

Excerpts Book Two, "...When Police and Politics Collide". The Interesting political relationship of Portland Mayor Clark and Former US Attorney Sidney Lezak.

"[To investigate and review the allegation that Officer Gary Harrington leaked evidence of the secret task force investigation and the role of Chief Penny Harrington in the alleged events, Mayor Clark...] ...appointed former United States attorney for the district of Oregon Sidney I. Lezak to chair the special review commission. He also appointed judge John C. Beatty Jr., a retired Multnomah County Circuit Court judge and colonel H. D. Watson of the Oregon State Police Department.

...issues simmered just below the surface. To Clark and others, Lezak was a friend of the cause, 'a liberal Democrat who worked hard to keep politics out of his office ...'⁵⁷ Yet Sidney Lezak had also been one of Clark's hand-picked campaign staff during his mayoral election—hardly a detached bystander without loyalty to or patronage of Mayor Clark.

Moreover, Sidney Lezak had another secret, a secret of which few others in his new world were aware. It was widely known that he was a former United States attorney for the district of Oregon, who had left his office in 1982, after the election of Republican president Ronald Reagan. It was not widely known that he left his office due to political conflict that resulted in his replacement. Nor was it widely known that his replacement was the Republican then—chief assistant United States attorney Charles Turner. That secret was plainly illuminated during the next few weeks, when the current United States attorney Charles Turner made clear his dislike of the former United States attorney Sidney Lezak's liberal views, his lack of judgment, and his record, saying, 'He never prosecuted a drug case in his career.'

The mayor's appointment of Lezak to the special review commission reeked of political favor and forecast a destiny of fireworks. And there was more fuel for the coming fire within the mayor's office. City attorney Jeffrey Rogers—Mayor Clark and Chief Harrington's principal advisor—worked for Sidney Lezak. In fact, Rogers, a former assistant United States attorney, had worked for both Sidney Lezak and Charles Turner (after Turner replaced Lezak). Like Lezak, Rogers sported a politically liberal bent that showed in his work, and that did not sit well with the newly appointed United States attorney. Soon after Turner's appointment, confrontations between him and AUSA Jeffrey Rogers's spouse, AUSA Kristine Rogers, had led to AUSA Jeff Rogers's resignation from the United States attorney's office. All of it set the stage for the upcoming storm.

During the late April hearings, Sidney Lezak, chairman of the special review commission privately notified the task force's attorneys that he would have a meeting to organize the upcoming hearings as they pertained to Gary Harrington. Lezak scheduled the meeting for two thirty in the afternoon on May 2, 1986, and asked the leaders attend. The attendees and invited guests included: from the special review commission, Sidney Lezak and colonel H. Doyle Watson; from the office of the United States attorney, Charles Turner and his chief assistant attorneys John Wong and Barry Sheldahl; from the DEA, resident agent in charge, Connie McGeahan; from the office of the Multnomah County district attorney, Michael Schrunk and the deputy district attorney, Norman Frink (also a special assistant United States attorney); and from the Portland Police Bureau, captain Ed Davis and me.

On the day of the meeting, more confirmation arrived. Ken Bauman telephoned, requesting my presence in Turner's office one-half hour before the scheduled meeting, "for a pre-meeting." Charles Turner was at his desk when I arrived in my best three-piece suit at two o'clock. Other task force members, similarly dressed, were already there—Michael Schrunk, Norm Frink, Jack Wong, and Barry Sheldahl.

Despite their dress though, there was nothing formal about their demeanor. As I came into view, passing the reception desk, all eyes looked impishly away from Turner, and focused on me for what seemed a couple minutes—probably really five seconds. They were talking amongst themselves in whispered tones. And they were snickering under their breath, avoiding

eye contact with Turner, who seemed to be busy with his own thoughts. And I wondered, *Is this pre-meeting about me?*

In a flash of anxiety and insecurity, I quickly followed their eyes back to Charlie Turner. And discovered it wasn't about me. It was all about Charlie Turner. The statesmanlike United States attorney, seated at his dark walnut executive-style desk in an expansive top-level office suite overlooking some of the nicest downtown Portland real estate, working amongst some of the most powerful business-suited attorneys in the Northwest, was dressed for our high-level meeting in a dowdy sweater and blue jeans! More than that, his family's large German shepherd laid quietly on the plush Berber carpet right below him!

The statuesque man was completely out of his normally professional and formal character. And it immediately became apparent that everyone's dodging glances and forestalling jabber was cover. Everybody there wondered what the United States attorney had planned, but apparently, they were waiting for the last guy in the room to be seated before they dared to ask.

By now, Charlie Turner was the only one in the room without a smile on his face. Suddenly noticing our surprised looks, he got right to it. He was almost matter-of-fact, without emotion. 'Look you guys, Sid hates me. He'll hate the way I've dressed today. He hates informality in the office. And he'll hate my dog. I think, in fact, he may be allergic to dogs. He'll sit right here, next to my dog.' He pointed to a lone chair, positioned immediately to the left of his desk, and right next to his family pet. 'You guys fill all the chairs, there—' He pointed to a series of empty chairs, positioned in audience to his, directly in front of his desk. '—so he cannot sit anywhere else but next to my dog.' In full stride, he went right on, leaving no time for interjection. 'Regarding the agenda, we will not vary from my agenda. Lezak will attempt to run this meeting. I won't let it happen.'

...right on cue, Sidney Lezak, Doyle Watson, and Jeffrey Rogers walked into his office. The attendees exchanged greetings, but not much more than that. Charlie Turner did not offer a seat to any of the new arrivals. They stood there, talking amongst themselves just inside the doorway, a few feet from Turner's desk. Another twenty minutes ran by before the last invited guest, DEA resident agent-in-charge Connie McGeahan arrived. At 2:30 p.m., He took the one seat left between Captain Davis and me.

Turner opened the meeting still seated at his desk. Sidney Lezak moved further into the office space and, seeing that there were not three chairs open, stood to the right of the open chair—and the dog—next to Turner's desk, right where Turner wanted him. Colonel Doyle Watson, seeing that Lezak had chosen to stand, moved graciously by him and took the one open seat next to Turner's dog. Rogers found an available seat in the back of the audience section.

Turner distributed copies of the agenda, saying, 'For purposes of time, we need to confine this meeting to the agenda you all have before you...' Sidney Lezak interrupted, 'Listen, I respect the confidentiality on everything, but now I want to relate the commission's opinion of the case against Gary Harrington ...' It was the first time I'd heard Chairman Lezak speak. He was soft-spoken, confident, and commanding. It went downhill from there. Lezak went into a three-minute monologue: 'Gary Harrington's criminal investigation is concluded. The Portland police IIU investigation is also concluded. And the commission has received their report. The evidence indicates no sinister activity on the part of either Harrington... Gary Harrington may have violated bureau general orders, but there is no indication that this was a deliberate effort to compromise the task force case or protect himself. It was an act committed because of too much booze and shooting off his mouth. Of course, as the evidence shows, the chief was aware of these contacts but thought there was no jeopardy to the case... We can close the hearings by calling Gary Harrington and Penny Harrington in rebuttal. We will not need any other testimony to conclude the commission's review...'

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