could answer specifically how long I stayed there. I am
15 fairly certain my routine would have been to get back to the office to change as quickly as
16 possible, probably order lunch before the lunch window closed, and then head up to the
17 Oval Office to see what the rest of the schedule was for the rest of the day.

18 Q One of the things that the President said in his speech at the rally was that
19 he would be going with the crowd to the Capitol. Did that at all affect your plans or
20 what you were doing that afternoon as the photographer for the President?

21 A Um, the way it affected my day was that I wanted to clarify the information
22 and logistics. So what I would have done is I would have gone to up Molly's office, the
23 outer Oval and asked what else was going on for that day. I recall there wasn't anything
24 on the schedule. Or, if there had been, it was certainly scrap by that point. So the
25 routine would have been for me to go up and ask Molly what's on the schedule. I

1 probably emailed and didn't hear back from them, and that's why then I went directly up
2 to visually ask what was going on that day for the rest of the day. And that would
3 determine how many photographers I would need to keep on staff. Because if there
4 was another movement, I would try to figure out if there was a second photographer
5 needed, just sort of playing out logistics in my head to like -- to build the team out.
6 From there, I was told no more photos.

7 Q We are going to get right to that in just a moment.

8 A Sure. Oh, I was just going to say from there, I probably -- I recall going to
9 Tony Ornato's office and asking if their understanding of the day was to remain on the
10 campus of the White House or to go somewhere. Because I typically -- again just
11 planning in advance for the gear that we'll need or the team that we'll need to have in
12 place or, you know, just logistics. Also, do I need to put my cold weather gear back on,
13 kind of a scenario? So that's -- 9 times out of 10, that's typically what I would do to get
14 the information I needed.

15 Q Okay. All right. That's great. So let me do this. Let me show you
16 another exhibit, which is exhibit No. 3. All right. Okay. Can you see that up on your
17 screen?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q All right. And, again, the timestamp is off by 5 hours. So this is
20 January 6th at 1:34 p.m. And it looks like you sent an email to Nick Luna, Molly Michael,
21 Austin Ferrer, and asked about afternoon coverage. Earlier, you mentioned you thought
22 you might have sent an email and didn't hear anything back. Are you talking this email?

23 A Likely, yes. What time is -- what was the timestamp on that?

24 Q This is 1:34 p.m.

25 A Yep, that would have been correct. And all three of those people were the

1 outer -- in the outer Oval would have an idea on what the schedule would have been that
2 day.

3 Q Was this around the time that you got back to the White House from the
4 rally?

5 A Correct, yes, sir.

6 Q And then how long after this email, if you recall, did you end up going up to
7 see Molly Michael? And my understanding is that she got to the White House
8 somewhere in the 2 to 2:30 range that day?

9 A I'm not sure of Molly's schedule. I can't comment on that.

10 Q Sure.

11 A I don't know what her schedule is that day. But, typically, that would make
12 sense. I would send the email, and then I was probably changing at the same time just
13 to be efficient on timing. And then, if I didn't hear anything, and then I -- that's probably
14 why I went upstairs directly to ask in person what was on the plan for the day.

15 Q Okay. And I'm going to show you exhibit No. 4 as well. On the bottom
16 email there, the timestamp is correct. It's only the top one that's incorrect. So it looks
17 like you sent an email to Dan Scavino, saying that you were working on photos to deliver
18 ASAP. And that was around 1:55 p.m. Part of this is trying to build a timeline of
19 movements. But do you remember going up to see Ms. Michael and Mr. Luna before
20 you're sending this email and working on photos or after, if you can recall?

21 A I don't recall, to be honest with you. I don't recall if -- I'm guessing it's
22 probably after, if I can make an educated guess, but I don't recall specifically.

23 Q Okay. And tell us what you're doing in this when you tell Dan Scavino that
24 we are working on photos to deliver ASAP. What are you working on, and what are you
25 trying to get to him or convey to him?

1 A Sure. So sort of, as I mentioned before, after an event or after a day, we
2 will put together the photos in review for the President, and I -- it was a standard
3 daily -- or it was a standard routine. So I was probably at that time just sort of
4 mentioning to Dan that we were working on that to mitigate any requests or questions or
5 where are you at with these photos? Just trying to take one thing off of his plate and
6 just sort of -- and being full awareness communication. It is just typically my style.
7 So --

8 Q Okay. Now, after you get back to the White House, you change into your
9 clothes. It sounds like you send a couple emails perhaps. You mentioned going up to
10 see Ms. Michael. Tell us, as best you can, what you went up there to do and what she
11 said in response.

12 A Sure. So, at this point, we switched out photographers. Tia was no longer
13 the primary photographer on. I took over. And I was trying to establish the flow for
14 the rest of the day. I think right around this timeframe, I just wanted to make sure what
15 they were -- sort of get an understanding if there was any thoughts on the day, any
16 attempt to -- movements anywhere, or I guess just sort of better understanding.
17 Because when you don't have anything on the schedule, you sort of wonder what's going
18 to pop up. So the best way to try and mitigate surprise is asking as many questions as
19 you can to a variety of different people. You will eventually get something. But I
20 think -- so mine -- my typical -- mine was typically my point of contact on the daily
21 schedule. She would call down to my office if there was a need for a photographer, and
22 a photographer wasn't in -- up in the Oval Office area, or to tell me a change of plans, or
23 anything like that, too. So she was my point of contact on the schedule, typically. So I
24 really worked closely with her. And that's why I went up there to ask in person, also,
25 just to sort of gauge the flow of the day. You can do that better in person sometimes

1 than you can in an email.

2 Q Sure. And what did she say when you went up there?

3 A There was a meeting going on in the Oval Office, and she just said no photos
4 for the rest of the day. There's nothing on the schedule and no photos. I'm sort of
5 paraphrasing, as I can't remember exactly her response, but it was basically: No photos
6 today; we are good.

7 Something of that nature.

8 Q What did you say in response to that?

9 A Um, my initial thought and response was: You're going to want photos.
10 This is historical. Everything that's happening today is historical. You know, for
11 history's purpose, you will want photos for your archives, for the President's archives to
12 show what you're doing. You'll want -- something to that effect. You'll want photos
13 for the archives. It might not seem like you do now, but perhaps later you will. It's all
14 history.

15 So it was something of that effect.

16 Q What did she say?

17 A Probably, again, not the exact quote, but probably something of: Thanks,
18 Shea, no photos today. He is not -- he doesn't want any photos.

19 Q At that point, were you or, to the best of your knowledge, Ms. Michael
20 aware of the violence that was happening at the Capitol?

