

SETTING THE STAGE:

ALL WHITE HOUSE ACTORS WILL BE STANDING AT ALL TIMES IN THE BACK OF CENTER STAGE. WHEN THEIR SPEAKING PARTS ARRIVE, THEY STEP FORWARD TO SPEAK THEM, THEN STEP BACK.

THE FBI AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY ARE ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE STAGE AND DO THE SAME.

THE NARRATOR IS AT A PODIUM ON THE FAR LEFT SIDE OF STAGE. AND STAYS THERE THE ENTIRE TIME.

PRESS IS ON THE FAR RIGHT SIDE.

"OTHERS" WILL COME FROM FAR RIGHT SIDE.

EACH TIME ACTORS STEP FORWARD THEY WILL WEAR CHARACTER-FACE-IMAGE/NAME/TITLE PLACARDS AROUND THEIR NECKS (OR SOME OTHER IDENTIFYING METHOD) TO BE EASILY IDENTIFIABLE TO AUDIENCE

(Plan begins here)

PLAY'S INTRODUCTION

NARRATOR

The Mueller Report - The Play: 10
Acts of Obstruction

This play is a translation of
Mueller's Report Volume II
Obstruction of Justice evidence
presented in pages 24 to 152.
Mueller's evidence is based on sworn
testimonies, documents, recordings
and other objective evidence.

The play directly translates the
evidence descriptions into active
dialogue. One can almost follow the
Mueller report paragraph by paragraph
throughout the play.

NARRATOR, FLYNN AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

NARRATOR

Now to set the stage.
The play is a reading of the
translated report.

Actors will stand in the back of the
stage and come forward when it is
their time to speak.

White House actors will be standing
in the back of center stage.

The FBI and intelligence community
are on the left side of the stage
The narrator is at a podium on the
far left side of stage.

Press is on the far right side of the
stage.

"Others" will come from far right
side.

(ACT 1)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Act 1

Obstruction B in Mueller report
Volume II page 24.
Obstruction relating to
Conduct involving FBI Director
Comey and Michael Flynn

Evidence #1. Incoming National
Security Adviser Flynn Discusses
Sanctions on Russia with Russian
Ambassador Sergey Kislyak

Nov. 18, 2016

ACTORS TRUMP AND FLYNN COME FORWARD -

TRUMP

I appoint Lt. General Michael Flynn
as my National Security Adviser

FLYNN

Thank you Mr. President-elect.

NARRATOR

December 29, 2016 the press reports

PRESS SPEAKS FROM STAGE SIDE

(all throughout play
unless otherwise
indicated)

PRESS

The Obama Administration announced
that it was imposing sanctions and
other measures on several Russian
individuals and entities for their
interference with the elections.

NARRATOR

The transition team gathers to talk
about the sanctions.

TRANSITION TEAM STEPS FORWARD - TRUMP'S TRANSITION TEAM
TYPING EMAILS AND COPYING ALL.

TRANSITION TEAM MEMBER

This is about the sanctions and what
impact they will have on the incoming
Administration

FLYNN

Russian Ambassador Kislyak is
reaching out to me. I will be
speaking to the Russian Ambassador
later in the day.

NARRATOR
Flynn calls incoming Deputy Security
Adviser K.T. McFarland

FLYNN AND K.T. MCFARLAND STEP FORWARD ON PHONES -

FLYNN
I am calling from the Dominican
Republic.
What should I communicate to Russian
Ambassador Kislyak about the
sanctions when I talk to him?

MCFARLAND
I am at the Mar-a-Lago resort in
Florida with Trump-Elect and other
senior staff. I have spoken with
incoming Administration officials
about the sanctions and Russia's
possible responses and have mentioned
in those conversations that you are
scheduled to speak with Russian
Ambassador Kislyak. The incoming
Administration officials at Mar-a-
Lago do not want Russia to escalate
the situation.

NARRATOR
Later that afternoon McFarland sends
an email to Flynn

MCFARLAND STEPS FORWARD TYPING EMAIL -

MCFARLAND
This email to Flynn et al is about
the sanctions and informs the Trump
transition group that General Flynn
is talking to Russian Ambassador this
evening.

NARRATOR
One hour later McFarland talks to
Trump and senior officials including
Priebus

MCFARLAND, TRUMP AND SENIOR OFFICIALS INCLUDING PRIEBUS STEP FORWARD -

MCFARLAND

I am here to brief you on the sanctions and Russia's possible responses. Here is what's happening ...

the sanctions situation can be cooled down and not escalated.

TRANSITION TEAM SENIOR OFFICIAL

Flynn is speaking to the Russian Ambassador this evening.

TRUMP

(angrily)

All this is, is an attempt by the Obama Administration to embarrass me by de-legitimizing my election.

NARRATOR

Same day Flynn speaks to Russian Ambassador Kislyak

FLYNN AND KISLYAK ON PHONES STEPS FORWARD

FLYNN

Ambassador Kislyak, we request that Russia respond to the sanctions only in a reciprocal manner, without escalating the situation.

NARRATOR

After the call Flynn talks to McFarland

FLYNN AND MCFARLAND STEP FORWARD -

FLYNN

The Russian response to the sanctions is not going to be escalatory because Russia wants a good relationship with the Trump Administration.

MCFARLAND
(Listening)

NARRATOR
December 30, 2016 Russian President
Vladmir Putin makes a statement

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN STEPS FORWARD -

PUTIN
Russia will not take retaliatory
measures in response to the sanctions
at this time and will instead plan
... further steps to restore Russian-
US relations based on the policies of
the Trump Administration.

NARRATOR
Later Trump tweets

TRUMP STEPS FORWARD TYPING TWEET -

TRUMP
"Great move on delay (by V. Putin) -
I always knew he was very smart!"

NARRATOR
December 31, 2016 - Kislyak calls
Flynn

KISLYAK AND FLYNN ON PHONES STEP FORWARD -

KISLYAK
Your request has been received at the
highest levels and Russia has chosen
not to retaliate in response to the
request.

FLYNN
(listening)

NARRATOR
Later that day Flynn tells McFarland

FLYNN AND MCFARLAND STEP FORWARD -

FLYNN

(proudly)

Kislyak telephoned me about the impact of my request to him. He said Russia's decision not to escalate the sanctions situation was based on my request. I think my phone call made a difference.

NARRATOR

January 1, 2017 - Flynn talks to Bannon

FLYNN AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL BANNON STEP FORWARD -

FLYNN

I want to keep you up-to-date on the sanctions issue and Kislyak conversations ...

BANNON

(listens knowingly
-like he already
knew)

FLYNN

I think we stopped the train on Russia' s response to the sanctions.

BANNON

Yes, I believe we did.

NARRATOR

January 3, 2017 - Flynn met with President-Elect Trump in person. Both discuss the Russian reaction to the sanctions.

To date, Flynn does not have a specific recollection of telling President-Elect Trump about the substance of his calls with Kislyak.

Then around this same time the Intelligence Community have serious concerns

MEMBERS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY STEP FORWARD TALKING TOGETHER -

(Members of the intelligence community surprised)

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY

Can you believe Russia's decision not to retaliate in response to the sanctions? Hey, we know that Flynn discussed sanctions with Kislyak. What was that about? The FBI has an open investigation of Flynn based on his relationship with the Russian government. We should make Flynn's contacts with Kislyak a key component of that investigation.

NARRATOR

Evidence #2. President-Elect Trump is Briefed on the Intelligence Community's Assessment of Russian Interference in the Election and Congress Opens Election- Interference Investigations

January 6, 2017

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Intelligence Officials including Comey meet with President-Elect Trump and the incoming Administration.

INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS INCLUDING COMEY, PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP AND THE INCOMING ADMINISTRATION STEP FORWARD -

INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL

We are here to brief you on the intelligence community's assessment that Russia had interfered in the 2016 presidential election...

NARRATOR

At conclusion of briefing Comey speaks privately with President-elect Trump

COMEY AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD -

COMEY

I want to brief you on unverified, personally sensitive allegations compiled in the Steele report.

TRUMP

I want to begin this by telling you that you have conducted yourself honorably over the prior year and have a great reputation. I think highly of you and look forward to working with you, and hope that you plan to stay on as FBI director.

COMEY

I intend to continue serving in that role. Now to brief you on the sensitive material in the Steele reporting.

TRUMP

(shows defensiveness)

That report is not true. I did not do anything.

COMEY

I assure you that the FBI is not investigating you personally.

NARRATOR

January 10, 2017 the press reports

PRESS

Comey has briefed Trump-Elect on the Steele reporting. BuzzFeed News has published information compiled by Steele online and states that the information included specific, unverified, and potentially unverifiable allegations of contact between Trump aides and Russian operatives.

NARRATOR

January 11, 2017 - Trump expresses concern to intelligence community leaders about the fact that the Steele information has leaked and asks whether they could make public statements refuting the allegations in the Steele reports.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (cont'd)
Director of National Intelligence
James Clapper emails Comey

DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE CLAPPER AND COMEY STEP
FORWARD -

(Emailing each other)

CLAPPER

Trump asked if I could put out a statement. He would prefer of course that I say the documents are bogus, which, of course, I can't do.

COMEY

Trump called me at 5 yesterday and we had a very similar conversation.

NARRATOR

The following weeks the Press reports

PRESS

Three Congressional committees have opened investigations to examine Russia's interference in the election and whether the Trump Campaign had colluded with Russia.

On January 13, 2017, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence announced that it would conduct a bipartisan inquiry into Russian interference in the election, including any "links between Russia and individuals associated with political campaigns."

On January 25, 2017, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence announced that it had been conducting an investigation into Russian election interference and possible coordination with the political campaigns.

And on February 2, 2017, the Senate Judiciary Committee announced that it too would investigate Russian efforts to intervene in the election.

NARRATOR

Evidence #3. Flynn Makes False Statements About his Communications with Kislyak to Incoming Administration Officials, the Media, and the FBI

January 12, 2017 the press reports

PRESS

(Washington Post
columnist)

Flynn and Kislyak communicated on the day the Obama Administration announced the Russia sanctions. I question whether Flynn has said something to "undercut the U.S. sanctions" and whether Flynn's communications has violated the letter or spirit of the Logan Act.

NARRATOR

Trump calls Priebus

TRUMP AND PRIEBUS STEP FORWARD ON PHONES -

TRUMP

(angry)

I am really upset about this. "What the hell is this all about?"

NARRATOR

Priebus calls Flynn

PRIEBUS AND FLYNN STEPS FORWARD ON PHONES -

PRIEBUS

Trump is angry about the reporting on your conversations with Kislyak.

PRIEBUS STEPS BACK

FLYNN

(to himself)

I feel a lot of pressure because Priebus has spoken to the "boss" and said I needed to "kill the story."

NARRATOR
Flynn gives directive to McFarland

FLYNN AND MCFARLAND STEP FORWARD -

FLYNN
Call the Washington Post columnist
and inform him that no discussion of
sanctions had occurred. "I want to
kill the story.

FLYNN STEPS BACK MCFARLAND STAYS -

MCFARLAND
(to herself)
I know that is not true. What do I
do?

NARRATOR
McFarland talks to Press Columnist

MCFARLAND AND PRESS COLUMNIST ON PHONES STEP FORWARD
(Washington Post
columnist)

MCFARLAND
No discussion of sanctions have
occurred. Correct your column.

PRESS COLUMNIST
I updated the column to reflect that
a Trump official had denied that
Flynn and Kislyak discussed
sanctions.

NARRATOR
Trump and multiple senior advisers
including Bannon, Priebus and Hicks
talk

TRUMP AND MULTIPLE SENIOR WHITE HOUSE ADVISERS, INCLUDING
BANNON, PRIEBUS AND HICKS STEPS FORWARD -

TRUMP
I am unhappy with Flynn. He irritates
me frequently.

NARRATOR

The same time period Priebus, Sean Spicer, other incoming Administration officials including Vice President elect Pence talk individually with Flynn

PRIEBUS, INCOMING PRESS SECRETARY SEAN SPICER, OTHER
INCOMING ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS INCLUDING VICE PRESIDENT
ELECT PENCE STEP FORWARD -

(All talk
individually with
Flynn)

PRIEBUS

Flynn is the column true? Did you discuss sanctions?

FLYNN

I have not discussed sanctions with Kislyak.

PENCE

Flynn is the column true? Did you discuss sanctions?

FLYNN

I have not discussed sanctions with Kislyak.

SPICER

Flynn is the column true? Did you discuss sanctions?

FLYNN

I have not discussed sanctions with Kislyak.

NARRATOR

Mid-January - Press individually interview Pence, Priebus and Spicer

PENCE, PRIEBUS, SPICER AND PRESS STEP FORWARD
(Speaking to press
one-on-one)

PENCE
Sanctions were never discussed
between Flynn and Kislyak.

PRIEBUS
Sanctions were never discussed
between Flynn and Kislyak.

SPICER
Sanctions were never discussed
between Flynn and Kislyak.

NARRATOR
Senior Department of Justice
officials discuss their concerns

SENIOR DOJ OFFICIALS STEP FORWARD TALKING -
(Senior DOJ officials
alarmed)

SENIOR DOJ OFFICIAL
These public statements of incoming
Administration officials denying that
Flynn and Kislyak had discussed
sanctions are not true. Flynn has
lied to his colleagues-who in turn
have unwittingly misled the American
public. This has created a dangerous
compromise situation for Flynn
because the Russian government can
prove Flynn lied. Flynn's calls with
Kislyak and subsequent denials about
discussing sanctions raise potential
Logan Act issues and are certainly
relevant to the FBI's broader Russia
investigation.

NARRATOR
January 20, 2017 -

President Trump is inaugurated and
Flynn is sworn in as National
Security Adviser.

NARRATOR (cont'd)
January 23, 2017 - White House first
press briefing by White House press
secretary Sean Spicer

SPICER AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

SPICER
I spoke with Flynn last night, and he
confirms that the calls with Kislyak
were about topics unrelated to
sanctions.

NARRATOR
Senior Department of Justice
officials continue to discuss their
concerns

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SENIOR OFFICIALS STEP FORWARD
(concerned)

SENIOR DOJ OFFICIAL
These statements increase Russia's
leverage over Flynn based on his lies
and Russia can use that derogatory
information to compromise him as
National Security Adviser. We need to
talk to Flynn.

NARRATOR
January 24, 2017 - FBI Officials
arrange to meet with Flynn

FBI OFFICIALS AND FLYNN STEP FORWARD

FBI
Can we come over to interview you?

FLYNN
Yes come to my office in the White
House.

NARRATOR
FBI interviews Flynn in his White
House office

FBI OFFICIALS AND FLYNN STEP FORWARD

FLYNN
What can I do for you?

FBI OFFICIAL

Did you ask Kislyak to refrain from escalating the situation in response to the sanctions on Russia imposed by the Obama Administration?

FLYNN

No, I did not.

FBI OFFICIAL

Did you have a follow-up conversation in which Kislyak stated that Russia had chosen to moderate its response to those sanctions as a result of your request?

FLYNN

I do not remember a follow-up conversation with Kislyak.

NARRATOR

Evidence #4. DOJ Officials Notify the White House of Their Concerns About Flynn

January 26, 2017 - Yates contacts McGahn to arrange a meeting

ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL YATES AND WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL MCGAHN
ON PHONE STEP FORWARD

YATES

We need to discuss a sensitive matter with you in person.

MCGAHN

Come on over to the White House so we can discuss it.

NARRATOR

Later that day -Yates and Mary McCord, a senior national security official at the Department of Justice, meets at the White House with McGahn and White House Counsel's Office attorney James Burnham.

YATES, MCCORD, SENIOR DOJ NATIONAL SECURITY OFFICIAL,
MCGAHN, BURHAM STEP FORWARD

YATES

Public statements made by the Vice President denying that Flynn and Kislyak discussed sanctions are not true. This puts Flynn in a potentially compromised position because the Russians know he has lied. Because of this, Flynn has been interviewed by the FBI.

MCGAHN

What did Flynn say in the interview?

YATES

I cannot go into specifics on how Flynn performed during the FBI interview. Yet I can say that Flynn's statements to the FBI are similar to the statements he has made to Pence and Spicer denying that he had discussed sanctions.

MCGAHN

(thoughts to himself)

I don't think that the FBI has pinned Flynn down in lies. Yet I better ask John Eisenberg, who serves as legal adviser to the National Security Council, to examine potential legal issues raised by Flynn's FBI interview and his contacts with Kislyak.

NARRATOR

That afternoon - McGahn talks to Trump

MCGAHN AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

MCGAHN

Yates has come to the White House to discuss concerns about Flynn. Let me tell you what Yates said ...

TRUMP

Can you repeat that?

MCGAHN

Okay ... In the FBI interview Flynn did not disclose having discussed sanctions with Kislyak. There may not have been a clear violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1001.152

TRUMP

What is Section 1001 about?

MCGAHN

I will explain that law and the Logan Act...

(explained the laws)

TRUMP

Go to work with Priebus and Bannon to look into the matter further and don't discuss it with any other officials.

NARRATOR

Around the same time

PRIEBUS STEPS FORWARD

PRIEBUS

(to himself)

Trump is angry with Flynn in light of what Yates has told the White House. Trump said, "not again, this guy, this stuff."

NARRATOR

That evening Trump dining with several senior advisers including Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats.

TRUMP AND SENIOR ADVISERS INCLUDING DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAN COATS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

What do you think about FBI Director Comey?

COATS

I think Comey is a good director. Mr President I think you should meet Comey face-to-face and spend time with him before making a decision about whether to retain him.

COATS (cont'd)

(To himself)

No one openly advocates terminating Comey but the consensus on him is not positive.

NARRATOR

Evidence #5. McGahn has a Follow-Up Meeting About Flynn with Yates; President Trump has Dinner with FBI Director Comey.

January 27, 2017 - McGahn and Eisenberg talk

MCGAHN AND EISENBERG STEP FORWARD

MCGAHN

What are the results of the initial legal research regarding Flynn's conduct and whether Flynn may have violated the Espionage Act, the Logan Act, or 18 U.S.C. § 1001.160?

EISENBERG

There is a possibility that Flynn has violated 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and the Logan Act. Yet the United States has never successfully prosecuted an individual under the Logan Act and Flynn could have possible defenses. I believe it is unlikely that a prosecutor would pursue a Logan Act charge under the circumstances.

NARRATOR

That same morning McGahn calls Yates

MCGAHN AND YATES ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

MCGAHN

Can you return to the White House to discuss Flynn again.

YATES

Yes, I will be right over.

NARRATOR

In that second meeting at the White House

MCGAHN AND YATES STEP FORWARD

MCGAHN

I doubt that the Department of Justice will bring a Logan Act prosecution against Flynn. Yet the White House does not want to take action that will interfere with an ongoing FBI investigation of Flynn.

YATES

We notified the White House of Flynn's compromising situation so that the White House can take action in response.

MCGAHN

I want full access to the underlying information the Department of Justice possesses pertaining to Flynn's discussions with Kislyak.

NARRATOR

McGahn's previous advice to Trump

MCGAHN AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

MCGAHN

Don't communicate directly with the DOJ. We want to avoid the perception of political interference in law enforcement.

NARRATOR

Also on January 27, 2017 - Trump invites Comey for dinner

TRUMP AND COMEY ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Will you come for dinner at the White House this evening?

COMEY

Yes

NARRATOR

Before the dinner Priebus and Trump talk

PRIEBUS AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

PRIEBUS

"don't talk about Russia, whatever you do,"

TRUMP

I promise I will not talk about Russia at the dinner.

NARRATOR

Later Bannon talks to Trump

BANNON AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

BANNON

I or Priebus should also attend your dinner with Comey.

TRUMP

I want to dine with Comey alone.

NARRATOR

Comey arrives for the dinner that evening

COMEY AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

COMEY

(to himself)

What's going on? Has no one else been invited?

NARRATOR

At dinner

COMEY AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I am thinking of your future here. Do you want to stay on as FBI director?

