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**ANCHORS:** TYLER MATHISEN

**REPORTERS:** GERALDO RIVERA

**BODY:**

TYLER MATHISEN, anchor:

Bob Pisani--Bob Pisani, we're going to go now to a news conference. Excuse me for interrupting. Alex Hunter, Boulder, Colorado, district attorney, with news on the JonBenet Ramsey grand jury report. He's now approaching the podium and the microphones. And let's watch and listen in.

This is--this is Alex Hunter, the district attorney out in Boulder, making an announcement on the Ramsey investigation. And, of course, that grand jury has been meeting for better than, I believe, two years after that murder case. And we're going to get, presumably, the report of that grand jury, whether there will be any indictments or not.

Mr. ALEX HUNTER (Boulder, Colorado, District Attorney): I want to thank you for all joining us on such short notice. And before I begin my very brief remarks, and a few guidelines that I hope will serve all of us today, and outline some things that we're thinking about to plan for you tomorrow, that you'll bear with me. But I first want to introduce to you the prosecutors that have been working this case since the grand jury and, actually, before the grand jury was convened. And I will talk more about them tomorrow. I wanted them to be with me. They wanted to be with me. We consider ourselves to be a team. Mike Kane, who I will call the team leader; Mitch Morrissey, chief deputy from the Denver district attorney's office; and Bruce Levin, chief deputy from the Adams County district attorney's office.

We are going to provide you with some handouts that are being prepared for you as--as I speak. You're going to have the discharge instructions that Judge--District Judge Morris Sandstead provided to the grand jury, and we're going to be giving you, also, an order from Judge Sandstead, by the way, sitting in for Roxanne Bailin, who was not available today. So you're going to have those in your hands. They deal with grand jury secrecy, which you will see, and most of you know is extremely important and involved in all of the remarks that--that I will make, at least it's--it's guiding me in my remarks. And we'll have those for you.

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The Boulder grand jury has completed its work and will not return. No charges have been filed. The grand jurors have done their work extraordinarily well, bringing to bear all of their legal powers, life experiences and shrewdness. Yet, I must report to you that I, and my prosecution task force, believe we do not have sufficient evidence to warrant the filing of charges against anyone who has been investigated at this time. Under Colorado law, the proceedings of the grand jury are secret. Under no circumstances will I, or any of my advisers, prosecutors, the law enforcement officers working on this case, or the grand jurors, discuss grand jury proceedings today, or ever, unless ordered by the court.

However, that might help in you and in the public understanding all of the events of today. I want to thank you for attending this speedily called press conference. Tomorrow at 12:30, at an area that, I think, is either built, or under construction, or will be built tomorrow, I will have my team members present. I will have the DAs that have been my advisers from the b--or from February of 1997, including Bill Ritter, that is coming with special assistance since he just finished surgery a few days ago. At that time, I plan to take your questions. Thank you very much.

MATHISEN: That was the prosecutor--district attorney in Boulder, Colorado, Alex Hunter, announcing that the grand jury has completed its investigation; will not return; no charges filed in the JonBenet Ramsey case. Prosecutors intend not to file charges; do not have sufficient evidence at this time. We're now going to go out to Geraldo Rivera, who is in Boulder, following this stora--story.

Geraldo, how surprising is this?

GERALDO RIVERA reporting:

Well, we actually got the word, Tyler, unofficially, about five minutes ago, that the district attorney would not be filing charges. And when he says 'at this time,' what he really means is he's not going to be filing charges. He has been criticized, as you know, as being overly cautious; as being inexperienced. Some of his most severe critics have called him inept. Why it took him this long to arrive at this conclusion, I can only speculate. But my speculation revolves around his desire to cover his political behind and to ensure, or at least give the appearance of an assurance, that he has v--reviewed all of the evidence and has convinced himself, at least, that he cannot prove beyond a reasonable doubt that either of the Ramsey parents--'cause that's really what we're talking about here--committed this terrible crime, taking the life of this six-year-old beauty queen back, you know, almost three years ago.

Now there's another case, interestingly. In 1983, there was a case involving Sidney Wells, a murder. Now the case got international attention then because Sidney Wells was dating Jamie Redford, the daughter of Robert Redford, the actor. At the same time in 1983, there was a clamor to indict the roommate of Sidney Wells, a guy named Thayne Smika, for the murder. Everyone suspected and all the evidence available pointed to this roommate as the murderer. Nothing happened for 16 years. That is what you call caution. Now an arrest warrant has been issued for Thayne Alan Smika, the roommate, in this case involving the boyfriend of the daughter of Robert Redford.

This is a very cautious DA. The problem is, now the perpetrator--the alleged perpetrator is a fugitive, and no one where--knows where he is. So maybe 16 years down the road, one or the other Ramsey parent will be indicted, but it might be too late. He has taken, Alex Hunter, the safe road. It is the politically unpopular road, so give him credit for that, Tyler. But he is not filing charges. The JonBenet mystery will remain exactly that, one of the great unsolved mystery--one that has attracted, you know, a great deal of morbid fascination; simultaneously attracting and repulsing us. Now, you know, it goes back to, 'Well, I bet she did it; I bet he did it,' and that speculation will go on and on until the name of JonBenet Ramsey eventually fades from the public arena.

MATHISEN: Geraldo Rivera, thank you very much. And we'll have full coverage, of course, on "Upfront Tonight," and later on, on your show on CNBC. Thanks very much.

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