

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- - - - -	-X	
	:	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	Case No: 25-MJ-276
BRIAN COLE, JR.	:	
	:	
- - - - -	-X	

Transcription of Video File

Interview of: Brian Cole, Jr.

Date of Interview: December 4, 2025

1 I N T E R V I E W

2 [REDACTED]: Put him right here?

3 [REDACTED]: (Inaudible) the picture.

4 [REDACTED]: On the left side of the table?

5 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

6 [REDACTED]: Okay.

7 [REDACTED]: That will work. Here.

8 [REDACTED]: Yeah. Where do you want to sit? You want
9 to sit here?

10 [REDACTED]: Yeah, that's fine.

11 [REDACTED]: Just sit here, like this?

12 [REDACTED]: Yeah. That should be good. So many
13 changes.

14 [REDACTED], when you're done with that I have a
15 question.

16 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

17 [REDACTED]: Why don't you have a seat right here,
18 sir. On the right-hand side.

19 [REDACTED]: Left side actually.

20 [REDACTED]: Left-hand side? Okay.

21 [REDACTED]: (Inaudible.)

22 [REDACTED]: We got you some, um -- yeah, there's a
23 comfortable chair. We got you some, uh, 7-Eleven. So if
24 you're hungry, feel free to do that.

25 And then if you could just go ahead and put your

1 hands up I'll take, I'll take those cuffs off.

2 [REDACTED]: Yeah, we're good. Thank you.

3 [REDACTED]: No problem.

4 [REDACTED]: All right. Go ahead and pull it out.

5 There we go. All right. If you need anything else let me
6 know.

7 [REDACTED]: All right. Thanks, [REDACTED].

8 [REDACTED]: All right. Thanks, [REDACTED].

9 All right, Mr. Cole, would you like us -- for us
10 to call you Mr. Cole or Brian, or -- what would you prefer?

11 MR. COLE: You can call me anything. You can
12 call me anything.

13 [REDACTED]: Anything?

14 MR. COLE: It doesn't matter.

15 [REDACTED]: Is it okay if we refer to you as Brian?

16 MR. COLE: Yeah.

17 [REDACTED]: Okay, all right. Well, feel free to eat
18 at your leisure. We got -- I think we got --

19 [REDACTED]: A little bit of everything.

20 [REDACTED]: We got -- these are chicken wings. This
21 is pizza. And then there's, there's pepperoni pizza at the
22 bottom there. And there's some napkins in there, I
23 believe.

24 [REDACTED]: And water or soda if you need.

25 [REDACTED]: Are you, are you cold or anything?

1 MR. COLE: Just scared.

2 [REDACTED]: Scared? No, I completely, I completely
3 understand this.

4 MR. COLE: I don't know what's going to happen.
5 I just hope it's -- I hope whatever is going on is a
6 misunderstanding. I really, really do.

7 [REDACTED]: Okay. Well, you know, that's what we're
8 here trying to figure out. We're here trying to figure out
9 the truth --

10 MR. COLE: All right.

11 [REDACTED]: -- and trying to get this thing resolved.
12 So before --

13 MR. COLE: Yeah.

14 [REDACTED]: So, first off, if you need anything as
15 we're going through this just let us know. If you need to
16 use the bathroom --

17 [REDACTED]: If you want to take a break --

18 [REDACTED]: If you want to take a break.

19 [REDACTED]: I know this is an intimidating
20 situation

21 and we're trying to make it as less intimidating as
22 possible. So just let us know, honestly, if you need a
23 break.

24 [REDACTED]: Yean. And -- but before we can, like,
25 start asking you, talking to you really, asking you

1 substantive questions, we just need to make sure you kind
2 of like understand your rights today. Okay?

3 MR. COLE: Yeah.

4 [REDACTED]: Okay. So I want to -- before I kind of
5 get into that, I want to kind of lay out what today looks
6 like for you so you kind of clearly know what's going to
7 happen today.

8 So we're going to give you an opportunity to
9 speak with us this morning. You've already been processed
10 by the agents out there. And then later on this afternoon
11 we'll likely be in front of a judge.

12 MR. COLE: What?

13 [REDACTED]: So --

14 MR. COLE: Oh, what's -- okay, seriously, what's
15 going on? Please tell me what's going on. Please tell me
16 what's going on.

17 [REDACTED]: Yeah. So -- so what -- so that, that's
18 kind of the flow of the day. So -- so we're going to tell
19 you -- we're here to answer any questions you may have, but
20 we want to make sure you understand your rights before,
21 before we do this. So -- so before -- we're going to
22 review your rights in a minute, but we want to give you
23 some background.

24 So this investigation has been a long
25 investigation for us. We've been looking at this for, like

1 --

2 [REDACTED]: Close to five years.

3 [REDACTED]: Close to five years, close to five years,
4 and we really want to get to the truth of this
5 investigation, and we want to get to the bottom of it.
6 Okay?

7 MR. COLE: Okay.

8 [REDACTED]: And -- and we're interested in hearing
9 what you have to say about it. Okay? You're -- you're
10 talking to us today completely voluntary, okay, and you
11 need to understand that.

12 However, we're interested in knowing your side of
13 the story. We're interested in learning, knowing more
14 about you, your family, your -- what you -- things that
15 happened in your life going back five plus years ago. So
16 we're interested in going through the facts with you, not
17 anybody else, with you. And you should understand, like,
18 you know, you being forthright with us, you know, being up
19 front with us, you know, will really benefit you in the
20 long run. Just so we can get this situation resolved.
21 Does all that make sense?

22 MR. COLE: Yeah, yeah.

23 [REDACTED]: And I know, like you said, this is
24 intimidating and overwhelming. I'm not sure if you've, you
25 know, had interaction with, obviously not the FBI, but any

1 law enforcement before. But me and [REDACTED] want to reassure
2 you our ultimate goal in this is to just understand the
3 facts, get to the truth, hear your side of the story.

4 If there's anything we got wrong, we want to know
5 that. We're not here to, you know, accuse you of anything.
6 We're here because facts led us here, and we just want to
7 understand more your side of the story, if that makes
8 sense.

9 MR. COLE: Okay.

10 [REDACTED]: Are you understanding what we're
11 saying?

12 MR. COLE: Yeah, yeah.

13 [REDACTED]: Okay. Okay, so before we can -- like I
14 said, before we can ask you any questions we got -- we need
15 to provide you your rights.

16 MR. COLE: The Miranda.

17 [REDACTED]: And some other rights.

18 [REDACTED]: I have it right here.

19 [REDACTED]: Okay.

20 [REDACTED]: Do you need a minute?

21 MR. COLE: This is a lot to process?

22 [REDACTED]: No, I completely get it.

23 MR. COLE: This is --

24 [REDACTED]: Uh-huh, uh-huh. Why don't you just
25 take, like, two minutes, have -- have a drink of water --

1 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

2 [REDACTED]: -- and then we can start.

3 [REDACTED]: And then we can start at the beginning.

4 [REDACTED]: Yeah, we can start.

5 [REDACTED]: Yeah. Are you -- are you feeling okay?

6 Yeah, have some coke.

7 MR. COLE: I need -- I need to stop drinking

8 soda.

9 [REDACTED]: Okay.

10 [REDACTED]: Oh, okay. Want some water?

11 [REDACTED]: Yeah, take a sip of water, take a deep
12 breath, and then take a few minutes, and then we'll --

13 [REDACTED]: Yeah. Just like we said in the car, we
14 need you -- we don't you need to be worked up.

15 MR. COLE: Okay. I think -- okay. That's --
16 sorry.

17 [REDACTED]: You want us to start or do you need a
18 little bit more time? You good?

19 MR. COLE: You can start.

20 [REDACTED]: All right. So like we said, we need to
21 provide you your rights, okay? I'm going to go ahead and
22 read them to you. If you could just let me know if you
23 understand them, and then if you do decide to talk to us we
24 can move forward from there. Okay?

25 MR. COLE: Okay.

1 [REDACTED]: Okay. So before we ask you any questions,
2 you must understand your rights.

3 You have the right to remain silent. Anything
4 you say can be used against you in court. You have the
5 right to talk to a lawyer for advice before we ask you any
6 questions. You have the right to have a lawyer with you
7 during questioning. If you cannot afford a lawyer one will
8 be appointed for you before any questioning, if you wish.
9 If you decide to answer questions now without a lawyer
10 present, you have the right to stop answering at any time.

11 Do you understand these rights?

12 MR. COLE: Yes.

13 [REDACTED]: Okay. Are you interested in talking with
14 us?

15 MR. COLE: Yes.

16 [REDACTED]: Okay. If you are interested it says,
17 "I've read this statement of my rights, and I understand
18 what my rights are. At this time I'm willing to answer
19 without a lawyer present."

20 If you're interested in talking, you can sign
21 right here.

22 MR. COLE: Right here?

23 [REDACTED]: Right here.

24 MR. COLE: Here?

25 [REDACTED]: Yes.

1 Okay. I'm going to sign as a witness. [REDACTED],
2 are you going to sign?

3 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

4 [REDACTED]: What time do we have?

5 [REDACTED]: It is 9:21.

6 [REDACTED]: All right. This is the FBI Washington
7 Field Office. Today's the 4th, right?

8 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

9 [REDACTED]: 9:21 a.m.

10 Okay. Okay. So Brian, before we get going here,
11 in the car you were indicating you, you just wanted to tell
12 us something, like how to explain things.

13 MR. COLE: I was -- I was just trying to keep
14 myself calm.

15 [REDACTED]: Okay.

16 MR. COLE: Because I did not -- I don't know
17 what's going to happen. I don't know what -- this is the
18 first time I've ever been in a situation like this.

19 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

20 [REDACTED]: Okay.

21 MR. COLE: So I'm just really out of my depth
22 right now.

23 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

24 [REDACTED]: Okay.

25 [REDACTED]: And I know in the car you were saying

1 you were thinking about, you know, how you were going to
2 explain this.

3 MR. COLE: To my, to family because --

4 [REDACTED]: Right.

5 MR. COLE: -- because being arrested by the FBI,
6 like, how am I going to tell them that?

7 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

8 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

9 MR. COLE: Like, I genuinely don't know what's
10 going on. I need -- I wake up one minute, I'm going to 7-
11 Eleven to get myself some food, and all of a sudden I have
12 a bunch of FBI agents just pointing, pointing guns at me.

13 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

14 MR. COLE: And how do you process that?

15 [REDACTED]: No, it's so much to process and --
16 yeah.

17 But we totally understand. It's a really overwhelming
18 situation, especially early in the morning. And so, we're,
19 you know, sorry that it's so much to process and hopefully
20 here, this conversation, you know, I know you're worried
21 about how to explain it to your family, but to us I don't
22 want you to have to think too hard. We just want to
23 understand you growing up, your family, your interests, and
24 kind of, you know, what led us to this point.

25 So we don't want you to have to think too hard.

1 We honestly just ask for you to be truthful and help us
2 understand.

3 MR. COLE: If it helps clear the air of whatever
4 is going on here, so I'm not -- so I don't have to keep
5 thinking of the worst and, you know. Yeah, okay.

6 [REDACTED]: What would clear the air?

7 MR. COLE: Whatever, whatever -- whatever I'm
8 here for, right. I just don't know why I'm here for.
9 That's it.

10 [REDACTED]: Okay. Okay. Did you -- have you asked
11 anybody?

12 MR. COLE: I've -- I've been waiting for someone
13 to tell me because --

14 [REDACTED]: Waiting for someone to tell you.

15 MR. COLE: -- you -- because I didn't -- I was
16 wasn't answering any questions. The only questions -- my
17 only question is why I was here. That was -- that was
18 genuinely the only one, so I had no reason to say anything.

19 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Yeah. So -- yeah. So you're
20 here because of the evidence we found regarding your
21 activities in Washington, D.C. on January 5th, 2021.

22 MR. COLE: What? Say again?

23 [REDACTED]: Well, because of your activities in D.C.
24 on January 5th, 2021. You remember January 6th, 2021? You
25 know what happened?

1 MR. COLE: Yeah, I know what happened.

2 [REDACTED]: Okay. The night before.

3 MR. COLE: I was at -- I was at the protest the
4 night before. I didn't -- I was only there for -- I was
5 only there for an hour.

6 [REDACTED]: What protest were you at?

7 MR. COLE: The protest that happened on -- in
8 front of the -- you know, the one that -- when they
9 protested that Donald Trump lost -- that Donald Trump lost
10 the 2021 election. But I didn't -- I didn't agree with
11 what people where doing, like just telling half the country
12 that they -- that their -- that they just need to ignore
13 it.

14 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

15 MR. COLE: I didn't think that was a good idea,
16 so I went to the protest. And I -- I wasn't -- I'm not a
17 very sociable person, so I didn't really talk to anyone or
18 do anything, just hung around.

19 And then after that I left. I went to -- now
20 before I went to the protest, I told my mom that I was
21 going to a place called Capital Ale House.

22 [REDACTED]: Okay.

23 MR. COLE: And Capital Ale House was -- it's --
24 it used to be in the building that was next to the office
25 where I work.

1 [REDACTED]: Okay.

2 MR. COLE: And now it's -- now it's Kelly's
3 Oyster Bar.

4 [REDACTED]: Okay.

5 MR. COLE: I told -- I went to DC because -- you
6 know how things were volatile back then because families,
7 families disowning each other because of political opinions
8 and all that, I didn't want to deal with that, especially
9 since my family has hard core Democrats in it.

10 [REDACTED]: Okay.

11 MR. COLE: I didn't want to tell them that I was
12 going to a protest in support of Trump because, like I
13 said, I didn't agree with just ignoring half the country,
14 half the people who voted for him, right?

15 [REDACTED]: Right.

16 MR. COLE: So after I was done with -- after I
17 was done with just standing around and doing stuff like
18 that, I got in my car and I left. I went to Capital Ale
19 House and then I went back home.

20 [REDACTED]: Okay. So let's rewind a little bit.
21 You said the one restaurant was next to where you work?

22 MR. COLE: Yes, it's Kelly's Oyster Bar now, but
23 back then it was called Capital Ale House.

24 [REDACTED]: Okay. So let's just rewind a little
25 bit. Again, we just want to know more about you and then

1 we'll kind of work our way up to the night of January 5th,
2 if that's okay.

3 MR. COLE: All right.

4 [REDACTED]: Okay. So you live currently in
5 Woodbridge, Woodbridge?

6 MR. COLE: Yes.

7 [REDACTED]: Okay. Did you grow up there?

8 MR. COLE: I grew up in Lorton. Well, we --

9 [REDACTED]: Lorton?

10 MR. COLE: -- well, some of my childhood. I
11 mean, we moved to Woodbridge at -- when I was in, when I
12 was in fourth grade.

13 [REDACTED]: Okay. And before that you were in
14 Lorton?

15 MR. COLE: Yeah.

16 [REDACTED]: Were you born in Virginia?

17 MR. COLE: DC.

18 [REDACTED]: Okay.

19 [REDACTED]: You were born in DC.?

20 MR. COLE: Yeah.

21 [REDACTED]: Have you lived in Woodbridge for most of
22 your life, though?

23 MR. COLE: Yeah.

24 [REDACTED]: Okay. And did you go to school in the
25 Woodbridge area?

1 MR. COLE: Yeah, (inaudible) for elementary
2 school , (inaudible) elementary school. I think it was
3 Beville for middle school, and Hylton for high school.

4 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. I barely remember middle
5 school. I know everyone tries to block middle school out.

6 [REDACTED]: How was school for you?

7 MR. COLE: Average, just average.

8 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

9 [REDACTED]: What was your favorite grade in school?
10 Did you like high school or --

11 MR. COLE: I just -- I just got by.

12 [REDACTED]: Yeah. Were you involved in any
13 activities in high school or mostly just went to school?

14 MR. COLE: Just went to school.

15 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

16 MR. COLE: I wasn't really an after school
17 person.

18 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. And did you have any siblings
19 growing up?

20 MR. COLE: I have my little sister, my older
21 sister, and my brother.

22 [REDACTED]: Okay. So you're one of four?

23 MR. COLE: Yeah.

24 [REDACTED]: Okay. Does anyone still live with you
25 at home?

1 MR. COLE: Just my mom and my nephew. My brother
2 moved to Alabama.

3 [REDACTED]: Okay.

4 [REDACTED]: Who moved to Alabama? I'm sorry.

5 MR. COLE: My brother.

6 [REDACTED]: Your brother. And does your dad live?

7 MR. COLE: He lives in Louisiana.

8 [REDACTED]: Okay.

9 MR. COLE: He -- he comes up here. He comes up
10 here frequently.

11 [REDACTED]: What does he come up here for?

12 MR. COLE: I work at the office that he owns.

13 [REDACTED]: Okay. And that's the --

14 MR. COLE: The one I just mentioned, the one
15 that's --

16 [REDACTED]: Next to Capital Ale House?

17 MR. COLE: The one that's --

18 [REDACTED]: Next to Capital Ale House. What's the
19 name? Just what's the name of the office?

20 MR. COLE: Independent Surety of America.

21 [REDACTED]: Okay. And that's where you work, right?

22 MR. COLE: Yeah.

23 [REDACTED]: And was dad -- was dad living with you
24 while from -- you were growing up in Woodbridge?

25 MR. COLE: Yeah.

1 [REDACTED]: Okay. Okay. How often does dad come back
2 and forth?

3 MR. COLE: I wouldn't say too often because he
4 has, he has businesses. He has, like, branches and stuff
5 across, across several states.

6 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

7 [REDACTED]: What kind of business, business is it?

8 MR. COLE: I know he -- well, primarily it's a
9 bail bonding company.

10 [REDACTED]: Okay.

11 MR. COLE: But he owns a casino. He owns a
12 casino down in Louisiana. I think he said he had a Little
13 Caesars franchise.

14 [REDACTED]: Oh, fun. You like Little Caesars?

15 MR. COLE: I like Little Caesars.

16 [REDACTED]: As much as 7-Eleven?

17 MR. COLE: Almost.

18 [REDACTED]: So you work at his business here?

19 MR. COLE: In Fairfax.

20 [REDACTED]: In Fairfax. Okay. What do you do?

21 MR. COLE: Just, just entering data.

22 [REDACTED]: Okay. Do any of your other siblings
23 work for his businesses?

24 MR. COLE: Yeah.

25 [REDACTED]: All of them or --

1 MR. COLE: My sister, she does people's hair down
2 in Virginia Beach.

3 [REDACTED]: Okay.

4 MR. COLE: But she'll -- she'll occasionally
5 help.

6 [REDACTED]: Okay. She's your younger sister?

7 MR. COLE: Yeah.

8 [REDACTED]: Okay. And you have an older sister?

9 MR. COLE: Yeah.

10 [REDACTED]: Okay.

11 MR. COLE: She works -- I work under my older
12 sister.

13 [REDACTED]: Okay.

14 [REDACTED]: Your -- which sister is that?

15 MR. COLE: The older one, the one that lives
16 here. She lives in -- I don't know the city name, but she
17 lives in Arlington, Arlington.

18 [REDACTED]: Okay.

19 [REDACTED]: And what's her name? I'm sorry.

20 MR. COLE: Brittany.

21 [REDACTED]: Brittany lives in Arlington?

22 MR. COLE: Yeah.

23 [REDACTED]: Okay.

24 [REDACTED]: Okay. So you grew up in Woodbridge,
25 went to high school around here, or around the Woodbridge

1 area. How long have you been working at the bail bond
2 business?

3 MR. COLE: Counting summer jobs, since I was 14.

4 [REDACTED]: Oh wow.

5 MR. COLE: I'm 30 now.

6 [REDACTED]: So a long time.

7 [REDACTED]: You must have seen some things. Bail
8 bonds is an interesting business.

9 MR. COLE: I know some weird people. The office
10 is across, is across from the courthouse, so we see a lot
11 of weird stuff.

12 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

13 [REDACTED]: What, what are some of the weird stuff
14 you see?

15 MR. COLE: At the bus stop across the street
16 there was a -- okay, so one time my grandma and my aunt,
17 they saw some guy at a bus stop across the street, and he
18 didn't -- he wasn't looking too good. Like, he was
19 slouching and stuff. And when he slid off, his leg snapped
20 when he, when he went to the ground.

21 [REDACTED]: Oh jeez.

22 MR. COLE: He didn't react. He was out of it.
23 They thought he died, so they called the police. Turns out
24 he was high off crack.

25 [REDACTED]: Oh jeez.

1 [REDACTED]: Oh.

2 MR. COLE: They had to take him away on an
3 ambulance.

4 [REDACTED]: Oh, my goodness. Was, was he, like, one
5 of your clients or --

6 MR. COLE: No, he was just some random guy.

7 [REDACTED]: Some random guy.

