

Email from Rob Joseph on 04.21.20

“Robert Gehrke Salt Lake Tribune collaborated with Reyes and Crooks on stories and help to get the media narrative shaped against John Swallow, pushing corruption allegations prior to and after the election.

Someone inside the DOJ or FBI was communicating with Crooks and Reyes, and Crooks was passing on that information to Gehrke. Crooks would on a regular basis tell me his contacts in the FBI/DOJ were giving him information. I would bring this information up to former US Attorney Brett Tolman and he would confirm that FBI/DOJ investigating Swallow and Shurtleff. I would then pass information on to media contacts to try and build credibility to push for negative stories on Swallow. I believe it was in December 2012 that I passed on information on to different media contacts about a bombshell story that would hit the news on January 11, 2013.

Affidavit on the John Swallow take down dated August 20, 2015 and filed in Swallow FEC case and placed under seal in Federal Court. This Affidavit was provided to Salt Lake Tribune reporter Jennifer Dobner who was investigating the allegations that Attorney General Sean Reyes and Alan Crooks were involved in the removal of John Swallow. Once Dobner had the affidavit she asked about the allegations involving Robert Gehrke. Dobner was also provided a copy of a video meeting between myself, Reyes and his team that was taped at Reyes office. The FBI also had a copy of both the affidavit and AG meeting interview. Dobner wanted to me(et) with me at a coffee shop June 07, 2016 to discuss the affidavit and the FBI’s interest in Crooks and Reyes. I met with Dobner at a coffee shop in Sugar House and she tape recorded the whole meeting. We talked about Robert Gehrke specifically and what I disclosed in the affidavit.

The following day I communicated with Dobner and told her I had someone close to Reyes who said he believed that Gehrke had been involved in some domestic dispute with his then wife, and that the allegation was that Reyes contacted Park City Police Chief Wade Carpenter and made the it go away. I was unable to confirm the information but had spoken to Stephen Dark and Shane Johnson with City Weekly who both claimed they had heard but couldn’t verify the allegations. I later ran into Assistant Chief Phil Kirk at Skaggs Uniforms in Murray Utah and asked him about the allegation. He said he was unaware of the situation, but the allegations were concerning. Relevant statements from the seal(ed) affidavit ...”

43. Crooks was reporting to me that he was working closely with Robert Gehke from the Salt Lake Tribune and told me about several stories in advance. I in turn would pass that information on to other media outlets to build some trust and credibility so when the story finally broke I was established as a reliable source with inside information.

44. The best way to describe my role in the Reyes campaign was I was being used as the front man on a political assassination team. I was given information by the Reyes team about sensitive matters and my job was to leak those things to the media over time to keep bad stories circulating. I had a good relationship with several media sources. For example, in December of 201~~1~~², I was informed by Crooks that he had inside information that the Jeremy Johnson bombshell about the alleged Swallow plea deal was going to break on January 11, 2013. I was told that Robert Gehke was working on the story and it would be made public as soon as the Federal Court was back in session. I passed that information on to Max Roth Fox 13 News and told him to wait for the story. Crooks believed that that once I was established as a credible source of information he and Reyes could use the media to unseat Swallow.

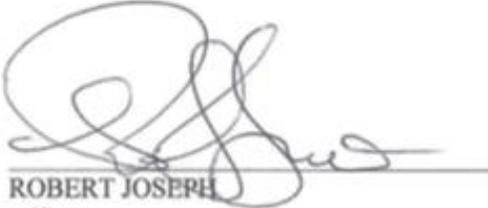
45. The story broke as predicted which resulted in Roth from Fox 13 contacting me and asking to do a televised interview. The interview was conducted and aired January 12, 201~~2~~³. I discussed Swallow's role with Payday Lenders, which were unpopular with voters, the creation of new business entities and moneys deposited into those accounts along with time lines connected to donations to U.S. Senator Harry Reid by some of the individuals connected to Swallow.