21 A Um, I can't speak for her. I don't know what she knows or doesn't know.
22 I did not know yet of the violence that was unfolding. I don't think I had been -- I
23 wasn't -- I'm pretty sure it took me a little bit of time because I wasn't sitting in front
24 of -- I wasn't seeing it unfold on a TV as I was sort of walking about to different offices to
25 understand what was going on for the day. But I don't think -- it took me a little bit to

1 understand what was going on as it was unfolding. A lot people were watching it on TV.
2 That's just not where I was at. So --

3 Q Do you remember who was in the Oval with the President when you went
4 up there?

5 A I don't specifically. I could speculate, but it wouldn't be a specific answer.

6 Q And do you know if the President was in the Oval Office or the attached Oval
7 dining room when you went up?

8 A At that time when I went up, it was the Oval Office. And the door -- and
9 the door to -- the Outer Oval Office to where Molly sat and to the Oval Office was open.
10 So it was a couple of different doors you could go through. The first is from the hallway
11 to the Outer Oval, and that door was closed, so I walked into that space, and then the
12 [inaudible] opened the door. And then, from when you're standing in front of Molly's
13 desk, then if you look to your right, you can see the Oval Office, and that Oval Office door
14 was opened. I did not get a clear view on who was in there.

15 Q Oh, go ahead. I'm sorry.

16 A Oh, no, go ahead.

17 Q There are a few photos that we received that -- the metadata shows Tia
18 Dufour took immediately when the President returned from the rally, and he was inside
19 the Oval Office. Would that have been before you transitioned to being the primary
20 photographer at the White House?

21 A Correct. She stayed on until I was able to get back into my office and
22 change, that I was fully functional.

23 Q Okay. So you would have, using that as a marker in time, you would have
24 gone up and spoken with Molly and seen briefly what was going on in the Oval Office, not
25 knowing who's in there, after those photos that Tia would have taken in that area. Is

1 that fair?

2 A That's fair. She would have taken those photos -- I think that we probably
3 did a really quick debrief on that's it; we probably took a couple photos afterwards, and
4 then I excused her from the duties, and I took over from there. I don't remember a
5 specific conversation with her that I could -- that I could, you know, bring to the table.
6 But that's typically our -- that was typically the routine of any photographer.

7 Q Okay. And did she say anything -- and you anticipated my next
8 question -- but did she say anything to you when you had that brief changeover about
9 anything that had happened at the rally or in the tent or that the President told her that
10 afternoon or morning?

11 A Not that I can recall.

12 Q Do you have any followup on that?

13 I do want to go back to the exhibit I was just showing you, which is exhibit No. 4.
14 So this is again the email that you sent at 1:55 telling Mr. Scavino that you were working
15 on some picture to deliver, and then he responds and says: Thanks, no rush. All set on
16 this end. And he is jammed up at the moment. No rush at all. Exclamation point.

17 Did you ever learn from Mr. Scavino what the President was jammed up on?

18 A No.

19 Q And I should clarify, too, do you read this the same way that I do, that "he"
20 that Mr. Scavino is talking about is the President?

21 A I do.

22 Q Do you remember talking to Mr. Scavino that afternoon, and specifically
23 before you go out to the Rose Garden, about anything that was happening?

24 A No.

25 Q And I should back up just a moment as well. After you had that

1 conversation with Molly Michael, where did you go?

2 A I believe, after I had the conversation with Molly Michael I went to Tony
3 Ornato's office to better understand from their perspective the day's -- the afternoon
4 schedule, and then I went back to my office. In my office, I have a radio that's tuned in
5 to the same frequency that the Secret Service will call out any movements. So, from
6 there, I was monitoring the radio to understand better -- to listen for any movements that
7 he might make, the President might make, or if there is an elevated status to the security
8 of the compound of the White House. Just sort of anything in those areas I was just sort
9 of keeping an ear out for.

10 Q Based on your listening to that Secret Service radio channel, did you ever
11 hear that the President moved out of the Oval Office in the afternoon between the time
12 he returned from the White House and then went to the Rose Garden to film the
13 address?

14 A No, I do not.

15 Q When you were in Tony Ornato's office, tell us as best you can the
16 conversation.

17 A Um, again, this is just going to be sort of from foggy memory, but it's
18 probably in the direction of, you know: Are you anticipating going off campus today, or
19 do you have any scheduled movements that were not on the schedule, and what happens
20 if the security is compromised at the White House? What's -- you know, just kind of just
21 running through logistically what could happen that day just to be prepared.

1

2 [3:04 p.m.]

3

BY [REDACTED]

4

Q At that point, had you learned about the violence at the Capitol or the activity at the Capitol that afternoon?

5

6

A It's tough to say. I mean, I very well could've learned it from him or from walking -- you know, walking into an office that had a TV on, but I just wasn't in front of my TV, so I'm not receiving the update. I'm not seeing it unfold. I wasn't -- I can't be specifically -- I can't answer that specifically.

7

Q Okay. Fair enough. So do you remember generally just a sense of when it went from an afternoon and working at the White House to there's something going on at the Capitol?

8

9

10

11

12

A Yeah. I guess -- I mean, it would've probably had to have been within that hour timeframe to really understand the scope of it. For me, I was still processing the day of making sure the team was back in, what was going on with the photos, the editing team is working on them, understanding the operations of that afternoon like logistically and stuff.

13

14

So I don't know -- I was keeping an eye on that, but it wasn't my main focus. My main focus was trying to ascertain what was going on in my immediate orbit.

15

16

17

Q Fair enough. When you talked to Mr. Ornato about potentially going off-site or were there any plans to go off-site, did he mention anything related to the President's comment about going to the Capitol?

18

19

20

A No. I think by then we were all generally aware that he had wanted to do that and it was -- say the night before, I mentioned in a previous conversation with you, the night before, there was a group of folks in his office that when you opened the Oval

1 Office door, you could hear the sounds on Freedom Plaza, they were that loud, and the
2 President was making notes -- talking then about: We should go up to the Capitol.
3 What's the best route to go to the Capitol.

4 But it wasn't -- I think, at that point, I might've sent a note to Tony Ornato or
5 somebody to say: Hey, are you guys aware that he's -- just for your awareness, this
6 is -- he's talking about making this movement.

7 And, at that point, I -- they would've said: It's a no go, or don't worry; we're not
8 going -- or something of that nature.

9 Again, logistically, I'm always in my head trying to figure out the next step of
10 where I need to be or where I need a team member or of their safety, so to speak.

11 Q And that interaction with Tony Ornato where he said it's a no go or
12 something to that effect, was that also on the evening of January 5th?

13 A I believe so. I would definitely want to check, though, the notes on that,
14 because I am pretty sure it was, but I -- I don't have the schedule or the emails in front of
15 me, so --

16 Q And we are going to walk through -- I'm going to show you a picture I think
17 of the gathering you're talking about in just a moment. I do want to continue going
18 through this day as best we can.

19 And I'll show you exhibit No. 5. So this is exhibit No. 5. This is an email also
20 from the 6th. Again, with the 5 hour change, this is a 2:31 p.m. Looks like you sent an
21 email to Mr. Scavino, Cassidy Hutchinson, and Daniel Hansen.

22 Who's Daniel Hansen, by the way?

23 A Dan Hansen's my lead editor.

24 Q Do you remember why you were sending emails -- this email or emails like
25 this throughout the afternoon on the 6th?

