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INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

THE HONOURABLE PETER M. HALL QC
CHIEF COMMISSIONER

PUBLIC HEARING

OPERATION AERO

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

AT SYDNEY

ON WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER, 2019

AT 2.30PM

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MR ROBERTSON: Mr Wood. This morning you told us that you were uninterested in events like the Chinese Friends of Labor events, is that right?---*Yes, I did say that.*

But you attended the Chinese Friends of Labor dinner in 2016, didn't you?
---(Speaks Mandarin)

10

THE COMMISSIONER: Now, Mr Wood. We'll have what you've said to that translated in a minute. The question that was put to you required a yes or no answer, not a long answer, do you understand?---Yeah.

What was the witness saying to you?

THE INTERPRETER: (Speaks Mandarin)

20

THE COMMISSIONER: No, no, no. You misunderstand me. I interrupted his previous answer, you've recorded that answer so far as he went before I interrupted?

THE INTERPRETER: Yes.

THE COMMISSIONER: Could you translate that portion, please?

THE WITNESS: *In my recollection, in my recollection, I, I did not attend but I think I have donated some money.*

30

THE COMMISSIONER: I have?---*Donated some money.*

Well, it does answer the question but goes further.

MR ROBERTSON: So, Mr Wood, is it right then that you have donated money for events arranged by Mr Ernest Wong before?---*That was that time, yes.*

40

So for the 2016 Chinese Friends of Labor annual dinner, you made a donation of \$500, correct?---*Yes.*

Why did you make that donation?---*At that time I was overseas. Mr Liao, that is Dr Liao suggested I make some donations.*

But are you saying you made no donations at all in relation to the 2015 event?---*In 2015, my recollection is that I have not donated to the Labor Party.*

You told us this morning that in 2016 Dr Liao asked you who had signed a form and you mentioned that there was a receipt from the Labor Party. Do you remember that answer?---*I recall, I recall.*

Can we have on the screen, please, Exhibit 152 at page 33. Mr Wood, this is the receipt that you were referring to this morning. Correct?---*No. No. I have never seen this receipt.*

10 Are you quite sure about that?---*Positive. I have never seen this receipt.*

Mr Steve Tong showed you this tax invoice or receipt in April 2015, didn't he?---*Could you repeat your question?*

Steve Tong showed you the receipt that you can see on the screen in April of 2015, didn't he?---*I don't recall this in my recollection.*

Mr Tong was angry and asked you why his name had been used for a donation. Correct?---*Not in my recollection, no.*

20 You told him that it would not be a problem and the company, Wu International, would fix it. Correct?---*I didn't. I didn't tell. In my recollection I never said that to him.*

The receipt that you mentioned this morning, if it was not the document on the screen, what document were you referring to as the receipt?---*The receipt – I'm a bit confused by this word Country Labor, I'm not familiar with Country Labor. I don't know anything about it.*

30 I'm asking you about the receipt that you told us about this morning. Do you understand?---(No Audible Reply)

Do you understand the question that I'm asking you about?---*I understand.*

And I want to know what the receipt that you told us about this morning looked like.---*The, the receipt, anyway, it doesn't look like this one, it doesn't look like this one.*

40 What did it look like?---*I, I really can't recall how to, what to say. I really can't recall it.

Whose name was on the receipt that you told us about this morning?---*If you ask me if it's in Steve Tong's name, I then I'll say it's in Steve Tong's name.*

So the receipt you referred to this morning was a receipt issued by the Labor Party to Steve Tong, is that right?---*Yes.*

And when Dr Liao raised that issue with you in 2016, you knew that Mr Tong thought that his name had fraudulently been used for a donation, correct?---*Yes. I have such – yes.*

Can we go please to the Electoral Commission bundle and to page 4, please, of that bundle. When Dr Liao, in 2016, discussed this matter with you and told you about the receipt, what did you tell Dr Liao to do?---*To my recollection, I told him that I have not participated in it, Wu International has not participated in it. How did you get involved, it's a matter for you guys and it's not related to me.*

