IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CR Action No. 1:21-670

VS.

Washington, DC July 20, 2022

STEPHEN K. BANNON,

9:02 a.m.

Defendant.

TRANSCRIPT OF JURY TRIAL - DAY 3 - MORNING SESSION

BEFORE THE HONORABLE CARL J. NICHOLS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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PROCEEDINGS

DEPUTY CLERK: Good morning, Your Honor. This is criminal case year 2021-0670, United States of America versus Stephen K. Bannon.

Counsel, please come forward to introduce yourselves for the record beginning with the government.

MS. VAUGHN: Good morning, Your Honor.

Amanda Vaughn and Molly Gaston for the United States, and at counsel table is paralegal specialist Quiana Dunn-Gordon and FBI Special Agent Frank D'Amico.

THE COURT: Good morning.

MR. CORCORAN: Good morning, Your Honor.

Evan Corcoran, David Schoen and Riane White on behalf of defendant Stephen Bannon, who is present this morning.

THE COURT: Good morning, everyone.

I understand there is an issue the government would like to raise outside of the presence of the jury.

MS. VAUGHN: Yes, Your Honor.

The government noted multiple news reports last night that reported the defendant's opening as an argument that this was a politically-motivated prosecution. And if lay people in the media understood it that way, then certainly some of the lay people on the jury did.

So this effort to turn this case into a political

circus and a case about politics is why the government moved in limine to exclude these arguments. The Court granted it.

But it seems the defendant is trying to find ways around it.

And the reason we want to bring it up this morning is because we think it's going to come up with both witnesses today, and we're not sure there's going to be a break before the defendant begins to question the first witness. So we want to make sure that there are protections in place, because the first question shouldn't even be allowed to be asked.

So there are two ways that we foresee the defendant trying to claim that he can ask about political motivations here. One is bias. A claim that an individual member of Congress' motives to subpoen the defendant or refer him for contempt is somehow relevant or somehow goes to bias. It does not.

As we have briefed extensively, as SCOTUS has made clear, bias is only relevant as to the individual testifying witness's motive or reason to testify inaccurately because they favor one side or the other.

So when Ms. Amerling is testifying, there shouldn't be one question about the personal motivations of Representative Thompson in subpoenaing the defendant. There shouldn't be one question about why one person or another voted for contempt.

I mean, the Supreme Court slammed the door on that 50 years ago in *Barenblatt* and *Watkins*, and it doesn't go to Ms. Amerling's bias. There shouldn't be one question about whether the House of Representatives is a body concerned with politics.

They need to articulate a good faith basis to ask the specific witness about that specific witness's potential for bias.

THE COURT: So just let me understand this. You agree that Mr. Bannon can attempt to show that a particular witness is biased. And then the question is just, What is fair game for the particular witness?

So as to Ms. Amerling, what, in your view, is or is not fair game as to her bias?

MS. VAUGHN: If she -- if they have a good-faith basis to ask her about her favor about one side or the other in this case, they can do that. They cannot ask her --

THE COURT: It seems to me that is consistent with where I was on your Motion in Limine where I said -- or something to the effect of -- Government asked me to preclude Mr. Bannon from making improper arguments that politicalize the case. I agree that such arguments would be inappropriate. This is not a forum for partisan politics, and I will not allow it to become one. But I will not prevent the defendant from attempting to show bias when

cross-examining witnesses. There's a fine line to be drawn here, and I expect the parties to respect it.

So there are some questions, in your view, that would be appropriate as to Ms. Amerling but not others?

MS. VAUGHN: Yes, Your Honor.

And given the opening yesterday and the clear implications that it made, there are processes that this Court can use to make sure that not even the first inappropriate question gets out.

I think there is a clear record here now that the defendant plans to try to skirt this Court's order. And the government thinks it would be appropriate and warranted under the rules.

Rule 103 provides explicitly for this situation to require the defendant to proffer the specific questions he plans to ask on this, outside the presence of the jury, so the jury doesn't hear one more word about this case being a political prosecution.

THE COURT: ,Okay. That's bias.

MS. VAUGHN: The second way the government thinks that this is going to come up is this idea of testing the thoroughness of the investigation.

Yesterday defense counsel claimed that asking an FBI agent about the vote count of the referral and whether they interviewed people who voted against it is somehow

about testing the thoroughness of investigation; that is a half statement of the law.

Defendants are allowed to ask questions about investigative steps that law enforcement took when they have a good faith basis to believe there is an exculpatory piece of evidence that the investigators either knew about or should have known about and didn't follow up on. This comes up in murder cases where investigators have information that someone else committed the offense and they didn't follow up on it.

They are not allowed to just ask law enforcement about what they did and did not do to suggest there is some mystery piece of exculpatory information that no one knows about. So what piece of exculpatory information does some random member of Congress that voted against referral have about whether the defendant got a subpoena, whether he defied the deadlines and whether his defiance was willful?

What they actually want to do here is to suggest to the jury that it is somehow persuasive evidence that members of Congress, which they have now characterized as a solely-political body, did not vote to refer the defendant for contempt.

The vote count of that referral is irrelevant. It goes just to the political biases and motives of potential members, which is irrelevant to the facts and the elements

that the jury is being asked to decide.

In fact, I don't even think they have a good faith basis to ask why or whether the law enforcement interviewed Bennie Thompson. They haven't identified a piece of exculpatory information that he might have. So they can't use these principles of cross-examination to cover their effort to inject politics and suggest that this is politically motivated.

So we think, again, that before the defendant is allowed to ask a single question on that issue, he should be required to proffer the questions outside of the jury's presence.

THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Vaughn.

Mr. Corcoran, let's start with bias.

I've already decided -- I mean, I issued my ruling such that it was because it was fairly acontextual about politicizing this case, but I did recognize that you asked questions about bias. But don't you agree that it has to be limited to the bias of the particular witness?

MR. CORCORAN: Well --

THE COURT: I got a witness testifying. Bias cross-examination is about whether the witness is biased.

MR. CORCORAN: I understand, Your Honor, yeah.

I mean, the answer is, the witness is on the stand, and our cross-examination will depend on the

testimony of the witness. I know government counsel would love a script of our cross-examination, which can't be produced until the witness testifies.

In terms of bias, we are certainly able to ask her about anything that we find would bear on her credibility. And the jury instruction sets out, in terms of adjudicating the credibility of the witnesses, the bounds of that. And that's what we're going to stick within. I know counsel seems to be worried about us turning this into a political circus. That's not our intention and that was not done in opening.

I stand by the opening. And I think it was clearly on the line, and there was nothing to say that anything other than the evidence that they're going to hear in this case, that they have to listen to it carefully to determine whether there's bias.

THE COURT: Okay.

So here, as to both witnesses, at least the two the government has said it will call, you're limited to asking questions about why that witness might be biased. And to the extent that you start to ask questions that veer into whether someone else, who is not the witness, might be biased, either as a body or as an individual, will in my view be inappropriate.

And to the extent that I think the questions are

getting into that, I will stop you and I will require you to proffer before completing the question, why you think that the question, rather than going to the -- why it goes to the specific witness's bias rather than something else.

MR. CORCORAN: I don't -- I understand the Court's ruling, and I don't envision this to be a stop-and-go cross-examination based on what's been said this morning.

I do want to identify one other issue to keep in mind -- so if there is some objection, and if there is some follow-up -- and that is, part of our Sixth Amendment right to confrontation involves questioning and eliciting information about a witness against Mr. Bannon.

And in this case, the witness who is on the stand is staff, but she is testifying about things that were done, actions that were taken by members of Congress, including Chairman Thompson. And we're about to hear, I know, a discussion about a series of letters that will represent actions taken by Chairman Thompson. I know, because of the Court's ruling, that we're not talking about the content of the letter, and they're not being introduced for that purpose.

But he's taken actions. And to the extent that our cross-examination can get at the actions that are taken by anyone involved with the Committee, that are being presented through this witness, we need to have the ability

to do that. And I think it can be done without crossing the 1 2 line of fair examination. THE COURT: So I just want to -- I understood the 3 4 point, but what I couldn't quite get at the end is, and 5 therefore what? 6 Are you saying that you believe that you are 7 allowed to ask the witness testifying about the bias or potential bias of anyone on the Committee? 8 9 MR. CORCORAN: Yes. 10 Let's say she says, Chairman Thompson did X. 11 allowed to ask her if she knows, Did Chairman Thompson do X 12 because of this issue? And she can answer yes or no. 13 But I certainly, through this witness, I can get 14 at whether she knows whether any action was taken by 15 Chairman Thompson. 16 THE COURT: What about members of the Committee 17 other than Chairman Thompson? 18 MR. CORCORAN: I don't plan to ask about any other 19 members at this stage. 20 THE COURT: So I'll hear from Ms. Vaughn on that 21 question. 22 So now let's turn to the -- no, no, no. Hold on a 23 I apologize. What I meant was I want to hear from second. 24 her on that, the bias question. But she also raised the

question whether and to what extent you can ask questions of

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the agent witness about the thoroughness of the investigation.

MR. CORCORAN: Yeah, it's totally fair game. I know she mentioned something in the murder context where there's some suggestion that we're -- that the defendant is talking about a mystery culprit or something like that.

That's not it at all.

What we said yesterday when the husher was on and what we stand by, which is, if there's an agent on the stand who says, I took these steps in this investigation. I'm investigating whether a crime took place, and I interviewed this person, A, B and C. I'm allowed to ask them, Why didn't you? If you didn't, why didn't you interview person D, who was present, who had knowledge and who, you know, for instance, expressed on the House floor a view of what happened? Totally fair game.

And, you know, it's not telling the jury that -it's telling the jury that, when they're evaluating an
investigator's decision-making about whether a crime was
committed, that they interviewed and considered all
available evidence that might be exculpatory.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. CORCORAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: So, Ms. Vaughn, let's start with the bias point.

MS. VAUGHN: Your Honor, I think Mr. Corcoran just admitted that they want to ask whether issuing the subpoena or requiring him to comply was politically motivated.

I don't know how much more clearly the Supreme Court could have said in Watkins and Barenblatt that that is irrelevant. They can ask questions about, is this category of records that you're seeking pertinent to the investigation? They can do that all they want.

THE COURT: They can ask -- it's clear that they can ask questions that go to whether the particular witness and her testimony is biased.

MS. VAUGHN: Yes.

THE COURT: Now, the question is -- because

Chairman Thompson is not here and is at least the signatory

of the letters and is the Chairman of the Committee and is

the one who had the authority, as she testified yesterday,

to have signed the subpoenas -- they can ask about when he

did those things that he's not here himself to testify

about, whether he was biased in doing so. And your view is

that is out of bounds because bias cross-examination goes to

testimony.

MS. VAUGHN: Yes.

What they are trying to argue about instead is that somehow the subpoena itself was illegitimate and politically motivated or that --

THE COURT: Okay. I have that.

So here's my ruling on this question: The defendant may ask questions that go to whether the witness we have here is biased in her testimony but may not ask questions whether someone else was biased in an action that they took outside of this courtroom.

Even as to her bias, I get that there are some -that there may be some questions that cross the line, and I
will police that line the best that I can. Okay?

So now let's talk about the investigation, the completeness of the investigation.

MS. VAUGHN: Yes.

So I heard Mr. Corcoran say --

THE COURT: Why wouldn't that go to, for example, pertinency?

You know, one of the elements here is that the subpoena has to be pertinent to the investigation, the information sought has to be pertinent. Did you, Agent, in deciding and investigating whether it was, in fact, pertinent, who did you talk to? Did you talk to these people who might have had a different view?

MS. VAUGHN: So that line of questioning, and what I heard Mr. Corcoran say is that somehow it is relevant. He said, The jury is going to be asked to evaluate investigators' decisions about whether a crime had been

committed. That's inappropriate.

We would never suggest to the jury that they should find a crime has been committed because a police officer thinks one has been. And this is exactly, sort of, the cover that the government thinks the defendant is trying to use to say, Well, you didn't interview Representative McCarthy, who didn't think that these facts met the elements of the crime.

Whether Representative McCarthy thought the facts met the elements of the crime is irrelevant. The question is, Did the investigators ignore some exculpatory evidence?

And with respect to attorneys' questions across the board, we always have to have a good faith basis to ask about a fact. We have to have a good faith basis to believe that there is a fact there and just to ask --

THE COURT: Okay.

Here's where I am on this one. I'm going to take it under advisement. It seems to me that we are not at the cross-examination of the agent stage yet. I want to reflect on this. I understand the government's position. I understand your position, Mr. Corcoran, Mr. Bannon.

I, at a minimum, will reserve until we finish with Ms. Amerling and perhaps until we finish with the direct of the agent witness. Okay? But I understand the positions.

MS. VAUGHN: And one other thing I wanted to note

is also the questions about the vote count of the referral.

We think should that be precluded entirely because the

body -- the House is a body. It acts as a body.

The specific vote count is irrelevant. And it suggests -- it improperly suggests to the jury that because certain members of Congress didn't want this to be investigated, it's somehow persuasive evidence that a crime didn't occur.

THE COURT: Right. I understand.

I think to think through that, I need to see the rest of Ms. Amerling's testimony and, to the extent that it's not relevant in her cross, the agent's testimony. So I'll treat that as -- I understand the point.

I, again, do not intend for this to become a political case, a political circus, forum for partisan politics. You have acknowledged, and I have as well, that bias of a witness is relevant, but it has to be about the witness testifying.

This question, it's not even clear to me that it's going to be within the scope of the direct of either witness, so I understand the point. I'm going to take that under advisement as well and police as I feel appropriate.

Okay?

Thank you.

MS. VAUGHN: Thank you.

THE COURT: Mr. Schoen, good morning.

MR. SCHOEN: I'm sorry. I just think there's one other issue that ought to be raised so we don't run into problems on cross and so that I can preserve the record.

The government yesterday -- we've been told since the start of this case, of course, that the reason

Mr. Bannon didn't comply with the subpoena is irrelevant.

He got a valid subpoena. Didn't show up. Unless it was an accident, it's not irrelevant.

Yesterday the government opened and told the jury that Mr. Bannon got the subpoena, and he decided he's above the law. That's a reason. He decided he's above the law. And it's not a reason that comports with the facts as we know them to be. That is, Mr. Bannon, according to the Costello affidavit and so on -- declaration and so on, believed he was fully complying with the law; that he wasn't permitted to comply with the subpoena; that his lawyer told him, You can't comply with the subpoena. He thought he was complying with the law, not above the law.