COMEY

(to himself)

What's going on here. Trump has previously said he wants me to stay on as FBI director. Is Trump making an effort to create a patronage relationship by having me ask for my job?

TRUMP

I am thinking about ordering the FBI to investigate the Steele allegations to prove they are false.

COMEY

You should think carefully about issuing such an order because it could create a narrative that the FBI is investigating you personally, which is incorrect.

NARRATOR

During the dinner

COMEY AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Flynn has serious judgment issues.

COMEY

(silence)

TRUMP

"I need loyalty, I expect loyalty."

COMEY

(changed the topic)

As to the leaks ...

TRUMP

I am thinking about your job. "I need loyalty."

COMEY

"You will always get honesty from me."

TRUMP

"That's what I want, honest loyalty."

COMEY

"You will get that from me."

NARRATOR

Three and a half months later on May 11, 2017

PRESS

We are releasing details of Comey's documented account of what happened during his dinner with Trump on January 27, 2017.

NARRATOR

Trump and his advisers including Priebus and McGahn talk

TRUMP AND HIS ADVISERS INCLUDING PRIEBUS AND MCGAHN STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I never asked for Comey's loyalty. I did bring Flynn up in the meeting with Comey and stated that Flynn is a good guy.

Also I did not invite Comey to dinner. I believe that Comey had asked for the dinner because he wanted to stay on.

NARRATOR

The President's Daily Diary shows that Trump "extended a dinner invitation" to Comey on January 27, 2017.

Supporting Comey's version of the dinner are Comey's same day detailed memorandum, his reporting to senior FBI officials, his sworn testimony, and others testimony about the one-on-one meeting occurrence.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Evidence #6. Flynn's Resignation

NARRATOR (cont'd)
February 2, 2017 - McGahn and
Eisenberg review the issue

MCGAHN AND EISENBERG STEP FORWARD

EISENBERG

We legally reviewed the underlying information relating to Flynn's calls with Kislyak. I prepared a memorandum about criminal statutes that could apply to Flynn's conduct. I do not believe the White House has enough information to make a definitive recommendation to Trump.

MCGAHN

Your review of the underlying information confirms your preliminary conclusion that Flynn is unlikely to be prosecuted for violating the Logan Act. We are uncertain what Flynn has told the FBI, so we are unable to assess his exposure to prosecution for violating 18 U.S.C. § 1001.192

NARRATOR

The week of February 6 Trump talks to Flynn in the Oval Office

TRUMP AND FLYNN STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I am upset with the negative media coverage. What were your conversations with Kislyak about?

FLYNN

These are the specific dates that I remember speaking with Kislyak.

TRUMP

You got this date wrong. What did you discuss with Kislyak?

FLYNN

I might have talked about sanctions.

NARRATOR

February 9, 2017 the press reports

PRESS
(Washington Post)
Flynn discussed sanctions with
Kislyak the month before Trump took
office.

NARRATOR
Pence's response

PENCE STEPS FORWARD

PENCE
What! Now White House officials tell
me about the DOJ's notification to
the White House about the content of
Flynn's calls. I and other advisers
want access to and review of the
underlying information on Flynn's
contacts with Kislyak.

NARRATOR
FBI Deputy Director McCabe shares the
underlying information with White
House officials including McGahn,
Priebus, Flynn, and Eisenberg

WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS INCLUDING MCGAHN, PRIEBUS, FLYNN,
EISENBERG AND FBI DEPUTY DIRECTOR MCCABE STEP FORWARD

MCCABE
Here it is to review in my presence.

WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL
Did Flynn's conduct violate the Logan
Act?

MCCABE
I do not know. The FBI is
investigating the matter because it
is a possibility.

MCGAHN AND PRIEBUS ON ASIDE

MCGAHN
Flynn could not have forgotten the
sanction discussion details and has
lied to us.

PRIEBUS
I agree.

NARRATOR

Shortly thereafter Flynn, Eisenberg,
McGahn and Priebus talk

FLYNN, EISENBERG, MCGAHN AND PRIEBUS STEP FORWARD

FLYNN

The FBI told me that they were
closing out its investigation of me.

EISENBERG

(to himself)
I don't believe him.

NARRATOR

Later Priebus and McGahn talk

MCGAHN AND PRIEBUS STEP FORWARD

PRIEBUS

Flynn should be terminated.

MCGAHN

I agree

NARRATOR

McGahn and Priebus tell Trump their
recommendation to terminate Flynn
from his position.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

That weekend -
Flynn accompanied Trump to Mar-a-
Lago. On the return flight to D.C. on
Air Force One, they had a
conversation

TRUMP AND FLYNN STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Did you lie to Vice President Pence?

FLYNN

I think I may have forgotten details
of my calls, but I do not think I
lied.

TRUMP
"Okay. That's fine. I got it."

NARRATOR
February 13, 2017 - Priebus talks to
Flynn

PRIEBUS AND FLYNN STEP FORWARD

PRIEBUS
You have to resign.

FLYNN
I want to say goodbye to Trump.

NARRATOR
Priebus brings Flynn to the Oval
Office.

TRUMP AND FLYNN STEP FORWARD

TRUMP
(hugs Flynn and
shakes his hand)
We'll give you a good recommendation.
You're a good guy. We'll take care of
you.

NARRATOR
Shortly thereafter the White House
Counsel's Office prepares talking
points on the resignation and
distributes them to the White House
communications team stating that
McGahn has advised Trump that Flynn
is unlikely to be prosecuted, and
Trump has determined that the issue
with Flynn is one of trust.

The next day Spicer speaks to the
press

SPICER STEPS FORWARD

SPICER

Flynn was forced to resign not based on a legal issue, but based on a trust issue, where a level of trust between Trump and General Flynn had eroded to the point where Trump felt he had to make a change.

NARRATOR

Evidence #7. Trump Discusses Flynn with FBI Director Comey

February 14, 2017 - the day after Flynn's resignation Trump has lunch with New Jersey Governor Chris Christie at the White House

TRUMP AND CHRISTIE STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Now that we fired Flynn, the Russia thing is over.

CHRISTIE

(laughed)
No way. This Russia thing is far from over and we'll be here on Valentine's Day 2018 talking about this.

TRUMP

What do you mean? Flynn met with the Russians. That was the problem. I fired Flynn. It's over.

CHRISTIE

Based on my experience both as a prosecutor and as someone who had been investigated, firing Flynn will not end the investigation. There is no way to make an investigation shorter, but a lot of ways to make it longer.

TRUMP

What do you mean?

CHRISTIE

Don't talk about the investigation even if you are frustrated at times.
(MORE)

CHRISTIE (cont'd)

You will never be able to get rid of Flynn. He is like gum on the bottom of your shoe.

TRUMP

Are you still friendly with Comey?

CHRISTIE

Yes, I am.

TRUMP

Call Comey and tell him that Trump really likes him. Tell him he's part of the team.

CHRISTIE

(to himself)

This request is nonsensical and I do not want to put Comey in the position of having to receive such a phone call. It would be uncomfortable to pass on that message. I have no intention of doing it.

NARRATOR

4 p.m. that afternoon at a homeland security briefing.

At the end of the briefing Trump dismisses everyone except Comey

TRUMP, COMEY, SESSIONS, AND OTHER OFFICIALS INCLUDING JARED KUSHNER STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

All attendees are dismissed except for Comey who I want to speak to alone.

(All officials leave
except Sessions and
Kushner)

TRUMP (cont'd)

You too Sessions and Kushner. I want to speak only with Comey.

TRUMP (cont'd)
Priebus don't come back in. I want to
speak only with Comey.

(All leave and Trump
and Comey are alone)

TRUMP (cont'd)
I want to talk about Mike Flynn.
Flynn has not done anything wrong in
speaking with the Russians, but has
to be terminated because he has
misled Vice President Pence.

COMEY
(changes topic)
about the leaks of information ...

TRUMP
Flynn is a good guy and has been
through a lot. I hope you can see
your way clear to letting this go, to
letting Flynn go. He is a good guy. I
hope you can let this go.

COMEY
Yes, Flynn is a good guy.

COMEY (cont'd)
(to himself)
Trump is meeting with me alone to
direct me to let Flynn go.

NARRATOR
Shortly after meeting with Trump
Comey drafts a memorandum documenting
their conversation. Then meets with
his senior leadership team

COMEY AND HIS SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM STEP FORWARD

COMEY
This is what Trump requested...

FBI LEADERSHIP TEAM
We should not inform FBI officials
working on the Flynn case of Trump's
statements so the officials will not
be influenced by the request.

COMEY

Agree.

NARRATOR

Comey meets with Sessions.

COMEY AND SESSIONS STEP FORWARD

COMEY

Do not leave me alone with Trump again.

NARRATOR

Evidence #8. The Media Raises Questions About Trump's Delay in Terminating Flynn

After Flynn was forced to resign the press asks

PRESS

Why did Trump wait more than two weeks after the DOJ notification to remove Flynn? Did Trump know about Flynn's contacts with Kislyak before the DOJ notification? What are the connections between Russia and Trump's campaign?

NARRATOR

February 15, 2017 - Trump talks to reporters

TRUMP AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

"General Flynn is a wonderful man. I think he's been treated very, very unfairly by the media."

NARRATOR

February 16, 2017
Trump at a press conference

TRUMP

I removed Flynn because Flynn "didn't tell the Vice President of the United States the facts, and then he didn't remember. And that just wasn't acceptable to me.

I did not direct Flynn to discuss sanctions with Kislyak, but it certainly would have been okay with me if he did. I would have directed him to do it if I thought he wasn't doing it.

I didn't direct him, but I would have directed him because that's his job. I have nothing to do with Russia. I told you, I have no deals there. I have no anything. I have nothing to do with WikiLeaks's publication of information hacked from the Clinton campaign.

PRESS

(to themselves)

Trump did not say that Flynn had lied to HIM when listing the reasons for terminating Flynn.

NARRATOR

Evidence #9. Trump Attempts to Have K.T. McFarland Create a Witness Statement Denying that he Directed Flynn's Discussions with Kislyak.

February 22, 2017 -Priebus and McGahn meet with McFarland

PRIEBUS, BANNON, AND MCFARLAND STEP FORWARD

PRIEBUS

(to McFarland)

Trump wants you to resign as Deputy National Security Adviser. Yet the Administration can make you the ambassador to Singapore.

NARRATOR

The next day Trump gives a directive to Priebus

TRUMP AND PRIEBUS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Have McFarland draft an internal email that will confirm I did not direct Flynn to call the Russian Ambassador about sanctions.

PRIEBUS

I will only direct McFarland to write such a letter if she is comfortable with it.

NARRATOR

later Priebus called McFarland into his office

PRIEBUS AND MCFARLAND STEP FORWARD

PRIEBUS

Trump wants you to memorialize in writing that Trump did not direct Flynn to talk to Kislyak.

MCFARLAND

I do not know whether Trump had directed Flynn to talk to Kislyak about sanctions. I decline to say yes or no to the request at this time.

PRIEBUS

I understand that you are not comfortable with Trump's request. I recommend that you talk to attorneys in the White House Counsel's Office.

NARRATOR

McFarland then reached out to Eisenberg.

MCFARLAND AND EISENBERG STEP FORWARD

MCFARLAND

I have been fired from my job as Deputy National Security Adviser and offered the ambassadorship in Singapore.

Trump and Priebus want a letter from me denying that Trump directed Flynn to discuss sanctions with Kislyak.

EISENBERG

Don't write the requested letter. Because you are concerned by the Trump's request, I think the requested email and letter would be a bad idea- from your side because the email would be awkward. Why would I be emailing Priebus to make a statement for the record? It would also be a bad idea for Trump because it looks as if your ambassadorial appointment is in some way a quid pro quo.

NARRATOR

Later that evening Priebus stopped by McFarland's office

PRIEBUS

Don't write the email and forget I even mentioned it.

NARRATOR

Around the same time Trump talks to Priebus

TRUMP AND PRIEBUS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Reach out to Flynn and let him know that Trump still cares about him.

NARRATOR

Priebus calls Flynn

PRIEBUS AND FLYNN ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

PRIEBUS

Just checking in. You are an American hero.

PRIEBUS (cont'd)

(to himself)

Trump doesn't want Flynn saying bad things about him.

NARRATOR

March 31, 2017 the press reports

PRESS

Flynn has offered to testify before the FBI and congressional investigators in exchange for immunity.

NARRATOR

Following the press report Trump tweets

TRUMP STEPS FORWARD TWEETING

TRUMP

Mike Flynn should ask for immunity in that this is a witch hunt (excuse for big election loss), by media & Dems, of historic proportion!

NARRATOR

late March or early April Trump talks to McFarland

TRUMP AND MCFARLAND STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Pass on a message to Flynn telling him Trump feels bad for him and that he should stay strong.

NARRATOR

END OF ACT 1

Narrator

Pages 44 to 48 of Volume II of the Mueller report outlines the relevance of the evidence presented in Act 1 to the elements of the case for obstruction of justice.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

The analysis includes the principles of an Obstructive Act, Nexus to a proceeding, and Intent. The audience is encouraged to review that analysis.

(ACT 2)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Act 2

Obstruction C. in Mueller Report
Volume II page 48: Trump's Reaction
to Public Confirmation of the FBI's
Russia Investigation.

Evidence 1. Attorney General Sessions
Recuses From the Russia Investigation
late February 2017

NARRATOR (cont'd)

The Department of Justice began an
internal analysis of whether Sessions
should recuse from the Russia
investigation based on his role in
the 2016 Trump Campaign.

March I, 2017 the press reports

PRESS

In the January confirmation hearing
to become Attorney General, Senator
Sessions had not disclosed two
meetings he had with Russian
Ambassador Kislyak before the
Presidential election, leading to
congressional calls for Sessions to
recuse or for a special counsel to
investigate Russia's interference in
Presidential election.

NARRATOR

Also on March 1 Trump calls Comey

TRUMP AND COMEY ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I want to check in and see how you are doing. I hear that you are doing great. About Sessions ... (talked a bit). Hope you will come by to say hello when you are at the White House.

COMEY

(to himself)

He is trying to pull me in.

NARRATOR

The next morning Trump calls McGahn

TRUMP AND MCGAHN ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

You should contact Sessions to tell him not to recuse himself from the Russia investigation. I am concerned that a recusal will make Sessions look guilty for omitting details in his confirmation hearing; leave me unprotected from an investigation that can hobble the presidency and derail my policy objectives; and detract from favorable press coverage of a Presidential Address to Congress I delivered earlier in the week.

MCGAHN

Understood.

NARRATOR

McGahn then talks to Sessions

TRUMP STEPS BACK AND SESSIONS STEPS FORWARD

MCGAHN

Trump is not happy about the possibility of recusal.

SESSIONS

I intend to follow the rules on recusal.

NARRATOR

McGahn reports back to Trump

SESSIONS STEPS BACK AND TRUMP STEPS FORWARD

MCGAHN

Sessions intends to follow the rules
on recusal.

TRUMP

I do not want Sessions to recuse.

NARRATOR

That day McGahn again talks to
Sessions

MCGAHN AND SESSIONS STEPS FORWARD

MCGAHN

Trump does not want you to recuse.

NARRATOR

McGahn talks to Sessions' personal
attorney

SESSIONS STEPS BACK, MCGAHN STAYS, AND SESSIONS PERSONAL
ATTORNEY STEPS FORWARD

MCGAHN

Trump does not want Sessions to
recuse.

NARRATOR

McGahn talks to Sessions' Chief of
Staff

SESSIONS PERSONAL COUNSEL STEPS BACK AND SESSIONS CHIEF OF
STAFF STEPS FORWARD

MCGAHN

Trump does not want Sessions to
recuse.

NARRATOR

McGahn talks to Senate Majority
leader Mitch McConnell

SESSIONS CHIEF OF STAFF STEPS BACK, MCGAHN STAYS, AND SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MITCH MCCONNELL STEPS FORWARD

MCGAHN

Trump does not want Sessions to recuse.

NARRATOR

McGahn again talks to Sessions

MCCONNELL STEPS BACK, MCGAHN STAYS, AND SESSIONS STEPS FORWARD

MCGAHN

Trump does not want you to recuse.

NARRATOR

White House advisers talk to Sessions

MCGAHN STEPS BACK, SESSION STAYS, AND OTHER WHITE HOUSE ADVISERS STEP FORWARD

WHITE HOUSE ADVISERS

You must not recuse.

NARRATOR

That afternoon Sessions makes a public announcement

SESSIONS STEPS FORWARD

SESSIONS

I decided to recuse from any existing or future investigations of any matters related in any way to the campaigns for President of the United States. I believe the decision to recuse was not a close call, given the applicable language in the Code of Federal Regulations, which I consider to be clear and decisive. I believe that any argument that it did not apply to me is very thin.

NARRATOR

White House officials individually talk to Sessions

WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS AND SESSIONS ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL

Trump is very upset with you and does not think you have done your duty as Attorney General.

OTHER WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL

Trump is very upset with you and does not think you have done your duty as Attorney General.

NARRATOR

March 2, 2017

White House Counsel's Office issues direction that Sessions should not be contacted about the matter specifically saying: "No contact with Sessions" and "No communications. Serious concerns about obstruction."

NARRATOR

March 3 - Trump, McGahn, other advisers including Priebus and Bannon in the Oval Office

TRUMP, MCGAHN, OTHER ADVISERS INCLUDING PRIEBUS AND BANNON
STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I don't have a lawyer. I am angry at McGahn about letting the recusal happen. I wish Cohn was my attorney.

MCGAHN

(to himself)

That is a dig on me. Trump is suggesting that Cohn would fight for Trump whereas I will not.

TRUMP

McGahn, I want you to talk to Sessions about the recusal.

MCGAHN

The DOJ ethics officials have weighed in on Sessions' decision to recuse.

TRUMP

Former Attorneys General Robert Kennedy and Eric Holder protected their presidents when needed. I don't know why we need to abide by the DOJ contacts policy ... You're telling me that Bobby and Jack didn't talk about investigations? Or Obama didn't tell Eric Holder who to investigate?

TRUMP (cont'd)

(very upset and
screaming at McGahn)
Sessions is so weak.

BANNON

What a minute. Sessions' recusal is not a surprise and that before the inauguration we had discussed that Sessions would have to recuse from campaign-related investigations because of his work on the Trump Campaign.

NARRATOR

That weekend Sessions and McGahn flew to Mar-a-Lago to meet with Trump.

TRUMP AND SESSIONS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

(pulls Session aside
to speak to him
alone)

You should "unrecuse" from the Russia investigation. You know that Attorneys General Holder and Kennedy developed strategies to help their presidents where you have not.

SESSIONS

(to himself)

I think that Trump fears that the investigation can spin out of control and disrupt his ability to govern, which he believes I could have helped avert if I was still overseeing it.

NARRATOR

March 5, 2017

The White House Counsel's Office is informed that the FBI is asking for transition-period records relating to Flynn-indicating that the FBI is still actively investigating him.

March 6, 2017 - Trump talks to advisers

TRUMP AND ADVISERS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I want to call the Acting Attorney General to find out whether the White House or I am being investigated.

NARRATOR

Evidence 2. FBI Director Comey Publicly Confirms the Existence of the Russia Investigation in Testimony Before U.S. House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

March 9, 2017

Comey briefed the "Gang of Eight" congressional leaders about the FBI's investigation of Russian interference, including an identification of the principal U.S. subjects of the investigation.

March 12, 2017

Notes taken by Annie Donaldson, then McGahn's chief of staff state "POTUS in panic/chaos ... Need binders to put in front of POTUS. All things related to Russia."

TRUMP, MCGAHN AND DONALDSON STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

The Russian investigation frustrates me.

TRUMP AND WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS INCLUDING MCGAHN AND
DONALDSON STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Comey is making headlines too frequently. He is not attending intelligence briefings at the White House, and I suspect that Comey leaked certain information to the media. Comey is acting like "his own branch of government."

NARRATOR

March 20, 2017
Dana Boente, the Acting Attorney General for the Russia investigation, authorizes Comey to confirm the existence of the Russia investigation and agrees that Comey should decline to comment on whether any particular individuals, including Trump, are being investigated.

