
Post Testimony Interview with Randy Credico, by Craig Murray

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RC: Hello.

CM: Hello there, Randy. Hello, can you hear me OK?

RC: Yes, perfectly.

CM: Yeah. I'm good, I'm very good indeed. OK, let's do it like this, shall we, it seems ...

RC: Now listen, before you start, you can ask me anything you want, and this is the only interview I'm going to do. I'll be in town with—like, all day long—with people asking me to talk about this and I just want to get it out of the way and move on. All right?

CM: No, I quite understand. And that's very sensible. Now, let's start then ... let's start ... before we get into the substance, let's start then with some of the atmospherics. How did it feel to you, you know, to be you ... to be Randy walking into that courtroom?

RC: Well, you know, when I, when I ... first of all, for the last eight months I knew this was eventually going to happen. So I've been on needles and pins, a lot of anxiety that Wait a second Hold on, hold on Can you start and do that again?

[aside] Bye, everybody I'm doing an interview with somebody here.

Hi, Craig. Hi, Craig.

CM: Yep. Yep. I'm here.

RC: Hello. All right. Start going. Start ... start again.

CM: OK. Before we get into the substance, Randy, let's talk about the atmospherics. How did it *feel* to be you? How did it feel to be Randy Credico walking into that courtroom?

RC: Well, you know, all of my life I got into show business when I was 18 years old and I really was pursuing fame and notoriety and, you know, I finally got it, and this is "be careful what you wish for"—because this is certainly not something that I was relishing. For the past eight months, when Mr Stone was indicted, I have been suffering from heavy anxiety, having to appear as a witness under subpoena. And then when it finally happened, eight months went by quickly, and I got to tell you something, going into that courtroom, and anticipating it the previous night in which I couldn't sleep was not a very comforting feeling. I walked in and, you know, it wasn't the traditional way where you walk in from the back. You had to walk through the very front of the courthouse, past the defendant, past his family, past his friends, past his supporters, and then get on that witness stand right next to the jury, and begin answering questions. So after a while I was OK with it, but I knew it was going to be a *long* session; I knew I was going to have to come back the next day and continue and then I was going to have to go through the cross-examination. So it was just nothing but anxiety going in, and there was some relief when it was over but it was a different kind of a feeling because I felt bad for the defendant at the end of the testimony.

CM: Yeah, no, I'm sure you did. Did you catch his eye at any slight stage while you were ... while you were talking?

RC: Yeah. You know, I tried not to. I didn't think that was fair, so I did look at him. He was very morose looking, very sullen looking ... and, you know, but for the grace of God, there goes I. I could've been in that seat, in that situation at some point in my lifetime, and the weight of the federal government with the vast resources in a case like that, and the defendant, he had ... he had a lot of attorneys, but I didn't think they were ... they were really sufficient. These were not great barristers, you know what I mean? They were not good. And I found out they weren't really that good because I had known earlier the way they were cross-examining previous witnesses that they just weren't up to the job.

So, you know, you go in there and you're under a lot of stress, and you've got to tell the truth and at the same time the truth is going to hurt the guy who's sitting there ... you know, just 25 or 30 feet away from you, and it could put him in prison. I mean—who wants to be in that position? All of my life, I have worked to get people out of prison. I'm a prison reformer. I've extricated people out of prison through clemency and changes of laws in the State of New York. And other activism that I have done like in Texas, I got 46 people *out* of prison. So this was a very bizarre, ironic situation that I was in at that particular point.

So yes, I caught his eye; I *did* catch his eye. You know, it's such loose strings—it's someone that you've known. I've known the guy for 17 years. And people say "How were you ever friends with this guy? You know, you're an extreme left-winger, the guy is an extreme right-winger". Well, I have no regrets *meeting* him, because I met him in 2002, after I had been working 5 years, visiting prisons, organizing families of prisoners who were subjected to New York's racist and draconian Rockefeller drug laws. They were called the *Mothers of the New York Disappeared*. I was working with him, organizing, visiting their loved ones in prison, and we were moving forward to getting some substantial change in 2002, but we were at loggerheads with the government. So because Roger Stone was running the campaign of a third party candidate—a billionaire, a real maverick individual, who had some great ads that I saw—I went to Mr Stone because the Democrats and the Republicans *in* the race were not addressing the issue. Mr Stone actually not only agreed with my position there, but he spent—had his candidate spend—millions of dollars doing ads to repeal New York's racist Rockefeller drug laws. And that was a very key moment in the historical run of this movement. Within a year and a half, the laws had changed, and each year there was major building blocks. We got the public to support us; we were getting politicians to support us. In 2002, Hillary Clinton and Chuck Schumer—our two Democratic Senators—were not on board. And so, this guy Tom Golisano was on board and he did rallies with these families, he put them on television, and he, like I said, spent millions of dollars on ads. And if it weren't for Roger Stone, that wouldn't have happened. And so because of that within a year and a half, these families that I had worked with, there was retroactivity when the laws were changed within a year and a half, and that was a key component. And Mr Golisano stayed with it for another year, he continued to work with us.

So, something like that. Even though Mr Stone had screwed me over, had done some very nasty things over the next 17 years, there was still that soft spot for him because, when I look at those families and I remember their faces when they get reunited with their loved ones—he played a role in that.

So that's the dilemma I was facing when I was on that witness stand. I was an aggrieved person. This could've been done, by the way, in a civil court, you know, my grievance against Mr Stone because, for me—for me—my position was I was kind of smeared by being associated with the Trump campaign with these bogus allegations of being the back channel to Wikileaks—which we'll get into. There was never any back channel to Wikileaks—that was all hocus pocus! So, answering your question, it was ... it was a very bizarre, uncomfortable experience undergoing those *{inaudible}* in that highly publicized and media-covered circus that was going on. Not a circus, but whatever was going on there, it was something that I would not want to go through again. And, look, I've performed in front of a million different

audiences; I've worked strip joints when I was in air force bases; I've done vigils, rallies; I've worked the worst toilets in the room over a 45 year period in show business, but I still wasn't prepared for that kind of atmosphere.

