

# Vincent Foster's Secret NSA Binders and his Strange “Suicide” Note

Deborah Gorham (Vincent Foster’s secretary) also revealed that Foster had given her two National Security Agency one-inch ring binders to put in the safe that was kept in [White House Counsel Bernard] Nussbaum's office. She said one was white, but she did not recall the color of the other. The NSA is a supersecret agency that has the capability of intercepting communications around the globe. Its materials carry cosmic classifications and must be kept in special high security areas and safes. This startling and puzzling revelation was made when [Gorham was deposed](#) by Senate committee investigators, but no one even mentioned it during the hearings.

6       A     That's correct.

7       Q     Did Mr. Foster keep any documents in

8     Mr. Nussbaum's safe?

9       A     Yes, he did.

10      Q     What documents do you believe Mr. Foster

11     kept in Mr. Nussbaum's safe?

12           MR. MILLS: You can describe the subject

13     matter of the documents.

14           THE WITNESS: There were two 1-inch ring

15     binders that were from National Security Agency.

16           BY MR. JOHNSON:


17      Q     What color were they?

18      A     I think one was white, but I don't recall

19     the other color.

20      Q     To the best of your knowledge, did

21     Mr. Foster keep anything else in that safe?



Our intelligence sources say they cannot conceive of any reason why Vince Foster would have a security clearance authorizing him to hold NSA binders, and Nussbaum's safe would not qualify as a sufficiently secure repository for such material. That is shown by the fact that [White House aide] Patsy Thomasson, who had no security clearance at all, was able to get into the counsel's suite and rummage through Foster's papers on the night he died.

Gorham said that although she opened the safe to put in material for Nussbaum after Foster's death, she did not notice whether or not the NSA binders were still there. Why they were there or what became of them remains a mystery that should be cleared up.

**Rumors were already circulating that Foster was a CIA agent on the one hand and that that he was selling U.S. secrets to foreign countries on the other. His possession of NSA material will fuel such stories.** If the committee does not deal with this matter openly, such rumors are bound to flourish. Reporters were able to get Gorham's deposition, but the only one to mention the NSA binders was Ambrose Evans-Pritchard of the London Sunday Telegraph.

### **When Did The White House Know?**

Another intriguing statement in the hearings that went unnoticed was made by David Watkins, the Clinton aide in charge of White House administration. Explaining why he called his assistant, Patsy Thomasson, at 10:30 p.m. the night of Foster's death and asked her to go to Foster's office, Watkins said that he knew that the Park Police had already been in touch with the Secret Service "for some five hours." Five hours would put the first contact at 5:30p.m., 40 minutes before the Park Police found Foster's body, which would be weird, to say the least. But there are claims that the Secret Service and some people in the White House knew of Foster's death prior to 7:00 p.m, much earlier than the White House has reported. These claims are based on telephone calls made from the White House to the governor's mansion in Little Rock, from Fort Marcy to the Secret Service in the White House and from the White House to the Air Force plane carrying Mrs. Clinton to Little Rock.

The refusal of the White House to release the phone records of the times of these calls creates suspicion that the calls were made earlier than the White House wants to admit. Watkins was in a position to have access to those records. Perhaps his statement, though exaggerated, reflected knowledge that the White House was informed of Foster's death as much as 90 minutes sooner than it has publicly admitted. The media have shown no interest in this at all. The Senate committee is trying to get the records of calls to and from Mrs. Clinton, but if the media were doing their job they would press the committee to demand the release of all these records. If the White House learned of Foster's death before 7:00 p.m., the Senators should find out why the White House claims it was not informed until after 8:00 p.m. and the President wasn't informed until after 9:00 p.m.

### **The Note That Will Not Fly**

Associate Counsel Steven Neuwirth demonstrated at the hearings how he found the tom-up note that was supposedly overlooked at the bottom of Foster's briefcase for six days. He turned the briefcase with the opening to one side. He claimed that this resulted in pieces of yellow paper falling out. It was a frustrating demonstration for those who saw it on TV, because the Senators didn't ask that scraps of paper be put in the briefcase to see if they would fall out. We conducted our own test using a similar briefcase and 27 scraps of paper on AIM's TV show. We couldn't get any scraps of paper to fly out even when we shook the briefcase while holding it in the position demonstrated by Neuwirth. No investigative reporters put Neuwirth's claim to this simple test, showing the lack of interest on the part of the media in following up disclosures at

the hearings with any investigative work of their own. In the Watergate and Iran-Contra hearings, the reporting helped drive the investigations. During the Whitewater hearings there has been little reporting by the media, much less any investigation.

**It is highly improbable that the note was found torn up in the briefcase. The absence of Foster's fingerprints suggests that he neither wrote nor ripped it. Suspicion that it was forged gained support from another strange incident recounted by Linda Tripp, Nussbaum's secretary.** She testified that late in the evening of July 26, the day the note surfaced, she recalled Associate Counsel Cliff Sloan coming out of Nussbaum's office and asking for a typewriter. She asked why he needed a typewriter when they had five computers, but he wanted a typewriter. She pointed out it would be difficult to move one of the two typewriters in the counsel's office because the cords were taped to the floor. She said, "I offered to get him a typewriter from elsewhere. He indicated that was not something he chose for me to do at that point, and he went back in the office." She said that "to her best recollection" it was Sloan, but Sloan denied being there.

**Why would Nussbaum and his associate counsel need a typewriter? If they wanted to type out the text of the note, why not use Nussbaum's computer? Or, if it had to be done on a typewriter, why only one from that office? Could it be that they wanted a typewriter that Vince Foster might have used because they thought that a typed note would be better than what they had?**

### **Cop Calls Nussbaum A Liar**

Detective Peter W. Markland of the Park Police testified that at the search of Foster's office conducted by Bernie Nussbaum, he had a "clear view" of the briefcase when Nussbaum spread it open "with both hands" and said it was empty. After the note turned up, Markland said, he confronted Nussbaum and told him it would have been "impossible for him to have missed the note...and I was accusing him of lying." Markland said, "I do not believe...the note was found in the manner Mr. Nussbaum represented." The Washington Times made that the lead of its front-page story. Other papers and the networks didn't even mention it.

[Source: AIM Report, August-B, 1995, Editor – Reed Irvine](#)