Comey then testifies before House Committee on intelligence

COMEY STEPS FORWARD

COMEY

I have "been authorized by the Department of Justice to confirm that the FBI, as part of its counterintelligence mission, is investigating the Russian government's efforts to interfere in the 2016 presidential election and that includes investigating the nature of any links between individuals associated with the Trump campaign and the Russian government and whether there was any coordination between the campaign and Russia's efforts. As with any counterintelligence investigation, this will also include an assessment of whether any crimes were committed."

NARRATOR

McGahn, Donaldson and senior adviser Stephen Miller observed Trump

TRUMP, MCGAHN, DONALDSON AND MILLER STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

(upset/angry)

Comey's testimony and the press suggest that I am under investigation. Comey should have clearly stated that I was not under investigation.

NARRATOR

following March 20 the press reports

PRESS

The FBI appears to be investigating Trump

NARRATOR

March 21, 2017

Notes from the White House Counsel's Office reads that Trump was "beside himself" over Comey's testimony. Trump calls McGahn repeatedly.

TRUMP AND MCGAHN ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

(getting more angry)

You need to intervene with the Department of Justice.

NARRATOR

The White House Counsel's Office is concerned

WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL'S OFFICE STEPS FORWARD

WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL'S OFFICE

Trump may fire Comey. We need to draft a memo that examines whether Trump needs a cause to terminate Comey.

NARRATOR

White House advisers counsel Trump

TRUMP AND WHITE HOUSE ADVISERS STEP FORWARD

WHITE HOUSE ADVISERS

Any direct contact by you with the FBI could be perceived as improper interference in an ongoing investigation.

NARRATOR

March 21, 2017 - Trump directs McGahn

TRUMP AND MCGAHN STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Contact Boente to correct the mis-perceptions.

NARRATOR

McGahn contacts Boente several times

MCGAHN AND BOENTE STEP FORWARD

MCGAHN

I am seeking your assistance in having Comey or the Department of Justice correct the mis-perception that Trump is under investigation. Is there a way to speed up or end the Russia investigation as quickly as possible? Trump is under a cloud and it makes it hard for him to govern.

BOENTE

There is no good way to shorten the investigation and attempting to do so could erode confidence in the investigation's conclusions.

MCGAHN

Agree.

NARRATOR

Later Trump and McGahn talk

TRUMP AND MCGAHN STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I want to speak to Boente directly.

MCGAHN

Boente does not want to talk to you about the request to intervene with Comey. Boente says that he did not think it is sustainable for Comey to stay on as FBI director for the next four years.

NARRATOR

When later questioned by Mueller's office, Boenta states

BOENTA AND MUELLER STEP FORWARD

BOENTE

I do not recall discussing with McGahn or anyone else the idea that Comey should not continue as FBI director.

NARRATOR

Evidence #3. Trump Asks Intelligence Community Leaders to Make Public Statements that he had No Connection to Russia

the weeks following March 20, 2017
Trump speaks individually with
intelligence community officials

TRUMP AND INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY OFFICIALS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

(to each official
individually, that
is, repeating
dialogue)

You need to push back publicly on any suggestion that I have a connection to the Russian election-interference effort.

NARRATOR

March 22, 2017 after Presidential Daily Briefing in the Oval Office
Trump asks National Intelligence Daniel Coats and CIA Director Michael Pompeo to stay behind to talk

TRUMP, NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DANIEL COATS AND CIA DIRECTOR
MICHAEL POMPEO STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Can you say publicly that no link
existed between me and Russia?

COATS

The Office of the Director of
National Intelligence has nothing to
do with investigations and it is not
my role to make a public statement on
the Russia investigation.

NARRATOR

Much later in a FBI interview Pompeo
said he did not recall this
interaction with Trump. However he
knew that Trump regularly urged
officials to get the word out that he
had not done anything wrong related
to Russia.

Coats in a FBI interview said that
Trump never asked him to speak to
Comey about the FBI investigation.
However his staffers recalled it
differently as follows

COATS AND HIS STAFFERS INCLUDING EDWARD GISTARO STEP FORWARD

COATS

After the Presidential Daily Briefing
today Trump brought up the Russia
investigation and asked me to contact
Comey to see if there is a way to get
past the investigation, get it over
with, end it, or words to that
effect.

Trump's comments fall somewhere
between musing about hating the
investigation and wanting me to do
something to stop it. I made it clear
that I will not get involved with an
ongoing FBI investigation

NARRATOR

March 25, 2017 Trump calls Coats

TRUMP AND COATS ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I can't do anything with Russia,
there's things I'd like to do with
Russia, with trade, with ISIS,
they're all over me with this.

COATS

The investigations are going to go on
and the best thing to do is to let
them run their course.

NARRATOR

March 26, 2017 Trump calls National
Security Agency Director Admiral
Michael Rogers and NSA Deputy
Director listens in

TRUMP AND NSA DIRECTOR ADMIRAL MICHAEL ROGERS ON PHONES, AND
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY RICHARD
LEDGETT STANDING BESIDE ROGERS, STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I am frustrated with the Russia
investigation. It makes relations
with the Russians difficult. The
thing with the Russians is messing up
my ability to get things done with
Russia. News stories linking me with
Russia are not true. Can you do
anything to refute the stories?

Narrator

After the call Rogers and Ledgett document the conversation

TRUMP STEPS BACK, ROGERS STAYS

LEDGETT

(after the call and
who was present for
the call)

This is the most unusual thing I have
experienced in 40 years of government
service. I will prepare a memorandum
that you and I will both sign that
documents the content of the
conversation and Trump's request.

NARRATOR

The memorandum is placed in a safe. Other instances where Trump talks about the investigation are:

Trump spoke on other occasions in the presence of intelligence community officials about the Russia investigation and stated that it interfered with his ability to conduct foreign relations.

On at least two occasions, Trump began Presidential Daily Briefings by stating that there was no collusion with Russia and he hoped a press statement to that effect could be issued.

Pompeo recalled that Trump vented about the investigation on multiple occasions.

Rogers recalled a private conversation with Trump in which he "vented" about the investigation, said he had done nothing wrong, and said something like the "Russia thing has got to go away."

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Evidence #4. Trump Asks Comey to "Lift the Cloud" Created by the Russia Investigation

March 30, 2017 Trump calls Comey

TRUMP AND COMEY ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I am trying to run the country and the cloud of this Russia business is making that difficult. What can be done to lift the cloud?

COMEY

We are running it down as quickly as possible and there will be great benefit, if we don't find anything, to our Good Housekeeping seal of approval, but we have to do our work. Congressional leaders are aware that the FBI is not investigating Trump personally.

TRUMP

(several times)

We need to get that fact out. If some satellite did something, it would be good to find that out. But I have not done anything wrong. I hope you will find a way to get out that you aren't investigating me.

NARRATOR

After the call ended Comey calls Boente

COMEY AND BOENTE ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

COMEY

Let me tell you about Trump's conversation with me ... Can you give me guidance on how to respond? I am uncomfortable with direct contact from Trump about the investigation.

NARRATOR

April 11, 2017 Trump calls Comey again

TRUMP AND COMEY ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I am following up to see if you did what I have asked last time, that is, to get out that I personally am not under investigation.

COMEY

I passed the request to Boente but not heard back. The traditional channel for such a request is to have the White House Counsel contact DOJ leadership.

TRUMP

Okay, I will take that step. Because I have been very loyal to you, very loyal, we had that thing, you know.

NARRATOR

Trump is referring to a televised interview that was taped early that afternoon, Trump was asked if it is too late for him to ask Comey to step down; Trump responded, "No, it's not too late, but you know, I have confidence in him. We'll see what happens. You know, it's going to be interesting." After the interview, Hicks told Trump she thought Trump's comment about Comey should be removed from the broadcast interview, but Trump wanted to keep it in, which Hicks thought was unusual.

Later that day Trump speaks to senior advisers including McGahn and Priebus

TRUMP, SENIOR ADVISERS INCLUDING MCGAHN AND PRIEBUS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I have reached out to Comey twice in recent weeks. I know that McGahn does not approve of the outreach to Comey because he has previously cautioned me that I should not talk to Comey directly to prevent any perception that the White House was interfering with investigations.

TRUMP (cont'd)

(to McGahn)

Comey has indicated the FBI can make a public statement that I am not under investigation if the Department of Justice approves that action.

NARRATOR

After speaking with Trump McGahn speaks to Boente

MCGAHN AND BOENTE STEP FORWARD

MCGAHN

Trump's understands that the FBI can make a public announcement if the Department of Justice clears it.

BOENTE

Comey told me there is nothing obstructive about the calls from Trump, but they make Comey uncomfortable. I told Comey that I do not want to issue a statement about Trump not being under investigation because of the potential political ramifications. I do not want to order Comey to do it because that action could prompt the appointment of a Special Counsel. The direct outreaches from Trump to Comey are a problem.

MCGAHN

I agree. I will do what I can to address that issue.

NARRATOR

END OF ACT 2

Pages 60 to 61 of Volume II of the Mueller report outlines the relevance of the evidence presented in Act 2 to the elements of the case for obstruction of justice. The analysis includes the principles of an Obstructive Act, Nexus to a proceeding, and Intent. The audience is encouraged to review that analysis.

ACT 3

NARRATOR

Obstruction D. in Mueller Report
Volume II page 62: Events Leading Up
To and Surrounding the Termination of
FBI Director Comey.

Evidence #I. Comey Testifies Before
the Senate Judiciary Committee and
Declines to Answer Questions About
Whether Trump is Under Investigation

The week before May 3, 2017 the press
reports and Trump speaks to McGahn

PRESS

Comey is scheduled to testify at an
FBI oversight hearing before the
Senate Judiciary Committee.

TRUMP AND MCGAHN STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

It is the last straw if Comey does
not take the opportunity to set the
record straight by publicly
announcing that I am not under
investigation.

The perception that I am under
investigation is hurting my ability
to carry out my presidential duties
and deal with foreign leaders.

NARRATOR

May 3, 2017 Comey testifies before
Congress

COMEY AND SENATE COMMITTEE STEP FORWARD

COMEY

I decline to answer questions about
the status of the Russia
investigation. The Department of
Justice has authorized me to confirm
that the Russia investigation exists.
I am not going to say another word
about it until the investigation is
completed.

(MORE)

COMEY (cont'd)

I decline to answer questions about whether investigators have ruled out anyone in the Trump campaign as potentially a target of the criminal investigation, including whether the FBI has ruled out President of the United States.

SENATE COMMITTEE

What about your decision to announce 11 days before the Presidential election that the FBI was reopening the Clinton email investigation?

COMEY

It makes me mildly nauseous to think that we might have had some impact on the election. But even in hindsight I would make the same decision. I have no regrets about how I had handled the email investigation and believe I had done the right thing at each turn.

NARRATOR

In the afternoon following Comey's testimony Trump meets with McGahn, Sessions and Sessions's Chief of Staff Jody Hunt

Trump, McGahn, Sessions, and Sessions's Chief of Staff Jody Hunt step forward

TRUMP

McGahn, how did Comey do in his testimony?

MCGAHN

Comey declined to answer questions about whether you are under investigation.

TRUMP

(very upset and anger directed at Sessions)
 "This is terrible Jeff. It's all because you recused. AG is supposed to be the most important appointment. Kennedy appointed his brother. Obama appointed Holder. I appointed you and you recused yourself.
 (MORE)

TRUMP (cont'd)

You left me on an island. I can't do anything. The recusal is unfair and it is interfering with my ability to govern and undermining my authority with foreign leaders.

SESSIONS

I had no choice but to recuse, and it was a mandatory rather than a discretionary decision. A new start at the FBI would be appropriate. You should consider replacing Comey as FBI director.

SESSIONS (cont'd)

(to himself after meeting)

It is clear that Trump is unhappy with Comey, but I do not think Trump has made the decision to terminate Comey.

NARRATOR

May 3 and May 4, 2017 Trump sends the same message to Bannon at least eight times

TRUMP AND BANNON STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Comey told me three times that I'm not under investigation. Comey's a showboater. He's a grandstander. I don't know any Russians. There was no collusion."

BANNON

You cannot fire Comey because that ship has sailed. The firing of Comey is not going to stop the investigation. You can fire the FBI director but cannot fire the FBI.

NARRATOR

Evidence #2. Trump Makes the Decision to Terminate Comey

The weekend following Comey's testimony

NARRATOR (cont'd)

May 5, 2017 Trump has dinner with various advisers, family members including Kushner and senior adviser Stephen Miller at Trump's New Jersey resort

TRUMP, VARIOUS ADVISERS, FAMILY MEMBERS INCLUDING KUSHNER AND SENIOR ADVISER STEPHEN MILLER STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I want to remove Comey and have ideas for a letter that will be used to make the announcement. Miller take notes as I dictate arguments and specific language for the letter.

(Miller takes notes.)

TRUMP (cont'd)

The letter should start, "While I greatly appreciate you informing me that I am not under investigation concerning what I have often stated is a fabricated story on a Trump-Russia relationship - pertaining to the 2016 presidential election, please be informed that I, and I believe the American public - including Ds and Rs - have lost faith in you as Director of the FBI."

Miller prepare a draft termination letter and send it to me for edits. Don't tell anyone at the White House that we are preparing this letter. I am worried about leaks.

NARRATOR

Following the dinner, Miller prepares a termination letter based on those notes and research he conducts to support Trump's arguments. Over the weekend, Trump provides several rounds of edits on the draft letter. Trump and Miller meet.

TRUMP AND MILLER STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Let me be clear. I want the letter to open with a reference to me not being under investigation. I want to establish that Comey has been under a "review period" and did not have assurance from me that he would be permitted to keep his job.

MILLER

(to himself)

Trump wants to show that Comey is not being terminated based on any such investigation.

NARRATOR

The final version of the termination letter prepared by Miller and Trump began in a way that closely tracks what Trump had dictated to Miller at the May 5 dinner.

TRUMP STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

Dear Director Comey, While I greatly appreciate your informing me, on three separate occasions, that I am not under investigation concerning the fabricated and politically-motivated allegations of a Trump-Russia relationship with respect to the 2016 Presidential Election, please be informed that I, along with members of both political parties and, most importantly, the American Public, have lost faith in you as the Director of the FBI and you are hereby terminated. ... Your questionable judgment and conduct, including your May 3 testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, your handling of the Clinton email investigation, and your failure to hold leakers accountable. ... You had asked me at dinner shortly after inauguration to let you stay on in the Director's role, and I said that I would consider it, ... I have concluded that I have no alternative but to find new leadership for the Bureau - a leader that restores confidence and trust."

NARRATOR

May 8, 2017 Trump with senior advisers, including McGahn, Priebus, and Miller in the Oval Office

TRUMP SENIOR ADVISERS, INCLUDING MCGAHN, PRIEBUS, AND MILLER
STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I have decided to terminate Comey. I will read to you the first paragraphs of the termination letter I have written with Miller. ... This decision has been made and is not up for discussion. Miller has researched the issue and determined that I have the authority to terminate Comey without cause.

MCGAHN

(to himself)

We need to slow down this decision-making process.

MCGAHN (cont'd)

The DOJ leadership is currently discussing Comey's status. I suggest that White House Counsel's Office attorneys talk with Sessions and Rod Rosenstein, who has recently been confirmed as the Deputy Attorney General. The scheduled meetings with Sessions and Rosenstein today will be a good opportunity to find out what they think about firing Comey.

NARRATOR

At noon at the White House McGahn, Sessions, Rosenstein Hunt and White House Counsel's Office attorney Uttam Dhillon meet.

MCGAHN, SESSIONS, ROSENSTEIN, HUNT AND WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL'S OFFICE ATTORNEY UTTAM DHILLON STEP FORWARD

MCGAHN

Trump has decided to fire Comey. Sessions and Rosenstein, what are your views?

SESSIONS

Comey does have faults.

ROSENSTEIN

Yes, Comey does have faults.

NARRATOR

Later that day McGahn and Dhillon talk

MCGAHN AND DHILLON STEP FORWARD

MCGAHN

The fact that neither Sessions nor Rosenstein objected to replacing Comey gives us peace of mind that Trump's decision to fire Comey is not an attempt to obstruct justice.

NARRATOR

At around 5 p.m. in the Oval Office,
Trump, several White House Officials,
Sessions and Rosenstein meet

TRUMP, SEVERAL WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS, SESSIONS AND
ROSENSTEIN STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I watched Comey's May 3rd testimony
over the weekend and think that
something is not right with Comey.
Comey should be removed. Sessions and
Rosenstein, what are your views?

SESSIONS

I have previously recommended that
Comey be replaced.

ROSENSTEIN

I have concerns about Comey's
handling of the Clinton email
investigation.

TRUMP

Here are copies of the termination
letter I have drafted with Miller.

DHILLON

We should discuss the mechanics of
how to fire Comey and whether this
letter should be used.

(Discussion proceeds)

MCGAHN

We urge you to permit Comey to
resign.

TRUMP

No! He is to be fired.

TRUMP (cont'd)

I agree that Rosenstein and Sessions
could provide a recommendation in
writing that Comey should be removed.
Rosenstein draft a memorandum. I want
to receive it first thing tomorrow
morning.

(MORE)

TRUMP (cont'd)

Include in your recommendation the fact that Comey refuses to confirm that Trump is not personally under investigation. Put the Russia stuff in the memo.

ROSENSTEIN

The Russia investigation is not the basis of your recommendation, so I do not think Russia should be mentioned.

TRUMP

I will appreciate it if you put it in your letter anyway.

NARRATOR

Later Rosenstein meets with DOJ colleagues

ROSENSTEIN AND DOJ COLLEAGUES STEP FORWARD

ROSENSTEIN

Comey will be terminated. My reasons for replacing Comey are not Trump's reasons.

NARRATOR

May 9, 2017
Hunt delivers to the White House a letter from Sessions recommending Comey's removal and a memorandum from Rosenstein, addressed to the Attorney General, titled "Restoring Public Confidence in the Federal Bureau of Justice."

Trump, Priebus, Miller and White House Counsel's Office including McGahn, Donaldson and Dhillon meet at the White House

TRUMP, PRIEBUS, MILLER AND WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL'S OFFICE INCLUDING MCGAHN, DONALDSON AND DHILLON STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

The DOJ letters are great. I agree that they should provide the foundation for a new cover letter from me accepting the recommendation to terminate Comey.

WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL'S OFFICE
Your original termination letter should not see the light of day. It would be better to offer no other rationales for the firing than what is in Rosenstein's and Sessions' memorandum.

DONALDSON
(to herself)
Is this the beginning of the end? It's worrying that the decision to terminate Comey, and the manner in which it is being carried out, will be the end of the presidency.

TRUMP
Miller draft a new termination letter. Say in the letter that Comey has informed me three times that I am not under investigation.

MCGAHN
Priebus, Dhillon and I object to including that language.

TRUMP
It is to be included.

MCGAHN
(to himself)
Seems like that language is the most important part of the letter to Trump.

PRIEBUS
(to himself)
Seems like that language is the most important part of the letter to Trump.

OTHER WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS
(to themselves)
Seems like that language is the most important part of the letter to Trump.

DHILLON
Again I think it would be better to let Comey resign.

TRUMP

No. That's not an option.

NARRATOR

Around the time Trump's letter was finalized on May 9 Priebus summoned Spicer and the press team to the Oval Office

PRIEBUS, SPICER AND THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS TEAM STEP FORWARD

PRIEBUS

Comey has been terminated for the reasons stated in these letters by Rosenstein and Sessions. To announce Comey's termination, the White House is releasing a statement that I think has been dictated by Trump.

NARRATOR

White House releases a press release that states "Today, President Donald J. Trump informed FBI Director James Comey that he has been terminated and removed from office. President Trump acted based on the clear recommendations of both Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and Attorney General Jeff Sessions."