CM: Yes, I can imagine. Is it a fair characterisation to say that you, Randy, you're on the *libertarian left* of politics, whereas Roger's on the *libertarian right*, and you both met because there were some issues such as drug decriminalization on which you agree and on which he then did good work in decriminalizing communities in New York. Is that the basic analysis?

RC: Yes, I would say I once ran on the Libertarian party line in 2010. A lot of their positions I don't agree with ... but I'm on the left, he's a Libertarian right. He's not like one of these people—when I met him he was not the ideologue that he was portrayed to be in the media in 2002—a far right Jesse Helms type or a far right John Ashcroft type. He was a libertarian, he smoked pot; you know, we had the same views on music. He actually was advocating for the pardon of Marcus Garvey, who was framed, who was a leader of Black Nationalism in the 20s, on these bogus mail fraud charges. So, you know, he's kind of a sphinx, you know, politically. He's not, like I said, a hard-core right-winger. He was not for the war in Iraq back in 2003. So, you know, I don't even know what the right and the left is sometimes. You know, I really don't know what that means. I mean Tony Blair's supposed to be a Labour guy, but he's as bad as George Bush is, and always has been. So does he really support Labour, is he a leftist? *No*. So, you know, these labels are a little confusing to me. But like I said, Stone—you know—he's a *showman*. He's a showman; he's an exhibitionist. That's what got him in trouble here. The poor guy is ... you know, he's a megalomaniacal showman. Just like I am. I'm in show business, why? Because I'm like him—I like to get laughs, and I want to be recognised. That's him.

I said he'd done a lot of bad things to me but politically we were, you know, we coincided on a few major issues, and one of them was drug law reform in the State of New York. Now, mind you, 97% of the people that were subjected to the Rockefeller drug laws in the State of New York were black and Latino. And still are—they have been modified, not completely changed. But, you know, they were subjected to harsh punishment; they were getting 15 years to life. I know one kid by the name of Terence Stevens, paralysed from the neck down—from the *neck down*—with muscular dystrophy, and that guy was doing all of this time for *possession* on a *bus*! They ascribed it to him for *possession*! And he had done 10 years in *prison*, in the medical ward of a real dank prison—it was called *Green Haven*—for *possession*. And that was not like the exception to the rule. There were *thousands* of people in similar circumstances that were there that were just mules, or addicts that were doing this time—and Stone actually was very sympathetic to it. It wasn't like it was a—you know, what would you call it—*flash in the pan* type of a push. He continued afterwards, he even wrote some op-ed pieces; but, like I said, he did some bad things to me over the years, but I'm a good natured guy, and I overlooked it. I let him get away with it.

CM: The astonishing thing about all this is ... is that it all comes out of the Mueller inquiry, and the so-called Russiagate scandal, and yet none of these charges relate to Russia. And let's be quite plain, to the best of your knowledge and belief—or to the best of your *knowledge* anyway—Roger Stone has no link to the Russian government that we're aware of, and he certainly has no link to Wikileaks that we're aware of. Is that your understanding?

RC: Well, actually what he had was ... Look ... Roger Stone ... Here's what happened. In 2015, Trump hired him. He lasted one month. Why? Because every time he did an interview it was more about him than it was about Trump; and Trump got frustrated with him and dumped him. And he may have given Trump advice here and there because, you know, he was the one who got Trump to run 30 years earlier; it was his idea, he kept pushing Trump. So he was kind of unceremoniously kicked out of the Trump camp.

Flash forward to 2016, he's kind of hanging around the Trump campaign, he comes up with one of these Super PACs. And so he's trying to ingratiate himself back into the Trump orbit there. And what he did was he, like, looks at Wikileaks and he sees what's going on with Wikileaks, and he's trying to get information. He's going to guys like Jerome Corsi. You know, Jerome Corsi is a complete lunatic, you know, beyond the pale of conspiracy freaks ... and he got hoodwinked by that guy. And this is my estimation, this is my analysis. He gets hoodwinked into thinking that he's got a back channel. Right.

So he is showing, you know ... First of all, the whole idea of a back channel is *ridiculous*. Julian Assange *does not telegraph what he's going to put out*. He never has. He doesn't compromise his sources and he always puts out that his whole M.O. is the element of *surprise*. So there was no reason for him to give it to Roger Stone, of the kind of preview of what he was doing. *Why would he do that?* When everything that he was doing, he was doing *carefully*, and he was selecting the time and then he'd put it out. There was no reason for him to give anything to Stone. No, Stone was playing the role of someone that *had* the inside information from Assange. Now, you know Assange, he's very careful. He's not going to ... if he wanted to he would just give it directly to Trump, you know, but he *didn't*. He never did. He didn't need to go through Stone. But Stone was pretending that he had some kind of *access* to Wikileaks, and he was selling that to the Trump campaign—that he was able to get something in advance, he knew what it was. And so they didn't think they were going to win, and they were looking for Hail Marys and this was one of them, and they brought him into the orbit and Stone was thinking that whatever this guy Corsi was giving him was accurate, possibly, and then ... then me. All right? So, there was nothing there.