1 A No. Unless it was specifically asked, do we have any photos of the crowd
2 shot or from the head on, it must -- a variety of reasons it could have been. I don't know
3 that I can give you a specific answer on this. I would have to see the photos, though, to
4 confirm why I sent this specific email. And you can see the attachments have the photo
5 file numbers in there. I just don't -- I don't recall what those are, what those images are.

6 It might have just been a group -- let's see. Hang on. Oh, No. 2. So, if there's
7 a number in the subject line, it's probably noting that there are multiple emails sent and it
8 was perhaps just a photo in review of the event, but I couldn't give you an exact answer
9 on why I was sending these specific photos.

10 Q Let me ask it this way. Do you remember Mr. Scavino or anybody else
11 asking for pictures from the rally on the Ellipse during the afternoon of the 6th?

12 A I don't specifically recall that, but it wouldn't be unusual to receive that
13 request, and it also wouldn't be unusual for us to send a group of photos just in
14 the -- without the requests just as a review.

15 Q Understood. If we go to exhibit No. 6 -- I'll stop there and see if you have
16 any questions. Nope.

17 Bear with me. I'm still working through technology here. Okay. This is
18 another email. It looks like it was 4:02. You -- it's the second email there, the one on
19 the bottom, sent an email that said: We're ready to share photos, but we're having a
20 heck of a time with the printer in my office. So, while we're waiting for the images to
21 print out, we'll send digitally to you for awareness and to share.

22 And then Mr. Hansen writes back and says: Okay.

23 So this is now at 4 o'clock. The President does around this time tape remarks in
24 the Rose Garden. Do you remember what was going on around 4 o'clock and what you
25 were doing with these photos then?

1 A Okay. So, just to reconfirm what you were saying, at that timeframe, you
2 have the President in the Rose Garden. Is that correct?

3 Q He went a few minutes later.

4 [REDACTED] He was there at 4:03.

5 [REDACTED] Yeah, I think he was -- just after this.

6 [REDACTED] Right.

7 Ms. Craighead. From Dan to me to Dan Scavino. Okay. So Dan Hansen, the
8 editor, was saying that they were -- which came first, my email or Dan's email?

9 BY [REDACTED]

10 Q Your email came first.

11 A I feel like there's something missing there in between.

12 Q Okay.

13 A It doesn't make sense to me, this email. I'm probably -- okay. So I'll take
14 mine: Hi, we're ready to share photos, but having a heck of a time with the printer in
15 my office. So, while we're waiting for the images to print out, will send digitally to you
16 for awareness and to share.

17 And "to share" meant to share with the President.

18 I at that point -- I feel like there's something missing in there for Dan Hansen to
19 send back an okay. I'm not entirely sure why he would do that. That doesn't make
20 sense to me. I think that I was probably giving Dan Scavino a heads up that we're
21 working on the photos as best as we can, but the printer -- the printer that we were
22 printing the images out on to share with the President was not working properly.

23 Q And did looking at that email refresh your memory at all as if Mr. Scavino
24 made any requests for photos or videos that afternoon?

25 A No, not specifically.

1 Q Working through the time line a little bit, around 2:24, I'll represent to you
2 that the President issued a tweet that said something to the effect of: The Vice
3 President didn't have the courage to do what needed to be done on the 6th.

4 Do you remember that tweet or that tweet coming out?

5 A I don't.

6 Q At 2:38, which was about 14 minutes later, the President issued another
7 tweet in which he talked about the need to support Capitol Police and said: Stay
8 peaceful.

9 Do you remember that tweet coming out?

10 A I don't.

11 Q Okay. That's fine.

12 A I wasn't big on Twitter, though.

13 Q Fair enough.

14 A Sorry.

15 Q Nope. That's quite all right. Neither am I.

16 A So we weren't really -- I wasn't really following the tweets closely.

17 Q Do you remember hearing about any discussions -- or excuse me -- hearing
18 any discussions about the need for the President or the White House more generally to
19 put out a statement about what was happening at the Capitol that afternoon?

20 A Yes. I think that was the general tone of requests. I know that was -- my
21 understanding was that was the reason why he was taping -- making a recording in the
22 Rose Garden was to put out his statement, so to speak.

23 Q When did you first learn that the President was going to be taping a
24 statement in the Rose Garden?

25 A After he was already out in the Rose Garden. I heard it on the radio that he

1 had moved to the Rose Garden. So, typically, with -- then what would happen is you'd
2 hear the movement on the radio. I'd grab my cameras. And I ran up to the Rose
3 Garden, and he was already outside. So --

4 Q In your experience at the White House, how long approximately does it take
5 the video team to set up to do a video address like the one they did that day in the Rose
6 Garden?

7 A Oh, they're pretty quick. They typically aren't on a tripod rather on a mono
8 pod, and after you photographed in that environment several times, you have the routine
9 down pretty quickly. So there's not really a set up time per se as it would be, you know,
10 making sure your camera's on, your exposure is proper, and your microphone works.

11 So I'd say it's minutes. Yeah. It doesn't take them -- it would take them -- it
12 would take them longer to get from their office in the Executive Office Building to -- in the
13 EEOB to get out to the Oval or the Rose Garden.

14 Q And that would be just crossing West Exec and coming over to the Rose
15 Garden, more or less?

16 A Correct, yes.

17 Q Okay. So it would take them longer to make that trip than it would to
18 actually be set up and ready to go?

19 A Correct. Yes, sir.

20 [REDACTED] Any follow up on that?

21 [REDACTED] Uh-uh.

22 BY [REDACTED]

23 Q I am going to go back to exhibit No. 1, which is a series of photos. And, on
24 page 2, you'll notice there's a time stamp at the bottom of all of these photos once I put
25 them on the screen. Okay. Can you see that there, Ms. Craighead?

1 A Yes, I can see it's the photo of the President in the Rose Garden.

2 Q And do you remember taking this photo?

3 A Yes. Not specifically, but I do recall that it's mine, yes.

4 Q I'll ask a better question. That was a bad question on my part.

5 You remember being in the Rose Garden taking pictures of the President that
6 afternoon?

7 A Correct. Yes, I do.

8 Q Were there any other photographers out there with you?

9 A Not to my knowledge other than the video team.

10 Q All right. So it looks like this one's at 4:03 p.m., according to the metadata.

11 And is that metadata the time stamp, is that something you add or the editors add as
12 they go through the photos from the day?

13 A Can I ask you to clarify? Are you talking about the time stamp that's -- you
14 added that time stamp or somebody added that time stamp in the White box, is that
15 what you're referring to?

16 Q Yeah. No, that's a really good point. So we did add the time stamp in the
17 White box based on the metadata from the photo itself.

18 A Yes. Okay. So, to clarify, the metadata in the camera -- the cameras
19 should be time synched to the appropriate time of the environment that you're
20 photographing in the location. Sometimes it gets off when you forget to change your
21 cameras with daylight savings or locations, but for the most part, it should reflect the
22 time of the day of the location you're in. So that would have been set by the
23 photographers.

24 Q Okay. Very good. So that's at 4:03. I'm going to show you page 3 now.
25 This is another photo. This is at 4:04 p.m., according to the metadata in the files. Do

1 you recognize the people in that picture?