And what did Dr Liao say to that?---*To my recollection Dr Liao said he would sort it out.*

Can we have the Electoral Commission bundle on the screen now, please, page 4. Do you see, Mr Wood, a letter of 25 August, 2016---(Speaks Mandarin)

No, Mr Wood, I'm just asking you whether you see a document of 25 August, 2016 on the screen.---(No Audible Reply)

Mr Wood, can you see the date on the screen or not?---*I can see the date.*

Now, Mr Tong showed you the letter that you can see on the screen during or about August of 2016. Correct?---*No, he hasn't, he has not shown it to me.*

He showed it to you and you said that he should speak to Dr Liao about it. Correct?---*To my recollection I have not seen it. He could have called me and I told him, I asked Dr Liao for his idea and he said he would deal with it, and it was not a matter related to me.*

Do you deny that Steve Tong showed you the letter that you can see on the screen?---*I, to my recollection he has never shown me this letter. I really have not seen it before. I will feel a headache if I see a letter like this. I really have not seen it before.*

Can we go please to page 19 of the same bundle. I've now put on the screen a letter of 14 September, 2016. Mr Tong showed this letter to you as well, didn't he?---*I can't recall whether it was ever shown to me. I remember having this forwarded to me but I have not read it. I have asked Dr Liao about his idea and I forwarded it to Dr Liao but I have not read it myself.*

Do you agree that this letter was forwarded to you in September of 2016? ---*I have checked my email, there really was no such letter.*

I thought you said to us a moment ago that you remember being forwarded this letter, is that right?---*He, what I meant was, he could have forwarded it

to me but I really have not read it. I, he said, I said he sent it to me in 2017 but I haven't read it and I forwarded it to Dr Liao.*

The truth is you were given this letter by Mr Tong in September of 2016, correct?---*I really do not recall whether or not he had given it to me but, but I definitely have not read it because generally I do not like reading English, I'm sorry.*

10 I'm not asking whether you read it, I'm asking whether you received it and I suggest to you that you received it from Mr Tong in September 2016. Do you agree?---*I really can't recall. If he has given it to me, then I would have then forwarded it to, passed it onto Dr Liao.*

You not only forwarded it on to Dr Liao, you drew it to the attention of Mr Ernest Wong, didn't you?---*I can't recall this. I cannot recall this in my memory. My memory is spent, I am sorry*

20 You told Ernest Wong, on about 14 September, 2016, that Mr Tong had received this letter from the Electoral Commission and that he was angry about it, correct?---*I really can't recall in my recollection. If it had, if this was what had happened, then maybe that was what happened but I really do not recall this.*

THE COMMISSIONER: You have discussed the Electoral Commission inquiries with Mr Wong, haven't you?---*In my recollection I don't recall having discussed that with him but it is possible that Dr Liao had discussed this with him.*

30 Mr Wood, do you realise how many times you've said today, "I don't recall"? It must be now over 100 times or thereabouts. You keep saying, "I don't recall." You do recall some of these matters, don't you? Yes or no? You do recall some of the matters associated with this donation question, don't you, and discussion with Mr Wong?---(Speaks Mandarin)

Stop there. What did he say, what's he saying?---*I really don't recall having such conversation with him. I must say that in the last 10 years I have problem with my teeth and that I have been doing teeth fillings and they had give me bad headaches.*

40 You heard that the Electoral Commission were investigating this matter, didn't you?---(Speaks Mandarin)

No, no, no, no, no. This is a yes or no answer.---Okay.