8 [REDACTED]: Just near the business.

9 [REDACTED]: Some guy around. How does, how does
10 the bail bond business work?

11 MR. COLE: I honestly don't know.

12 [REDACTED]: You don't know?

13 MR. COLE: I only have, like, scant information.
14 I do -- I normally just do what they instruct me.
15 Sometimes people will come in. The most I do is enter
16 their, enter their information, take their payment, and
17 then we just follow the procedure from there, because at
18 that point it's out of my hands. It's entirely in the
19 court's hands at that point.

20 [REDACTED]: Okay.

21 [REDACTED]: Do you like it?

22 MR. COLE: It's all right.

23 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

24 MR. COLE: It's pretty -- it's flexible. It
25 allows me to work on my laptop.

1 ██████: That's nice. Is your sister a good
2 boss?

3 MR. COLE: Yeah.

4 ██████: That's good.

5 ██████: What do you -- you said you work on your
6 laptop. What do you do on your laptop?

7 MR. COLE: That's, that's where I enter the bonds
8 in.

9 ██████: Oh, that's where you enter the bonds in.
10 Okay. Okay.

11 ██████: And then you said -- is your grandma
12 also involved in the business? You were saying you --

13 MR. COLE: She's the, she's the manager of the
14 office.

15 ██████: Here in Fairfax? I keep saying here,
16 but in Fairfax?

17 ██████: Yeah, she's the one in charge of the
18 office.

19 ██████: Okay. Is she your mom's mom or your
20 dad's mom?

21 MR. COLE: Dad's mom.

22 ██████: Okay. So -- and where does she live?

23 MR. COLE: I think, I think it was Gainesville.
24 She lives in a retirement because she's going to retire
25 next year.

1 ██████: Oh, how exciting for her.

2 MR. COLE: Yeah.

3 ██████: Okay. Okay, so that's -- and you have

4 a

5 little nephew you said?

6 MR. COLE: Yeah, 16.

7 ██████: Okay. (Inaudible) --

8 MR. COLE: He's in school now.

9 ██████: Okay. Do you get along with him?

10 MR. COLE: Yeah, I get along with him.

11 ██████: Okay. Does he think you're cool? Or
12 he's too cool for you?

13 MR. COLE: He acts like he's too cool for
14 everyone.

15 ██████: I'm sure.

16 ██████: Oh, does he? Is he a good kid?

17 MR. COLE: Yeah. But he needs to pay attention
18 in school, though.

19 ██████: Yeah.

20 ██████: Yeah. He struggles in school?

21 MR. COLE: I wouldn't say struggle. He just, he
22 just -- you know how they are at that age. He's more
23 concerned with his car and his girlfriend.

24 ██████: Oh, no. Girlfriends are always
25 trouble.

1 MR. COLE: Yeah.

2 [REDACTED]: Okay. Well, what else should we know
3 about you? Your family?

4 MR. COLE: Yeah, we have a pretty average life.

5 [REDACTED]: Okay. You said -- you made some comment
6 that your family -- you said -- what did you say about your
7 family? Like, they're kind of far -- like Democrats or
8 something like that?

9 MR. COLE: Uh, I think the majority of them. My
10 dad's an independent.

11 [REDACTED]: Dad's an independent?

12 MR. COLE: Yeah.

13 [REDACTED]: Okay. Okay. And did they -- so going
14 back, what, 2020 timeframe, you said you attended one of
15 the rallies, right?

16 MR. COLE: No, I only attended that -- I only
17 attended that protest, that was it. That was the -- that
18 was literally the only time I've ever been to one of those.

19 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. And so growing up, you know,
20 if your family has pretty strong political views --

21 MR. COLE: Especially my aunt and my grandma.

22 [REDACTED]: Okay. Who's your -- where does your
23 aunt live?

24 MR. COLE: She lived in Maryland, next to the MGM
25 Casino.

1 ██████: Okay.

2 MR. COLE: Or near it at least.

3 ██████: Okay. Does she work at the, um, bail
4 bond business, too?

5 MR. COLE: No, she's coming -- she's come -- I
6 think she's coming back to help us since her husband died
7 not too long ago.

8 ██████: Okay.

9 ██████: And what's your aunt's name? I'm sorry.

10 MR. COLE: Aunt, um, uh, Betty Coates (phonetic),
11 but we call her Ann.

12 ██████: Oh, Betty -- Ann. Okay.

13 ██████: So growing up when did you kind of
14 realize that your, you know, political views were a little
15 different from your family?

16 MR. COLE: I guess -- you spend so much time on
17 the internet -- I don't really -- to be honest, I don't
18 really know. I did -- I was never really in agreement with
19 some of the stuff they say, but I didn't really know
20 exactly. Because I, I supported -- I supported, like,
21 right-leaning candidates for a while now --

22 ██████: What candidates?

23 MR. COLE: -- like, right-leaning candidates for
24 a while now. Like, Ron Paul back in -- back when he was
25 running. But that was it.

1 ██████████: Okay.

2 MR. COLE: I view -- I don't know how to explain
3 that. I'm sorry.

4 ██████████: No, it's hard to explain.

5 ██████████: Take your time.

6 ██████████: Yeah.

7 MR. COLE: I guess it's just -- I guess it's
8 just, just that.

9 ██████████: Mm-hmm.

10 MR. COLE: I've never really -- I've never -- to
11 be honest, I've never really been an openly political
12 person --

13 ██████████: Mm-hmm.

14 MR. COLE: -- but past that it's just -- I guess
15 it's just how it, how it normally works.

16 ██████████: Yeah. You just kind of slowly over
17 time develop your own views and realize they're a little
18 different from the people around you.

19 MR. COLE: Yeah. Yeah.

20 ██████████: Okay. Is your family supportive of you
21 having different views?

22 MR. COLE: I don't -- we don't really talk
23 politics much.

24 ██████████: Mm-hmm.

25 MR. COLE: And even if we did, I normally like to

1 just keep my mouth shut.

2 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

3 MR. COLE: Because like I said -- because like I
4 told you earlier, the stuff gets -- things are pretty
5 volatile, right, nowadays.

6 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

7 MR. COLE: So I'd rather -- so it's best to just,
8 you know, keep your mouth shut, keep your head down, just
9 move on with your life with as little problems as possible.
10 That's always been how I worked.

11 [REDACTED]: Yeah. And I know you said back in 2020
12 the politics was kind of tearing families apart.

13 MR. COLE: Yeah, I would -- like, I remember back
14 in 2016 when Trump was first elected --

15 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

16 MR. COLE: -- there was this mom who posted on --
17 who posted, I think, on either TikTok or whatever, she --
18 okay, how am I going to explain this. So at her kid's
19 school they did this little mock voting thing where they
20 asked the kids to pick a candidate --

21 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

22 MR. COLE: -- and her kid -- and her kids chose
23 Donald Trump. So she -- so she posted a video of her
24 kicking this -- her elementary school-aged son out.

25 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

1 MR. COLE: And, like, she was leaning on -- and
2 she was leaning -- she was keeping the camera on him like
3 he was, like, walking down the street.

4 [REDACTED]: Oh, jeez.

5 MR. COLE: Like, I mean, she said that it was a
6 joke, but stuff like that, when you see stuff like that,
7 you don't want to deal with it.

8 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

9 MR. COLE: So for me it's best to just keep my
10 mouth shut.

11 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

12 MR. COLE: I don't want to deal with anything
13 like that.

14 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. You kind of want to avoid the
15 conflict.

16 MR. COLE: Yeah.

17 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

18 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

19 [REDACTED]: And so you're saying, like, for your
20 views, you kind of started shaping them the more you were
21 on the internet and seeing stuff online?

22 MR. COLE: Yeah.

23 [REDACTED]: What sites do you visit or, you know --

24 MR. COLE: Mostly, mostly YouTube.

25 [REDACTED]: Mostly YouTube? Do you have any

1 YouTubers that you watch a lot?

2 MR. COLE: I'm subscribed to VTubers.

3 [REDACTED]: What's it called?

4 [REDACTED]: I'm sorry?

5 MR. COLE: I'm subscribed to VTubers.

6 [REDACTED]: VTubers?

7 MR. COLE: And that's --

8 [REDACTED]: I never heard of that.

9 [REDACTED]: Yeah, what is -- what are VTubers?

10 MR. COLE: Basically, just they're -- they're
11 streamers who make content using virtual avatars.

12 [REDACTED]: Oh.

13 MR. COLE: That's basically --

14 [REDACTED]: Cool.

15 MR. COLE: --that's the, that's the gist of it.

16 [REDACTED]: Yeah. that seems entertaining.

17 MR. COLE: I'm not really a big streamer person,
18 so I just mostly watch clips and whatever video they put up
19 on YouTube.

20 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Do you listen to any podcasts
21 at all?

22 MR. COLE: No. I'm not -- I'm not a big streamer
23 or podcast person.

24 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Are you a gamer at all?

25 MR. COLE: Yeah.

1 ██████: Oh. What games do you play?

2 MR. COLE: I play Genshin Impact. I play Star
3 Rail.

4 ██████: Are those PC games or online games?

5 MR. COLE: PC games. I play them on PC, but they
6 can be played on any system.

7 ██████: Okay. How many PCs do you have?

8 MR. COLE: Just one.

9 ██████: Okay. Did you build it yourself or buy
10 it?

11 MR. COLE: Build it.

12 ██████: Oh, wow.

13 ██████: How long did that take?

14 MR. COLE: It took some time to gather the money,
15 and putting it together took me, like, four days.

16 ██████: That's pretty quick.

17 MR. COLE: Not, not for me. It's -- it gets
18 pretty confusing. (Inaudible) the one at my house was the
19 second one I ever built.

20 ██████: Okay.

21 MR. COLE: But, yeah, even if you built it
22 before, it's, it's -- it's still pretty confusing trying to
23 find out where to put everything.

24 ██████: I can imagine. What, like,
25 instructions do you follow?

1 MR. COLE: Just the manual they give me.

2 [REDACTED]: Is that a manual you got offline?

3 MR. COLE: No, this is the manual that came with
4 the motherboard.

5 [REDACTED]: Oh, the motherboard. Yeah. Yeah, I've
6 never built a computer.

7 [REDACTED]: My brothers have but --

8 [REDACTED]: I don't know even how to do it.

9 [REDACTED]: Does it have fancy lights?

10 MR. COLE: Yeah, from the all -- from the all-in-
11 one mostly. The all-in-one and the RAM.

12 [REDACTED]: Okay. Yeah. A gamer, are you on any -
13 -are you on Discord?

14 MR. COLE: No.

15 [REDACTED]: No.

16 [REDACTED]: Have you -- have you ever been on Discord?

17 MR. COLE: A while back with some friends but,
18 yeah, I, I stopped using Discord.

19 [REDACTED]: Okay. What else do you -- what else do
20 you use? Not Discord. Are you on any, like, social media
21 sites?

22 MR. COLE: I'm on Twitter, but I don't really
23 post.

24 [REDACTED]: Right. You use it to stalk, stalk like I
25 do, just to look at things.

1 MR. COLE: Twitter, Reddit, YouTube, uh, that's
2 basically all. I'm also on -- I'm also on some Pixiv and
3 Pinterest, um, Archive. And that's pretty much all the
4 social media I'm on.

5 [REDACTED]: What was -- what was the last one,
6 Archive?

7 MR. COLE: It's a fanfiction site.

8 [REDACTED]: Fanfiction?

9 MR. COLE: Yeah.

10 [REDACTED]: What is that?

11 MR. COLE: Just fanfiction, writing stuff for,
12 you know, for works that you're a fan of.

13 [REDACTED]: Okay.

14 [REDACTED]: Do you write stuff, or just read it, or
15 both?

16 MR. COLE: I want to write, but I mostly just
17 read now.

18 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. It's less effort for sure.

19 [REDACTED]: So you, you mentioned Discord. Is there a
20 reason why you don't use Discord anymore?

21 MR. COLE: No, because I just stopped using it.

22 [REDACTED]: Is there -- but you just stopped? You
23 didn't like the games on there, you didn't like the people
24 that are on there, or --

25 MR. COLE: I just, I just drifted away from it.

1 Just lost interest.

2 [REDACTED]: Okay.

3 [REDACTED]: Are there any other forums? I thought
4 a lot of gamers used Discord, you know, for their games.
5 Are there any other forums that gamers can use?

6 MR. COLE: There are some, but I don't really go
7 on those.

8 [REDACTED]: No. Do you play with a lot of the same
9 people?

10 MR. COLE: No, I don't, I don't do multiplayer.
11 I'm single player only.

12 [REDACTED]: Oh, you're not a multiplayer. Okay.
13 So that makes sense a little bit then with Discord if
14 you're -- (inaudible) have many multiplayer games.

15 Okay, so you work in the bail bond business;
16 gamer; live with your mom and nephew.

17 MR. COLE: Yeah.

18 [REDACTED]: Anything else you like to do for fun?
19 You built your own computer.

20 MR. COLE: I like, I like doing fan art.

21 [REDACTED]: Fan art?

22 MR. COLE: Yeah.

23 [REDACTED]: Are you an artist? Do you draw?

24 MR. COLE: Yeah.

25 [REDACTED]: Like, hand draw or just computer?

1 MR. COLE: Mostly on the paint tool site on the
2 computer.

3 [REDACTED]: You draw with your mouse, or you have
4 like a --

5 MR. COLE: A pen tablet.

6 [REDACTED]: Okay.

7 MR. COLE: It's a Wacom tablet.

8 [REDACTED]: Wacom, I never heard of that.

9 MR. COLE: It's a graphics tablet.

10 [REDACTED]: Okay.

11 MR. COLE: That's what, that's what they --
12 that's what we -- that's one of the -- some of the stuff
13 we use to draw on the computer.

14 [REDACTED]: What sort of things do you draw?

15 MR. COLE: Just anime.

16 [REDACTED]: Anime?

17 MR. COLE: Yeah.

18 [REDACTED]: Do you ever sell it or post it
19 anywhere?

20 MR. COLE: I want, I want to post it.

21 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

22 MR. COLE: Before all this happened, I was in the
23 process of making something.

24 [REDACTED]: What were you making?

25 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

1 MR. COLE: This fan, fanart of Honkai: Star Rail.

2 [REDACTED]: What's that mean?

3 MR. COLE: It's a game.

4 [REDACTED]: Okay. And you were making -- like
5 drawing it?

6 MR. COLE: Yeah.

7 [REDACTED]: Nice. How long does it take?

8 MR. COLE: Hmm?

9 [REDACTED]: How long does it take to draw something
10 like that?

11 MR. COLE: Depends on your skill level.

12 [REDACTED]: Yeah. So for me, years?

13 [REDACTED]: How long does it take you to draw
14 something like that?

15 MR. COLE: It took me, it took me -- when did I
16 start -- it took me like an hour to do the rough sketch,
17 and I was doing the lineup before I decided to go to 7-
18 11.

19 [REDACTED]: Oh, that was literally like last --

20 MR. COLE: Like right --

21 [REDACTED]: Literally right before this all
22 happened?

23 MR. COLE: Yes.

24 [REDACTED]: Okay.

25 [REDACTED]: So can we circle back to the protest that

1 you were here on January 5th?

2 MR. COLE: Yes.

3 [REDACTED]: Who did you come up to DC with?

4 MR. COLE: No one. I was alone.

5 [REDACTED]: You were alone?

6 MR. COLE: Alone. Like I said, I didn't, I
7 didn't want to tell anyone.

8 [REDACTED]: Why didn't you want to tell anybody?

9 MR. COLE: Like I said, because, again, you know
10 how volatile things were. And I get -- like I said, my
11 family was -- most of my family at least is democrats.

12 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

13 MR. COLE: And, you know, I didn't want to risk
14 -- come into conflict with them.

15 [REDACTED]: Right.

16 MR. COLE: You know, this all went -- or whatever
17 that stuff, whatever happens, so I -- so like I'd -- I'd
18 rather keep my political opinions to myself.

19 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

20 [REDACTED]: From your family?

21 MR. COLE: Yeah, from -- frankly, from everyone.

22 [REDACTED]: Do you have anyone that you can talk to
23 with similar --

24 MR. COLE: No.

25 [REDACTED]: No?

1 ██████: Why not?

2 MR. COLE: I'm just not a very social person.

3 ██████: Mm-hmm.

4 MR. COLE: I mean mom says I'm an extreme
5 introvert.

6 ██████: Mm-hmm. So if we go back to that day,
7 right, what time did you come up that day?

8 MR. COLE: I know it was night. Past that, I
9 don't really know the exact time.

10 ██████: Yeah, but it was dark outside?

11 MR. COLE: Yeah.

12 ██████: Okay. Why did you pick that particular
13 protest to go to?

14 MR. COLE: It was -- like I said, I didn't really
15 agree with what was going on. I didn't agree that, you
16 know, you just tell a huge voter base to just, you know,
17 not -- that their votes don't matter.

18 ██████: Mm-hmm.

19 ██████: Mm-hmm.

20 MR. COLE: It was a -- it was the first protest
21 -- the first real protest I've ever been part of.

22 ██████: Yeah, that's why I'm curious, is like why
23 you, why you wanted to come up to that protest. Is this
24 something you saw online? Did someone recommend to go to
25 it, or --

1 ██████: Yeah, how'd you find out about it?

2 ██████: How'd you find out about that protest?

3 MR. COLE: I think I saw it online. Like it's
4 been years. A lot's happened since then.

5 ██████: Mm-hmm.

6 MR. COLE: My mind is completely fuzzy about the
7 exact details. I do know -- I was -- I do remember them
8 saying, them saying that there was going to be something
9 that -- something up there that was going to happen, but
10 as to that, when it did happen, I went up.

11 ██████: Mm-hmm.

12 ██████: How did you get there? You say you drove?

13 MR. COLE: Yeah.

14 ██████: Which car did you drive?

15 MR. COLE: The Nissan, my car.

16 ██████: A Nissan? Okay. So you drove your Nissan
17 that afternoon. You didn't tell anybody at the house
18 that you were coming up?

19 MR. COLE: No.

20 ██████: You said you told your mom you were
21 going to the --

22 MR. COLE: Capital Ale House.

23 ██████: Capital Ale House?

24 ██████: You told your mom you were going to the
25 Capital Ale House. But why -- okay. So that's what I'm

1 struggling to understand is why did you feel the need to
2 lie to your mom about it.

3 MR. COLE: I didn't -- I just didn't know how she
4 was going to react.

5 [REDACTED]: Okay. You were afraid for how she was
6 going to react?

7 MR. COLE: Yeah.

8 [REDACTED]: Because the protest was in support of -
9 -

10 MR. COLE: Trump.

11 [REDACTED]: -- Trump? And she is not supportive of
12 --

13 MR. COLE: No.

14 [REDACTED]: -- Trump, is that correct?

15 MR. COLE: No.

16 [REDACTED]: Okay. Does she know that you are
17 supportive of Trump?

18 MR. COLE: No, I, I -- again, I keep all my
19 political opinions to myself.

20 [REDACTED]: So she really doesn't even know.

21 MR. COLE: No.

22 [REDACTED]: It's not just that you don't talk about
23 it. She doesn't even, like, know your --

24 MR. COLE: No one, no one knows.

25 [REDACTED]: No one knows.

1 [REDACTED]: No one knows.

2 [REDACTED]: Okay. Okay. So you drive into the
3 city at night. Where do you park?

4 MR. COLE: There was -- I take my usual route to
5 get into DC since that's basically the only route I know
6 --

7 [REDACTED]: Okay.

8 MR. COLE: -- that, that avoids all the, all the
9 traffic.

10 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

11 [REDACTED]: If we pulled up like a map or something,
12 could you show us how you got here?

13 MR. COLE: Mm-hmm.

14 [REDACTED]: Okay. Maybe we'll do that. All right.
15 How many -- do you come to DC often?

16 MR. COLE: No. I don't. Not -- if I do, I
17 usually just take that route in order to get something to
18 eat. You know, whenever I felt like getting something to
19 eat from DC

20 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

21 MR. COLE: But past that, no.

22 [REDACTED]: So you sometimes come into DC to get --

23 MR. COLE: On rare occasions.

24 [REDACTED]: What's the typical route you take into DC?
25 Can you describe it?

1 MR. COLE: When you're going to the bridge -- I
2 do come in -- I come in from the south, and there was a
3 --

4 [REDACTED]: You take Route 95?

5 MR. COLE: Yeah. Yeah.

6 [REDACTED]: Okay. And then once you kind of like get
7 to the city, do you know, like, the general area where
8 you parked or --

9 MR. COLE: There's a, there's a park with a
10 bunch, with a bunch of neighborhoods. Like there's a
11 neighborhood there and a park right there.

