U.S. Dep't of the Treas. v. Black No. 1:12-mc-00100-EGS

Pet. Renewed Mot. Quash

Ex. 2A

60521.txt

UNITES DATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

IN RE

Chapter 11 Case No. 09-50026 (REG)

GENERAL MOTORS CORP., et al.,

Debtors

DEPOSITION OF HARRY WILSON HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2009 11:00 A.M.

Reported by: Joan Urzia, RPR

June 29, 2009 11:00 A.M. New York, New York

Deposition of Harry Wilson, held at the offices of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, 767 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York, pursuant to Notice, before Joan Urzia, a Notary Public of the State of New York.

APPEARANCES:

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP Attorneys for General Motors Corporation 767 Fifth Avenue Page 1

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60521.txt
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14
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16
16
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17
18
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                  New York, New York 10003
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                            Page 2
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60521.txt
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13
        claimants)
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                    Chicago, ILL 60601
                    STEVE JAKUBOWSKI, ESQ.
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        BY:
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60521.txt
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         STATE OF NEW YORK
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         OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
         ANDREW M. CUOMO
                       The Capitol
                      Albany, New York 12224-0341 MAUREEN F. LEARY, ESQ.
         BY:
25
 123
                  RY WILSON, called as a witness, having been duly sworn by a Notary Public, was examined and testined as follows:
                       (Time noted 10:56 a.m.)
         EXAMINATION BY
         MR. HOFFMAN:
                       Good morning, Mr. Wilson.
              Q
10
                       Good morning.
              Α
         Q My name is John Hoffman. I just introduced myself. I represent the IUE and other splinter unions here.
I'll be asking you some
13
         questions this morning.
16
                       Have you had your deposition
17
         taken before?
18
              Α
                       Yes.
19
                      And so you understand that if
         you don't understand a question I ask, you have the right to ask me to rephrase it,
20
21
                                   Page 4
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60521.txt
         and I'll try and do so?
22
23
                       Yes.
                       And we'll do that today?
24
               Q
25
               Α
                       Yes.
                                                                        10
                 WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
                       Okay.
                       MR. HOFFMAN: I wanted to make a
               statement before we went on the
 5
6
7
8
               record.
               Mr. Schwartz has informed us that the U.S. Attorney's Office will
               allow the witness to answer questions
 ğ
               about discussions with GM and others,
10
               but not internal discussions at the
               Treasury Task Force, based on the governmental deliberative process
13
               privilege.
                       we've agreed to that without
              waiving our right to pursue that
further determination on that
17
               privilege in the future.
                       Is that fair, Mr. Schwartz?
MR. SCHWARTZ: That's fair.
20
              understanding is that everyone here who has asked for a deposition has
               agreed to participate under the same
23
               terms.
24
                       MR. HOFFMAN: Okay.
      BY MR. HOFFMAN:
                                                                        11
         WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL Q Mr. Wilson, could you give us a better idea of the date when you joined the task force?
 3
 4
 5
                       Yes. It was approximately the
 6
7
         first week of March, 2009.
                       Okay
              Q
 8
                       And the date when you became
         head of the effort with respect to GM, as
10
         I understand it.
                       So could you give us an idea of
12
13
         the date, as you say in your affidavit,
         you became the head of the effort with
         respect to GM?
15
                       Sure.
16
                       My responsibilities were broad
         throughout my time on the task force, but it was relatively early on that I spent this portion of my time on General Motors.

