

RELEASED PER P.L-102-525(JFK ACT)
NARA AR DATE 3/15/07

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 5/4/94

Thomas Edward Castleton (date of birth,);
SSAN: , Special Assistant to the Counsel to the President of the United States, was interviewed in the Office of the Special Counsel, 1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Mr. Castleton was advised as to the identities of the interviewing agents and of the nature of the interview. He then provided the following information:

He has been employed in his current position since June 16, 1993 and was so employed on July 20, 1993, the date of Vincent Foster, Jr.'s death. Mr. Castleton stated that his responsibilities during July, 1993 were primarily to "staff documents". He explained that his duties at that time involved tracking incoming documents and responses to these documents from either Bernard Nussbaum, his immediate superior, or on some occasions from Vincent Foster, Jr. As part of his duties, he was responsible for following up on correspondence that required action and/or an answer and performing liaison contacts throughout The White House to facilitate such answers/actions. He stated that all communications coming through the Counsel to the President's office were logged in and tracked via computer to include the logging and computer listing of the outgoing answer to incoming communications. He advised that the only exception to this was internal memoranda which was not logged or tracked via computer for reasons of expediency.

Mr. Castleton advised that he had only worked in the Counsel's suite approximately four and one half weeks prior to Vincent Foster's death. He therefore did not feel that he knew Vincent Foster well enough to evaluate his personality although he did say that he noticed a gradual change in his demeanor. Castleton explained that Foster seemed more quiet, more withdrawn, less sociable, and generally tired. He said that although he talked with Foster on a daily basis, their conversations were almost entirely about business related matters. He advised however that it was his sense that Foster was frustrated with Washington life and was homesick for Little Rock.

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Castleton advised that he last saw Vincent Foster at approximately 1:00 pm on July 20, 1993. He said that Foster had asked Linda Tripp, another Special Assistant in the Counsel's office to pick up lunch for him and bring it to his office. He then sat at the coffee table in his office, ate his sandwich, then took his briefcase and his suit jacket and left the office saying "I'll be back later". Castleton said that it was his belief that Foster was going to a meeting or an appointment. He said that he assumed this because Foster usually did not take his suit jacket when he was going anywhere else within The White House. He also said that Foster seemed to be in good spirits when he left the office. Mr. Castleton said that primarily because of the lunch hour, he (Castleton) and Linda Tripp were the only two persons in the office at the time Foster departed.

Thomas Castleton stated that he knows of no problems of any sort that Vincent Foster had that would have caused him to take his life. He said that he cannot recall Foster mentioning any physical ailments or pain and the only thing physical he can recall was that he either heard Foster say or heard someone else in the office comment that he was losing weight.

Castleton was asked how he felt about Vincent Foster and responded that he "looked up to him" and that he felt that Foster was a "model lawyer". He explained that Foster was restrained, not impulsive, professional, careful, very bright and reflective, and a man who cared greatly for his family. Castleton said that he recalls meeting Foster's wife on one occasion when Foster brought her into the office and introduced her to the workers in the Nussbaum/Foster suite. He said that while he could "just tell" that Foster's family was important to him, he did not feel that he could offer a substantial opinion regarding Foster's relationship with his wife, having only met her one time.

Thomas Castleton said that he does not recall Foster ever discussing any hobbies or leisure time activities although he does recall that Foster took a "short vacation" about a week before his death.

Mr. Castleton was asked who most often visited Foster in his office. He responded that Webb Hubbell, Cliff Sloan, and Steve Neuwirth were seen in Foster's office on a fairly regular basis. He said that he saw Hillary Clinton in Foster's office approximately four times during the five weeks he was employed

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prior to Foster's death. Castleton said that Marcia Scott was probably closer to Vincent Foster than many and visited with him fairly often. He said that while Deborah Gorham, Foster's secretary, appeared more upset than any other employee in the Nussbaum/Foster suite following his death, both Neuwirth and Scott were also visibly shaken by his death.

Mr. Castleton stated that the Counsel to the President suite was a place of intense and, at times, frenetic activity and that the demands of the job had placed great stress on Foster. He was asked to elaborate as to what particular aspects of Foster's job were placing the greatest stress on him. He responded by saying that The White House Travel Office scandal was the "crisis of the month" and that it and its surrounding issues and heavy news media criticism regarding the Travel Office were all very troubling issues to Foster.

On July 20, 1993, Castleton arrived at work at approximately 8:00 am. He said that he recalls leaving that evening at approximately 8:00 pm and did not come back to work until the next morning. Castleton said that approximately 5:30-5:45 am on July 21, he was awakened at his residence by a phone call from Betsy Pond, Executive Assistant to Bernard Nussbaum, who advised him that Foster had been found dead the night before of an apparent suicide. He said that it is his belief that Ms. Pond was phoning him from her residence. Castleton said that he was surprised but not shocked by this news because he was well aware of the heavy workload, stress, and pressures he was dealing with in the Counsel's office and he was also aware that Foster had been dealing with this for months before he (Castleton) arrived. Castleton explained that, at that point in time, Bill Clinton's popularity ratings were very low, there were numerous derogatory articles in national newspapers regarding the administration, and they had not been able to locate Foster by phoning his residence or by electronically paging him the night before. He stated that because of these facts, he was not totally surprised to hear that Foster was dead. He said that he recalled Betsy Pond phoning Foster's residence during the late afternoon of July 20 and he also recalls Foster's wife phoning the Counsel suite that same afternoon trying to locate him. Castleton said that Betsy Pond made no special request of him (Castleton) including coming in early that day during her telephone call. He stated that he arrived at the Counsel's suite at approximately 8:00 am on July 21.

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Thomas Castleton stated that shortly after he arrived at work on July 21, 1993, he began hearing discussion in the office about having the Secret Service "seal Foster's office". He said that at about 10:30 - 11:00 am a Secret Service Uniform Officer was posted outside Foster's door to restrict entry to that office. He said that he heard later during the afternoon of July 21, that Betsy Pond had gone into Foster's office to "straighten up a pile of papers on his desk" shortly after her arrival at work that morning and prior to the Secret Service officer being posted outside Foster's door. He said that he is aware of no one else entering Foster's office on July 21 prior to the Secret Service officer being posted.

Thomas Castleton said that he is aware of black ring type binders that Vincent Foster used for various purposes and kept in his office. He said that while he is not aware of the contents of all of these binders, it is his belief that some contained information on judicial candidates/nominees and some contained information on medical malpractice, issues that Foster was researching.

Castleton said that he was aware that an inventory/search of Foster's office took place during the afternoon of July 22, 1993, but he was not present during that search and can therefore not comment as to what happened.