As I understand it, at least, we will not be able to go into, on cross-examination, the reasons that Mr. Bannon gave to the Committee as to why he didn't comply; that is, he relied on his advice of counsel --

THE COURT: I understand the reasons.

MR. SCHOEN: Yes, Your Honor.

And, therefore, I think that raises now a right of confrontation violation because the jury has been told his reason was he decided he was above the law. I don't think you can have it both ways, say reason is irrelevant and the defense is barred from showing what their reason was.

So questions to Ms. Amerling would be along these lines that, you know, Mr. Bannon clearly told you through Costello that he relied on the advice of counsel that he wasn't complying because executive privilege barred him from complying.

All of those kinds of things we talked about, those are all barred as defenses.

THE COURT: I understand the point.

MR. SCHOEN: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Ms. Vaughn, what is your response to this?

MS. VAUGHN: Your Honor, again, as we've said many times, we have to show that there was not some lingering objection that hadn't been resolved. That's the point.

The argument about the defendant being -- deciding he's above the law, we have to prove that his violation of the subpoena was deliberate. A choice not to comply, in our view, is a decision that you are above the authority of Congress.

THE COURT: Yeah, it may have not been, in light

of all of the rulings I've made, the most artful choice.

But it seemed to me that you were very likely making the point that the defendant did not comply with the subpoena in the way that the government alleges he was required to do, and in that sense was acting as if he was above the law.

And for that reason, I do not believe, as I said yesterday, that we opened the door to all issues that heretofore have been excluded.

So I am not -- so the point is preserved for the

So I am not -- so the point is preserved for the record, Mr. Schoen. To the extent this is a motion to reconsider those prior rulings or to permit evidence that was previously excluded because of the opening, it's denied.

Okay?

MS. VAUGHN: And I'll note too if the defense would like to go back to us redacting the letters, we can do that. We're just trying to establish that there wasn't an outstanding objection that has to be resolved.

MR. SCHOEN: Your Honor, let me make clear then for the record, this has nothing to do with redacting the letters. The defense in this case --

THE COURT: I'm on it. I got it.

MR. SCHOEN: I have to say this, Judge, if I may.

The defense was: I complied with the law. I followed the law. I did what the law required me to do.

THE COURT: Mr. Schoen, your point is very well

articulated already. It's on the record. Just because the 1 2 government has a view of it doesn't mean you haven't made the point. I understand the point. 3 4 MR. SCHOEN: Thank you, Your Honor. 5 THE COURT: Ms. Lesley, could you please bring the 6 jury in? 7 DEPUTY CLERK: Should we bring the witness in, Your Honor, or do you want us to wait? 8 9 THE COURT: Bring the witness in. Thank you for 10 asking. 11 Good morning, ma'am. 12 THE WITNESS: Good morning, Your Honor. 13 THE COURT: We are just going to bring the jury 14 in. 15 (Jury entered the courtroom at 9:26 a.m.) 16 DEPUTY CLERK: Your Honor, we are now back on the 17 record. 18 THE COURT: Good morning, everyone. Thanks for 19 being here again this morning. 20 I wanted to make just one housekeeping notice, 21 which relates to the wearing of masks in this courtroom and 22 as you retire to the break room and then deliberate. 23 My view is that in the break room, essentially in 24 the courtroom that you are in, you are free to wear masks or 25 not as you would choose. If you want to have a conversation about it, that's fine too. But in my view, people should feel free -- you 14 should feel free to essentially decide as a group however you would like to behave there.

As for the courtroom, now that we have a jury, now that we are up and running, my view is that no one inside the well, so basically the front row, which includes members of my staff, counsel table, the jury in the courtroom here, is required to wear a mask.

So people inside the well, anyone inside the well may, if he or she likes, take off your mask, but you are not required to.

I would ask that everyone else -- I will not even ask -- I would require everyone else who's not inside the well, partly because those people are coming in and out and the like, to keep your masks on.

So with that, Ms. Vaughn.

MS. VAUGHN: Thank you, Your Honor.

DIRECT EXAMINATION OF KRISTIN AMERLING (CONTINUED)

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. Good morning, Ms. Amerling.
- A. Good morning.
- Q. Yesterday when you were testifying, we left off -- we were talking about the subpoena that the Select Committee had issued to the defendant. So I would like to pick up there.

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MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, if we could bring up Government's Exhibit 2, which is already in evidence. BY MS. VAUGHN: And, Ms. Amerling, just to remind us all where we are, we had talked about this page yesterday, the actual subpoena. And can you just remind us when and at what -what day and what time the subpoena required the defendant to provide documents relating to his involvement in January 6th? Yes. The document production deadline was Α. October 7th, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. And can you remind us when the defendant was supposed to appear for his deposition to answer questions about his involvement in January 6th? The time for his deposition was October 14th, Α. 2021, at 10:00 a.m. MS. VAUGHN: I'd like to go to Page 3 of Government's Exhibit 2. BY MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Amerling, is this another document or page that was included with the subpoena that went to the defendant? Yes, it was. Α.

And can you just explain for the jury what purpose

this page serves within the subpoena document that's sent to

the defendant?

- A. This is a letter that informs the recipient of the subpoena about the purpose and authority for the investigation that the Select Committee is conducting and gives the recipient a sense of the kinds of information that the Select Committee is seeking.
- Q. And is this letter sent on behalf of the Committee?
 - A. Yes, it is.
- Q. And in your role as the Deputy Staff Director and Chief Counsel, did you participate in putting this entire 10-page document together for the defendant?
 - A. I did.
- Q. So who is this letter from or who signs on behalf of the Committee?
- A. The Chairman signs the letter, Chairman Bennie Thompson.
- Q. We see at the top that the letter is to

 Mr. Bannon, care of his counsel, which you discussed

 yesterday. So let's look at some of what the Committee told
 the defendant about the subpoena?
- MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, could we zoom in on the first two paragraphs, please?

24 BY MS. VAUGHN:

Q. All right. So after the greeting it says,

"Pursuant to the authorities set forth in House Resolution 503 and the rules of the House of Representatives." House Resolution 503, is that what we were looking at earlier yesterday, the resolution that authorized the Committee?

A. That's correct.

Q. And then it says that "The Select Committee hereby transmits a subpoena compelling you to produce the documents set forth in the accompanying schedule by October 7th and to appear for a deposition on October 14th."

Can you just explain briefly what is meant by "compelling"?

- A. That's a reference to the fact that the letter accompanies a subpoena that requires the recipient to produce the documents by that deadline and appear for a deposition by the deadline stated under the potential threat of criminal liability for refusing to comply.
- Q. And the second paragraph there, can you please read that paragraph?
- A. It says, "The Select Committee is investigating the facts, circumstances, and causes of the January 6th attack and issues relating to the peaceful transfer of power, in order to identify and evaluate lessons learned and to recommend to the House and its relevant committees, corrective laws, policies, procedures, rules or regulations. This inquiry includes examination of how various individuals

and entities coordinated their activities leading up to the events of January 6, 2021."

- Q. Ms. Amerling, there's a reference there -- we talked yesterday about the January 6th attack. But there's a reference there to the investigation into the "peaceful transfer of power". What is that referring to?
- A. That is the part of our democratic process that involves the transfer of power when an incumbent President loses an election and transfers power to the incoming President who is elected.
- Q. And so was the transfer of power between the former President and the new President an issue that the Committee was focused on?
- A. That's correct. One of the events of January 6 was the joint session of Congress where the House and Senate certify the vote that the American public has cast in the presidential election.
- MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, can we zoom in on the bottom part of this letter?

BY MS. VAUGHN:

Q. So the next paragraph starts with "The Select Committee has reason to believe that you have information relevant to understanding important activities that led to and informed the events of the Capitol on January 6th, 2021."

Does the paragraph then go on to list some of the reasons the Committee had a reason to believe the defendant might have information relevant to its investigation?

A. That's correct.

- **Q.** And what is the purpose of informing the defendant the reasons that the Committee thinks he might have relevant information?
- A. So the individual can have a sense of the type of the information that the Committee was seeking from him or her.
- Q. What is the first reason that the letter told the defendant the Committee had --
- MR. CORCORAN: Your Honor, we ask for a limiting instruction again.

THE COURT: Yes.

So, as I said yesterday, this page, as you may recall, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, is admitted for the purpose of demonstrating that it was provided -- it was the Committee's position and was provided to Mr. Bannon.

But it is not -- I am not admitting it for the proof -- to prove, for example in this paragraph, whether it is in fact true, the assertions that are in here.

This is being admitted to show that this was the Committee's position, not what the Committee was saying about these subjects in this paragraph are, in fact, true.

MS. VAUGHN: Thank you, Your Honor.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. Ms. Amerling, what is the first reason that the letter told the defendant the Committee believed he had relevant information?
- A. The letter says, "You have been identified as being present at the Willard Hotel on January 5th during an effort to persuade members of Congress to block the certification of the election the next day and in relation to other activities on January 6th."
- Q. All right. And January 5th, the day before the attack -- what is the Willard hotel?
- A. The Willard Hotel is a hotel in Washington, D.C., where it had been reported at that time that numerous individuals who were involved in discussing potential plans and strategies relating to the events of January 6th were staying or were meeting.
- Q. And the reference to block the certification of the election, is that the same thing that you were talking about earlier about the joint meeting of Congress to finalize the transfer of power?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. What is the next thing that the letter explains to the defendant about why the Committee believed he had relevant information?

A. 7	The next	sentence	says,	"You	are	also	described	as	
communicati	ing with	then-Pres	sident	Trump	o on	Decer	mber 30,		
2020, and potentially other occasions, urging him to plan									
for and for	cus his	efforts or	n Janua	ry 6t	ch."				

Q. Then, finally, it says, "Moreover, you are quoted as stating on January 5th that all hell is going to break loose tomorrow."

Now, the paragraph ends with "Accordingly, the Select Committee seeks both documents and/or deposition testimony regarding these and multiple other matters that are within the scope of the Select Committee's inquiry."

So the three things that are listed here, were those the only things that gave the Committee a reason to believe the defendant might have information relevant to this investigation?

- A. No, they were intended to be a representative sample.
 - Q. All right.

Yesterday when we were looking at the subpoena itself, we saw a reference to a schedule of things that the subpoena required the defendant to provide by October 7th. So I want to take a look at that now.

MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, if we could go to Page 4 of Government's Exhibit 2.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. Ms. Amerling, this document is titled "Schedule" and is this the list of items that the subpoena required the defendant to provide?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. All right. And does it actually continue on to the next page as well?
 - A. It does.
- Q. All right. There is an introductory paragraph there. I want to start by looking at that.
- MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, if we could zoom in to that.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. And, Ms. Amerling, could you please read this paragraph for us?
- A. It says, "In accordance with the attached Definitions and Instructions, you, Stephen K. Bannon, are hereby required to produce all documents and communications in your possession, custody, and control, including any such documents or communications stored or located on personal devices (e.g., personal computers, cellular phones, tablets, etc.), in personal or campaign accounts and/or on personal or campaign applications (e.g. email accounts, contact lists, calendar entries, etc.) referring or relating to the following items. If no date range is specified below, the

applicable dates are for the time period April 1, 2020 through the present."

- Q. It says, "documents or communications stored in personal or campaign accounts or on personal or campaign applications." Can you explain what is meant there by a reference to a personal or a campaign account?
- A. Yes. Mr. Bannon and others who we have subpoenaed as part of this investigation, some of them have played roles in campaigns. So to the extent that there is information relevant to the subpoena that's in a campaign-related account, that's what that's referring to. Personal accounts are personal emails and other documents that might be in an individual's personal possession.
- Q. Then let's look at the rest of this schedule. So how many categories of documents did the subpoena require the defendant to provide to the Committee?
 - A. Seventeen categories.
- Q. And, generally, how did the Committee identify each of these categories of documents as items that the defendant might have information about?
- A. These categories cover activities that the Select Committee had reviewed and researched that related to the events that took place on January 6th.
- Q. And in your role, did you participate in putting this list together?

- A. I did, yes.
- Q. And did each of the categories of records listed here relate to the investigation in some way?
 - A. They did.
 - Q. All right. Let's look at a few examples.

MS. VAUGHN: So, Ms. Dunn-Gordon, could we just zoom in on the first two, please?

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. Ms. Amerling, what is the first category that the defendant was required to produce documents relating to?
- A. It reads: "The January 6th, 2021, rally on the mall and Capitol grounds in Washington, D.C. in support of President Donald J. Trump and opposition to certification of the results of the 2020 presidential election, including any permitting, planning, objectives, financing and conduct, as well as any communications to or from any person or group involved in organizing or planning for the January 6th, 2021, rally."
- Q. Ms. Amerling, you mentioned yesterday the actual breach of the Capitol, but what is the reference there to a rally on the mall?
- A. There was a rally in the area of the White House that took place immediately preceding the attack on the United States Capitol.
 - Q. And so how did the permitting or the planning or

things like that related to that rally relate to the Committee's investigation into January 6th?

- A. Many of the individuals who participated in the attack on the Capitol said that they were motivated by a belief that the election had been stolen. Many of those individuals also had attended the rally that immediately preceded the attack on the Capitol where numerous speakers at the rally had reiterated the claim that the election had been stolen and directed participants to march on the Capitol. The Select Committee is reviewing the extent to which there is a connection between these events.
- Q. Let's turn to item 2. Can you please read that item?
- A. It says, "Then-President Trump's participation in the January 6, 2021 rally, including any communications with President Trump or any paid or unpaid attorney, advisor, aid or assistant to President Trump, relating to the nature, context or content of President Trump's intended or actual remarks to those attending the January 6, 2021, rally."
- Q. Can you explain how the defendant's potential communications relating to the former President's remarks at the rally were relevant to the Committee's investigation?
- A. Yes. The former President was among those at the rally who reiterated the claims that the election had been stolen and directed participants to march the Capitol.

We understood that Mr. Bannon had been in communication with the President in the weeks leading up to the January 6th events, and we wanted to understand what he could tell us about the connection between any of these events.