12 [REDACTED]: There's a park? Do you know the name of
13 the park?

14 MR. COLE: No.

15 [REDACTED]: Okay.

16 MR. COLE: I'm trying, I'm trying to, I'm trying
17 to describe it. There's a road that splits in the middle
18 and, like, two grass -- like, two grassy areas on each
19 side. That's where I always go.

20 [REDACTED]: And you park right next to the park?

21 MR. COLE: Yeah.

22 [REDACTED]: Typically?

23 MR. COLE: Yeah.

24 [REDACTED]: Okay. I'll tell you what. I'm going to
25 pull up a map on my phone so we can look at it, okay?

1 Let's see here.

2 [REDACTED]: And where was the protest?

3 MR. COLE: I think, I think it was -- it was in
4 front of the Capitol, right?

5 [REDACTED]: On January 5th?

6 MR. COLE: Yeah.

7 [REDACTED]: I don't know actually.

8 [REDACTED]: Who -- on the protest itself, like, were
9 there a lot of people there?

10 MR. COLE: Yeah.

11 [REDACTED]: Was someone speaking?

12 MR. COLE: I don't really -- like I said, I only
13 stayed for like an hour.

14 [REDACTED]: Did you talk to anyone while you were
15 there?

16 MR. COLE: No.

17 [REDACTED]: You only stayed for an hour. So what did
18 you do for that hour?

19 MR. COLE: Just walk around, sit around, look
20 around, just wishing I had my, wishing I had my
21 headphones with me because, because I didn't, because
22 otherwise I would have just listened to music.

23 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Did you talk to anyone?

24 MR. COLE: No.

25 [REDACTED]: Did you still enjoy being around people

1 that had, you know, similar views as you at least or --

2 MR. COLE: I'm still an introvert, so it's, it's
3 (inaudible) being around a lot of people.

4 ██████: Yeah, I'm sure. And you said there
5 were a lot of people there. And you were there for about
6 an hour.

7 MR. COLE: Yeah. If I knew what was, if I knew
8 what was going to happen on the 6th, I would never have
9 gone up there because, again, this is -- that's the first
10 time I've ever been a part of any real protest.

11 ██████: Mm-hmm.

12 ██████: So can you just describe what the protest
13 looked like from your viewpoint?

14 MR. COLE: Just a, just a bunch of people walking
15 about. I know, I know there was a guy carrying a
16 confederate flag, but that's -- that was just it. All I
17 did was -- I didn't really converse or talk with anyone.
18 I just did my own, I just did my own thing.

19 ██████: Were there, like, people yelling? Were
20 there people just gathering in groups? Was there a stage
21 set up?

22 MR. COLE: No, again, I just, I just kept to
23 myself. I didn't really, didn't really pay attention to
24 what was happening around me. All I know is that --
25 there were, like, groups of people just, you know, being

1 -- just being with themselves.

2 ██████: Mm-hmm.

3 MR. COLE: I don't really do well in large
4 crowds, so I just kept, I just kept to myself. I was
5 just -- that's just me.

6 ██████: Mm-hmm. And why did you want to go to
7 the protest that night?

8 MR. COLE: Show support for what was going on.

9 ██████: Mm-hmm.

10 MR. COLE: That was it. That was it. Like I
11 said, I just didn't, I just didn't agree just ignoring
12 all those people's votes, because if there was something
13 wrong with what was happening, I think we, we should do
14 something, right?

15 ██████: Mm-hmm.

16 MR. COLE: Just to -- even if -- like even if --
17 like even if he lost, even if he was entirely wrong, even
18 if there -- even if they did prove something was wrong,
19 at least they would show that they -- that -- at least
20 they would show them that they were, you know, showing
21 that some -- that nothing -- nothing illegal was going
22 on, right?

23 ██████: Right. And so I guess what is your
24 kind of -- what's your opinion of what is wrong? I don't
25 want to put words in your mouth. I know, generally, but

1 from the election, what is, like, your strongest, you
2 know, opinion of what was wrong and what should be done?

3 MR. COLE: If people feel that their votes are
4 like just being thrown away, then I do think that at the
5 very least someone should address it.

6 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

7 MR. COLE: And not like just ignore it or
8 denounce them as conspiracy theories or anything.
9 Because, again, you know how crazy things are getting.

10 [REDACTED]: Yep. Who should address it?

11 MR. COLE: I don't, I don't know who should. At
12 least someone, even if it's someone from their side,
13 someone from the other side. As long as it, you know,
14 lowers the temperature, so to speak.

15 [REDACTED]: But should it be politicians that
16 should address it or --

17 MR. COLE: Yeah, the --

18 [REDACTED]: -- Congress?

19 MR. COLE: The people up top, yeah.

20 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

21 [REDACTED]: People on both sides?

22 MR. COLE: Yeah. People on both sides, public
23 figures who -- just anyone.

24 [REDACTED]: Someone.

25 MR. COLE: Someone.

1 [REDACTED]: Needs to address it.

2 [REDACTED]: And did you feel like neither side was
3 doing anything?

4 MR. COLE: Again, I've never, like, been
5 politically charged like that. So it was -- I was still
6 like processing things.

7 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. What was your primary, like,
8 emotion at the time?

9 MR. COLE: At the, at the protest?

10 [REDACTED]: Yeah, or like -- kind of like in the
11 weeks leading up to --

12 MR. COLE: In the weeks leading --

13 [REDACTED]: -- the 6th? Like after the election.

14 MR. COLE: In the weeks leading up?

15 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

16 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

17 MR. COLE: I remember when it, I remember when it
18 first -- when there was -- when it first seemed like
19 something was wrong, like I was, I was like what's --
20 what the heck is happening? So I was following it.

21 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Yeah, closely? You were
22 following it closely?

23 MR. COLE: Yeah.

24 [REDACTED]: And is that the first time that you
25 were following politics really closely, or I know you

1 said you remembered, like, when Trump was elected back in
2 2016. Were you following it closely then?

3 MR. COLE: Back in 2016 not as closely. But I
4 was with Trump. I was, like, okay, now give him a
5 chance.

6 ██████: Mm-hmm.

7 MR. COLE: I like, I like what he did, so I voted
8 him again in 2020.

9 ██████: Mm-hmm. But then in 2020 you were
10 following it more closely than before?

11 MR. COLE: Yeah.

12 ██████: (Inaudible).

13 MR. COLE: Well, I wouldn't -- not the, not the
14 campaign trail.

15 ██████: But after?

16 MR. COLE: It was only after the election when
17 stuff started happening that I started, that I started
18 following a bit -- that I started following a little
19 closer than I usually do.

20 ██████: Mm-hmm.

21 MR. COLE: Because usually I just -- like I said,
22 I just keep to myself.

23 ██████: Right.

24 MR. COLE: Online and offline.

25 ██████: Mm-hmm. And so were you -- you were

1 feeling like no one was doing anything on either side.
2 Were you feeling frustrated? Angry? Defeated? What was
3 kind of --

4 MR. COLE: Mostly bewildered, because I was like
5 -- because over those last few days, I was like do we
6 know what was -- do we know what's happening? And then
7 when they officially announced that Biden had won, and
8 then -- and then that's when people -- we -- I remember
9 when people, especially on the right, were really
10 starting to, were really starting to question the --
11 that's when they -- that's when you could call them
12 conspiracy theorists.

13 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

14 MR. COLE: And, like I said, it was -- I never
15 really followed anything as closely as the, as the
16 results of the 2020 election as I do now -- as I used --
17 as I, you know, did before, or since.

18 [REDACTED]: And where were you following like the
19 news mostly? Like on YouTube or --

20 MR. COLE: YouTube and Reddit.

21 [REDACTED]: And Reddit? But you still weren't
22 talking to anyone --

23 MR. COLE: No.

24 [REDACTED]: -- about it. You were just kind of
25 reading, watching, tracking, and all?

1 MR. COLE: Yeah.

2 [REDACTED]: And you're feeling bewildered. Is
3 there anything that you are doing to try to --

4 MR. COLE: No, I --

5 [REDACTED]: -- get out to people that you feel like
6 --

7 MR. COLE: No, I was just sitting, I was just
8 sitting down and watching.

9 [REDACTED]: Okay. And then this is the first --
10 the night of the 5th is the first protest that you --

11 MR. COLE: Yeah.

12 [REDACTED]: -- participated in related to the
13 election?

14 MR. COLE: Yeah.

15 [REDACTED]: Do you remember what you wore to the
16 protest that night?

17 MR. COLE: I know I, I know I wore a jacket
18 because it was cold outside.

19 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

20 [REDACTED]: What type of jacket? You remember?

21 MR. COLE: No. I'm still -- like I say, this
22 happened -- it happened a long time ago, and a lot of
23 stuff has happened since then?

24 [REDACTED]: What type of stuff has happened since
25 then?

1 MR. COLE: Just general, just general life stuff.
2 I usually -- I don't be, like, I only tend to think about
3 stuff that happened in the past.

4 [REDACTED]: What do you mean by that?

5 MR. COLE: I mostly -- I mostly just -- I mostly
6 just live in the present. I only --

7 [REDACTED]: Okay.

8 MR. COLE: I don't really, I don't really dwell
9 on what happened before.

10 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

11 MR. COLE: I'm just a -- I'm just a here-and-now
12 type of person.

13 [REDACTED]: Okay.

14 [REDACTED]: Are you trying to, like, forget about some
15 stuff, like, (inaudible) out? No?

16 MR. COLE: Aside from my, aside from my school
17 life, not really. I just let, I just let stuff just fade
18 away.

19 [REDACTED]: Okay.

20 MR. COLE: I'm not really -- I'm just not a
21 person who likes to dwell on -- I'm just not a person who
22 likes to think on stuff that came before.

23 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

24 [REDACTED]: Right.

25 MR. COLE: Once -- and once the riot happened, I

1 really didn't want to think about it because if I,
2 because if I knew any of that stuff was going to happen,
3 I would never have gone up, I would never have gone up
4 there.

5 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

6 MR. COLE: Because, because you can see what's
7 happening now. If I knew that, if I knew that all that
8 stuff was going to happen, I would have just, I would
9 have just stayed home.

10 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

11 MR. COLE: Because I don't, I don't like, I don't
12 like, you know, stuff getting in the way, stuff getting
13 in the way of, getting in the way of routine.

14 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. You like your routine and
15 (inaudible)?

16 MR. COLE: Yeah, I'm sorry, I'm stuttering here.
17 I'm not really good at explaining stuff.

18 [REDACTED]: No, that's okay.

19 [REDACTED]: You're doing great.

20 MR. COLE: I'm just really, really nervous.

21 [REDACTED]: No, we understand. Take your time.
22 And if we don't understand something, we'll ask more
23 questions.

24 MR. COLE: All right.

25 [REDACTED]: Do you want to eat some of your food?

1 MR. COLE: To be honest, with all this stuff
2 happening, I kind of lost my appetite.

3 [REDACTED]: Okay.

4 MR. COLE: I'm sorry.

5 [REDACTED]: No. No need to apologize. It's not
6 going anywhere.

7 [REDACTED]: All right. I need to step out --

8 [REDACTED]: Okay.

9 [REDACTED]: -- for one minute. I'll be right back.
10 Are you -- do you need to use the bathroom or anything?

11 MR. COLE: No, I'm good.

12 [REDACTED]: Okay. I'll be, I'll be right back.

13 [REDACTED]: Okay.

14 ([REDACTED] exits the proceedings.)

15 [REDACTED]: If you don't eat your chicken wings, I
16 might.

17 [REDACTED]: Hey, [REDACTED].

18 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

19 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED]'s going to sit in here for a few
20 minutes.

21 [REDACTED]: Okay.

22 ([REDACTED] exits the proceedings.)

23 [REDACTED]: You doing all right, man? You need any
24 water, soda, any other --

25 MR. COLE: I'm just, I'm just doing my best to

1 keep myself calmer.

2 [REDACTED]: Oh, yeah. Yeah, breathe and -- yeah.

3 MR. COLE: (Inaudible) thinking my car is still
4 outside. I haven't gone to work. I don't know how I'm
5 going to explain this to them. Thanks, thanks for
6 helping me do this.

7 [REDACTED]: Yeah, no problem.

8 MR. COLE: I just hope things go well. I really
9 do hope this is all a misunderstanding.

10 (Pause.)

11 [REDACTED]: You know, I'm not sure if you like Cherry
12 Coke, but feel free to --

13 MR. COLE: I don't, I don't like soda.

14 [REDACTED]: Oh, you don't like soda?

15 MR. COLE: I stopped drinking it.

16 [REDACTED]: Oh, okay. Okay. All right. Well, let me
17 know if you need anything.

18 ([REDACTED] exits the proceedings.)

19 [REDACTED]: Sorry about that. You good on drinks,
20 bathroom, everything?

21 MR. COLE: Yeah.

22 [REDACTED]: All right. How you feeling?

23 MR. COLE: There's a, there's a in the pit of my
24 stomach now.

25 [REDACTED]: Yeah. Okay. I totally get it. So,

1 Brian, you know, we've already kind of explained to you,
2 you know, why you're here.

3 MR. COLE: Yeah.

4 [REDACTED]: We explained that you're here because of
5 the activities that you did on January 5th, 2021. We --
6 like I said up front, we've done a -- this
7 investigation's been going on for five years. We've
8 collected a lot, a lot of evidence. A lot of evidence.
9 And it's clear -- we clearly have determined that you
10 were in the area of the RNC and the DNC on January 5,
11 2021. We know that you purchased components for pipe
12 bombs.

13 MR. COLE: Huh?

14 [REDACTED]: And we know that you placed those bombs on
15 January 5, 2021.

16 MR. COLE: Woah, wait a minute. Wait a minute.
17 Wait a minute. Woah, woah, woah, woah, woah, woah, woah,
18 what? What?

19 [REDACTED]: We know you parked at -- near Folger Park.
20 We know -- we have all the purchase records for all the
21 components of the devices. So that's why we're here
22 today.

23 MR. COLE: This, this is a misunderstanding.
24 Please tell me. Please tell me. Please, please, please
25 tell me.

1 ██████: So take a second and, like, absorb that a
2 little bit. We understand how stressful this is.

3 MR. COLE: Oh my god.

4 ██████: We can show you, you know -- we have a lot
5 of evidence.

6 MR. COLE: Please tell me, please tell me this is
7 a misunderstanding. It has to be.

8 ██████: And this is an opportunity for you right
9 now to kind of explain why you did it.

10 MR. COLE: What? Oh, no, wait, woah, woah, woah,
11 woah, woah. You --

12 ██████: Take a minute. I know this is a lot.
13 Take a minute and then you don't have to explain it in
14 one sentence. We're going to talk through it. We have
15 more questions. We'll answer your questions. Just take
16 a deep breath, and we'll keep talking through it.

17 I know everything that you've been, you know,
18 talking about so far. You've shared that you haven't --
19 you know, you're an introvert, but also you haven't been
20 able to talk about things with family because they don't
21 share the same, you know, views as you, and you don't
22 want to start conflict, but ██████k and I are not here to
23 judge you. We generally appreciate your opinions and
24 perspective. We want to know the truth.

25 ██████: The truth. That's it.

1 [REDACTED]: And so I don't want you to feel judged.
2 I want you to be willing to share anything you can about
3 your decision to place the pipe bombs that night.

4 MR. COLE: I didn't place anything. Please tell
5 me this is a, please tell me this is a -- please tell me
6 this is a misunderstanding. Please tell me this is a
7 misunderstanding. Please tell me this is a
8 misunderstanding. This has to, this has to be a
9 misunderstanding. Has to be. It has to be. Wrong
10 place, wrong time. Just -- oh, my god, oh, my god. It
11 has to be a misunderstanding. It -- oh, man, oh, man,
12 oh, man. Just trying -- just give me a minute. Can you
13 give me a minute to process this?

14 [REDACTED]: Yeah, no, take your time.

15 [REDACTED]: We're not going to -- tell you what.
16 We're not going to ask you any additional questions until
17 you feel ready to respond.

18 [REDACTED]: And if you want to start talking or you
19 want us to start asking questions, we'll wait for your
20 cue. You just tell us.

21 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

22 [REDACTED]: We'll just sit here and give you a
23 minute. No rush. Keep breathing.

24 MR. COLE: (Inaudible) protest, and get
25 (inaudible), and get -- (inaudible).

1 ██████: I'm sorry?

2 MR. COLE: (Inaudible) just -- oh, my God, oh, my
3 God, oh, my God, my God, my God.

4 ██████: It's okay. All right? You're okay.

5 MR. COLE: It's not okay.

6 ██████: You're okay.

7 MR. COLE: I go to a protest and all of a sudden
8 I get accused of this?

9 ██████: The devices themselves didn't go off.
10 Okay? No one got hurt. At the end of the day, no one
11 got hurt. Okay?

12 MR. COLE: Still -- still -- I'm still, I'm still
13 here.

14 ██████: Mm-hmm.

15 ██████: Yeah.

16 MR. COLE: Oh, my god.

17 ██████: Let's just put this behind us.

18 MR. COLE: Can't be happening. Cannot be
19 happening. Cannot be happening. Cannot be happening. I
20 don't know why I get anxious.

21 ██████: I know it's a lot to process. I know
22 you said you don't like to dwell on the past. And so I
23 know this might be hard to revisit. But, as ██████k said,
24 we've been working on this for years. In order to, you
25 know, bring you in, we have to have --

1 [REDACTED]: We have a lot of evidence.

2 [REDACTED]: -- a sufficient amount of evidence
3 tying you to be the one to place these devices. And so
4 we can walk through it. We'll ask you questions. You
5 can answer. You can ask us some questions.

6 MR. COLE: I don't know what to do now. I don't
7 know what to say. I don't know what to do. (Inaudible)
8 waking up, going to 7-11, all of the sudden --
9 (inaudible) can I go to the bathroom?

10 [REDACTED]: Hold up, hold up, hold up.

11 [REDACTED]: Keep breathing, keep breathing.

12 (Agents leave room.)

13 MR. COLE: (Inaudible) chance (indiscernible),
14 chance (indiscernible)?

15 [REDACTED]: You can -- giving him or half of that. I
16 -- you don't, you don't want the soda? Okay. Well, if
17 you need more water, let me know. We can, we can get you
18 some more water.

19 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Would you like another cough
20 drop?

21 MR. COLE: Nope. I'm good.

22 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Okay.

23 (Pause.)

24 MR. COLE: There's even, there's even a sliver of
25 a chance (indiscernible) --

1 ██████: Mm-hmm.

2 MR. COLE: Just answer whatever questions they
3 have.

4 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: (Indiscernible) back in here?

5 ██████: Uh, sure. All right.

6 ██████: Thanks, ██████.

7 ██████: Yeah, sure.

8 ██████: Thanks, ██████.

9 ██████: No problem. Yeah, if you guys need
10 anything else, let me know.

11 ██████: Do you feel a little better?

12 ██████: We got the chills?

13 ██████: Do you need a blanket or anything?

14 MR. COLE: It's -- just do this.

15 ██████: Okay.

16 ██████: If there is a blanket, I don't know --

17 ██████: Yeah, I'll try to --

18 ██████: -- grab one.

19 ██████: If you need to take another break, just
20 tell us. But we appreciate everything you've shared with
21 us so far. We understand you're in, you know, a tough
22 position, feeling like your family was not aware,
23 supportive of your views. You couldn't share them --
24 your views with them. And you said, you, you know, after
25 the election, you were tracking the news very closely.

1 You felt like no one on either side was doing anything to
2 address the issue. Help us understand how you decided to
3 construct and place these --

4 MR. COLE: I didn't. Please --

5 ██████: -- iPhones at the RNC --

6 MR. COLE: I didn't.

7 ██████: -- and DNC --

8 MR. COLE: Didn't -- please --

9 ██████: -- that night.

10 MR. COLE: (Indiscernible) I didn't. I didn't.
11 I didn't. I didn't. I didn't. I didn't. I didn't.
12 I'm being accused, being accused of this. Oh my God. Oh
13 my God.

14 ██████: You're not being accused. We -- as
15 ██████ said, we have worked on this for five years. We
16 have done so much investigative work to show you placing
17 these two devices. We just want to understand why.
18 That's the most important part.

19 MR. COLE: Why don't you -- I -- I miss -- I feel
20 like (indiscernible) I didn't. Someone (inaudible) one
21 day -- you, you, you told I did this. There's even a
22 chance I'm innocent, I shouldn't -- there's even a chance
23 I'm innocent. There has to be, there has to be a, there
24 has to be a chance that I'm innocent -- being accused of
25 this -- being told, being told I did this.