2 A I do.

3 Q Starting with the person on the left, who is it?

4 A The person on the left with his hands in his pocket, that's Nick Luna. And
5 the person behind the camera to Nick's right is Sam Brown with the headphones on.
6 And then there's the President.

7 Q And I'll show you the next page of the same exhibit, which is page 4. This is
8 a picture of somebody who has his back turned to the camera. Do you recognize who
9 that is?

10 A I do recognize that person to be Dan Scavino.

11 Q Why did you take that picture?

12 A Specifically, I don't know that I had a reason, a specific reason, but why I
13 took it, I would speculate that I photograph -- when I'm photographing an environment, I
14 try to photograph everybody who's there for documenting the scene.

15 Q Do you remember hearing any part of Mr. Scavino's conversation when he
16 was on the phone in the Rose Garden that day?

17 A I do not, no.

18 Q And the next picture is page 5 of this exhibit, and it looks like it's at 4:05 p.m.
19 and the team there is looking at the view finder of the video camera. Do you remember
20 what was happening here?

21 A Yes. I believe the President is looking over Sam's shoulder at the video
22 screen of the camera, the LED panel, to probably approve or not approve or see, you
23 know, what it looks like. It would not be uncommon for him to want to see what the
24 frame looks like, the framing, the background, the lighting. So that would not have been
25 unusual.

1 Q Do you remember him, being the President, doing this after he filmed his
2 remarks?

3 A After? After he concluded filming?

4 Q Correct.

5 A I don't recall that specifically.

6 Q Okay. Let's -- on the next page, which is page 6, a different angle, but there
7 are a couple more people in this photograph. So could you tell us who you recognize
8 here?

9 A Sure. We'll start with the President. Trump is looking through or at the
10 camera. To his back on the, I guess, the left of the group is Alex -- I'm blanking on his
11 name if you give me a second. Then there's Sam, one of his lawyers or a lawyer. I'm
12 not entirely sure what he did and I'm blanking on his name. I'd have to do a quick
13 Google search on him, and then there's Nick Luna.

14 Q Let me offer this to see if it refreshes your memory. The lawyer you
15 mentioned --

16 A Alexander. I'm sorry. Alex Anderson.

17 Q Alex Anderson. Okay.

18 A Yeah. Alex and Sam are -- were the video team.

19 Q So Alex -- is Alex the taller gentleman to the President's immediate right in
20 the picture, brown shoes?

21 A Correct. Blue suit, brown shoes.

22 Q Next to him is Sam?

23 A Sam Brown, yes.

24 Q And then the person with gray hair, does the name Eric Herschmann ring a
25 bell?

1 A Yep. It is Eric Herschmann.

2 Q And then Nick Luna to the far right of the frame?

3 A Correct.

4 Q Were you able to hear the President when he delivered his remarks in the
5 Rose Garden?

6 A I -- yes is the short answer. Do I recall what he was saying? Not really.
7 The thing about doing photography is that you can -- you're in ear shot, but I'm not
8 always listening. I'm often thinking about different angles or what needs to happen.
9 Did I get all my shots, what photos do I need, not need, different angles, how to make this
10 specific moment unique and tell the story? So my brain's doing a lot of other thinking
11 than listening.

12 Q Did you talk to anybody in this photo about what was happening in the Rose
13 Garden?

14 A Probably not. I don't recall, to be honest. Probably not, though, because
15 when he's taping, it's pretty quiet and -- I don't -- I'm not really joining conversations; I'm
16 more observing and photographing, so --

17 Q We understand that Mr. Herschmann offered comments or feedback about
18 the video that the President recorded in the Rose Garden. Do you remember hearing
19 any of Mr. Herschmann's suggestions?

20 A I do not, no.

21 [REDACTED] Mr. [REDACTED], do you have any questions?

22 [REDACTED] Are you going to go through the rest of the day?

23 [REDACTED] Go ahead.

24 BY [REDACTED]

25 Q I just want to bring you back, Ms. Craighead, to the conversation you had

1 with Molly Michael and something you said struck me at the time. You said that, in your
2 conversation with her about whether to take photos, you brought up the fact that, you
3 know, it's a historical record. Do you remember talking about that?

4 A I do, yes.

5 Q Yeah. And so -- and I know it's been 17 months or so since January 6th, but
6 just to fill you in a bit on the perspective that we had about timing around this, is that
7 with Ms. Michael we know that she got into work sometime after 2 o'clock in the
8 afternoon and that, by her account, when she got to work, she saw the TVs right away
9 with the violence at the Capitol.

10 A Sure.

11 Q So knew at the time right as she's sitting down what's happening. And so
12 just wonder if hearing that and thinking that when you initially described that
13 conversation about the historical importance of photographs, whether you think at the
14 time that you talked to Ms. Michael, in fact, you did or you were aware of what was going
15 on at the Capitol, and that's why you were asking her.

16 A Well, it's a good question. I appreciate it. I can't be -- I'm going to sort of
17 speculate on my own self. I think for me that day is I knew there was something going
18 on; people had already started going up to the Capitol. I was aware of that. I don't
19 know that I was aware of the violence yet. I'm not sure on the timing of that. I do
20 know that, once I was aware of the violence, I made it a very -- I started talking to
21 management, administrative management to understand should we send our staff
22 home? Who needs to stay here? Is it essential team that should stay on campus?

23 So I started planning logistically for my office at that time.

24 So, yes, once I understood or once I realized what was happening, I took -- I was
25 then focused on making sure my team was safe and prepared. And releasing everybody

1 to go home as quickly as possible, so that we had as minimal people on campus as quite
2 possible at that time.

3 The thing is, though, when you're not -- when you're not -- when your access is
4 denied, you can only say so many times: This is for history and, you know, I think you're
5 going to want these photos.

6 You can only ask so many times. You're balancing the -- you're walking a fine line
7 between, you know, having the door closed permanently and -- and still being able to do
8 your job, right?

9 So you do have to honor the requests of the people who you're asking to take
10 photos of. There is just that fine line. When he goes out to the Rose Garden, there are
11 other people there and he's out of the Oval Office or out of the back office or wherever it
12 is that he was. That gives me the opportunity to then photograph and document
13 something of that day as it's unfolding versus -- because it's not -- he's not -- there isn't a
14 protective barrier, and there are other people there that offers that opportunity. So --

15 Q I hear you, and I hope you understand it wasn't meant anything I said to be
16 taken as a judgment or criticism of your work. It really is just about nailing down a time
17 line and in thinking through your perspective that day. And as I think about your time at
18 the White House, you had been there for 4 years and only had 2 weeks left to go.

19 And so that general notion of the need to record history is something that
20 everyone was well aware with at the time as a general matter, but when it comes to the
21 specifics of that day and how momentous it ended up being and thinking through how
22 that developed, that's why we're asking. And so, when we think about Molly's
23 perspective that she gets there and knows that whether we use the word "violence,"
24 there's something wrong at the Capitol, and that is a framework.

25 And maybe another thing that helps, did you oversee the Vice President's

1 photographer? Was that under your purview and management?

