

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. paper	News Articles; RE: Notes [partial] (7 pages)	08/11-15/1993	P5
002. paper	News Article; RE: Note [partial] (1 page)	08/11/1993	P5
003. paper	News Article; RE: Note [partial] (1 page)	08/11/1993	P5
004. paper	News Article; RE: Note [partial] (1 page)	08/11/1993	P5
005. paper	News Article; RE: Note [partial] (1 page)	08/11/1993	P5

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
First Lady's Office
First Lady's Press Office (Misc. Subject Files)
OA/Box Number: 9465

FOLDER TITLE:

Kaki - Renovations [3]

Debbie Bush
2007-0686-F
db2161

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

The Washington Times, August 12, 1993

FOCUS

The White House issued a statement ...

... Tuesday saying Mrs. Clinton "has no reason to believe the comments [in the Foster memo] . . . are accurate," and that she was "aware of the miscommunication between the usher and decorator and is pleased that it has been resolved."

While \$337,000 may seem a princely sum for a populist president to ...

FOCUS - 17 OF 33 STORIES

Copyright 1993 The San Diego Union-Tribune
The San Diego Union-Tribune

August 11, 1993, Wednesday

pls. print

SECTION: NEWS

Ed. 1,2,3,4,5,6

Pg. A-1

LENGTH: 1134 words

HEADLINE: Note shows anguish of Clinton counsel

BYLINE: GEORGE E. CONDON Jr.
Copley News Service

KEYWORD: COMMUNICATIONS; COST; GOVERNMENT; LAW; LEADERS; MEDIA; NEWSPAPERS;
POLICE; PROBES; PROBES; SUICIDES; TRIPS; USA;

... question about the ongoing remodeling of some rooms in the White House, writing, "The Ushers Office plotted to have excessive costs incurred, taking advantage of Kaki and HRC."

"Kaki" refers to Kaki Hockersmith, a Little Rock interior decorator brought in by Hillary Rodham Clinton (HRC) to oversee the project. The Usher's Office is technically in charge of any such renovation of the White House. The project is being ...

FOCUS - 18 OF 33 STORIES

Copyright 1993 Globe Newspaper Company
The Boston Globe

August 11, 1993, Wednesday, City Edition

pls. print

SECTION: NATIONAL/FOREIGN; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 1245 words

HEADLINE: Note left by aide reveals distress, makes allegations

BYLINE: By Michael Kranish, Globe Staff

Clinton Library Photocopy

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

KEYWORD: NAME-FOSTER SUICIDE PROBE

BODY:

... seen in 11 years of traveling with the president."

In one of the most intriguing notations, Foster said the White House Usher's Office, which oversees renovations in the Executive Mansion, had "plotted to have excessive costs incurred, taking advantage of Kaki and HRC." That was a reference to Kaki Hockersmith, a Little Rock decorator who did work at the White House, and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Gearan said that there was no plot and that Foster was apparently referring to a "miscommunication" between Hockersmith and chief usher Gary Walters. Gearan said Hockersmith and Walters had originally agreed upon a \$ 250,000 bill for the decorating services, which ...

... illegal benefits they received from the travel staff

The GOP has lied and misrepresented its knowledge and role and covered up a prior investigation

The Ushers Office plotted to have excessive costs incurred, taking advantage of Kaki and HRC

The public will never believe the innocence of the Clintons and their loyal staff

The WSJ editors lie without consequence

I was ...

FOCUS - 19 OF 33 STORIES

Copyright 1993 Chicago Tribune Company
Chicago Tribune

August 11, 1993, Wednesday, NORTH SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 979 words

HEADLINE: Clinton counsel's final note blasts D.C

BYLINE: By Michael Tackett and Mitchell Locin, Tribune Staff Writers.

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

... over a city where "ruining people is considered sport" and lodged accusations against the FBI, the press and the obscure White House usher's office.

