

LEO WISE'S PERFORMED IGNORANCE

I want to look at a tactic that Leo Wise – who purports to be enforcing Rule of Law – used at the Hunter Biden trial, because it demonstrates how aggressively he polices the boundaries of his own plausible deniability, plausible deniability he used elsewhere in these proceedings to make claims he should know are false.

I've already pointed to the nutty response Abbe Lowell elicited from Jason Turner who, when he worked at the gun shop where Hunter bought a gun (he now works for the US Mint!), was in charge of ensuring paperwork was in order.

Turner's testimony appears to be totally honest. He said, first, that he told Gordon Cleveland to get a second form of ID. And then, without saying whether Cleveland did do so or not, said that if he had, Turner would have written it on the line for doing that.

Q. Then you said that you told Mr. Cleveland something, right?

A. He needed to get further government issued identification with an address on it.

Q. Right. And if he did, what would you do with that?

A. **I would have written it** right in there. [my emphasis]

When Lowell asks Turner why it's not on the form, Turner then changes from the conditional tense to the past tense. "I would have written it ... I wrote that."

Four times Turner asserts he did write that he had gotten a vehicle registration.

According to the publicly known facts, he did write it – two or three years after the fact.

Q. But you don't see such writing in there, do you?

A. **When I wrote that out**, I wrote the car registration.

Q. You don't see such a writing in there, do you?

A. **When I wrote that out**, I wrote car registration.

Q. When you wrote this out, you wrote car registration here or car registration there?

A. 18(b), car registration.

Q. You wrote it?

A. **I wrote it.**

Q. Where is it?

A. **I wrote vehicle registration in there.** [my emphasis]

But then Lowell asks him where it is on the form. "It's not there," Turner also truthfully describes.

Q. I'm asking you if you did and this is the form, where is it on the form that you say you wrote?

A. It's not there.

Leo Wise – who purports to be enforcing Rule of Law – interrupts to halt this line of questioning. He states that this line of questioning has been excluded (expanding the already expansive limits on Hunter's Sixth Amendment Judge Noreika authorized), and then offers up that poor Jason Turner is simply describing his memory of writing the form.

The second form of identity required by rule of law, Leo Wise – who purports to be enforcing rule of law – says, is irrelevant.

MR. WISE: Your Honor, may we approach side-bar?

(Side-bar discussion.)

MR. WISE: So this line of questioning was excluded, he has a memory of writing it, he hasn't established when, he's not impeached him, he said he remembered writing it in. He's asking him about the day, but he's not distinguishing, and this is simply irrelevant, a secondary form of ID is irrelevant.

Lowell responds (and while all the lawyers in this case were willing to game the limits of trial conduct, in this case, this is completely believable) that he had no idea how Turner would respond to his question.

MR. LOWELL: Wow. I have no idea he was about to say what he just said, that he wrote in a different form of identification.

THE COURT: He's confused as to the time.

MR. LOWELL: I know he is and I'm not going there but he said it, so I just wanted to ask who wrote it, where is it, I didn't know he was going to say that, judge.

MR. WISE: He did know that because the [Jencks] that we gave you from Palimere, said Palimere told him to write it.

MR. LOWELL: Two years later.

MR. WISE: That's not your question.

MR. LOWELL: I'm asking him on that day, I'm asking him on that day.

THE COURT: What you can do now is you can just say there is nothing about the vehicle registration. It is not written in this box on this version of the form.

Ultimately, Judge Noreika believes that Lowell had no idea how Turner would respond, because she was surprised herself.

MR. LOWELL: Okay. But let's be clear on the record, when you say I knew he was going – I had no idea he was going to say that.

THE COURT: I take your word for that. I didn't know he was going to say that.

After that exchange, Lowell got Turner to concede that the registration was not marked on the form.

(End of side-bar.)

BY MR. LOWELL: Q. So what I was asking you is from whatever you just said about the testimony of anything having to do with the registration, you and I can be clear that on this form that has the date on it, there is no such reference in line 18(b), right?

A. There should be.

Now, note that Leo Wise handled cross of Turner and – as we'll see – of Ron Palimere, the gun shop owner. We know that Derek Hines attended an interview with Palimere in May, and neither prosecutor attended an interview with Cleveland; FBI Agent Erika Jensen did that by herself.

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On May 16, 2024, Ronald Palimere (hereinafter Palimere), owner of StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply (hereinafter StarQuest), was interviewed pursuant to a proffer agreement he previously entered into with the United States Attorney's Office (USAO). The interview took place over a video teleconference system and all parties were in separate physical locations. Present for the interview were Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agent (SA) Erika Jensen, Senior Assistant Special Counsel Derek Hines, and Palimere's attorney Sean Shecter.