And then, the following month, in August 25th, after Stone had said a few weeks previously that he had direct contact with Assange, and he modelled at that to get a back channel. I had never met Assange, never had any conversation with Assange. In fact, I never ever even *met* him until the following year. So, on August 25th, through my friend, through someone then that worked with Assange got him on my radio show ... on August 25th. And so, I was ... it was a *big fish* for me. I had just gone from one day a week with my show to three days a week, and two of those days were prime time—5 o'clock drive time—and I let Stone know that I had Assange on *my* show. He *didn't even respond* to that. I let *him* know. So I was kind of one-upping him. And Assange was on the show—we even talked about it: "Do you have a back channel with Roger ... ?" And he *laughed* at it. You know, Stone was on my show on the twenty ... two days previously ... and I asked him about it, and he said that he had a back channel and he really couldn't disclose what it was. And then Assange was on. So there was no back channel there, with me.

I went to London a few weeks later. I went to London to see a fellow by the name of Barry Crimmins, who is a left wing comedian, who I had known for 30 years; and we were in London together performing there back in 1986. It was the 30 year anniversary. He was working at the Leicester Square Comedy Club in London. And somebody underwrote my trip to see him. Three days. I hung out with him for three days.

I also had a letter from the General Manager from the station to give to Julian Assange, or someone that works with Julian Assange, with a proposal that he do a radio show out of the Ecuadorian Embassy, with an IFB, and do it over the Pacifica network, and it would be his show. But at that time remember in September he was preparing obviously putting stuff together, collating it, or whatever, and putting it together, for the eventual day that he was trying to put it out, which was on October 7th. Now, the date that he put it out they say it was to coincide with the Access Hollywood tape. Now, anyone, talk to Stefania Maurizi, she will tell you that they were planning to put that out a day or two earlier *on* the 7th. That was the day they were going to put it out. She was the one that knew, she never told anybody, but she did afterwards. And last year she said she knew they were going to put something out on the 7th,

because she worked with Assange. She was one of the few journalists that he trusted, and rightly so.

But I never got in to see him. They didn't, they didn't see me, because Stone found out on the 27th, he knew that I was flying to London to see my friend Barry Crimmins, so ... and possibly see Assange. He wanted me to find out from Assange, because he put somebody on my radio show—Gary Johnson, the Libertarian candidate for President—he put him on my show on the 9th of September, and I owed him a favour and the favour was to find out if this email from Hillary Clinton to somebody existed regarding the situation in ... in Libya, and sabotaging the peace talks with Gaddafi. Well, I *never did* that, I *never* gave it to Assange. I wouldn't *dare* ask him.

I've been in that Embassy three times since, after that year 2017 when I spent some time with you and John Pilger in London and Edinburgh. *That's* when I saw him. I *never once* asked him about his business. I didn't want to know. I didn't ask him how they did things ... *nothing*. The stuff was so general. We talked about *dogs*, we talked about him running for *Senate*, and the *Green Party*, we talked about *food*. We talked about general things. And that was it. I never *once* saw ... There was no way I was going to ask him to confirm if this email existed. In fact, I told Stone that if it existed, it would be on the Wikileaks website.

All right, so that happens; that happens, and *nothing* happens. I did say, I did predict, and I put it on Facebook after standing outside that Embassy on the 29th, I dropped the letter off. There was a guy from either MI6, MI5, or a metropolitan police department outside that building with a headphone on, or an earplug, and he was listening: you could tell, these guys are so obvious. And I dropped the letter off. I was in for less than 20 seconds. I knocked on the door on the left; a hand came out; I dropped the letter off from the station, and left; I went through Harrods and I was *followed*. So I extrapolated from that, that something *must* be coming up. I put it on Facebook: "Here's a picture of me, look at this guy behind me. I got a feeling the guy inside's gonna drop something this week."

Two days later I said the same thing to Stone. So now, he's going to use me as—well, I mean, well, he *has* to—as the back channel. Supposedly he had a back channel for *months*. But the whole thing was ridiculous: I mean, there was no back channel; there never was a back channel. This was Stone just blowing himself up as, you know, as an important person to impress. As you said yesterday in your tweet, that he was looking to make money, and he did, he did ask the family for some money when he said that this was coming out, and that in fact did justify his *luck* that it came out on the 7th, and they thought that Stone had the inside information; he had *no* inside information. All right, so that's where we were back ... that's where we are back then, up until October first or second or third. So *I* had no back channel. *I* had no information; *Stone* had no information—but he continued to sell himself as a person that *did*.

And then the, then the I think that Correa shut down this internet for a while after he got pressure from John Kerry at that meeting in Bogota of the OAS [Organization of American States]. And so I said to Stone at a dinner, the only time I saw him in 2016 was at a dinner on October 12th or 13th, and I told him that, that was information that I got from about 20 people that there was pressure—it was even in the paper. So that was it. So now we go a year later, Stone testifies. Are you with me there, Craig?

CM: Yes, I am with you.

RC: OK. Do you want to ask a question, or should I continue?

CM: No, you carry on. Go with the flow.

RC: I shall. You go forward. The following year, Stone testifies, he testifies to confirm, not to Mueller, but the House Intel Committee—they had opened up an investigation right after this

whole Russia stuff—and I was totally against it. I thought the whole thing was a ridiculous thing, chasing down you know Russians being behind it. Hillary Clinton ran a terrible campaign. Julian Assange did not send a map to the Clinton campaign of every school in Michigan and Wisconsin ... all right? So she lost. She was a horrible campaign....

I was a big Bernie person. I was supporting I did a four day howler marathon for Bernie to get out to vote just prior on the day before the New York primaries. So I was still pissed off at Hillary because she had *taken it away* from Bernie. Her and her cohorts at the DNC had taken it away from Bernie. And if Bernie had *won* that primary, had *won* that nomination, he would have *beaten* Trump ... *I believe*. But Hillary ...

CM: Yeah, I know. There's a lot of polling evidence that says that, I think.

