

Preliminary Transcript

RPTS SCOTT

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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
GOVERNMENT REFORM,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

TELEPHONE INTERVIEW OF: REX ALLEN JONES

This is a preliminary transcript of a Committee interview. It has not yet been subject to a review process to ensure that the statements within are appropriately attributed to the witness, member of Congress, Committee staff, or other individual who made them; to determine whether there are any inconsistencies between the statements within and what was actually said at the proceeding; or to make any other corrections to ensure the accuracy of the record.

Friday, February 8, 2008

Washington, D.C.

The telephone interview in the above matter was held at
Room 2203, Rayburn House Office Building, commencing at

12:50 p.m.

Appearances:

For REX ALLEN JONES:

BOB MCCLAREN, ATTORNEY, HOUSTON ASTROS

For COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM:

BRIAN COHEN, SENIOR INVESTIGATOR

STEPHEN CHA, PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER

STEPHEN R. CASTOR, MINORITY COUNSEL

Mr. Cohen. All right. With that, we'll go on the record.

This is an interview of Rex Jones, conducted by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The interview is part of the committee's investigations into allegations of steroid use by Major League Baseball players.

Mr. Jones, thank you for joining us today.

Mr. Jones. You're welcome.

Mr. Cohen. Could you please state your full name for the record?

Mr. Jones. My full name is Rex, R-E-X, Allen, A-L-L-E-N, Jones.

Mr. Cohen. My name is Brian Cohen. I'm an investigator for the committee. I'm accompanied by two of my colleagues, and I'll let them introduce themselves.

Mr. Cha. This is Steve Cha with the majority staff.

Mr. Castor. Steve Castor with the Republican staff.

Mr. Jones. Nice to meet both of you.

Mr. Cohen. Thank you.

Before beginning with the questioning, I'll go over some standard instructions and explanations regarding the interview.

I will ask you questions regarding this subject matter of the investigation for up to 1 hour. When I'm finished,

the minority counsel will have the opportunity to ask you questions for up to 1 hour. Additional rounds of questioning, alternating between the majority and minority staffs of the committee, will follow until the interview is completed. In this case, I don't think either of us will take an hour.

The reporter will be taking down everything you say and will make a written record of the interview. Please give verbal, audible answers because we cannot see, and the reporter cannot record, nods or gestures.

You are required to answer questions from Congress truthfully. Is there any reason you are unable to provide truthful answers to today's interview?

Mr. Jones. No reason whatsoever.

Mr. Cohen. If you knowingly provide false testimony, you could be subject to criminal prosecution for making false statements or for other related offenses.

Do you understand this?

Mr. Jones. I understand completely.

Mr. Cohen. You have the right to be represented by an attorney although you do not have one present. It is our -- I'm sorry. You do have one. You have the right to be represented by an attorney. My understanding is that you do have one present; is that correct?

Mr. Jones. That is correct.

Mr. Cohen. Can your attorney introduce himself?

Mr. McClaren. Bob McClaren.

Mr. Cohen. Mr. McClaren, your position is?

Mr. McClaren. Counsel for the Houston Astros.

Mr. Cohen. Thank you very much.

Do either of you have any questions before we begin?

Mr. Jones. No.

Mr. McClaren. No.

EXAMINATION

BY MR. COHEN:

Q All right. To begin, Mr. Jones, can you describe your educational and professional background for us?

A I obtained my bachelor's degree from Southwest Missouri State University in 1979 and then got my master's degree from the same university in '81. Southwest Missouri State is now Missouri State.

Q Okay. Can you describe the professional positions you've held since graduating?

A I've been an employee of the Houston Astros since 1978. I was the athletic trainer for our A club, moved to double A, triple A coordinator position, and currently, I am in the position of Assistant Certified Athletic Trainer for the Houston Astros.

Q Can you describe for us your responsibilities in that position?

A My responsibilities are to assist David LaBossiere, my head trainer, with the care, prevention and treatment and rehabilitation of our players to return them to competition.

Q All right. Give us an example. On a day-to-day basis, what kind of treatment and what kind of things do you do for players and with players?