You did hear that the Electoral Commission were conducting an investigation into the donations issue, didn't you?---*Yes.*

And how did you know that the investigations were being conducted by the Electoral Commission?---*Steve Tong forwarded to me in 2017.*

What did he forward to you?---(Speaks Mandarin)

Yes. What's the answer?---*He forwarded to me what the Electoral Commission has sent him in an email and he said that he was very sick and that the Commission was investigating and he needed help from us because he was very sick.*

10

And at some stage you discussed the Electoral Commission investigations with Mr Wong, did you not?---*Really, no, from my recollection really no.*

Really no. Is that your truthful answer? What's the answer?---*In my recollection I didn't really, I really didn't have discuss something like that with him. If I have forwarded anything then there will be record of it, but to my recollection I haven't.*

20

You know that Mr Tong was very worried and upset about the Electoral Commission investigation. You knew that, didn't you?---*I was aware of it.*

And you knew that Mr Wong also was concerned about the Electoral Commission investigations, didn't you?---*He never said that to me.*

30

Is that a lie you've just told then, is that a lie, that Mr Wong has never said anything to you about the Electoral Commission investigation? Is that a lie or did he tell you that he was worried about the Electoral Commission investigation?---*To my recollection he has not said something like that to me. He could have said something to Dr Liao.*

And he could have said something to you about the Electoral Commission investigation into this matter, correct?---*I don't recall whether or not he had said but my recollection is that he hasn't.*

Is that answer another lie?---*In my recollection he had not talked to me about this and neither have I talked to him about that. So in my recollection -- -*

40

MR ROBERTSON: The truth is you did discuss it with Mr Ernest Wong at least in September 2016, isn't that right?---*I can't recall whether I have forwarded that email or not. I really do not recall whether or not I have discussed that with him. The matter is unrelated to me. Why would I discuss that with him?*

Because you knew that Mr Tong thought that his name had been fraudulently used for a donation and that he was angry about it and you told Mr Ernest Wong, didn't you?---*If there is a record to, to, to say that then

that might have been the case but I am sorry, I really do not recall. My, my memory is bad so I don't recall have, this having happened.*

In 2016 you were close friends with Ernest Wong, correct?---*Oh, the relationship between us was that we were community friends.*

THE COMMISSIONER: Would you answer that question? Would you put it again, please?

10 MR ROBERTSON: In 2016 you were close friends with Ernest Wong, correct?

THE COMMISSIONER: Yes or no? Is that yes or no? You understood the question even before it was translated, didn't you?---Yeah.

Yes or no, were you close friends with Ernest Wong in 2016?---I just said yes, yeah, just said yes.

20 Of course it's yes. You know it's yes, don't you? You said before you were close friends of his. Why are you hesitating now?---*The whole time I regard us as community friends.*

Look, in 2015, you and Wong, Ernest Wong were close friends, weren't you?---*2015 or '16?*

2015, you and Mr Ernest Wong were close friends. Yes or no?---(No Audible Reply)

30 It's obvious, isn't it?---Okay.

You know the answer. What's the answer, yes or no?---Okay.

No, yes or no. Not okay, yes or no.---No.

2016 you were close friends with Ernest Wong, weren't you?---Yeah, close a little bit, yeah.

No, no, no.---Yeah.

40 Just listen to what I'm saying.---Yeah.

In 2016 you and Ernest Wong were close friends. Yes or no?---Okay, just say yes.

In 2017 you and Ernest Wong were very close friends, weren't you?---Yes.

In 2018 you were very close friends with Ernest Wong, weren't you, last year? Yes or no?---Yep, I - - -

Sorry?---Just say - - -

Yes or no?---Just say yes, okay.

And this year you remain close friends with Ernest Wong. Yes or no?
---(No Audible Reply)

10 Go on, spit it out, yes or no?---(No Audible Reply)

Why are you hesitating? It's obvious, isn't it, the answer is yes, isn't it? Isn't it? Don't laugh, this is serious. I'll put it again. This year you remain very close friends with Ernest Wong. Yes or no?---I think yeah um, just friends, yeah.

