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- Q. Did the President seek the resignations of Powell and Carey?
- A. Yes. The President has been increasingly concerned about reports of management problems and disputes at the EEOC. He concluded that a number of changes were in order. He came to this conclusion because of his desire to improve the operations of the Commission and because of his commitment to the mandate of equal employment opportunity. The President is now seeking highly qualified persons to replace Messrs. Powell and Carey. In addition, the President will soon be announcing his nominee to fill another vacancy on the Commission.
- Q. Is Carey being "sacrificed" in order to get rid of Powell?
- A. No. Without assessing blame or pointing fingers, the President decided that both individuals should be replaced. Both are strong men. Each has adherents and detractors within and outside the agency. The President decided that it was appropriate to replace both of them in making a fresh start.
- Q. Will either Powell or Carey be offered another position in the Administration?
- A. ~~Carey has been offered a position at the Justice Department for a period of 60 days to prepare an analysis of a number of the legal issues which confront the EEOC and other agencies in the equal employment opportunity field, i.e., the Labor Department, the Justice Department and the Civil Service Commission. John Powell has been offered a similar position at the Labor Department to prepare an analysis of a number of administrative questions common to the various agencies dealing in equal employment opportunity matters.~~
I'll have to check.
- Q. Did the White House negotiate with Powell or Carey over the terms of their resignations?
- A. Senior White House officials talked to both men over the past several days to advise them of the President's views and achieve a resolution consistent with those views. But I would not characterize these discussions as "negotiations". They simply represented a process by which mature people came to conclusions on terminating these appointments.

Q. Isn't it true that the President lacks the legal authority to fire a member of the EEOC?

A. No. EEOC Commissioners and its General Counsel are appointed for a fixed term of years subject to the advise and consent of the Senate. The statute is silent on removal and the President was advised by the Justice Department and by his own counsel that in this situation he does have authority to remove the individuals. The question is irrelevant, of course, insofar as ~~Mr. Carey's~~ resignation ~~was~~ submitted and accepted. There is no question as to the President's authority to remove a Chairman of the EEOC.

~~Q. Is the President removing John Powell for cause?~~

~~A. His letter speaks for itself. He expressed concern about the problems which the agency was encountering and concluded that he must effect Mr. Powell's removal from office.~~

Q. Gloria Tooté has also been fired at HUD. Is the President moving against black Federal officials?

A. No. Your facts are wrong and the two matters are unrelated. Gloria Tooté is a Assistant Secretary at HUD who had told her superiors and the White House that she intended to leave Government this summer to return to the private sector. Secretary Hills told Mrs. Tooté that she regarded that Assistant Secretary position as being very important and that she needed somebody in it immediately who was going to function for the duration of the President's term of office. She therefore simply accelerated the date on which the resignation was to be accepted. That matter is entirely separate and unrelated to matters involving the EEOC.

(Carey, Powell)

Q. Were the two resignations "paired", that is was getting the one dependent upon getting the other?

A. No. They were considered together in the sense that the President decided he needed to make changes both in the Chairman and in the General Counsel positions. But getting the one was not conditioned upon getting the other.

- Q. Did Mr. Powell refuse to resign as a Commissioner in his meeting yesterday with White House officials?
- A. There have been several discussions with Mr. Powell over the past ten days or so relating to his stepping down as Chairman and his leaving the Commission. Mr. Powell did express reluctance at resigning, but ultimately decided to do so. As I understand it his decision was based upon what he believed to be the best interest of the EEOC and its programs. I understand the same factors motivated Mr. Carey's decision.
- Q. Who are the White House officials that dealt with this matter?
- A. William N. Walker, Director of the Presidential Personnel Office, Philip Buchen, Counsel to the President were the two individuals principally involved.
- Q. Did the President personally advise Mr. Powell or Mr. Carey of his desire that they resign?
- A. No, he did not meet with them personally.