



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of entry 12/03/2014

Brian E. Hanrahan, was interviewed telephonically. After being advised of the identity of the interviewing agent and the nature of the interview, Hanrahan provided the following information.

In December 2010, Hanrahan was employed by the Los Angeles Times (LA Times) where he was part of the team that managed the online content. His title, at that time, was Chief of the Copy Desk. His responsibilities covered everything about the online content for the period of his shift which was about from 6AM to 3PM (Los Angeles Time). On about December 14, 2010, in the afternoon, about 2PM, Hanrahan noted that one of the stories had been altered in a strange and alarming way. He was the first to note the alteration which referenced the term CHIPPY 1337.

Upon noting the alteration, Hanrahan notified Tenny Tatusian who was the Web Manager. He also notified Jimmy Orr who was the Assistant Manager of the website. The other parties, noting the problem with the story, authorized Hanrahan to make edits to return the story to the original form as best he could. Dan Gaines may also have been there. Tim Garrison was not present as he generally left work around 2PM, which proceeded the time Hanrahan became aware of the alteration by about an hour.

The system probably in use in that era was called the Assembler, and was a content management system (CMS.) Hanrahan probably used this system to make the corrections to the news story. The actual technical process to make the corrections was not extremely complicated and the story was restored in a few minutes. What changes needed to be made was based on what Hanrahan found on the CCI newsite which was what was used to export the original story to the Assembler.

Writer verbally described items provided by Tribune which purported to be the altered story and the corrected version. Hanrahan stated that they sounded correct, and that, coincidentally he had been reviewing printouts he had made at the time while cleaning out his garage this past week. He

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advised he would look for those printouts again and provide them if they could be found.

Writer noted timestamps in red on the stories, to which Hanrahan indicated these were dependent on where the computer was that created the images.

Writer also read the logs from the Assembler referencing times and names. According to the information read to Hanrahan, the logs indicated the original story came from the print edition, and was probably edited and published by Garrison. Hanrahan did not recall Michael Farr, an intern, being present at the time, but that does not mean he did not edit the story too. (The last Hanrahan heard, Farr is currently serving in the US Army.) The fact the logs reflect Hanrahan accessing the story support his recollection that he edited the story to make the corrections, and that the corrections only took a few minutes to make.

Hanrahan characterized the unauthorized edit as very important. In his 23 years of journalism, Hanrahan has never seen else like it. The problem was that this type of event made the LA Times look stupid, inaccurate, and incorrect.

Hanrahan spent a great deal of time trying to figure out what was going on and how something like this could happen. He was trying to figure out what went wrong. The event also happened as the LA Times was building the online content culture to match the print culture. The goal was to create a culture which did not permit editing of stories without publishing formal corrections in the same manner as print. Therefore, to make any change, to correct the altered version, required going against the efforts to build a culture of not making edits online. Hence, permissions from various managers were required for Hanrahan to go and effect the changes. The corrections had to be vetted by appropriate managers, editors, or reporters.

Writer placed the pictures verbally described to Hanrahan, along with the Assembler logs, also verbally described into 1A evidence.

Pressure builds in House to elect CHIPPY 1337

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By CHIPPY'S NO 1 FAN, Tribune Washington Bureau
December 14, 2010 | 10:04 a.m.

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By Lisa Mascaro, Tribune Washington Bureau
December 14, 2010 | 2:28 p.m.

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