- Q. And was it the Committee's understanding that the defendant had a formal role in the former President's White House or with respect to his campaign?
- A. The Committee's understanding was that Mr. Bannon was a private citizen.
- Q. So what information did the Committee have that led it to believe that he might have records relating to ongoing communications with the former President?
- A. There had been a number of public reports stating that Mr. Bannon had been in communication with White House officials, including former President Trump, in the weeks leading up to the January 6th events.
- Q. Let's look at a couple of other examples from this list.
- MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, if we could zoom in on 5 and 6, please.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

Q. Ms. Amerling, Number 5 relates to records relating to the "The War Room podcast." Can you explain what "The War Room podcast" is a reference to?

- ${f A.}$ That is a reference to the podcast run by Mr. Bannon.
- Q. And how did records relating to the War Room podcast relate to the Committee's investigation?
- A. On the War Room podcast, Mr. Bannon had, in the weeks leading up to the January 6th attack, made repeated claims that the election had been stolen. And the day before the attack had made statements including, "All hell is going to break loose tomorrow," and other statements that suggested that he might have had advanced knowledge of the events that were going to take place on January 6th.
- Q. And Item 6 there asks for records relating to "March for Trump". What is that referring to, "March for Trump"?
- A. That is one of the organizations that we understood was involved with publicizing the rally and helping encourage people to come to D.C. for the events of January 6th.
- Q. Let's look at a few more examples on the next page.
- MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, if we could go to the next page and zoom in on Items 11 and 12, please.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

Q. All right. Ms. Amerling, Number 11 asks for "Records relating to anyone with whom you communicated by

any means with respect to efforts, plans or proposals to contest the 2020 presidential election results or delay, influence or impede the electoral count, including but not limited to communications with Boris Epshteyn, Kashyap Patel, and Ezra Cohen-Watnick."

First, this reference to the electoral count, what is that a reference to?

- A. That's what -- the count of the electors that took place in a Joint Session on January 6th.
 - Q. And the names that are listed here, who are they?
- A. Based on public accounts, we had understood that Boris Epshteyn was an outside advisor to the President and his associates, and he had been engaged in helping promote claims that the election had been stolen.

Kashyap Patel and Ezra Cohen-Watnick were both high-ranking officials in the Defense Department, and one of the responsibilities of the Select Committee was to investigate the role of federal agencies, including the Defense Department, in preparing for and defending against the attack on the Capitol.

- Q. So with that, how -- if the defendant had had any communications with these individuals, how would that have related to the Committee's investigation?
- A. The Committee was charged and is charged with investigating the facts, circumstances and causes of the

January 6th attack on the Capitol and interference with the peaceful transfer of power.

Information we were seeking from this subpoena and from other efforts to obtain information informs the Committee's understanding of the attack.

Q. Item 12 says -- or requires "Records relating to all public relations, advertising or other communications efforts to persuade Americans that the election was stolen or to attend the rally on January 6th."

How were records relating to that relevant to the Committee's investigation?

A. Committee's investigation was looking at the facts and circumstances leading to the attack, including statements and activities that might have motivated or influenced the attack.

As I described earlier, many of the individuals who participated in the attack said they were motivated by a belief that the election had been stolen.

- Q. And what was it the Committee thought the defendant might have related to this item?
- A. We were looking for information that may have been able to shine a light on why he was making statements that the election was stolen.
 - Q. All right. I want to look at just a couple more.

 MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, if we could zoom in

on items 15 through 17.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. Ms. Amerling, what is item 15?
- A. It demands information on "Any communication regarding any of the foregoing topics with Proud Boys, Oath Keepers, Three Percenters and Alex Jones.
 - Q. And what is that a reference to?
- A. This is an effort to ask Mr. Bannon whether he has information relating to several groups who had members who were among those who participated in the attack on the Capitol, Proud Boys, Oath Keepers and Three Percenters.

Mr. Alex Jones was a media figure who had been making repeated claims publicly on his platforms in the weeks leading up to the attack that the election had been stolen.

And, again, the Committee was seeking information relevant to understanding the relationship or potential relationship between the different individuals and organizations that played a role in the events of January 6th.

- Q. And when you say "the relationship or potential relationship," are you referring to any relationship that the defendant may have had with these individuals?
 - A. We wanted to ask him what he knew.
 - Q. And with respect to this item, what does that --

what do you mean by that, "what he knew"?

- A. What did he know, if he did know anything, about the relationship that the Proud Boys, Oath Keepers,

 Three Percenters and Alex Jones may have had to the events of January 6th.
 - Q. Ms. Amerling, what is item 16?
- A. Item 16 asks for "Any communications with Representative Scott Perry and/or other members of Congress about any of the foregoing topics."
- Q. Who is Representative Scott Perry, and how would communications with him be relevant?
- A. Representative Scott Perry is a member of the House of Representatives from Pennsylvania. And he reportedly had been involved with efforts to try to persuade the administration to change the leadership of the Department of Justice in the weeks leading up to the January 6th attack.
- Q. Can you explain for us why a change in leadership at the Department of Justice was relevant to the Committee's investigation?
- A. Yes. According to public accounts, the Department of Justice had been under pressure to make claims that there was election fraud. And the Attorney General, Attorney General Barr, had stated in the beginning of December, that there was not widespread fraud sufficient to have changed

the results of the election. And his successors were taking the same position.

Reportedly there was an effort to change the leadership at the Department of Justice in order to put individuals in charge who would make claims that there was election fraud.

- Q. And finally, item 17, Ms. Amerling, "Any communications with Rudolph Giuliani, John Eastman, Michael Flynn, Jenna Ellis or Sydney Powell about any of the foregoing topics." Can you explain who those individuals were in relation to the events of January 6th?
- A. These were all individuals, private citizens, who had been involved, to different degrees, with efforts to persuade people that the election had been stolen.
- Q. And how would the defendant's communications with these individuals be relevant -- if he had any, be relevant to the Committee's investigation?
- A. The Committee is focused on determining what happened on January 6 and why, and putting together as complete and thorough account of the facts, circumstances and causes of those events.

So it's important to understand what the relationships are between the different individuals and entities were who were involved with the events of that day.

Q. And the subpoena requests documents relating to

all of these topics. Can you just describe for the jury what -- specifically what kind of documents the Committee expected or had in mind?

- A. The subpoena called for documents that included paper records, electronic records such as emails, text messages. Those are some of the main examples.
- Q. And you testified earlier that committees and this Committee conducts investigations in order to figure out what kind of legislation or rule changes or regulations need to be amended or added.

Can you explain to the jury some of the kinds of measures Congress is authorized to consider that the information the defendant was required to provide related to?

- A. Yes. As I described yesterday, there's a whole range --
 - MR. CORCORAN: Objection to stipulation.

THE COURT: Overruled.

You may answer the question.

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

Select Committee is investigating facts and circumstances of the attack on the Capitol on January 6th, the interference of a peaceful transfer of power. It's compiling a thorough record of the facts that relate to those events in order to evaluate a whole range of

corrective measures that could be put in place to prevent something like that from happening in the future.

There are a number of different areas on which Congress could legislate. The Select Committee is not yet at the phase of its investigation where it has specified specific measures. But there are a number of types of examples that individuals who have testified about the events of January 6th have cited. Some of the members of the Committee have given representative examples.

Some of those examples include measures to boost funding for agencies that support the defense of the Capitol. Measures that improve communication, intelligence among agencies that help protect against attacks like the one that we saw. Other measures could include modifications to laws and regulations that govern the finalization of presidential votes such as the Electoral Count Act.

Other measures that members have cited include potentially providing for increases in criminal penalties for crimes that relate to conduct that occurred on that day.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. And all of these categories of documents that we've been talking about, were the topics that we've been talking about also topics that the Committee intended to cover in the deposition that was required by the subpoena?
 - A. That's correct.

- Q. You testified that you provided the subpoena to the defendant through his attorney, Robert Costello. Did you personally provide the subpoena that way, or was it someone else on the Committee?
- A. I emailed the subpoena to Mr. Bannon's attorney, Mr. Costello.
- Q. Does the subpoena include a page where you documented providing the subpoena to Mr. Costello?
 - A. Yes, it does.

MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, can we go to Page 2 of Government's Exhibit 2, please.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. All right. Ms. Amerling, this page is titled "Proof of Service." Is this the page you were just referring to?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And at the top we see a similar, sort of two-line subpoena for Stephen Bannon, but I want to talk about the box at the bottom with the handwritten information there.

 Did you write this information?
 - A. I did.
- Q. And it says "Served by Kristin Amerling." That's you?
 - A. That's correct.
 - Q. And you also signed this; is that right?

A. I did.

- Q. And is that what we see next to "Signature of Server?"
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. And next to "Manner of Service," did you write that in?
 - A. I did.
 - Q. What did you write there?
- A. I wrote "email to attorney for Mr. Bannon, Robert Costello" and his email address.
- Q. And the date that's listed, that's September 23rd, the date you provided it?
 - A. That's the date I emailed it to him, yes.
- Q. Let's look at your emails with Mr. Costello, the defendant's attorney.
- MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, could we bring up, just for the witness and the Court, Government's Exhibit 3, please?

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. All right. Ms. Amerling, this is a three-page document. What's contained in this document?
- A. This looks like an email chain between myself and Mr. Costello, Mr. Bannon's attorney.
 - Q. What are the dates of these emails?
- **A.** It starts on September 23rd and it ends on

September 24th, 2021.

MS. VAUGHN: Your Honor, the government moves to admit and publish Government's Exhibit 3.

MR. CORCORAN: No objection, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Government's Exhibit 3 is admitted and may be published to the jury.

(Government's Exhibit 3 was admitted.)

MS. VAUGHN: All right. I want to zoom in on the email at the bottom of Page 1 starting with "On September 23rd," please, Ms. Dunn-Gordon.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. This is the first email in the chain in this document. Who is this email from, Ms. Amerling?
 - A. It is from me.
 - Q. To who?
 - A. To Mr. Costello.
- Q. Do you see the date there, September 23rd, at 6:38 p.m.?
 - A. Yes, I do.
- Q. In the email you first say, "I am following up on our conversation today in which you confirmed that you represent Stephen Bannon." What is the conversation that you're referring to there?
- A. I had reached out to Mr. Costello because we understood that he was representing Mr. Bannon, and I wanted

to confirm that.

- Q. And can you describe what Mr. Costello told you in that call?
- A. He confirmed that he was, in fact, representing Mr. Bannon.
- Q. Did you inform him in that call that the Committee had a subpoena for Mr. Bannon?
- A. Yes, we discussed the subpoena, and we discussed the fact that I would be sending him a subpoena. I asked if he would accept service of the subpoena on his client's behalf. He said he would check with his client and confirm.
- Q. And is that what you're referring to in the next line of the email where you say, "I understand that you are checking with Mr. Bannon regarding whether he will authorize you to accept service of the subpoena on his behalf"?
 - A. That's right.
- Q. And can you please read the rest of your email there?
- A. It says, "The Select Committee to investigate the January 6th attack on the United States Capitol is today issuing the attached subpoena to Mr. Bannon for his testimony and the production of documents to the Committee. In the event that you will accept service, I am attaching to this email the subpoena, along with a letter from Chairman Bennie Thompson, a document schedule with accompanying

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production instructions, and a copy of the deposition rules." 2 3 And is what you attached what we were just looking at in Exhibit 2? Α. We were looking at a part of what I attached, yes. Q. Is what you attached all of Exhibit 2? I know we 7 hadn't talked about the other pages yet. 8 Α. That's correct. Q. All right. Let's look at the next email in the 10 chain. 11 MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, if you could zoom in 12 on the middle email there. 13 BY MS. VAUGHN: 14 Q. This is an email that was sent the next day on 15 Friday, September 24th, 2021. Who sent this email? 16 Α. This email is from Mr. Costello, Mr. Bannon's 17 counsel. 18 Okay. Who is it to? Q. To myself. 19 Α. 20 What does Mr. Costello tell you the next day on Q. 21 September 24th? 22 He confirmed that he had authority from his client Α. 23 to accept the subpoena. 24 Q. And he says: "This will advise you that I have

been authorized by Steve Bannon to accept service."

When you got this email from Mr. Costello and he said he had been authorized, what did you understand him to mean by that?

- A. That he had accepted the subpoena that we had issued the day before on Mr. Bannon's behalf.
- Q. And based on what Mr. Costello told you in the phone call and in this email, what was your understanding about whether Mr. Costello was actually in touch with the defendant?
- A. He had represented that he was his attorney, so our understanding was that he was in communication with Mr. Bannon.
- Q. And what would the Committee had done if it had reason to believe that Mr. Costello was not in communication with the defendant?

THE COURT: Can you ask the question based on her experience?

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. Based on how the Committee handles these things, in your experience, now that you've worked on it for a year, what would the Committee have done if the Committee believed that Mr. Costello was not in communication with the defendant?
- A. We would have sought to determine whether

 Mr. Bannon was represented by anyone else. If he was not

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represented by anybody else, we would have sought to reach out to him directly. Q. All right. Ms. Amerling, we're going to be talking about several dates here. MS. VAUGHN: So, with the Court's permission, I would like to just keep a timeline, if I can, so that we can keep them all straight. THE COURT: I was wondering what the easel was for. Fair enough. MS. VAUGHN: Your Honor, I'm just going to add these two dates. MR. CORCORAN: Your Honor, we can't see the easel. THE COURT: Yes. We definitely need to have the easel visible to everyone. MS. VAUGHN: (Adjusted the easel and created said timeline.) THE COURT: Thank you. BY MS. VAUGHN: All right. Ms. Amerling, so I put on our timeline that the subpoena was delivered on September 23rd, and Mr. Costello confirmed that he was authorized by the defendant to take it on September 24th. So we've looked at the subpoena and the emails of its delivery. Let's talk about the defendant's compliance. You

testified earlier that the subpoena required the defendant to provide documents by 10:00 a.m. on October 7th. Did the defendant provide any records to the Committee by that time?