2 A To your earlier point, I think that I -- I don't know when I knew specifically
3 about the violence. I can't pinpoint that timeframe, but yes, I did know that there was
4 some kind of scenario unfolding that was historical in our timeframe of America and this
5 administration.

6 So that for sure 100 percent, I can -- I knew that right away as I was leaving -- well,
7 as I was standing there reading the Vice President's letter as I'm on the platform during
8 the event, that's unprecedented. You know, hearing the President then speak against
9 his Vice President, that's unprecedented.

10 So there's a lot of things that are unfolding in the day that make me fully aware
11 that this day is completely historical in its own right. I just couldn't pinpoint exactly
12 when I was aware that the -- that it had escalated to a very violent and very unsafe
13 scenario. So I just want to make that clear, too, as well. I don't know the exact time of
14 that.

15 Q And you said it very well in that it's a continuation and fluid dynamic
16 throughout the day. So maybe if I just could ask again so we're just clear on this. So,
17 even by the time you left the Ellipse rally, you were aware of the kind of unprecedented
18 facts that were developing that day because of the out in the open dispute between the
19 President and the Vice President?

20 A Correct. And then also I'm seeing the people or seeing on the phones of
21 my colleague or the press colleagues that I'm standing next to or flanked by that are also
22 showing photos of people or video of people streaming up the -- the road up to the
23 Capitol and whatever path they were taking, but, again, mainly my focus was in front not
24 behind. So I can't really attest to when -- that was just part of the day unfolding and you
25 starting to see on phones that were -- whoever I was standing near was showing me

1 photos or video that was unfolding.

2 And that's when you start to know, okay, this is totally a different scenario than
3 anybody perhaps would've considered could have been the case that day.

4 And then referring to the Vice President's photographer Myles Cullen.
5 Technically, Myles would fall under the -- the Vice President's photographer did fall under
6 my umbrella, but they were very -- they were their own pod. So I didn't really ever -- we
7 didn't really interact a whole lot unless it was, you know, in support of needing -- support
8 photography or support editing or some support of that nature.

9 We would do, you know, not frequently, but there was a weekly meeting or a
10 weekly conversation of what was going on in the Vice President's, the President's, First
11 Lady's, and Second Lady's schedules and, you know, where our photographers would be
12 and our team was needed and that type situation.

13 On specifically these days, I can't remember exact or specific conversations that
14 would've happened. I would have to look through my -- the archives of any emails or
15 texting that was coming through that day.

16 Q And so -- appreciate that. Going back to what you perceived coming out of
17 the Ellipse rally, coming back to the White House, it sounds like your perception as a long
18 time photographer was this -- you wanted to capture in photos how the White House and
19 President Trump was going to respond to the events of the day as they were unfolding or
20 at least that was something you wanted to see if you could do. Is that fair?

21 A I wanted to capture -- I wanted to document how -- what the President of
22 the United States was doing on this day. That's not unusual for any other day, but this
23 day, in particular, it was as important as any to make sure that there was photographic or
24 documentation of this day unfolding.

25 Q And so you -- it sounds like you conveyed that to Molly, and it wasn't just

1 any day in the administration, but particular to how this day was developing, there was a
2 significance to it that you wanted to document?

3 A Correct, yes.

4 Q And her response was that the President at that time did not want you
5 taking photographs?

6 A It sounded from her response that it was, per the President, no photos. It
7 very well could have been --

8 Q You don't have to speculate. I'm not asking to you guess.

9 A Very well could have been from somebody else, but it sounded like it was
10 coming from him specifically.

11 Q All right. So I'll just ask again. Sorry. When you explain to Ms. Michael
12 why you wanted to document what the President was doing, her response as best you
13 can remember was what?

14 A As best as I can remember, my response was, you know, something to the
15 effect of this: You'll want photos of this later. This is history. This is for the
16 President's archives, you know, to be able to show what the President is doing today is
17 very important to document for -- for his -- his archives or for history. Something of that
18 nature.

19 Q And she said what?

20 A She reiterated no photos.

21 Q And what about how she said that made you think it came from the
22 President?

23 A Again, the -- I want to say that she -- I can't specifically recall the exact
24 statement. So, again, it was probably something to the effect of the President doesn't
25 want any photos or he doesn't want any photos today or something of that nature.

1 Q Understood. Thank you for that.

2 A Sure.

3

BY [REDACTED]

4 Q Moving on slightly, but do you have any information about the President's
5 reaction to what was happening at the Capitol on the afternoon of the 6th?

6 A Can you clarify that question?

7 Q Yeah. Of course. And I would say that hearsay -- you probably heard that
8 term before, but your conversations with other people who are relaying what they know,
9 that's okay in this context. So, if there's chatter at the White House or just discussion
10 among colleagues, that's something we would be interested in as well. But did you hear
11 anything about the President's reaction to the activity, the violence, the protest, the riot
12 that was happening at the Capitol on the 6th?

13 A In reaction to the violence, I don't -- I don't recall -- I mean, it wasn't -- the
14 tone and the mood in the environment of the White House was very stressful and high
15 stressed during that time. I don't -- I think that -- I mean, his reaction to that scenario
16 on the violence was not encouraging of the violence.

17 I don't -- are you asking for my observation on him or -- I just don't want to
18 speculate on what he --

19 Q Yeah. No, that's totally fine or --

20 A Or reacting or why he was reacting that way. That's not my job. I was,
21 you know, because that borderline judgment versus observation, and I guess I'm just not
22 quite comfortable with that.

23 Q Yeah. That's perfectly fine. That's totally fair. We don't want you to
24 speculate. Just more of your observations, what you saw and heard. And you
25 mentioned, I think, that it was a stressful day that afternoon. Can you explain a little bit

1 what you mean by that? What was making it stressful and what were you hearing that
2 suggested that?

3 A Sure. Yeah. Well, it was more what you're not hearing. You're not
4 hearing there's a schedule or you're not hearing -- you know, we sent everybody -- the
5 management sent everybody home. So the tone of the environment -- except for
6 essential people, the tone of the environment it's a very quiet environment because
7 you're -- you're -- the -- the people, you know, the staff in that space has been reduced.

8 So that adds an element of a different tone. It's not a hustle and bustle anymore
9 in that environment; it's more of a quiet, quieter tone. It's high tense, high intensity in
10 that. I guess there's a -- the tension was high because there were a lot of closed doors
11 and not a lot of people moving about, and there was -- it was just everybody -- I wouldn't
12 say everybody. It just seemed that there was -- you weren't getting a lot of information.
13 It was just very closed doors.

14 Q It's been widely reported or publicly reported, at least, that the President's
15 children, including Ivanka Trump, as well as her husband Jared Kushner, a few others
16 went down to the Oval and the Oval dining room that day to encourage the President to
17 put out some statements addressing what was happening at the Capitol.

