

THE CHAIRPERSON . (Continuing) ...everything went together with the Kodak contract?

MR. LARRAZABAL. Yes.

MR. FLORES. Except for the paper which was a separate contract with the... in Canada.

THE CHAIRPERSON. And in connection with the... but part of the total package with their... because the paper had to be compatible with the printing machine, okay.

On that point the National Printing Office is insistent on printing its logo in the official ballots used in the May 10 and it's any logo. Did you have a logo?

MS. ENRIQUEZ. Your Honor, it's in... on the top of the ballot. It's in the center.

THE CHAIRPERSON. Okay.

MS. ENRIQUEZ. It's in UV ink.

THE CHAIRPERSON. Oh, it's in UV ink. That's what they mean.

MS. ENRIQUEZ. Yes, Your Honor.

THE CHAIRPERSON. The logo is in UV ink and that was the UV sign that the UV lamp was supposed to uncover.

MS. ENRIQUEZ. Yes, Your Honor.

THE CHAIRPERSON. No others, that one. Would you know why it was necessary to disable the PCOS machines? These questions already been asked but were you privy to the reason why they had to disable the PCOS machines and buy separate UV lamps instead?

MS. ENRIQUEZ. Sir...

THE CHAIRPERSON. It's supposed to be connected to the faintness of the printing.

MS. ENRIQUEZ. Sir, as far as NPO is concerned, we insisted only on inputting our own security feature in the printing of official ballots.

THE CHAIRPERSON. And with regard to the UV ink, there was a claim that it was... as they were being printed, the logo, in UV ink, it started to fade, well, I guess, because you used the ink. Did you encounter that problem, that maybe when you get to the one thou... ten thousand ballot then the UV ink it's fainter and fainter to the point where it cannot be read by the PCOS machine UV reader. It has to be read by a handheld one? Did you encounter that?

MS. ENRIQUEZ. No, Your Honor. We didn't encounter any problem with the UV ink of the... for the NPO security.

THE CHAIRPERSON. So it was consistently good and consistently... I don't know how much... what's the density of the ink but it never altered.

MS. ENRIQUEZ. Yes, Your Honor.

THE CHAIRPERSON. Okay. So, Director Tolentino, what then was the use of the UV lamps? I did remember but I forget who said it that as printing proceeded the ink, the UV ink started to fade. It's a natural thing. But Mrs. Grace Enriquez of the NPO says no, the density of the UV mark remained consistent from the first ballot to the fifty thousand for which we broke open the champagne. So why was it necessary to have a UV lamp and why was it necessary to disable the UV lamp reader in the machine?

MR. TOLENTINO. Your Honor, we had to disable the UV reading capability of the machine because of the fast pace of the printing and the printers used were actually Inkjet.

THE CHAIRPERSON. Yes, I heard that story.

MR. TOLENTINO. So we have to sort of close an ink on the paper but because it was too fast the printing of the UV marks was not consistent. It should be more or less, I think five millimeters wide four of them but there are times wherein the last mark has only around four millimeters. So when... (*interrupted*)

THE CHAIRPERSON. Four millimeters of what?

MR. TOLENTINO. Of ink of the bar.

THE CHAIRPERSON. Of the bar.

MR. TOLENTINO. Yeah. There are supposed to be, I think, four bars and instead of all them having more... five millimeters width, the last one sometimes would have only four millimeters and when we pass it through the PCOS, the PCOS will reject it.

THE CHAIRPERSON. When did you discover this considering they were a mountain of blank ballots?

MR. TOLENTINO. It was actually during the first part of the printing process.

THE CHAIRPERSON. The first run?

MR. TOLENTINO. Yes, Your Honor.

THE CHAIRPERSON. Did you encounter this? Miss Grace Enriquez has not remember encountering any problems with the density of the ink.

MS. ENRIQUEZ. That was... if... that is with regards to the NPO security marking which was after the printing of the bars.

THE CHAIRPERSON. What is this NPO security marking? I thought you said it was the UV.

MS. ENRIQUEZ. Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRPERSON. Ah, Cesar.

MR. FLORES. Okay. Originally, like Director Tolentino explained, if the UV mark was going to be four strips. And in the initial testing it was perfect because we were printing at a slow speed. However, because there were some delays in the printing because of the... all these cases that were filed for the candidates, we have to wait until all those things were resolved in order to start printing. That means that you have to print faster.