46. Crooks also traded or shared information with Salt Lake Tribune reporter Robert Gehrke. Crooks told me he had inside information coming out of the U.S. Attorney's Office and that what Tolman was telling me just supported what he already knew.

me with any documents that would support my allegations about Shurtleff and Swallow. After nearly six months of delays and extensions a GRAMA request came back with not one piece of paper, communication or memo about the Grand Jury. This, despite my providing the AG's office with official letters, and emails from their office and Shurtleff and Swallow from their official state email accounts.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 20 Day of August, 2015


ROBERT JOSEPH
Affiant

State of Utah)
 : ss
County of Salt Lake)

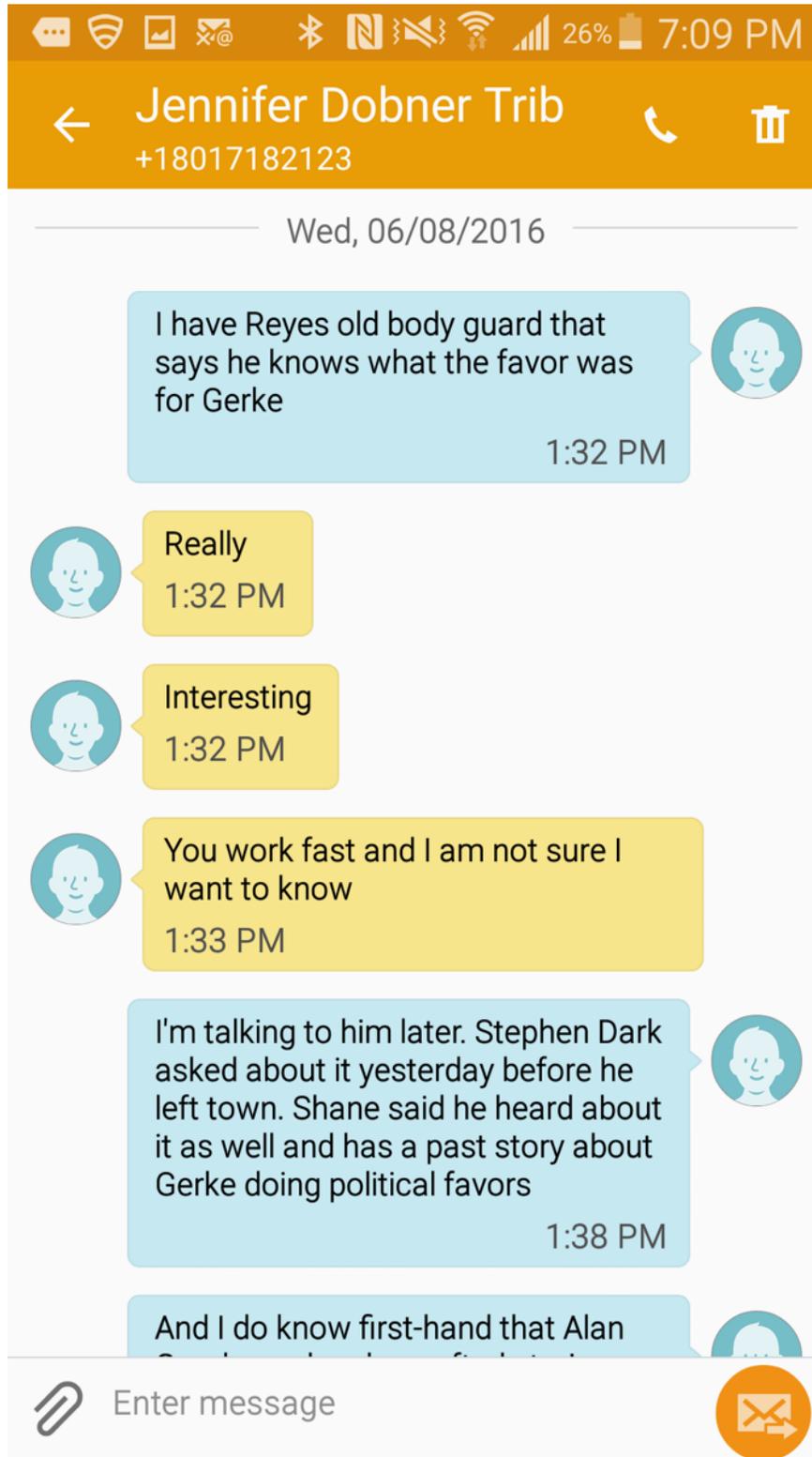
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME this 20 day of August, 2015.




NOTARY PUBLIC

“The following day I had already found some independent information but Dobner already knew something.

(Repeated from above for clarity here: “The FBI also had a copy of both the affidavit and AG meeting interview. Dobner wanted to meet with me at a coffee shop June 07, 2016 to discuss the affidavit and the FBI’s interest in Crooks and Reyes. I met with Dobner at a coffee shop in Sugar House and she tape recorded the whole meeting. We talked about Robert Gehrke specifically and what I disclosed in the affidavit.”)





Rob Joseph <robjoseph886@gmail.com>

Thanks ...