A We do a wide range of treatment. I think the important thing -- one of the things that we do is preventative work, which is design exercise programs; provide stretching routines for those in need; provide general guidance to those in regard to questions that players ask that fall into our realm of expertise. When players are injured, we treat their injuries and prepare them for the game if they're playing that day, and if they're not available that day for a game, actually, we continue that treatment to get them ready for as quick a return as possible. We provide rehab, when necessary, for those particular ones as well as we provide the return to action, and then the other thing we do that's, I think, very critical on game days is that we provide first aid on the field -- we're the first responder -- and that is a critical part of that day.

Q Okay. Can you describe for us the various members of the team's medical staff?

A Sure. Our team director is Dr. David Lintner. We

have other members, such as Dr. Jim Muntz and Dr. Tom Mehlhoff. Then there are other personnel who are available in the medical community who aren't necessarily directly on our staff, but when their expertise is required, we call them up. Then David LaBossiere is the head athletic trainer, and then myself, the assistant athletic trainer.

Q Okay. The strength and conditioning coach of the team, is he considered part of the medical staff or part of the coaching staff, or is he a hybrid?

A He is not part of the medical staff.

Q I'm sorry. Could you repeat that?

A Dr. Gene Coleman, I would classify him as a separate entity from the coaching staff and from the medical staff.

Q Okay. Can you give us some general background on team policy with regard to tracking injuries and treatments for those injuries? How is that done? How frequently and with what level of specificity, with what level of detail, I should say?

A We have an in-house recordkeeping system. Traditionally, I do not take care of that, those records. Any work that I do I refer back to David LaBossiere, who then enters that information in, and he is the -- only on rare occasions would I enter in information into that recordkeeping database.

Q Okay. With regard to injuries, how are injuries

reported, and who is responsible for reporting them?

A From a player's standpoint?

Q Well, from the medical staff's perspective.

A From my standpoint, if I discuss an injury situation with a player, it is my obligation to discuss that same situation with David LaBossiere, and then he would go on and discuss that with our team physician, the physician who has expertise in that area, as well as David would relay that information to our manager, general manager. All of that is depending on what time of day it is and when that information is brought to us. If David is not available and I have that information, then I would relay that to the same people.

Q Okay. To the extent a player came to you and then you sent it up the chain, would a record be made of that report to you regardless of what ultimately happens up the chain?

A Would I get a direct report on that?

Q No. No. The team's recordkeeping system, would it reflect that initial consultation you had with the player?

A It would reflect how David entered it into the recordkeeping system, whether -- you know, it wouldn't necessarily mean that I brought it to him. It -- because we're in the same room together.

Q So you don't make the actual decision of whether to

make a record or not; that's Mr. LaBossiere?

A That's correct.

Q Okay.

A On that very rare occasion when he is not available, then it would be my duty to record that information into our record database.

Q Okay. In your experience, reports of injuries, even relatively minor injuries, are those included in the system? Are those reported within the system?

A Yes, sir.

Q What about medications received by players? Would that be reported as well?

A That would be correct.

Q Would that be true for both prescription and nonprescription medications or just prescription medications?

A That would be for both medications.

Q Would that also be true for injectable medications?

A Yes, sir.

Q Okay. What is your experience in working with Mr. LaBossiere? Is he attentive to detail? Is he careful about documenting medical treatments?

A He is very much so.

Q And Dr. Lintner?

A Yes, he is.

Q Okay. With regard to injectable medications, can you tell us who on the team is authorized to provide injectable medications to players?

Mr. Castor. Are you there?

Mr. Jones. Yes. Our team physician.

BY MR. COHEN:

Q That would be Dr. Lintner?

A It would be whichever physician had the expertise and who was at the -- or who was examining the player and then determined what medication was necessary, whether it was an orthopedic concern or a general medicine concern.

Q Are the athletic trainers authorized to give injectable medications?

A At the discretion of the physician.

Q Okay. So you can provide the shot with a physician's approval?

A Yes, sir.

Q Were a medical record to be made of that in an instance where a medical doctor recommended an injection and you provided the injection, would the record reflect that that was the case?

A Yes, sir.