18 Do you know anything about that from your time working in the White House
19 either what you saw or heard about?

20 A I don't know specifically about their -- I do recall that being the intention of
21 Jared and Ivanka. I don't want to say perhaps it was based on the Rose Garden taping
22 or -- I'm anticipating your followup question, too: How did you know that? And I don't
23 know that I can give you specifics. I realize that perhaps there was some -- perhaps it
24 was in the Rose Garden that I picked up on that. That was the message that they
25 wanted to send and wanted the President to send.

1 Q Are you aware of anybody else who was encouraging the President to
2 address what was happening at the Capitol?

3 A No, I can't speak to that.

4 Q One of the things that the rioters were chanting at the Capitol were "hang
5 Mike Pence" or was "hang Mike Pence." Do you remember hearing any reaction or
6 discussions about the President's reaction to chants like that about violence directed
7 towards Mike Pence?

8 A No, I do not.

9 Q Bear with us just one moment. So there were a series of photos -- I won't
10 put them up here -- but a series of photos it looks like the President leaving the Oval
11 Office that evening around 6 o'clock and then heading up in the direction, at least, that I
12 take to be the residence.

13 After the Rose Garden speech that the President delivered -- you know, let me just
14 pull these up instead of trying to explain them in a tortured way.


15 Okay. So we're back on exhibit No. 1. This is page 9. This is a photograph
16 that, according to the metadata, was at 4:07 p.m., and it looks like the President and Mr.
17 Scavino are walking back towards the Oval Office. And then the next photo on page 10
18 is at also 4:07 p.m., looks like a group of people walking into the Oval Office.

19 Is that what we're looking at, the President going back into the Oval?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q And I don't believe there are any photographs, certainly not in this exhibit,
22 between this point and it looks like 6:27 p.m., but what are we looking at in this picture
23 on page 11 at 6:27 p.m.?

24 A Sure. You're looking at the 6:27 p.m. photo. You're looking at the
25 President walking down the -- or actually going into the doors of the Palm Room and

1 which then would lead into the ground floor of the residence. And he is -- in the
2 background, the very closest frames are two Secret Service agents, 

3
4
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6
7

8 Q And, between these two pictures, one is at 4:07 on page 9 -- excuse me, 10,
9 and then this one on page 11 is at 6:27, do you remember any other movements from the
10 President that afternoon after he returned to the Oval Office from the Rose Garden and
11 went, looks like, towards the residence?

12 A No, I don't, other than perhaps back into the private office, but not that I
13 recall outside of that area, no.

14 Q And, while I have this up, I'm going to go to exhibit No. 12. Did you ask to
15 go back there at that time after he was done in the Rose Garden to photograph him?

16 A No, I don't recall. I think I probably walked in -- the routine would have
17 been to go back in and talk to Molly to ensure the rest of the day's schedule, again, not
18 seeing anything on his schedule, just double checking: Are you tracking anything with us
19 the rest of the evening?

20 Probably the answer was no, and then the doors were -- then what happens then
21 the doors close, right, so if he's in his back private office in the private dining room,
22 rather, there's not really an area for me to wait in full observance. So I would go back to
23 my office and listen for the radio on movements.

24 If you can hear -- if the doors are closed to the Oval Office and the outer Oval
25 Office, you're not really -- you're just as aware of what's going on in that surrounding as

1 you are in the office listening to the radio. So there's not a whole lot of -- you could wait
2 up there on the couch or you could go back to your office, which is in running proximity
3 just below to be up in that same space just as quickly as if a photo was needed to be
4 taken or he was moving.

5 So you can see that last shot where he was on the West colonnade, the -- and
6 you're hearing it just as quickly as the Secret Service agent can put out the movement of
7 the President. So that's the only shot I got off, I'm guessing, from that series because I
8 was not -- I was not aware of that -- any movements until I hear them on the radio.

9 So, as for me, I probably went back to my office and waited, worked
10 with -- handed my cards off to the editor or did them myself if he had already left, which I
11 had encouraged. So one of the two scenarios.

12 Q I'm going to pull up exhibit No. 12. And I'll represent to you that it's a
13 picture from January the 5th, but do you remember being in the Oval Office on January
14 the 5th for this gathering?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Were you the only photographer in there taking pictures that day?

17 A Yes.

18 Q All right. So tell us -- I know you briefly touched upon it earlier, but tell us
19 what this gathering was, when you got to the Oval, was it before or after this gathering,
20 and what happened here?

21 A Are you able to enlarge the photo just for --

22 Q Does that help?

23 A Other way, other direction.

24 Q Oh, make it smaller?

25 A Larger.

1 Q Oh.

2 A There you go. Okay. Thanks. I just wanted to reconfirm who was in the
3 photo to reconfirm in my brain what the meeting was. So this would be, I think, the
4 communications team, I think, yeah. Looks like some members of the comms team and
5 there -- Judd there and some other folks.

6 I don't recall why they were invited into the Oval other than if that was the
7 President's wish. I don't recall if that was on the official schedule. I would have to
8 double check that. I know right down that in that timeframe there were a lot of group
9 photos and departure photos taken. So, you know, it wasn't unusual to be called up
10 into the Oval Office for an impromptu group photo.

11 In this particular instance, though, I believe if it's the same moment, the door was
12 open, and you could hear the noise from Freedom Plaza where there was music or
13 cheering, something of that nature.

14 Q Do you remember the President commenting on the noise that you could
15 hear from Freedom Plaza?

16 A Yes, I do.

17 Q Tell us what the President said.

18 A I believe what he was -- I mean, he had acknowledged the noise being loud
19 and acknowledged the noise and hearing all of the people there. I -- he had asked if
20 I -- again, sort of recalling from memory, asked about should we go up there, what's the
21 best way to go up to the Capitol, what's the best route, and asking the people in the room
22 if they had a route preference, Constitution Ave or Pennsylvania Ave. That was the
23 general tone of that environment, I think.

24 Q Did he comment on what he expected for the next day, January the 6th,
25 during that gathering in the Oval?

1 A Not that I can recall in all honesty.

2 [REDACTED] When he talked about going to the Capitol, did you understand that
3 to be that night, the 5th or the next day on the 6th?

4 Ms. Craighead. The next day on the 6th.

5

BY [REDACTED]

6 Q And did you understand he was talking about, like, a motorcade route or a
7 marching procession?

8 A I understood it to be the motorcade route, but it also wasn't uncommon for
9 the President to want to go places that were just -- you know, be human non-President
10 again and just go places or go -- it wasn't uncommon for him to say let's go here or let's
11 go there, you know, without -- as a speaking as a person forgetting sometimes the
12 logistics behind that.

13 So you never -- I didn't know if that was a serious -- a serious request or an
14 in-the-moment, you know, request of excitement. I don't know, to be honest, how he
15 meant it, if it was supposed to be that night or the next day. I took it as the next day
16 because logistically there was no way we could do it that night in just my own head
17 knowing how the logistics worked, but I didn't -- I didn't ask a lot of questions.

18 Q Do you remember -- this is the speaker -- the press team rather, part of the
19 communications folks, I assume, but do you remember the President talking about the
20 remarks or the message that he was going to be delivering the next day?

