

1 | this phone call in response in part to his questions, that
2 | some of the conversation would be on-the-record, some of it
3 | would be on deep background, some of it might be off-the-
4 | record, but we would have different layers of, of press
5 | conversations.

6 | So I -- after she finished that preliminary, I
7 | talked to him about the Tenet statement and I gave him this
8 | quotation on-the-record that we had here, and I think I also
9 | covered some of these background points with him in the phone
10 | call. And so I went through that, that the Vice President had
11 | asked a question that -- this is same thing, isn't it?

12 | Q. Without --

13 | A. Yes.

14 | Q. -- repeating -- without repeating what is in the
15 | statement that had been agreed that you would tell him, did
16 | you have a discussion with Mr. Cooper about Wilson's wife?

17 | A. Yes, sir.

18 | Q. Okay. Tell us about that conversation.

19 | A. I went through -- just a little bit of preliminary.
20 | I went through these points and I went through what Tenet had
21 | said that, you know, the day before in his statement, you
22 | know, I hope you noticed Director Tenet's statement the day
23 | before, which is why we were making these calls, which said
24 | that I -- that he hadn't made the, he hadn't made the request
25 | and he hadn't gotten the reports on it. And after all of

1 that, Matthew Cooper said, "well then why does Wilson say it?"
2 And you know, I was a little taken aback because here we have
3 the Director of Central Intelligence saying the Vice President
4 didn't request it, the Vice President saying he hadn't
5 requested it in his statement, White House spokesman etcetera,
6 etcetera. And instead of sort of saying, oh, well, I see that
7 he didn't request it, he said, well, why does Wilson say it?
8 Wilson, of course, had said earlier in the week that someone
9 had told him that the Vice President had asked for his
10 mission. So I said, well, I don't know why he said it. You
11 know, I said, we're off-the-record, and he agreed. And I
12 said, someone -- I don't know why he said it, but I would have
13 thought -- off-the-record, I would have thought that, that the
14 CIA wouldn't tell somebody who is going on a mission who asked
15 about it. And you know, conversation the Vice President has
16 about these things are supposed to be confidential. But if he
17 did -- if they did officially -- they wouldn't officially tell
18 such a thing. If they did officially tell someone, they would
19 tell them the right thing, which was that the CIA decided to
20 do it, which is what Director Tenet had said in his statement
21 the day before. So I wouldn't have thought that officially he
22 heard this, which -- but it -- you know, it's possible he
23 heard something unofficially. And if he heard something
24 possibly unofficially, you know, maybe he knows somebody there
25 and somebody said something to him that was wrong because it

1 was unofficial. And in that context, I said, you know, off-
2 the-record, reporters are telling us that Ambassador Wilson's
3 wife works at the CIA and I don't know if it's true. As I
4 told you, we don't know Mr. Wilson, we didn't know anything
5 about his mission, so I don't know that it's true. But if
6 it's true, it may explain how he knows some people at the
7 Agency and maybe he got some bad skinny, you know, some bad
8 information. So that was the discussion about Ambassador
9 Wilson's wife.

10 Q. And his response?

11 A. I don't recall specifically what he said about that.
12 I recall the response, "why does he say it," because that's
13 what led into this conversation.

14 Q. And it's your specific recollection that when you
15 told Cooper about Wilson's wife working at the CIA, you
16 attributed that fact to what reporters --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- plural, were saying. Correct?

19 A. I was very clear to say reporters are telling us
20 that because in my mind I still didn't know it as a fact. I
21 thought I was -- all I had was this information that was
22 coming in from the reporters.

23 Q. And at the same time you have a specific
24 recollection of telling him, you don't know whether it's true
25 or not, you're just telling him what reporters are saying?

1 A. Yes, that's correct, sir. And I said, reporters are
2 telling us that, I don't know if it's true. I was careful
3 about that because among other things, I wanted to be clear I
4 didn't know Mr. Wilson. I don't know -- I think I said, I
5 don't know if he has a wife, but this is what we're hearing.

6 Q. Did you have any further conversation about Wilson
7 and his wife with Cooper during this phone call?

8 A. I don't think so and I don't think I had a
9 subsequent phone call with him. That was it for Mr. Cooper.

10 Q. And consistent with your practice would Cooper have
11 to call you back to verify the quote in his article to say
12 here's what, what I attribute to Lewis Libby?

13 A. No, that -- this would be an exception because I
14 gave it to him on-the-record the first time, and I read it,
15 and I read it slowly so that he could get it down correctly.

16 Q. And any other reporters that you discussed Wilson's
17 wife with on that day, July 12th?

18 A. Yes, sir. I talked to three other reporters that
19 day. Towards the end of the day I believe I talked to Judith
20 Miller, and I know that I discussed it with Judith Miller, New
21 York Times, and the discussion was pretty much as I just
22 described with Ambassador -- excuse me, with Matthew Cooper.

23 Q. Why don't you describe the conversation for us?

24 A. I said, that -- I went through all about the Tenet
25 statement, that the Tenet statement had just come out, you