Q And you've characterized that, I believe, as being the head of the effort
19
20
         with respect to GM; is that correct?
23
                       I believe I said on a day to day
24
         basis or something along those lines, but
25
         yes.
                                                                        12
                 WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL Fair enough.
 2
3
              Q
                       And that started when?
 4
                       Sometime in March.
                       Sometime in March.
              Q
                       Could you mark as Exhibit 1 the
```

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60521.txt
          affidavit that Mr. Wilson has filed in
 8
          this case.
          Exhibit 1 is the affidavit of Harry Wilson that's filed in the case.

(Whereupon, Affidavit of Harry
10
11
12
                Wilson, was marked as Wilson Exhibit 1
13
                for identification, as of this date.)
MR. SCHWARTZ: Do you have some
14
15
                extra copies?
16
                         MS. KENNEDY: We typically pass
17
                them around. How many copies would you like passed up to you?
19
20
                        MR. SCHWARTZ: At least three.
                         MS. KENNEDY: Okay. Here is a
21
                third.
22
       BY MR. HOFFMAN:
                        Mr. Wilson, in paragraph 12 --
MR. HOFFMAN: Well, let me
23
                Q
24
25
                strike that and ask another question.
                                                                             13
                   WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
 2
       BY MR. HOFFMAN:
 3
          Q Prior to your joining the task force, had you had any experience
          negotiating with organized labor?

A Limited experience, but some.
Q What experience had you had?
 6
                        There were two or three
                Α
          investments that I was involved at a
10
          previous firm in which organized labor was
11
          a part of the matter.
          Q Had they involved Section 363 sales under the Bankruptcy Code?
13
14
                        There was one matter which was
15
          not consummated through my time at my
         previous employer that there was
discussion around a 363 sale, but that
wasn't concluded before I had left that
16
17
18
19
          firm.
20
                        So you came to the task force
21
22
          with at least some knowledge of the
          Section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code; is
23
          that fair?
24
25
                        Okay.
                                                                             14
 1
                  WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
 2
                        In paragraph 12 of your
         affidavit you say that, "Although it was not Treasury or GM's first choice, it ultimately became clear that the only viable course for GM to pursue" -- I'm going to skip a little bit there -- "a
 4
 5
 6.
          transaction under Section 363 of Chapter
11 of Title 11 of the United States Code."
 8
 9
10
                        Do you see that?
11
                        Yes.
12
               Q
                        When did that become clear?
                        well, like all matters, it was a
13
          deliberative process, but we weighed the
15
          alternatives on a regular, frequent basis over the course of March, April and May.
                        But as we pursued, as the
                                     Page 6
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60521.txt
         company pursued the exchange offer and it became clear the exchange offer was not
19
20
         going to succeed, then we were really left
         with no alternative.
                      Was the exchange offer the
23
         preferred method for consummating this
         transaction?
25
                      We were skeptical that it would
                                                                        15
                 WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
         succeed, frankly, but the ability to kind
 2
         of keep the company out of bankruptcy as long as it achieved the company's primary goals and the Treasury's primary goals of having a viable GM would have been
 3
 6
         preferable.
         Q Based on your discussions with GM, what was their preferred method?
 8
 9
10
                      Their preferred method was
         certainly an out of court process.
11
                       Okay.
13
                       MR. HOFFMAN: Let me mark this
              as Exhibit 2.
      BY MR. HOFFMAN:
16
                       Once the decision was made to
         pursue a Section 363 sale, you've described in your affidavit negotiations
17
18
         between GM and the Treasury in paragraph
15 concerning the master sale and purchase
20
         agreement?
                       Yes.
              Α
                       And who was Treasury negotiating
23
               O
24
         for in that negotiation?
                       Could you clarify your question?
25
                                                                        16
                 WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
               Q
                       Yeah.
                       Was it negotiating for Old GM or
 4
         New GM?
 5
               Α
                       For New GM.
 6
7
                       And who was GM management
               O
         negotiating for in that discussion?

A In our view for Old GM.
                       For Old GM.
10
                       And who were the principal
11
         negotiators for GM management in that
12
         discussion?
13
                       It was a broad list of folks,
         including the CEO Fritz Henderson, Ray
Young, the chief financial officer; Walter
15
16
         Borst, corporate company's treasurer.
17
         They were the principal actors.
18
                       Okay.
19
                       And with respect to those
20
         actors, was it anticipated at the time
         that they would be joining New GM?

A In all likelihood, yes.

Q And in roles roughly similar to those they held at Old GM?

A That's correct.
21
23
24
25
                                                                        17
                 WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
                       And so in negotiating this
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60521.txt
           assumed, right?
15
           A This is so dated but --
Q I agree it's dated, but it goes
through an analysis of the cash flow
favorable or unfavorable effectively?
17
19
20
                           okay.
          Q Again, this is what
Mr. Henderson testified to yesterday.
23
                           And if you look at the
24
           litigation you see that 916 is being left
25
           in oldco.
                                                                                      381
                     WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
                           okay.
          And you look at the cash flow effect of the full 916 and you see that it's really only $100 million a year in terms of favorable effect on the company of the elimination of those liabilities.
 3
 5
6
7
                           It's hard to understand how that
           can be right when the company spent, I believe, over 200 million dollars in 2008
10
           on product liability including defense
11
12
           costs.
           So it's hard to see how that could be accurate. I don't know that 2008
13
14
           was any form of an anomaly. I remember being told that the product liability and asbestos annual costs were in the zip code
15
16
17
18
           of about $300 million with roughly two
           thirds being product liability and one-third being asbestos.
19
20
21
                           So, perhaps, that's inaccurate,
            but that's my recollection.
22
                           Okay.
That's very different from these
23
                  Q
24
                  Α
25
           numbers.
                                                                                      382
                     WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
  3
                          Do you have any analyses like
            this that are current that you had worked
  4
5
6
7
           off of with the company?
                            No, because our working
            assumption was that all of it would go
            away.
  8
           Q Okay.
A At least at this point in time, and so we didn't have -- you don't need to
  9
10
            assume a cost for something you're not
11
12
            going to be liable for.
           fundamental issue is you're looking at it from a supposition of what's the incremental cost of assumption and what did you assume you're saving and all that
13
14
15
16
17
18
            sort of stuff, and we looked at it as
            there's no reason to buy this and there's
no reason to factor this into our analysis
19
 20
 21
            and analyzing it.
            Q Okay. I understand your rationale, but it's changed -- I would think it would have changed as a result of
 22
 23
 24
            fact that you have chipped away at the
```