21 A No, not specifically.

22 Q Do you remember Dan Scavino saying anything during this gathering?

23 A I don't, no.

24 Q Do you remember the President saying anything else other than what you've
25 told us?

1 A I don't.

2 Q When you got there, was the communications team already there, or was it
3 a smaller group?

4 A Oh, that's a good question. I don't remember if I was there as they came in
5 or if I -- they were already there when I came up to the Oval Office. It was not
6 uncommon for it to happen either way. So they could have been called in, and then I
7 would've gotten a call from Molly or Nick or -- I'm blanking on his name, the third person.

8 Q Austin?

9 A Austin, thank you. Or Austin. Whoever was in that space at that time, I
10 could've easily gotten a call from them saying: Hey, can you come up, grab a photo real
11 quick. The President's invited the comms team in.

12 And it would take me 2 seconds to get up there, but they'd already be in there
13 before I got there. It could go either way, to be honest.

14 Q Okay. And this is a very specific detail, but do you remember that door to
15 the outside being open when you got there, or is that something the President opened
16 while you were there?

17 A Hum. I don't remember specifically.

18 Q Okay. One of the things that sounds like the President mentioned was
19 going up to the Capitol. When was the first time you heard the President express an
20 interest in going to the Capitol on the 6th?

21 A In that room, but I would say you might be able to look through the timeline
22 of my photos to see when I got there if the people were already in the room or not or you
23 could see them sometimes walking in, that gives you an indication. And that would also
24 give you an indication if the door was opened or closed.

25 Q Very helpful and a great idea. Thank you.

1 A Oh.

2 Q Okay. So the question I just asked was, when do you remember -- first
3 remember that the President expressed an interest in going to the Capitol. Slightly
4 different question is, when do you first recall, if ever, the President expressing a desire to
5 send people or have people go to the Capitol on January 6th?

6 A I don't recall specifically. I don't, yeah.

7 Q Do you remember ever hearing that before the President said it in his speech
8 on the Ellipse when he said "I'm going to be going with you to the Capitol"?

9 A I don't, no.

10 Q Do you remember hearing at any point before the 6th, any concerns within
11 the White House -- Mr. Ornato, Mr. Meadows, the President, anybody, any concerns
12 about the potential for violence on January 6th?

13 A No.

14 Q Are you aware of any planning or preparations to have the National Guard or
15 call the National Guard or any kind of law enforcement agency to the D.C. area for the
16 6th?

17 A No.

18 Q Any followup on the 5th? Okay.

19 So some of the documents -- and we're going backwards in time, which doesn't
20 always feel that natural, but we are going to work backwards just a little bit. In some of
21 the documents that we've obtained are trip books for the President and folks at the
22 White House, and I understand that you were listed on a trip book for a December 23rd
23 trip to Mar-a-Lago with the President.

24 So tell us about that. How long were -- did you go on that trip to Mar-a-Lago,
25 and how long did you stay down there?

1 A I did go on that trip, and I believe that would have been the Christmas trip,
2 not -- let me start over. It would have been probably the Christmas trip, and that would
3 have been -- I don't have the dates in front of me. I'm going to guess that it was for the
4 whole week based on previous visits. We would've stayed through New Year's Eve and
5 come back, I want to say, shortly after that, either on the 1st or the 2nd, somewhere in
6 that timeframe, but I would have to double check my notes on that one.

7 Q Do you remember going down with the President and then returning to
8 Washington also with the President?

9 A Not specifically, but that would have been the routine.

10 Q Okay. In other words -- do you remember leaving or coming early?

11 A No, I didn't leave or come early. I -- yeah. I mean, I'm pretty sure I went
12 down on Air Force One and returned on Air Force One. I typically would do the holidays
13 to give my team members the chance to spend it with their family. So I don't recall a
14 break in that. That was the routine I would do Christmas at least and this one being the
15 last trip, too, of his administration, I think I probably did the whole thing. Yeah.
16 Probably did the whole thing.

17 Q And I understand that originally the President was slated to come back on
18 New Year's Day or around that time, and he ended up coming back early. Do you
19 remember any discussions about returning to Washington before originally planned?

20 A Oh, sure. The schedule is always changing. So I don't know that I could
21 say it was specifically for that day or the day before. I think there was -- if I recall
22 correctly, there was still a lot of uncertainty about if we were actually going to leave the
23 administration or stay. I believe there was still some uncertainty in that environment
24 that was -- made everything a little bit uncertain, travelwise, timingwise, schedulewise,
25 that kind of a thing.

1 Q When you say there's some uncertainty about whether we're going to leave
2 the administration or stay, are you talking about whether the President would still be
3 President in a few weeks?

4 A Correct.

5 Q And what do you remember particularly at this time, you know, late
6 December, what do you remember those discussions like about whether the President
7 was going to still be in office come January 20th?

8 A I think -- if I recall, there was a lot of: Well, let's just wait and see what
9 happens on January 6th, let's wait and see how it unfolds. You know, that kind of a
10 conversation. I don't have specifics, but that was sort of the tone in the environment of
11 where I was at.

12 Q Okay. Are you aware of anything specifically that caused the President to
13 come back early from that trip?

14 A I'm not, no.

15

BY [REDACTED]

16 Q I know that travel can change, but in your 3 years prior, he had made every
17 one of his New Year's Eve parties at Mar-a-Lago, right?

18 A Correct.

19 Q All right. And, on this trip, he left, actually, on New Year's Eve before the
20 party. Do you remember that?

21 A Oh, you know what? I don't, actually. I didn't recall that, no.

22 Q Because that's actually Don Jr.'s birthday as well. Did you remember that,
23 that every year at New Year's Eve, he would have people sing happy birthday?

24 A I do, yes.

25 Q So it doesn't stand out to you that you all left before the party this very last

1 year of his administration?

2 A Ironically, no, it doesn't. I think that it was -- it was just a very uncertain
3 time in that -- the energy was very uncertain. So, no, I'm sorry, I don't recall that
4 specifically, if there was a specific reason why we left early, yeah.

5

BY [REDACTED]

6 Q Another trip I want to talk to you about -- are you finished with this one?

7 Okay. Another trip that you were on the trip book for is a January 4th trip to -- off to
8 Georgia. Do you remember going down to Georgia a couple days before the 6th?

9 A No. I don't think I took that trip. I -- I think that might have been Tia on
10 the trip, Tia Dufour. I don't believe that I went down.

11 Q Do you remember being slated to go down to Georgia on the 4th, and
12 maybe there's a switch?

13 A That could've easily happened, yes, sir. Yeah.

14 Q But you don't think you were on that trip?

15 A I don't recall being on that trip.

16 Q Let me see if this shakes anything loose. Senator Graham, I understand,
17 flew down or flew up from Georgia with you, as did Marjorie Taylor Greene and some
18 members of the President's family, including Donald Trump, Jr., as well as Ivanka Trump
19 and a few others. Does that help?

20 A No, I don't -- I easily could have been manifested for the trip and then at the
21 last minute had Tia go per -- maybe for the President or per -- yeah, per the President. I
22 actually think that's what happened. She went instead per him.

