

Summary of Investigation Testimony in  
NICKERSON CASE

(1)

Bengton

Run Down - Stated N ordered him to take notes to Diamond Rd. Forge Lab for typing. This was 27 Nov 56 in the Wick  
10508  
- N was DC when the Wilson memo came out. He started to write his notes & went to Bengton to  
get it typed. B warned N about the document. B even suggested he carried a  
secret stamp with him & if he left copies with Congressmen to stamp them.  
On 3 Dec, 1956 Maden led a staff meeting & laid down the law that there would  
be no discussion of Polca & Missions.  
N saw Col Prichard in the Willard & N asked him for 2 documents on adjustments  
between the Services. Prichard had those copied (which was improper) and  
stamped them classified. He then sent these to N by courier.  
P says he did not know what N wanted with these documents.  
P says he gave these to Nickerson to be used in Staff work.  
He admits being present at the Dia Forge Lab when N & B were working  
on some notes - He thought it was a staff paper

Nickerson in charge

Lt Col Jaa next in "

Lt Col Denny " on a level with Jaa.

Capt. Leford

Wisman - In charge of execution

Frank Morning - to help Wisman

Winnie Willbanks - Admin Asst.

Jane Nelson - Secty

On or about Dec 1, N returned from Wash. He gave it to Jane Nelson to type. He  
gave a draft to Morning to correct. On 4 Dec he sent the original out  
to be reproduced. This was the original 12 page document. He 25 copies. The  
work order was signed by Willbanks. On 5 Dec. He got 25 copies  
of the <sup>original</sup> Service Ad-judgment memo <sup>+ the PRM#2 Paper (This all up ABMA)</sup> & bound them together. On 10 Dec  
he got 25 copies of the 17 page memo (which he had re-written & added  
2 pages) On 13 Dec he requested the Boucher re-adjud memo  
He now has 25 copies of all  
On 27 Dec he obtained 15 copies of a 42 page document entitled "Consider on the Wilson Memo".  
He now has 40 copies of the work. Willbanks signed all work orders & says N  
ordered all this work done. The Senos agree they typed them.  
N or his Asst. requested that the masters be returned to his office after reproduction. Only  
the work order of 27 Dec specifically states return of the masters.

Tyson runs the printing plant & testified that real caution was given that these documents should be treated with care.

Medaris had laid down the rule of discussion of Robert missions. I started holding little informal meetings where he asked people (got helpful) who their congressmen were, & who could they get to help.

Jas. admits he brought up the name of Drew Pearson.

Jas. went to D.C. to brief Sen Cummings & Sen Sarver, which the office did monthly, as to what was going on at Redstone.

Jas. was given 3 days in D.C. rather than the usual 2 days to brief. Jas. read in the paper that Pearson was leaving town, so he called his office & asked if Pearson had left town. His Sec'y told him no but Pearson & his asst Anderson were leaving & to call back in 5 min. He did not call back but brought an envelope, shit it out & wrapped it around the Cousins & Wilson's order & mailed it to Pearson. The Sec'y had asked him what was his business & he said guided missiles. Jas. says he did not tell the Sec'y he was on my col.

When Jas. got back to R/S he implied to N that he had seen Pearson. Jas. came to R/S in July. He fell in beginning that N's office was a political office & was here to do political work. Jas. says Sen. Medaris had done nothing to create the impression this office was political. However to? #199 Jas. said the Medaris often referred to N's office as his State Dept.

Jas. stated under oath that he has never read the document.

Druery read the document & said he thought it was a poor document.

When Jas. was asked what he thought Druery meant by this, he said he thought he meant it was poorly done & in poor taste. He later said he thought Druery meant he felt it should be classified.

In some places Jas. says he considered his contacting Pearson to be an order & in other places he did not so consider it an order.

Weisman was not at the main meeting N had with his staff. But he met with N & they talked about who should be drawn in to help on this. Weisman went to Sheffield to see Hunt with Reynolds details. He showed Hunt the Wilson memo & N's Cousins & Hunt wanted to keep the papers & he left these with Hunt.

Weisman organized a meeting at the R/E Hotel with Sen. Biel, Spaulderson & Long Jones. N heard the meeting was going to be held & asked to come. He appeared & gave out approx 16 copies. Druery was at this meeting. The I G was very interested in becoming

What was discussed at this meeting. D, W+M all say that little if anything was discussed on Roles & Missions, but the economic impact on Hovee if the Jupiter was lost.

Willbanks knows nothing about the production of the documents but knows all about the Re-production. Willbanks mailed the packages (2) to Bergquist.

Jane Nelson did a lot of typing on the documents. She wrote the letter of transmittal to Bergquist & it was in her stereo book that the 16 found this letter for the 1st time. This letter is inculpatory.

Ledford warned D that the document was dangerous in that it was critical of higher authority. It was not concerned insofar as it being classified. Ledford does not recall Pearson's name ever being brought up in any meeting. Ledford told ~~that~~ he would no longer be in the army he was discharged <sup>with</sup> ~~then~~ Dury felt the paper was dis-jointed & not too good. He suggested the Ordnance Assn as a good medium. He claims he did not know what it was going to be used for.