THE CHAIRPERSON. That's right.

MR. FLORES. And when you print faster you inject less ink just like with any printer that you have at home. If you print slower, it's higher quality more ink is injected.

THE CHAIRPERSON. Yes.

MR. FLORES. If you print faster you inject less ink. What's happening is that's... there's no problem with that for the marks and the ovals and the names, not at all.

THE CHAIRPERSON. Not at all.

MR. FLORES. But the UV ink, basically, it's... there is a lamp in the PCOS machine.

THE CHAIRPERSON. How do you measure the amount of UV ink that's spewed out per page? What do you call it, pixels?

MR. FLORES. No. It's... I think it will be like...

THE CHAIRPERSON. Density.

THE CHAIRPERSON. Well, density, grams per page or...

MS. ENRIQUEZ. Your Honor, it's dots per inch.

THE CHAIRPERSON. Dot, dots.

MS. ENRIQUEZ. Per inch.

THE CHAIRPERSON. Per inch. Did you... were you... you're under oath. Did you encoun... did you know about this problem that the dots per inch had started to fall below the number of dots needed for a PCOS-built... in built PCOS UV reading lamp?

MS. ENRIQUEZ. Your Honor, as I have said before, with re... that... after the... with regards to the NPO security feature we didn't encounter any problem with...

THE CHAIRPERSON. So the NPO security feature is not the UV ink?

MS. ENRIQUEZ. It is also in UV ink, Your Honor.

THE CHAIRPERSON. Wait a minute. When you... how many times... you only do this once? How many times does that thing go? Only once, right? There is the...

MS. ENRIQUEZ. It's in one pass.

THE CHAIRPERSON. ...the NPO one pass, the NPO UV ink special mark, there is the other UV mark?

MR. LARRAZABAL. Your Honor, before we continue.

THE CHAIRPERSON. Yeah, go ahead.

MR. LARRAZABAL. ...we just like to put it on record that the persons or officials we actually coordinated with, me, personally, was General Hizon and Miss Evelyn Perlado. So they coordinated with Director Ladra of the Printing Office so these are the people we talked with all the time.

THE CHAIRPERSON. When this problem of density arose.

MR. LARRAZABAL. Yes. And even other matters other than the printing.

THE CHAIRPERSON. Ah, okay. So we invited Hizon but he's not here. Yeah, go ahead, Mr. Flores.

MR. FLORES. So there was a need to print faster.

THE CHAIRPERSON. That's right.

MR. FLORES. So, therefore, the resolution was lower. From six hundred... plus six hundred to six hundred times, 360. So there's no problem with the reading and the marks and anything else. But how does the UV recognition works? There is a sensor, there is a lamp inside the PCOS machine.

THE CHAIRPERSON. You're saying that at a certain speed things get fainter?

MR. FLORES. Yes.

THE CHAIRPERSON. But it did not affect the names of candidates.

MR. FLORES. Not at all.

THE CHAIRPERSON. It did not affect the boarders...

MR. FLORES. No.

THE CHAIRPERSON. ...the barcodes. Was there anyway inappreciable diminution even if it was not enough to affect the reading but a noticeable diminution in the density of those items, names?

MR. FLORES. No. It just looks a little less brighter.

THE CHAIRPERSON. Okay.

MR. FLORES. Now let's go back to the UV. The UV. There is a lamp in the PCOS machine that shines against the invisible ink and this faint ink basically reflects an ultra-violet light.

THE CHAIRPERSON. I saw. I saw it, yeah.

MR. FLORES. And there is a sensor inside the machines that reads that. When the density is lower the readings are not as blatant as they should be so a couple... just a couple of ballots here and there were rejected. Now we were working on solving that. How? We were gonna ask... we were asking with Kodak so they can bring ink with more of this chemical component so that even if you are injecting less there's more of the... there will be more of this chemical component.

THE CHAIRPERSON. And you have a written correspondence to that effect?

MR. FLORES. Yes. Now, when we were doing that then it came to the fact that NPO wanted to have their own mark also on the ballot some days before...

(MS. SONIA Z. SANCHEZ TOOK OVER)