The Houston Chronicle, August 11, 1993

FOCUS

August 11, 1993, Wednesday, 3 STAR Edition

SECTION: A; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 1351 words

HEADLINE: Probe finds job pressure led to Clinton aide's suicide

BYLINE: GREG McDONALD, Houston Chronicle Washington Bureau; Staff

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

KEYWORD: SUICIDES DEATHS

... Republican critics of the president and the White House Historical Society's renovation of the White House.

One reference suggested that the White House "' Usher's Office'" took advantage of Hillary Rodham Clinton and an aide by "'plotting to have excessive costs incurred,'" apparently in the ongoing renovation of the White House. The usher's office oversees renovations.

Gearan said the White House and federal authorities are still trying "'to make sense'" of the charges contained ...

... illegal benefits they received from the travel staff.

"The GOP has lied and misrepresented its knowledge and role and covered up a prior investigation.

"The Ushers Office plotted to have excessive costs incurred, taking advantage of Kaki and HRC.

"The public will never believe the innocence of the Clintons and their loyal staff.

"The WSJ (Wall Street Journal) editors lie ...

... in large part with the purge of the White House travel office staff, which sparked a political firestorm and embarrassed the administration. The "' Ushers Office'" refers to the White House household staff. "' Kaki ' ' is the nickname of Katherine Hockersmith, an interior designer brought in to help with redecoration of the White House. HRC refers to first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, investigators said.

Source: Chronicle wire services

FOCUS

investigation. The Ushers Office plotted to have excessive cost incurred, taking advantage of Kaki and HRC." That is Little Rock interior designer Kaki Hockersmith and Hillary Rodham Clinton. "The public will never believe the innocence of the Clintons and their loyal staff. The WSJ (Wall Street ...

FOCUS - 24 OF 33 STORIES

Copyright 1993 Newsday, Inc.
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August 11, 1993, Wednesday, CITY EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 1323 words

HEADLINE: Final Note: Foster Saw Plots by FBI, Press, Staff

BYLINE: By Timothy M. Phelps. WASHINGTON BUREAU. Susan Page contributed to this story

DATELINE: Washington

KEYWORD: QUOTE; VINCENT FOSTER; SUICIDE; LETTER; TEXT; FBI; WHITE HOUSE; OFFICIAL; EMPLOYE

BODY:

... reason to believe that that is the case. My sense is we're not aware of any facts to support that."

Foster also charged that the White House Usher's Office, which is in charge of maintenance of the building and other administrative tasks, had "plotted to have excessive costs incurred," apparently in the redecoration of the White House, being supervised by Katherine Hockersmith, a Little Rock decorator whose nickname is Kaki. Foster asserted that the Usher's Office had taken advantage of "Kaki and HRC," apparently referring to the first lady.

But Gearan said yesterday that while there had been a miscommunication between the Usher's Office and the decorator over the costs, which escalated from \$ 250,000 to \$ 377,000, this was apparently a "misunderstanding" and that the higher number was due to overtime that had to be paid to ...

... late White House lawyer's belongings. It was released yesterday by the U.S. Park Police, who investigated the death. The "Ushers Office" refers to the White House household staff. "Kaki" is the nickname of Katherine Hockersmith, a Little Rock, Ark., interior designer brought in to help redecorate the White House. "HRC" refers to first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"I made mistakes from ignorance, inexperience and overwork

" ...

... illegal benefits they received from the travel staff

"The GOP has lied and misrepresented its knowledge and role and covered up a prior investigation

"The Ushers Office plotted to have excessive costs incurred, taking advantage of Kaki and HRC

"The public will never believe the innocence of the Clintons and their loyal staff

"The WSJ [Wall Street Journal] editors lie ...

FOCUS - 25 OF 33 STORIES

Copyright 1993 Newsday, Inc.
Newsday

August 11, 1993, Wednesday, NASSAU AND SUFFOLK EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 3

LENGTH: 1243 words

HEADLINE: Foster's Note;
White House lawyer cited misdeeds by FBI, media, staff

BYLINE: By Timothy M. Phelps. WASHINGTON BUREAU

DATELINE: Washington

KEYWORD: LETTER; COVER; SUICIDE; MEDIA; SCANDAL; FBI; FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION; TRAVEL; VINCENT FOSTER; SHOOTING; LETTER;

BODY:
... benefits for reporters, Gearan said yesterday that "I have no reason to believe that that is the case."