What?---*I think just a friend, yes.*

20 Just a friend. No. I put it to you, listen to the question, this year you have remained a close friend of Ernest Wong. That's true, isn't it?---I think yeah, you just said yes, okay, just say.

Sorry, the answer is?---(No Audible Reply)

I'm waiting.---Okay. Yes.

Thank you.

30 MR ROBERTSON: Mr Wood, why are you hesitating so much on this very simple question that the Chief Commissioner was asking you?---*Because being a community friend is being a, is different from being a good friend, a close friend.*

Are you concerned that if you admit that you are close friends with Mr Ernest Wong, that might implicate you in the matters this Commission is investigating?---*No, I'm not worried about that.*

40 The fact of the matter is that you were very close with Mr Wong and continue to be very close with Mr Wong. Correct?---*To, to me he is a friend in the community because he is, and there is nothing else, because he is a government official, it's, it's not possible for us to become real friend. That's a matter of principle.*

THE COMMISSIONER: Listen, do you want to change your evidence? You said before, in 2015 you were a close friend. Do you want to change your evidence or do you still say you were close friends with him in 2015? ---*It's a good friend in the community.*

Yes, but a good friend to you, correct?---*As a matter of principle, because he is a government official, I cannot be a good friend of his.*

He is no longer a government official, take my word for it. And you said not five minutes ago that you are still a very close friend of his. Do you want to change that evidence?---*My original intention that we are good friends in the community and now that he has retired then we become normal friends.*

10 This phrase “in the community”, they’re just words you’ve thrown in, in the last minute or so. The fact is he’s been a friend of yours since 2015 and remains a personal friend of yours to this very day, correct?---*My, my understanding is this is not correct. We are a, a good friend in the community and, like, a normal friend in the community. You can’t change the definition of that, otherwise it’s illegal.*

A moment ago you told me that you agreed that you were good friends, didn’t you, yes? You did tell me that, I think, didn’t you? I think you did, you agree? I think you did tell me. Yes. And you don’t want to change
20 your evidence, do you, that you have in answer to my questions? You don’t want to change any of your answers, do you?---*I want to change it into that we have always been a community friend.*

You are good friends to Mr Wong, aren’t you? You are a good friend to Mr Wong?---(Speaks Mandarin)

No, no, no. Listen to me, just listen to the question. You would regard yourself today as a good friend of Ernest Wong, wouldn’t you?---*Can we drop the word good and just say friend?*

30 Would you listen to my question and answer it? It is true, isn’t it, that you would regard yourself today as a good friend of Ernest Wong, correct? Answer that question. Yes or no?---Yes.

And today, as of today, Mr Wong is a good friend to you, correct? Yes or no?---Okay - - -

No, not okay - - -?---Yes, yes, yes.

40 Yes or no? Mr Wong is a good friend to you, as of today, yes or no?---Yes.

Thank you.

MR ROBERTSON: In 2016, Ernest Wong recommended your appointment as a justice of the peace in New South Wales, correct?---*Yes.*

And that was the same year you made a donation of \$500 in connection with the Chinese Friends of Labor dinner of that year, correct?---*Yes.*

And you made that donation even though you told us this morning that you don't regard yourself as a supporter of the Australian Labor Party, correct?
---*Can I have the question once more?*

You donated \$500 in connection with the Chinese Friends of Labor annual dinner in 2016 even though you told us this morning that you would regard yourself as a support of the Australian Labor Party, correct?---*Dr Liao suggested I did, suggested I do so, yes.*

10

No, you decided to make a donation of \$500 in connection with the Chinese Friends of Labor dinner in 2016 because you wanted to support Mr Ernest Wong, correct?---*Yes. At that time I should have been overseas.*

But the reason you made that donation was not by way of support to the Australian Labor Party, it was because you wanted to support Ernest Wong, correct?