That evening FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe is summoned to meet with Trump at the White House

TRUMP AND MCCABE STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I have fired Comey because of the decisions Comey has made in the Clinton email investigation and for many other reasons. Were you aware that Comey has told me three times that I am not under investigation? Do many people in the FBI dislike Comey? Were you part of the "resistance" that had disagreed with Comey's decisions in the Clinton investigation?

MCCABE

I know Comey has told you that you are not under investigation. Most people in the FBI feel positive about Comey. I worked "very closely" with Comey and was part of all the decisions that have been made in the Clinton investigation.

NARRATOR

Later that evening Trump speaks to his communications team

TRUMP AND HIS COMMUNICATIONS TEAM STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I am unhappy with the press coverage of Comey's termination and I order you to go out and defend me.

NARRATOR

Trump calls Chris Christie, the former governor of New Jersey

TRUMP AND CHRIS CHRISTIE ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I'm getting "killed" in the press over Comey's termination. What should I do?

CHRISTIE

Did you fire Comey because of what Rod wrote in the memo?

TRUMP

Yes.

CHRISTIE

Get Rod out there and have him defend the decision.

TRUMP

That is a good idea. I will call Rosenstein right away.

NARRATOR

That night a White House press office individual calls an individual of the DOJ

WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE INDIVIDUAL AND DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE INDIVIDUAL ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE INDIVIDUAL
The White House wants you to put out
a statement saying that it was
Rosenstein's idea to fire Comey.

NARRATOR
Rosenstein talks to other DOJ
officials

ROSENSTEIN AND OTHER DOJ OFFICIALS STEP FORWARD

ROSENSTEIN
I will not participate in putting out
a false story.

NARRATOR
Trump calls Rosenstein

TRUMP AND ROSENSTEIN ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP
I am watching Fox News. That coverage
has been great. I want you to do a
press conference.

ROSENSTEIN
That is not a good idea because if
the press asks me, I will tell the
truth that Comey's firing was not my
idea.

NARRATOR
Sessions speaks to the White House
Counsel's Office

SESSIONS AND WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL'S OFFICE STEPS FORWARD

SESSIONS
Rosenstein is upset that his
memorandum is being portrayed as the
reason for Comey's termination.

NARRATOR
late in the evening of May 9, 2017
Spicer holds an unplanned press
conference

SPICER AND PRESS STEPS FORWARD

SPICER

It was all Rosenstein. No one from the White House. It was a DOJ decision. It was all him.

NARRATOR

That evening and the next morning White House Officials and spokespersons repeatedly speak the message to the press

WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS, SPOKESPEOPLE AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS

(Repeatedly say)

Trump's decision to terminate Comey was driven by the recommendations Trump received from Rosenstein and Sessions.

WHITE HOUSE SPOKESPEOPLE

(Repeatedly say)

Trump's decision to terminate Comey was driven by the recommendations Trump received from Rosenstein and Sessions.

NARRATOR

The morning on May 10, 2017 Trump meets with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak in the Oval Office

TRUMP, LAVROV AND KISLYAK STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I just fired the head of the F.B.I. He was crazy, a real nut job. I faced great pressure because of Russia. That's taken off. ... I'm not under investigation.

NARRATOR

The press then reports

PRESS

During the May 10 meeting with Lavrov and Kislyak, Trump brought up his decision the prior day to terminate Comey.

NARRATOR

The White House then issues a statement

WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL STEPS FORWARD

WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL

(Reading statement)

By grandstanding and politicizing the investigation into Russia's actions, James Comey created unnecessary pressure on our ability to engage and negotiate with Russia. The investigation would have always continued, and obviously, the termination of Comey will not end it. Once again, the real story is that our national security has been undermined by the leaking of private and highly classified information.

NARRATOR

Hicks speaks to Trump

TRUMP AND HICKS STEP FORWARD

HICKS

Here are the reports on your meeting with Lavrov.

TRUMP

Comey is crazy.

NARRATOR

McGahn speaks to Trump

MCGAHN AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

MCGAHN

What were your comments to Lavrov about?

TRUMP

It is good that Comey was fired because that took the pressure off by making it clear that I am not under investigation so I can get more work done.

NARRATOR

That same morning Trump calls McCabe

TRUMP AND MCCABE ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Come over to the White House to discuss whether I should visit FBI headquarters and make a speech to employees. I have received hundreds of messages from FBI employees indicating their support for terminating Comey. Comey should not have been permitted to travel back to Washington, D.C. on the FBI's airplane after he had been terminated. I do not want Comey in the building again, even to collect his belongings.

NARRATOR

Trump later that afternoon with McCabe

TRUMP AND MCCABE STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

People in the FBI love me. I estimate that at least 80% of the FBI had voted for me. Who did you vote for in the 2016 presidential election?

NARRATOR

In the afternoon of May 10, 2017 White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders speaks to Trump

SARAH SANDERS AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

SANDERS

I want to know more about your decision to fire Comey.

NARRATOR

White House press conference is held

SANDERS AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

SANDERS

Trump, the Department of Justice, and bipartisan members of Congress have lost confidence in Comey, and most importantly, the rank and file of the FBI had lost confidence in their director. Accordingly, Trump accepted the recommendation of his Deputy Attorney General to remove James Comey from his position.

REPORTERS

Who told Rosenstein to review Comey's performance?

SANDERS

Rosenstein decided on his own to review Comey's performance, and Rosenstein decided on his own to come to Trump on Monday, May 8 to express his concerns about Comey.

REPORTER

The vast majority of FBI agents support Comey.

SANDERS

Look, we've heard from countless members of the FBI that say very different things.

NARRATOR

Following the press conference Sanders speaks to Trump

TRUMP AND SANDERS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

You did a good job!

NARRATOR

Sanders later told Mueller's team that her reference to hearing from "countless members of the FBI" was a "slip of the tongue."

(MORE)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

She also recalled that her statement in a separate press interview that rank-and-file FBI agents had lost confidence in Comey was a comment she made "in the heat of the moment" that was not founded on anything.

Also on May 10, 2017 Sessions and Rosenstein each speak to McGahn

SESSIONS, ROSENSTEIN AND MCGAHN STEP FORWARD
(Sessions and
Rosenstein talk
separately with
McGahn)

SESSIONS

I am concerned that the White House is creating a narrative that Rosenstein had initiated the decision to fire Comey.

MCGAHN

I agree that it is factually wrong to say that the Department of Justice had initiated Comey's termination. I will ask attorneys in the White House Counsel's Office to work with the press office to correct the narrative.

ROSENSTEIN

I am concerned that the White House is creating a narrative that I had initiated the decision to fire Comey.

MCGAHN

I agree that it is factually wrong to say that the Department of Justice had initiated Comey's termination. I will ask attorneys in the White House Counsel's Office to work with the press office to correct the narrative.

NARRATOR

May 11, 2017 Trump speaks to the White House Counsel's Office attorneys

TRUMP AND WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL'S OFFICE ATTORNEYS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

The communications team cannot get the story right, so I am going on Lester Holt's TV show to say what really happened.

NARRATOR

The NBC Holt interview with Trump

TRUMP

I made the decision to fire Comey before I met with Rosenstein and Sessions. I was going to fire regardless of recommendation Rosenstein made a recommendation. But regardless of recommendation, I was going to fire Comey knowing there was no good time to do it. And in fact, when I decided to just do it, I said to myself-I said, you know, this Russia thing with Trump and Russia is a made-up story. It's an excuse by the Democrats for having lost an election that they should've won.

HOLT

Were you angry with Comey about the Russia investigation?

TRUMP

As far as I'm concerned, I want that thing to be absolutely done properly. I realize my termination of Comey probably maybe will confuse people with the result that it might even lengthen out the investigation, but I had to do the right thing for the American people. Comey was the wrong man for that position. Comey is "a showboat" and "a grandstander." The FBI has been in turmoil. I want to have a really competent, capable director. I expect the new FBI director to continue the Russia investigation.

NARRATOR

On the evening of May 11, 2017 Trump tweets

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

"Russia must be laughing up their sleeves watching as the U.S. tears itself apart over a Democrat EXCUSE for losing the election."

NARRATOR

The press reports

PRESS

Trump had demanded that Comey pledge his loyalty to Trump in a private dinner shortly after being sworn in.

NARRATOR

Late in the morning of May 12, 2017
Trump tweets

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

"Again, the story that there was collusion between the Russians and Trump campaign was fabricated by Dems as an excuse for losing the election."

TRUMP (cont'd)

"James Comey better hope that there are no 'tapes' of our conversations before he starts leaking to the press!" and "When James Clapper himself, and virtually everyone else with knowledge of the witch hunt, says there is no collusion, when does it end?"

NARRATOR

END OF ACT 3

Pages 74 to 77 of Volume II of the Mueller report outlines the relevance of the evidence presented in Act 3 to the elements of the case for obstruction of justice. The analysis includes the principles of an Obstructive Act, Nexus to a proceeding, and Intent.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

The audience is encouraged to review that analysis.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Act 4

Obstruction E. in Mueller Report
Volume II page 77: Trump's Efforts to
Remove the Special Counsel.

Evidence #1. The Appointment of the
Special Counsel and Trump's Reaction

May 17, 2017

Acting Attorney General Rosenstein
appointed Robert S. Mueller, III as
Special Counsel and authorized him to
conduct the Russia investigation and
matters that arose from the
investigation.

Trump, Hunt, McGahn and Sessions are
conducting interviews for a new FBI
Director in Oval Office. Rosenstein
and Sessions step out of the meeting
to talk

TRUMP, HUNT, MCGAHN AND SESSIONS STEP FORWARD

ROSENSTEIN
(to Sessions who
stepped out of
meeting)

I have appointed Robert S. Mueller as
Special Counsel and authorized him to
conduct the Russia investigation and
matters that arose from the
investigation.

SESSIONS

Okay

NARRATOR
then back in the meeting

SESSIONS
(to interview group)
Rosenstein has appointed Robert S. Mueller as Special Counsel and authorized him to conduct the Russia investigation and matters that arose from the investigation.

TRUMP
(slumped back in his chair)
Oh my God. This is terrible. This is the end of my Presidency. I'm fucked.

TRUMP (cont'd)
(angry lambasting Sessions)
How could you let this happen, Jeff? The position of Attorney General is my most important appointment and you have let me down. This is not how Eric Holder and Robert Kennedy behaved. You were supposed to protect me. Everyone tells me if you get one of these independent counsels it ruins your presidency. It takes years and years and I won't be able to do anything. This is the worst thing that ever happened to me. You should resign as Attorney General.

SESSIONS
I agree to submit my resignation.
(and left the Oval Office)

NARRATOR
Sessions leaves the meeting. Shortly after the meeting Hicks sees Trump

HICKS STEPS FORWARD

HICKS
(sees Trump and to herself)
Trump is extremely upset by the Special Counsel's appointment.
(MORE)

HICKS (cont'd)

I have only seen Trump like this one other time, when the Access Hollywood tape came out during the campaign.

NARRATOR

May 18, 2017 FBI agents deliver a notice to McGahn

FBI AGENTS AND MCGAHN STEP FORWARD

FBI AGENTS

Here is a preservation notice that identifies an investigation related to Comey's termination and directs the White House to preserve all relevant documents.

NARRATOR

McGahn issues a document hold to all White House staff

MCGAHN AND WHITE HOUSE STAFF STEP FORWARD

MCGAHN

Here is a document hold notice. Do not send out any burn bags over the weekend while I sort things out.

NARRATOR

Also on May 18 Sessions accompanied by Hunt goes to the White House to resign

SESSIONS, HUNT, AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

SESSIONS

Here is my resignation letter that states "Pursuant to our conversation of yesterday, and at your request, I hereby offer my resignation."

NARRATOR

Trump puts the resignation letter in his pocket and asks Sessions several times ...

TRUMP
(put the resignation
letter in his pocket
and asks Sessions
several times)
Do you want to continue serving as
Attorney General?

SESSIONS
I do want to stay, but it is up to
you.

TRUMP
I want you to stay.

NARRATOR
Trump shakes Sessions' hand but does
not return the resignation letter.

Later Priebus and Bannon meet

PRIEBUS AND BANNON STEP FORWARD

PRIEBUS
Trump is holding onto Sessions'
resignation letter.

BANNON
This is a concern because it could be
used to influence the Department of
Justice.

NARRATOR
And later Priebus and Bannon talk to
Sessions

PRIEBUS, BANNON AND SESSIONS STEP FORWARD

PRIEBUS
(to Sessions)
It is not good for Trump to have the
letter because it will function as a
kind of "shock collar" that Trump can
use any time he wants. Trump has DOJ
by the throat.

BANNON

We will attempt to get the letter back from Trump with a notation that he is not accepting your resignation.

NARRATOR

May 19, 2017 on flight from Saudi Arabia to Tel Aviv Trump takes the resignation letter from his pocket and asks his senior advisers ...

TRUMP AND SENIOR ADVISERS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

(taking from his pocket)

Here is Sessions' resignation letter. What should I do about it?

NARRATOR

Later on the trip Priebus asks Trump ...

PRIEBUS AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

PRIEBUS

Can I have the resignation letter so I can return it to Sessions?

TRUMP

No. I don't have it. It's back at the White House, somewhere in the residence.

NARRATOR

May 30, 2017 three days after return from trip Trump returns the letter to Sessions with a notation saying, "Not accepted."

NARRATOR

Evidence #2. Trump Asserts that the Special Counsel has Conflicts of Interest

NARRATOR (cont'd)

In the days following the Special Counsel's appointment, Trump repeatedly confronts his advisers separately including Priebus, Bannon and McGahn

TRUMP, WHITE HOUSE ADVISERS INCLUDING PRIEBUS, BANNON, AND MCGAHN STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

(repeatedly to each one)

Special Counsel Mueller has conflicts of interest. Mueller had interviewed for the FBI Director position shortly before being appointed as Special Counsel, he had worked for a law firm that represented people affiliated with me, and Mueller had disputed certain fees relating to his membership in a Trump golf course in Northern Virginia.

WHITE HOUSE ADVISERS

Those do not count as true conflicts.

BANNON

The purported conflicts you state are ridiculous and none of them are real or can come close to justify precluding Mueller from serving as Special Counsel. As for Mueller's interview for FBI Director, the White House had invited Mueller to speak to Trump to offer a perspective on the institution of the FBI. Although the White House thought about beseeching Mueller to become Director again, Mueller did not come in looking for the job. Also, the law firm position did not amount to a conflict in the legal community. And the golf course dispute does not rise to the level of a conflict and claiming one is "ridiculous and petty."

TRUMP
(Silence. Does not
respond.)

NARRATOR
May 23, 2017 the press reports

PRESS
The Department of Justice announced
that ethics officials have determined
that the Special Counsel's prior law
firm position does not bar his
service. Mueller had been cleared to
serve.

NARRATOR
Trump calls McGahn

TRUMP AND MCGAHN ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP
This call is about knocking out
Mueller. I strongly believe that
there are conflicts. Reach out to
Rosenstein about the issue.

MCGAHN
I cannot make such a call and you
should not as well. You should
instead consult your personal lawyer
because this is not a White House
issue. You can discuss the issue with
your personal attorney but it would
look like you are still trying to
meddle in the investigation, and
trying to knock out Mueller would be
another fact used to claim
obstruction of justice. Your biggest
exposure is not your act of firing
Comey but your other contacts and
calls, and your ask for Flynn.

NARRATOR
The press reports

PRESS
Trump requested loyalty from Comey.
He also requested that Comey let
Flynn go.

NARRATOR
Trump publicly states...

TRUMP STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

I did not. Fake news.

NARRATOR

The press reports

PRESS

Trump told the Russian Foreign Minister that the termination of Comey had relieved great pressure related to Russia.

NARRATOR

Trump reacts ...

TRUMP STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

(silence)

NARRATOR

June 8, 2017 the press reports

PRESS

Comey has testified before Congress about his interactions with Trump before his termination, including the request for loyalty, the request that Comey "let Flynn go," and the request that Comey "lift the cloud" over the presidency caused by the ongoing investigation. Is this evidence that Trump has obstructed justice?

NARRATOR

June 9, 2017 Special Counsel's Office informs the White House Counsel's Office ...

SPECIAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE AND WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL'S OFFICE
STEP FORWARD

SPECIAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE

Our investigators intend to interview intelligence community officials who have allegedly been asked by Trump to push back against the Russia investigation.

NARRATOR

June 12, 2017 - Priebus, Bannon and Christopher Ruddy, the chief executive of Newsmax Media and a longtime friend of Trump's, meet at the White House

PRIEBUS, BANNON AND RUDDY STEP FORWARD

PRIEBUS

Bannon and I believe that Trump is strongly considering firing the Special Counsel and that he will do so precipitously, without vetting the decision through Administration officials.

RUDDY

Priebus, can I talk publicly about this discussion we are having about the Special Counsel?

PRIEBUS

Yes. I hope another blow up like the one that followed the termination of Comey does not happen.

NARRATOR

Later that day at multiple televised interviews Ruddy says ...

RUDDY AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

RUDDY

Trump is considering perhaps terminating the Special Counsel based on purported conflicts of interest.

RUDDY (cont'd)

(To another interviewer)

Trump is definitely considering terminating the Special Counsel and it's not something that's being dismissed.

PRESS

(All press together saying)

Trump is considering firing the Special Counsel.

NARRATOR

White House officials are unhappy with press coverage and Ruddy heard from friends that Trump is upset with the Special Counsel.

June 13, 2017 Sanders speaks with Trump

SANDERS AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

SANDERS

Please give me guidance on how to respond to press inquiries about the possible firing of the Special Counsel.

TRUMP

I will now dictate an answer

NARRATOR

Later at a press conference

SANDERS AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

SANDERS

While Trump has every right to fire the Special Counsel, he has no intention to do so.

NARRATOR

June 13, 2017 Trump's personal attorney contacts the Special Counsel's office

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL AND SPECIAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE STEP FORWARD

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL

We have concerns about possible conflicts. Such as, Mueller's previous partnership in his law firm, his interview for the FBI Director position, and an asserted personal relationship he had with Comey.

NARRATOR

Rosenstein testifying before Congress

ROSENSTEIN STEPS FORWARD

ROSENSTEIN

I see no evidence of good cause to terminate the Special Counsel, including for conflicts of interest.

NARRATOR

June 15, 2017 Special Counsel's Office informs the Acting Attorney General's Office ...

SPECIAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE AND ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE STEP FORWARD

SPECIAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE

These are the areas of concern raised by Trump's personal attorney.

NARRATOR

Then the Special Counsel's Office confirmed with Trump's personal attorney ...

SPECIAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE AND TRUMP'S COUNSEL STEP FORWARD

SPECIAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE

Your concerns have been communicated to Rosenstein so that the Department of Justice can take any appropriate action.

NARRATOR

Evidence #3. The Press Reports that Trump is Being Investigated for Obstruction of Justice and Trump Directs the White House Counsel to Have the Special Counsel Removed

June 14, 2017 - The first public report that Trump himself is under investigation by the Special Counsel's Office

The press reports ...

PRESS

(Washington Post)

The Special Counsel is investigating whether Trump has attempted to obstruct justice. The Special Counsel is interviewing intelligence community leaders, including Coats and Rogers, about what Trump has asked them to do in response to Comey's March 20, 2017 testimony. This inquiry into obstruction marks a major turning point in the investigation. While Trump has received private assurances from then-FBI Director James B. Comey starting in January that he was not personally under investigation, officials say that changed shortly after Comey's firing.

NARRATOR

Cable News Networks report

PRESS

(another press
person - Cable news
networks)

The Washington Post is reporting that Special Counsel is investigating whether Trump has attempted to obstruct justice.

NARRATOR

That evening, at approximately 10:31 p.m Trump calls McGahn

TRUMP AND MCGAHN ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

What about this reporting that I am under investigation?

MCGAHN

You are calling my personal cell phone?

(Talking continues)

NARRATOR

The conversation lasted for about 15 minutes.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (cont'd)
Early the next day, June 15, 2017
Trump makes three separate tweets

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD
(Three separate
tweets)

TRUMP
They made up a phony collusion with
the Russians story, found zero proof,
so now they go for obstruction of
justice on the phony story. Nice"

TRUMP (cont'd)
You are witnessing the single
greatest WITCH HUNT in American
political history-led by some very
bad and conflicted people!

