Twitter Thread by Zoe Tillman

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A detention hearing is about to start in federal court in Arkansas in the case of Richard Barnett, the man photographed sitting in Nancy Pelosi's office (see: https://t.co/GAAENhkxf0). He's been in custody since his arrest

Prosecutors alleged Barnett was carrying a stun gun. He's charged with entering a restricted area w/ a weapon, violent entry/disorderly conduct, and theft. There isn't anything on the docket indicating what the govt/Barnett will be seeking as far as detention v. release

On January 11, 2021, your affiant learned that law enforcement received a tip that in one or more of the photographs of BARNETT seated in Speaker Pelosi's office BARNETT was carrying a stun gun. Your affiant reviewed the photographs again and determined the tip to be accurate. As seen in the zoomed in box in the photograph below, the ZAP brand is clearly visible on the stun gun tucked into BARNETT's pants. Based on the brand on the weapon, and its appearance, the weapon appeared to be a ZAP Hike N Strike 950,000 Volt Stun Gun Walking Stick.



We're still waiting for the Richard Barnett detention hearing to start in Arkansas. Meanwhile, follow @o_ema for updates on initial appearances in DC federal court today for a few of the Capitol insurrection arrestees --> https://t.co/cIDwzghXPp

> Listening in on more hearings: The 1st is Kevin Loftus, WI, arrested for participating in the riots at the Capitol, charged w Class A misdemeanor. Judge decreed he is released on the condition that he does not return to DC, doesn't drink or do drugs, and doesn't break any laws.
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> — Ema O'Connor (@o_ema) January 15, 2021

Richard Barnett's detention hearing is underway in Arkansas — Judge Erin Wiedemann will decide if Barnett should stay behind bars. The first witness is FBI special agent Jonathan Willett, who was involved in the Capitol riot investigation

FBI agent walks the judge through surveillance videos that the agent says show Barnett walking in and out of Nancy Pelosi's office, with a "walking stick Taser" on his hip, as well as the widely disseminated photos of Barnett sitting in Pelosi's chair with his feet up

FBI agent now presenting evidence of Barnett buying the "walking stick Taser" on 12/31 (receipt + surveillance footage from the shop + opened packaging found during a search). Agent said Barnett also purchased pepper spray and two-way radios during that shop.

FBI agent says Barnett confirmed he owned firearms, and the government shows a photo of Barnett kneeling holding a gun, alongside two children (one of whom is holding a very large gun that the agent says appears to be an assault rifle)

Govt shows video of Barnett outside the Capitol holding up the letter he took from Pelosi's office and saying he left a message that read, "Bigo was here, you bitch." Also showed footage of Barnett from a Nov. "Stop the Steal" rally saying "whatever it takes, whatever it takes"

Barnett's attorney Anthony Siano is cross-examining the FBI special agent. He asks about the agent's background and the timeline of the investigation into Barnett; agent says it started Jan. 6th (the day of the riot) when they got word someone from Arkansas may have been involved

Siano notes the agent kept referring to Barnett taking a "letter" from Pelosi's office, and asks if the agent knew it was an empty envelope. The agent says he didn't know what was inside because it was a sealed envelope

Siano has the agent confirm Barnett reached out to law enforcement the night after the riot (not totally clear who he contacted) about self-surrendering. FBI agent says he assumed Barnett assumed the FBI was looking for him, b/c the FBI hadn't notified they were looking to arrest

On redirect, re: the defense's questions about Barnett offering to self-surrender to law enforcement the night of the riot on Jan. 6, the prosecutor asks the FBI agent if Barnett turned himself in as soon as he got back to Arkansas from DC. The FBI agent says no.

FBI agent had noted that Barnett said in his interview after surrendering that he had guns but had recently moved them. Judge asks the FBI agent if Barnett told them where the guns were, and the agent says no he did not

We're now hearing from defense witnesses who know Barnett and are testifying that he's trustworthy and not a threatening person