



The ensuing four-day traffic pileup in Fort Lee, eventually revealed as an act of political revenge by Christie's aides against the town's mayor, spawned federal indictments, crippled Christie's presidential ambitions and earned a permanent place in the annals of lunatic political shenanigans.

On Thursday, jury selection began in the federal trial of two former top aides for Christie accused of orchestrating the plot, a trial that may reveal new details about lingering questions: Did anyone else know about the scheme, and when did they hear about it?

Bridget Anne Kelly, once Christie's deputy chief of staff, and Bill Baroni, a top Christie appointment at the powerful Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, each face nine charges of fraud and conspiracy stemming from the 2013 traffic jam at the bridge, the world's busiest. The Port Authority appointee who gave the orders to block the lanes, David Wildstein, has already pleaded guilty.

Baroni signed off on the plan, the indictment alleges, and later, during a legislative hearing, insisted that that it was just an experiment in traffic control. That story fell apart after an email Kelly sent to Wildstein surfaced: "Time for some traffic problems in Fort Lee."

Christie has steadfastly denied knowing about the plot, blaming himself only for misplacing trust in "inexplicably stupid" employees. Three probes – including one run by Democrats in the state Legislature, and another commissioned by Christie – turned up no evidence to challenge that. But the three figures in the 1 scheme have continued to push back against assertions that they acted alone, or that no one else in Christie's inner circle knew afterward what had happened at the bridge.

"It is 



It's likely that some of the story has yet to be revealed, one veteran of New Jersey politics said.

"Who in the governor's office did they speak to, either prior to this happening or once it blew up in their faces?" said Carl Golden, who worked as press secretary to Republican Gov. Thomas Kean and is now an analyst at the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy. Golden said it's still hard to imagine thato