20

THE COMMISSIONER: Is that correct, yes or no?---*Yes. You can say so.*

MR ROBERTSON: No, it's not about what I say, Mr Wood. The reason you donated \$500 for the Chinese Friends of Labor dinner in 2016 was not because you supported the Australian Labor Party, it's because you wanted to support Ernest Wong, correct?---*I was to show support to, to the Labor Party under the influence of Ernest Wong.*

30

You told us this morning that you don't regard yourself as a supporter of the Australian Labor Party. Do you want to change that evidence too?---*I was told, today I was talking about 2015.*

40

THE COMMISSIONER: Mr Wood, please think of the answers you're giving. You're not making much sense at all at the moment. One moment you say you couldn't care less about the ALP. Now you're saying you're supporting the ALP. You are not doing yourself any good by trying to make up answers. I warned you earlier, you are digging a very deep hole for yourself. Do you understand what I'm saying? Now, from this point until we finish today, I want you to listen to every question that's put to you by Counsel Assisting. Listen to the point of the question and you answer each question directly. No speeches. Answer the questions directly, every question between now and when we finish today. Do you fully understand what I've just said?---*I understand. I will try my best and I will do my best. Thank you.*

All right, well, let's start. Question by question, you listen carefully.

MR ROBERTSON: The reason you donated \$500 in connection with the Chinese Friends of Labor dinner in 2016 was to support Ernest Wong. It

was not because you were a supporter of the Australian Labor Party, do you agree?---*I disagree.*

Why, then, did you donate \$500 to the Chinese Friends of Labor annual dinner in 2016?---*Dr Liao suggested I do so.*

And why did you agree with that suggestion?---*I have always listened to him. There is always a reason for him, for his suggestions. I always see him as a teacher.*

10

So you just did what Dr Liao said without thinking about it, is that what you're saying?---*If it's within my capacity, if it's reasonable and it's legal and it's sensible, then I will do it.*

Did Dr Liao also make a donation in connection with the 2016 dinner?---*I am not aware of his own matter.*

20

Did he make a donation in connection with the 2015 dinner?---*If he has signed his name and he admitted to, then he would have. That's his own choice, his freedom.*

Are you saying you know that Dr Liao made a donation in 2015 now, are you? Is that your evidence now?---*He did say that. He did say that to me at a later stage.*

Dr Liao told you what at a later stage?---*To my recollection he told me about it in, about 2016.*

30

So in 2016 Dr Liao said what to you regarding donations?---*My recollection is I do not recall what he had told me in 2015 or whether or not he had told me anything. I can't recall anymore.*

Can we go, please, to the Electoral Commission bundle, and we'll go, please, to page 37. Mr Wood, can you have a look towards the bottom of this page, please, where it says, "Dear Mr Tong." And can you see an email of 9.08am of 28 April, 2017?---*Yep, I see that.*

40

And can you please have a look at the end of that paragraph on the end of that page. It says, "I now seek your assistance in providing a" – and we'll turn the page – "statement to the Commission regarding this donation." Do you see that there?---*Yes. This should have been what Mr Tong has forwarded to me.*

So you accept that Mr Tong forwarded to you the email that Mr Baragry sent to Mr Tong on 28 April, 2017. Is that right?---*Yes.*

After he forwarded that email to you, what did you then do about the email?---*After he forwarded it to me I asked Dr Liao of his opinion and I forwarded to him. He told me to forward to him so he will deal with it.*

What was Dr Liao's opinion on the matter?---*He said that the matter was unrelated to me nor to the company. He will sort it out with Dr Tong, with Mr Tong.*

10 If it was unrelated to the company, why was Dr Liao going to sort it out?
---*That was his opinion, which I didn't understand but that was what he told me.*

Well, Mr Tong had retired from your company in June 2016, correct?
---*Yep, from Tongda, yes.*

And Dr Liao was suggesting that he was going to spend his time in helping out Mr Tong, correct?---*That is the case, to my recollection, because they were working together before. They were colleagues before.*