A. He did not.

- Q. Between the time that you got that email from Mr. Costello on September 24th confirming that he had been authorized to take it, between that time and 10:00 in the morning on October 7th, did the Committee hear anything more from the defendant about the subpoena at all?
 - A. No.
- Q. So, for example, did he ever ask for an extension because he needed more time to find and collect documents?
 - A. He did not.
- Q. Did he ever inform the Committee that he did not have responsive documents?
 - A. He did not.
- Q. And if the defendant didn't have documents or needed more time, was there a specific process that the defendant was directed to follow if he was unable to comply by the deadline?
- A. Yes. There are instructions that are attached to the subpoena on that issue.
 - Q. Let's look at those.
- MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, if we could bring up again Government's Exhibit 2 and go to Page 6.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. Ms. Amerling, this document is titled "Document Production Definitions and Instructions." Do you see that?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Was this provided along with the subpoena in that email to Mr. Costello?
 - A. Yes, it was.
- Q. All right. Let's go to instruction 13 and zoom in on that. Can you please read instruction 13 there?
- A. Yes. It says, "If compliance with the request cannot be made in full by the specified return date, compliance shall be made, to the extent possible, by that date. An explanation of why full compliance is not possible shall be provided along with any partial production, as well as a date certain as to when full production will be satisfied."
- Q. So this is what the subpoena required if the defendant could not comply by the deadline?
 - A. That's correct, yes.
 - Q. And did he at all follow this procedure?
 - A. He did not.
- Q. Let's look at another item on this list, item 19.

 Can you please read item 19 to the jury?
- A. It says, "Upon completion of the production, submit a written certification, signed by you or your

counsel stating that: (1) a diligent search has been completed of all documents in your possession, custody or control that reasonably could contain responsive documents; and (2) all documents located during the search that are responsive have been produced to the Committee."

- Q. So if the defendant -- in your experience on the Committee, is this what the subpoena requires individuals to do if they've done a search and haven't found certain documents?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Did the defendant follow this procedure by 10:00 in the morning on October 7th?
 - A. He did not.
- Q. Did the Committee get anything more than radio silence by 10:00 in the morning on October 7th?
 - A. No.

- Q. So despite the deadline passing, did the defendant -- or did the Committee eventually receive a communication from the defendant?
- A. His counsel, after the deadline had passed, sent a letter.
 - Q. Did he send that later that day?
 - A. I believe that's right.
 - Q. How did the Committee receive the letter?
- A. Mr. Costello emailed his correspondence to me.

MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, if we could bring 1 up, just for the witness, Government's Exhibit 4, please. 2 BY MS. VAUGHN: 3 Ms. Amerling, Government's Exhibit 4 is a 4 multi-paged document. What's contained in Government's 5 6 Exhibit 4? 7 Α. This looks like a copy of the letter that 8 Mr. Costello sent to the Committee on October 7th. 9 Q. And is there an additional document within 10 Government's Exhibit 4? 11 Sorry. What's your question? Α. 12 Is there an additional page to Government's 13 Exhibit 4? Could you just describe what that is? 14 Α. There's a two-page letter and then there is a copy 15 of email correspondence between myself and Mr. Costello. 16 And is that email correspondence about the letter? Q. 17 Yes, it is. A. 18 MS. VAUGHN: Your Honor, the government moves to admit and publish Government's Exhibit 4. 19 20 MR. CORCORAN: No objection, Your Honor. 21 THE COURT: Government's Exhibit 4 is admitted and 22 may be published to the jury. 23 (Government's Exhibit 4 was admitted.) BY MS. VAUGHN: 24 25 All right. Ms. Amerling, let's actually start on Q.

Page 3 of Government's Exhibit 4. 1 MS. VAUGHN: And if we could zoom in on the bottom 2 3 half, the bottom email in this document. BY MS. VAUGHN: Q. The bottom email there, who is it from and to?

- Α. This is from Mr. Costello to myself.
- Q. What is it that Mr. Costello says in the email?
- It says, "Dear Ms. Amerling, please find my attached letter response on behalf of Stephen K. Bannon to the House Select Committee Subpoena of September 23, 2021."
 - Q. When was this email sent to the Committee?
 - It was sent at 5:05 p.m. on October 7th, 2021.
- When was that in relation to the document deadline Q. of the subpoena?
 - It was after the document deadline had passed. Α.
- Returning to Pages 1 and 2 of Exhibit 4, is this Q. what was attached to that email we were just looking at?
 - Yes, that's my recollection of what was attached. Α.
- MS. VAUGHN: All right. Let's start on Page 1, if we could, Ms. Dunn-Gordon.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

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- All right. So this is a letter from the Q. defendant's attorney to you; is that right?
 - Α. That's correct.
- 25 All right. Let's look at the body of the letter. Q.

MS. VAUGHN: So let's zoom in, Ms. Dunn-Gordon, on the content of the letter there on the second half of the page.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

Q. All right. And it begins with, "I write today on behalf of Stephen K. Bannon with respect to the above-referenced subpoena, which I accepted on behalf of Mr. Bannon."

When he said he was writing on behalf of the defendant, what did you understand Mr. Costello to mean by that?

- A. I understood that he was representing Mr. Bannon and that he had communicated with Mr. Bannon about the matter that he was writing about.
- Q. What is the next thing that the letter states in the next sentence?
- A. It says, "On the afternoon of October 6th, 2021, I received a letter from Justin Clark, as counsel for then

 President of the United States Donald J. Trump. That letter references the subpoena that your Committee served upon

 Mr. Bannon, and notes that the subpoena" -- quotes from the subpoena. Would you like me to continue reading?
- Q. Yeah. So is the next part of the letter purporting to provide an excerpt of what the defendant received?

BY MS. VAUGHN:

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A. It purports to quote from the letter from
Mr. Clark, yes.
Q. Can you please read the first paragraph of that
excerpt?
A. It says, "Seeks records and testimony purportedly
relating to the events of January 6th, 2021, including but
not limited to information which is potentially protected
from disclosure by executive and other privileges, including
among others the presidential communications, deliberative
process, and attorney-client privileges. President Trump is
prepared to defend these fundamental privileges in court."
Q. All right. So we saw a few references to
"privilege" there. Can you just explain to the jury, when
it comes to a congressional subpoena, what a privilege means
for compliance with a congressional subpoena?
A. A privilege is a claim that can be made that
certain types of communications are confidential or
sensitive and deserve protection from production.
THE COURT: Ms. Vaughn, hold on a second.
MR. CORCORAN: I just want to object subject to
the briefing and discussion we've had before.
THE COURT: Sure. Your objection is preserved.

All right. And after the excerpt from this letter that purports to be from the former President, does the

letter continue at the bottom of the page and on to the next?

- A. It does.
- Q. All right.

MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, are we able to bring up the two pages side by side? If we can zoom in on that last paragraph that goes on to the next page.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. All right. Ms. Amerling, can you please read this paragraph of Mr. Costello's letter to the jury.
- A. It says, "It is therefore clear to us that since the executive privileges belong to President Trump, and he has, through his counsel, announced his intention to assert those executive privileges enumerated above, we must accept his direction and honor his invocation of executive privilege. As such, until these issues are resolved, we are unable to respond to your request for documents and testimony."
- Q. So it says there that the defendant is not going to comply with the request for documents or testimony.

Based on this letter, what was the understanding about the basis for his noncompliance?

A. My understanding was that he was asserting executive privileges somehow related to our request for information from him.

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the subpoena?

- Were you involved in the Committee's consideration Q. of this letter and what it meant for the subpoena the Committee had issued? Α. I was. Q. And after receiving this letter, what was the Committee's position with respect to whether the defendant still had to comply with the subpoena? The Select Committee's position was, this was not a valid rationale for refusing to comply. And just to clarify, this subpoena was a Q. congressional subpoena; is that right? That's correct. Α. Q. And that is just one part of the government? Α. Yes. Congressional subpoenas are issued by the legislative branch. So did any other part of the government have any role in putting together, authorizing or supervising the subpoena? Α. No. All right. You testified that the Committee concluded it was not a valid basis. So did the Committee -was its position that it was accepting or rejecting the defendant's claim that he had an excuse not to comply with
 - A. The Chairman issued a letter to Mr. Bannon

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you.

THE COURT: Yes.

explaining that the Committee rejected the basis that he had offered for refusing to comply. And in your role, were you involved in advising on Q. the content of and putting that letter together and sending it to the defendant? Α. I was. Q. And how did you send that letter to the defendant? I emailed the Chairman's letter to Mr. Bannon's counsel, Mr. Costello. All right. Let's take a look at the letter you Q. sent back. MS. VAUGHN: If we could bring it up just for the witness, Government's Exhibit 5. BY MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Amerling, what is Government's Exhibit 5? Q. It is an October 8th letter from Chairman Bennie Thompson to Mr. Costello. Q. And this is the letter that you emailed? Α. That's correct. MS. VAUGHN: Your Honor, the government moves to admit and publish Government's Exhibit 5 to the jury. MR. CORCORAN: Your Honor, with each of these, I won't restate everything that's been briefed on this.

So this exhibit is admitted, but as with prior exhibits, it is admitted for the purpose of demonstrating that the Committee took the positions in this letter and communicated those positions to Mr. Bannon. It is not admitted for the truth of any underlying statement in the letter.

And the letter may be published to the jury.

MS. VAUGHN: Thank you, Your Honor.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. Ms. Amerling, first, what is the date of this letter?
 - A. October 8th, 2021.
- Q. And is that the same day that you sent it to the defendant's attorney?
 - A. Yes, it is.
- Q. All right. So this is actually a three-page letter, but I only want to talk about just a few things within it.

So first, who is the letter from?

- A. The letter is from the Chairman of the Select Committee, Chairman Bennie Thompson.
- Q. And based on your involvement in this letter, was it sent on his personal behalf or on behalf of the Committee?
 - A. It was sent on behalf of the Select Committee.

- Q. And, generally, what does this letter tell the defendant about his obligation to comply with the subpoena?
- A. It reminds him that he is obligated to comply with the terms of the subpoena and that the Select Committee will view his failure to comply as willful noncompliance with the criminal contempt statute; and that he also might be subject to other civil penalties.
- Q. And does this letter also inform the defendant that the Committee was rejecting his reason for not complying?
 - A. Yes, it did.

MS. VAUGHN: So let's zoom in on the first paragraph there, please, Ms. Dunn-Gordon.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. All right. Ms. Amerling, the letter first notes that Chairman Thompson's writing in response to the October 7th letter that Mr. Costello had sent. Can you please read the part of this paragraph that starts with "Your letter relies"?
- A. Yes. It says, "Your letter relies on an apparent instruction from former President Donald Trump that appears limited to requesting that Mr. Bannon not disclose privileged information. Despite this limited instruction, your letter takes the inappropriate position that Mr. Bannon will not comply with any request for information or

testimony sought by the Select Committee.

"Moreover, Mr. Trump's stated intention to assert those executive privileges that may or may not belong to him does not provide a legal basis for Mr. Bannon's refusal to comply with the Subpoena."

MS. VAUGHN: All right. And, Ms. Dunn-Gordon, can we please zoom in on the last full paragraph on this page that starts with "Your letter"?

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. All right. Ms. Amerling, can you please read this paragraph?
- A. It says, "Your letter indicates that the sole basis for defiance of the Subpoena is Mr. Trump's direction to your client and his decision to honor [Mr. Trump's] invocation of executive privilege. That position has no basis in law, and your letter does not cite any statute, case law or other legal precedent for support."
- Q. Okay. So we've read a couple parts of this letter informing the defendant that the Committee has rejected his reason for not complying. Did the letter also tell the defendant he still had to comply?
 - A. Yes, it did.
 - Q. All right.

MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, can we please go to Page 2, and zoom in on the last paragraph of Page 2 of this

letter.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. Ms. Amerling, can you please read just the first two sentences of the last paragraph?
- A. It says, "Regardless of any purported privilege assertion by Mr. Trump, Mr. Bannon has an ongoing obligation to produce documents to the Select Committee. Accordingly, please produce all responsive documents and records identified in the Subpoena."
- Q. Did the letter also tell the defendant that he was not excused from appearing at his deposition on October 14th as required by the subpoena?
 - A. Yes, it does so in the paragraph that follows.
- MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, can we please go to the last page of this exhibit and zoom in on the top paragraph there.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. Ms. Amerling, can you please read the first sentence there.
- A. It says, "Finally, the Select Committee expects
 Mr. Bannon's appearance at the time and place designated in
 the Subpoena for a deposition and to respond fully to
 questions by the Select Committee."
- Q. And remind us again what the date and time was that the subpoena required him to appear?

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- Ten o'clock a.m. on October 14th, 2021. Α. So when was this letter sent in relation to that Q. date? A. It was sent six days before his deposition date. And, finally, did the letter warn the defendant Q. about what might happen if he failed to comply with the subpoena? Α. Yes, it did, in the last paragraph. MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, can you please zoom in on that? BY MS. VAUGHN: All right. First, can you please read just the first sentence of this paragraph, Ms. Amerling? A. It says, "Please be advised that the Select Committee will view Mr. Bannon's failure to respond to the Subpoena as willful noncompliance with the Subpoena." What is it the Committee is referring to there Q. when it tells the defendant it will view his noncompliance as willful noncompliance? It's referring to the criminal contempt statute. Α. Can you finish reading that paragraph, please? Q. It says, "His willful noncompliance with the Α.
 - A. It says, "His willful noncompliance with the Subpoena would force the Select Committee to consider invoking the contempt of Congress procedures in 2 U.S.C. Sections 192 and 194, which could result in a referral from

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the House to the Department of Justice for criminal charges, as well as the possibility of having a civil action to enforce the Subpoena brought against Mr. Bannon in his personal capacity." Q. This reference to U.S.C., is that a reference to the United States Code? Α. That's correct. Those are just the country's laws? That's right. And the specific provisions refer 10 to the criminal contempt statute. 11 What was the purpose of including this warning in Q. 12 the letter that the Committee sent to the defendant? 13 Establishing a clear record of the Committee's Α. 14 views, making sure that the defendant was aware of that. 15 All right. So we've just talked about a couple Q. 16 more dates. I'm going to add those to our timeline. 17 MS. VAUGHN: (Added information to timeline.) BY MS. VAUGHN: 18 19 Q. All right, Ms. Amerling. So we've talked about 20 the document deadline, the defendant's letter at 5 p.m. that 21 day refusing and then the Committee's response to that. 22 Once the Committee sent --23 THE COURT: Ms. Vaughn, if you're going to move 24 on, could we take a break?

MS. VAUGHN: Now's a great time, Your Honor.