Foster also charged that the White House Usher's Office, which is in charge of maintenance of the building and other administrative tasks, had "plotted to have excessive costs incurred," apparently in the redecoration of the White House, being supervised by Katherine Hockersmith, a Little Rock decorator whose nickname is Kaki. Foster asserted that the Usher's Office had taken advantage of "Kaki and HRC," apparently referring to the first lady.

But Gearan said yesterday that while there had been a miscommunication between the Usher's Office and the decorator over the costs, which escalated from \$ 250,000 to \$ 377,000, this was apparently a "misunderstanding" and that the higher number was due to overtime that had to be paid to ...

... Text of Note

Washington - Following is the text of a note written by White House Deputy Counsel Vincent Foster. The " Ushers Office" refers to the White House household staff. " Kaki" is the nickname of Katherine Hockersmith, an Little Rock, Ark., interior designer brought in to help redecorate the White House.

The public will never believe the ...

FOCUS - 28 OF 33 STORIES

Copyright 1993 Times Newspapers Limited
The Times

August 11, 1993, Wednesday

SECTION: Overseas news

LENGTH: 554 words

HEADLINE: Clinton aide's suicide note condemns unjust attacks

BYLINE: Ian Brodie in Washington

... travel office investigation when they controlled the White House.

In an unexplained comment, Mr Foster accused the White House usher's office, part of the household staff, of plotting to incur "excessive costs" and of taking advantage of Mrs Clinton and "Kaki", thought to be Catherine Cornelius, the distant cousin assigned to the travel office.

"The public will never believe the innocence of the Clintons and their loyal ...

FOCUS - 29 OF 33 STORIES

Copyright 1993 Gannett Company, Inc.
USA TODAY

August 11, 1993, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

Pls. print

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 238 words

HEADLINE: 'Sad' note clue to Clinton aide's suicide

BYLINE: Sam Vincent Meddis

KEYWORD: VINCENT FOSTER:SUICIDE NOTE:CLINTON AIDE:WHITE HOUSE STAFF:CLINTON ADMINISTRATION

BODY:

... about the controversial firings of White House travel office staffers.

The media got "illegal benefits" from the office.

The White House usher's office plotted to have excessive costs incurred in a redecorating project undertaken by Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The Justice Department is reviewing the assertions.

Foster also took a shot at ...

FOCUS - 30 OF 33 STORIES

Copyright 1993 Gannett Company, Inc.
USA TODAY

August 11, 1993, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 5A

LENGTH: 800 words

HEADLINE: Foster felt betrayed by Washington

BYLINE: Adam Nagourney; Judy Keen

KEYWORD: VINCENT FOSTER:CLINTON AIDE:WHITE HOUSE STAFF:SUICIDE NOTE:CLINTON ADMINISTRATION

BODY:

... scribbled out in his note - be it that Republicans had "covered up" a previous probe of the White House travel office, or that the Usher's Office "plotted" against the Clintons as part of a White House renovation.

In the end, it was clear that the White House was ...

... lost his perspective.

"We don't think there's a plot. We don't think there's a cover-up."

Foster said, for example, the Usher's Office "plotted to have excessive costs incurred" in the White House renovation, apparently to embarrass Hillary Rodham Clinton and the decorator she brought up from Little Rock to oversee the project, Kaki Hockersmith. The usher, Gary Walters, referred phone calls to the press office. Hockersmith didn't return calls.

White House officials said Foster was upset because the usher's estimate for the work, being paid for by private donations, jumped from \$ 255,000 to \$ 377,000. They said that was because of a misunderstanding ...

... suicide) to be a permanent solution to a temporary problem."
Contributing: Sam Meddis

What the torn-up note said

Note: Usher's Office refers to White House household staff; Kaki apparently is Arkansas interior designer Kaki Hockersmith, who was helping Hillary Rodham Clinton (HRC) decorate the White House.