20 But as the director of Wu International, why didn't you say to Dr Liao, "You've told me this has nothing to do with the company. I don't want you wasting company time on this matter"?---*Dr Liao was dealing with it in his own capacity. Like he said, it had nothing to do with me, nothing to do with Wu International. So he was dealing with it in his own capacity.*

30 The truth is that it was a company matter because you allowed Mr Steve Tong's name to be fraudulently used for a donation, correct?---*I do not have the authority to do so. I have not done that either. I really do not know what happened. This is a question that should be asked to Mr Tong and Mr Liao.*

Well, you know we can't ask a question of Dr Liao, because he's dead, isn't he?

40 THE COMMISSIONER: And you know enough, don't you, probably read it in the newspaper, that the reason Dr Liao took his life was caught up with this donation scheme and his guilt about it.---*This is my own feeling. I, he could be, he could be feeling guilty, he could be too stressed, he could be overwhelmed and didn't know what to do. I really don't know all this would happen. I didn't even have the chance to give him a hand personally. I really don't know why all this would happen.*

You know that the late Dr Liao left a suicide note, don't you?---(Speaks Mandarin)

No, just, do you know or don't you know?---*I learnt about it after he died.*

And you know that in the suicide note he left in his own handwriting he mentioned that he was very concerned about the donation question. You know that, don't you? Do you know that or not?---*I don't know. I really don't know.*

10 I want you to assume that he did mention in his suicide note the donations issue and that a fair inference from what he wrote was he was racked with guilt about the donations matter. If it was the donations matter that led him to take his own life, this was a matter that the persons involved in the donations scheme with Dr Liao, concerned Wu International people and others, would that be right?---*I have no idea. I really didn't know.*

See, you were involved in this donations scheme, weren't you?---*I can swear on, with the Bible again that I truly do not know about this and I did not participate in it and neither am I interested in taking part.*

20 I'm putting to you that answer is not the truth. I am putting to you that you, Dr Liao and Ernest Wong were involved in this donation scheme that ultimately caused great concern to Dr Liao. What do you say?---*What I want to say is my thoughts are that if I really wanted to participate in this activity, why did I not attend? Why was I overseas at that time? If I really give a lot of emphasis, I really, really concerned about this activities, why would I be overseas at that time? The fact is, I'm not interested in these activities. I'm not interested in participating at all, and also I was very busy. I just simply did not have time for it.*

30 See, Mr Tong has given evidence to this Commission that when he received the invoice from the Australian Labor Party, he was very angry and he went and spoke to Dr Liao and you about it. Firstly, if Dr Tong gave that evidence, would you dispute it? Would you dispute his evidence as I've related it to you?---*Can you repeat that, please?*

40 All right, let me put this to you. I want you to assume Mr Steve Tong has given this evidence to this Commission. In the very seat that you are now sitting in he said this, that after he received the invoice from the Labor Party on 9 April, 2005, he went to Level 6, 650 George Street, which was the offices of Wu International, and there he saw two people – one, Dr Liao and, two, you – and the three of you were in Dr Liao's room when a conversation took place about what had happened about his name being used in this donation case. Firstly, would you dispute any of that evidence that that occurred? Do you disagree with that or not? Do you dispute that evidence or not?---*There is not much for me to dispute, but I - - -*

Well, you don't dispute? Do you dispute it?---* - - - but I do not recall whether it happened in 2015 or 2016.*

Do you dispute that a meeting like that did occur, as Steve Tong has told this Commission? Do you dispute it? Come on, yes or no, you do or you don't?---*I need to recall from my memories, I'm sorry.*

Well, let me give you a bit more information.---(Speaks Mandarin)