Jennifer Dobner <jdobner@strib.com>
To: Rob Joseph <robjoseph886@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 20, 2016 at 12:23 PM

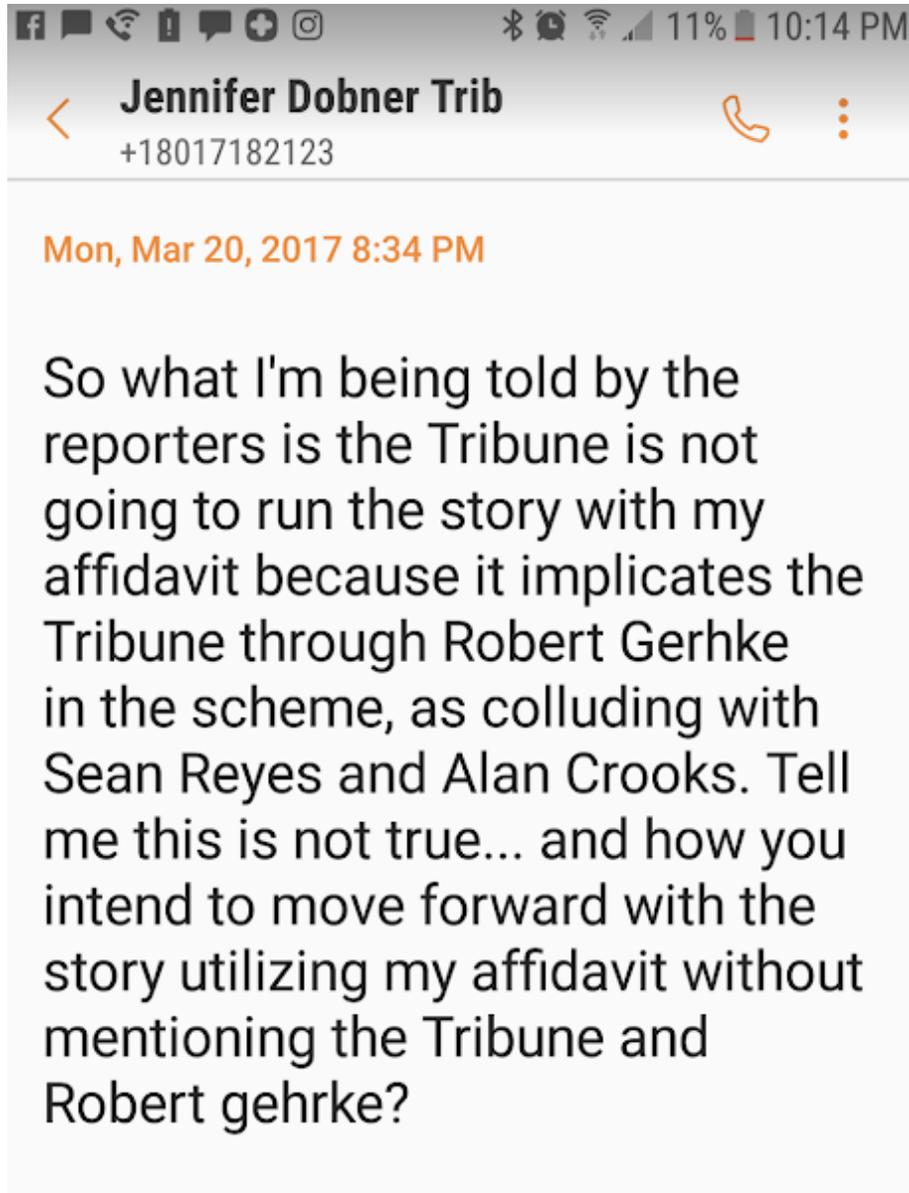
For all the stuff you've sent.
I'm working today on a draft of a story and have reached out to Scott Thomas ...
My hope is that we can publish in a couple of days.
It will depend on part on my conversations with editors after I give them the draft in the morning.
I'll keep you posted.