THE COURT: I figured it would be. Let's do 15 1 2 Let's attempt to do as close as possible to 15 3 minutes. Let's call it 10:55. I realize some of these 4 5 clocks aren't quite right. According to my computer, it's 6 10:38. So 17 minutes; 10:55. 7 (Recess taken from 10:39 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.) THE COURT: Ms. Lesley, you may bring the jury in. 8 9 (Jurors enter the courtroom.) 10 **DEPUTY CLERK:** Your Honor, we are now back on the 11 record. 12 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Lesley. Ms. Vaughn. 13 MS. VAUGHN: Thank you, Your Honor. BY MS. VAUGHN: 14 15 Ms. Amerling, before we took a break, we had just Q. 16 finished looking at a letter that the Committee sent to the 17 defendant on October 8th. We saw in that letter the Committee's direction that the defendant needed to comply 18 19 with the subpoena. After sending that letter, did the 20 defendant begin providing documents to the Committee? 21 He did not. Α. 22 Did the defendant, after you sent that letter, Q. 23 indicate to the Committee in any way that he was planning to 24 begin collecting and providing documents?

A. He did not.

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And the date for the deposition required by the Q. subpoena was October 14th. Did the defendant come to the deposition as required on that date? Α. He did not. Q. Between the date that the Committee sent the October 8th letter and the deposition date on October 14th, did the Committee receive another communication from the defendant? Α. Yes. What did the Committee get by way of that? The Committee received a letter dated October 13th Α. from Mr. Bannon's counsel. MS. VAUGHN: Can we bring up for the witness Government's Exhibit 6, please? BY MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Amerling, what is Government's Exhibit 6? Q. A. This is the October 13th, 2021 letter that I was referring to. How did the Committee receive this letter? Q. This was again emailed to me from Mr. Costello. Α. Was it emailed also on October 13th? Q. A. I believe that's right. MS. VAUGHN: Your Honor, the government moves to admit and publish Government's Exhibit 13 [sic].

MR. CORCORAN: Our position remains as our

briefing stated. Thank you.

THE COURT: I did not think that you had objected

to this document at all.

MR. CORCORAN: We don't object, Your Honor.

THE COURT: This document is admitted and may be published to the jury.

(Government's Exhibit 6 was admitted.)

MR. CORCORAN: Your Honor, I just want to make sure that the record reflects this is Government's Exhibit 6.

THE COURT: Correct. Government Exhibit 6.

I apologize if I said something different than that. Government Exhibit 6 is admitted and may be published to the jury.

MS. VAUGHN: Thank you, Your Honor.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. So you testified that this letter was dated

 October 13th, the day before the deposition date. And as

 with the defendant's earlier letter on October 8th -- or

 sorry -- October 7th, were you also involved in considering
 and responding to this letter?
 - A. I was.
- Q. All right. And in this letter, what is it that the defendant told the Committee about whether he was going to comply with the subpoena?

A. In this letter he told the Committee that Mr. Bannon was going to provide neither documents nor testimony.

MS. VAUGHN: All right. And if we could go to Page 2 of Government's Exhibit 6, please, and zoom in on the first full paragraph there.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. Ms. Amerling, can you please read the first or the zoomed-in paragraph there, the first full paragraph on Page 2?
- A. It says, "Until such time as you reach an agreement with President Trump or receive a court ruling as to the extent, scope and application of the executive privilege, in order to preserve the claim of executive and other privileges, Mr. Bannon will not be producing documents or testifying. As noted previously, Mr. Bannon will revisit his position if President Trump's position changes or if a court rules on this matter."
- Q. And to be clear, by this time, had the Committee already sent a letter to the defendant notifying him that the privilege he was asserting did not excuse him?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Did former President Trump, at this time, sit on the Committee or in Congress in any way?
 - A. He did not.

And are courts part of the Committee or Congress 1 Q. 2 in any way? 3 Α. They are not. 4 In this letter, did the defendant raise any other 5 reason, to the Committee's knowledge, for not complying, 6 other than the same privilege he had been claiming? 7 He did not. Α. 8 Okay. So the Committee gets this letter and the 9 next day was October 14th. Did the defendant show up for 10 his deposition? 11 Α. He did not. 12 Q. So let's add these two dates to our timeline. 13 MS. VAUGHN: (Added information to timeline.) 14 BY MS. VAUGHN: 15 All right. So by October 14th, the defendant has Q. 16 not produced documents or appeared for testimony. What did 17 the Committee do next with respect to the defendant? 18 Α. The Committee sent him a letter through his 19 counsel on October 15th. 20 And what was the purpose of sending the defendant Q. 21 another letter? 22 The purpose was to reiterate that the Committee 23 believed that he was in noncompliance with the subpoena and 24 notified him that the Committee would be meeting on October

19th to consider a criminal referral resolution.

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All right. And let's talk a little bit more about Q. that specifically in a minute. But were you involved in putting that additional letter together and getting it over to the defendant? Α. I was. And did you personally provide it like you had the other ones? I emailed it, like I had with the previous letters, yes. MS. VAUGHN: All right. If we could bring up for the witness Government's Exhibit 7. BY MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Amerling, is this the letter you were just referring to that the Committee sent to the defendant on October 15th? Yes, it is. Α. MS. VAUGHN: Your Honor, the government moves to admit and publish Government's Exhibit 7. MR. CORCORAN: Same position, Your Honor. THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Corcoran. Government's Exhibit 7 is admitted, with the same limiting instruction that I've used previously, which is that this letter is admitted for the purpose of demonstrating that the Committee took this position in its

communication to Mr. Bannon, or to Mr. Costello and

Mr. Bannon, but not for the truth. It's not admitted for the truth of anything asserted in the letter, especially anything underlying the arguments in the letter. But it is otherwise admitted. Again, this is Government's Exhibit 7, and it may be published to the jury.

(Government's Exhibit 7 was admitted.)

MS. VAUGHN: Thank you, Your Honor.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. Ms. Amerling, who is this letter from?
- A. The letter is from the Chairman of the Committee,
 Chairman Bennie Thompson.
- Q. Like the other letter we saw, is this sent on behalf of Chairman Thompson personally or on behalf of the Committee?
 - A. It is sent on behalf of the Committee.
- Q. Again, by October 15th, had the deadlines on the subpoena passed?
- A. Yes, both the October 7th deadline for producing documents and the October 14th deadline for appearing for deposition had passed.
- MS. VAUGHN: All right. Let's zoom in, if we could, on the first paragraph of this letter.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

Q. Ms. Amerling, this is a long paragraph. Could you just read the sentence that starts with "as you know"?

- A. It says, "As you know, the Subpoena demanded that Mr. Bannon produce documents by October 7, 2021 and appear on October 14, 2021 before the Select Committee to provide deposition testimony on a wide range of issues relating to the January 6, 2021 attack on the United States Capitol, as well as plans to interfere with the count of the 2020 Electoral College results."
- Q. The reference there to "the count of the 2020 Electoral College results", is that just another way to reference what we've been talking about, the certification of the election that was happening that day in Congress?
 - A. That's correct.

- Q. Can you now, please, read the rest of that paragraph?
- A. It says, "Mr. Bannon has now willfully failed to both produce a single document and to appear for his scheduled deposition. The Select Committee believes that this willful refusal to comply with the 'Subpoena' constitutes a violation of federal law."
- Q. And the Committee views the defendant's refusal to be a violation of federal law. What is it that the Committee was referring to there?
- A. The Committee is referring to the criminal contempt of Congress statute.
 - Q. And is that the same statute and procedures that

were referenced in the October 8th letter that we looked at?

A. That's correct.

MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, can you please zoom
in on the next paragraph?

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. Ms. Amerling, can you please read the second paragraph of the letter for us.
- A. It says, "As justification for Mr. Bannon's complete failure to comply with any portion of the Subpoena, you continue to rely on ex-President Trump's stated intention to invoke executive privilege with respect to Mr. Bannon, and Mr. Trump's purported request that Mr. Bannon not produce documents to or testify before the Select Committee.

"As was explained in the Select Committee's October 8, 2021 letter (attached), the former President has not communicated any such assertion of privilege, whether formally or informally, to the Select Committee.

"Moreover, we believe that any such assertion of privilege, should it be made by the former President, will not prevent the Select Committee from lawfully obtaining the information that it seeks."

MS. VAUGHN: Okay. I want to look at another part of the letter. If we could go to Page 2 of Government's Exhibit 7, please. Can you please zoom in on the last full

paragraph of Page 2.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

Q. Ms. Amerling, the paragraph starts by saying,
"Accordingly, the Select Committee views Mr. Bannon's
failure to produce documents by the October 7th deadline as
willful noncompliance with the Subpoena."

Is that just a reference to what we had discussed earlier, that he had not complied as required?

- A. That's correct.
- Q. Can you please read the rest of that paragraph.
- A. It says, "Mr. Bannon has persisted in his refusal to produce any documents to the Select Committee, and he has failed to provide a privilege log identifying specific asserted privileges. Mr. Bannon has now further compounded his noncompliance by refusing to appear on October 14th, 2021, at the Select Committee deposition, to which he was summoned to provide testimony. The Select Committee will therefore be meeting on Tuesday, October 19th, 2021 to consider invoking the contempt of Congress procedures set forth in 2 United States Code, Sections 192 and 194."
- Q. Ms. Amerling, that reference to the laws there and the procedures, is that, again, just a reference to what we were talking about a minute ago, the criminal contempt procedures?
 - A. That's correct.

- Q. And what does it mean when it says the Committee will consider invoking the procedures?
- A. Under that statute, Congress can vote to approve a resolution that refers criminal contempt to the United States Attorney for prosecution.

MS. VAUGHN: All right. Ms. Dunn-Gordon, can we bring up, side by side, this and the next page and then zoom in on the last paragraph that spans the pages.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. Ms. Amerling, can you please read the last paragraph of this letter for us there.
- A. It says, "If Mr. Bannon believes that there are any additional issues relating to his noncompliance with the Subpoena that have not been addressed, please submit them in writing to the Select Committee by 6:00 p.m. EST on Monday, October 18th, 2021 for the Select Committee's consideration in its deliberations."
- Q. Can you explain for the jury what it's referring to there when it's asking for information relating to any additional issues relating to the defendant's noncompliance?
- A. Yes. The Select Committee had just informed Mr. Bannon again that it considered that his misconduct constituted a violation of federal criminal law. It was telling Mr. Bannon that the Committee was going to meet to vote a resolution about that violation.

That's a serious step, referring somebody for criminal prosecution. So this paragraph refers to the Committee's effort to ensure that Mr. Bannon had the opportunity to provide any information that the Select Committee should consider relating to his misconduct before it had its proceeding on October 19th.

- Q. But can you just explain what the kinds of information were that the Committee was referring to there? If it existed.
- A. Information that might shed a light on his misconduct, such as he was confused about instructions he had been given in the subpoena.
- Q. And this letter was sent on October 15th. So how long did the defendant have to provide information like that, whether he was confused or had another issue relating to his failure to comply?
- A. That was three days after the date of the letter. Three days.
- Q. And by 6 p.m. on October 15th, did the defendant provide any additional explanation for why he had failed to comply with the subpoena?
- A. We received a letter -- I need to refresh my recollection of the exact timing.
- Q. Well, why don't we just go take a look at the letter right now.

MS. V	AUGHN: If we could bring up, just for the
witness, Govern	ment's Exhibit 8. And if we could show the
witness both page	ges, please.
BY MS. VAUGHN:	
Q. Ms. Ar	merling, what is Government's Exhibit 8?
A. This	is an October 18th letter that Mr. Costello
sent to the Select Committee.	
Q. Is the	ere also an email contained in this exhibit?
A. Yes.	There's an email from Mr. Costello to
myself.	
Q. And he	ow are those two things related, the email
and the letter?	
A. This	is the email that he sent attaching the
letter that's in this exhibit.	
MS. V	AUGHN: Your Honor, the government moves to
admit and publis	sh Government's Exhibit 8.
MR. Co	ORCORAN: No objection, Your Honor.
THE CO	OURT: Government's Exhibit 8 is admitted and
may be published to the jury.	
(Government's Exhibit 8 was admitted.)	
BY MS. VAUGHN:	
Q. All r	ight. Ms. Amerling, let's start on Page 1.
MS. V	AUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, if you could just
zoom in on the	top of the page.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. You testified that this was an email with the letter from Mr. Costello to you. When was this letter sent to you?
 - A. 6:02 p.m. on Monday, October 18th, 2021.
- Q. All right. And let's take a look at the letter itself.
- $\ensuremath{\mathsf{MS}}$. $\ensuremath{\mathsf{VAUGHN}}$: If we could zoom in on the body of the letter.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. Ms. Amerling, can you please read this letter for us.
- A. It says, "Dear Congressman Thompson, we write on behalf of Stephen Bannon. We have just been advised of the filing of a lawsuit in federal court for the District of Columbia entitled Donald J. Trump versus Bennie Thompson, et al. In light of this late filing, we respectfully request a one-week adjournment of our response to your latest letter so that we might thoughtfully assess the impact of its on this pending litigation."
- Q. So by 6 p.m. on October 18th, had the defendant provided to the Committee any additional reason, like confusion, for his noncompliance?
 - A. No.
 - Q. And did the Committee -- what was the Committee's

understanding about what the defendant wanted to be delayed by this letter?

- A. The understanding was that the defendant was seeking a delay in responding to the invitation to provide information relating to his misconduct.
- Q. Did the defendant ever ask, by 6 p.m. on October 18th, that the deadlines in the subpoena be extended?
 - A. He did not.

- Q. By 6 p.m. on October 18th, did the defendant provide any documents to the Committee?
 - A. He did not.
- Q. By 6 p.m. on October 18th, had the defendant provided any indication that he was working to collect documents and provide them?
 - A. He had provided no such indication.
- Q. By 6 p.m. on October 18th, had the defendant notified the Committee in any way that he was now willing to come to a deposition?
 - A. No.
- **Q.** Did the Committee agree to delay its consideration of invoking the criminal contempt procedures based on this letter?
 - A. It did not.
 - Q. Why not?

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well for the witness.

Because it considered reference to a lawsuit Α. immaterial to the deliberations over his contempt. Did the Committee inform the defendant of this Q. position? Α. Yes. MS. VAUGHN: If we could bring up, just for the witness, Government's Exhibit 9. BY MS. VAUGHN: Q. Actually, Ms. Amerling, before I ask you about this, you just testified that the Committee informed the defendant that he was not going to have any additional time before the Committee considered those procedures. Did the Committee ultimately decide to refer the defendant for criminal contempt? A. Yes. Did the Committee also inform the defendant of Q. that decision? A. Yes. Q. Okay. And Government's Exhibit 9 is a multi-page document with two letters. What is contained in Government's Exhibit 9?