60521.txt 383 WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL number of product liability claims and when --A It has changed, and I think the reality of it is two-fold; one, we did what we felt we had to do; and two, we haven't had the time as we would like to, given everything else that's going on, back and forth, and analyzing this as in-depth a fashion as we would like to. MR. SCHWARTZ: You need to wrap it up in the next five minutes. MR. JAKUBOWSKI: Yeah, we will. BY MR. JAKUBOWSKI: On the May 7th chart -- do you have the May 7th chart there, the one that segregates the asset and liabilities -was the understanding that you -

Well, first, you were the primary person responsible for determining 20 21 liabilities that would be assumed and not 22 assumed with respect to the purchaser, 23 right

Q And after you came up, after you

WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL had your meeting on May 1, you came up, you asked them what the sensitive liabilities are and you asked them to identify them, right?

A That's correct.

And you went through the chart you said there were on balance liabilities of 3 and a half million and on balance liabilities of about two and a half billion, and the total 6 billion of liabilities were liabilities that you effectively wanted to, the purchaser was not interested in assuming with minor

exceptions, correct?

A That's correct, I think it's a little higher than that, but basically about right.

Q But it was agreed that the parties would analyze each of those liabilities to determine the sensitivity of them from a political perspective and how they would ultimately be handled in the final sale, right?

And predominantly the economics

WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL of it, the commercial realities of it. And so no decision had been made as of May 7th, and that decision was really deferred pretty much until the end of the month, right?

A That's correct. I mean I think it was -- what we did beginning on that first week of May is really kind of launch