RC: Yes, I think, I think ... I really do think that Bernie would have won that election. So I was really *furios!* I was furious that he was out of it. I'm *still* furious. I ended up voting for Jill Stein that day. And I went to Jill Stein's party on November 8th 2016. I think I had you on the show with Jill Stein just prior to that. And I had her on the show that day and I went to her party and Trump won, and I was very depressed about that ... not that I supported Hillary, I mean she didn't have any chance at all so it's fine ...

Now going forth, let me get back to 2017. He voluntarily—*voluntarily*—goes before the House Intel Committee. They didn't subpoena him, they didn't ask him to show up but he voluntarily goes up and it's behind closed doors. Simultaneously he releases a 47-page screed that he's about to read on YouTube, he reads it on YouTube, and then his opening statement. *Forty-seven pages* he reads to them chiding the whole process and slamming Schiff and everybody, putting this whole Russiagate thing out there. And then at the end they ask him if he had a back channel, and he says "Yes, it's a journalist but I'm not supposed to say who it is".

Now, the next day, I'm trying to reach him. I'm thinking he's going to say that *I was* now, because I had sent him those text messages, he's gonna say ... And then he sends me a text message saying "Look, just go along with this, don't worry about it. You'll get a lot of press out of this. They're not going to believe you, Credico; they're going to believe me." So, look he was covering up his attempts; he had no connection. And by the way, this is not helping Julian Assange out, having Roger Stone and Trump and all these people out there saying that they're connected to Wikileaks. This is not helping his cause—all right—because Roger Stone is *radioactive*. Julian Assange knows that he's radioactive. He doesn't *hate* Stone; he finds him to be some kind of showman, you know, an exhibitionist; but he had nothing ... he's smart enough to know that you don't go there, and he didn't go there. But, so ... now, he's got himself in a bind here: he has said he's got a back channel, he's gloating about it, you know, he's showboating ... and a few days later, he lets me know that he's gonna name *me* as the back channel. And that's gonna go *public!* He said, "Look nobody's gonna believe you, Credico. And better that, uh ... better that I name you than go to jail." So he doesn't mention this guy Corsi, who was the back channel that *wasn't* the back channel.

CM: OK. Can you just hang on a second, Randy? He said "better he names you than go to jail". What was he thinking: that having claimed to have a back channel to the committee, he had to try to substantiate it or he'd be in trouble for *lying*? Or was there was some other risk of jail?

RC: If he says If he says that they He *didn't even get a subpoena!* In other words, they didn't subpoena him. Adam Schiff said, "We'd like to know who that back channel is." And you have to get a full vote on the committee to get a subpoena. Without even getting a subpoena, he went and *named me*. I said "Well, why are you naming me?". He says "Why should I go to jail for you?". Now this is a cocked hat situation for me at that particular point. You know, here I'm being named for something I didn't do, but he can circumstantially say that I did, because I had told him that I had a connection with Assange on my show: *Margaret Ratner Kunstler*. You know, but she And that was it. When I asked her to get him on the show, she was furious

that I even asked her. So, you know, I had a show for a year prior to that and I never asked her. I did not want to get involved and bring her into this. And so I gotta get my own guests. But now I had it three days a week, and so I asked her gingerly and she *did* get him on the show. But by telling him that, putting that name out, now he's got *her* name. Right?

And now I told him on October 1st that something's coming out which I had already announced, extrapolating on public comments by Assange saying that something is coming out; I think Sarah Harrison may have said that something was coming out; everyone knew that something was coming out. And so since I never was able to get that thing, and never tried, on the *Libyan* connection with Hillary Clinton—and ... what's his name? ... Gaddafi—I felt obligated to get something. And by the way, this is coming from the Heathrow Airport, where I was at the duty free bar there, and I was getting free drinks, because I got a couple of bottles there, and it's the only duty free store I've ever been in where they've got like three or four portable bars where you could drink. Instead of spending money at the bar, you know, twelve pounds per ale, I was getting all of these different booze samples that they had and then I was buying a couple. And so when I'm waiting around at the gate, you know, I'm just texting him too along with other people "Something's coming out". I'm gonna go back to 2017. So he's going to name me, he says he's gonna name me, and just to go along with it. And he'll go to jail ... I don't know how he could go to jail by not answering the subpoena, or not giving up the name. He could always just take the Fifth Amendment. He could, like *I did* later on; I took the Fifth Amendment. For a variety of reasons I took the Fifth Amendment. So now he's put me in a jam ... all right? He *names me*, he names me as a *back channel*.

And there's a ton of papers, a ton of stories out there in the newspapers and the electronic media that Randy Credico's the back channel. Now everybody on the centre left *hates* me. People connected to the Clinton people think that *I helped Donald Trump win*, I facilitated it, and I got myself in a big jam right there. Now what do I do? Do I go up there, when I get the letter from the House Intel Committee, and contradict Roger Stone? If I do, then he's in trouble legally and then he could go to jail for perjury. So I had to think about that. Even though he put my reputation on the line there I feel like Look, people lie to Congress all the time, to Congressional committees; and, you know, it leads to wars; it leads to mass surveillance; it leads to ... appointments to the Supreme Court federal bench. And so those are big lies that are never investigated and they get away with it. So his was a small lie except for it was *about me* though; that was the only problem. I don't mind that he lied to Congress, because *everybody* lies to Congress.

CM: Yeah, I must say to that point I mean he hadn't *done* anything. He'd boasted a bit; he'd tried to work an angle by claiming he had a contact he didn't have; he'd then maintained that by telling the Intelligence Committee that he had a contact he didn't have. But then, that's a fairly harmless lie.