MS. VAUGHN: And if -- Ms. Dunn-Gordon, if we

could just bring up the first page of the second letter as

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. All right. Ms. Amerling, what are the two letters contained in Government's Exhibit 9?
- A. These are the two letters sent by the Select Committee to Mr. Bannon via his attorney on October 19th, 2021.
- MS. VAUGHN: Your Honor, the government moves to admit and publish Government's Exhibit 9.
- MR. CORCORAN: Our position remains unchanged from the brief, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Corcoran.

Exhibit 9 is admitted, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, for the same purposes as I've described before, which is, it is admitted for the purpose of demonstrating the position that the Committee was taking in these letters to Mr. Bannon.

It is not admitted -- or these letters are not admitted -- this exhibit is not admitted for the purpose of demonstrating the truth of any assertion in the letter or letters.

Exhibit 9 is admitted with that limiting instruction and may be published to the jury.

MS. VAUGHN: Thank you, Your Honor.

And, Ms. Dunn-Gordon, we can leave those pages up for now.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. Ms. Amerling, so both of these letters were sent from the Committee on October 19th. Can you just explain why there are two letters on the same day?
- A. Yes. One was sent prior to the meeting of the Committee to consider the criminal contempt resolution. One was sent after to notify Mr. Bannon that the Committee had taken that step.
- Q. And which one was sent first? The one on the left or the one on the right?
 - A. The one on the left was sent first.
- Q. Okay. Let's talk about this one. So this letter on the left, what was the purpose of that letter?
- A. This was to respond to Mr. Bannon's letter from the previous day, October 18th.
 - Q. Requesting more time to explain what had happened?
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. All right.
- MS. VAUGHN: All right. If we could please zoom in on the body of that letter, Ms. Dunn-Gordon.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. All right. And, Ms. Amerling, could you just read the last part, beginning with "The investigation."
- A. It says, "The investigation of the Select Committee is extremely important and urgent for the nation,

and further delay in compliance by Mr. Bannon undermines the ability of the Committee to timely complete its essential responsibilities.

"Accordingly, no grounds exist for any adjournment or other delay, and your request is denied."

Q. Again, what was the only reason that the Committee

- Q. Again, what was the only reason that the Committee understood the defendant to be asking for more time to explain himself?
- A. Filing of a lawsuit that related to executive privilege.
- Q. And executive privilege, was that the same issue that the Committee had already informed the defendant that it had rejected?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. All right. Let's take a look at the second letter.
- MS. VAUGHN: Ms. Dunn-Gordon, if we could just zoom in on the first two paragraphs there.

BY MS. VAUGHN:

- Q. Ms. Amerling, I think you said you sent this letter after the Committee had decided to refer the defendant for criminal contempt. Can you please read the beginning of the second paragraph there?
- A. It says, "As explained in our prior correspondence, your stated reasons for Mr. Bannon's flat

refusal to provide documents and appear at a deposition have no legal basis or support. Because of Mr. Bannon's continued refusal to comply with the subpoena, the Select Committee has unanimously voted to recommend that the House of Representatives find Mr. Bannon to be in contempt of Congress. The detailed basis for that recommendation is contained in the Select Committee's report; a copy of which is available at the following link:"

- Q. What was the purpose of informing the defendant that the Committee had taken this step and providing him with a link to the Committee's findings?
- A. It was a very serious step to refer Mr. Bannon for criminal contempt. We wanted to make sure that he had that information.
- Q. And you sent this letter on October 19th. At that time after you sent it, did you hear anything from the defendant that he -- any further explanation from the defendant, other than executive privilege, about why he had not complied with the subpoena?
 - A. We didn't hear anything from him.

MS. VAUGHN: Nothing further, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Vaughn.

Mr. Corcoran?

MR. CORCORAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

CROSS-EXAMINATION OF KRISTIN AMERLING

BY MR. CORCORAN:

- Q. Ms. Amerling, yesterday you testified about the subject matter of the Select Committee's inquiry. Do you understand that, in this case, there is no allegation that Steve Bannon was involved in the attack on the U.S. Capitol? Do you understand that?
 - A. No allegation by whom, sir?
- Q. In the case that's here before the jury, there is no allegation that Steve Bannon was involved on the U.S. Capitol. Do you understand that?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Do you understand that this case involves a subpoena and then actions that were taken with regard to that subpoena?
 - A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Okay. Now, when you started your testimony yesterday, you said that there were similarities between you testifying here in court today and the deposition in front of the Select Committee. Do you remember that --
 - A. I do.
 - Q. -- testimony.

But there's a significant difference, isn't there, in the sense that, at the Select Committee deposition, there is no judge present to protect the privileges or rights of a witness, is there?

There is a procedure for asserting privileges in a 1 Α. 2 deposition. 3 I understand that there is a procedure. Q. 4 question is, Is there a judge present at a Select Committee 5 deposition to protect the rights and the privileges of a 6 witness? 7 Α. Sir, judges are not part of Congress. Q. Is that a no? 8 9 Α. That's correct, yes. 10 Q. Okay. 11 Now, as I understand it, you had some 12 responsibilities with regard to the subpoena, Government's 13 Exhibit Number 2. You were the staff person for the Select 14 Committee who was primarily responsible for this subpoena? I was one of several staff involved with the 15 Α. 16 drafting and review of the subpoena. 17 Okay. And in terms of -- how many witnesses to Q. 18 date have been interviewed by the Select Committee members or staff? 19 20 MS. VAUGHN: Objection. Relevance. 21 THE COURT: I'm going to allow it. 22 THE WITNESS: I'm estimating here, but I believe 23 that over 1,000 individuals have cooperated with the Select

Committee's request for information or testimony.

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BY MR. CORCORAN:

- Q. Well, my question isn't cooperation. It's how many witnesses have been interviewed? Are you saying that more than 1,000 witnesses have been interviewed by the Select Committee or staff?
- A. When you combine informal, formal, depositions, transcribed interviews, I believe that's a ballpark, a ballpark figure.
 - Q. Okay.

And how many depositions of witnesses have been conducted by the Select Committee or its staff?

- A. I would have to look at our records. Many. It's fair to say many.
 - Q. Give us a ballpark figure, please.
 - A. Dozens.
 - Q. Dozens. Okay.

And how many subpoenas have you personally been involved with for the Select Committee?

- A. All of them.
- Q. And how many is that?
- A. I'd have to check our records on that but many subpoenas.
- Q. What's your best ballpark estimate of how many subpoenas you were involved with before the Select Committee?

- A. Many dozens of subpoenas.
- Q. Okay. Now you spoke yesterday. You used the word "urgency" in your testimony. But the Select Committee is still interviewing witnesses. Correct?
 - A. That's correct.

- Q. And the Select Committee is still conducting hearings. Correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. And the Select Committee is still conducting depositions. Correct?
 - A. That is correct.
- **Q.** And the Select Committee is still receiving and reviewing documents. Correct?
- A. The Select Committee always welcomes relevant documents and information.
- Q. Well, my question is, Is the Select Committee still receiving and reviewing documents, yes or no?
 - A. Yes, it is.
- Q. Okay. And the Committee is going to continue its work until the end of this year. Correct?
- A. The Committee is authorized to continue its work until the end of this year.
- Q. Okay. Now you were asked about Government's Exhibit 2, the subpoena, specifically your role with regard to the subpoena. My question is this: You were asked, Were

you involved in the decision and the issuance of the subpoena to the defendant? You answered, "I advised on the issuance of the subpoena."

My question is this: What did you do? What did you do exactly?

A. With respect to which aspect?

- Q. Well, with regard to the subpoena, the 10-page document that's Exhibit 2, I just want to understand what it is that you did, you personally did?
- A. I participated with other attorneys on the staff in the drafting of the subpoena. I reviewed it. And I advised the members of the Select Committee about its contents.
- Q. Okay. What day did you first start working on the subpoena for Mr. Bannon?
- A. I don't recall the specific day. It would have been sometime in the weeks before the subpoena was issued.
- Q. On the actual date of the subpoena, which I believe was the 23rd of September, 2021, where were you on that date?
 - A. I was in Washington, D.C.
 - Q. And were you in your office?
- A. Yes, I was.
 - Q. Where is that?
- 25 A. It's in the Longworth House Office Building.

Okay. And at the time -- you said that you signed 1 Q. portions of the subpoena. Correct? 2 3 A. I'm sorry. I didn't hear your question. 4 Q. You testified that you'd signed portions of 5 Government's Exhibit No. 2? 6 Α. Not the subpoena itself, the proof of service 7 page. Q. Okay. Your testimony is that you signed the proof 8 9 of service page on Government's Exhibit No. 2? 10 That's correct. Α. 11 Okay. Where were you when you signed Page 2 of 12 Government's Exhibit No. 2? 13 To the best of my recollection, I was in my 14 office. 15 Were there any members of Congress in the offices Q. 16 with you that day on the 23rd of September? 17 MS. VAUGHN: Objection. Relevance, Your Honor. THE COURT: Overruled. 18 19 **THE WITNESS:** In my physical office? 20 BY MR. CORCORAN: 21 In the offices of the Select Committee. Q. 22 I would have to check what the schedules were to 23 see if the members were in their offices on that day, sir, 24 to give you an accurate answer. It wouldn't have been in my 25 physical office, my specific office.

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I guess -- one thing I'm asking is, when you signed the proof of service, were there any members around you at that time? Any members of the Committee? You mean watching me fill out the form? Q. Present. Α. No, sir. Okay. And on that day, September 23rd, 2021, was Q. the House in session such that there were votes? Again, I'm happy to look at the records but I don't recall. Let's look at the subpoena. Q. MR. CORCORAN: If we could -- that's in evidence. If we could pull it up, Government's Exhibit No. 2. It's in evidence. THE COURT: It can be published to the jury. **DEPUTY CLERK:** It's coming from you all's computer. THE COURT: You just need to switch the feed. There we are. MR. CORCORAN: I just need the first page. BY MR. CORCORAN: So if you look at this area there where it says -and the box is checked and it says, "to produce the things identified on the attached schedule touching matters of

inquiry committed to said committee or subcommittee, and you

are not to depart without leave of said committee or subcommittee."

Does that mean that when a person provides documents to the Committee, they are not allowed to leave until the Committee allows them to do so?

- A. When a person provides documents, often they can discuss with the Committee various different ways to deliver them. Sometimes they are delivered in person. Sometimes they are delivered via email. The instructions that are attached to the subpoena provide additional information to help the recipient understand the different procedures that they can engage in.
- Q. And, specifically, with regard to this language, does this mean that, if somebody produces the documents in person, that the Committee will not allow them to leave until the Committee says so? Is that what that means?
- A. That's not a practice that is followed when individuals provide documents to the Committee.
- Q. So that's sort of surplus language in the document? Is that fair to say?
 - A. I think that's fair.
- Q. Okay. Is the subpoena itself, this first page, is that something that is a form that you use or is it a hard copy of a document that's filled out?
 - A. I'm not sure I understand the question.

- Q. Well, Government's Exhibit 2, the first page, is that typed up fresh each time a subpoena is issued to a recipient?
- A. Well, they are individualized to focus on the specific recipient of the subpoena and the address of the recipient.
- Q. And the parts that aren't individualized, are you filling out a form -- is the person who is filling it out doing so on a computer or on a typewriter or on a piece of paper?
 - A. We use computers.

- Q. Okay. So is it fair to say that some of the information that is depicted on Page 1 of Government's Exhibit 2 is just part of a form that's on your computer that's filled out with individual information?
- A. The typewritten portions are generally done on computer. The signature is by the Chair and by the Clerk of the House of Representatives.
- Q. If you look here where it says under "Production of" -- to produce things identified on the attached schedule, it gives a "place of production." That's your Select Committee office is; is that right?
 - A. That's part of your office. Right.
 - Q. In the Longworth House Office building. Correct?
- A. That's correct.

- Q. And the date October 7, 2021, did you type in that date?
 - A. I don't recall, sir.

- Q. How was that date arrived upon? In other words, who decided October 7 was going to be the date that is on this subpoena?
- A. The ultimate decision-maker for the Select

 Committee is the Chair and Members of the Select Committee.
- Q. So you're saying that Chairman Thompson decided that Steve Bannon should appear to produce documents or produce them in electronic form on October 7th, 2021; is that your testimony?
- A. My testimony is that that subpoena is directing
 Mr. Bannon to produce documents on that date, and the person
 who is authorized to sign that subpoena for the Select
 Committee is the Chairman of the Select Committee,
 Chairman Bennie Thompson.
- Q. I understand both of the things that you just said but I've got a slightly different question. This is a human process. So I want to know what human decided that October 7, 2021 is the date that Steve Bannon should appear to produce documents. What human being made that decision?
- A. Sir, I'm not sure I'm -- I thought I'd answered your question.
 - Q. You didn't. So let me --

- A. Chairman Thompson signs the subpoena. He has the authority to demand that witnesses comply with the subpoena. He has the authority for the Committee to sign the subpoena.
- Q. I understand that the Chairman has the authority to sign the Committee -- the subpoena. And I also understand your testimony on direct that if the Chairman doesn't sign the subpoena, that it's invalid; is that correct?
- A. A valid subpoena requires the Chair's signature, yes.
- Q. Okay. Now, back to my question as to who, what person, decided to put October 7?
- MS. VAUGHN: Your Honor, the witness has answered the question.

THE COURT: I think that I am going to allow this question, at least one more time. I think the witness has answered portions but not the question directly. If there is an answer.

BY MR. CORCORAN:

- Q. Do you know who decided that Steve Bannon should appear -- do you have firsthand knowledge, firsthand knowledge of who the person is who decided that Steve Bannon should appear on October 7, 2021, to produce documents?
- A. With any subpoena there is generally discussion among staff, and there is advice given to the members of the

Select Committee on what is the appropriate language in the subpoena. And then the ultimate decision for what is reflected in the subpoena is made by the individual who has the authority to sign the subpoena.