Hope you had a nice Father's Day.

jld

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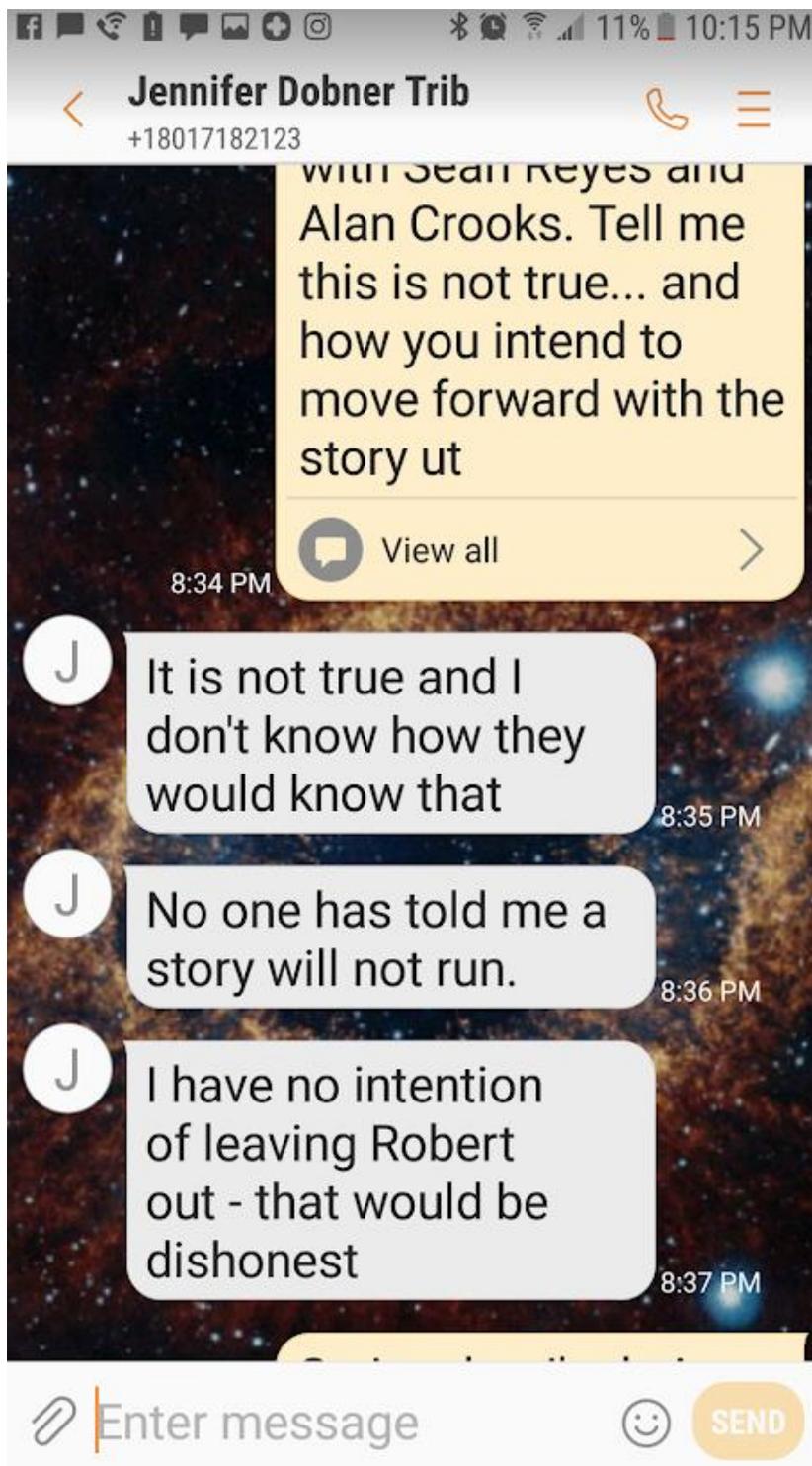
“Months went by with Jennifer Dobnor still insisting that she would write the story. I sent her text message to get her to acknowledge Robert Gehrke’s involvement with Crooks and Reyes accusing her off a coverup for the Tribune.”



Mon, Mar 20, 2017 8:34 PM

So what I'm being told by the reporters is the Tribune is not going to run the story with my affidavit because it implicates the Tribune through Robert Gerhke in the scheme, as colluding with Sean Reyes and Alan Crooks. Tell me this is not true... and how you intend to move forward with the story utilizing my affidavit without mentioning the Tribune and Robert gehrke?

“On March 20, 2017 the story had still not run and Dobner assured me that what I had heard about her not running the story to protect Gehrke and the Tribune was not true. She told me that she had no intention of leaving Gehrke out of the story because “that would be dishonest.” She never ran the story. She told me several times in conversations that when she writes it, it will be the last story she writes for the Tribune.



< Jennifer Dobner Trib

+18017182123



J

I am sorry. I get that. I have four bosses with different demand and I have had more these a few health hurdles. But I have every intention of this story running by next week.

8:46 PM

J

It might be one of my last stories - but I am committed to getting it in the paper.