"I made mistakes from ignorance, inexperience and ...

LEVEL 2 - 1 OF 5 STORIES

Copyright 1993 The San Diego Union-Tribune
The San Diego Union-Tribune

August 11, 1993, Wednesday

SECTION: NEWS

Ed. 1,2,3,4,5,6

Pg. A-1

LENGTH: 1134 words

HEADLINE: Note shows anguish of Clinton counsel

BYLINE: GEORGE E. CONDON Jr.

Copley News Service

KEYWORD: COMMUNICATIONS; COST; GOVERNMENT; LAW; LEADERS; MEDIA; NEWSPAPERS;
POLICE; PROBES; PROBES; SUICIDES; TRIPS; USA;

BODY:

White House deputy counsel Vincent Foster, pouring his torment into a note written before his suicide, saw plots and cover-ups in his final days and bitterly lashed out at Republicans, the FBI, the press and Washington, where "ruining people is considered sport."

The note was made public yesterday, triggering a new run of investigations and explanations of allegations that White House officials called "the comments of someone who was obviously troubled about matters he encountered at work."

"I was not meant for the job or the spotlight of public life in Washington," Foster wrote. "Here ruining people is considered sport."

The troubled state of Foster's mind was clear from the neatly handwritten note, which was torn into 27 pieces and dropped into the bottom of his briefcase.

"I made mistakes from ignorance, inexperience and overwork," he wrote. "I did not knowingly violate any law or standard of conduct."

Later, he complained, "The public will never believe the innocence of the Clintons and their loyal staff."

Foster, 48, was a friend of Bill Clinton since boyhood, and a law partner of first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. He came to Washington with his friends only to find himself ensnared in controversies that included the clumsy firings of the White House travel office and the botched early search for an attorney general.

Troubled by the controversies and stung by critical editorials in The Wall Street Journal, Foster, according to investigators, took a 1912 Army Colt pistol once owned by his father, drove to a park in nearby suburban Virginia and shot himself once in the head on July 20.

Foster lashed out at The Wall Street Journal in his note, writing, "The WSJ editors lie without consequence."

Copyright 1993 Globe Newspaper Company
The Boston Globe

August 11, 1993, Wednesday, City Edition

SECTION: NATIONAL/FOREIGN; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 1245 words

HEADLINE: Note left by aide reveals distress, makes allegations

BYLINE: By Michael Kranish, Globe Staff

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

KEYWORD: NAME-FOSTER SUICIDE PROBE

BODY:

Deputy White House counsel Vincent Foster committed suicide after he wrote a note accusing the FBI and the media of lying and suggesting that in Washington "ruining people is considered sport," officials said yesterday.

"I was not meant for the job or the spotlight of public life in Washington," Foster wrote before his death on July 20, according to an undated, torn-up note discovered in his office on July 26 and released yesterday.

Foster's note included a series of potentially explosive allegations, including an unexplained "plot" by White House officials related to "excessive" decorating costs. Many of his charges involved the controversy surrounding the firing of seven workers in the White House travel office.

Park Police Chief Robert Langston, who oversaw the investigation, said Foster "was distressed to the degree that he took his own life." Langston also mildly rebuked White House officials because they kept Foster's note for 30 hours after finding it. Langston said, "We certainly weren't pleased."

The note showed that Foster was especially upset over a series of editorials in the Wall Street Journal. "The WSJ editors lie without consequence," Foster wrote. The Journal had raised questions about his work for Hillary Rodham Clinton's health care task force and at one point ran an editorial that was headlined "Who is Vince Foster?"

The Journal's editor, Robert Bartley, said in a statement yesterday that, "The text of Mr. Foster's note suggests that he was deeply distraught over a variety of issues. At this time, we have nothing to add to our last editorial of Aug. 6." That later editorial said the nation would probably "never know" all of the reasons for Foster's depression.