RC: You ... you ... you know what it is? It's a *fender bender*. But it turned out to be a 21 trailer tractor pile-up. It was a fender bender. It was no big thing to tell them that. I kind of laughed at his 47-page statement. It was kind of entertaining. You know, he was putting on a show there. But when he put me in there Look, if it was anybody else, it's fine. And it's not like it was a major transgression to say that he had a back channel that he didn't have. Right? That's not a major transgression. When you lie about weapons of mass destruction—*that* is something that cost millions of lives, and people got away with that. People got away with lying to Congress about that, lately. You got guys who lie about *not* being spied on—there's no *domestic* spying—that was a lie, they got away with that. All right? That's the kind of stuff that affects them. This doesn't affect, you know, *anything*. But he did lie to Congress, he did it five or six times, he kept lying; and there are five or six times that he lied in there and said that I had been providing him information from, like, early June all the way through October third or fourth or

fifth. So ... which is totally ridiculous, you know! And nobody else provided him with that, because Assange *does not tip his mitt*. You know what I mean?

So he was building himself up, ingratiating himself with the Trump campaign, which he had been disaffected from ... thrown off the campaign. So he was clawing himself back on, and this was his way ... and he was fishing around. Wikileaks had rebuffed him, told him "*Stop saying you're connected to us! All right? That's not true.*" They put that out there. They sent them a direct mail that "we had nothing to do with Roger Stone". And all that was doing was hurting *them*, by saying that, you know, he was one of the most despised person in the US, whether it's true or not the reasons why, but he's a despised person in the US by a lot of people. And traditional right-wingers don't like him, and the left doesn't like him, because he's a dirty trickster and he's been connected ... remember, he was connected to ... with *Mobutu*, he helped out Mobutu do PR work; he helped out *Marcos* do PR work; *Savimbi* ... did PR work for Savimbi; he was a big fan of *Pinochet*. So he doesn't have a clean past. All right? He made a lot of money, made millions of dollars working with some of the most odious dictators in the 80s. And he and Manafort, and a few others, they had a PR firm and that's who they worked for. All right? So let's not say Roger Stone is an *angel* here. You don't make money ... maybe if this is the ghost of *Lumumba*, the ghost of *Aquino*, of *Victor Jara*, coming back to haunt Mr Stone. You know, but we just push that aside, we push that aside.

Getting back to Wikileaks: they rebuffed, they publicly said they did not have anything to do ... and you know *that was true*: they *did not*. He did not have a back channel. He invented himself in, he insinuated himself *into* the Wikileaks orbit, as if he was like, you know, some *part* of it. And that wasn't good for *them*, you know, because they were going to release that stuff.

Now Assange has material there. He's got the material. Either he can *not put it out there* and possibly help out Hillary, or he could put it out there and help out ... whatever it was, that wasn't his decision. His decision as a journalist is: he's got material and so his ethics as a journalist: you put it out there. You can't hold back material. That's the way he looked at it. And he put it out there. Because he *had* it. He got a big scoop there. And he had to put that out there. If he had a similar scoop on Trump, he would've put that out there. He does not compromise his ethics. He is a journalist, and he operates as a journalist in the best tradition.

CM: To move the story on now, though: next, Stone does get nasty and he gets nasty towards you because you won't play along with his story and you won't say you were a back channel when you weren't, so he starts to threaten you.

RC: Well, here's what happened. I went there back to London—and I don't think I saw you this time around, I think there in November, and I knew I put it out, and I was covering for Pacifica the case of ... the case that Stefania Maurizi had against the Crown Prosecutor Services over the emails that were suppressed by them, between them and the Swedish Prosecutor. So I went to that proceeding and ... *{inaudible}* ... and spent three or four days in London. I got to see Julian a couple of times and, you know, that was the last time I saw him, by the way. But I was still ... I didn't know what to do at that particular time.

I got the subpoena when I got back and I really thought that they were going to *ask* me about my communications with *Assange*, the House Intel Committee. So that was one of the reasons that I said, "Well, here I can go and use my First Amendment rights", and my lawyer said "No, you can't; you can use your *Fifth* Amendment rights." And then, you know, Stone was hanging over my head that he was going to bring in Mrs Kunstler, and drag her through this. And, you know, he and I both come from Italian-American families and it's chauvinistic but we don't drag the women into it; that's a tradition—you don't bring the women into the mud here. But he was going to do that, he was going to bring Mrs Kunstler's name into to it. She's this woman with a pristine past; she's done nothing. Her husband was the greatest civil rights attorney; he liked the fanfare, he got a lot of publicity, but he did incredible work. *She* did incredible work throughout *her* life, and she did it quietly. She does not *like* the trash, she does not *like* the

{inaudible} going out there. She's lived this humble life, and just done all of the grunt work legally, and I did not want to drag her through this, this entire quagmire. I didn't want her name, and the fact I even broached her name to Stone, that was ... I was an asshole for doing it. And for Stone to hang that over my head, that was one of the reasons why I took the Fifth Amendment when I did ... and to the very end I had no idea what I was going to do. I was *trying* to do this—do you remember the Wallendas, you know, the tightrope specialists? I was trying to walk this line there where I could say I *wasn't the guy, wasn't the back channel*, without pissing off Stone, and to do that, say that I wasn't the back channel, but like I said, without giving them information, without going before the Committee. But if I ... the thing is once I took the Fifth Amendment, everyone assumed that I was a back channel and was helping out Stone. *That's* just the way people think.