Q Okay. Is the strength and conditioning coach authorized to provide injectable medications?

A No, sir.

Q In your experience, do players understand that that's the case with the strength and conditioning coach?

A I would think so, yes.

Q Have you ever had a case reported to you where a player has gone to the strength and conditioning coach for an injection?

A No, sir.

Q Okay. With regard to B-12 shots, are the trainers authorized to provide B-12 shots?

A No.

Q Does Dr. Lintner provide B-12 shots at all?

A No, he does not.

Q In your tenure with the team, has anyone with the team ever provided a B-12 shot to a player?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Not Dr. Lintner?

A No.

Q Not any of the athletic trainers?

A No.

Q And not the strength and conditioning coach?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Okay. In your experience, have players come to you or gone to Dr. Lintner or to Mr. LaBossiere seeking B-12 shots?

A On occasions.

Q What do you tell them?

A That we do not offer them.

Q How often does this happen?

A It's hard to say. Maybe once a year. Maybe once every few years.

Q Okay. So it's not a frequent occurrence?

A No, sir.

Q Okay. What about pain medications? Are the trainers authorized to provide pain injections?

A At the discretion of the physician.

Q Okay. The strength and conditioning coach, would he be authorized to provide pain injections?

A Not to my knowledge, he wouldn't be.

Mr. Cohen. All right. I'm going to turn things over to my colleague Steve Castor.

EXAMINATION

BY MR. CASTOR:

Q Hi, Rex.

Do you have any knowledge of lidocaine shots being given to Astros players during the '04, '05 and '06 seasons?

A I believe they were given. I don't remember the exact person or dates without having the records available.

Q Would the orthopedic surgeon have been responsible for administering that shot?

A That's correct.

Q In your experience, Dr. Lintner does not do that. That's the province of the orthopedic guy?

A Say that question again, please.

Q In your experience, a shot of lidocaine, would that be something within the province of the orthopedic surgeon as opposed to the general team doctor, Dr. Lintner?

A Dr. Lintner is the team orthopedic physician. He's the head of our medical group. Dr. Muntz is the internist. So Dr. Lintner would be the one or Dr. Mehlhoff or another orthopedic, if we were to be on the road, would be the person who would give that and not Dr. Muntz.

Q So orthopedic surgeons, in your experience, are the ones who give lidocaine shots?

A When the need is there, yes, sir.

Q Do you ever recall any discussions with Andy Pettitte about the human growth hormone generally?

A No, sir.

Q Have you ever met this Brian McNamee fellow?

A No, I have not.

Q So you've never seen him on the Astros' complex?

A I have never seen him in person.

Mr. Castor. Those are all my questions. Thank you.

Mr. Jones. Thank you.

Mr. Cohen. I'm going to follow up with just a couple things.

BY MR. COHEN:

Q To the extent that the team doctors did give players lidocaine shots, would that have been in conjunction with a corticosteroid or another medication?

A Normally, it is a combination of when they do an injection, yes, sir.

Q Are you familiar with the strength and conditioning coaches of the Astros ever providing injections of lidocaine?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q Would they be authorized to do so?

A No, sir.

Mr. Cohen. Okay. All right. I think that's all we've got. I want to, again, thank you for speaking to us on such short notice and for providing answers to some questions we had today. I appreciate your cooperation.

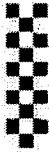
We'll go off the record.

[Whereupon, at 1:10 p.m., the telephone interview was concluded.]

Certificate of Deponent/Interviewee

I have read the foregoing ____ pages, which contain the correct transcript of the answers made by me to the questions therein recorded.

Witness Name




**TO: Mr. Brian Cohen
Senior Investigator/Policy Advisor
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U. S. House Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515**

As a follow-up to my interview from earlier today, you have requested, through my attorney, that I answer an additional question:

Committee Question: "Mr. Jones, have you ever injected Mr. Clemens with any medication?"

Mr. Jones' Answer: "No."



**Rex A. Jones
Assistant Athletic Trainer
Houston Astros**

February 8, 2008

*Sworn to before me
Notary Public in and
for the State of Texas.*

Carolyn Bowen