23 Q Okay. I am going to show you another picture. Do you remember being
24 at the White House, though, on the 4th?

25 A Not specifically, but if it was a day of the week, then there's a high

1 probability.

2 Q Okay. Fair enough. And I can only imagine those days must run together,
3 particularly a year or so out, but let me see. So I'm showing you a picture. This was,
4 we believe, taken on the 4th. This is not something that we have metadata for, but I
5 understand that this was a meeting between the President and the Vice President on
6 January 4th. Do you remember, A, taking this picture?

7 A I don't specifically remember taking this picture, but I would ask to see the
8 file number.

9 Q Okay. Fair enough. And we don't have that information either at this
10 point. Do you remember taking any pictures of meetings between the President and
11 the Vice President in the 4th or 5th, the days leading up to January 6th?

12 A I don't, again, not specifically. It was such a common happening that it
13 wouldn't have stood out in my memory as just, like, a specific moment on the 4th or the
14 5th. I don't recall any tension between them. I wasn't part of those meetings where,
15 you know, you might've heard something that was contentious or not about the 6th.

16 So, for me, if that was a photograph I was taking, it was probably because I
17 didn't -- I didn't go into the meeting, or I did, and then I stepped out to make a different
18 scene setting photo that was sort of unique. You can only take the same image, you
19 know, several times before you need to show other things that are going on. So, if that
20 was my photo, that's probably what would've happened, but I don't recall specifically.

21 Q On that same day, we understand that the President met with one of the
22 people who were helping to plan the rally that eventually took place on the 6th, and her
23 name is Katrina Pierson. Do you know who that is?

24 A I don't.

25 Q Do you remember a meeting that took place in the Oval dining room where

1 the President was talking with Max Miller, Bobby Peede, and anybody else about the
2 event on the 6th?

3 A I don't, no.

4 Q Stop there for a moment, see if you have any questions.

5 [REDACTED] So, on the issue of the dining room, generally, you talked about it
6 earlier, Ms. Craighead, but if the President was back there in that private space, is that
7 fair to say you generally would not go back there to take photographs?

8 Ms. Craighead. Correct. That was considered his private space as the
9 extension of the residence would be a similar scenario. I would go back there or a
10 photographer would go back there if invited or if sort of the meeting had gravitated from
11 the Oval Office into the private dining room, but it was not uncommon, and this is not for
12 specifically Trump, but for any President, it's not uncommon to expand the meeting in the
13 private dining room and not have it be on the schedule at all, so --

1

2 [4:06 p.m.]

3

BY [REDACTED]

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5

6

Q So I just have a few additional questions. At any point after the election, which is on November 3rd, 2020, up and through, I guess, January 20th, did you ever hear the President acknowledge that he had lost, that he was not the winner of the election?

7

A No.

8

9

Q Do you ever remember anybody telling him that, that, Mr. President, you lost, it is time to move on, or something to that effect?

10

A No.

11

Q That's all I have. Do you have anything else?

12

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18

[REDACTED] No, I mean, just to circle back on the question about Ms. Dufour. I heard you earlier to say, Ms. Craighead, that whatever the President's personal preferences, you had done nothing different or changed in your professionalism and how you approached the job, but that there came -- seems a point where he shifted his preference toward Ms. Dufour. Did she express -- did that have anything to do, from what you could observe, from her expressing views about the election and that the President had, in fact, won?

19

Ms. Craighead. Not that I can recall, no.

20

[REDACTED] Did anybody ever explain to you why his preference shifted?

21

22

23

Ms. Craighead. After -- after -- afterwards. But it wasn't -- not during that time, no. And I think -- I think he wasn't happy with his images. I think that's what it really came down to, where he didn't -- didn't like the way he looked perhaps.

24

BY [REDACTED]

25

Q Is there anything, Ms. Craighead -- I mean, you -- you know, thank you for

1 your time today. We really do appreciate it. And is there anything that you
2 think -- you've had a unique perspective. Not many people are kind of around the
3 President of the United States as a function of their job and around people who are
4 discussing, reacting to important events like that on January the 6th. Is there anything
5 that we haven't covered today that you think would be helpful for the committee as we
6 try to get a complete understanding of what happened on January the 6th?

7 A Um, I think that it's been widely acknowledged that he had conflicting
8 reactions to that date -- to January 6th. I think -- you know what I mean? I can attest
9 to that. I think that his -- the amount of stress one is under as a President and the
10 First -- in the First Family and the public, pressure, and what you do to become a
11 President, and what you give up is an enormity that -- I have a great admiration for
12 anybody who runs for a public office at any level because you are not -- you're not your
13 own anymore. You are now -- you have an example to set, and you're no longer your
14 own person. I think that I observed him struggling with what he perhaps wanted versus
15 what was the right path versus what he wanted might have been a different path. I
16 can't say specifically, as I'm not, you know, in his head, knowing what he wants, but I
17 could certainly observe the amount of pressure and stress that he was under during that
18 timeframe.

19 Q And you mentioned, just to follow up on that, the conflicting reaction. Can
20 you explain that? What do you mean? What were the conflicts between two or more
21 of his potential reactions that you saw?

22 A Perhaps it could have been the conflict of acknowledging that there was an
23 end in sight as per the Presidency, and that wasn't the avenue that he had hoped would
24 be. So I think that was probably it. But that's, again, speculation.

25 Q Okay. And you mentioned also what he wanted versus what was the right

1 path. So what do you mean when you say what the right path would have been?

2 A Oh, yeah. I probably shouldn't have used that word. Perhaps the
3 direction of history will always unfold as it needs to whether it is in your personal desire
4 or not. And his desire was to not lose the election. His desire was to remain President.

5 Q Was there ever a time that you saw or witnessed after the election where
6 the President's goal was not to -- or, excuse me, was to -- I mean, let me rephrase this.
7 Was there ever a time after the election that you saw where the President's focus shifted
8 from having won or lost to we need to have an orderly transition and get ready for the
9 Biden administration?

10 A No.

11 [REDACTED] Do you have any followup? Okay.

12 Well, at this point, Ms. Craighead, I think we have gone through our questions
13 today. We very much appreciate your and your attorneys' time this afternoon. Like I
14 said before, you have a unique perspective as a witness to history in the White House,
15 and it's helpful to us as we go through our investigation. So I would just say thank you
16 all. And if there's anything else that you or your attorneys would like to go on the
17 record, you are certainly welcome to do so now.

18 Mr. Kaufmann. Again, I'm just wondering, will we get a copy of the transcript to
19 review?

20 [REDACTED] Yeah, well, why don't we go off the record. But before we go off,
21 if there's anything that you want on the record, but I'll talk to you about all those logistics
22 as well.

23 Mr. Kaufmann. Yeah, nothing from me to put on the record, no. Thank you.

24 Mr. Gryskiewicz. And nothing from me.

25 [REDACTED] Okay. Then let's go off the record.

1 [Whereupon, at 4:14 p.m., the interview was concluded.]

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Certificate of Deponent/Interviewee

I have read the foregoing ____ pages, which contain the correct transcript of the answers made by me to the questions therein recorded.

Witness Name

Date