And then, the I was working for this millionaire guy who was going to run for Governor. I was working throughout 2018; I had, like, a one year contract. He decided ... he's such a nice guy, rather than ... rather than *fire* me, he decided to drop out of the race. OK, I worked with him for the previous year, OK, because he was a big shot with the liberal Democrats—he was like probably a billionaire—and he was a big finance guy who just couldn't be seen at that point with me because I was now radioactive being associated with Stone, but I played it that way—I *did* take the Fifth Amendment but, like I said, people just assumed, and I started doing television shows, trying to explain myself; I couldn't explain myself. And then I finally said ... and he was getting upset that I was even *out there*, contradicting, gainsaying what he had put out there in front of the House Intel Committee. And why? Why was he upset? Because he didn't want it to get out that he had been calling up Trump with this bogus information that he had gotten from this guy Corsi and somebody else. He had been calling up Trump, he had been calling the family, he had been calling up everybody, to get back in there, weasel his way back in there with this back channel claim that he didn't have. And so he didn't want to get that to be exposed. He got so *furious* with me that he started saying nasty

Now, I understand: he's in a bad situation right now. He's in a bad situation: he *lied* to *Congress*! Now he's saying things about me, and he's, like, saying nasty ... now, look, going up to the ... before I took the Fifth, he was sending me text messages to take the Fifth and not to talk. All right? And he's text messaging this ... in broad daylight! You know, we live in an age of mass surveillance ... why would you be *doing* that, text messaging someone: "Don't talk. All right? If you talk, you *do this, do that!*" And ... but, you know that's not the reason why. The only reason, the main reason was that I was worried that *she* would be dragged into this, because he could somehow circumstantially, you know, say that this is the ... and I *didn't know* he had these prior discussions with other people.

So now we're going through ... getting back to 2018, and what ... I'm in a quandary here: what do I do? Big dilemma. Do I come out? And I finally said, "Look, I wasn't the guy; this is all a complete lie." And then he started sending out some of the text messages and emails—the one about ... *{inaudible}* ..., and all of that—to make it look like I was ... *{inaudible}* ..., you know, a war—a public battle between the two of us. And thing is ... is that I don't know why he did that. He's escalating it. He's getting stories planted about my character ... he's *smearing* me, and then ... he's *threatening* me. But the threats I never took seriously. All right? If I took them seriously, I would gone to the police department—911, and would've called up 911—"Somebody had threatened" I never took those seriously. It was a guy that was desperate now; he was acting in a desperate way. And he didn't know what to do. Look, I've seen ... the guy is sending these things out at two o'clock in the morning ... you know, the guy, you know, he gets toasted. All right? He's not doing it on a sober level. He's sending out some very nasty things. And so when I ... I got so sick and tired of him saying these things about me publicly, that I took the private emails, and I said when ... when they got *so bad* ... the smear job had got so bad ... it was what was called a 'brushback pitch'. I gave them to somebody in the media and said "Here, here's what he's saying to me in these emails." And then *that's* what ... that's

what dragged in the Mueller people when they saw them. I wish I had never put them out, but he *escalated* it, and I put it out; and the next thing you know, they show up; they're looking for me, and I'm kind of laying low. I did a show at the ...*{inaudible}* ..., my first public performance, and *they're there* ... they're there, and they asked me to cancel it; I wouldn't testify, and then I got a subpoena a couple of months later, and I have Now, when you go before them, the first thing they tell you is you can say anything you want, you just can't lie. All right?

CM: Yep.

RC: Are you there?

CM: Yeah, I'm with you.

RC: You can't lie to them. You just can't lie to them. So I sat there and I told them they had all of our emails, they had subpoenas, they had the text messages, and you know, Stone was ... Stone put himself into that situation. You know, when they were doing this broad investigation with the Mueller people ... these are the best lawyers that exist in the US prosecutors. So like, some top level attorneys and FBI people assigned to it. And they found *everything*, and so now, now I have to go before the *Grand Jury*. And in fact I went before the Grand Jury, and I had to answer "Yes" or "No", and I had the ... I was there with my book *Sikunder Burnes*, by the way, which everyone was interested in ... if you recall?

CM: I do. I recall the photos very well.

RC: So now I go before them. *Nothing's* happened and months go by and Stone starts dripping out more text messages that were recently found. These were text messages I didn't have: 2016 and 2017. He selectively cherry-picked some messages, dropped them out there and so they want to know. They call me back into DC, I gotta go back to DC and go over *hundreds* of pages of text messages with Stone. And the next thing you know, the following January 25th, Stone had lied and he had *threatened* ... you know, I didn't take the threats seriously. Like I said, I would have said something to the authorities, you know. But, you know, he *did* put it out there and he *did* try to get me to change my testimony. So ... you know, you gotta be careful, you *can't do* things like that. And so he got arrested, and now you know, he gets arrested and now the onus is on *me*. I know that I'm gonna be ... I looked at those charges, *seven* ... he had seven charges and five of them were related to me.

I'm in a real box right now. I felt *terrible*. But eventually, hopefully, the guy pleads out or he gets a pardon or whatever. He didn't. He didn't get a pardon. In fact, he hasn't pardoned any of the people connected to this. And you would think that this guy would have gotten a pardon. I *felt terrible*, like I said, about having to testify, but if I don't testify then *I'm* in contempt and can spend two years in jail on contempt charges. Plus, they already had the goods there, they had the goods, they had the text messages, and Stone was ... you know, indiscreet, putting those things out there. Can you imagine *Assange* putting something out there like that? Would *you* do something like that, in the open? You know that everyone can see your Gmail. If you're a follower of *Assange*, you don't put in things in Gmail, because it's like graffiti on a train: it's hard to get off, you can't wash it off, it's there forever. And so ... so he *never had* a back channel, though. Stone never had a back channel.

CM: Don't you think there's a tremendous irony here, because the Mueller inquiry set out to prove Hillary Clinton's claims that the Russians had hacked the DNC and had then conspired with the Trump campaign and Wikileaks to take the election from her, and they couldn't find any of that because it's nonsense: it's just not true, so ...

RC: He wasn't charged.

CM: So they found ...