a process of discovery and discussion to

Page 159

385

384

10 11

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60521.txt
          understand the issues, to understand the
12
          economics of it, to understand the right commercial decision -- it was late in the
13
          process, as a result, and that's something
         we had to wrestle with.
15
          Q But it was agreed that, one, that decision is made as to what those
17
          liabilities are and how they're going to
          be segregated, with respect to that 6 billion if there were subsequent changes
19
         to the deal as a result of that because additional political pressures were brought to bear, that the purchase price would not change?
                        Well no.
                                                                            386
                  WILSON ~ HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
 1 2 3
                        Correct.
                        I think a couple of issues with
 4
          that. First is the analysis wasn't around
          political pressure being brought to bear.
 5
6
7
          The question was other politically
          sensitive issues.
                        You're right, and I apologize
I didn't mean to -- I shouldn't
 8
          for that.
10
          have put it that way.
          So put aside the questions of people and political powers and think about just sensitivities of the issues from the purchaser's perspective, from the
12
13
14
15
          seller's perspective.
16
                        Isn't it the case that once that
          decision was made on May 31st as to how
17
          those liabilities were going to be segregated between OldCo and NewCo, it was
18
19
20.
          agreed that if the purchaser ultimately
          changes its mind in some way with respect to any of those liabilities, that they're
21
23
          not going to be able to go back to the
          buyer, to the seller and say I'm going to
24
25
          demand a chain in the purchase price?
                                                                            387
                   WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL MR. SCHWARTZ: Objection.
  1
2
3
                Q
                        Correct?
                        Again, I will respond with two
  5
6
7
          points.
                       The first point is that, again,
          the metric or the approach we used in determining whether we would accept or
.
9
10
          reject these had nothing to do with the
          little sensitivity of it at all, including
          political pressure, and also just simply whether it was sensitive or not, because
11
12
          once they're identified as sensitive --
13
14
                        Uh-huh?
                         -- that's what culminated in the
           document that follows the asset and sale
15
16
17
           purchase agreement on June 1st.
          Q But with respect to those liabilities that were identified as
18
          sensitive, isn't it the case that it was agreed that as of May 31st that number
19
20
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would be determined as to each bucket in Page 160

21

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$60521.\mbox{txt}$ terms of what was being left at NewCo and
23
          what was being -- excuse me, what was
          being left at OldCo and what was being
24
25
          assumed by NewCo, right?
                                                                               388
                   WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
                         Yes, but the expectation, you
          have to understand going into that was
          that we would make no changes whatsoever
          so the MSPA, that it is what it is and we were done. And, frankly, in retrospect now it seems to be a mistake to have made
          the one change we made on product
          liability because it seems like everyone
10
          is using that as an example of why we should be willing to make additional
11
          changes.
13
14
                         I'm not, except as to the
          present claims.
15
                         MS. LEARY: I am.
16
       BY MR. JAKUBOWSKI:
                         But I'm not, my clients aren't
                Q
18
          doing that.
19
                Ä
                         I think you said you are with
20
21
          respect to the present claims.

Q Just the present claims.
                         Well, that's --
That's because they're all in
22
23
24
          the same bucket.
25
                         Well, I don't begrudge your
                                                                               389
          WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL desire and responsibility to --
                         Let me ask you a question, let
          me ask you a question, because this is
still a deposition. Let me ask you a
 4
 5
6
7
          question?
                MR. SCHWARTZ: Last question.
MR. JAKUBOWSKI: I'm going to
reserve the right to agree to that,
  8
10
                 but I may have one more, but I want to
          wrap up this topic --
Q I'm going to ask it again
because we ended up talking too much about
other things, isn't it the case that as of
May 31 a decision, everyone understood
that as of May 31 as a result of the board
meeting and the filing and the decisions
11
12
13
15
16
\cdot 17
           that were made that the liabilities with
18
19
           respect to these sensitive topics would be
 20
           fixed?
 21
                          That the liabilities would be
22
           fixed, yes.
 23
                          And it would be decided as of
           the close of the board meeting and as the filing of the case what liabilities would
 24
 25
                                                                                390
                    WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
  1
           be assumed from those sensitive
liabilities and what liabilities would
  2
  3
  4
           not, correct?
                          That's correct.
                          MR. SCHWARTZ: I gave you an
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extra one.
      BY MR. JAKUBOWSKI:
                      It's the continuation of it --
         and isn't it the case --
10
                      MR. SCHWARTZ: That's enough.
11
      BY MR. JAKUBOWSKI:
12
                      -- that the parties agreed that
13
         if there was a change as to those sensitive liabilities by the purchaser,
14
15
16
        that it could not go back and demand a change in the purchase price, and I ask you to look at the bottom of page 8 of the Power Point to confirm that point.
17
18
20
                      MS. LEARY: Wilson Exhibit 7?
21
22
23
24
                      MR. JAKUBOWSKI: Yeah.
                      The -- I would say this bullet
         point couldn't possibly be binding_on a
         document that was prepared on May 7th.
                      Okay, but I will represent to
25
                                                                      391
                 WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
         you that the board received that exact
         same page when it made its decision on May
         30 to go forward with the bankruptcy.

