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

TELEPHONE INTERVIEW OF: DR. ARTHUR PAPPAS

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Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Washington, D.C.

The telephone interview in the above matter was held at
Room 2247, Longworth House Office Building commencing at

9:49 a.m.

Appearances:

For COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM:

BRIAN A. COHEN, SENIOR INVESTIGATOR AND POLICY ADVISOR;

STEVEN G. GLICKMAN, COUNSEL

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J. KEITH AUSBROOK, MINORITY GENERAL COUNSEL

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Mr. Cohen. This is a transcribed interview of Dr. Arthur Pappas, conducted by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Mr. Pappas, thank you for taking time to be with us today. My name is Brian Cohen. I'm here with one of my colleagues; I'll let him introduce himself.

Mr. Ausbrook. I'm Keith Ausbrook. I'm with the Republican staff.

Mr. Cohen. We'll try to work through this quickly. Just to give you a couple of ground rules here, we will be asking you questions. We ask that you provide verbal answers because we, of course, cannot record or see nods or gestures, because this is a telephone interview.

Dr. Pappas. Uh-huh.

Mr. Cohen. Two things to go over very quickly. The first is that you are required to provide truthful answers to Congress. Do you understand that you may face criminal penalties if you do not?

Dr. Pappas. Yes.

Mr. Cohen. The second is, you do have the right to have an attorney present. Do you have one present?

Dr. Pappas. No, I don't.

Mr. Cohen. It is my understanding you wish to proceed to the interview anyway.

Dr. Pappas. Yes.

EXAMINATION

BY MR. COHEN:

Q We wanted to speak to you very quickly about team policies that were in place. Can you quickly -- you were with the Red Sox as team physician; am I correct?

A I was Medical Director of the Boston Red Sox for 25 years.

Q What years were they?

A 1977 through 2004.

Q So you were Medical Director of the team during Mr. Clemens' entire tenure?

A Yes.

Q What we wanted to talk about, we don't have specific questions necessarily about the care provided to Mr. Clemens, but I wanted to talk to you about a couple of team policies that were in place at the time or may have -- we're trying to get an understanding of team policies that were in place at the time.

A Sure.

Q The first is team policies with regard to injections, whether it is B-12 shots or other pain medications, any injectable medication. Do you know who on the team is authorized to provide injections?

A The physician.

Q Just the team physician?

A That's it.

Q Does that mean that team trainers --

A Do not give injections. They do other external treatments, massages, taping, exercises; prescription medications can be handled by the trainer, but no injections.

Q No injections whatsoever of any medication?

A Huh-uh.

EXAMINATION

BY MR. AUSBROOK:

Q When you say "medication," does that include B-12?

A That includes anything that goes through a needle.

Mr. Cohen. All right.

Mr. Ausbrook. Okay.

BY MR. COHEN:

Q That's very helpful. I also wanted to ask about team policy with regard to B-12 shots. Did the team physicians give B-12 shots during the time when Roger Clemens was with the team?

A I honestly can't recall the specific dates. B-12 shots have become more of an issue probably in the last 10 to 15 years than they were before that.

Q Yeah.

A Occasionally people would come in and have

prescriptions from another doctor requesting a B-12 shot.

Q I see.

A It was a service provided, as necessary, but not prescribed.

Q So the team on its own, the team physician at the time, would not give B-12 shots unless the player had a prescription from another doctor?

A Correct.

Q So it sounds -- was it rare, then, for the team doctors to give B-12 shots?

A At that time it was rare. As I say, the last 10, 15 years it has become more common.

Q Do you remember -- I know it is a long time ago and I don't know if you have your medical records. Do you have your medical records in front of you or --

A No.

Q -- have you had a chance to review them?

Do you remember -- again, I apologize, I know it was a long time ago. But do you recall if Mr. Clemens ever received a B-12-shot?

A I can't recall. I don't think he would have. It is possible, but I don't -- I would not have prescribed a B-12-shot for him.

Q And why would you have not prescribed a B-12-shot for him?

A It was not routinely part of the treatment regimen, the frequently used medication at that time.

Mr. Cohen. Did you have a question?

Mr. Ausbrook. Yeah.

BY MR. AUSBROOK:

Q When Brian is asking you did he ever receive one, did anyone ever tell you that Clemens had received one during that time?

A I really can't recall. I can't answer that.

Q But you know you never administered one?

A No.

Q And you know that no team doctor during your tenure administered one to him?

A Not that I know of.

Mr. Ausbrook. Not that you know of. Okay.

BY MR. COHEN:

Q And you know the team trainers were definitely not allowed to administer them?

A No, the trainers do not do that.

Q There is always the question, there's team policy and there's team practice. In the case of trainers giving injections, did practice follow policy?

A To my knowledge, the trainers at no time had a needle for injections available to them.

BY MR. AUSBROOK:

Q So you have no knowledge that any trainer gave any injection to anyone?

A Not to my knowledge.

Q No one ever told you that?

A No. I would be very surprised if they do it. They definitely don't aren't doing it in the training room.

BY MR. COHEN:

Q And another question about medical records. Did the Red Sox keep detailed medical records for -- of treatments that were given to individuals?

A Yes.

Q Of all treatments?

A There are two records that were involved. One was the physician's record and the other the trainer's records.

Q So to the extent there were any injectable medications provided to Mr. Clemens, that would appear on the team records?

A It should have, but I don't recall his ever having any -- well, any injectable B-12 or otherwise medication.

Mr. Cohen. Okay.

BY MR. AUSBROOK:

Q More specifically, I guess one of the substances that we're interested in is lidocaine. Do you recall Mr. Clemens ever getting a shot of lidocaine?

A Lidocaine is basically a local anesthetic, and that

would have been used for pain relief or pain modification. Anytime you're considering an injection with a cortisone-like drug, usually it is with a local anesthetic combined. It is possible that he had received a cortisone shot that included a local anesthetic as well as including a cortisone-type drug.

Q So the lidocaine would have been injected first to serve as a local anesthetic prior to the injection the cortisone shot?

A Correct.

Q For lidocaine and cortisone, was that administered by the team doctor --

A Yes.

Q -- or was that administered by an orthopedic --

A Yes, yes, by a team doctor.

Q But not a specialist of some sort?

A Well, I'm a specialist.

Q You are a specialist. Okay.

A Orthopedic surgeon.

Mr. Ausbrook. Okay. Right.

BY MR. COHEN:

Q Do you have a view on lidocaine -- did you ever give lidocaine shots by themselves, in conjunction with no other medication?

A I can't recall having done that. It's possible that

if there were a localized pain problem or localized muscle spasm, that he might give a local anesthetic, but it would be very unusual.

Q Would that be a specialist that --

A No, it would have been myself.

Q Although you are a specialist?

A Yes -- I think.

Q So it wouldn't have been one of the trainers that did it?

A No.

Q Okay.

A Trainers did nothing with needles. They used ultrasound, hydraulic light, there are various heat and ice treatments, but nothing that's injectable.

Mr. Cohen. Okay. I think that's all we've got. I appreciate you taking the time and we will -- you have the -- we'll go off the record.

[Discussion off the record.]

[Whereupon, at 10:00 a.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