10 I'll give you some more information. Steve Tong has told this Commission the following occurred. That after he got the invoice from the Labor Party dated 9 April, 2015, he went to Wu International's premises, Level 6, 650 George Street, Sydney, and there he saw you and Dr Liao in Dr Liao's office. He then said this conversation took place. "When I went to the office on that day, Alex Wu and Dr Liao were in Dr Liao's room and I asked them who used my name to make a donation to the Labor Party, Because," he says, "I didn't make it. Then I was told that his father," referring to your father, "used my name to make the donation." Do you recall that conversation taking place as Steve Tong has told this Commission? Do you wish to dispute Steve Tong's evidence as just read or not? Do you agree with it?---*This has happened but I can't recall when that was.*

20

Right. So it's really the time that you disagree with or you can't agree with. Is that right? The time of this meeting you don't know?---*Yes.* (Speaks Mandarin)

Stop there, stop there, pause there.---Okay. *I can't recall whether it was 2015 or what, but 2015 or 2016, but he did come with a receipt and a form and he showed it to us. We were not initially in the same room and later on we went into the same room.*

30 And the words that were then said by Steve Tong, you remember those words?---(Speaks Mandarin)

Stop there for a moment. You can't keep going on with these long statements. Yes, what did he say so far?

THE WITNESS: *I did look at the receipt. It was from the Labor Party and there was his name on it. He signed on it so I didn't know what had happened, who was telling lies or who did it.*

40 THE COMMISSIONER: Now, Steve Tong has said this was also said at this meeting, Level 6, 650 George Street, when you and Dr Liao were present and Steve Tong was present. Steve Tong said, "I was told that if anything happens the company will deal with it, deal with it for you so you don't have to worry." That's what Steve Tong has told this Commission. Do you agree that those words were said?---*I disagree.*

What do you disagree with?---*To my recollection, I disagree. To my recollection I have never said words to that effect. He could have misunderstood me.*

But you've got such a bad memory, you tell us, that you might have forgotten, is that right? You may have forgotten what words were said at this meeting?---*If my memory is mistaken, then I couldn't help it.*

10 But you earlier told us that you've got a bad memory. Do did tell us that, didn't you, this afternoon?---*Yes.*

So these words that Steve Tong said were said at the meeting could be right, you just can't remember, is that the position? Sorry, yes or no?---*You can say so.*

20 No, no. What do you say? Could it be that these words that Steve Tong has given in his evidence in this Commission, he's absolutely correct, but you just don't remember one way or the other whether it's said or whether it was correct or not? Is that your position?---*It can be one possibility but it's also possible that he has remembered it wrong.*

Steve Tong said both you and Dr Liao said that, "If anything happens, the company will deal with it, deal with it for you so you don't have to worry." He said both you and Dr Liao made that statement or a statement to that effect to you at this meeting. What do you say?---*In my recollection this is not what happened.*

30 Are you denying those words were said or just simply you don't recall whether they were said or not?---*I don't remember saying something like that myself.*

MR ROBERTSON: The meeting that you've just discussed with the Chief Commissioner, did that happen before or after Mr Tong retired from working at Wu International and Tongda International?---*To my recollection it happened before his retirement.*

So therefore it happened before June of 2016. Is that right?---*That is the case in my recollection but I can't be sure.*

40 Can we have Exhibit 170 on the screen, please. Mr Wood, you told us this morning that Mr Tong sent you an email regarding issues of donations. And can we have on the screen, please, Exhibit 170 at page 5, please. The document on the screen was attached to an email that Mr Tong sent you. Correct?---*He has not sent this one to me, he had sent something similar to my recollection but not this one.*

Well, I suggest that in May of 2017 Mr Tong sent you an email that contained the words that you can see on the screen. Do you agree?---*To my recollection some of them, a part of it was the same, a part of it wasn't.*

Can you direction your attention to the first sentence, please, which says, "As you know, you or your father, in a political donation dinner party on 12 March, 2015, to use my name to donated \$5,000 to Labor." What is said in the first sentence of this document is true, isn't it, that overseas that you knew that you or your father had used Mr Tong's name to donate \$5,000 to the Labor Party?---*I have not received this email. I can send you what he has sent to me, that's no problem with that.*