1 (Indiscernible) I followed, I followed the -- I followed
2 the aftermath of the election closely, yeah --

3 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

4 MR. COLE: -- but there was, there was no way.
5 There was, like -- there was just no way. I'm trying to
6 -- I don't know. I'm trying to -- fuck. I'm trying
7 process this.

8 [REDACTED]: I know. It's, it's a lot to process
9 all in a very short time period. Take your time.

10 (Knock at the door.)

11 [REDACTED]: Yeah. Sorry, one second. Oh, blanket?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mm-hmm.

13 [REDACTED]: Okay, thank you.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

15 [REDACTED]: Do you want a blanket? There's one here.
16 It could be -- would it help you?

17 MR. COLE: Mm-hmm (indiscernible) helps.

18 [REDACTED]: There you go.

19 MR. COLE: I don't get into trouble. Why can't
20 life will be fine. All of a sudden I'm here. This
21 (indiscernible) -- I do my best to keep -- I just do my
22 best to keep my life as simple as possible.

23 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

24 MR. COLE: Anything that, to me, anything that,
25 anything that deviates from routine, I --

1 ██████████: Mm-hmm.

2 MR. COLE: -- stay away from.

3 ██████████: Mm-hmm.

4 MR. COLE: That, that protest, that, that whole
5 thing, that protest, all the -- and all the stuff from
6 the -- from the 2020 election all the way to that night
7 --

8 ██████████: Mm-hmm --

9 MR. COLE: -- I don't -- I try to keep myself, I
10 try to keep myself, you know, away from all that.

11 ██████████: Mm-hmm.

12 MR. COLE: Anything -- it's just -- that's the
13 mentality I have. Anything that gets in the way of
14 routine.

15 ██████████: Yeah. No, that makes --

16 MR. COLE: (Indiscernible) --

17 ██████████: Go ahead.

18 MR. COLE: That, that night, that was, that was
19 the first time I ever actually really deviated from that.
20 Because --

21 ██████████: Mm-hmm.

22 MR. COLE: I like, I like, you know, average.

23 ██████████: Mm-hmm.

24 ██████████: Mm-hmm.

25 MR. COLE: I prefer average. It's simple.

1 ██████: Mm-hmm.

2 MR. COLE: And it keeps me, you know, out of this
3 situation.

4 ██████: Mm-hmm.

5 MR. COLE: Anything that, anything that could
6 even, you know, anything that even points to me being
7 anything -- anywhere close to -- being anywhere close to
8 anything like this. I mean, heck, I -- I -- I mean,
9 heck, I'm super introversive.

10 ██████: Mm-hmm.

11 ██████: Mm-hmm.

12 MR. COLE: Like, I don't, I don't talk to anyone.

13 ██████: Mm-hmm.

14 MR. COLE: Heck, I even have -- you can see now,
15 I have trouble even maintaining a conversation like this.

16 ██████: Mm-hmm. You're doing a great job.

17 ██████: Yeah, you're doing a great job.

18 ██████: It's a lot to digest, and you're
19 explaining things really well.

20 ██████: Listen, everyone makes mistakes, you know

21 --

22 MR. COLE: And wrong --

23 ██████: -- everyone makes mistakes.

24 MR. COLE: -- wrong place, wrong time. Just -- I
25 just -- wrong place, wrong time. I just don't know what

1 to (indiscernible.)

2 [REDACTED]: You know, you said your -- like to keep
3 things simple. You like your routines. You have your
4 habits.

5 MR. COLE: Yeah, get up and wake --

6 [REDACTED]: And you like to --

7 MR. COLE: And I wake up --

8 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

9 MR. COLE: -- go work, do work, come back. If
10 there's anything, if there's anything in between, it's
11 like inconsequential stuff.

12 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. So, what changed from the
13 election to the night of the 5th that led you out of your
14 routine to, to act differently?

15 MR. COLE: Just looking at it all.

16 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

17 MR. COLE: Like, well, I haven't been much of any
18 political -- politically active --

19 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

20 MR. COLE: -- you know, I don't follow -- I did
21 follow things from time to time. You know, when the news
22 pops up and, you know, stuff that, stuff that, stuff
23 that, like, you know, affects personal life, like
24 everyone does.

25 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

1 MR. COLE: Leading up, leading up to the 2020 --
2 leading up to the election to, you know, J, J, J6, I
3 just, I just didn't think that stuff was -- I just didn't
4 think that ignoring people's grievances was a good thing.

5 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

6 [REDACTED]: Right.

7 MR. COLE: Because (indiscernible) you're calling
8 people conspiracy theorists, you're saying that they're,
9 you know, bad people. They're --

10 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

11 MR. COLE: -- Nazis. They're fascists. You
12 know, and, you know, they're -- even if you're on the
13 other side, even if you're on the other side, you don't
14 just do that to people. You don't tell them that, that
15 all that stuff -- that all that stuff is, like, worth it.
16 Like, if there's -- if they feel that, you know,
17 something as important as voting in the federal election
18 is being tampered with, is being, you know, being -- you
19 know, relegated, null and void --

20 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

21 MR. COLE: -- then, like, someone needs to speak
22 up, right?

23 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

24 MR. COLE: Someone up top.

25 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

1 ██████: Mm-hmm.

2 MR. COLE: You know, just to, just to at the very
3 least calm things down.

4 ██████: Mm-hmm.

5 ██████: Yeah.

6 ██████: And so, did you think by placing the --

7 MR. COLE: I didn't, I didn't -- please don't say
8 I did. Please don't say I did. Please, please, please.
9 Oh my God, oh my God, oh my God, oh my God.

10 ██████: I know it's hard to hear and hard to
11 accept, but that's why we're here because of the
12 evidence.

13 MR. COLE: If there is even a chance that the
14 evidence can point to someone who's not me, if there's
15 even a small chance, right?

16 ██████: There's not.

17 MR. COLE: There has, there has to be, there has
18 to be even a small chance. There has to be. First time
19 I get involved in some -- in election, I get, I -- even
20 if there is a small chance.

21 ██████: No, I know --

22 MR. COLE: Even if there's, even if there's a
23 tiny chance. There has, there has to be even a tiny
24 chance. There has to be. Man, oh God. Geez.

25 ██████: I know.

1 MR. COLE: I'm sorry, I'm trying my best to keep
2 myself together.

3 [REDACTED]: No, I know.

4 [REDACTED]: You're doing great.

5 [REDACTED]: You're doing great. It's a lot to
6 accept.

7 MR. COLE: I'm trying my best to keep myself
8 together.

9 [REDACTED]: Let's start with a smaller question
10 maybe? Why did you start constructing --

11 MR. COLE: I didn't.

12 [REDACTED]: -- those --

13 MR. COLE: I did not. I did not. I did not. I
14 did not.

15 [REDACTED]: Why did you start buying one by eight
16 pipes?

17 MR. COLE: What?

18 [REDACTED]: One by eight pipes.

19 MR. COLE: One by eight pipes --

20 [REDACTED]: For pipes.

21 MR. COLE: What type of pipes are those?

22 [REDACTED]: No?

23 MR. COLE: One by eight pipes, like what, what
24 type, what type of pipes -- what do they look like?
25 What's the length?

1 [REDACTED]: Eight inches.

2 MR. COLE: Eight inches.

3 [REDACTED]: And all the -- actually why did you buy
4 all the components?

5 MR. COLE: All right. For the pipes, I was, I
6 was building, I was building a sort of a, how do you,
7 what do you call it again?

8 [REDACTED]: Like a IED?

9 MR. COLE: No, that's not what they are. That's
10 not what I was building. Initially, I was trying to --
11 those things that you hang on the wall, what do you, what
12 do you call them?

13 [REDACTED]: You hang on the wall?

14 MR. COLE: Because I was, I was looking up some
15 DIY stuff on YouTube that I really wanted to try.

16 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

17 MR. COLE: I wanted to buy, I wanted to buy --
18 because I wanted to try and do -- I wanted to try and see
19 if I could make something.

20 [REDACTED]: Okay.

21 MR. COLE: See if I can -- excuse me. Because
22 I'm, I'm a person who likes -- who has a lot of
23 interests.

24 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

25 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

1 MR. COLE: A lot of interests. And I tend to,
2 like drop -- I'm sorry. Just let me (inaudible). I like
3 -- I have a lot of interests from fan (indiscernible)
4 fanfiction, building things.

5 ██████: Mm-hmm.

6 MR. COLE: I remember, I remember getting into --
7 I wanted to get into hydroponics one time because I
8 wanted to grow my own, grow my own produce. You know how
9 they are -- you know how it is. When you get interests,
10 you go and see if you can -- you want to see if you can
11 do stuff. But then you -- when you realize that either
12 it's hard or you just don't have an interest in it, you
13 drop it.

14 ██████: Mm-hmm.

15 MR. COLE: There was a, there was a little DIY
16 thing. I think it was, it was building -- I forget what
17 they call it, Standees (phonetic) or -- I'm trying to --
18 DIY -- what did you call it? It was a -- I remember it
19 being a -- I remember it -- there being a Warhammer
20 video.

21 ██████: Mm-hmm.

22 MR. COLE: When they made a bunch of -- they made
23 a bunch of -- they made a bunch of DIY bases and -- not
24 figurines -- environments and stuff.

25 ██████: Okay.

1 MR. COLE: (Inaudible) -- I thought -- I
2 (indiscernible) -- I thought that was cool because at the
3 time I wanted to -- I was trying to get into Warhammer.

4 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

5 MR. COLE: Warhammer 40k. And I wanted to see if
6 I could build, I wanted to see if I could build that
7 stuff. It was a video that, it was a video that showed
8 you how to do this stuff for like under -- it was one of
9 those under \$5 --

10 [REDACTED]: Okay.

11 MR. COLE: --5, \$10 DI videos.

12 [REDACTED]: Yeah. And what did you build after
13 that?

14 MR. COLE: I tried, I tried building it.

15 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

16 MR. COLE: I think the exact thing I was trying
17 -- I remember the exact thing I was trying to build.

18 [REDACTED]: Brian, we know what you built. We know
19 what you built. We know what you did.

20 MR. COLE: I didn't. Please, don't -- please --

21 [REDACTED]: We know, we, we know that. You know?
22 They didn't go off. They didn't go off. No one was
23 hurt. It's okay. All right? We are just trying to
24 figure out why, and for you to tell us why. We're not
25 judging you, you know?

1 MR. COLE: It has to be. It has to be. It has
2 to be wrong place at the wrong time. It has to be. It
3 has to be. It has to be. It has to be.

4 [REDACTED]: There are a lot of people out there --

5 MR. COLE: (Indiscernible.)

6 [REDACTED]: -- that have been tracking --

7 MR. COLE: Just (indiscernible) --

8 [REDACTED]: -- this -- the placement of these two
9 devices for the last, you know, five years. There are a
10 lot of people out there that have ideas about who did it
11 and why the person, you know, did what they did. You've
12 explained to us that you feel like people's opinions and
13 voices were just being ignored.

14 MR. COLE: But that's --

15 [REDACTED]: And no one was --

16 MR. COLE: -- but that's not reason enough to do
17 this.

18 [REDACTED]: But that's -- if you don't tell us the
19 reason, other people are going to create the reason for
20 you. That's why we want to know what the reason is. We
21 want you to be the one to explain it so other people
22 don't create their own reason that is not what your
23 intended purpose was.

24 MR. COLE: You're telling me, you're telling me
25 that I did some -- I did -- you're telling me that I did

1 this, but I didn't. I -- how can I -- I'm just trying to
2 -- just trying to keep myself together. There's even a
3 chance -- there's even a chance that I'm innocent. I'm
4 doing my, I'm doing my best to keep myself together.

5 ██████: No, you're doing great. Just we --
6 everyone in the room knows the same thing. I know it's a
7 lot to accept but we know you did it. You know you did
8 it.

9 MR. COLE: I didn't.

10 ██████: And we just want you to help us explain
11 why.

12 MR. COLE: It has to be a mistake. It has to be
13 -- it has to be a mistake. It has to be -- it has to be
14 a mistake. It has to be a mistake. It has to be a
15 mistake. It has to be -- it has to be -- it has to be --
16 it has to be -- there was -- a chance for me to clear my
17 name. If there's even a -- okay. Keep going. I'm, I'm,
18 I'm sorry. I'm just out of my depth with this. I just,
19 I -- I just don't, I just don't know what to do anymore.

20 ██████: I think you're, you're thinking too
21 much.

22 MR. COLE: Thinking too much?

23 ██████: You had a reason for why you did this.
24 It was something that you were very passionate about,
25 something that you strongly believed in led you to place

1 these two devices. I think it's simple and we just want
2 to know what that simple explanation is.

3 MR. COLE: I didn't place the devices. I did not
4 place the devices. I did not place them. I'm --
5 suddenly being told I did this. After -- I'm just
6 suddenly -- I'm -- okay. I, I did not -- I'm maintaining
7 my innocence. I only did was go to the protest. I drove
8 up to Fuller Square (sic), or however you call it,
9 because the first time I went to DC, there was a lot of
10 traffic and I don't like traffic. Plus, the Capital
11 isn't really far from where I parked. It's not like it's
12 a long walk. And I do -- I like to walk a lot.

13 ██████: Mm-hmm.

14 MR. COLE: So, when I parked, I walk -- I just
15 walked over there, went -- became part, became part of
16 the, the protest. Stayed there for an hour. I left the,
17 I left the city through -- out through, through the, the
18 street that takes you to --

19 ██████: You can't convince us that you didn't
20 do it. We have video. We have your car. We have you
21 buying all these different pieces to make devices. You
22 can't convince us that you didn't do it. You can tell us
23 why.

24 MR. COLE: Please tell me this is a mistake.
25 Please tell me -- oh my God -- please tell me that --

1 please tell me that I was at the wrong place at the wrong
2 time. It has, it has to be -- that has to be the reason.
3 I keep -- I -- this -- I keep my head down for a reason.
4 I don't -- I never want to find myself in this situation.

5 [REDACTED]: And you can help yourself right now. You
6 can help yourself by telling us the truth. So we can get
7 out of this situation.

8 MR. COLE: There, there isn't -- there is no way
9 out of this situation. I don't get how --

10 [REDACTED]: We're telling you how to get out of this
11 situation. Tell us the truth of what happened that
12 night.

13 MR. COLE: I went to the protest. That's, that's
14 what happened that night. Keep, keep yourself calm,
15 Brian. If there was, if there was even a small chance, a
16 small chance -- if there's even a small chance that I am
17 innocent -- then I have to, I have to take it. If
18 there's even a small chance that I am innocent, then I
19 have to take it.

20 [REDACTED]: The evidence we have is overwhelming.

21 MR. COLE: How am I supposed to explain that I'm
22 innocent? How am I supposed to explain that I'm
23 innocent? How am I supposed to explain that I'm
24 innocent? How am I supposed to explain that I'm
25 innocent? Because I keep -- I keep myself out of

1 anything that could potentially get me into this
2 situation. I like, I like living, I like living my life
3 --

4 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

5 MR. COLE: -- just ordinary.

6 [REDACTED]: And there are a lot --

7 MR. COLE: I do my, I do my best to just get on
8 with life and just coast on --

9 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

10 MR. COLE: -- with little to no -- excuse me --
11 little to no problems. No, just, just a burp, just a
12 burp.

13 [REDACTED]: Okay. Okay.

14 [REDACTED]: You scared us there.

15 [REDACTED]: Should we get our wastebasket?

16 [REDACTED]: Just in case.

17 [REDACTED]: Just in case?

18 MR. COLE: My mentality is --

19 [REDACTED]: And there's not one here.

20 MR. COLE: My mentality is if I -- my mentality
21 is to, to keep going, to keep going forward with little
22 to no, with little to no problems.

23 [REDACTED]: I know --

24 MR. COLE: If there was even, if there's even a
25 small thing that potentially snowballs into something

1 bigger, I keep myself, I keep myself in my lane. I stay,
2 I stay stable --

3 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

4 MR. COLE: -- I just stay stable.

5 [REDACTED]: Thank you.

6 [REDACTED]: I, I know that's your mentality, but the
7 reality is we're -- that's not the situation we're in.
8 We are outside of the stable routine. We're here and
9 this is your chance, your only chance to explain to us
10 why you did it.

11 MR. COLE: I didn't. I didn't. I didn't. I --

12 [REDACTED]: There are a lot of people out there
13 that I'm sure are like you. They keep to themselves.
14 They're introverts. They have these, you know, views and
15 opinions they don't necessarily feel like they can share.
16 And then they feel like half of the population is, you
17 know, ignoring their views and belief. If you don't
18 share your, you know, reason and opinions now, it's just
19 going to be the same thing where it never, it never gets
20 out.

21 MR. COLE: My views and, my views and opinions
22 have been the same, ordinary. Never -- just never --
23 never deviate.

24 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

25 MR. COLE: That's the --

1 [REDACTED]: Then why did you --

2 MR. COLE: That's the --

3 [REDACTED]: -- why did you deviate this time?

4 MR. COLE: (Indiscernible) -- I didn't, I didn't
5 place the bombs. I did not, I did not place them. I --
6 and I didn't. I didn't. I didn't.

7 [REDACTED]: Why did you build them?

8 MR. COLE: I didn't build them. I didn't do
9 anything. I (indiscernible) was going to a protest --

10 [REDACTED]: I know that you, you know, are saying
11 if there's any small chance somehow you can get out of
12 this, but like we said, we have worked so hard to find
13 facts. You're only here because of facts. So can we
14 show you some pictures that maybe will convince you that
15 --

16 MR. COLE: All right.

17 [REDACTED]: -- there's no getting out of this? We
18 just want to understand.

19 MR. COLE: (Indiscernible).

20 [REDACTED]: Okay. Do you recognize these shoes?

21 MR. COLE: Yeah. I used, I used to have a pair.

22 [REDACTED]: Okay. Do you still have them?

23 MR. COLE: No.

24 [REDACTED]: What did you do with them?

25 MR. COLE: I grew out of them. I threw them

1 away. I replaced them.

2 [REDACTED]: Why did you throw them away?

3 MR. COLE: They were, they were old and they were
4 coming apart. At the -- when they came, when they came
5 apart because I -- the other side of the shoe started
6 having holes in them. So I just -- shoes have holes,
7 shoelaces were coming apart, just how you do with, just
8 how you get rid of shoes, just throw them away. I didn't
9 have any, I didn't have any more need for them.

10 [REDACTED]: Did you get that same pair? Or the
11 same style? Or different ones?

12 MR. COLE: Zebas. It was pair -- after this, I
13 got a pair of shoes called Zebas.

14 [REDACTED]: Okay.

15 [REDACTED]: Okay.

16 MR. COLE: You just slip them on.

17 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

18 MR. COLE: No, no need for shoelaces or trying to
19 -- trying to push or tug your feet.

20 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Do you remember where you
21 bought these shoes from originally?

22 MR. COLE: No. I -- no.

23 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

24 [REDACTED]: Do, do you know when, when you bought
25 those shoes?

1 MR. COLE: No. Like I said, mine -- I don't
2 really think about stuff in the past. I -- anything that
3 -- everything that stays in the past, stays in the past
4 for me.

5 [REDACTED]: Hmm.

6 MR. COLE: I'm a here -- I'm a here and now kind
7 of person.

8 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Do you remember that you wore
9 these the night of the 5th?

10 MR. COLE: Mm-mm. I genuinely don't remember.

11 [REDACTED]: Okay.

12 MR. COLE: I just slipped on, I just slipped on
13 the first pair of shoes I could, I could, I could find.

14 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm.

15 [REDACTED]: Did, did you buy these shoes or did your
16 family?

17 MR. COLE: I bought, I bought them.

18 [REDACTED]: You bought. Do you remember if you paid
19 with a credit card?

20 MR. COLE: I think I, I think I did.

21 [REDACTED]: Think you did.

22 MR. COLE: Or -- it was an American -- there was
23 -- I remember. It was the -- it was an American flag
24 credit card that I got up Capital One.

25 [REDACTED]: Capital One?

1 MR. COLE: That was the, that was the -- that was
2 my first debit card.

3 [REDACTED]: Okay.

4 [REDACTED]: It's your first debit card. Okay.

5 [REDACTED]: Okay.

6 [REDACTED]: So --

7 [REDACTED]: So we have video of you --

8 [REDACTED]: Wearing these shoes.

9 [REDACTED]: -- wearing these shoes on the night of
10 the 5th, placing the two devices?

11 MR. COLE: I did not -- didn't place the devices.
12 Oh, my God.

13 [REDACTED]: And then we talked about, you know, the
14 devices and some of the different pieces that we know you
15 purchased.

16 [REDACTED]: And all of these pieces are on the device.

17 MR. COLE: No, I don't have a timer.

18 [REDACTED]: You never purchased a timer?