- Q. Did you participate in the discussion that you just described as to what date should -- the October 7, 2021 date for the production of documents? Did you participate in that decision?
- A. I did. To the best of my recollection, I did. Yes, sir.
 - Q. Who was present in that discussion?

MS. VAUGHN: Objection. Relevance.

THE COURT: Overruled.

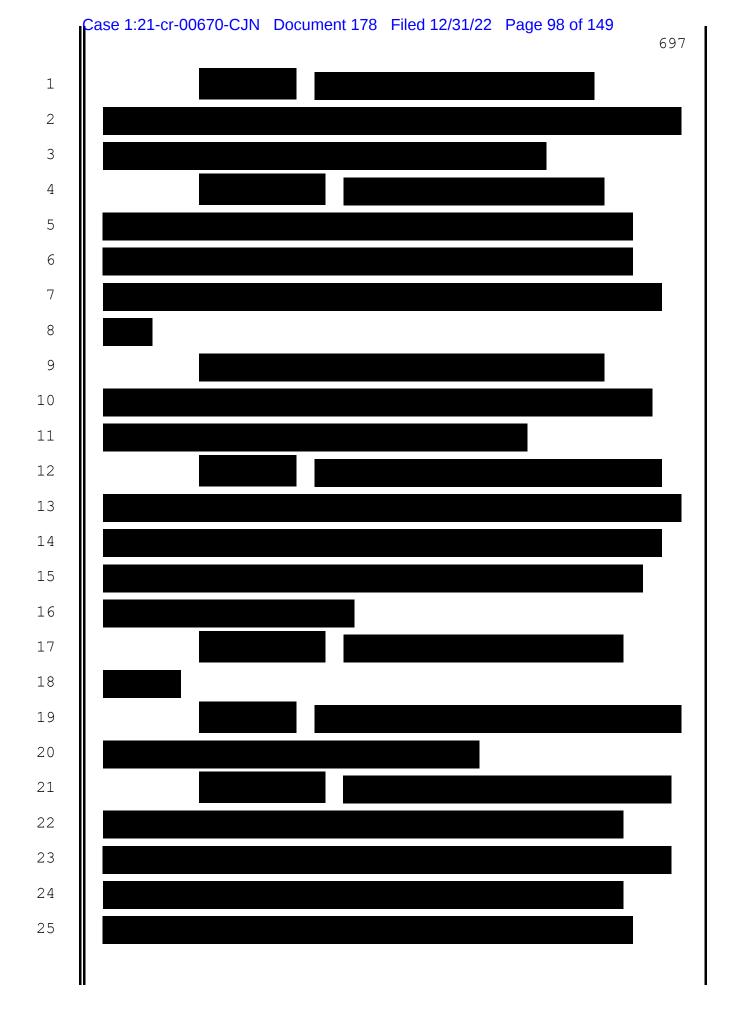
THE WITNESS: I don't recall the individuals who were in that specific discussion, but generally, as I said, there is a discussion among staff about what to recommend and there's a discussion with the members about what is the appropriate date and schedule to put on documents such as subpoenas.

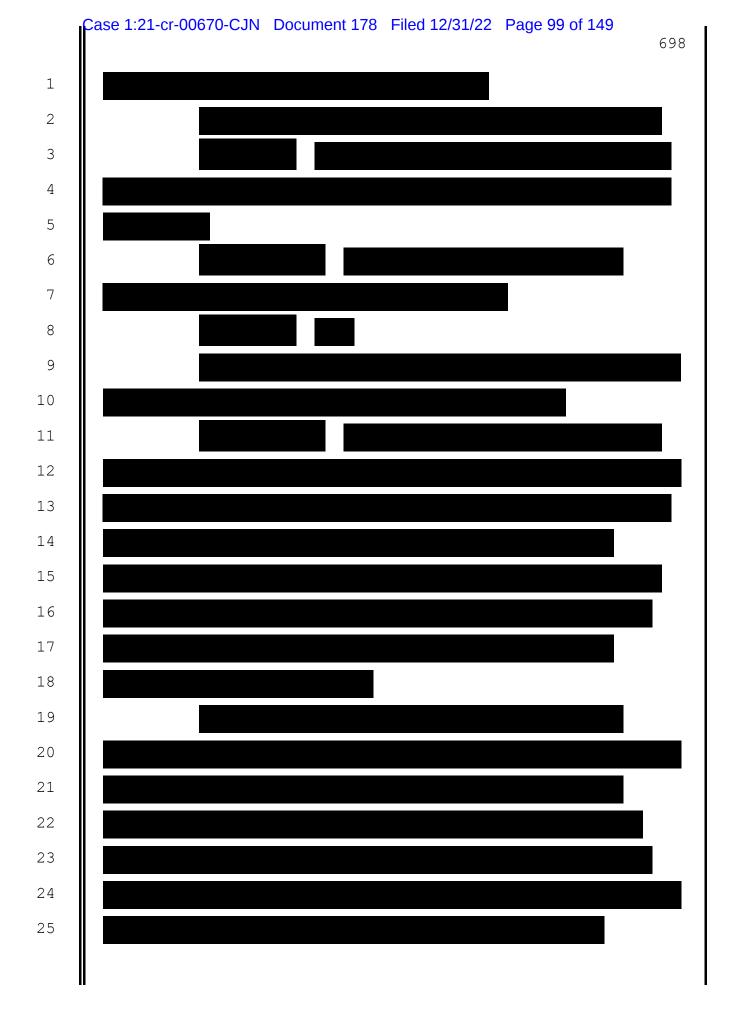
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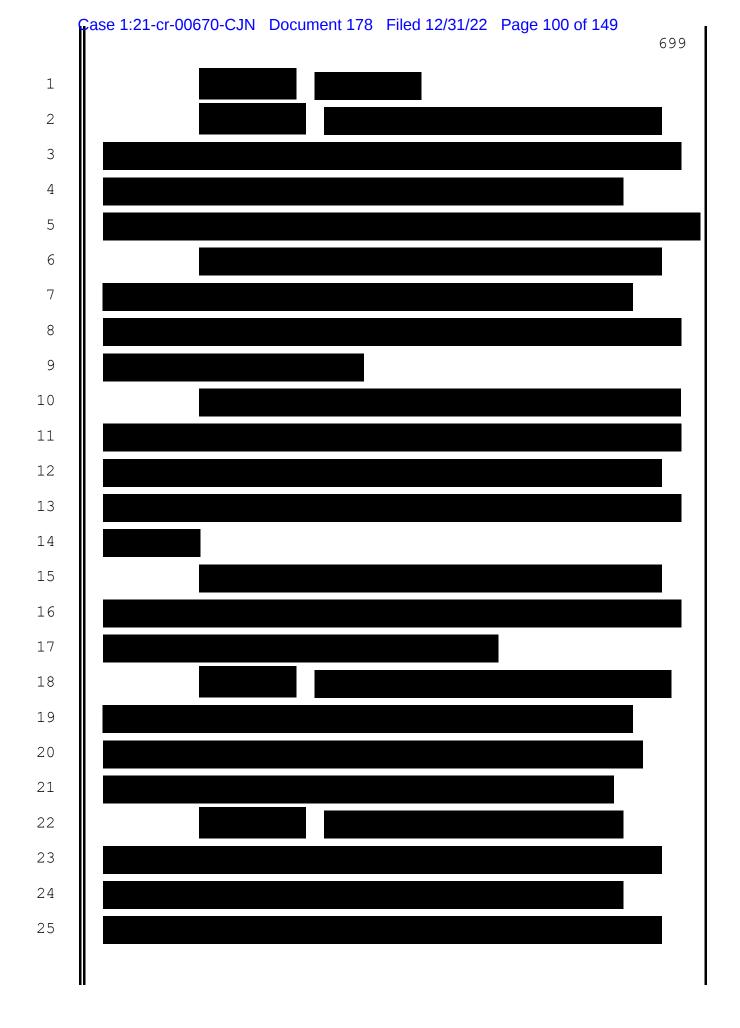
Q. Okay. I understand the general practice, but I want to know, sitting here today, do you remember any discussion with any members of Congress or anybody else --

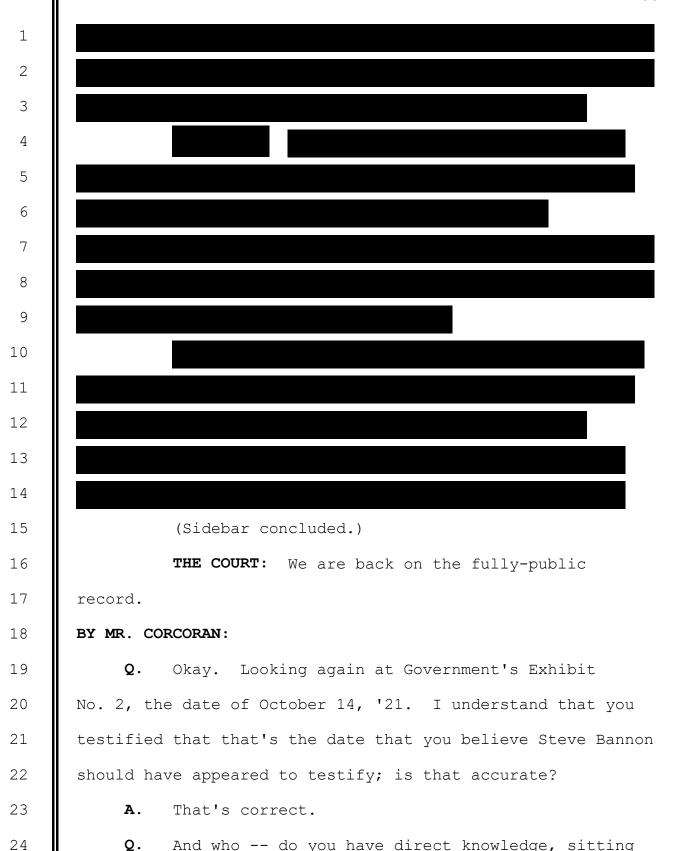
MS. VAUGHN: Objection. Relevance.

Can we have a sidebar, Your Honor?









Q. And who -- do you have direct knowledge, sitting here today, who selected October 14th, 2021 as the date for

Mr. Bannon to testify?

- A. I can tell you to the best of my recollection.
- Q. Direct knowledge only. Do you have direct knowledge --

THE COURT: She was starting to say, To the best of my recollection. I would like you to not interrupt the witness.

MR. CORCORAN: Very well, Your Honor.

THE WITNESS: To the best of my recollection, because of the multiple roles that we understood Mr. Bannon potentially had with respect to the events of January 6th, at the time that we put the subpoena together, there was a general interest in obtaining information from him expeditiously because we believed that this information could potentially lead us to other relevant witnesses or other relevant documents or, perhaps, inform the Committee about avenues that it shouldn't go down.

So to the best of my recollection, there was a general interest in including deadlines that required expeditious response.

BY MR. CORCORAN:

- Q. What human -- what human set that deadline?
- A. Again, sir, I would -- I can speak to the general process. I cannot recall the specific discussions. But it generally would have involved senior staff, including

myself, discussing the different considerations and making recommendation to the members of the Committee about the appropriate dates.

- Q. Now, was there any outside deadline that the Committee faced that bore upon the October 7, 2021 date in the subpoena?
- A. I'm not sure what you are referring to by "outside deadline".
- Q. I'm just asking, was there any kind of a deadline that was happening in the world that required the Select Committee to pick October 7th, 2021?
- A. The Committee's authorization is just through the end of this year. So the Committee is operating under a very tight timeframe; so that's the overarching deadline that's governing here.
- Q. Okay. And was there anything other than the overarching deadline that ends at the end of this year, 2022, that caused the Select Committee Chairman or other person to pick October 14, 2021? Was there a specific outside deadline that forced the selection of that date?
- A. As with the other subpoenas that are issued by the Committee, the interest of the Committee is in obtaining information as expeditiously as possible; that is the governing principle.
 - Q. Ms. Amerling, the signature at the bottom that

- 1 says "Chairman or authorized member", did you see Chairman Thompson sign Government's Exhibit No. 2? 2 3 I believe that I did but I can't say for certain. Α. 4 I've seen him sign some but not all. 5 On Government's Exhibit 2, the second page is the 6 proof of service. I think you testified that you filled out 7 this proof of service, Ms. Amerling; is that correct? 8 Α. That's correct. 9 Q. And that's your signature on the line that says "signature of server"? 10 11 That's right. Α. And where it says "Served by - print name", you 12 13 printed out your name. Correct? 14 A. That's right, yes. 15 On "Title", you provided that information on that Q. 16 line; is that correct? 17 A. That's correct. And on "Manner of service", you wrote "emailed to 18 Q. attorney for Mr. Bannon, Robert Costello" and then an email 19 20 address; is that correct? 21 That's correct. A. 22 And did you write in the date "9/23/2021"? Q. 23
 - I did. Α.

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Q. Now, you understand that sometimes the U.S. Marshals serve the subpoenas. Correct?

A. That's correct.

- Q. And the proof of service is the page that is intended to prove when service of the subpoena is accomplished. Correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. You filled out this proof of service before service was accepted. Correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Now, when you were interviewed by the FBI in this case on November 2nd, 2021, do you recall who was present?
 - A. Several FBI agents and several prosecutors.
- Q. Okay. And were the prosecutors seated at the table here present?
 - A. They were.
- Q. Okay. And were you advised that you had to tell the truth to the FBI agents?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Did you tell the FBI agents at that time that you filled out the proof of service on this subpoena before service was actually accomplished?
 - A. I don't recall, sir.
 - Q. Okay.
- MR. CORCORAN: If we could show the witness an exhibit for identification purposes, Your Honor, and that is Defense Exhibit No. 2, which is not in evidence.

BY MR. CORCORAN:

Q. All right, ma'am. Take your time and read through that. My question is, Does that refresh your recollection as to whether you told the FBI, when they interviewed you, that you had filled out the proof of service before it was actually served?

MS. VAUGHN: Your Honor, maybe counsel can correct --

THE COURT: I think they are trying to direct her to a particular page. I agree. I think, especially because she's only seeing it on the computer screen, she needs to be directed to a particular page and a particular paragraph.

You don't want to do that?

MR. CORCORAN: Well --

THE COURT: You're asking her whether an eight-page document refreshes her recollection but you're only showing her the first page.

MR. CORCORAN: I'm showing her the whole document.

