

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: STEVEN D'ANTUONO

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

Washington, D.C.

The interview in the above matter was held in room 2237, Rayburn House Office Building, commencing at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Representatives Jordan and Massie.

Q Okay.

A Just like any normal case.

Q Sure. It's a criminal investigation, correct?


A No. My understanding it was a CI investigation --

Q Okay.

A -- counterintelligence. But my CI squad was working it, right. So there's classifications in the Bureau being criminal, CI, CT, right. So my counterintelligence -- I'm sorry -- CI, counterintelligence, squad was working the case. Because it was classified documents and so it's a national security type of matter.

Q Okay. So the foremost concern at this point was restoring those documents to their authorized --

A Correct, yeah. Any type of, you know, spillage in a sense, right -- using the classified term "spillage" of classified documents or potential spillage of classified documents is a concern for national security purposes. We want to get those documents back. We want to make sure the people that are viewing the documents have the respective clearances. That's why I never looked at any of the documents. I don't believe I had the clearances for some of them and I didn't want to look at them, right. So I didn't want to cause that -- more spillage.

  
Q So you said you didn't think you had the clearances to look at all the documents?

A My clearances are top secret, SC -- SCI. But there's a lot of other clearances, I believe, that the documents are hitting against that it just, -- there's experts. I rely on my experts and my experts are my squad.

Q So other compartments. Is that fair to say?

A Yeah, I believe so.

Q So like more class -- differently classified compartments?

A That was my understanding of what some of the documents were, yes. But I'm not sure of all the classifications are so that's not my forte.

Q Okay. Thank you.

A Yep.

Q Fair to say that -- well, actually, why is it important, in your opinion, for the FBI to locate these documents that may contain national defense information and restore them to a secure place?

A Well, it's a national security issue, or it could be, if there are classified documents that could get into the wrong hands. Like, we've had several instances across decades and decades of this country of, like, stuff getting into the wrong hands. So if they're a class -- if they're truly a classified document, they are to -- top secret or higher or just, you know, classified in any respect, they shouldn't be viewed by anyone else.

Q Okay.

A We take it seriously, right. So --

Q Okay. So in response to the referral, the FBI began an investigation into these matters that started on February 9th, '22, when the referral came through, and continued through the spring and summer of 2022. Is that correct?

A Yes, that is correct. Yes.

Q Okay. And during that time, the FBI and DOJ together made an escalating series of efforts to recover the classified documents containing national defense information that were being retained by President -- former President Trump at