19 MR. COLE: No.

20 [REDACTED]: You never purchased the timer from a
21 Walmart?

22 MR. COLE: No.

23 [REDACTED]: Have you ever purchased timers from --

24 MR. COLE: I, I rarely, I rarely ever go to
25 Walmart. I'm not much, I'm not much of a Walmart person.

1 ██████: Where do you go then?

2 MR. COLE: Target. Target.

3 ██████: So you don't, you don't recall purchasing
4 a timer that looks like that?

5 MR. COLE: No, not -- no. I don't, I don't go to
6 Walmart.

7 ██████: How about these different pieces? This
8 is the --

9 MR. COLE: For the, for the DIY but not for the
10 other two.

11 ██████: You purchased pipes, multiple pipes and
12 caps that go on the end of these pipes. You purchase
13 those as well?

14 MR. COLE: The pipes but not the --

15 ██████: Are you saying you didn't purchase the end
16 caps?

17 MR. COLE: No.

18 ██████: Okay. How about -- does this look
19 familiar?

20 MR. COLE: No.

21 ██████: You don't ever recall purchasing this?

22 MR. COLE: No.

23 ██████: How about alligator clips.

24 MR. COLE: Alligator clips, I -- I did purchase
25 alligator clips.

1 [REDACTED]: Okay.

2 MR. COLE: I think I purchased those from Amazon.

3 [REDACTED]: Okay.

4 MR. COLE: I was trying a little, I was trying a
5 little science experiment. And immediately, I got, I got
6 bleach on the, on the carpet.

7 [REDACTED]: Downstairs? Or upstairs? Or where's
8 your --

9 MR. COLE: In the, in the basement.

10 [REDACTED]: Do you live in the basement?

11 MR. COLE: Yeah.

12 [REDACTED]: Okay. Where would you do your science
13 experiments in the house? Down there?

14 MR. COLE: This was a long time -- it was a long
15 time ago, back, back when like, back when my dad still
16 lived with us.

17 [REDACTED]: Okay.

18 [REDACTED]: Yeah. Yeah. So, Brian, we know you
19 purchased all these components. Okay? You did. We know
20 you did. You purchased multiple Walmart timers. You
21 purchased multiple end caps, those little iron things that
22 go on the end of the caps. All of these components, we
23 know you purchased. We have the records. Okay? We have
24 you on video in those shoes placing -- device. You know,
25 so this story is going to create a lot of media attention,

1 okay. And they are going to say you are a bad guy. I
2 don't think you are a bad guy at all. I think you are a
3 guy that just got out of routine one night. The one night
4 you got out of your routine --

5 MR. COLE: And I end up getting -- I end up here.

6 ██████: Mm-hmm.

7 ██████: Yeah, the one night. The one thing, the
8 one time you do something different, you end up here.
9 Because you placed those devices.

10 MR. COLE: I didn't place (inaudible).

11 ██████: And the media is going to spin it one way.
12 We want your words. We want to be able to -- we want to be
13 able to tell the story why you did it. Okay? You've seen
14 -- you've been on YouTube. You've been on Reddit. You see
15 how people spin conspiracy theories. You, you, You've gone
16 through all that. That made you upset.

17 We don't want this situation to be that. We want
18 this to be "I did this for this reason and, and that's it."
19 Don't let other people explain why you did things.

20 Does that make sense? Does that make sense?

21 MR. COLE: I didn't do it, please. Got out of
22 routine one, one night.

23 ██████: One night you got out of your routine.

24 MR. COLE: One night.

25 ██████: One night. That's it. Ever since then,

1 I'm sure you've lived a very peaceful, normal, routine
2 life. That one night. I don't want this one night to
3 haunt you for the rest of your life, Brian. I want that --
4 to come to a resolution today. Whatever the result of the
5 truth is, we'll deal with it. We'll deal. Okay?

6 You coming forward today will help you in
7 multiple ways. We can tell people that he was stand-up.
8 He told us the truth the first time we approached. And
9 then we can tell your story.

10 MR. COLE: I swear I didn't. I swear I didn't.
11 Some -- being accused -- somebody did this.

12 ██████: Like ██████n said, we're not accusing you.
13 We know. And we understand you want to block that night
14 out. And we understand it's hard to say. We understand
15 what you're feeling, Brian. But the only way we can move
16 forward with this is with the truth.

17 MR. COLE: The truth, the truth, I didn't do it.
18 I don't know what to do anymore.

19 ██████: You need to explain to us so we can have
20 this behind us. I'm telling you, you need to explain to us
21 so we can put this behind us.

22 MR. COLE: I went to DC. I went to a protest.
23 And that was it. I stayed there for an hour, went to my
24 car, drove away, and that was it. That was the end of it.

25 ██████: So Brian, we know you didn't go to the

1 protest because we know where your phone was and you were
2 at the RNC and DNC. That's not where the protest was. I
3 know exactly what times you were in DC, and I know exactly
4 your location. I know your location. I know where you
5 were that night. We know you were not at the Capitol at a
6 protest. I know that.

7 MR. COLE: Please tell me this was a mistake.
8 You need to tell me this was a mistake.

9 [REDACTED]: We know where your car was. We know where
10 you were. We know the components that you bought to make
11 the device. We know the shoes you were wearing. We have
12 video of you placing the device.

13 MR. COLE: Please tell me this was a mistake.
14 Please tell me this was a mistake.

15 [REDACTED]: And unfortunately, this isn't going away.
16 Okay? This isn't going away with us leaving, you know,
17 here today. We -- the only way it can go away is by you
18 owning what you did and dealing with it.

19 MR. COLE: This is a -- (inaudible) your routine
20 and never deviate. Just --

21 [REDACTED]: Tell us the truth. You'll feel a lot
22 better.

23 MR. COLE: I'm telling, I am telling the truth.
24 Anything that's (inaudible). I don't know what to do
25 anymore. I was -- can I take a sip of water?

1 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

2 [REDACTED]: Yeah, of course. Do you want us to give
3 you a minute?

4 MR. COLE: Yeah, just to process all of this.

5 [REDACTED]: Do you want us to give you a minute? I'll
6 tell you what, we're going to pack up our stuff and we'll
7 give you a few minutes. We'll be right outside the door,
8 okay? Just to let you think. And then we'll come back in
9 and see if you want to tell us the truth. Okay?

10 Okay. Do you want us to -- we'll just take the
11 food. We'll be right outside the door, okay? Give you
12 like five minutes. Let's just take the computer.

13 [REDACTED]: Okay.

14 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED], can you just hang right here in case
15 he needs anything?

16 So we're going to leave it right here if you need
17 anything, okay?

18 MR. COLE: Okay.

19 [REDACTED]: Yeah, let me know if you need anything,
20 man, all right?

21 (Agents leave room.)

22 MR. COLE: I didn't, I didn't, I didn't, I
23 didn't. (Inaudible.) Relax (inaudible). (Inaudible)
24 chance, even a small chance, (inaudible) chance. But, they
25 got, they got the wrong -- they got something wrong. Just

1 take it. Even a small, tiny chance. Smallest, tiniest
2 chances.

3 (Pause.)

4 MR. COLE: Even a small chance (inaudible), if if
5 there's even a little single chance (inaudible) just take
6 it. Do whatever you can to clear your name. You can get
7 out of this.

8 (Door opens.)

9 [REDACTED]: You doing all right?

10 MR. COLE: Just wrapping this around me.

11 [REDACTED]: Okay, do you need more water or --

12 MR. COLE: No, I'm, I'm good right now.

13 [REDACTED]: Okay. All right, perfect. Let me know if
14 you need more water, alright?

15 (Door closes.)

16 MR. COLE: (Inaudible) do it. Just.

17 (Pause.)

18 (Door opens and agents enter.)

19 [REDACTED]: Brian, how you doing?

20 MR. COLE: I have a giant pain in my stomach.

21 [REDACTED]: I know. Are you ready? Are you ready to
22 explain?

23 MR. COLE: Explain?

24 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

25 MR. COLE: I didn't do anything. I don't know

1 how else to explain it.

2 [REDACTED]: Well, you're going to need to explain why
3 all the evidence we have shows that you placed those
4 devices, you built those devices. And you're going to have
5 to explain that because what you're saying is not
6 consistent with what we see. Okay?

7 What you're saying is just not consistent. It's
8 not true. It's not true. And you know that. We know you
9 purchased multiple timers. We know you purchased 9-volt
10 snap battery connectors. We know you purchased 1 by 8-inch
11 galvanized pipe. We know you purchased black iron end
12 caps. We know you purchased galvanized end caps. We know
13 you purchased alligator clips and 14-gauge red wire. We
14 know you purchased 14-gauge black wire. We know you
15 purchased other timers. Other timers because the devices
16 didn't go off, right? They didn't go off. They didn't
17 work.

18 So, is -- we know you wore those shoes. We know
19 you were at the RNC and DNC between 7:34 and 8:18 p.m. on
20 January 5th. All these are facts, okay? Facts. Not
21 conspiracies, not anything else. They are just straight up
22 facts. Are you hearing me?

23 MR. COLE: Yeah.

24 [REDACTED]: Okay. They're facts. We know that you
25 started wiping your online accounts.

1 MR. COLE: Hmm?

2 [REDACTED]: We see -- we know your Google account, we
3 know that you wiped online accounts. We know you had a
4 Discord account back in the day.

5 MR. COLE: Yeah.

6 [REDACTED]: Yeah. We know. We have so much
7 information, Brian. So much. And you've already told us
8 things here today that have enforced our belief, or not
9 belief, our -- the fact that you did this.

10 MR. COLE: I don't know how else I'm supposed to
11 explain this to you guys.

12 [REDACTED]: We don't need a story, Brian. We don't
13 need an explanation. We just need you to come forward and
14 tell us the truth. You're thinking so hard of the
15 different things you could tell us to make us believe that
16 you didn't do this, but that's, that's a losing battle,
17 because that's not the truth.

18 MR. COLE: How am I supposed to explain it to you
19 guys. I didn't do it. I didn't do it.

20 [REDACTED]: This isn't going away. When I went out
21 to my phone out there, there is an article in the
22 Washington Post about an individual who placed the pipe
23 bombs has been arrested. We have agents that have to go
24 out and talk to your family to interview them, ask them any
25 questions so we can understand even more than we already

1 know, to make sure there's no ongoing threat, and that we
2 know everything possible about the night of the 5th.

3 [REDACTED]: So every one of those family members are
4 going to have to come into DC to be interviewed, every one
5 of them, because that one night you went off script.

6 [REDACTED]: If you don't share your side of the
7 story and why you did it, then what's the point of it all?

8 MR. COLE: How am I supposed to explain it to you
9 guys.

10 [REDACTED]: But if you do tell us the truth, Brian, a
11 lot of things change, okay. What changes for good? We can
12 pull back and, you know, maybe not bring everyone that you
13 know down to DC to interview them because we already know
14 the truth.

15 If you do tell us the truth, you know, like
16 [REDACTED] and I have both said, we can tell the story the
17 right way, not the conspiracy theory way.

18 If you do tell us the truth, we can tell our
19 bosses and the people that are involved in this case that
20 he was straightforward with us on day one. So hopefully
21 that will help you down the line when you have to deal with
22 the consequences of this action. All of those things, all
23 of those things will help you and help your family.

24 So, what do you want to do, Brian? Do you want
25 to tell us, or do you want us to --

1 MR. COLE: I don't know, I don't know what to do
2 anymore.

3 [REDACTED]: We've told you what you should do. Do you
4 want to tell us?

5 MR. COLE: I'm telling you guys the truth
6 already.

7 [REDACTED]: Okay.

8 [REDACTED]: So right now, if we leave here we're
9 going to say, yeah, we have location from his phone. It
10 says it's at DNC, RNC. We have all this video of him
11 walking around with these shoes we know he owns, this
12 backpack. We have all these purchases from Walmart, Home
13 Depot, Lowes, of all these components that were part of
14 these devices. But when we interviewed him, he lied to us
15 and told us he went to a protest and that was it, even
16 though we have all these facts and evidence that say
17 otherwise. That's where you're currently putting yourself.

18 [REDACTED]: So, should we -- do you want us to end
19 this interview, Brian?

20 MR. COLE: I just -- I don't know what to do
21 anymore. I just -- everything is just, everything is just
22 blank. Being told, being told all of this, it's just a
23 little too much to process. I'm sorry. I'm just --

24 [REDACTED]: Do you want us to show you some video?

25 MR. COLE: (Inaudible.)

1 [REDACTED]: You want me to show you some video? Okay.
2 Hey, Brian, I'm just going to shift over here just so I can
3 see the screen a little bit better, okay?

4 THE MR. COLE: Just too much to process. Just --

5 [REDACTED]: Just give me a minute here to get my
6 laptop up.

7 (Pause.)

8 [REDACTED]: Okay. Do you recognize that person?

9 MR. COLE: No.

10 [REDACTED]: Have you watched this video before?

11 MR. COLE: No.

12 [REDACTED]: Are you willing to tell the truth as we
13 watch this video and ask you some questions? Yes?

14 MR. COLE: Yeah.

15 [REDACTED]: Okay.

16 [REDACTED]: And, Brian, you understand lying to
17 federal agents is breaking the law. That's another crime.
18 Do you understand that?

19 MR. COLE: Yeah.

20 [REDACTED]: No, look at me. Do you understand that?

21 MR. COLE: Yeah.

22 [REDACTED]: So, we know you haven't told us the truth
23 so far. So more lies just makes it worse, okay?

24 MR. COLE: All right.

25 [REDACTED]: You understand?

1 MR. COLE: Yeah.

2 [REDACTED]: Okay.

3 [REDACTED]: So, is this individual you?

4 (Pause.)

5 MR. COLE: Yes.

6 [REDACTED]: Thank you. Like I said, we're all on
7 the same page. We all --

8 [REDACTED]: It's over.

9 [REDACTED]: It's over.

10 [REDACTED]: It's over. Take a breath. Take a breath.
11 It's over. Let your mind breathe, okay?

12 MR. COLE: (Inaudible).

13 [REDACTED]: I know.

14 [REDACTED]: Let your mind breathe, okay? Cry, do
15 whatever you have. It's over. It's over, okay? We can
16 resolve this case.

17 MR. COLE: I just -- it's --

18 [REDACTED]: All right?

19 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

20 [REDACTED]: You've done a brave thing, Brian. You've,
21 you've admitted to something that's been -- you've been
22 holding in for a long time. Okay? And you did it in the
23 first day that we approached you about it.

24 MR. COLE: My family is going to be (inaudible).

25 [REDACTED]: They're going to be what?

1 MR. COLE: My family is going to into this?

2 [REDACTED]: Well, we can -- listen, if you're willing
3 to walk us through every detail of that night with the
4 truth, we can get your family -- we might not have to bring
5 them all down into DC. They might be interviewed, but we
6 might not have to drag them all here. Okay? We can tell
7 -- we can tell your story. It's over. Okay?

8 MR. COLE: (Inaudible) you just decided to do
9 something stupid.

10 [REDACTED]: One stupid night.

11 [REDACTED]: But you did the brave thing today --

12 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

13 [REDACTED]: -- telling the truth, and it'll make it
14 a little bit easier for your family.

15 [REDACTED]: Easier for your family. You don't -- you
16 know? So, Brian, we have two options now, really. Okay?

17 MR. COLE: Mm-hmm.

18 [REDACTED]: You hearing me?

19 MR. COLE: Mm-hmm, I hear you.

20 [REDACTED]: We have two options. Option A. That we
21 sit here with you for the remainder of the afternoon and go
22 through -- go through that night and all the evidence that
23 we have and ask you questions. Okay? That's option A.

24 Option B is the attorneys and the judge -- we'll
25 have to take you to the judge and over at the courthouse

1 this afternoon for your initial appearance as a result of
2 these charges. Okay?

3 So we can either sit here and go through this
4 with you, or we're going to have to take you over to the
5 courthouse.

6 MR. COLE: Like, what exactly is the difference
7 between the two?

8 [REDACTED]: Well, the difference is we don't have to
9 go to the courthouse today. Okay? And we can actually
10 understand why you did this and actually understand all the
11 details of this. You may have to go to the courthouse
12 tomorrow, but that at least will give you some time to
13 prepare yourself. Okay?

14 [REDACTED]: And the courthouse, it's what we call
15 an initial appearance --

16 [REDACTED]: Yes.

17 [REDACTED]: -- where you go before the judge. They
18 read all the charges, tell you, you know, your rights. Ask
19 you a few questions. It's generally open to the public.
20 It's your initial appearance.

21 MR. COLE: Can you give me some time to process.

22 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

23 [REDACTED]: Yeah. Do you want us to give you a few
24 more minutes? Yeah? Okay, we'll step out again. Oh, grab
25 your badge.

1 [REDACTED]: Thank you.

2 (Agents leave the room.)

3 ([REDACTED] enters the room.)

4 [REDACTED]: Hey, Brian, do you need any water?

5 MR. COLE: Sure.

6 [REDACTED]: Okay. Yeah, we'll get you one. Is there
7 anything else you'd like to drink, like a Coke or orange
8 juice? No?

9 MR. COLE: No.

10 [REDACTED]: Just water? Okay. Yeah, we'll get you
11 one.

12 ([REDACTED] leaves the room.)

13 (Pause.)

14 ([REDACTED] enters the room.)

15 [REDACTED]: Doing all right, Mr. Cole?

16 MR. COLE: Mm-hmm.

17 [REDACTED]: Okay. If you wanted to have any lunch, is
18 there anything you'd be hungry for?

19 MR. COLE: I'm not hungry.

20 [REDACTED]: Okay. What about a snack, like maybe some
21 chips or Cheetos, Pringles?

22 MR. COLE: No.

23 [REDACTED]: No? None of that? Just water?

24 MR. COLE: Yeah.

25 [REDACTED]: Okay. All right, we'll get you some.

1 (█████e leaves the room.)

2 (Agents enter the room.)

3 ██████: We're back. You doing okay?

4 MR. COLE: No.

5 ██████: How are you feeling?

6 MR. COLE: I don't know.

7 ██████: Are you willing to talk with us a
8 little more?

9 MR. COLE: Yeah.

10 ██████: Okay. So, when we left, we had pulled
11 up that video and, you know, we had talked about we are
12 here because of all of this evidence that we've built
13 around this case with the phone, and the video, and the
14 components. And we, you know, asked you to tell us your
15 truth and the why, and you have told us the truth that it
16 is you in this video, which we appreciate. And so, we'd
17 like to kind of put all that other stuff behind us about
18 you only going to the protest and not building devices.

19 We, I think, are all three on the same page. It
20 was you. We appreciate your honesty, your bravery. Like
21 he said, we hope you feel a little better having this off
22 your chest, and I think it will make things just a little
23 bit easier on your family.

24 So, we would like to show you a video and ask you
25 to keep being truthful with us. But, as ██████k mentioned, we

1 also do want to talk about the option to go over to court
2 to be in front of a judge. And so, kind of the two options
3 are we can stay here and keep chatting through this video
4 to kind of, again, get to the bottom of all this and hear
5 your side of the story; or if you want to go to the
6 courthouse, we can go over there, and you'll go eventually
7 in front of the judge. If you don't want to go today, want
8 to keep talking, you can go in front of a judge tomorrow
9 instead.

10 So, we have a little form for you to fill out if
11 you do want to keep talking and then go to the judge
12 tomorrow. If you want to go to the judge today, we can
13 also --

14 [REDACTED]: Arrange that.

15 [REDACTED]: -- arrange that.

16 MR. COLE: I don't get to go home.

17 [REDACTED]: What questions do you have?

18 MR. COLE: Just -- I don't know what questions I
19 have. I'm not going to be able to go home tonight?

20 [REDACTED]: No.

21 [REDACTED]: Hm-hmm.

22 [REDACTED]: Going home tonight's not an option.

23 MR. COLE: How are they going to react to this?

24 [REDACTED]: We can talk about all that --

25 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

1 [REDACTED]: -- when we're done here. You know, if
2 you want to call your family, if you want -- we can talk
3 about all of that after. Right now, we just want to worry
4 about you and getting your side of things.

5 [REDACTED]: Yeah, I mean, I understand your concerns
6 about the family. I totally get it. You're close with
7 your family, you know. But today, today in particular,
8 Brian, you need to focus on Brian, okay? At the end of the
9 day, they're going to -- they're going to love you, okay?
10 They're going to love you no matter what. They're family,
11 okay, and they know you.

12 They know you never leave your routine. And they
13 know you made one dumb mistake. Okay. That's just what it
14 is. They're still going to love you. (Inaudible.) So --
15 but we do need to make a decision on whether or not we want
16 to go to the courthouse today.