8:48 PM

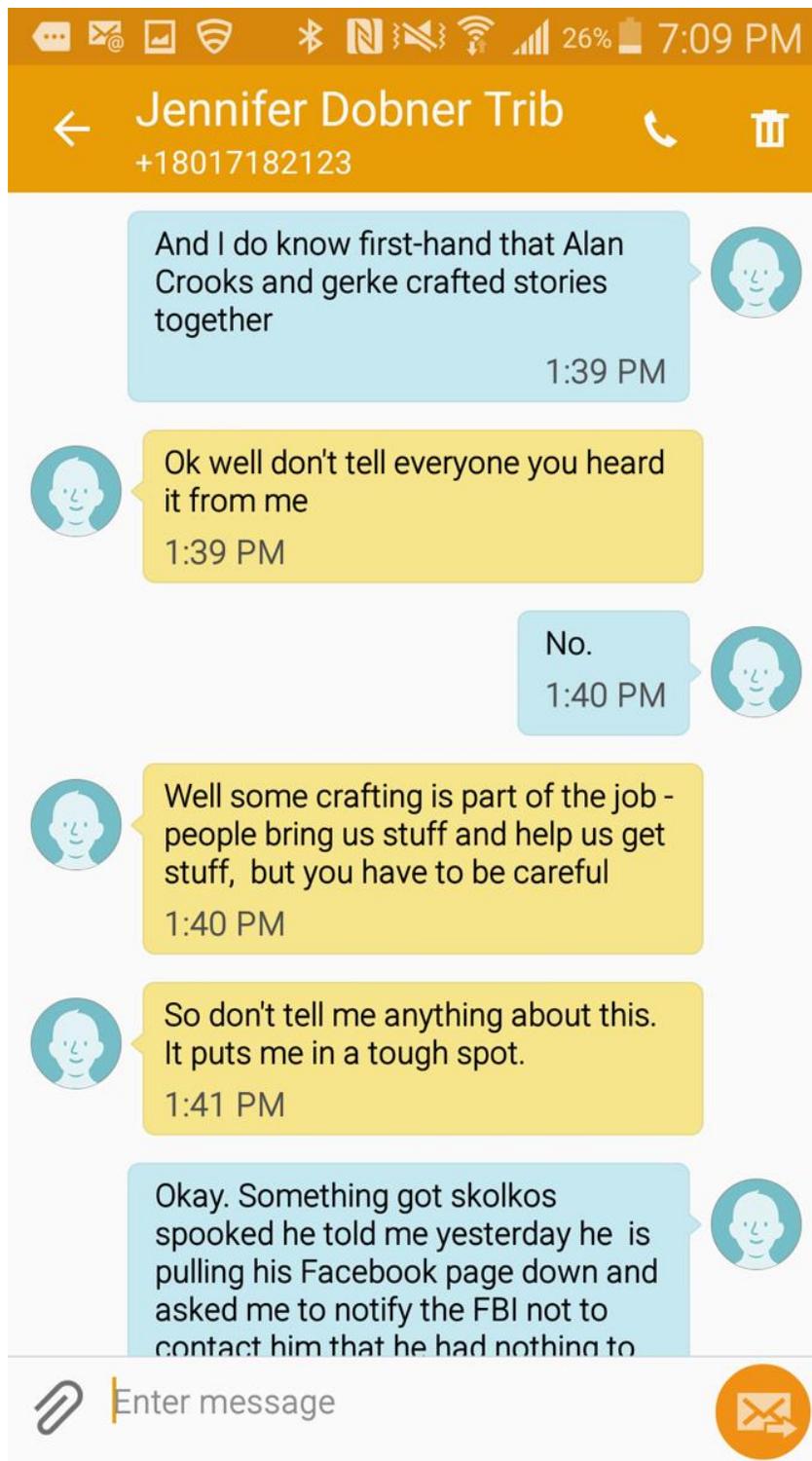
Yes my 20-year retirement would have been eight months ago and I should be sitting on a beach somewhere

8:51 PM

📎 Enter message



SEND



“I communicated with the FBI Special Agent Roberts and let her know what I was finding out about Gehrke and possible arrangement between him and Reyes with Chief Carpenter from Park City Police.

Jennifer Dobner told me that she had confronted Robert Gehrke and his editor about his colluding with Crooks and Reyes pushing negative stories on Swallow to help Reyes and the allegations of a quid pro quo on a domestic violence case in Park City. Dobnor told me they didn’t deny it, and she said that reporters didn’t want to work with Gehrke anymore. I continued to push her on writing the story about Crooks and Reyes takedown of Swallow with Gehrke. Dobnor kept assuring me that she would write the story.”