The travel office controversy seemed to be Foster's greatest concern. He wrote that the "FBI lied in their report" to the Justice Department about the travel office, that the Republican Party "lied and misrepresented its knowledge" about a prior investigation, and that the press "is covering up the benefits they received from the travel office."

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Newsday

August 11, 1993, Wednesday, CITY EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 1323 words

HEADLINE: Final Note: Foster Saw Plots by FBI, Press, Staff

BYLINE: By Timothy M. Phelps. WASHINGTON BUREAU. Susan Page contributed to this story

DATELINE: Washington

KEYWORD: QUOTE; VINCENT FOSTER; SUICIDE; LETTER; TEXT; FBI; WHITE HOUSE; OFFICIAL; EMPLOYEE

BODY:

Sometime before he apparently put his father's pistol into his mouth and killed himself last month, White House lawyer Vincent Foster scrawled a desperate note in which he accused the FBI, the White House press and the White House administrative staff of improprieties.

The contents of the handwritten, poorly punctuated message, which the White House had withheld from investigators for 30 hours, were released to the media yesterday by the Justice Department. It was found, torn into more than two dozen pieces, at the bottom of Foster's briefcase six days after his July 20 death.

"I was not meant for the job or the spotlight of public life in Washington," Foster said after referring to attacks on him by the editorial page of the Wall Street Journal. The note ended: "Here ruining people is considered sport."

Officials said yesterday that investigations into Foster's death and the White House handling of the note by the U.S. Park Service and the FBI indicated that Foster had most likely killed himself and that the White House's withholding of the note was "reasonable." The White House said it held back the note out of concern for his family and for the confidentiality of administration deliberations.

Deputy Attorney General Philip B. Heymann said the Justice Department would investigate the other allegations made by Foster, a longtime friend of the Clintons, though the White House said yesterday that it had no reason to believe that any of his allegations of wrongdoing were true.

"It's a sad commentary in many ways on life in Washington and frankly gives many of us pause for thought," especially the last line, said Mark Gearan, the White House communications director, referring to Foster's description of Washington "sport."

The note indicates that Foster was despondent about the controversy over the firing earlier this year of the staff of the White House travel office, which arranged transportation for reporters covering the president. The White House initially alleged that the staff had been involved in financial improprieties,

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USA TODAY

August 11, 1993, Wednesday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 5A

LENGTH: 800 words

HEADLINE: Foster felt betrayed by Washington

BYLINE: Adam Nagourney; Judy Keen

KEYWORD: VINCENT FOSTER; CLINTON AIDE; WHITE HOUSE STAFF; SUICIDE NOTE; CLINTON ADMINISTRATION

BODY:

The shredded note found at the bottom of Vincent Foster Jr.'s briefcase was undated and unsigned, and it contained no suggestion that he had decided to take his own life.

But by any measure, the message, reconstructed from 27 pieces, seems to be the suicide note that Foster never left. It is an anguished and suspicious indictment of Washington, offering the best indication yet of why Foster shot himself in the head three weeks ago.

As revealing, though, was the White House reaction to Foster's perception of a city that he thought had turned against both him and the president, his boyhood friend.

The White House disputed virtually every allegation of conspiracy he scribbled out in his note - be it that Republicans had "covered up" a previous probe of the White House travel office, or that the Usher's Office "plotted" against the Clintons as part of a White House renovation.

In the end, it was clear that the White House was attempting to suggest that Foster was suffering some kind of breakdown.

"He was clearly distressed and troubled about matters he encountered at work," communications director Mark Gearan said in an interview. "He may have lost his perspective.

"We don't think there's a plot. We don't think there's a cover-up."

Foster said, for example, the Usher's Office "plotted to have excessive costs incurred" in the White House renovation, apparently to embarrass Hillary Rodham Clinton and the decorator she brought up from Little Rock to oversee the project, Kaki Hockersmith. The usher, Gary Walters, referred phone calls to the press office. Hockersmith didn't return calls.

White House officials said Foster was upset because the usher's estimate for the work, being paid for by private donations, jumped from \$ 255,000 to \$ 377,000. They said that was because of a misunderstanding about the extent of the work.