RC: He wasn't charged. I repeat, Julian Assange was not charged here.

CM: No, precisely. And they end up ... they end up doing the opposite: they end up actually trying *Roger Stone* because he was claiming that that original thesis was true, in fact. You know, he was claiming to *be* a link between the Trump campaign and Wikileaks, and fact there *was no link* between the Trump campaign and Wikileaks; so they end up taking someone to court for the *opposite reason* from what they tried to prove in the first place.

RC: Obviously, he did not have a back channel. Obviously, what he did was ... he disrupted an investigation and threw everybody off. All right? So you step on toes when you do something like that. If he had just been hon.... Look, all he had to do, Craig, for himself ... all right, very easily ... was go before that House Intel Committee, if they ever were even going to call him, and say "Look, I tried. I did not have a back channel. Nothing ever happened. You know, I was bluffing the Trump campaign ... if he had just said that and just been *honest* ... He put himself in a bad spot all because of this *narcissism* or this *megalomania*, this *need for attention*. You know, the guy, like I said, is not everyone's favourite character, and ... you know ... Look, there was no back channel to Wikileaks, *ever!* You're right, there was no back channel I mean, that's *my* opinion. *I don't* see a back channel to Wikileaks. And I said that, that I don't think ... you know ... if they have something they're going to show at the rest of this trial. Maybe there was, but *I didn't see it*. I don't ... so far, *I don't* see anything. And why would Assange ever, ever, ever give up ... you know, he doesn't give up the source—*A*; and, *B*—he doesn't tip what he ... you know, tip his mitt, as it were. So that is where Stone got himself into trouble, with *lying* to Congress *five times* and then they couldn't ... and so the whole time they want *me*, you know, all I got *three subpoenas* and Congressional committees—from the Senate, the House ... two from the House judiciary, the Senate Intel—and I rebuffed ... I said no to *all* of them. I didn't want to get *involved in that circus*, that political circus between the Democrats and Republicans—I didn't want to have anything to do with that. But from the Mueller people, they have the subpoena, and I was compelled, and ... like I said there was nothing there that *I* did; but if people think that, you know, well maybe I was BS'ing Stone, you know, I was just trying to satisfy what ... you know, the guy wanted something for the Gary Johnson ... all because of this whole Gary Johnson, getting him on my show, and me trying to reciprocate it and I never did try. I'd never He wanted me to get Assange on his show; that was the *first* request for getting Gary Johnson. I didn't do that. So, look, this whole thing could have been avoided. All he had to do was, when he went in front of the *Intel* Committee, when he volunteered, to say that he didn't have a back channel, that it was *all BS*, you know, that he was just bluffing, that he was trying to get in good with ... you know ... with the Trump campaign. So *now*, he's facing ... the biggest charge against Stone right now is guess what? Jury tampering, I mean, *witness* tampering. So the other things carry a couple of years; but the witness tampering carries *20 years*, and I'm the witness that he tampered with! Now I told ... They did such a bad job, the defence attorneys yesterday. What he said was "Mr Stone ..." One charge was that he'd steal my dog! And I never took that seriously that he was gonna steal my dog. I volunteered, I said: "Stone likes dogs. Stone likes dogs, he's got dogs, he loves dogs, he wasn't gonna steal my dog". I was never worried about him taking this dog of mine. All right? It was hyperbole of the *highest order*, and it was out of frustration, and probably juiced up on Martinis when he said it. I didn't take it seriously, *at all*.

CM: And you were able to say that in the witness stand. That's what you said, yeah?

RC: I said it. I literally witnessed ... I said in the witness stand. You know, I can't say that he didn't try to get me to change my ... to get me to take the Fifth Amendment. That was ... He was one person that had advice. Everyone ... I think I even asked *you* about it! I asked a *hundred people* what should I do—I had no idea! I'd never been in that situation before! Now what do I do? I knew what the cost was going to be: if I took the Fifth Amendment, people were going to wonder; and if I had *not* taken the Fifth Amendment, and testified, then Stone would have

been *charged*, and he would have been *guilty* and possibly do some time in *prison*. So I was basically saving *him* then, and Look, ironically he is now facing prison time.

CM: Yep. You did ask me. I advised you *not* to take the Fifth, I said you should go in there and *tell*, tell the full truth ... was my advice.

RC: That's right. I did ask you. I *may* have asked you on my show; I *may* have asked you by phone—but I remember you were the one of the few people that said "Don't take the Fifth Amendment!" You were one of them. And a few others said the same thing: *Ben Weiser* said "Do not take the Fifth Amendment!" And *Glenn Greenwald* told me not to take the Fifth Amendment. So there were three people who told me ... wise people told me not to take the Fifth Amendment. And lo and behold I did *anyway*, and all it did was create some problems. But *Stone* could have taken ... that's the thing, *Stone* could have taken the Fifth Amendment.... *He* could have done that and it would've been *over* with.... And now it's dragged on, he's put himself in harm's way. You know, I did say that I wasn't worried about this, but they didn't ask me. The other threats about I'm gonna *die* ... because there was a *lot* of things he said, but was I worried about that? No, I wasn't worried that he was going to *kill* me! You know what I mean.

CM: The thing I take away from this is that you ... plainly you forgive him for his bluster against you, which you never took that seriously in the first place, and I mean, I think it goes to your nature as the very kind and caring person you are, Randy: you're *more* concerned now for Roger Stone ... you know, you're worried what's going to happen to him, about him going down to jail, being in an awful situation. So despite everything, your *main* worry now is for him.