TRUMP (cont'd)
Crooked H destroyed phones w/ hammer,
'bleached' emails, & had husband meet
w/AG days before she was cleared- &
they talk about obstruction?"

NARRATOR
June 16, 2017 Trump makes two
separate tweets

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD
(Two separate tweets)

TRUMP
After 7 months of investigations &
committee hearings about my
'collusion with the Russians,' nobody
has been able to show any proof. Sad!

TRUMP (cont'd)
I am being investigated for firing
the FBI Director by the man who told
me to fire the FBI Director! Witch
Hunt.

NARRATOR
June 17, 2017 Trump calls McGahn

TRUMP AND MCGAHN ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Remove the Special Counsel! Call
Rosenstein and say Mueller has
conflicts that precludes him from
serving as Special Counsel. You gotta
do this. You gotta call Rod.

MCGAHN

I will see what I can do.

MCGAHN (cont'd)

(after call,
to himself)

This call is unsettling. I do not
intend to act on the request. Other
advisers and I believe the asserted
conflicts are silly and not real, and
we have previously communicated that
view to Trump. I have also made clear
to Trump that the White House
Counsel's Office should not be
involved in any effort to press the
issue of conflicts. I am concerned
about having any role in asking the
Acting Attorney General to fire the
Special Counsel because coming from
the Reagan era, I want to be more
like Judge Robert Bork and not
"Saturday Night Massacre Bork." I
believe that Trump's request is an
inflection point and I want to hit
the brakes.

NARRATOR

Trump calls McGahn again

TRUMP

(on second call to
McGahn)

I mean it. Remove the Special
Counsel! Call Rod, tell Rod that
Mueller has conflicts and can't be
the Special Counsel.

MCGAHN

I understand. Okay.

MCGAHN (cont'd)
(after call, to
himself)

I just wanted to get off the phone. I am worn down. He has the impression that I am going to do it. I feel trapped.

I do not know what I will say the next time Trump calls. I must resign.

NARRATOR
McGahn calls his personal attorney

MCGAHN AND PERSONAL ATTORNEY ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

MCGAHN
I am resigning.

NARRATOR
Then he calls his chief of staff,
Annie Donaldson

MCGAHN AND HIS CHIEF OF STAFF, ANNIE DONALDSON ON PHONES
STEP FORWARD

MCGAHN
I am resigning.

NARRATOR
McGahn then drove to his office to pack his belongings and submit his resignation letter. Here he talks to Annie Donaldson, his Chief of Staff

MCGAHN AND DONALDSON STEP FORWARD

MCGAHN
Trump has called and demands that I contact the Department of Justice. Trump wants me to do something that I do not want to do. Trump has called at least twice more and in one of the calls has asked "have you done it?"

MCGAHN (cont'd)
(to himself)
I don't want to tell Donaldson the specifics of Trump's request because I am consciously trying not to involve her in the investigation.

DONALDSON

(to self)

Trump's directive must be related to the Russia investigation. I will prepare to resign along with McGahn.

NARRATOR

That evening McGahn calls Priebus and Bannon separately

MCGAHN, PRIEBUS AND BANNON ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

MCGAHN

(Separate call to Priebus)

I intend to resign. Trump has asked me to do crazy shit.

PRIEBUS

No. Please don't quit.

MCGAHN

(to himself)

I am not going to share details of Trump's request with other White House staff.

PRIEBUS

(to himself)

McGahn does not tell me the specifics of Trump's request because McGahn is trying to protect me from what I do not need to know.

MCGAHN

(Separate call to Bannon)

I intend to resign. Trump has asked me to do crazy shit.

BANNON

No. Please don't quit.

NARRATOR

McGahn ultimately returned to work that Monday and remained in his position.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (cont'd)

He had not told Trump directly that he planned to resign, and when they next saw each other Trump did not ask McGahn whether he had followed through with calling Rosenstein.

Around the same time Trump calls Chris Christie

TRUMP AND CHRIS CHRISTIE ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

What do you think about my firing the Special Counsel?

CHRISTIE

Don't do it. There is no substantive basis for you to fire the Special Counsel. Also, you would lose support from Republicans in Congress if you do so.

NARRATOR

Pages 87 to 90 of Volume II of the Mueller report outlines the relevance of the evidence presented in Act 4 to the elements of the case for obstruction of justice. The analysis includes the principles of an Obstructive Act, Nexus to a proceeding, and Intent. The audience is encouraged to review that analysis.

End of Act 4

ACT 5

NARRATOR

Act 5

NARRATOR (cont'd)
Obstruction F. in Mueller Report
Volume II page 90: Trump's Efforts to
Curtail the Special Counsel
Investigation.

Evidence #1. Trump Asks Corey
Lewandowski to Deliver a Message to
Sessions to Curtail the Special
Counsel Investigation

June 19, 2017 - Trump one-on-one in
the Oval Office with his former
campaign manager and devotee Corey
Lewandowski

TRUMP AND COREY LEWANDOWSKI STEP FORWARD

TRUMP
(small talk ends)
Can you believe that Sessions recused
himself from the Russia
investigation? Sessions is weak and
if I had known about the likelihood
of recusal in advance, I would not
have appointed him. Will you deliver
a message to Sessions? Direct
Sessions to give a speech publicly
announcing ... write this down.

I know that I recused myself from
certain things having to do with
specific areas. But our POTUS . . . is
being treated very unfairly. He
shouldn't have a Special Prosecutor/
Counsel because he hasn't done
anything wrong. I was on the campaign
with him for nine months, there were
no Russians involved with him. I know
it for a fact because I was there. He
didn't do anything wrong except he
ran the greatest campaign in American
history.

Now to limit Mueller's investigation,
state that his jurisdiction is
limited to future election
interference ... continue writing with
this:

Now a group of people want to subvert the Constitution of the United States. I am going to meet with the Special Prosecutor to explain this is very unfair and let the Special Prosecutor move forward with investigating election meddling for future elections so that nothing can happen in future elections.

TRUMP (cont'd)

If Sessions delivers that statement I will be the most popular guy in the country.

LEWANDOWSKI

I understand what you want Sessions to do.

LEWANDOWSKI (cont'd)

(to himself)

I should pass this message to Sessions in person rather than over the phone. I do not want to meet at the Department of Justice because I do not want a public log of my visit and do not want Sessions to have an advantage over me by meeting on his turf.

NARRATOR

Lewandowski calls Attorney General Jeff Sessions

LEWANDOWSKI AND SESSIONS ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

LEWANDOWSKI

Let's meet tomorrow evening at my office.

SESSIONS

okay

NARRATOR

Later Sessions had to cancel due to a last minute conflict.

Shortly thereafter

LEWANDOWSKI STEPS FORWARD

LEWANDOWSKI

(to himself)

I am leaving Washington, D.C. and have not had an opportunity to meet with Sessions to convey Trump's message. I better store my notes in a safe at home, as I always do with sensitive items.

NARRATOR

Evidence #2. Trump Follows Up with Lewandowski

Following Lewandowski's June meeting with Trump, Lewandowski and Rick Dearborn meet

LEWANDOWSKI AND RICK DEARBORN, THEN A SENIOR WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL STEP FORWARD

LEWANDOWSKI

Can you pass a message to Sessions?

DEARBORN

Sure.

BOTH REMAIN STEPPED FORWARD

NARRATOR

Later

LEWANDOWSKI

Are you meeting with Sessions?

DEARBORN

Yes for dinner in late July and I can deliver the message then.

LEWANDOWSKI

(to himself)

Trump has asked me to pass the message because he knows I can be trusted, but I believe Dearborn will be a better messenger because he has a longstanding relationship with Sessions. Also Dearborn is in the government while I am not.

NARRATOR
days before July 19, 2017 the press
reports

PRESS
Meeting between several Russians and
Donald Trump Jr., Jared Kushner, and
Paul Manafort occurred on June 9,
2016.

NARRATOR
July 19, 2017 - Trump meets with
Lewandowski alone in the Oval Office

LEWANDOWSKI AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

TRUMP
Have you talked to Sessions as I
requested?

LEWANDOWSKI
The message will be delivered soon.

TRUMP
If Sessions does not meet with you,
you should tell Sessions he is fired.

NARRATOR
Immediately following the meeting
Lewandowski meets Dearborn in the
anteroom outside the Oval Office

LEWANDOWSKI AND DEARBORN STEP FORWARD

LEWANDOWSKI
Here is a typewritten version of the
message Trump has dictated to be
delivered to Sessions. These notes
are the message we have discussed.

DEARBORN
(to himself)
This definitely raises eyebrows for
me. I do not want to ask where the
message came from or think further
about doing anything with it. Being
asked to serve as a messenger to
Sessions makes me uncomfortable.

LEWANDOWSKI AND DEARBORN REMAIN STEPPED FORWARD

NARRATOR

Later

LEWANDOWSKI

Did you deliver the message to Sessions?

DEARBORN

I handled the situation.

DEARBORN (cont'd)

(to himself)

I did not deliver the message and am not going to. I am not keeping a copy of the typewritten notes.

NARRATOR

Evidence #3. Trump Publicly Criticizes Sessions in a New York Times Interview

Within hours of Trump's meeting with Lewandowski on July 19, 2017 Trump had an unplanned interview with the New York Times

TRUMP, HICKS AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Sessions' decision to recuse from the Russia investigation was wrong. Sessions should have never recused himself, and if he was going to recuse himself, he should have told me before he took the job, and I would have picked somebody else. Sessions' recusal is very unfair to me. How do you take a job and then recuse yourself? If he would have recused himself before the job, I would have said, 'Thanks, Jeff, but I can't, you know, I'm not going to take you.' It's extremely unfair, and that's a mild word, to Trump.

HICKS
(at interview
watching to herself)
I should throw myself between the
reporters and Trump to stop parts of
this interview, yet Trump loves the
interview.

NARRATOR
Later that day Lewandowski and Hicks
meet

LEWANDOWSKI, HICKS AND LATER TRUMP ON PHONE STEP FORWARD

LEWANDOWSKI
This is what I think about Trump's
New York Times interview... Did you
know that Trump requested that I meet
with Sessions? Trump has recently
asked me to meet with Sessions and
deliver a message that Sessions needs
to do the "right thing" and resign.
(Laughing)
Can you believe that Trump asked me
... as a private citizen!... to fire
Sessions if he would not meet with
me?

NARRATOR
Trump's call interrupts Lewandowski
and Hicks

TRUMP
(call to Hicks
interrupts)
I am happy with how coverage of my
New York Times interview criticizing
Sessions is playing out.

NARRATOR
Evidence #4. Trump Orders Priebus to
Demand Sessions' Resignation

July 21, 2017 - the Press reports

PRESS

(the Washington Post)
U.S. intelligence intercepts showed that Sessions had discussed campaign-related matters with the Russian ambassador, contrary to what Sessions had said publicly.

NARRATOR

That evening Priebus calls Jody Hunt, Chief of Staff to Attorney General Sessions

PRIEBUS AND HUNT ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

PRIEBUS

Let's talk more about whether Sessions might be fired or might resign.

HUNT

We have previously talked that Trump will have to fire Sessions if Trump wants to remove Sessions because Sessions is not going to quit. We have previously discussed, that after I met with Sessions I know that he has no intention of resigning. Yet what will Trump accomplish by firing Sessions? There is an investigation before and there will be an investigation after.

NARRATOR

Early the following morning, July 22, 2017 Trump tweets ...

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

A new INTELLIGENCE LEAK from the Amazon Washington Post, this time against A.G. Jeff Sessions. These illegal leaks, like Comey's, must stop!

NARRATOR

Approximately one hour later, Trump tweets again

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

So many people are asking why isn't the A.G. or Special Council looking at the many Hillary Clinton or Comey crimes. 33,000 e-mails deleted?

NARRATOR

Later that morning Trump while aboard Marine One on the way to Norfolk, Virginia Trump talks to Priebus

TRUMP AND PRIEBUS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I have to get Sessions to resign immediately.
The country has lost confidence in Sessions and the negative publicity is not tolerable. Tell Sessions that I need a letter of resignation on my desk immediately and that Sessions has no choice but must immediately resign.

PRIEBUS

If you fire Sessions, we will never get a new Attorney General confirmed and the Department of Justice and Congress will turn their backs on you.

TRUMP

I can make a recess appointment to replace Sessions.

PRIEBUS

(to himself)
Trump's request is a problem. I better call McGahn.

NARRATOR

Priebus calls White House Counsel Don McGahn

PRIEBUS AND MCGAHN ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

PRIEBUS

I need your advice. I do not want to pull the trigger on something that is all wrong. I believe that Trump's desire to replace Sessions is driven by Trump's hatred of Sessions' recusal from the Russia investigation.

MCGAHN

Don't follow Trump's order. We should consult our own personal counsel, with whom we have attorney-client privilege. We both may have to resign rather than carry out Trump's order to fire Sessions.

NARRATOR

That afternoon Trump speaks to Priebus

TRUMP AND PRIEBUS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

About Sessions' resignation ... Did you get it? Are you working on it?

PRIEBUS

I will get Sessions to resign.

PRIEBUS (cont'd)

(to himself)

My job obviously depends on whether I follow Trump's order to remove Sessions. I do not intend to carry out Trump's directive.

NARRATOR

Later in the day Trump again calls Priebus

PRIEBUS AND TRUMP ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

PRIEBUS

It will be a calamity if Sessions resigned because I expect that Rosenstein and Associate Attorney General Rachel Brand would also resign and you would be unable to get anyone else confirmed.

TRUMP

Okay. I agree to hold off on demanding Sessions' resignation until after the Sunday shows tomorrow, to prevent the shows from focusing on the firing.

NARRATOR

By the end of that weekend Trump relented and agreed not to ask Sessions to resign.

Over the next several days Trump tweets

On July 24

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD AND REMAINS TO END OF THE THREE TWEETS

TRUMP

Sessions neglected to investigate Clinton. He is "beleaguered."

NARRATOR

On July 25

TRUMP

Attorney General Jeff Sessions has taken a VERY weak position on Hillary Clinton crimes (where are E- mails & DNC server) & Intel leakers!

NARRATOR

On July 26

TRUMP

Why didn't A.G. Sessions replace
Acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe, a
Comey friend who was in charge of
Clinton investigation."

NARRATOR

Sessions prepares ...

SESSIONS STEPS FORWARD

SESSIONS

(to himself)

I better prepare another resignation
letter and for the rest of the year
carry it with me in my pocket every
time I go to the White House.

NARRATOR

Pages 97 to 98 of Volume II of the
Mueller report outlines the relevance
of the evidence presented in Act 5 to
the elements of the case for
obstruction of justice. The analysis
includes the principles of an
Obstructive Act, Nexus to a
proceeding, and Intent. The audience
is encouraged to review that
analysis.

End of Act 5

ACT 6

NARRATOR

Act 6

Obstruction G. in Mueller Report
Volume II page 98: Trump's Efforts to
Prevent Disclosure of Emails About
the June 9, 2016 Meeting Between
Russians and Senior Campaign
Officials.

Evidence #1. Trump Learns About the
Existence of Emails Concerning the
June 9, 2016 Trump Tower Meeting

May 17, 2017 - Special Counsel's
document request is sent to the Trump
Campaign. It states: Submit various
information, including, a list and a
description of all meetings between
any individual affiliated with the
Trump campaign and any individual
formally or informally affiliated
with the Russian government or
Russian business interests which took
place between June 16, 2015, and 12
pm on January 20, 2017, and
associated records.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

First week of June 2017 Trump
Organization attorneys respond

TRUMP ORGANIZATION ATTORNEYS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP ORGANIZATION ATTORNEYS

We have become aware of the June 9th
meeting between Donald Trump Jr.,
Paul Manafort, Jared Kushner, and a
Russian attorney, when we began
interviewing the meeting
participants. We are providing the
emails setting up the meeting to
Trump's personal counsel.

NARRATOR

mid-June 2017 - which is the same week that Trump first asked Lewandowski to pass a message to Sessions; Senior Administration Officials find out about the emails

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS STEP FORWARD

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

We have found out that there are emails exchanged during the campaign arranging a meeting between Donald Trump Jr., Paul Manafort, Jared Kushner, and a Russian attorney. The "Crown Prosecutor of Russia" had offered to provide the Trump campaign with some official documents and information that would incriminate Hillary and her dealings with Russia as part of Russia and its government's support for Mr. Trump.

Trump Jr. responded, "If it's what you say I love it."

Trump Jr., Kushner, and Manafort met with the Russian attorney and several other Russian individuals at Trump Tower on June 9, 2016. At the meeting, the Russian attorney claimed that funds derived from illegal activities in Russia were provided to Hillary Clinton and other Democrats, and the Russian attorney then spoke about the Magnitsky Act, a 2012 U.S. statute that imposed financial and travel sanctions on Russian officials and that had resulted in a retaliatory ban in Russia on U.S. adoptions of Russian children.

NARRATOR

June 21 or 22, 2017 hired spokesperson for Trump's personal legal team learns about the emails

MARK CORALLO STEPS FORWARD

MARK CORALLO

I am just now learn about the June 9th meeting!

NARRATOR

late June 2017 Priebus becomes aware of the meeting

PRIEBUS STEPS FORWARD

PRIEBUS

(To himself)

I just learned about the June 9th meeting from Fox News host Sean Hannity.

NARRATOR

Then Priebus contacts Trump's personal attorney

PRIEBUS AND A TRUMP'S PERSONAL ATTORNEY STEP FORWARD

PRIEBUS

Do you know about the June 9th meeting?

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL

I am already working on it.

NARRATOR

White House advisers start to receive media inquiries that could relate to the June 9th meeting.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Much later in November 20, 2018 - Trump's written answers in response to Special Counsel's Office stated that Trump had no recollection of learning of the meeting or the emails setting it up at the time the meeting occurred or at any other time before the election.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Evidence #2. Trump Directs Communications Staff Not to Publicly Disclose Information About the June 9 Meeting

Around June 22, 2017 White House
communication advisers, Jared Kushner
and Ivanka Trump talk

HICKS, RAFFEL, KUSHNER, IVANKA TRUMP STEP FORWARD

HICKS
(Speaking for Hicks
and Raffel -
communications team)
We believe that the emails are
damaging and will inevitably be
leaked. The best strategy is to
proactively release the emails to the
press.

NARRATOR
On or about June 22, 2017 - at a
meeting in the White House residence

KUSHNER
I want to fill you, Mr. President, in
on something that has been discovered
in the documents I am to provide to
the congressional committees
involving a meeting with Manafort,
and Trump Jr and myself. Let me show
you the documents of the meeting.

TRUMP
Stop. I do not want to know about it.
End of conversation.

NARRATOR
June 28, 2017 Hicks reviews the
emails at Kushner's attorney's office

HICKS STEPS FORWARD

HICKS
(reviewing the emails
to herself)
I am shocked by these emails. They
look really bad.

NARRATOR
The next day Hicks meets privately
with Trump

HICKS AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

HICKS

I am concern about the emails, which are soon going to be shared with Congress.

TRUMP

(upset)

Too many people know about the emails. Just one lawyer should deal with the matter. I do not think the emails will leak, yet they will leak if everyone has access to them.

NARRATOR

Later that day Kushner, Hicks and Ivanka Trump go to talk to Trump

KUSHNER, TRUMP, HICKS, AND IVANKA TRUMP STEP FORWARD

KUSHNER

The June 9th meeting is not a big deal and was about Russian adoption, but emails exist setting up the meeting.

HICKS

I want to get in front of the story. We should have Trump Jr. release the emails as part of an interview with softball questions.

TRUMP

I do not want to know about it. You should not go to the press.

HICKS

The emails are really bad and the story will be massive when it breaks.

TRUMP

I do not want to talk about it. I do not want details. Kushner, when is the document production due?

KUSHNER

In a couple of weeks.