17 MR. COLE: How long are we going to -- how long
18 are we going to talk?

19 [REDACTED]: If you want to talk, we'll talk probably
20 for a few more hours.

21 [REDACTED]: And if you want any breaks or you
22 decide you don't want to talk anymore --

23 [REDACTED]: Talk anymore, we stop.

24 [REDACTED]: -- we stop. There's no --

25 MR. COLE: (Inaudible.)

1 ██████: You're in control, Brian.

2 MR. COLE: I like talking to you guys.

3 ██████: You do? Well, we like talking to you.

4 ██████: Mm-hmm.

5 ██████: And we've actually come a long way, Brian,
6 since we started this.

7 MR. COLE: So one time, one time I (inaudible).

8 ██████: I know it's frustrating. But you said
9 it yourself, you don't like to dwell on the past. And you
10 say you're a, how did you phrase it, you're a in the moment
11 person?

12 MR. COLE: Just here and now.

13 ██████: Here and now person. So --

14 ██████: We're here now.

15 ██████: -- here now.

16 ██████: Let's just move forward.

17 ██████: You're being truthful. You told us it
18 was you. We just kind of want to move forward with that
19 same understanding and ask some more questions.

20 MR. COLE: All right, I want to keep talking to
21 you guys.

22 ██████: Okay.

23 ██████: That's fine.

24 ██████: So, can you sit up so you can see the form
25 here? All right, so let me explain to you what this form

1 is, okay? This form is saying that you, Brian, are waiving
2 your initial appearance this afternoon, okay? And it says
3 here, I agree my appearance may be delayed for a period not
4 to exceed 24 hours from the time I signed this waiver.

5 So what this is saying is, you -- by law you're
6 supposed to basically appear before court almost
7 immediately after arrest. But this waiver is saying you're
8 waiving that right and you're going to stay here and talk
9 to us. Does that make sense? Okay.

10 [REDACTED]: And be to court by this time tomorrow.

11 [REDACTED]: Yeah. So, if you said you -- I -- if you
12 could write your name here and then sign here. If that's
13 what you want to do.

14 (Reviewing document.)

15 [REDACTED]: Do you want me to read the whole thing to
16 you? I'm happy to.

17 MR. COLE: These are my rights, even if I signed
18 it, right?

19 [REDACTED]: Yep.

20 [REDACTED]: Yep. Oh, absolutely. Do you want me to
21 read it to you? So, this is saying, I have been informed
22 and I understand that I have a right under Rule 5 of the
23 Federal Rules of Criminal Procedures to be brought without
24 unnecessary delay to the nearest and variable federal
25 magistrate judge or other judicial officer for the purposes

1 of being advised of the charges against me. So, the judge
2 is going to tell you what charges you're being charged
3 with, okay? Obtain a copy of the affidavit from the
4 government that has filed in support of those charges.

5 And being advised of my rights specifically, the
6 right to retain counsel or request counsel to be appointed,
7 the right to remain silent, and any statements that may be
8 used against me, the right to a preliminary hearing at
9 which the government would have to establish the charges in
10 the complaint are supported by probable cause, and the
11 circumstances, if any, under which I may secure pre-trial
12 release.

13 So, this is just saying, you still have all those
14 rights, and you've had all those rights today. This is
15 just saying, you're waiving the right to go for at least 24
16 hours to go to the judge.

17 Just sign right here.

18 (Signing document.)

19 [REDACTED]: Okay, thank you. All right. You signed
20 that at approximately 12:13 p.m. (Inaudible.)

21 Okay, so [REDACTED] kind of summarized where we --
22 where we're at. So, we thought maybe the best thing to do
23 is kind of show you some video, okay?

24 MR. COLE: I don't want to watch it.

25 [REDACTED]: You don't want to watch it? You just want

1 to explain it to us?

2 MR. COLE: What I did that day was just the
3 dumbest thing I've ever done in life.

4 [REDACTED]: The dumbest thing you've done in your
5 life? Why did you do it?

6 MR. COLE: Just -- something snapped in me, I
7 guess.

8 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

9 MR. COLE: I mean, everything after that was just
10 blank. Genuinely. I didn't -- I , I just drove up, then I
11 think just did it. Just walked around and just did it.

12 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

13 [REDACTED]: Why did you put them at the RNC and DNC?

14 MR. COLE: I think, I mean, I really don't like
15 either party at this point.

16 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

17 MR. COLE: I just -- I just don't.

18 [REDACTED]: When did you decide that you were going
19 to place them there?

20 MR. COLE: I don't know when, I just -- I don't
21 really -- honestly, I really don't know when I decided.

22 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

23 MR. COLE: Every -- like, I'm not joking. I know
24 this may seem weird, but literally everything that relates
25 to that is just blank.

1 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. I believe you.

2 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Yeah, we believe you. How did
3 you learn to make the devices?

4 MR. COLE: Just general science.

5 [REDACTED]: Were you, like, looking stuff online?

6 MR. COLE: No, just -- it's just -- that's just
7 the science around it.

8 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Why did you make your homemade --
9 why did you make the black powder?

10 MR. COLE: It was the only thing I knew how to
11 make.

12 [REDACTED]: How did you learn how to make black
13 powder?

14 MR. COLE: It's going to seem weird, but there's
15 a video game called Civilization V.

16 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

17 MR. COLE: And when you go up to the technology
18 tree, there's -- when you right-click on one -- one of the
19 technologies that you learn in that game is gunpowder.

20 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

21 MR. COLE: And they say that gunpowder was -- and
22 they say how it was made in the -- they say what goes into
23 it in the description.

24 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. So how did you make this black
25 powder? What did you use?

1 MR. COLE: Coal --

2 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

3 MR. COLE: -- sulfur, and potassium nitrate.

4 [REDACTED]: Coal, sulfur, and potassium nitrate. And
5 how did you get the potassium nitrate?

6 MR. COLE: Lowe's.

7 [REDACTED]: Lowe's?

8 MR. COLE: They sell it as -- I think they sell
9 it as either -- I don't remember what they sell it as. I'm
10 sorry, I --

11 [REDACTED]: That's okay. You take your time. You're
12 fine. You bought something at Lowe's that had potassium
13 nitrate in it?

14 MR. COLE: No, it was potassium nitrate.

15 [REDACTED]: It was potassium nitrate. And the sulfur,
16 what did you use for sulfur?

17 MR. COLE: It was something called Lilly Miller
18 Sulfur Dust.

19 [REDACTED]: Willy -- yeah, that lines up with what we
20 know. Willy -- yes. And how about the coal? What did you
21 use for coal?

22 MR. COLE: Just regular coal.

23 [REDACTED]: Like, just like charcoal?

24 MR. COLE: Yeah.

25 [REDACTED]: Yeah? Okay.

1 ██████: How long did it take to make?

2 MR. COLE: I don't remember how long it took.

3 ██████: Did you --

4 MR. COLE: Just --

5 ██████: Okay.

6 MR. COLE: Just mashed -- I just mashed up the
7 coal and mixed them together.

8 ██████: Was it like days or hours?

9 MR. COLE: I guess it's days.

10 ██████: Did you ever test any of these devices?

11 MR. COLE: No.

12 ██████: No? How many devices did you make?

13 MR. COLE: Just those two.

14 ██████: Well, we know you bought like a lot of
15 components.

16 MR. COLE: I was like, oh -- I was like, what the
17 fuck am I do -- am I doing this? And then I think just
18 threw -- I just repeatedly threw away.

19 ██████: Oh, so, so you --

20 MR. COLE: It was a -- it was those brief moments
21 of clarity when I was just, I was being freaking stupid and
22 just tossed them.

23 ██████: Okay. So you placed two, one at the RNC,
24 one at the DNC, and you made others, but you threw them
25 away?

1 MR. COLE: The components, yes.

2 [REDACTED]: The components. And how -- where did you
3 throw them away?

4 MR. COLE: The -- just went to the dump.

5 [REDACTED]: Went to the dump. Where at, do you know?

6 MR. COLE: Woodbridge dump.

7 [REDACTED]: Woodbridge dump.

8 MR. COLE: Near my house.

9 [REDACTED]: Are there any explosive devices at the
10 house?

11 MR. COLE: No.

12 [REDACTED]: Have you made explosive devices since --

13 MR. COLE: No.

14 [REDACTED]: -- since that time?

15 MR. COLE: No.

16 [REDACTED]: Because we know your purchases go, like,
17 through August of '22.

18 MR. COLE: No, I didn't make any. That -- those
19 were the only two I ever made.

20 [REDACTED]: Those were the only two you ever made.

21 Okay. And you've never tested them before?

22 [REDACTED]: Do you remember, like, when you made
23 them?

24 MR. COLE: No.

25 [REDACTED]: But do you think it was after the

1 election?

2 MR. COLE: Yeah.

3 [REDACTED]: So sometime between November and the
4 night of January 5th?

5 MR. COLE: Yeah.

6 [REDACTED]: How did you transport the devices up to
7 Washington DC?

8 MR. COLE: Just drove up.

9 [REDACTED]: Were they in your book bag?

10 MR. COLE: No. I put them in my bag after I got
11 there.

12 [REDACTED]: After you got there. Were they in your
13 trunk? Were they in the back of your car?

14 MR. COLE: In the back seat.

15 [REDACTED]: Just laying on the back seat?

16 MR. COLE: In a shoebox.

17 [REDACTED]: In a shoebox. Two shoeboxes?

18 MR. COLE: No, one.

19 [REDACTED]: One. You put both of them in there. And
20 you -- so we know that you had one device when you walked
21 up and placed it at the DNC. And then we know there was
22 only one device in your bag. And then we know you got a
23 second device when you went to the RNC. Was -- you just
24 leave one device in the car in between? And where were you
25 parked?

1 MR. COLE: At Fol --

2 [REDACTED]: Folger?

3 MR. COLE: -- the --

4 [REDACTED]: Yeah, Folger Park.

5 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

6 [REDACTED]: And --

7 [REDACTED]: How did you decide, like, where to
8 place them? Because I know at the DNC you put one --

9 MR. COLE: They were, they were the parties in
10 charge.

11 [REDACTED]: I'm sorry, say that one more time.

12 MR. COLE: I said they were -- Republicans and
13 Democrats were the ones in charge.

14 [REDACTED]: That they -- they were the ones in charge,
15 huh?

16 [REDACTED]: But how did you decide, like, to place
17 it? I know at the DNC you put it, like, under a bench kind
18 of.

19 MR. COLE: Just wherever I thought I would --
20 wherever I thought I could put it.

21 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

22 [REDACTED]: Did you -- we know you came up here in
23 December of 2020, before. Were you scouting out the RNC at
24 that time? You went to Tortilla Coast.

25 MR. COLE: Tortilla Coast.

1 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

2 MR. COLE: Because I wanted to eat.

3 [REDACTED]: You weren't up here to look -- to walk
4 around the RNC?

5 MR. COLE: No, I saw Tortilla Coast. I wanted to
6 try it.

7 [REDACTED]: But why were you up here that day, in
8 December 2020?

9 MR. COLE: I don't really remember anything from
10 December 2020, but I did go up -- I remember after I tried
11 Tortilla Coast the first time, I went up there repeatedly
12 to get more.

13 [REDACTED]: So you may have just gone up there just
14 for the restaurant?

15 MR. COLE: Yeah. Tortilla Coast and another one
16 that I -- a burger place along the main road where -- I
17 forgot the name of.

18 [REDACTED]: Oh, Good Stuff Eatery?

19 MR. COLE: Yeah.

20 [REDACTED]: That's a good place.

21 [REDACTED]: Mmm. Yeah. Are they burgers?

22 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. And shakes. Milkshakes.

23 [REDACTED]: Okay. Burgers and shakes? All right, so
24 you left your house and you drove up to DC. You parked
25 near Folger Park. You had the devices in the back seat,

1 two of them in a shoebox. You placed one of them in your
2 book bag and you walked to the DNC, correct? And when you
3 walked to the DNC, right before the DNC, you sit down on
4 the bench the first time. Okay? And you don't place the
5 device at this time. Any --

6 MR. COLE: It was that, it was that one moment of
7 just, am I really fucking doing this?

8 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

9 MR. COLE: That one moment where I just didn't
10 listen to myself.

11 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

12 [REDACTED]: Right. You seemed to get on your phone.
13 What were you doing on your phone?

14 MR. COLE: Just watching YouTube.

15 [REDACTED]: What were you watching on YouTube?

16 MR. COLE: Something Star Wars related.

17 [REDACTED]: You were watching a Star Wars related
18 YouTube clip?

19 MR. COLE: Yeah. Yeah.

20 [REDACTED]: Just to, like, settle -- like, get your
21 mind off the situation maybe? Is that why? I don't know.
22 You tell me.

23 MR. COLE: Yeah.

24 [REDACTED]: All right, so you --

25 MR. COLE: Because I don't have -- me -- I

1 thought that this was just going to end badly and I just
2 wanted to take my mind off of it.

3 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

4 [REDACTED]: Okay. So you don't place the device
5 there. Then you walk beyond the DNC and you go over to a
6 little grassy area and you sit down on the ground, and you
7 manipulate -- you get into the bag. What were you doing
8 there?

9 MR. COLE: That's when I, that's when I turned
10 the kitchen timer.

11 [REDACTED]: That's when you set the kitchen timer.
12 What did you set the kitchen timer to?

13 MR. COLE: Like, right up to the end.

14 [REDACTED]: So almost, so it was a 60-minute kitchen
15 timer? So you turned it all the way to the 60 minutes?

16 MR. COLE: Yeah.

17 [REDACTED]: Okay. So that's where you set the device.
18 And then you got up, and then you walk back to the DNC, and
19 you place the device at the DNC, correct?

20 MR. COLE: Mm-hmm.

21 [REDACTED]: Okay. And then you walk -- you get up off
22 the bench, after you place the device at the DNC, then you
23 walk --

24 MR. COLE: Right back to my car and get the other
25 one.

1 [REDACTED]: Right back to your car. You get the other
2 device, and you put the other device in your bag -- in your
3 book bag, and you walk to the RNC.

4 MR. COLE: Yep.

5 [REDACTED]: How did you know the layout? Did you
6 research this online beforehand of where the RNC and DNC
7 were located?

8 MR. COLE: Yep. Google Maps.

9 [REDACTED]: Google Maps. And did you intentionally go
10 down Rumsey Court?

11 MR. COLE: Go down what?

12 [REDACTED]: That's the alley right behind the RNC.

13 MR. COLE: Rumsey Court?

14 [REDACTED]: So you know, you walked -- you went down
15 that little alleyway, and then you walked into Rumsey
16 Court, which is the alley that leads right to the back of
17 the RNC where you placed the device?

18 MR. COLE: I just walked so I could find the
19 place.

20 [REDACTED]: Okay. So you were looking for the place.
21 Were you watching Google Maps while you were doing this?

22 MR. COLE: No.

23 [REDACTED]: You were not. Why did you walk past the
24 RNC the first time and come back and place it the second
25 time?

1 MR. COLE: I just didn't, I just didn't know
2 where I could put it.

3 [REDACTED]: You didn't know where you could put it.
4 So you were looking for a spot to put it somewhere. And
5 then you come back and you place the device, and then you
6 walk back out that alleyway. Then what happened?

7 MR. COLE: Then I just got in my car, went to
8 Capitol Ale House, and went home.

9 [REDACTED]: All right. You went to Capitol Ale House?

10 MR. COLE: Yeah. I went -- I left the city
11 through the Baltimore Bridge.

12 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

13 MR. COLE: Not the Baltimore Bridge, the -- yeah.

14 [REDACTED]: And?

15 MR. COLE: Through, through the bridge that leads
16 to Maryland. The bridge near the National Harbor.

17 [REDACTED]: Okay.

18 [REDACTED]: Oh, yeah. Is that Wilson? Woodrow
19 Wilson? I forget. I know what bridge you're talking
20 about.

21 [REDACTED]: And who knows about this?

22 MR. COLE: Absolutely no one.

23 [REDACTED]: No one helped you do this?

24 MR. COLE: No.

25 [REDACTED]: You didn't tell anybody about this?

1 MR. COLE: No.

2 [REDACTED]: Have you followed this case online at all?

3 MR. COLE: Yeah, I -- through the news, and just
4 seeing myself like that, just I couldn't, I couldn't bear
5 to tell anyone.

6 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

7 MR. COLE: Not my family, not my coworkers, no
8 one. So I just kept it.

9 [REDACTED]: Kept it inside?

10 MR. COLE: Just kept it and went on with my life.
11 Yeah.

12 [REDACTED]: That's a lot to have to keep to
13 yourself. How come the devices didn't go off?

14 MR. COLE: I honestly didn't know. Like, I
15 really wasn't thinking about, like, any of that stuff at
16 the moment.

17 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

18 [REDACTED]: Were you trying to kill people?

19 MR. COLE: No, no, that's -- no. That's why I --
20 that's why I did it at night.

21 [REDACTED]: That's why you did it at night?

22 MR. COLE: Yeah, at night. No one would have
23 been around.

24 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. So what did you think people
25 would think when they either saw the devices because they

1 exploded or when they, you know, found them, what did you
2 think people would think?

3 MR. COLE: Just really wasn't thinking about that
4 stuff at the time.

5 [REDACTED]: What were you mostly thinking about?

6 MR. COLE: Just, it was all just blank. I just,
7 it was like just moving on autopilot.

8 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

9 [REDACTED]: Sorry, I'm going to jump back one step
10 here.

11 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

12 [REDACTED]: When you went to the RNC, you walked by
13 the RNC the first time and you circled back around. When
14 did you set the timer for the RNC device?

15 MR. COLE: When?

16 [REDACTED]: Yeah, where -- or when and where?

17 MR. COLE: Just right at the spot.

18 [REDACTED]: Oh, so when you bent down to place the RNC
19 device --

20 MR. COLE: Yeah.

21 [REDACTED]: -- that's when you set the timer. And you
22 set the timer to, again, the full turn? Full 60 minutes,
23 if you will?

24 MR. COLE: Yeah.

25 [REDACTED]: Okay. So, those are the facts. Those are

1 the -- that's the truth, Brian. You should feel relieved
2 at some level. I can tell on your face you're relieved,
3 compared to where you were an hour ago, because you were
4 holding that all inside.

5 [REDACTED]: That's a lot to -- that's a lot to
6 carry for one person.

7 [REDACTED]: And did you -- the shoes, you said you
8 just threw them away?

9 MR. COLE: Yeah, they were genuinely worn out. I
10 did throw them away.

11 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

12 [REDACTED]: And where did you throw those away again?

13 MR. COLE: Just a dumpster.

14 [REDACTED]: A dumpster? Did -- and did you throw them
15 away because you knew we were looking for a person with
16 those shoes?

17 MR. COLE: No, they were genuinely just worn out.

18 [REDACTED]: Okay. And the hooded -- the sweatshirt,
19 what did you do with the sweatshirt?

20 MR. COLE: I put it in a -- I put it in a
21 Goodwill -- in the Goodwill box.

22 [REDACTED]: Okay. And you put it in the Goodwill box.
23 And where did you get that sweatshirt from?

24 MR. COLE: Honestly, I don't remember where I got
25 it from.

1 ██████: Okay. And the backpack, what did you do
2 with the backpack?

3 MR. COLE: The same thing.

4 ██████: Goodwill? Goodwill?

5 MR. COLE: Yeah.

6 ██████: Do you know where you got the backpack
7 from?

8 MR. COLE: No, I'm sorry. I -- it was either
9 Target --

10 ██████: Target?

11 MR. COLE: -- or -- it was either Target or
12 Walmart.

13 ██████: You don't happen to know the name of the
14 backpack, do you?

15 MR. COLE: No.

16 ██████: What type of brand it was? Target or
17 Walmart?

18 MR. COLE: Mm-hmm.

19 ██████: Okay. And can we pull up a map of Folger
20 Park, please?

21 ██████: Yes.

22 MR. COLE: (Inaudible.)

23 ██████: You say you're sorry?

24 MR. COLE: (Inaudible.)

25 ██████: I appreciate that. It's good to know

1 you didn't mean to hurt anyone. That's why you did it at
2 night.

3 MR. COLE: Yep. Everyone would have been at home
4 asleep.

5 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

6 MR. COLE: No one got -- no one would have gotten
7 hurt.

8 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

9 [REDACTED]: Can you zoom in?

10 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

11 [REDACTED]: Can you -- based on the map, is that --
12 yeah. Yeah, that's the other park right south of it.

13 Where did you park? If you could show us on the map where
14 you parked. Right in between Folger Park and Providence
15 Park.

16 [REDACTED]: So --

17 [REDACTED]: On D Street.

18 [REDACTED]: -- on D Street between --

19 [REDACTED]: Folger --

20 [REDACTED]: -- 2nd and 3rd.