SASC Hines reminded Palimere of the provisions of the proffer agreement and the importance of being truthful and Palimere acknowledged. Palimere then provided the following information:

But Wise undoubtedly knows that Hines met with Palimere mere weeks ago, at which Hines reiterated the proffer that prohibited

prosecutors from using Palimere's admission that, "No one thought to get supplemental information" substantiating that Hunter lived at his father's address because, "everyone in the area knows who lives" there. Wise undoubtedly also knows that Palimere described just writing something convenient in on the form, because "it was all they could think of."

Palimere decided to write Delaware registration in the box labeled 18.b. Palimere does not know why that was chosen but he knew it had to be an official document and it was all they could think of. Turner was the one who wrote Delaware vehicle registration in the box.

Palimere thinks that if Biden presented a vehicle registration on the day of the sale, it would have been documented on the certified 4473.

Normally, they would call a customer if they found an error/omission and needed to annotate the Form 4473. The ability to annotate the Form 4473 is allowed by the ATF. For this case, a typical customer would have been called and told they needed to come back in and bring registration to show the residency.

Palimere was not about to call Biden. Palimere felt they could not have him come into the store. Plus, Palimere did not want to contact Biden and tell him he needed to come in and he was being investigated.

Wise undoubtedly knows all that.

But he did something notable to pretend to have plausible deniability about it, to pretend to have nothing to do with any uncertainty that Lowell might introduce.

When Lowell asked Palimere a question he didn't ask of Turner (whether they had ever met before,

a fairly standard trial question), Leo Wise objected when Lowell said that Palimere had met with “prosecutors,” plural.

Q. My name is Abbe Lowell, we’ve never met?

A. No, sir.

Q. Never spoken?

A. No, sir.

Q. You have spoken to the prosecutors and investigators in the case, right?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And we have –

MR. WISE: Your Honor, I object to that question, prosecutors and investigators, we’ve never met as well.

MR. LOWELL: I’m sorry.

BY MR. LOWELL: Q. You have met with members of the FBI?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Even recently; correct?

A. Yes, sir. [my emphasis]

Wise objected to the question, one that Palimere had already answered in the affirmative, creating the illusion of plausible deniability, one that served to obscure that Derek Hines had not only met with Palimere, but learned that Palimere knowingly sold a gun without proper paperwork.

Wise had no questions for Palimere.

But he did for Turner.

Indeed, *even before he introduced himself*, he asked Turner whether Hunter’s attorneys had succeeded in meeting with him before trial. Turner didn’t respond. Instead he suggested that they had set up a meeting but Hunter’s

attorneys, "can't be on time for nothing."

Q. Good morning, Mr. Turner.

A. Good morning.

Q. So you were subpoenaed by the defense as a witness, right?

A. Correct.

Q. Did they try to talk with you before they did that, before you testified here today?

A. That's a whole mess of stuff right there.

Q. Really?

A. I got the subpoena, I had to call them.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. And they can't be on time for nothing.

Q. What does that mean?

A. I work third shift.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. And so I should be sleeping right now.

Q. What does third shift mean?

A. Third shift, that's on the other side of the clock from everybody else, I go in at 6:00 p.m., I get done at 5 a.m.

Q. Is that what you got done today?

A. Yes.

Q. All right. So I just have a – you and I have never met, right, Mr. Turner?

A. I don't even know you from nobody.

Q. I just have a couple of questions?

In fact, Judge Noreika even interrupted to remind Wise to introduce himself!

THE COURT: Did you introduce yourself?

MR. WISE: I'm not sure. I will.

THE COURT: He said he doesn't know you.

BY MR. WISE: Q. My name is Leo wise, I represent the United States in this case. Nice to meet you.

So if we could have government Exhibit 10A on the screen. This is the form that Mr. Biden filled out that Mr. Lowell asked you about, right?

A. Correct. Actually that form is wrong.

As she did not do when, for example, Kathleen Buhle answered a question that had been excluded from questioning by offering up that Hunter had, "gotten kicked out of the Navy for testing positive for cocaine," Judge Noreika warned Turner not to answer questions prosecutors had not asked.

THE COURT: Just take it one step at a time, only answer the questions that he asks.

THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

Wise badly wanted to know whether Lowell had learned any of the details prosecutors were hiding from him, so much so he forgot his manners.

Part of this was about preventing jurors from learning that Leo Wise's application of Rule of Law is, in fact, selective, from learning that Wise's sidekick Derek Hines had in fact already immunized a potential crime, one with potentially greater impact on society, from these witnesses.

But part of it was also about policing his own plausible deniability.