TRUMP

Then leave it alone. Kushner, your attorney should give the emails to whomever he needs to give them to, but I do not think they will be leaked to the press. Do not be proactive in disclosing the emails.

NARRATOR

Evidence #3. Trump Directs Trump Jr.'s Response to Press Inquiries About the June 9 Meeting

The following week Trump departed on an overseas trip for the G20 summit in Hamburg, Germany, accompanied by Hicks, Raffel, Kushner, and Ivanka Trump, among others.

On July 7, 2017, while Trump is overseas, Hicks and Raffel learned that the New York Times is working on a story about the June 9 meeting.

The next day, Hicks contacts Trump

HICKS AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

HICKS

The New York Times is working on a story about the June 9 meeting.

TRUMP

Do not to comment.

HICKS

(to herself)

Trump's reaction is odd because Trump usually considers not responding to the press to be the ultimate sin.

NARRATOR

Later that day

HICKS AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

HICKS

Again about the June 9 story ...

TRUMP

What had the meeting been about?

HICKS

I have been told the meeting was about Russian adoption.

TRUMP

"then just say that."

NARRATOR

July 8, 2017 - on the flight home from the G20 Hicks talks to Trump

HICKS AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

HICKS

Here is a draft statement about the meeting to be released by Trump Jr.. The draft statement begins with a reference to the information that was offered by the Russians in setting up the meeting: "I was asked to have a meeting by an acquaintance I knew from the 2013 Miss Universe pageant with an individual who I was told might have information helpful to the campaign." We should disclose the entire story.

TRUMP

Don't issue the statement. It says too much. Say only that Trump Jr. took a brief meeting and it was about Russian adoption.

NARRATOR

After speaking with Trump, Hicks texts Trump Jr.

HICKS AND TRUMP JR TEXTING EACH OTHER STEP FORWARD

HICKS

Here is a revised statement on the June 9 meeting. It reads as:

"It was a short meeting. I asked Jared and Paul to stop by.

(MORE)

HICKS (cont'd)

We discussed a program about the adoption of Russian children that was active and popular with American families years ago and was since ended by the Russian government, but it was not a campaign issue at that time and there was no follow up."

Are you ok with this? It's attributed to you.

TRUMP JR.

Add the word "primarily" before "discussed" so that the statement will read, "We primarily discussed a program about the adoption of Russian children." I want the change because they started with some Hillary thing which is BS and some other nonsense which we shot down fast.

HICKS

I think that's right too but bossman is worried it invites a lot of questions. I ultimately defer to you and your attorney on that word because I know it's important and I think the mention of a campaign issue adds something to it in case we have to go further.

TRUMP JR.

If I don't have it in there it appears as though I'm lying later when they inevitably leak something.

NARRATOR

Later - Press receives Trump Jr.'s statement-adding the word "primarily" and making other minor additions.

PRESS

(NY Times)

The full statement provided to the Times from Trump Jr regarding the June 9, 2016 meeting states:

It was a short introductory meeting. I asked Jared and Paul to stop by.

(MORE)

PRESS (cont'd)

We primarily discussed a program about the adoption of Russian children that was active and popular with American families years ago and was since ended by the Russian government, but it was not a campaign issue at the time and there was no follow up. I was asked to attend the meeting by an acquaintance, but was not told the name of the person I would be meeting with beforehand.

NARRATOR

The statement did not mention the offer of derogatory information about Clinton or any discussion of the Magnitsky Act or U.S. sanctions, which were the principal subjects of the meeting.

A short while later on Air Force One Hicks talks to Trump

HICKS AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

HICKS

I've learned that Priebus knows about the emails, which further convinces me that additional information about the June 9th meeting will leak and the White House should be proactive and get in front of the story. We should be fully transparent about the June 9th meeting.

TRUMP

No. You've given a statement. We're done.

NARRATOR

Later on the flight home Hicks goes to Trump's cabin, where Trump is on the phone with one of his personal attorneys. Trump hands the phone to Hicks

HICKS, TRUMP ON PHONE STEP FORWARD AND TRUMP'S PERSONAL ATTORNEY COMES IN TO THE SIDE ON PHONE

(Hicks goes to Trump's cabin, where Trump is on the phone with one of his personal attorneys. Trump hands the phone to Hicks)

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL
I have been working with Circa News on a separate story, and you should not talk to the New York Times.

NARRATOR
Evidence #4. The Media Reports on the June 9, 2016 Meeting

Before Trump's flight home from the G20 landed the press reports

PRESS
The New York Times published its story about the June 9, 2016 meeting. In addition to the statement from Trump Jr., the Times story also quoted a statement from Corallo on behalf of Trump's legal team suggesting that the meeting might have been a setup by individuals working with the firm that produced the Steele reporting. Corallo also worked with Circa News on a story published an hour later that questioned whether Democratic operatives had arranged the June 9th meeting to create the appearance of improper connections between Russia and Trump family members.

NARRATOR
Hicks upset calls Corallo

HICKS AND CORALLO ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

HICKS
(upset)
The public statement you issued was not approved by Trump.

NARRATOR
July 9, 2017 Hicks and Trump call
Corallo

HICKS AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD AND CORALLO STEPS FORWARD TO
ASIDE - ALL ON PHONES

(Hicks and Trump
called Corallo
together)

TRUMP
Why did you release that statement? I
did not approve it.

CORALLO
The statement had been authorized.
Also, Trump Jr.'s statement is
inaccurate and a document exists that
would contradict it.

CORALLO (cont'd)
(to himself)
I am purposely using the term
"document" to refer to the emails
setting up the June 9 meeting because
I do not know what Trump knows about
the emails.

HICKS
Only a few people have access to it.
It will never get out.

HICKS (cont'd)
(to herself)
I do believe that the emails will get
out. I might be channeling Trump on
the phone call because it is clear to
me throughout my conversations with
Trump that he does not think the
emails will leak.

NARRATOR
July 11, 2017 - Trump Jr. tweets
redacted images of the emails setting
up the June 9th meeting

The press reports

PRESS

(The New York Times)
Trump Jr. revealed the emails after
being told that The Times was about
to publish the content of the emails.

NARRATOR

Later that day

PRESS

Trump has been personally involved in
preparing Trump Jr.'s initial
statement to the New York Times that
had claimed the meeting "primarily"
concerned "a program about the
adoption of Russian children."

NARRATOR

Over the next several days repeated
denials of Trump's role were made

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL

Trump played no role in drafting
Trump Jr.'s statement.

SANDERS AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

SANDERS

I consulted with Trump on the issue.
Trump certainly didn't dictate the
statement, but he weighed in, and
offered suggestions like any father
would do.

NARRATOR

Several months later Trump's personal
attorney told the Special Counsel's
Office that Trump dictated a short
but accurate response to the New York
Times article on behalf of his son,
Donald Trump, Jr.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Trump tells the press ...

TRUMP AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

It is irrelevant whether I dictated the statement. It's a statement to the New York Times.... That's not a statement to a high tribunal of judges.

NARRATOR

Mueller's report indicates a Special Counsel's Office Grand Jury action related to the June 9, 2016 meeting, Trump Jr. and those who attended the meeting. Part of the description was redacted.

On July 19, 2017 Trump has his follow-up meeting with Lewandowski and then meets reporters

TRUMP AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

(reporters for the
New York Times)

TRUMP

Sessions is weak. I didn't know anything about the June 9th meeting at the time. As I've said-most other people, you know, when they call up and say, 'By the way, we have information on your opponent,' I think most politicians - I was just with a lot of people, and they said ... , 'Who wouldn't have taken a meeting like that?'

NARRATOR

End of Act 6

Pages 105 to 107 of Volume II of the Mueller report outlines the relevance of the evidence presented in Act 6 to the elements of the case for obstruction of justice. The analysis includes the principles of an Obstructive Act, Nexus to a proceeding, and Intent. The audience is encouraged to review that analysis.

END OF ACT 6

ACT 7

NARRATOR

Act 7

Obstruction H. in Mueller Report
Volume II page 107: Trump's Further
Efforts to Have the Attorney General
Take Over the Investigation.

Evidence #1. Trump Again Seeks to
Have Sessions Reverse his Recusal

After returning Sessions's
resignation letter at the end of May
2017, but before Trump's July 19,
2017 New York Times interview in
which he publicly criticized Sessions
for recusing from the Russia
investigation, Trump took additional
steps to have Sessions reverse his
recusal.

Following the May 17, 2017
appointment of the Special Counsel
Trump calls Sessions at his home

TRUMP AND SESSIONS ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I am asking you to un-recuse
yourself. You need to reverse your
recusal so that you can direct the
Department of Justice to investigate
and prosecute Hillary Clinton. You
need to un-recuse from all of it,
including the Special Counsel's
Russia investigation.

SESSIONS

Thank you for your call. Goodbye.

SESSIONS (cont'd)

(to himself)

I can't respond to Trump's requests.
I am not going to reverse my recusal
or order an investigation of Clinton.

NARRATOR

In early July 2017 Trump talks to
Staff Secretary Rob Porter

TRUMP AND STAFF SECRETARY ROB PORTER STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

What do you think of Associate
Attorney General Rachel Brand? Is
Brand good, tough, and "on the team."
Do you think Brand is interested in
being responsible for the Special
Counsel's investigation and would she
want to be Attorney General one day?
I want you to sound her out about
taking responsibility for the
investigation and being Attorney
General. Keep in touch with your
friend, Brand.

NARRATOR

Later Trump asks Porter a few times
in passing ...

TRUMP AND PORTER STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Did you speak to Brand?

PORTER

(to himself)

He keeps asking me this. I am
uncomfortable with this task. Trump
is asking me to reach out to Brand,
so that Trump can find someone to end
the Russia investigation or fire the
Special Counsel. I am not going to
contact Brand because of the
implications of that action and I do
not want to be involved in a chain of
events associated with an effort to
end the investigation or fire the
Special Counsel.

NARRATOR

During the summer of 2017 Trump and McGahn talk

TRUMP AND MCGAHN STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

If Sessions is no longer in his position, the Special Counsel will report directly to a non-recused Attorney General.

MCGAHN

Things might not change much under a new Attorney General.

NARRATOR

In or around July 2017 Trump frequently tells McGahn ...

TRUMP AND MCGAHN STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I keep telling you, I am unhappy with Sessions. He should not have recused. It is an act of disloyalty. I have other concerns about his job performance as well.

NARRATOR

And Hicks ...

TRUMP AND HICKS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I am unhappy with Sessions. He should not have recused. It was an act of disloyalty. I have other concerns about his job performance as well.

NARRATOR

Evidence #2. Additional Efforts to Have Sessions Un-recuse or Direct Investigations Covered by his Recusal

Later in 2017 Trump continues to talk to Sessions ...

TRUMP AND SESSIONS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I urge you to reverse your recusal
from campaign-related investigations.

TRUMP (cont'd)

(to himself)

I am seriously considering replacing
Sessions with an Attorney General who
would not be recused.

NARRATOR

October 16, 2017 - Trump meets
privately with Sessions, and Porter
also attends

TRUMP, PORTER, AND SESSIONS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

The Department of Justice is not
investigating individuals and events
that I think the Department should be
investigating. Clinton's emails ...
Don't have to tell us, just take a
look.

SESSIONS

I cannot offer any promises or
assurances.

NARRATOR

Two days later, on October 18, 2017
Trump tweets ...

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

"Wow, FBI confirms report that James
Comey drafted letter exonerating
Crooked Hillary Clinton long before
investigation was complete. Many
people not interviewed, including
Clinton herself. Comey stated under
oath that he didn't do this-obviously
a fix? Where is Justice Dept?"

NARRATOR

October 29, 2017 Trump tweets

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

There is "ANGER & UNITY" over a "lack of investigation" of Clinton and "the Comey fix," "DO SOMETHNG!"

NARRATOR

December 6, 2017, five days after Flynn pleaded guilty to lying about his contacts with the Russian government Trump with Porter meets Sessions in the Oval Office at the end of a cabinet meeting

TRUMP, SESSIONS AND PORTER STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

You can still un-recuse.

PORTER

(to himself)

Trump wants Sessions to take back supervision of the Russia investigation and direct an investigation of Hillary Clinton.

TRUMP

I don't know if you could un-recuse yourself. You'd be a hero. Not telling you to do anything. Dershowitz says POTUS can get involved. Can order AG to investigate. I don't want to get involved. I'm not going to get involved. I'm not going to do anything or direct you to do anything. I just want to be treated fairly.

SESSIONS

We are taking steps. Getting a whole new leadership team. Professionals will operate according to the law. I never saw anything that was improper.

PORTER

(to himself)

This is noteworthy because it did not fit with the previous discussion about Clinton.

(MORE)

PORTER (cont'd)
Sessions may be reassuring Trump that
he is on Trump's team.

NARRATOR
At the end of December Trump tells
the press

TRUMP AND PRESS REPORTER STEP FORWARD
(New York Times
reporter)

TRUMP
It is too bad that Sessions has
recused himself from the Russia
investigation.

PRESS REPORTER
Was Holder a more loyal Attorney
General to President Obama than
Sessions is to you?

TRUMP
I don't want to get into loyalty, but
I will tell you that, I will say
this: Holder protected President
Obama. Totally protected him. When
you look at the things that they did,
and Holder protected the President.
And I have great respect for that,
I'll be honest."

NARRATOR
Later in January Trump talks to
Porter

TRUMP AND PORTER STEP FORWARD

TRUMP
I think I should replace Sessions. I
want to clean house at the Department
of Justice.

NARRATOR
January 27, 2018 in the White House
residence during a meeting that
included Porter

TRUMP AND PORTER STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I have had great attorneys in the past. They all had successful win records, such as Roy Cohn and Jay Goldberg. My biggest failings as President is that I have not surrounded myself with good attorneys. Sessions is as an example. Sessions' recusal was a mistake. The Special Counsel's investigation should never started.

NARRATOR

Over the next several months Trump continued to criticize Sessions in tweets and media interviews and on several occasions appeared to publicly encourage him to take action in the Russia investigation despite his recusal.

June 5, 2018 for example, Trump tweeted ...

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

"The Russian Witch Hunt Hoax continues, all because Jeff Sessions didn't tell me he was going to recuse himself. . . . I would have quickly picked someone else. So much time and money wasted, so many lives ruined ... and Sessions knew better than most that there was No Collusion!"

NARRATOR

August 1, 2018 Trump tweets ...

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

"Attorney General Jeff Sessions should stop this Rigged Witch Hunt right now."

NARRATOR

August 23, 2018 in press interview

TRUMP AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

The prosecutions at the Department of Justice are politically motivated because Paul Manafort has been prosecuted but Democrats have not. I put in an Attorney General that never took control of the Justice Department, Jeff Sessions."

NARRATOR

That day Sessions issues a press statement

SESSIONS STEPS FORWARD

SESSIONS

I took control of the Department of Justice the day I was sworn in While I am Attorney General, the actions of the Department of Justice will not be improperly influenced by political considerations.

NARRATOR

The next day Trump tweets ...

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

"Department of Justice will not be improperly influenced by political considerations.' Jeff, this is GREAT, what everyone wants, so look into all of the corruption on the 'other side' including deleted Emails, Comey lies & leaks, Mueller conflicts, McCabe, Strzok, Page, Ohr, FISA abuse, Christopher Steele & his phony and corrupt Dossier, the Clinton Foundation, illegal surveillance of Trump campaign, Russian collusion by Dems - and so much more. Open up the papers & documents without redaction? Come on Jeff, you can do it, the country is waiting!"

NARRATOR

November 7, 2018 the day after the midterm elections Trump replaced Sessions with Sessions' chief of staff as Acting Attorney General.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Pages 111 to 113 of Volume II of the Mueller report outlines the relevance of the evidence presented in Act 7 to the elements of the case for obstruction of justice. The analysis includes the principles of an Obstructive Act, Nexus to a proceeding, and Intent. The audience is encouraged to review that analysis.

End of Act 7

ACT 8

NARRATOR

Act 8

Obstruction I. in Mueller Report
Volume II page 113: Trump Orders
McGahn to Deny that Trump Tried to
Fire the Special Counsel.

The first evidence of Obstruction I
is the Press Reports that Trump Tried
to Fire the Special Counsel

January 25, 2018 Press reports six
months after the actual act occurred

PRESS

(The New York Times)

In June 2017, Trump had ordered McGahn to have the Department of Justice fire the Special Counsel.

After receiving Trump's order to fire Special Counsel Mueller, the White House counsel Don McGahn refused to ask the Justice Department to dismiss Mueller, saying he would quit instead. Trump "ultimately backed down after McGahn threatened to resign rather than carry out the directive.

NARRATOR

Also, amid the first wave of news media reports that Mueller was examining a possible obstruction case, Trump began to argue that Mueller had three conflicts of interest that disqualified him from overseeing the investigation. Trump also publicly stated ...

TRUMP AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Fake news, folks. Fake news. A typical New York Times fake story.

NARRATOR

The next day Washington Post reported on the same event and added

PRESS

McGahn had not told Trump directly that he intended to resign rather than carry out the directive to have the Special Counsel terminated.

NARRATOR

Evidence #2. Trump Seeks to Have McGahn Dispute the Press Reports

NARRATOR (cont'd)

January 26, 2018

Trump's personal attorney calls McGahn's attorney

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL AND MCGAHN'S ATTORNEY ON PHONES
STEP FORWARD

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL

Trump wants McGahn to put out a statement denying that he had been asked to fire the Special Counsel and that he had threatened to quit in protest.

NARRATOR

After call McGahn's attorney tells McGahn ...

MCGAHN'S ATTORNEY AND MCGAHN STEP FORWARD

MCGAHN'S ATTORNEY

This is what has been requested by Trump's personal attorney.

NARRATOR

McGahn's Attorney responds to Trump's personal attorney

MCGAHN'S ATTORNEY AND TRUMP'S PERSONAL ATTORNEY STEP FORWARD

MCGAHN'S ATTORNEY

McGahn will not make a statement. The Times story is accurate in reporting that Trump wanted the Special Counsel removed. Although the article is inaccurate in some other respects, McGahn cannot comply with Trump's request to dispute the story.

NARRATOR

White House Communications Director Hope Hicks talks to Trump

HICKS AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

HICKS

One of your attorneys has spoken to McGahn's attorney about requesting McGahn's denial.

NARRATOR

January 26, 2018 - Trump talks to Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders

TRUMP AND SANDERS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP
Contact McGahn about the story.

NARRATOR
later Sanders talks to McGahn

SANDERS AND MCGAHN STEP FORWARD

SANDERS
Trump wants you to respond to the
Times story.

MCGAHN
There is no need to respond. Some of
the article is accurate.

MCGAHN (cont'd)
(to himself)
I see no reason to correct the Times
story.

NARRATOR
February 4, 2018 Priebus goes on Meet
the Press TV show

PRIEBUS AND MEET THE PRESS HOST STEP FORWARD

PRIEBUS
I have never heard that the President
wants the Special Counsel fired.

NARRATOR
After Priebus's appearance, Priebus
talks to Trump

TRUMP AND PRIEBUS ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP
You did a great job on Meet the
Press. I have never said any of those
things about the Special Counsel.

NARRATOR
The next day, on February 5, 2018
Trump and White House Staff Secretary
Robert Porter discuss the situation

TRUMP AND PORTER STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

The Times article is bullshit. I have not sought to terminate the Special Counsel. McGahn leaked it to the media to make himself look good. Tell McGahn to create a record to make clear that I never directed McGahn to fire the Special Counsel.

PORTER

Shouldn't this matter be handled by the White House communications office?

TRUMP

I want McGahn to write a letter to the file for our records. I want something beyond a press statement to demonstrate that the reporting is inaccurate. McGahn is a lying bastard. I want a record from him. If he doesn't write a letter, then maybe I'll have to get rid of him.

NARRATOR

Later that day Porter talks to McGahn

PORTER AND MCGAHN STEP FORWARD

PORTER

Trump says you have to write a letter to dispute that you were ever ordered to terminate the Special Counsel.