THE COURT: Not from what I can see.

THE WITNESS: I'm looking at Page 2 of 8 right now. Is that the page you're directing me to?

MR. CORCORAN: You'll see why I can't say -- at this moment direct her to it.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. CORCORAN: The question is, Did she tell the

FBI.

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THE COURT: Okay. Ask that question.

BY MR. CORCORAN:

- Q. Did you tell the FBI that you filled out the proof of service suggesting that it had been served before it had actually been served?
- A. I don't recall at this point what I told the FBI, but if there's a record of it, I'm happy to look at it.
- Q. Perfect. If you would take the time, review it and see if that refreshes your recollection as to whether you mention it at all to the FBI.
- A. But you're showing me an eight-page document. Is there a particular portion you're directing me to?

THE COURT: She can review the eight-page document.

MR. CORCORAN: You can review the eight pages.

THE COURT: No, but you control the pages.

MR. CORCORAN: Oh.

BY MR. CORCORAN:

- Q. Tell me when you're ready to move on.
- A. You can go to the next page.
- Q. Is that Page 3?
- A. Page 3, yeah.
- MR. CORCORAN: Your Honor, I am happy to give her a hard copy if that expedites the process.

THE COURT: That would be fine. You may approach 1 the witness and hand that to her. I think that probably 2 3 will speed things up. 4 MR. CORCORAN: (Handed the exhibit to the 5 witness.) 6 THE WITNESS: Correct me if I am mistaken, because 7 I am trying to read this quickly, but I don't think we discussed proof of service in this interview; is that right? 8 9 MR. CORCORAN: Well, that's my question. Does 10 that refresh your recollection as to --did you tell 11 the -- the question is, did you --12 MS. VAUGHN: Your Honor, the witness just 13 testified they didn't discuss --14 THE COURT: Ms. Vaughn, let me hear the question first. 15 BY MR. CORCORAN: 16 17 The question pending is, Did you tell the FBI that 18 you had filled out the proof of service before the subpoena 19 was actually served? 20 I don't remember talking about the proof of 21 service issue, sir. I don't see it referred to here so --22 but if there was a discussion, I'm happy to look at it, but 23 I don't recall discussing that issue.

Let me move to another issue, and that is the

actual service of the subpoena. You described how you

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communicated with Bob Costello, who at the time was an attorney for Mr. Bannon, regarding acceptance of service of the subpoena; is that correct?

- A. That's correct.
- Q. And Mr. Costello got back to you the next day and informed you that, in fact, Steve Bannon was voluntarily accepting service of the subpoena. Correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Now, among -- you described, with regard to putting together Exhibit 2, the subpoena and its attachments, various portions of that, and I want to go through that testimony so I understand it.

One thing I want to understand is, the letter -the letter from Chairman Thompson that accompanies the
subpoena indicates that the deposition rules were provided
to Mr. Bannon. Were all of the deposition rules provided to
Mr. Bannon at that time?

- $oldsymbol{A}$. Deposition regulations were provided to Mr. Bannon at that time.
- Q. Okay. And are you familiar -- let's look at the very last page of Exhibit No. 2, which is in evidence, Page 41.
- THE COURT: This is Government's Exhibit 2. And when it's pulled up, it can be published to the jury.

BY MR. CORCORAN:

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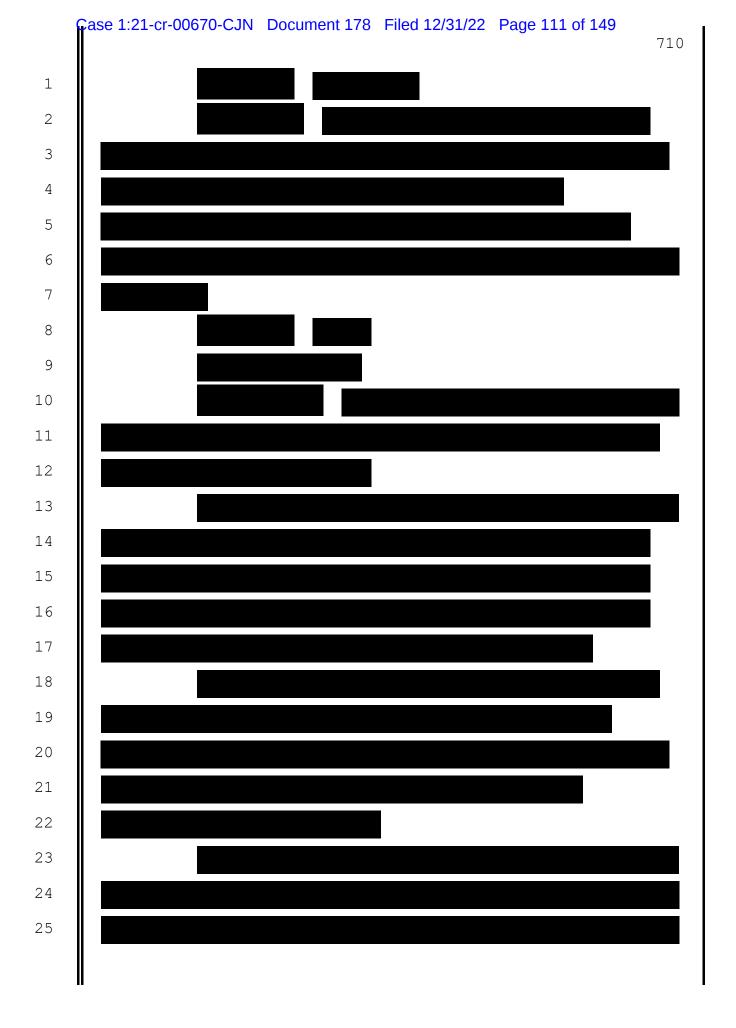
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- Q. And now I will focus your attention just on one paragraph. So this is a page from the Congressional Record. Correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. And when I say "this" it's Exhibit 2 at US000417.

 And are these the regulations for the use of deposition

 authority that govern the 117th Congress?
 - A. That's correct.
 - Q. And this is the 117th Congress. Correct?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. So these rules apply to the Select Committee depositions. Correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. Paragraph 11, would you read that to the jury?
- A. It says, "The witness shall not be required to testify unless the witness has been provided with a copy of Section 3(b) of House Resolution 3, 117th Congress and these regulations."
- Q. Okay. Now you never provided Section 3(b) -
 MS. VAUGHN: Objection. The Court's already ruled
 on the relevance of this.
- THE COURT: Let's go to a sidebar.
- 25 (Discussion at sidebar.)



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 (Sidebar concluded.) 12 THE COURT: We are back from sealed or husher 13 public record. 14 MR. CORCORAN: All right. If we could go to the 15 third page of Government's Exhibit No. 2, which is in 16 evidence. 17 BY MR. CORCORAN: 18 Now, Ms. Amerling, did you draft this letter? Q. I was one of several staff that drafted the letter 19 20 and reviewed it. 21 What portions of the letter are your words? Q. 22 At this date I don't recall specifically, sir. 23 Q. Did Chairman Thompson draft any of the words in 24 this letter?

Generally, the process is that staff drafts

letters and provides them for the review of the members, the Committee and the Chair.

Q. I understand generally --

- A. I would assume that would have been the process here but I can't remember specifically.
- Q. I understand generally, but my questions are very specific. Do you recall -- well, did Chairman Thompson draft any language in this letter?
- A. Again, I cannot remember the specifics for this letter. But the general process is that staff drafts the letter and the members review and sign.
 - Q. Were you present when this letter was signed?
 - A. I don't recall.
- Q. Now, you indicated on direct examination that the third paragraph of this letter refers generally to reasons why the Committee might want to speak to Steve Bannon; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. Okay. And I just wanted to zero in and ask you, in that third paragraph, it appears that two of the reasons -- you used the words, on direct examination, that there were "public reports of certain things". Do you remember using those words?
 - A. That's right.
 - Q. Okay. And were the public reports about a Willard

Hotel meeting that is referenced in this letter? Does that come from a book that's entitled "Peril"?

- A. That was one of the sources, and that was the source cited in this letter.
- Q. Okay. And the second issue, which is -- or the second area of why the Select Committee might want to speak to Mr. Bannon appears to be some communications with then-President Donald J. Trump.

Is the source of that interest by Select Committee or staff also the book entitled "Peril"?

- A. That was cited as one of the sources, yes.
- Q. Have you read "Peril"?
- A. I have, yes, sir.

- Q. Okay. The third issue, it appears, is that Mr. Bannon, on his show on January 5th, 2021, purportedly spoke about the potential for violence on January 6th, 2021. And my question is this: Is the source that is cited in this letter, for the reason that you want to talk to Mr. Bannon, a CNN article?
 - A. Yes, that's what it looks like, yes.
- Q. Okay. And you're aware that prior to January 6th, and prior to -- on January 5th and earlier, there was widespread reporting in the general media that there might be violence on January 6, 2021. Are you aware of that?
 - A. I am aware of that, yes.

- Q. Now turning to what I think is the fourth page of Government's Exhibit No. 2, the schedule, and on -- this is basically the schedule of topics, 17 different topics, where the Committee was asking if he had -- if Mr. Bannon had any documents that pertain to these 17 different categories; is that accurate?
 - A. That's correct.

- Q. Okay. And is this schedule something that you yourself drafted?
- A. Again, it would have been the process that I described: A number of staff contribute to the drafting process, including myself. So I was and would have been involved in this.
- Q. And is this schedule that we're looking at, Page 4 of Government's Exhibit No. 2, a schedule that, for the most part, was sent to a number of different subpoena recipients?
- A. I can speak generally. The process of drafting subpoenas involves looking at what information might be particularly pertinent to the individual receiving the subpoena. So the subpoenas will look different from each other.
- Q. And I -- really what I'm asking is, you know, there are 17 categories here on this schedule. And was there overlap in those 17 categories between what was sent to Steve Bannon and what was sent to several other subpoena

recipients?

- A. Sir, we don't generally publish the subpoena schedules, in part because we don't want to give a roadmap of what the investigation is doing. So I don't know that I want to get specific about what we put in other people's subpoenas.
- Q. We're not asking for a roadmap on anything. I'm asking you whether -- essentially, is there boilerplate on this schedule that was sent not only to Steve Bannon but to other subpoena recipients?
- A. I would be happy to go back and look if there were specific paragraphs or specific language that you're concerned about to address that question. I can't, sitting here, know what language might be repeated in other subpoenas and what might be specific to him.
- Q. And I'm not asking for specifics on this topic. I want to know if there's overlap between this and other subpoenas. In other words --

MS. VAUGHN: Objection. Asked and answered.

THE COURT: I understand the objection. I'll allow one last question on this topic.

BY MR. CORCORAN:

Q. In other words, did you create, did you draft this schedule of 17 areas that you might want to talk to Steve Bannon about from scratch for the subpoena or was it used

as -- well, in part, in other subpoenas that were given to other subpoena recipients?

A. I believe I've answered the question, sir. But just to elaborate, when we draft subpoenas, it's a process that doesn't just involve me. This subpoena didn't just involve me but I was involved.

And generally what we do is we try to include the items that would be most related to information that the specific recipient might have. So they're going to vary from individual to individual. They are not going to be identical carbon copies of each other.

- Q. And with regard to the documents that you requested of Steve Bannon in these various categories, you don't have any firsthand knowledge as to whether Steve Bannon has any documents at all that are responsive to these 17 areas. Correct?
- A. Part of what happens in the subpoena process, sir, is that the recipient has the opportunity to respond and say, I do have documents responsive to these particular items, and I don't have documents responsive to these other items; and that process helps inform our investigation.
- Q. I understand the process but I'm asking you, just to be clear, do you have firsthand knowledge whether Steve Bannon has any documents that are responsive to the subpoena?

1	A. I have no basis for knowing that one way or the
2	other.
3	Q. Okay. All right. Now, you testified about your
4	interactions with
5	MR. CORCORAN: And, Your Honor, whenever there's a
6	need for a break, let me know or I'll just keep going. This
7	is a convenient time in terms of cross for a break. I'm
8	moving to a new topic.
9	THE COURT: How long will this next topic take?
10	I'm not going to hold you, obviously, to a specific time.
11	MR. CORCORAN: Well, it's kind of a group,
12	actually.
13	THE COURT: Why don't we take a recess then.
14	We'll recess until this will be our lunch recess,
15	everyone until 1:15, when we will be back on the record.
16	Okay?
17	Thank you, ma'am. You are excused for the lunch.
18	THE WITNESS: Thank you.
19	DEPUTY CLERK: All rise.
20	(Lunch recess taken at 12:21 p.m.)
21	(Jury exited the courtroom.)
22	MR. CORCORAN: One quick legal issue once
23	THE COURT: We'll have Ms. Lesley come back. I
24	believe we should excuse the witness for this.
25	MR. CORCORAN: I think so, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Ms. Amerling may depart the courtroom. 1 Mr. Schoen. 2 3 MR. SCHOEN: Yes, Your Honor. It's really just a 4 request, very brief one, but I think we learned the lesson 5 yesterday about the importance of reading the Court's 6 carefully thought-out July 11th order. 7 So today the question came up about Mr. Corcoran 8 apparently was going to pursue a line of questioning on this 9 Rule 3b, as I understood the intention of the examination. 10 I just ask the Court over lunch if it might take a 11 look at Pages 131 to the top of 132 on that issue 12 specifically. That could be over lunch, unless the Court 13 has it here. 14 THE COURT: I don't, but I will do so. And I 15 suspect I understand what you're talking about. So I will 16 do so. 17 Thank you. 18 MR. SCHOEN: Thank you, Your Honor. THE COURT: We are now in recess. 19 20 (Lunch recess was taken at 12:23 p.m.) 21 22 23 24 25

${\color{red} \underline{\textbf{C}} \hspace{0.1cm} \textbf{E} \hspace{0.1cm} \textbf{R} \hspace{0.1cm} \textbf{T} \hspace{0.1cm} \textbf{I} \hspace{0.1cm} \textbf{F} \hspace{0.1cm} \textbf{I} \hspace{0.1cm} \textbf{C} \hspace{0.1cm} \textbf{A} \hspace{0.1cm} \textbf{T} \hspace{0.1cm} \textbf{E}}$

I, Lorraine T. Herman, Official Court Reporter, certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

Lorraine T. Herman

July 20, 2022

DATE

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