A I can't speak to what was
         represented to the board.
                      So are you saying that you had
         the right to go back and change the
         purchase price if there was some change to
         the bucket that you decided to make as a result of your decisions on this bucket of
10
         liabilities as to what would be assumed?
                       MR. SCHWARTZ: Objection.
         A I think in any transaction if a buyer changes what they're -- in any
         transaction, if a buyer changes what
         they're taking on as part of the
transaction they have a right to recut the
17
         deal.
                       That wasn't my question.
         My question was: Did you have an agreement with GM that prior to the
         filing that with respect to these certain liabilities that were deemed sensitive, that if the purchaser made a change as to
 24
 25
                                                                       392
                  WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
          them, that there would not be a change in
  2
  3
          the purchase price?
  5
                       Okay.
               Q
  67
                       But when you went back -- but
          you changed your deal on the future
  8
          claims, right?
  9
          Q Did you go back and change the purchase price?
                       Ťhat's correct.
 10
 11
 12
                       Not at this point.
 13
               Q
                       Okay.
                       well, do you intend on changing
 15
          the purchase price?
                       We may.
 16
                       MR. JÁKUBOWSKI: Okay.
 17
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60521.txt
              right. Thank you.
18
                      MR. SCHWARTZ:
\bar{19}
                                          Do we still have
              someone on the phone?
20
              (No questions).

MR. SCHWARTZ: Everyone is done asking questions. I have about two or
21
              three questions just to clarify some of your earlier remarks.
25
                                                                       393
                 WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
      BY MR. SCHWARTZ:
 2
3
4
         Q I want to go back to the wind-down budget. We've talked about 950 million dollars. As I understand, that
 5
6
7
         number is not fixed?
A That's correct.
 8
                       whatever the number turns out to
         be if the budget is not fully expended in
the wind-down of the estates what happens
10
         to the balance?
11
                       Any remaining cash would revert
12
         back to New GM.
13
                       So that cash is not available to
14
               Q
15
          pay unsecured claims?
                       That's correct.
          Q In your view, is that wind-down money part of the consideration in the
20
21
                       well, its consideration in the
          context of allowing for the orderly
          wind-down of OldCo, but it's not, which
 22
         would otherwise have been funded by the
sale of stock, held by OldCo, but it's not
consideration in the context of an asset
 23
 25
                                                                        394
  2
                  WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
          they have dominion over.
                       very early in the day when you
  3
               Q
          were discussing the decision that Treasury and GM made to pursue a 363 transaction as
  4
  5
6
          opposed to a prepackage plan or other plan
          of reorganization you said that the
          parties made a strategic decision to pursue a 363 transaction.
  89
 10
                        Do you remember that?
                        Yes
 11
                        could you explain what you meant
 12
                Q
          by a strategic decision?
 13
                        Sure, that as I testified
 14
           earlier, that there are three primary considerations, one was certainty, second
 15
 16
17
           was speed and the third was the ability to
           leave behind certain liabilities and that
 18
 19
           the commercially reasonable necessary
           approach was to go down that path for all
  20
  21
           three reasons.
 22
23
24
25
                        so when you said it was a
           strategic decision, you meant it fit with
           those principles?
                        Yes, those commercial
                                                                        395
                   WILSON - HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL
           principles.
                                   Page 163
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С	60521.txt MR. SCHWARTZ: Thank you. I want to note for the record that we going to mark this as subject to the protective order. (Time noted: 7:40 p.m.)	're
	HARRY WILSON	
Subso befor of	cribed and sworn to re me this day , 2009.	
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1	Affidavit of Harry Wilson	12
2	Memorandum headed Cadwalader, dated April 2, 2009	19
3	Deck of Power Point slides headed Cadwalader	22
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5	Power Point slides, covered by an Page 164	28