MCGAHN

The media reports are true. Trump was insistent on firing the Special Counsel and I did plan to resign rather than carry out the order, although I did not personally tell Trump I intended to quit.

PORTER

Trump suggested that you will be fired if you do not write the letter.

MCGAHN

The optics will be terrible if Trump followed through with firing me on that basis. I will not write the letter Trump requests.

NARRATOR

Then Porter talks to Kelly

PORTER AND KELLY STEP FORWARD

PORTER

This is what was said in my conversation with McGahn ...

NARRATOR

The next day, on February 6, 2018 Kelly schedules a meeting with McGahn to meet with him and Trump in the Oval Office to discuss the Times article.

The morning of the meeting, Trump's personal attorney called McGahn's attorney to say that Trump is going to be speaking with McGahn and McGahn cannot resign no matter what happens in the meeting.

The Oval Office meeting begins. Trump, White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and McGahn attending

TRUMP, KELLY, AND MCGAHN STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

(To McGahn)

The New York Times story does not look good. You need to correct it. I never said to fire Mueller. I never said 'fire.' This story doesn't look good. You need to correct this. You're the White House counsel.

MCGAHN

I acknowledged that I did not tell you directly that I planned to resign, but the story is otherwise accurate.

TRUMP

Did I say the word 'fire'?"

MCGAHN

What you said is, 'Call Rod
Rosenstein, tell Rod that Mueller has
conflicts and can't be the Special
Counsel.'

TRUMP

I never said that. I merely wanted
you to raise the conflicts issue with
Rosenstein and leave it to him to
decide what to do.

MCGAHN

I did not understand the conversation
that way. Instead I heard, "Call Rod.
There are conflicts. Mueller has to
go."

TRUMP

Will you do a correction?

MCGAHN

No.

MCGAHN (cont'd)

(to himself)

Trump is testing my mettle to see how
committed I am to what happened.

KELLY

(to himself)

The meeting is a little tense.

TRUMP

Why did you tell Special Counsel's
Office investigators that I had told
you to have the Special Counsel
removed?

MCGAHN

I had to. My conversations with you
are not protected by attorney-client
privilege.

TRUMP

What-about these notes? Why do you
take notes? Lawyers don't take notes.
I never had a lawyer who took notes.

MCGAHN

I keep notes because I am a real lawyer. The notes create a record and are not a bad thing.

TRUMP

I've had a lot of great lawyers, like Roy Cohn. He did not take notes.

NARRATOR

After the Oval Office meeting concluded McGahn and Kelly talk

MCGAHN AND KELLY STEP FORWARD

MCGAHN

Trump and I did have that conversation about removing the Special Counsel.

KELLY

I have pointed out to Trump after our Oval Office meeting that you had not backed down and will not budge.

NARRATOR

Following the Oval Office meeting Trump's personal attorney calls McGahn's attorney.

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL AND MCGAHN'S COUNSEL ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL

Trump is fine with McGahn.

NARRATOR

Pages 118 to 120 of Volume II of the Mueller report outlines the relevance of the evidence presented in Act 8 to the elements of the case for obstruction of justice. The analysis includes the principles of an Obstructive Act, Nexus to a proceeding, and Intent. The audience is encouraged to review that analysis.

End of Act 8

ACT 9

NARRATOR

Act 9

Observation J. in Mueller Report
Volume II page 120: Trump's Conduct
Towards Flynn, Manafort, Redacted as
Harm to Ongoing Matter.

Evidence #1. Conduct Directed at
Michael Flynn

As previously noted Trump asked for
Flynn's resignation on February 13,
2017. Following Flynn's resignation,
Trump made positive public comments
about Flynn, describing him as a
"wonderful man," "a fine person," and
a "very good person." Trump also
privately asked advisers to pass
messages to Flynn conveying that
Trump still cared about him and
encouraging him to stay strong.

late November 2017

Flynn began to cooperate with the
Special Counsel's Office.

November 22, 2017 Flynn's attorney
tells Trump's personal attorney and
the White House counsel

FLYNN'S COUNSEL, TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL AND COUNSEL FOR
THE WHITE HOUSE STEP FORWARD

FLYNN'S COUNSEL

Flynn is withdrawing from the joint defense agreement he has with Trump. Flynn can no longer have confidential communications with the White House or Trump.

NARRATOR

Later that night Trump's personal counsel John Dowd leaves a voicemail for Flynn's counsel. This is a full un-redacted translation from a recording of the voicemail that was subsequently released by a court

DOWD ON PHONE STEPS FORWARD

DOWD

Hey, Rob, uhm, this is John again. Uh, maybe, I-I-I'm-I'm sympathetic; I understand your situation, but let me see if I can't ... state it in ... starker terms. If you have ... and it wouldn't surprise me if you've gone on to make a deal with, and, uh, work with the government, uh ... I understand that you can't join the joint defense; so that's one thing. If, on the other hand, we have, there's information that ... implicates the President, then we've got a national security issue, or maybe a national security issue, I don't know ... some issue, we got to- we got to deal with, not only for the President, but for the country. So ... uh ... you know, then-then, you know, we need some kind of heads up. Um, just for the sake of ... protecting our interests, if we can, without you having to give up any ... confidential information.

(MORE)

DOWD (cont'd)

So, uhm, and if it's the former, then you know, remember what we've always said about the President and his feelings toward Flynn and, that still remains, but -- Well, in any event, uhm, let me know, and, uh, I appreciate your listening and taking the time. Thanks, Pal.

NARRATOR

November 23, 2017 Flynn's attorney returns call to Trump's personal attorney

FLYNN'S COUNSEL AND TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

FLYNN'S COUNSEL

We received your voicemail. We are no longer in a position to share information under any sort of privilege.

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL

(John Dowd)

I am indignant and strongly disagree. I interpret what you said to me as a reflection of Flynn's hostility towards Trump. I plan to inform my client Trump of that interpretation.

FLYNN'S COUNSEL

(to themselves)

That statement is an attempt to make us reconsider our position because Trump's personal attorney believes that Flynn will be disturbed to know that such a message will be conveyed to Trump.

NARRATOR

December 1, 2017 Flynn in court

FLYNN STEPS FORWARD

FLYNN

I plead guilty to making false statements pursuant to a cooperation agreement.

NARRATOR

The next day Trump talks to the press.

TRUMP AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I am not concerned about what Flynn might tell the Special Counsel.

PRESS

Do you still stand behind Flynn?

TRUMP

We'll see what happens.

NARRATOR

Over the next several days Trump made public statements expressing sympathy for Flynn and indicating he had not been treated fairly.

December 15, 2017 Trump responds to press inquiries.

PRESS AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

PRESS

Are you considering a pardon for Flynn?

TRUMP

I don't want to talk about pardons for Michael Flynn yet. We'll see what happens. Let's see. I can say this: When you look at what's gone on with the FBI and with the Justice Department, people are very, very angry.

NARRATOR

Evidence #2. Conduct Directed at Paul Manafort

October 27, 2017

NARRATOR (cont'd)
Grand jury in the **District of Columbia** indicted Manafort and former deputy campaign manager Richard Gates on multiple felony counts. The charges alleged criminal conduct by Manafort that began as early as 2005 and continued through 2018.

In January 2018 Manafort and Gates talk

MANAFORT AND GATES STEP FORWARD

MANAFORT
I talked to Trump's personal attorney and they are going to take care of us. It is stupid to plead. I have been in touch with Trump's personal counsel. We should sit tight and we'll be taken care of.

GATES
Did anyone mentioned pardons?

MANAFORT
No one used that word.

NARRATOR
February 22, 2018

Another Grand jury in the **Eastern District of Virginia** indicted Manafort and Gates on additional felony counts. The charges alleged criminal conduct by Manafort that began as early as 2005 and continued through 2018.

As the proceedings against Manafort progressed in court, Trump talks to Porter.

TRUMP AND PORTER STEP FORWARD

TRUMP
I never have liked Manafort. He did not know what he was doing on the campaign.

NARRATOR
Trump talks to Aides

TRUMP AND AIDES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP
Is Manafort cooperating with the
Special Counsel? If so, in what ways?
Does Manafort know any information
that would be harmful to me?

NARRATOR
Trump issues public statements

TRUMP STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP
The prosecution is treating Manafort
unfairly.

NARRATOR
June 15, 2018 Before a scheduled
court hearing that day on whether
Manafort's bail should be revoked
based on new charges that Manafort
has tampered with witnesses while out
on bail ...Trump talks to the press

TRUMP AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP
I feel badly about a lot of them
because I think a lot of it is very
unfair. I mean, I look at some of
them where they go back 12 years.
Like Manafort has nothing to do with
our campaign. But I feel so-I tell
you, I feel a little badly about it.
They went back 12 years to get things
that he did 12 years ago? ... I feel
badly for some people, because
they've gone back 12 years to find
things about somebody, and I don't
think it's right.

PRESS
Are you considering a pardon for
Manafort or other individuals
involved in the Special Counsel's
investigation?

TRUMP

I don't want to talk about that. No,
I don't want to talk about that. ...
But look, I do want to see people
treated fairly. That's what it's all
about.

NARRATOR

Hours later Manafort's bail was
revoked and Trump tweets ...

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

"Wow, what a tough sentence for Paul
Manafort, who has represented Ronald
Reagan, Bob Dole and many other top
political people and campaigns.
Didn't know Manafort was the head of
the Mob. What about Comey and Crooked
Hillary and all the others? Very
unfair!"

NARRATOR

Trump's personal lawyer, Rudolph
Giuliani, gives a series of
interviews in which he raises the
possibility of a pardon for Manafort.

GIULIANI AND PRESS REPORTER STEP FORWARD
(New York Daily News)

GIULIANI

When the whole thing is over, things
might get cleaned up with some
presidential pardons."

GIULIANI AND ANOTHER PRESS REPORTER STEP FORWARD

GIULIANI

Although Trump should not pardon
anyone while the Special Counsel's
investigation is ongoing, when the
investigation is concluded, he's kind
of on his own, right?

NARRATOR

Two days later Giuliani says in TV
interview ...

GIULIANI AND A TV HOST STEP FORWARD
(CNN Jake Tapper)

GIULIANI

I guess I should clarify this once and for all. . . . Trump has issued no pardons in this investigation. Trump is not going to issue pardons in this investigation.... When it's over, hey, he's President of the United States. He retains his pardon power. Nobody is taking that away from him.

TV HOST

Are your and Trump's comments a signal to defendants that they should not cooperate in a criminal prosecution because a pardon might follow?

GIULIANI

Our comments are certainly not intended that way. The comments only acknowledge that an individual involved in the investigation will not be excluded from a pardon, if in fact Trump and his advisers . . . come to the conclusion that you have been treated unfairly. Pardons were not unusual in political investigations. That doesn't mean they're going to happen here. Doesn't mean that anybody should rely on it. . . . Big signal is, nobody has been pardoned yet.

NARRATOR

July 31, 2018 Manafort's criminal trial began in the Eastern District of Virginia, generating substantial news coverage.

The next day Trump tweets

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

"This is a terrible situation and Attorney General Jeff Sessions should stop this Rigged Witch Hunt right now, before it continues to stain our country any further. Bob Mueller is totally conflicted, and his 17 Angry Democrats that are doing his dirty work are a disgrace to USA!"

NARRATOR

Minutes later Trump tweets ...

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

Paul Manafort worked for Ronald Reagan, Bob Dole and many other highly prominent and respected political leaders. He worked for me for a very short time. Why didn't government tell me that he was under investigation. These old charges have nothing to do with Collusion-a Hoax!

NARRATOR

Later in the day Trump tweets ...

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

Looking back on history, who was treated worse, Alfonse Capone, legendary mob boss, killer and 'Public Enemy Number One,' or Paul Manafort, political operative & Reagan/Dole darling, now serving solitary confinement- although convicted of nothing? Where is the Russian Collusion?

NARRATOR

Then the press questions ...

PRESS

These are Trump's tweets about the Manafort trial. Can it be witness tampering?

NARRATOR
Sanders talks to press

SANDERS AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

PRESS
What's about Trump's tweets?

SANDERS
Certainly, Trump's been clear. He
thinks Paul Manafort's been treated
unfairly.

NARRATOR
August 16, 2018 The Manafort case was
submitted to the jury and
deliberations began.

Giuliani talks to press

GIULIANI AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

GIULIANI
The Special Counsel investigation
needs to be done in the next two or
three weeks.

NARRATOR
Later the press reports

PRESS
A Manafort acquittal will add to
criticism that the Special Counsel
investigation is not worth the time
and expense, whereas a conviction can
show that ending the investigation
would be premature.

NARRATOR
August 17, 2018 Jury deliberations
continue.

Trump talks to press from the South
Lawn of the White House

TRUMP AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

(from the South Lawn
of the White House)

TRUMP

The Special Counsel's investigation
is a "rigged witch hunt."

PRESS

Will you pardon Manafort if he is
convicted?

TRUMP

I don't talk about that now. I don't
talk about that. I think the whole
Manafort trial is very sad when you
look at what's going on there. I
think it's a very sad day for our
country. He worked for me for a very
short period of time. But you know
what, he happens to be a very good
person. And I think it's very sad
what they've done to Paul Manafort.
The Special Counsel's investigation
is a rigged witch hunt. No further
questions.

NARRATOR

Later Manafort's attorney talks to
press

MANAFORT'S ATTORNEY AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

MANAFORT'S ATTORNEY

"Mr. Manafort really appreciates the
support of President Trump."

NARRATOR

August 21, 2018 the jury found
Manafort guilty on eight felony
counts.

Also on August 21, Michael Cohen
pleaded guilty to eight offenses,
including a campaign-finance
violation that he said had occurred
"in coordination with, and at the
direction of, a candidate for federal
office."

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Trump talks to press

PRESS AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

PRESS

Do you have any comments regarding Manafort's convictions?

TRUMP

Paul Manafort's a good man. It's a very sad thing that happened. The Special Counsel's investigation is a witch hunt that ends in disgrace.

NARRATOR

The next day Trump tweets ...

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

"I feel very badly for Paul Manafort and his wonderful family. 'Justice' took a 12 year old tax case, among other things, applied tremendous pressure on him and, unlike Michael Cohen, he refused to 'break'-make up stories in order to get a 'deal.' Such respect for a brave man!"

NARRATOR

August 22, 2018 Trump has a TV interview

TRUMP AND TV HOST STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Cohen makes a better deal when he uses me, like everybody else. And one of the reasons I respect Paul Manafort so much is he went through that trial- you know they make up stories. People make up stories. This whole thing about flipping, they call it, I know all about flipping. Flipping is not fair and almost ought to be outlawed.

TV HOST

(Fox & Friends)

Are you considering a pardon for Manafort?

TRUMP

I have great respect for what he's done, in terms of what he's gone through.... He worked for many, many people many, many years, and I would say what he did, some of the charges they threw against him, every consultant, every lobbyist in Washington probably does.

NARRATOR

Giuliani talks to press

GIULIANI AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

GIULIANI

Trump really thinks Manafort has been horribly treated. He and I have discussed the political fallout if he pardons Manafort.

NARRATOR

The next day Giuliani talks to press

GIULIANI AND PRESS STEP FORWARD
(Washington Post)

GIULIANI

Trump had asked his lawyers for advice on the possibility of a pardon for Manafort and other aides, and has been counseled against considering a pardon until the investigation concluded.

NARRATOR

September 14, 2018

Manafort pleaded guilty to charges in the District of Columbia and signed a plea agreement that required him to cooperate with investigators.

Giuliani talks to press

GIULIANI AND PUBLIC INDIVIDUAL STEP FORWARD

GIULIANI

Manafort has remained in a joint defense agreement with Trump following Manafort's guilty plea and agreement to cooperate. Manafort's attorneys regularly briefed Trump's attorneys on the topics discussed and the information Manafort has provided in interviews with the Special Counsel's Office.

NARRATOR

November 26, 2018

Special Counsel's Office public court filing announces that Manafort has breached his plea agreement by lying about multiple subjects.

The next day Giuliani talks to press.

GIULIANI AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

GIULIANI

Trump has been upset for weeks about what he considers to be the un-American, horrible treatment of Manafort.

NARRATOR

November 28, 2018 Trump has a press interview

TRUMP AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

(New York Post
interview)

TRUMP

It is very brave that Manafort did not flip. If you tell the truth, you go to jail. You know this flipping stuff is terrible. You flip and you lie and you get-the prosecutors will tell you 99 percent of the time they can get people to flip. It's rare that they can't.

(MORE)

TRUMP (cont'd)

But I had three people: Manafort, Corsi-I don't know Corsi, but he refuses to say what they demanded .. Manafort, Corsi . It's actually very brave.

PRESS

Will you pardon Manafort?

TRUMP

It was never discussed, but I wouldn't take it off the table. Why would I take it off the table?

NARRATOR

Evidence #3. All redacted due to possible harm to ongoing matter

End of Act 9

Pages 131 to 133 of Volume II of the Mueller report outlines the relevance of the evidence presented in Act 9 to the elements of the case for obstruction of justice. The analysis includes the principles of an Obstructive Act, Nexus to a proceeding, and Intent. The audience is encouraged to review that analysis

END OF ACT 9

ACT 10

NARRATOR

Obstruction K. in Mueller Report
Volume II page 134: Trump's Conduct
Involving Michael Cohen.

Evidence #1. Candidate Trump's
Awareness of and Involvement in the
Trump Tower Moscow Project

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Trump's interactions with Cohen as a witness took place against the background of Trump's involvement in the Trump Tower Moscow project. From September 2015 until at least June 2016, the Trump Organization pursued a Trump Tower Moscow project in Russia, with negotiations conducted by Cohen, then-executive vice president of the Trump Organization and special counsel to Donald J. Trump. The Trump Organization had previously and unsuccessfully pursued a building project in Moscow. In approximately September 2015 Cohen obtained internal approval from Trump to negotiate on behalf of the Trump Organization to have a Russian corporation build a tower in Moscow that licensed the Trump name and brand. Cohen thereafter had numerous brief conversations with Trump about the project. Cohen recalled that Trump wanted to be updated on any developments with Trump Tower Moscow and on several occasions brought the project up with Cohen to ask what was happening on it. Cohen also discussed the project on multiple occasions with Donald Trump Jr. and Ivanka Trump.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

fall of 2015

Trump signs a Letter of Intent for the Trump Tower Moscow project that specified highly lucrative terms for the Trump Organization.

Felix Sater is handling negotiations between Cohen and the Russian corporation.

December 2015 Sater and Cohen talk

FELIX SATER AND COHEN STEP FORWARD

SATER

Give me a copy of your and Trump's passports. I will facilitate travel to Russia to meet with government officials and possible financing partners.

NARRATOR

Cohen and Trump talk

COHEN AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

COHEN

Here's information about our trip to Russia...

NARRATOR

Cohen talks to Trump's personal secretary Rhona Graff

COHEN AND TRUMP'S PERSONAL SECRETARY, RHONA GRAFF STEP FORWARD

COHEN

I need a copy of Trump's passport.

GRAFF

okay

NARRATOR

By January 2016
Cohen became frustrated that Sater had not set up a meeting with Russian government officials, so Cohen reaches out directly by email to the office of Russian Dmitry Peskov, who was Putin's deputy chief of staff and press secretary.

January 20, 2016 Cohen receives an email response and calls Elena Poliakova, Peskov's personal assistant. They talk for approximately 20 minutes.

COHEN AND ELENA POLIAKOVA ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

COHEN

I received your email response to my request to Dmitry Peskov. Let me tell you about the Trump Tower Moscow project ... We are asking that your office provide assistance in moving the project forward.

NARRATOR

Soon afterwards Cohen briefs Trump
...

COHEN AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

COHEN

Here's how the call went. I spoke with someone from the Kremlin. She was very professional and asked detailed questions about the project. I wish the Trump Organization had assistants who are as competent as this woman from the Kremlin.

NARRATOR

The day after Cohen's call, Sater texts Cohen

SATER AND COHEN TEXTING STEP FORWARD

SATER

Will you call me when you have a few minutes to chat ... It's about Putin they called today.