RC: I *worry* about that! I worry about the guy. Look, he's 67 years old. He's got a wife, he's got friends, he's got kids ... you know, I don't want to be the guy that's responsible for him doing time in a US prison. US prisons are *terrible* ... you know, that's why, you know, we're vying so hard to keep Julian from coming over here, and Lauri Love from coming over here, because of conditions of US prisons. That guy wouldn't last a minute with a Nixon tattoo on his back, so I feel terrible that he put himself in this situation. Like I said, if his lawyer had *asked* me—his lawyer closed up, it was like "My God, this guy should have asked me some more questions ... that I did not feel threatened by Stone personally." You know what I mean? He made this threat, but I didn't ... I didn't ... I told him I'd *never* felt threatened by that. The thing is, that he had not emailed, telling me to take the Fifth, to stonewall all of this—he should have *never* done that! You know what I mean? I didn't ask him for his advice on that. I asked people who were ... legal people, people like yourself who know the legal system, what to do—and I got a mixed bag. At the end of the day, I ended up taking the Fifth Amendment. And, like I said, as bad as he's been to me ... I don't want to see Look, jail is for people like Hannibal Lecter ... people like ... people like *Rudolf Hess* ... and people like, you know ... that commit the heinous crimes ... people that get us into wars. *Tony Blair*, I'd like to see in prison. *Pinochet*, I'd like to see in prison ... you know, before he died. *Those* are the kind of people that should be in prison—people that cause bodily harm, torture people—whoever tortured those loyal people in Uzbekistan ... those are the people that should be in prison. But I am not ... I had a father that did ten years in prison, OK? It ruined the kids ... we all became hard-core alcoholics. You know, it was long before I was born. So I heard the horror stories of the prison that my father spent ten years in on the ... on the ... he was a male nurse on the tuberculosis ward. Ninety-nine percent of the people on that ward were *black*. All right? So he had an Italian ... first generation, second generation Italian ... that's there, and you know they're not good on race. My father was always good. That was the ... that was what I took as a takeaway. But I always worked on prison reform because of I went through as a kid, listening to my father's horror stories. So prison is not good for anybody. Now, Stone should do something like get probation or something. I don't want to see the guy—at 67, 68 years of age—you know, the fact that he's a broken man now, a broken-down man right now ... he spent all this money. Look, I have a *grievance* against him—he has done some *rotten* things to me over the years; but, you know,

forgiveness is a cardinal virtue, and I subscribe to having ... you know, to *forgive*. *I forgive*. I forgive ... and let it go. You know what I mean?

CM: Yes.

RC: The stuff that he did back in the 80s, that's ... he'll have to deal with his maker on that ... with those dictators ... so he'll have to deal with his I don't know how bad he is, what he did, I don't know. But as far as me, I can forgive somebody. I don't want to have resentment, I don't want to carry resentment around. And I will be in a very bad spiritual way ... a very bad spiritual way if in fact he goes to prison. It's going to do a number on me to see that guy actually go into a maximum security prison, or *any* kind of prison. It's not something that I want to see, personally. It's not up to me ... but believe me, it's a lot of weight on my shoulders right now. And I don't want to see anybody go to prison. It's just not ... it's *not* the answer. Putting people in prison is *not* the answer. There has to be alternatives to incarceration. There are so many bad things that go on the world, and we spend a hundred thousand dollars here to put Roger Stone in prison. You know, it's going to be a heavy burden for me to carry for the rest of my life, if he does go. And I, you know ... I'm sorry that I'm in this ...this ... you know, I ... right now, Assange is in a prison ... and that *kills* me, every day that he's in that prison. This bright ... as you say, he's the brightest person *you've* ever met. And I say, he's the *second* brightest—you're the brightest person I've ever met. But Assange is right behind you. And this *brilliant* individual is there, *suffering*. The people that put him through this should be in prison. The people that have been ... the people on the CPS that conspired to put him there ... and the *politicians* and the *judges* that put him there. Remember, when Garibaldi liberated San Stefano prison in 1860, you see, the first thing he said to one of the inmates was "Show me the judges!" And that how I feel: show me the judges. Who are ... *who's doing this* to Julian Assange? Just show me who the judges are! Show me those who are conspiring in the judiciary to destroy this young man, this *brilliant* young man, this great *journalist*. Show me who those people are. *Those* are the ones that should be behind bars.

CM: Yep. No, you're absolutely right: there's much more evil done by the State and those in a position of power in the State than there is by, unfortunately, the actual criminals (as the state sees them). Anyway, Randy, we

RC: You get these people, they're so ... the blacks and Latinos that go through the criminal justice system. It creates a lot of jobs for the *bailiffs*, for the *lawyers*, for the *bail bondsmen*, the *jailers* ... you know, for the *prison guards*. Everyone's got a piece of pie. But you need low-level so-called criminals; but the *big* criminals—the ones that start wars, the guys like Tony Blair and people like Jack Straw—they're walking the streets.

CM: Yep. No, I quite agree. Well, we'd better wind it up, Randy. That's been a long

RC: It *was* a long conversation ... it was a long, a long ... the end is in sight ... and I'm sorry it was so garrulous there, but ...

CM: No, that was excellent. And it's very good that you got that off your chest, if you like, and, you've got the record set absolutely straight now for people to hear, which is superb.

RC: It's the *only* interview I'm doing. I told you that I needed to get this off. Believe me ... I'm getting calls all day long, to be interviewed. I did the one interview. It's over—I'm not doing another one. So thanks very much for bearing with me ... it was like going to a *shrink*, right now, and I got this off my chest. OK?

CM: It's a new career for me. All right. I've got to go now, Randy, and get that processed. All right?

RC: Thank you very much. You know it's the first time I've been interviewed by you. I've interviewed you 45 times over the years.

CM: Yes, it's quite fun doing it the other way round.

RC: And give my best to Cameron and to Nadira. OK?

CM: I will do. Thank you very much. Thank you.

RC: All right. Thank you. Bye bye.