21 [REDACTED]: Did you ever walk through that park?
22 Folger Park?

23 MR. COLE: Yes. Well, I walk through there, too,
24 whenever I go to DC because that's, that's where I usually
25 park when I go to DC because --

1 [REDACTED]: Okay.

2 MR. COLE: -- that park, that park there's barely
3 any traffic, and I don't really like DC traffic.

4 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

5 [REDACTED]: Okay, that makes sense. All right. Can
6 we zoom in on the RNC? Oh, where are we?

7 [REDACTED]: It's there.

8 [REDACTED]: Oh, there it is, to the right. Can we
9 zoom out a little bit?

10 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

11 [REDACTED]: All right, go -- scroll to the right.
12 Yeah, keep going just to the right. Keep going a little
13 bit more. All right, all right. You see where the RNC is?
14 And you see -- can you show him Rumsey Court?

15 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

16 [REDACTED]: Zoom in, yeah. Rumsey Court is that
17 alleyway behind. And the device you placed was, was right
18 here, okay. The device was right here. We have you coming
19 out this way off Rumsey Court. At this point, do you know
20 where you went? Did you come through this church area?
21 Did you come down here?

22 MR. COLE: Uh, down there.

23 [REDACTED]: You came here?

24 MR. COLE: Yeah.

25 [REDACTED]: And then you walked up this way, to D

1 Street, to the, to the park?

2 MR. COLE: Yeah, to my car.

3 [REDACTED]: To your car. Okay. All right, so I --
4 the last piece here, Brian, is for you to tell us what
5 motivated you to do this. In your words. Not our words,
6 your words.

7 MR. COLE: Just, something just snapped. At --

8 [REDACTED]: Snapped over what?

9 MR. COLE: Just watching everything. Just
10 everything, getting worse.

11 [REDACTED]: And you felt like you wanted to do
12 something?

13 MR. COLE: Yep.

14 [REDACTED]: And you wanted to do something to
15 Congress, right?

16 MR. COLE: Not, not to Congress, to the -- just
17 to the parties.

18 [REDACTED]: To the parties.

19 [REDACTED]: And what did you -- so, you know, when
20 either the devices went off or when people found them, what
21 did you hope that they, the parties, you know, found?

22 MR. COLE: Just, like, I really just wasn't
23 thinking about stuff like that.

24 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

25 [REDACTED]: What did you, like what -- if they went

1 off, what do you think -- what were you hoping was going to
2 happen?

3 MR. COLE: I guess there'd be some news about it.
4 Just --

5 [REDACTED]: Say that again? Some news about it?

6 MR. COLE: There'd be some news about it, but I
7 just generally wasn't thinking about that stuff. I just --
8 it was -- all just blank.

9 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. When did you start feeling
10 like you wanted to do something?

11 MR. COLE: I don't really know when.

12 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. When did you start building
13 these two devices, do you remember?

14 [REDACTED]: I'm sorry, I, I don't.

15 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

16 [REDACTED]: Was it after the election? November 5th,
17 2020?

18 MR. COLE: Yes, I think so. Sometime, maybe. I
19 just don't, I just don't know when.

20 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Did you think about any other
21 locations that --

22 MR. COLE: No, no.

23 [REDACTED]: No, you kind of knew you wanted to do
24 the RNC and the DNC because it was symbolic of the two
25 parties in a way?

1 MR. COLE: I guess, I guess you could say that.
2 Since both -- since they were in charge.

3 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Do you feel like you
4 accomplished your goal back in the day?

5 MR. COLE: Honestly, I didn't know what to think.

6 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

7 MR. COLE: Every time I think back on it, it's
8 just, what the fuck was I doing?

9 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

10 [REDACTED]: Were you upset at the time that they
11 didn't go off?

12 MR. COLE: No. No, I was, I was pretty relieved
13 they didn't go off. But by then it was probably too late
14 (inaudible) left the city. There wasn't really much, there
15 wasn't really much I could do with that situation. Just
16 (inaudible) to think about.

17 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. What were you thinking about,
18 kind of like in the days after?

19 MR. COLE: Just are they going to -- when are
20 they going to, when are they going to find me?

21 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

22 [REDACTED]: When did you start, at some point in 2022,
23 you started paying for a service to clean your cache
24 cookies off your phone and computer?

25 MR. COLE: Huh?

1 [REDACTED]: CCleaner? CCleaner Pro?

2 MR. COLE: I bought, I bought that just like I
3 buy (inaudible). I didn't really think much -- I just
4 needed something to keep any, like stuff off my phone. I
5 didn't really think, I really didn't think about stuff
6 like, like that. It was just, it was just safe -- it was
7 just antivirus thinking.

8 [REDACTED]: Okay, so it wasn't because of -- hide from
9 this --

10 MR. COLE: No.

11 [REDACTED]: -- from this particular investigation?

12 MR. COLE: No, that was -- 2022, that was like
13 two years, that was like two years -- a year after, right?

14 [REDACTED]: Yeah, but we noticed like your purchases
15 really start in, really late '19, December 2019, and they
16 go all the way through August of '22. Of like pipe nipples,
17 pipes, and end caps and stuff like that. So, I'm just
18 curious, what happened? Why did you stop buying these
19 things?

20 MR. COLE: Like, when did I stop buying these
21 things?

22 [REDACTED]: Like, when you stopped buying the one by
23 eight-inch pipes. Because you bought a lot of them over
24 that period of that time.

25 MR. COLE: Between 2019?

1 [REDACTED]: I could pull up the exact dates. I don't
2 have them off the top of my head. And (inaudible) packet,
3 but --

4 MR. COLE: It was just that, it was just that
5 voice in my head that said, you're doing something that's
6 stupid.

7 [REDACTED]: But you were still constructing, you were
8 tinkering with construction -- destructive devices after
9 the event?

10 MR. COLE: No, no, no, no, no.

11 [REDACTED]: You sure?

12 MR. COLE: I'm, I'm sure. That -- those would be
13 the only two things. Those were the only two things I ever
14 really tried to --

15 [REDACTED]: But you weren't like trying other --

16 MR. COLE: No.

17 [REDACTED]: Other -- build other IUDs?

18 MR. COLE: No. Once, once the news came out,
19 it's -- it -- once the, once the news came out and I saw
20 those -- I saw that video of those, those images --

21 [REDACTED]: Right.

22 MR. COLE: It's -- terrified -- it terrified me.

23 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

24 [REDACTED]: Terrified you. And you just shut down and
25 brought everything inside?

1 MR. COLE: Yeah.

2 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

3 [REDACTED]: Okay. I -- yeah -- was looking for this.

4 So -- we, we see first, first, you know, pipes you started

5 buying in October of 2019. Buy three there, you buy more

6 pipes. You bought five pipes in 2019. April of '21,

7 you're still buying pipes. You bought several -- you

8 bought a rice cooker and a pressure cooker?

9 MR. COLE: That was for the house.

10 [REDACTED]: Okay, that was for the house. That wasn't

11 for whatever you were --

12 MR. COLE: No.

13 [REDACTED]: -- for whatever you were doing. Did you

14 -- when you built the devices and you bought disinfectant

15 wipes, did you clean them off? You cleaned them with the

16 disinfectant wipes?

17 MR. COLE: Yeah.

18 [REDACTED]: And you used a, you used a -- how did you

19 drill the end caps?

20 MR. COLE: Just a drill bit.

21 [REDACTED]: Just a hand drill and a drill bit?

22 MR. COLE: Yep.

23 [REDACTED]: Did you have a drill press?

24 MR. COLE: Drill bit.

25 [REDACTED]: Drill bit.

1 MR. COLE: Just a, just a regular drill.

2 [REDACTED]: Okay. And, you used the, the, the
3 alligator, alligator clips were, like, crimped onto the
4 wire. How did you crimp those?

5 MR. COLE: Just with pliers.

6 [REDACTED]: With a pair, with a pair of pliers? And
7 you bought a bunch of alarm clocks. Were you, were you
8 practicing different types of timers?

9 MR. COLE: Just seeing, just seeing which one
10 worked, unless I can get some with a kitchen timer.

11 [REDACTED]: So you --

12 MR. COLE: Because they were, because the kitchen
13 timer was easier.

14 [REDACTED]: Kitchen timer was easier other than these
15 other type of alarm clocks? And you've gotten rid of all
16 these alarm clocks at this point?

17 MR. COLE: Yeah.

18 [REDACTED]: Okay.

19 MR. COLE: After, after all of that, I, like
20 after the -- after that initial scare --

21 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

22 MR. COLE: -- I got rid of everything in hiding
23 and covered it.

24 [REDACTED]: Okay.

25 MR. COLE: Everything was, everything was just

1 locked down at that point.

2 [REDACTED]: Copy. You, you purchased nails at various
3 times. Were you experimenting putting fragments or nails
4 on the platforms?

5 MR. COLE: No, no, no, no.

6 [REDACTED]: That's just regular?

7 MR. COLE: Yeah.

8 [REDACTED]: Regular house stuff?

9 MR. COLE: That was -- I was doing, I was doing
10 some woodworking stuff. Like I, like I told you earlier,
11 just interests come and go.

12 [REDACTED]: Okay. You've also bought some PVC pipes.
13 Did you attempt to build something with PVC?

14 MR. COLE: Yeah, that, yeah.

15 [REDACTED]: Yeah? Okay. And you just settled on the
16 metal?

17 MR. COLE: The, the PVC -- when did I, when did I
18 buy the PVC pipe?

19 [REDACTED]: You bought PVC March of 2020. Yeah, March
20 of 2020, you bought two-inch PVC pipe.

21 MR. COLE: I honestly don't remember buying
22 those.

23 [REDACTED]: Okay.

24 [REDACTED]: How did you get the, like, idea to
25 build these kind of devices? I know you said you didn't

1 follow any instructions, it was just science, but like, how
2 did the idea come into your mind?

3 MR. COLE: Just reading the news about how
4 (inaudible), like the -- you mean the idea of using, like
5 the idea of using it?

6 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

7 MR. COLE: Just, just the, just the idea. I
8 like, I like looking at, I like looking at history.

9 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

10 MR. COLE: And that's, that's just something.

11 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Where else did you, like, read
12 about it in history that these were kind of used?

13 MR. COLE: I know there was, you know, you know
14 the troubles in Ireland?

15 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

16 MR. COLE: Mostly that.

17 [REDACTED]: Okay. And so, you're reading about
18 that, and then were you already kind of feeling frustrated
19 about, you know, the election and the fact no one was doing
20 anything about it, or did that come later?

21 MR. COLE: Yeah. Like, I've, like, I've been
22 reading, like, this, I've been reading, like, history stuff
23 for a really long time.

24 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. And so, like, explosives in
25 history was something that you had seen?

1 MR. COLE: No, just general, just general history
2 stuff.

3 [REDACTED]: Can you tell us, can you explain what
4 history stuff you, you have read?

5 MR. COLE: Let's see. I like medieval history,
6 modern history, Cold War history, World War I, World War
7 II, the end of war periods, basically, basically anything
8 that interests me at that time.

9 [REDACTED]: And how do you consume this? You listen
10 to it? You read books or --

11 MR. COLE: Yeah, YouTube.

12 [REDACTED]: YouTube?

13 MR. COLE: Sometimes, sometimes I'll read but it,
14 just, it's mostly just YouTube.

15 [REDACTED]: You all right?

16 MR. COLE: I'm all right.

17 [REDACTED]: Okay. Are you getting an appetite yet?

18 MR. COLE: No.

19 [REDACTED]: No, all right.

20 [REDACTED]: Pizza's there if you, if you want it,
21 we can warm it back up, too.

22 MR. COLE: Thanks.

23 [REDACTED]: So, where were you when you first saw
24 yourself in the, the news?

25 MR. COLE: In my room.

1 ██████: Your room? Was it, like, the day,
2 right after?

3 MR. COLE: I don't know when they released the
4 pictures.

5 ██████: Mm-hmm.

6 MR. COLE: But when I saw it, I just froze.

7 ██████: Mm-hmm.

8 MR. COLE: When you see yourself, when you see
9 yourself committing a crime, it's just, even if I was
10 wearing all that stuff, I recognized myself.

11 ██████: Did you intentionally wear all that stuff
12 so you wouldn't be found?

13 MR. COLE: Yeah.

14 ██████: The, the face mask, was that just a
15 regular COVID face mask?

16 MR. COLE: Yeah.

17 ██████: Oh, I do have one question for you. When
18 you, when you were walking the first time to the DNC, you
19 stopped and put the backpack -- backpack on the ground, and
20 you look -- appeared to look across the street and get on
21 your tiptoes at some point. What, what were you doing?

22 MR. COLE: I did?

23 ██████: We can show you the video if you -- if it
24 refreshes your memory.

25 MR. COLE: Honestly, I, honestly, I really don't

1 remember very, I really remember, like, the walk cycle.

2 All I do -- all I remember is walking around, putting it at
3 the DNC, walking around somewhere, getting the other one
4 from the car, walking around to the, to the --

5 [REDACTED]: RNC.

6 MR. COLE: -- RNC, and then just getting back in
7 the car and leaving.

8 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

9 [REDACTED]: You weren't -- so you -- when you put that
10 backpack on the ground, it look -- you literally got up on
11 your tiptoes, and you looked like you peered across the
12 street. You, you don't know -- you don't recall what you
13 were looking at?

14 MR. COLE: I know there was some noise. I was
15 wondering what it was.

16 [REDACTED]: You heard -- you potentially heard a
17 noise?

18 MR. COLE: Yeah.

19 [REDACTED]: Like a siren?

20 MR. COLE: It sounded somewhat like that.

21 [REDACTED]: I'm sorry, I, I shouldn't have put that in
22 your head. What type -- can you describe the noise?

23 MR. COLE: Hard to describe. I'm sorry.

24 [REDACTED]: That's okay. You're doing great.

25 [REDACTED]: It was a concerning noise?

1 MR. COLE: Yeah. It, it's really hard just
2 trudging all this stuff up.

3 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

4 MR. COLE: When I saw it, just forget it.

5 [REDACTED]: Yeah, just kind of block it out. But
6 so, you were wearing the face mask and then you had gloves
7 on? Why were you wearing the gloves?

8 MR. COLE: To keep fingerprints.

9 [REDACTED]: Fingerprints.

10 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

11 [REDACTED]: And the glasses you were wearing, are
12 these the glasses?

13 MR. COLE: Those were -- those are my glasses.

14 [REDACTED]: They are your regular glasses?

15 MR. COLE: The glasses I used, used to have
16 before.

17 [REDACTED]: Used to have, not these versions.

18 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

19 MR. COLE: Yeah.

20 [REDACTED]: Your prior version of glasses.

21 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Were you worried about, kind
22 of like street cameras and ring cameras on houses?

23 MR. COLE: Did they have ring cameras back then?

24 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

25 [REDACTED]: Not as common as they are now.

1 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

2 MR. COLE: Again, I, I just wasn't thinking about
3 any of that.

4 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

5 [REDACTED]: All the cameras that you have mounted on
6 your house right now, is that because you're worried about
7 this?

8 MR. COLE: All the cameras I have mounted on my
9 house?

10 [REDACTED]: On your house, there's exterior cameras
11 facing the street. Or is that related to something else?

12 MR. COLE: It's related to something else.

13 [REDACTED]: What else? What's that related to?

14 MR. COLE: One time, one time someone broke into
15 my car.

16 [REDACTED]: Okay. Crime?

17 MR. COLE: For some reason, he has never actually
18 put, put them on record. Like they can just --

19 [REDACTED]: Oh, they're just cameras? They're not
20 recording?

21 [REDACTED]: Hey listen --

22 [REDACTED]: We, we won't tell.

23 [REDACTED]: -- I have a, I have a security system that
24 I have the sign out front, but I don't know how much
25 service I get.

1 [REDACTED]: So you threw -- that's what you're
2 wearing, then you got back. When did you -- you saw
3 yourself on the news, that was really --

4 MR. COLE: Traumatic.

5 [REDACTED]: -- traumatic. And then eventually, you
6 said you started throwing away some of the pipes and end
7 caps and stuff.

8 MR. COLE: Yeah, I threw away -- I'd thrown away
9 everything.

10 [REDACTED]: Do you remember, like, what month that
11 was in?

12 MR. COLE: No, I, I genuinely don't.

13 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Did any of your family --

14 MR. COLE: No, I, I, I did not tell any of them
15 about any of this.

16 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Do you think that they would
17 recognize you if they saw the picture that was like, you
18 know, in the video or in the news?

19 MR. COLE: Probably not, but I really hope they
20 -- I don't think so.

21 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

22 MR. COLE: I really hope they don't.

23 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

24 MR. COLE: But hopefully that doesn't really
25 matter now.

1 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. But no one ever -- no one in
2 your family ever said something to you about saying that
3 the picture of the pipe bomber looked like you or anything?

4 MR. COLE: No, No.

5 [REDACTED]: Okay. Did you do anything else to try
6 to stop us from, from finding you?

7 MR. COLE: Nope. Just threw everything away --

8 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

9 MR. COLE: -- and just continued on.

10 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Go back to your routine.

11 MR. COLE: Keep my head, keep my head down and
12 just keep going.

13 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. Were you still
14 following politics closely after?

15 MR. COLE: Not closely anymore.

16 [REDACTED]: Okay. So, it was really just that kind
17 of one period that you were following it really closely and
18 you felt like something snapped inside you?

19 MR. COLE: Yeah, yeah.

20 [REDACTED]: Was there anything else that you did or
21 thought about doing?

22 MR. COLE: No.

23 [REDACTED]: It was just --

24 MR. COLE: Just that.

25 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. And what was the significance

1 of January 5th? Like why pick that night?

2 MR. COLE: Because it was just, it was just a
3 night.

4 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

5 MR. COLE: That was just at, at whim.

6 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

7 [REDACTED]: Did it have anything to do with the
8 January 6th certification?

9 MR. COLE: No.

10 [REDACTED]: Was there any sort of protest that you
11 actually knew about that night?

12 MR. COLE: No.

13 [REDACTED]: That's okay. No, I appreciate you
14 being honest.

15 MR. COLE: Yeah.

16 [REDACTED]: I didn't know if there was something
17 else going on that you had read about that you decided to
18 -- that's why you decided the 5th even if you didn't go.

19 [REDACTED]: All right. How are you doing? How are
20 you feeling?

21 MR. COLE: I really don't -- just, just thinking.

22 [REDACTED]: Do you have any questions for --

23 [REDACTED]: For us?

24 [REDACTED]: -- for us?

25 MR. COLE: No.

1 ██████: We're, we're going to step out for a few
2 more minutes and then we'll come back. Okay? Do you want
3 anything?

4 ██████: What do you want? Do you need to use the
5 bathroom?

6 MR. COLE: No, I'm good.

7 ██████: You sure?

8 ██████: Do you want anything else to eat, even
9 if it's not pizza or wings?

10 MR. COLE: I'm sure. I just need to think about
11 some things.

12 ██████: Okay.

13 ██████: Okay. We'll give you a few, few more
14 minutes, and then we'll be back. Okay?

15 (Agents leave the room.)

16 (Pause.)

17 MR. COLE: (Mumbling to self.)

18 (Pause.)

19 MR. COLE: (Mumbling to self.) What's going to
20 happen? Control it.

21 (Pause.)

22 ██████: Hey, Mr. Cole, do you need any water,
23 food, or anything? No?

24 MR. COLE: No.

25 ██████: Okay. If you need anything, let us know,

1 all right?

2 (Pause.)

3 (Mr. Cole knocks on door.)

4 MR. COLE: Hey, can I, can I go to the bathroom?

5 MALE VOICE: Yeah, sure. Come, come with, come

6 with us, okay. Actually, yeah, we're going to, we're going

7 to go this way to the restroom. All right.

8 (Pause.)

9 (Mr. Cole comes back into room.)

10 MALE VOICE: I know I already asked but would you

11 like any, any food or, or anything else to drink?

12 MR. COLE: Nope, I'm good.

13 MALE VOICE: Okay. Let me know if you need

14 anything, all right?

15 MR. COLE: All right. (Mumbling to self.)

16 (Pause.)

17 (Agents enter room.)

18 [REDACTED]: Brian, we're almost done.

19 [REDACTED]: I know it's been a long day.

20 [REDACTED]: It's been a really long day. So we got

21 good news. All right, so good news is that you're not

22 going to go see the judge today like we talked about. It's

23 going to be tomorrow. Okay? And [REDACTED] and I are going

24 to be there as well with you. Okay?

25 MR. COLE: Okay.

1 ██████: So you'll have a friendly face -- a
2 friendly face tomorrow.