NARRATOR

Cohen calls Sater

SATER AND COHEN NOW ON PHONES

SATER

The Russian government likes the project.

COHEN

(to himself)
My phone call renewed interest in the project.

NARRATOR

On January 25, 2016, an invitation to visit Moscow "for a working visit" was sent by Sater.

Cohen updates Trump...

COHEN AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

COHEN

I am waiting to hear back on moving the project forward.

NARRATOR

After January 2016

Cohen continues to have conversations with Sater about Trump Tower Moscow and continues to keep candidate Trump updated about those discussions and the status of the project. Cohen and Trump wants Trump Tower Moscow to succeed and Trump never discourages Cohen from working on the project because of the campaign.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

In March or April 2016 Trump asks Cohen ...

TRUMP AND COHEN STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

Is anything happening in Russia?

COHEN

here is the status ...

NARRATOR

In the spring Cohen briefs Donald Trump Jr.

COHEN AND TRUMP JR. STEP FORWARD

COHEN

Here is the status of the Trump Tower Moscow. It is potentially a \$1 billion deal. ...

NARRATOR
around May 2016 Cohen asks Trump

COHEN AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

COHEN
Do you think we could make a trip to
Russia to advance the Trump Tower
Moscow project?

NARRATOR
Cohen receives several texts from
Sater to arrange the trip.

SATER AND COHEN TEXTING STEP FORWARD

SATER
Let's arrange a trip to Russia.

NARRATOR
On May 4, 2016 Sater writes to Cohen

SATER AND COHEN TEXTING STEP FORWARD

SATER
I had a chat with Moscow. ASSUMING
the trip does happen the question is
before or after the convention. . . .
. Obviously the pre-meeting trip with
you only can happen anytime you want
but the 2 big guys is the question. I
said I would confirm and revert.

COHEN
My trip before Cleveland. Trump once
he becomes the nominee after the
convention.

NARRATOR
May 5, 2016 Sater follows up with
text to Cohen

SATER AND COHEN TEXTING STEP FORWARD

SATER
Peskov would like to invite you as
his guest to the St. Petersburg Forum
which is Russia's Davos it's June 16-
19.

(MORE)

SATER (cont'd)

He wants to meet there with you and possibly introduce you to either Putin or Medvedev. . . . This is perfect. The entire business class of Russia will be there as well. He said anything you want to discuss including dates and subjects are on the table to discuss.

NARRATOR

Cohen reads text to Trump

COHEN AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

COHEN

Here is the information on the invitation to the St. Petersburg Economic Forum. Putin or Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev might be there.

TRUMP

I will travel to Russia if you can lock and load on the deal.

NARRATOR

June 2016 Cohen decided not to attend the St. Petersburg Economic Forum because Sater had not obtained a formal invitation for Cohen from Peskov.

Cohen updates Trump

COHEN AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

COHEN

I decided not to attend the St. Petersburg Economic Forum.

COHEN (cont'd)

(to himself)

I will not tell Trump that the project is over because I do not want Trump to complain that the deal was on-again-off-again if it is revived.

NARRATOR

During the summer of 2016 Trump states to public

TRUMP AND PUBLIC STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I have nothing to do with Russia.

NARRATOR

shortly afterward Trump's public statement, Trump asks for an update from Cohen.

TRUMP AND COHEN STEP FORWARD

(privately to Cohen)

TRUMP

What is the status of the Trump Tower Moscow project?

NARRATOR

At some point that summer Cohen tells Trump

COHEN AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

COHEN

The Trump Tower Moscow project is going nowhere because the Russian development company has not secured a piece of property for the project.

TRUMP

That is too bad.

NARRATOR

Cohen said that at no time during the campaign did Trump tell him not to pursue the project or that the project should be abandoned.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Evidence #2. Cohen Determines to Adhere to a "Party Line" Distancing Candidate Trump From Russia

NARRATOR (cont'd)

When questions about possible Russian support for candidate Trump emerged during the 2016 presidential campaign, Trump denied having any personal, financial, or business connection to Russia, which Cohen described as the "party line" or "message" to follow for Trump and his senior advisers.

After the election, the Trump Organization sought to formally close out certain deals in advance of the inauguration. Trump Tower Moscow was on the list of deals to be closed out.

In approximately January 2017 Cohen talks to Trump

COHEN AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

COHEN

I am receiving inquiries from the media about Trump Tower Moscow. I am concerned that truthful answers about the Trump Tower Moscow project might not be consistent with the "message" that you have no relationship with Russia.

TRUMP

Let's develop a script or talking point with others to dismiss the idea of a substantial connection between my business and Russia.

NARRATOR

later Cohen and Trump talk

TRUMP AND COHEN STEP FORWARD

COHEN

The talking point with others is that the deal ended in January 2016.

COHEN (cont'd)

(to himself)

I don't need to explicitly tell Trump that I think the talking point is untrue because Trump already knows it is untrue. It's important to say the deal was done in January 2016, rather than acknowledge that talks continued into May and June 2016, because it limits the period when candidate Trump can be alleged to have had a relationship with Russia to an early point in the campaign, before Trump had become the party's presumptive nominee.

NARRATOR

Cohen talks to press

COHEN AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

(New York Times
reporter)

COHEN

The Trump Tower Moscow deal was not feasible and had ended in January 2016.

NARRATOR

Evidence #3. Cohen Submits False Statements to Congress Minimizing the Trump Tower Moscow Project in Accordance with the Party Line

In early May 2017 Cohen is requested to appear before Congress

Cohen steps forward

COHEN

(To himself)

Congress has ordered me to provide testimony and documents in connection with congressional investigations of Russian interference in the 2016 election.

COHEN (cont'd)

I think Congress's interest in me is focused on the allegations in the Steele reporting concerning a meeting I allegedly had with Russian officials in Prague during the campaign. That is of no concern because I have never traveled to Prague. Those allegations are provably false.

NARRATOR

May 18, 2017 Cohen meets with Trump

TRUMP AND COHEN STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

You should cooperate with the request from Congress because there is nothing there.

NARRATOR

Cohen eventually entered into a joint defense agreement with Trump and other individuals who were part of the Russia investigation.

In the months leading up to his congressional testimony Cohen met with Trump's personal counsel frequently

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL AND COHEN STEP FORWARD

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL

I have just been with Trump. The Joint Defense Agreement is working well together. There is nothing there to worry about. If we stay on message the investigations will come to an end soon.

COHEN

My legal bills which are being paid by the Trump Organization are piling up.

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL

Don't worry because the investigations will be over by summer or fall of 2017.

(MORE)

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL (cont'd)

As part of the joint agreement, you are protected, which you would not be if you "went rogue." "Trump loves you." If you stay on message, Trump has your back.

NARRATOR

August 2017 - Cohen began drafting a statement about Trump Tower Moscow to submit to Congress along with his document production. He gives them to the joint defense members for editing.

COHEN AND MEMBERS OF THE JOINT DEFENSE AGREEMENT STEP FORWARD

COHEN

Here is my draft statement for your review and edits/comments.

NARRATOR

Trump's personal attorney and Cohen talk about another Russia issue

COHEN AND TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL STEP FORWARD

COHEN

I want to talk to you about a different issue that connects candidate Trump to Russia. I made effort to set up a meeting between Trump and Putin in New York during the 2015 United Nations General Assembly. In September 2015, I suggested the meeting to Trump, who told me to reach out to Putin's office about it. I spoke and emailed with a Russian official about a possible meeting, and recall that Trump asked me multiple times for updates on the proposed meeting with Putin. When I called the Russian official a second time, she told me it would not follow proper protocol for Putin to meet with Trump, and I relayed that message to Trump.

(MORE)

COHEN (cont'd)

I anticipate that I might be asked questions about the proposed Trump-Putin meeting when I testify before Congress because I have talked about the potential meeting on Sean Hannity's radio show. I want to explain the whole story to you.

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL

We need to keep Trump out of the narrative. The story is not relevant and should not be included in your statement to Congress.

NARRATOR

Between August 18, 2017, when the statement is in an initial draft stage, and August 28, 2017, when the statement is submitted to Congress, phone records reflect that Cohen spoke with Trump's personal counsel almost daily.

August 27, 2017 the day before Cohen submits the statement to Congress Cohen and Trump's personal counsel have numerous contacts by phone, including calls lasting three, four, six, eleven, and eighteen minutes.

COHEN AND TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL STEP FORWARD

COHEN

There is more detail on Trump Tower Moscow that is not in the statement, including that there were more communications with Russia and more communications with candidate Trump than the statement reflects.

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL

It is not necessary to elaborate or include those details because the project did not progress. You should keep your statement short and "tight" and the matter will soon come to an end. My client appreciates you. You should stay on message and not contradict Trump. There is no need to muddy the water, and it is time to move on.

COHEN
Okay. I will not contest a decision
of the Joint Defense Agreement.

COHEN (cont'd)
(to himself)
I need to comply because that is what
I am expected to do.

Narrator

Cohen and joint defense members talk

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND COHEN STEP
FORWARD

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT DEFENSE
AGREEMENT
Here are edits to your statement.
Edits include deleting this sentence
in your draft statement: "The
building project led me to make
limited contacts with Russian
government officials."

COHEN
(to himself)
It is a decision by the Joint Defense
Agreement to take out that sentence.
I should not push back on the
deletion. I told Trump's personal
attorney that I would not contest a
decision of the Joint Defense
Agreement.

COHEN (cont'd)
(to himself)
My agenda in submitting the statement
to Congress with false
representations about the Trump Tower
Moscow project is to minimize links
between the project and Trump, give
the false impression that the project
had ended before the first
presidential primaries, and shut down
further inquiry into Trump Tower
Moscow, with the aim of limiting the
ongoing Russia investigations. I want
to protect Trump and be loyal to him
by not contradicting anything Trump
has said.

(MORE)

COHEN (cont'd)

I am concerned that if I tell the truth about getting a response from the Kremlin or speaking to candidate Trump about travel to Russia to pursue the project, I will contradict the message that no connection existed between Trump and Russia, and I am okay with my decision to provide false testimony because the deal never happened. I am not concerned that the story will be contradicted by individuals who know it is false because I am sticking to the party line adhered to by the whole group. I want the support of Trump and the White House, and by following the party line the Special Counsel and congressional investigations will be put to an end.

NARRATOR

At the same time that Cohen finalized his written submission to Congress, he talks to the press ...

PRESS AND COHEN STEP FORWARD
(Washington Post)

PRESS

We have this information on a developing story of the Trump Tower in Moscow. Can you comment?

COHEN

The project was abandoned at the end of January 2016, just before Presidential primaries began.

NARRATOR

August 27, 2017 the press reports

PRESS

(Washington Post)

The Trump Organization was pursuing a plan to develop a massive Trump Tower in Moscow at the same time as candidate Trump was running for president in late 2015 and early 2016. ... The project was abandoned at the end of January 2016, just before Presidential primaries began, several people familiar with the proposal said.

COHEN

(to himself)

I need to hold to the false story that negotiations for the deal ceased in January 2016.

NARRATOR

August 28, 2017

Cohen submits his statement about the Trump Tower Moscow project to Congress.

The final version of the statement contained several false statements about the project.

First, although the Trump Organization continued to pursue the project until at least June 2016, the statement said, "The proposal was under consideration at the Trump Organization from September 2015 until the end of January 2016. By the end of January 2016, I determined that the proposal was not feasible for a variety of business reasons and should not be pursued further. Based on my business determinations, the Trump Organization abandoned the proposal."

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Second, although Cohen and candidate Trump had discussed possible travel to Russia by Trump to pursue the venture, the statement said, "Despite overtures by Mr. Sater, I never considered asking Mr. Trump to travel to Russia in connection with this proposal. I told Mr. Sater that Mr. Trump would not travel to Russia unless there was a definitive agreement in place."

Third, although Cohen had regularly briefed Trump on the status of the project and had numerous conversations about it, the statement said, "Mr. Trump was never in contact with anyone about this proposal other than me on three occasions, including signing a non-binding letter of intent in 2015."

Fourth, although Cohen's outreach to Peskov in January 2016 had resulted in a lengthy phone call with a representative from the Kremlin, the statement said that Cohen did not recall any response to my email to Peskov, nor any other contacts by me with Mr. Peskov or other Russian government officials about the proposal.

Before Cohen's testimony to Congress
Cohen talks to Trump

COHEN AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

COHEN

I plan to stay on message when I testify to Congress.

NARRATOR

September 19, 2017 Cohen issues a press release

COHEN AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

COHEN

Here is my opening remarks to Congress, which criticize the allegations in the Steele material. The Trump Tower Moscow project "was terminated in January of 2016; which occurred before the Iowa caucus and months before the very first primary."

COHEN (cont'd)

(to himself)

This public release of my opening remarks is intended to shape the narrative and let other people who might be witnesses know what I am saying so they could follow the same message. My decision is meant to mirror Jared Kushner's decision to release a statement in advance of his congressional testimony. Trump' liked that approach.

NARRATOR

September 20, 2017 Trump's personal attorney talks to Cohen

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL AND COHEN STEP FORWARD

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL

Trump is pleased with the Trump Tower Moscow statement that has gone out.

NARRATOR

October 24 and 25, 2017
Cohen testifies before Congress and repeats the false statements he has included in his written statement about Trump Tower Moscow.

Immediately after each day of his testimony Cohen calls Trump's personal attorney.

COHEN AND TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

COHEN

How do you think it is going? ...

NARRATOR

Evidence #4. Trump Sends Messages of Support to Cohen

January 2018 the press reports

PRESS

Cohen had arranged a \$130,000 payment during the campaign to prevent a woman from publicly discussing an alleged sexual encounter she had with Trump before he ran for office.

NARRATOR

The Special Counsel's Office did not investigate Cohen's campaign- period payments to women. However, those events, as described here, are potentially relevant to Trump's and his personal counsel's interactions with Cohen as a witness who later began to cooperate with the government.

February 13, 2018 Cohen issues a press release

COHEN AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

COHEN

In a private transaction in 2016, I used my own personal funds to facilitate a payment of \$130,000 to the woman. Neither the Trump Organization nor the Trump campaign was a party to the transaction with the woman, and neither reimbursed me for the payment, either directly or indirectly.

NARRATOR

February 18, 2018 the press reports

PRESS

(New York Times)

This article details the attributing the payment to Cohen. Cohen is Trump's "fixer,"

NARRATOR
February 19, 2018, Trump's personal
attorney texts Cohen ...

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL AND COHEN TEXTING

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL
Client says thanks for what you do.

NARRATOR
February 27, 2019 in congressional
testimony

COHEN STEPS FORWARD

COHEN
I discussed what to say about the
payment with Trump and Trump directed
me to say that Trump "was not
knowledgeable . . . of my actions" in
making the payment.

NARRATOR
April 9, 2018

FBI agents working with the U.S.
Attorney's Office for the Southern
District of New York executed search
warrants on Cohen's home, hotel room,
and office.

NARRATOR (cont'd)
Trump speaks to press

TRUMP AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP
I have just heard that they broke
into the office of one of my personal
attorneys-a good man. The searches
are a real disgrace. It's an attack
on our country, in a true sense. It's
an attack on what we all stand for.

COHEN STEPS FORWARD

COHEN
(to himself)
These searches make me an open book.
I do not want issues arising from the
payments to women to come out. My
false statements to Congress are a
big concern..

NARRATOR
A few days after the searches Trump
calls Cohen

TRUMP AND COHEN ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP
I want to check in. Are you okay?
Hang in there and stay strong.

NARRATOR
Individuals around Trump contact
Cohen

INDIVIDUALS IN TOUCH WITH TRUMP AND COHEN STEP FORWARD

INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE IN TOUCH WITH
TRUMP
I want to relay to you Trump's
support for you.

NARRATOR
Trump's personal friend calls Cohen

TRUMP'S PERSONAL FRIEND AND COHEN ON PHONES STEP FORWARD

TRUMP'S PERSONAL FRIEND
I am with "the Boss" in Mar-a-Lago
and Trump says "he loves you" and not
to worry.

NARRATOR
A Trump Organization individual talks
to Cohen

INDIVIDUAL FOR THE TRUMP ORGANIZATION AND COHEN STEP FORWARD

INDIVIDUAL FOR THE TRUMP
ORGANIZATION

The boss loves you."

NARRATOR

Another Trump friend talks to Cohen

A FRIEND OF TRUMP'S AND COHEN STEP FORWARD

A FRIEND OF TRUMP'S

Everyone knows the boss has your
back.

NARRATOR

On or about April 17, 2018
Cohen begins speaking with an
attorney, Robert Costello, who
represented that he has a close
relationship with Rudolph Giuliani,
one of Trump's personal lawyers.

COSTELLO AND COHEN STEP FORWARD

COSTELLO

I have a back channel of
communication to Giuliani. Giuliani
has said the channel is crucial and
must be maintained.

NARRATOR

April 20, 2018

New York Times publishes an article
about Trump's relationship with and
treatment of Cohen. Trump tweets ...

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

The New York Times and a third rate
reporter . . . are going out of their
way to destroy Michael Cohen and his
relationship with me in the hope that
he will flip. They use non- existent
sources and a drunk/drugged up loser
who hates Michael, a fine person with
a wonderful family.

(MORE)

TRUMP (cont'd)

Michael is a businessman for his own account/lawyer who I have always liked & respected. Most people will flip if the Government lets them out of trouble, even if it means lying or making up stories. Sorry, I don't see Michael doing that despite the horrible Witch Hunt and the dishonest media!

NARRATOR

Costello emails Cohen

COSTELLO EMAILING AND COHEN STEP FORWARD

COSTELLO

I have spoken with Giuliani. The conversation was Very Very Positive. You are loved ... they are in our corner... . Sleep well tonight, you have friends in high places.

COHEN

(to himself)

I have the support of the White House if I continue to toe the party line - staying on message and be part of the team. My legal fees are still being paid by the Trump Organization, which is important to me. I need the power of Trump to take care of me. I need to defend Trump and stay on message.

NARRATOR

The press reports ...

PRESS

Pardon discussions are occurring at the White House.

Cohen and Trump's personal attorney talk

COHEN AND TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL STEP FORWARD

COHEN

I have been a loyal lawyer and servant. After these searches I am in an uncomfortable position and want to know what is in it for me.

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL
You should stay on message. The
investigation is a witch hunt, and
everything will be fine.

COHEN
(to himself)
My multiple conversations about
pardons with Trump's personal counsel
tells me that that as long as I stay
on message, I will be taken care of
by Trump, either through a pardon or
through the investigation being shut
down.

NARRATOR
April 24, 2018 Trump talks to press

PRESS AND TRUMP STEP FORWARD

PRESS
Would you consider a pardon for
Cohen?

TRUMP
Stupid question.

NARRATOR
June 8, 2018 Trump talks to press

TRUMP AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP
I haven't even thought about pardons
for Manafort or Cohen. It's far too
early to be thinking about that. They
haven't been convicted of anything.
There's nothing to pardon.

NARRATOR
June 15, 2018 Trump talks to press

TRUMP AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP
I have sympathy for Cohen, Manafort,
and Flynn. I feel badly about a lot
of them, because I think a lot of it
is very unfair.

NARRATOR

Evidence #5. Trump's Conduct After
Cohen Began Cooperating with the
Government

July 2, 2018 the press reports ...

PRESS

(ABC News)

Based on an "exclusive" interview
with Cohen, Cohen has strongly
signaled his willingness to cooperate
with special counsel Robert Mueller
and federal prosecutors in the
Southern District of New York--even
if that puts President Trump in
jeopardy.

PRESS (cont'd)

Cohen has added an attorney to his
legal team who previously had worked
as a legal adviser to President Bill
Clinton.

NARRATOR

Beginning on July 20, 2018 the press
reports

PRESS

Cohen had made a recording of a
conversation he had with candidate
Trump about a payment made to a
second woman who said she had had an
affair with Trump.

NARRATOR

July 21, 2018 Trump tweets

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

"Inconceivable that the government
would break into a lawyer's office
(early in the morning)- almost
unheard of. