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HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION UNITED STATES SENATE

EIGHTY-NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

PURSUANT TO

S. Res. 212 and S. Res. 367

(Eighty-eighth Congress)

RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE FINANCIAL, BUSINESS, OR OTHER INTERESTS OR ACTIVITIES OF PRESENT OR FORMER MEMBERS, OFFICERS, OR EMPLOYEES OF THE SENATE, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE ALLEGATIONS RAISED IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STADIUM, AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO

FEBRUARY 4, 1965

PART 8

Testimony of Clinton Murchison, Jr.

Printed for the use of the Committee on Rules and Administration

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[Executive hearings of February 4, 1965 released to the public February 8, 1965.]

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CONSTRUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STADIUM, AND MATTERS RELATED THERETO

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1965

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, D.C.

The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 5 p.m., in room 301, Old Senate Office Building, Senator B. Everett Jordan (chairman) presiding.

Present: Senators Jordan, Cannon, Pell, Curtis, and Cooper.

Also present: Gordon F. Harrison, staff director; Hugh A. Alexander, chief counsel; L. P. McLendon, general counsel; Burkett Van Kirk, associate counsel; James H. Duffy, associate counsel; William Ellis Meehan, investigator; Walter L. Mote, professional staff member; Samuel J. Scott, investigator; William B. Whitley, staff assistant to Senator Jordan; and William R. Haley, staff assistant to Senator Cooper.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will please come to order.

Mr. MCLENDON. Call Mr. Murchison.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Murchison, you have heard this statement read, I believe, or have you?

Mr. MCLENDON. I don't believe he has.

The CHAIRMAN. It is necessary that this be read to you.

Mr. MCLENDON. This committee is acting by direction and under the authority of Senate Resolution 367, agreed to on September 10, 1964, and Senate Resolution 212, agreed to on October 10, 1963. Senate Resolution 367 renews the powers authorized by Senate Resolution 212 and broadens the scope of jurisdiction conferred.

The Committee on Rules and Administration has now been granted the power to investigate all interests or activities of present or former Members, officers, or employees of the U.S. Senate for the purpose of determining whether such interests or activities have involved any violation of law or other impropriety or have reflected unfavorably upon the integrity of the Senate, and whether additional laws, rules, or regulations are necessary or desirable for the purpose of prohibiting or restricting any such interests or activities.

The study and investigation authorized by this resolution is directed to give particular emphasis to the allegations raised in connection with the construction of the District of Columbia Stadium and matters related thereto. The committee believes that witnesses who are called to testify possess information which is material and pertinent to the subject matter under investigation as authorized, and will add to the committee's fulfillment of it legislative purpose.

The Chair advises each witness that he is entitled under the rules of procedure adopted by the committee to retain and be accompanied by counsel, who may advise the witness of his legal rights during the course of the inquiry but who shall not coach or answer for the witness. Should the witness not fully understand any questions directed to him, he may ask for clarification. The committee will now proceed to hear the testimony of the witness present under subpena or by request.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Murchison, will you rise and place your left hand on the Bible and raise your right hand? Do you solemnly swear that the evidence you are about to give before this committee in the matter now under investigation is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. MURCHISON. I do.

Mr. MCLENDON. Give your full name and residence address.

TESTIMONY OF CLINTON MURCHISON, JR.

Mr. MURCHISON. Clinton Murchison, Jr., 6200 Forest Lane, Dallas, Tex.

Mr. MCLENDON. Mr. Murchison, Mr. Don B. Reynolds testified before this committee recently that he was an invited guest to a meeting and party in Miami—Fontainebleau Hotel in 1959—and while there that you asked him to keep his ear to the ground, to get any information that he could with respect to the passage of the bill authorizing construction of the District of Columbia Stadium, and to report to you. My question is: Did you ever have any such conversation with Reynolds, and, if so, tell the committee exactly what was said?

Mr. MURCHISON. To the best of my memory, no discussion of the District of Columbia Stadium came up in Miami. I met Reynolds in Miami. Whether he was an invited guest or not, I don't know. Tom Webb says he invited himself. However, the next day——

Mr. MCLENDON. Did you pay his hotel bill?

Mr. MURCHISON. No, no; I didn't pay it.

Mr. MCLENDON. Did your business pay it?

Mr. MURCHISON. I have no idea.

Mr. MCLENDON. Go ahead.

Mr. MURCHISON. At least I didn't pay it. I have been hunting for that bill. I haven't been able to find it. I think probably it was paid out of Webb's office. Whether he paid Reynolds' bill or not, I don't know. In any event, I doubt it, because he hardly knew Reynolds at the time. At any rate, the next day I flew to Durham——

Mr. MCLENDON. North Carolina?

Mr. MURCHISON. Yes. I was in my own plane, and Webb asked to fly him and Reynolds that far, where they were going from there to Washington. On that flight, Webb asked me if I was interested in bidding on the District of Columbia Stadium, and I told him I was not. In reconstructing these events, and speaking to Tom Webb, the reason he had previously told Reynolds this—apparently Reynolds had asked him if my company was interested in bidding on this work—he had insisted that we were not, and he repeated the question to me in front of Reynolds merely to emphasize his point that we were not in-

terested in bidding on this type of work, we didn't do this type of work, and we did not work in this part of the country.

Mr. McLENDON. Was that true—that you didn't do this type of work?

Mr. MURCHISON. We never have. It really comes under the classification of a building contractor. We were in the heavy construction business.

Mr. McLENDON. He also testified later that he reported to you by long-distance telephone and he made the call from Bobby Baker's office and, in substance, that he reported to you that there was no possibility that the contract for construction of the stadium would be negotiated. Thereupon, you told him you had no further interest in it and, even if you did, you would not get the contract because there was a man named Brown in Texas that would get it in preference to you in any event.

Mr. MURCHISON. I am virtually positive that none of that conversation—purported conversation—took place. I told him at the time—or I told Webb, the first time I met him—that we were not interested in it and there would obviously have been no reason for a further discussion of the matter.

Mr. McLENDON. Did you say anything about a contractor named Brown?

Mr. MURCHISON. I am positive that I made no such comment.

Mr. McLENDON. Do you know a contractor in Texas named Brown?

Mr. MURCHISON. Yes; Brown & Root.

Mr. McLENDON. Did you have any information as to whether they were or were not interested in the stadium?

Mr. MURCHISON. I have no idea; now, then, or ever.

Mr. McLENDON. Had you ever talked to any of their firm?

Mr. MURCHISON. Never discussed it.

Mr. McLENDON. Now, have you told the committee all that was ever said in your presence by Webb or anybody else about the stadium to Reynolds?

Mr. MURCHISON. In substance; yes.

Mr. McLENDON. And do you recall that he did call you by long-distance telephone?

Mr. MURCHINSON. We had a telephone conversation—the only conversation that I can recall—and I don't know whether he called me or I called him, concerning—concerned his share of a hotel bill in New York. I met him about a week after the Miami trip—or 2 weeks after, in New York, at his instance—and I paid that bill. He asked me to let him know what his share of it was and we had a conversation on that and he reimbursed me for it.

(At this point, Senator Pell withdrew from the hearing room.)

Mr. McLENDON. Is that the only long-distance telephone call you had with him?

Mr. MURCHINSON. That is the only one that I can recall. I take that back: We had a call between the Miami and the New York trips concerning meeting in New York.

Mr. McLENDON. Concerning a meeting in New York?

Mr. MURCHISON. Concerning our getting together in New York.

Mr. McLENDON. Was this meeting in New York originated by him or by you?

Mr. MURCHISON. He had offered to introduce me to several people who he reported were friends of his.

(At this point, Senator Pell entered the hearing room.)

Mr. MURCHISON. They were people that I wanted to meet on a semi-social basis—I would say half business and half social. And so I accepted his offer.

Mr. MCLENDON. Did you go to New York?

Mr. MURCHISON. I went to New York; he introduced me to, I think, three men, and that was about the story.

Mr. MCLENDON. Did you have any other dealings with Reynolds?

Mr. MURCHISON. No.

Mr. MCLENDON. None at all? Do you have any other knowledge about the stadium, about the passage of the bill authorizing the stadium, or about awarding of a contract for the construction of it?

Mr. MURCHISON. No; I didn't pay any attention to it whatever.

Mr. MCLENDON. Ever had any conversation with Baker about the stadium?

Mr. MURCHISON. No.

Mr. MCLENDON. Or stadium legislation?

Mr. MURCHISON. No, sir.

Mr. MCLENDON. That is all I want to ask about that subject.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Murchison, if I am out of order you don't have to answer this. Those three men that he introduced you to in New York; were they insurance executives.

Mr. MURCHISON. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, didn't he go there to see them on your recommendation?

Mr. MURCHISON. From what I have heard since, I think that is the case. However, his representation to me was that they were friends of his; that he was a big million-dollar salesman for their companies, and he knew them personally. It was just one of those things.

Senator CURTIS. Just the two of you went to New York?

Mr. MURCHISON. Yes.

Senator CURTIS. No one else?

Mr. MURCHISON. No.

Senator CURTIS. And the only people you met up there were three gentlemen connected with insurance?

Mr. MURCHISON. Well, I was there on other business. I don't recall what itwas.

Senator CURTIS. I mean when Reynolds was present.

Mr. MURCHISON. Well, no; I think we might—socially we met other people. I don't recall who they were.

Senator CURTIS. Who were the other men that you met socially?

Mr. MURCHISON. I don't remember.

Senator CURTIS. Were any of them connected with the Government?

Mr. MURCHISON. No; not insofar as I know.

Senator CURTIS. None of them had been an Army officer, an Army Engineer officer, or was at the time?

Mr. MURCHISON. I did not know if he was, and do not know it now.

Senator CURTIS. Were there any individuals there besides men?

Mr. MURCHISON. I don't recall. We were at a cocktail party together.

Senator CURTIS. Who gave the cocktail party?

Mr. MURCHISON. A friend of mine.

Senator CURTIS. What was his name?

Mr. MURCHISON. I don't recall. I have seen a list, and it was one of three men on the list that gave it. I have forgotten which one.

Senator CURTIS. Did you do any entertaining on this trip with Reynolds?

Mr. MURCHISON. No.

Senator CURTIS. That is all, in reference to Reynolds.

Senator COOPER. I have no questions.

Senator CANNON. No questions.

Senator PELL. No questions.

(Whereupon, at 5:15 p.m., the committee recessed, to go into further business.)

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