Listen carefully to my question. What is said in the first sentence of this document is true, namely that you knew that you or your father had used Mr Tong's name to donate \$5,000 to Labor, you agree?---(Speaks Mandarin)

Mr Wood, I'm not asking for an explanation. I'm going to put the question again. Do you agree that the first sentence of this letter is true, namely that you knew that you or your father had used Mr Tong's name to donate \$5,000 to Labor. Do you agree with that or not?---*I disagree. I was not aware of it in my recollection.*

If you then have a look at the second sentence of this document, Mr Tong refers to a letter of 25 August, 2016. Do you see that? Mr Tong spoke to you about that letter of 25 August, 2016, didn't he?---(Speaks Mandarin)

Mr Wood, again I don't want a speech. I'm going to put the question again and I want you to answer the question. Do you understand? Mr Tong discussed a letter of 25 August, 2016, with you, didn't he?---*I do not recall, really.*

Can you now look at the third sentence of this document. Mr Tong says that he forwarded to you as letter or communication of 28 April, 2017. And he did forward that to you, didn't he?---*He did forward that to me in 2017, he did.*

Do you accept that at least as at the time that you had the meeting that you discussed with the Chief Commissioner that you were aware that Mr Tong thought that his name had fraudulently been used for a donation?---*Can you repeat your question?*

I'll ask you a different question. Can you have a look at the second paragraph of the letter on the screen, and at the very end of it, it says, "Otherwise I will tell all the truth and I wish to declarate as follows." Do you see that there?---(No Audible Reply)

Do you see that there, Mr Wood?---*Yes.*

When you received this document, you were concerned that Mr Tong was going to tell the truth, weren't you?---*I was not worried because I myself didn't know what the truth was.*

After receiving the document that's on the screen or that will shortly be on the screen, you took steps to delete the data off Mr Tong's work computer, didn't you?---*I didn't. To my recollection I had not done something like that.*

10 And after Dr Liao passed away, you took prompt steps to delete the data off his computer as well, didn't you?---*I didn't do it, it wasn't my intention either, it was done by a staff in the company at that time.*

So you know that data was deleted from Mr Tong's computer in 2017? ---*I really do not recall something like this has happened, neither have I done this myself.*

20 No, but you volunteered a moment ago that an employee had deleted data off Mr Tong's computer. Is that right?---*Usually when someone leaves the company their computer will be reinstalled.*

Do you have an explanation as to why Mr Tong's computer may have had data deleted or been reinstalled in 2017 when as you've told us, he retired in the middle of 2016?---*Can you repeat the question to me? Thank you.*

Mr Tong ceased working at Wu International and Tongda International in June 2016, correct?---*Yes.*

30 There is evidence available to this Commission that Mr Tong's computer was reinstalled in the second half of 2017. Do you have any explanation as to why over a year after Mr Tong left Wu International and Tongda International, his computer was, to use I think your words, reinstalled? ---*The reinstallation sometimes happen earlier, sometimes happens later. The staff, that staff of the company does so as he sees necessary. It's, I don't, I'm not bothered with that myself. He makes a decision as to when the reinstallation needs to be done.*

40 Was the reason that the reinstallation happened of Mr Tong's computer in 2017, rather than 2016, was that you were concerned that Mr Tong was going to tell the truth about the matters in his note of May 2017?---*To my recollection a new staff came in, came on board in 2017 and he was a big fan of computer stuff, so he reinstalled the computer when he sees necessary and he, he thought that the system that we had before was too old. So he did the reinstallation. He also reinstalled Dr Liao's computer as well.*

Is that a long way of saying you are rejecting the suggestion that Mr Tong's computer was reinstalled to remove data that may be of concern or incrimination to you, is that what you're saying?---*I disagree.*