3 We do have a few follow-up questions, if that's
4 okay.

5 MR. COLE: Yeah.

6 ██████: Okay, we're going to show you another
7 picture. It's not of you, it's just --

8 ██████: It's not of you.

9 ██████: -- a device. It's just of a device.

10 MR. COLE: I don't like looking at it.

11 ██████: Okay.

12 ██████: You don't like looking at it? You know
13 what, let's --

14 ██████: You don't have to look at it. We can -
15 - I can just talk about it and ask my questions.

16 So, so this, these two devices, how did you find
17 instructions, or follow instructions for building them?
18 Like, how'd you know what to do?

19 MR. COLE: Just -- I just -- science how
20 explosions work.

21 ██████: But how did you learn how explosions work?

22 MR. COLE: It's just, like I said, just science.
23 You -- it's a tightly -- a tight, confined space, when --
24 just, that's how it is, right?

25 ██████: But how did you know, like, to put, like,

1 a steel wall in there?

2 MR. COLE: Just, just different science videos on
3 YouTube.

4 [REDACTED]: Different science videos on YouTube. Did
5 you watch, like, a particular video that kind of talked
6 about construction of IEDs?

7 MR. COLE: No, no. There was, like, none of that
8 on YouTube. I don't think there was anything on YouTube
9 even back then.

10 [REDACTED]: Okay, because there are a couple unique
11 things about this, this particular design that we haven't
12 seen before in other places. So we're, so we really just
13 wanted to understand, like, how you came up with this
14 particular design.

15 MR. COLE: I wasn't thinking about it. I just, I
16 just put things together, just followed whatever I thought
17 was, just followed whatever I thought was logical, and then
18 just put it together.

19 [REDACTED]: Just put it together. Did you, would you,
20 it sounds like you kind of tinkered with some of this
21 stuff. Did you usually do this -- where did you do this in
22 the house?

23 MR. COLE: In my old bedroom.

24 [REDACTED]: And your bedroom's where?

25 MR. COLE: When I, when I lived upstairs.

1 [REDACTED]: Oh, you said your old bedroom.

2 MR. COLE: Yeah.

3 [REDACTED]: So you would do this type of work in your
4 old bedroom?

5 MR. COLE: Mm-hmm.

6 [REDACTED]: And your parents, no one ever saw you with
7 these items?

8 MR. COLE: No.

9 [REDACTED]: Where, where, where did you hide them?

10 MR. COLE: Closet.

11 [REDACTED]: You just put them in your closet?

12 MR. COLE: Yeah, but my closet was messy back
13 then.

14 (Laughter.)

15 [REDACTED]: So you would just, like, throw them in
16 there, and then put some clothes on top of it, and they
17 never found them?

18 MR. COLE: Yeah.

19 [REDACTED]: No one in your family had ever talked to
20 you about this activity?

21 MR. COLE: No.

22 [REDACTED]: And one time you said you spilled some
23 bleach or something on the carpet?

24 MR. COLE: That was -- oh, wait a second, he said
25 that was, that was unrelated.

1 ██████: Oh, okay.

2 MR. COLE: That's just a completely different
3 science thing.

4 ██████: Okay, what was that science thing?

5 MR. COLE: I wanted to make some -- what was it
6 called, potassium chlorate or something.

7 ██████: Mm-hm.

8 MR. COLE: It was, it was completely, it was
9 completely different.

10 ██████: Okay.

11 MR. COLE: It happened, like, way after.

12 ██████: Mm-hmm.

13 ██████: But that, that science experiment, what
14 was the purpose of that? What was it --

15 MR. COLE: I just, I just wanted to make it.

16 ██████: Potassium chlorate, what can that be used
17 for?

18 MR. COLE: I honestly have no idea. I saw what,
19 something that was cool on YouTube, and I wanted to
20 replicate it.

21 ██████: Was it a part of a different type of IED?

22 MR. COLE: No, no.

23 ██████: No?

24 MR. COLE: No.

25 ██████: Because I did notice in your purchase

1 history you had a bunch of beaker sets and stuff like that.

2 MR. COLE: Yeah, that came -- all those on
3 Amazon, that was, that was for the, that was for that.

4 [REDACTED]: For the potassium chloride (sic)
5 experiment?

6 MR. COLE: Yeah.

7 [REDACTED]: Not for the construction of the black
8 powder?

9 MR. COLE: No.

10 [REDACTED]: And, oh yeah, I forgot to ask, you
11 purchased a bunch of funnels, is that what you used to get
12 the black powder into the pipes? How did you get the black
13 powder into the pipes?

14 MR. COLE: I just poured them in.

15 [REDACTED]: How -- what kind of drum did you make the
16 black powder in? Is it like --

17 MR. COLE: Just Pyrex.

18 [REDACTED]: Like a Pyrex bowl?

19 MR. COLE: Yeah.

20 [REDACTED]: So you would put the components, so you
21 put charcoal, sulfur, and nitrate, is that right? You put
22 them in a bowl and you just mixed it up?

23 MR. COLE: Yeah.

24 [REDACTED]: And then you took the pipe and you took
25 the bowl and you just dumped it in?

1 MR. COLE: I had a spoon, I poured it -- I used a
2 spoon or a ladle or a measuring cup or something, just
3 poured it.

4 [REDACTED]: Okay, so you, a ladle or a measuring cup
5 to like pour it in like that?

6 MR. COLE: Yeah.

7 [REDACTED]: Okay.

8 [REDACTED]: And then you said you never tested any
9 of these devices?

10 MR. COLE: Right.

11 [REDACTED]: From your understanding, how big of an
12 explosion would one of these devices kind of result in?

13 MR. COLE: I honestly don't, I honestly don't
14 know.

15 [REDACTED]: Have you ever tested the timer, the
16 kitchen timer?

17 MR. COLE: No, I never tested any of this.

18 [REDACTED]: You never tested the kitchen timer?

19 MR. COLE: No. Like I said, this was -- all this
20 stuff was like spur of the moment. I didn't, I didn't
21 really test anything.

22 [REDACTED]: And then that night after you set the
23 timer and left the devices, did you stay in the city to
24 like, see if --

25 MR. COLE: No, I immediately left.

1 [REDACTED]: Okay. Did you follow up on, like, look
2 on the news or anything to try to see if they went off or
3 if anyone found them?

4 MR. COLE: No, I was on my way home. I was on my
5 way home. I couldn't believe I just did. I just wanted to
6 just wanted to block everything out.

7 [REDACTED]: Mm-hm.

8 [REDACTED]: Did you go directly from DC right to
9 Capitol Ale House?

10 MR. COLE: Yeah.

11 [REDACTED]: And did you just pick up food or you
12 talked to someone there?

13 MR. COLE: I picked up food.

14 [REDACTED]: You picked up food?

15 MR. COLE: Yeah.

16 [REDACTED]: And then after you got your food, where
17 did you go?

18 MR. COLE: I went home.

19 [REDACTED]: You just went directly home?

20 MR. COLE: Yeah.

21 [REDACTED]: You talk to anyone that night?

22 MR. COLE: No.

23 [REDACTED]: Can we show you one number in case you
24 recognize it of someone that you may have called that
25 night? I don't know if you'll recognize it. It's 703-991-

1 2110.

2 MR. COLE: I think that, I think that was the
3 number for the Ale House.

4 [REDACTED]: So the Ale House is 2550.

5 MR. COLE: 2550.

6 [REDACTED]: This is a different number. You were
7 actually in touch with this number around one o'clock that
8 day. You had -

9 MR. COLE: One o'clock?

10 [REDACTED]: Yeah, one o'clock. You had --

11 MR. COLE: P.M.?

12 [REDACTED]: Yeah. Not at night. So this is actually
13 one o'clock. Three texts, two incoming texts and one
14 outgoing text.

15 MR. COLE: I don't think I remember anything
16 about this number.

17 [REDACTED]: Okay.

18 [REDACTED]: That's okay, just wanted to ask if you
19 recognize it.

20 MR. COLE: It could be one of those bot calls. I
21 don't --

22 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

23 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

24 MR. COLE: Because I received a lot of those.

25 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

1 MR. COLE: Do you ever text with people from
2 work? Like, not your co-workers or family, but are there
3 any other people that you text with as part of your job?

4 MR. COLE: Only for like what clients need to be
5 entered and stuff.

6 [REDACTED]: Okay.

7 MR. COLE: Like, clients need to be entered and
8 stuff, I-391s, because I work at a bail bonding company.

9 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

10 MR. COLE: And one of the departments I work in
11 is immigration bonds.

12 [REDACTED]: Okay.

13 MR. COLE: So whenever they need me to enter
14 something or need me to find something or need me to enter
15 notices, they'll text me.

16 [REDACTED]: Okay. So that could have been, maybe.

17 Any other device questions?

18 [REDACTED]: We didn't talk about the paper clips. So
19 you glued the paper clips to the timer?

20 MR. COLE: Yeah.

21 [REDACTED]: And the way that you would -- tell me, is
22 it so that you would set it, so then as the timer would
23 tick down, you would wait for the two paper clips to touch.
24 Is that correct?

25 MR. COLE: Yeah. Basic electricity.

1 [REDACTED]: Basic electricity, so you completed the
2 circuit?

3 MR. COLE: Yeah.

4 [REDACTED]: And then once the paper clips touched,
5 nine-volt battery would then heat up the steel wool? Is
6 that correct?

7 MR. COLE: Yeah.

8 [REDACTED]: And then eventually you would hopefully
9 ignite the explosive?

10 MR. COLE: Yeah.

11 [REDACTED]: Why did you use alligator clips?

12 MR. COLE: Just to clip it.

13 [REDACTED]: Okay.

14 MR. COLE: Just more, just more metal, more
15 electricity.

16 [REDACTED]: Did you ever think about using like,
17 insulated alligator clips versus these non-insulated ones?

18 MR. COLE: Not really.

19 [REDACTED]: Okay.

20 [REDACTED]: And how long do you think it took you
21 to make these two devices?

22 MR. COLE: Maybe a couple, maybe a couple -- it
23 depend -- did that include buying all the --

24 [REDACTED]: No, let's not talk about the purchase.

25 When you actually assembled it, how long did it take you to

1 assemble it?

2 MR. COLE: Like a few days.

3 [REDACTED]: A few days. And did you assemble it the
4 days before January 5th?

5 MR. COLE: I assembled it that night.

6 [REDACTED]: You assembled this on January 5th?

7 MR. COLE: Like -- yeah.

8 [REDACTED]: So you connected -- so when did you
9 actually pour the black powder in the pipes?

10 MR. COLE: Like, in, like, the hours before I
11 went.

12 [REDACTED]: Okay. So this all happened on January
13 5th. Correct?

14 MR. COLE: Yeah.

15 [REDACTED]: Okay.

16 MR. COLE: And when did you decide that you were
17 going to make these and bring them into DC?

18 MR. COLE: Like, like weeks before --

19 [REDACTED]: Okay.

20 MR. COLE: -- like, maybe -- I don't know how
21 many (inaudible) this before --

22 [REDACTED]: So it had been on your mind, and you
23 decided that you were going to do it.

24 MR. COLE: Yep.

25 [REDACTED]: And then --

1 MR. COLE: Then I stepped out of the routine.

2 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Then you stepped out of the
3 routine.

4 [REDACTED]: One bad night.

5 MR. COLE: I had a chance to just walk away. I
6 had one moment of clarity and I didn't listen to myself. I
7 disappointed everyone.

8 MR. COLE: Well, you know, now you can rest easy,
9 okay? The truth is out there. It was a brave thing you
10 did today.

11 MR. COLE: I don't know how many times I wanted
12 to turn myself in.

13 [REDACTED]: You wanted to turn yourself in?

14 MR. COLE: So, so many times.

15 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

16 MR. COLE: I'd be just scared.

17 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

18 [REDACTED]: Yeah. It makes sense.

19 [REDACTED]: You kind of wanted to just get it off
20 your chest in a way?

21 MR. COLE: Just tell someone. I just couldn't.

22 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Well, we're grateful you told
23 us. I hope you feel a little bit better even though I know
24 you're mad at yourself for stepping out of your routine.

25 MR. COLE: It's not the stepping out of the

1 routine that matters the most. It's just the fact that I
2 did something so stupid.

3 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

4 MR. COLE: Stepping out of the routine itself
5 isn't bad, but it's what you do during it.

6 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

7 MR. COLE: I have stepped out of the routine,
8 like, before, but this was just -- just this.

9 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

10 [REDACTED]: We also got good news, in addition more
11 good news. So we're not going to bring all your family
12 into DC for questioning, because you were so forthright
13 with us.

14 MR. COLE: I don't want them to think I let them
15 down.

16 [REDACTED]: But listen, like I said before, they're
17 your family. They love you. That's not going to change.
18 Okay? But at least they don't have to get drug down here
19 to DC and testify in court, you know? So that's a good
20 thing.

21 MR. COLE: Yeah.

22 [REDACTED]: I think we just have --

23 MR. COLE: I don't think I can -- I don't think I
24 can face them after all this.

25 [REDACTED]: I know it'll be hard, but they're your

1 family. You'll be able to do it and they'll be there for
2 you.

3 MR. COLE: I hurt them so much.

4 [REDACTED]: I think we just got one more question
5 for you about the picture of the shoes that we showed you
6 earlier, the Nikes. I know you said you had bought them
7 yourself with the Capital One credit card, and then gave
8 them away saying the holes -- did you already ask this?
9 (Inaudible.)

10 Do you remember if you bought them online or in a
11 store?

12 MR. COLE: Store.

13 [REDACTED]: Do you remember what store?

14 MR. COLE: I don't. Could have been Foot Locker,
15 could have been the Nike store at the Potomac Mills mall,
16 but --

17 [REDACTED]: Okay.

18 MR. COLE: -- I don't remember.

19 [REDACTED]: Nike or Foot Locker. Nike store at
20 Potomac Mills or Foot Locker?

21 MR. COLE: All I know is that I've had them for a
22 pretty long time and rarely wore them.

23 [REDACTED]: Is there any reason why you wore those
24 shoes that night?

25 MR. COLE: I just thought that they were

1 unfamiliar. At that point I was wearing something else.

2 [REDACTED]: Okay, so you wore shoes that you thought
3 were unfamiliar?

4 MR. COLE: Yeah.

5 [REDACTED]: And people wouldn't recognize you in
6 these shoes because you've been wearing something else
7 recently.

8 MR. COLE: Yeah, but a long time ago. Those
9 shoes are, pretty sure they're like years old at that
10 point.

11 [REDACTED]: Mm-hmm.

12 [REDACTED]: Okay. Well, Brian, I know how hard today
13 was. We appreciate you coming forward with this
14 information. We truly do. And I hope it's some sort of
15 relief for you to kind of get this off your chest. We're
16 going to step out one more time and I apologize for it.
17 And I think at that point we'll probably move to another
18 location. So before we go, do you need anything?

19 MR. COLE: No.

20 [REDACTED]: Okay. Bathroom? You squared away in
21 the bathroom?

22 MR. COLE: Yeah.

23 [REDACTED]: I'm assuming you don't want this food
24 anymore? Or do you want it?

25 MR. COLE: Part of me wants it but, just part of

1 me lost my appetite.

2 [REDACTED]: So you don't want the food anymore?

3 [REDACTED]: You want us to heat it up for you? You
4 haven't eaten anything all day yet.

5 MR. COLE: Sure.

6 [REDACTED]: Okay, we'll heat it up for you. It'd
7 probably be good for you to eat something. Anything else?

8 [REDACTED]: No.

9 [REDACTED]: Okay. All right, we'll step out one more
10 time and then we'll probably move --

11 [REDACTED]: -- tell you next steps.

12 MR. COLE: All right.

13 [REDACTED]: We'll heat up this pizza, too.

14 [REDACTED]: Yeah, we have the chicken wings, too.

15 [REDACTED]: You want chicken wings or pizza?

16 MR. COLE: Pizza.

17 [REDACTED]: Just pizza?

18 MR. COLE: Yeah.

19 (Agents leave room.)

20 MR. COLE: (Mumbling to self.)

21 (Pause.)

22 (Door opens.)

23 [REDACTED]: Hey Mr. Cole, we've got some pizza here
24 for you. These are heated up. Probably smart for you to
25 get some food in your belly just because it could be a

1 minute before you get to have food. So this one's cheese,
2 this one's pepperoni. Yeah. And if you need anything
3 else, let me know. You got water? Coke? Sound good?

4 MR. COLE: Yeah, thank you.

5 [REDACTED]: All right, perfect.

6 ([REDACTED] leaves room.)

7 (Pause.)

8 MR. COLE: (Mumbles to self.) but I just -- I
9 just can't make it stop. (Mumbles to self).

10 (Door opens.)

11 [REDACTED]: Doing all right, Mr. Cole?

12 MR. COLE: Yeah.

13 [REDACTED]: Warm enough?

14 MR. COLE: Yeah.

15 [REDACTED]: Okay. If you need anything, I'll be in
16 the hall, all right?

17 (Door closes.)

18 (Pause.)

19 MR. COLE: (Mumbles to self) so be it. Whatever
20 punishment they give me (inaudible). Whatever punishment
21 they give me.

22 (Pause.)

23 MR. COLE: (Mumbles to self) their family.

24 (Inaudible).

25 (Pause.)

1 MR. COLE: (Inaudible) just take it one step at a
2 time, right?

3 (Door opens.)

4 [REDACTED]: You doing all right, sir?

5 MR. COLE: Just -- I'm all right, yeah. I'm just
6 -- I've calmed down.

7 [REDACTED]: Do you need to use the restroom or
8 anything? No?

9 MR. COLE: No, I'm good.

10 [REDACTED]: Okay.

11 MR. COLE: Okay.

12 [REDACTED]: All right, well if you need to use the
13 restroom or anything, just let me know, all right?

14 MR. COLE: Thank you.

15 (Pause.)

16 (Mr. Cole mumbles to self.)

17 (Pause.)

18 (Door opens.)

19 [REDACTED]: Doing all right, Mr. Cole?

20 MR. COLE: Yeah, I'm, I'm doing better.

21 [REDACTED]: Do you need the restroom or anything like
22 that?

23 MR. COLE: No.

24 [REDACTED]: No? All right. If you need any more
25 water, let me know, okay?

1 MR. COLE: Okay.

2 (Door closes.)

3 (Pause.)

4 MALE VOICE: (Talking outside the room.) Hey. I
5 just need to use the restroom and then I can come back and
6 get him. All right, cool.

7 (Pause.)

8 (Mr. Cole continues to mumbles to self.)

9 (Pause.)

10 (Talking outside room.)

11 [REDACTED]: (Inaudible.) So sorry.

12 MALE VOICE: Oh cool.

13 [REDACTED]: So sorry (inaudible).

14 MALE VOICE: No, it's okay. (Inaudible.) Mr.
15 Cole's in here.

16 [REDACTED]: (Inaudible) thanks (inaudible).

17 (Pause.)

18 (Indiscernible talking outside room.)

19 [REDACTED]: All right, watch. All right, Brian.

20 We're going to move, okay?

21 MR. COLE: You're going to stay with me?

22 [REDACTED]: [REDACTED]n and I are going to go with you.

23 Okay?

24 MR. COLE: Thank you.

25 [REDACTED]: Did you use the restroom or anything

1 before, uh --

2 MR. COLE: No.

3 [REDACTED]: Okay. You sure?

4 MR. COLE: I'm sure.

5 [REDACTED]: Okay. You can just leave the blankets
6 there.

7 [REDACTED]: All right, I'm going to go ahead and put
8 handcuffs on you, all right? We're not going to be going
9 that far.

10 [REDACTED]: Yeah, this is not a 45 minute ride. This
11 is a 5 minute ride. Okay?

12 [REDACTED]: There we go. You got it? Yep. All
13 right. Are they comfortable enough? These aren't too
14 tight. I'm going to just go ahead and make sure they don't
15 climb.

16 MR. COLE: All right.

17 [REDACTED]: All right, all good?

18 MR. COLE: Yes.

19 MALE VOICE: Feels like you're pretty comfortable
20 there. All right. All right. Would you mind grabbing
21 this, uh --

22 [REDACTED]: Yeah, I got it. I got this. All right.
23 Where did [REDACTED] go?

24 [REDACTED]: She's --

25 (Pause.)

1 (End of video.)

2 * * * * *

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

TRANSCRIBER'S CERTIFICATE

Diversified Reporting Services hereby certifies that the foregoing pages represent a transcript of the interview of Brian Cole, Jr., taken on 12/4/25, in the case of:

United States v. Brian Cole, Jr.

Case No. 25-MJ-276

of the Provided Material for the United States Attorney's Office.

Michelle Yenchochic

Michelle Yenchochic, Transcriber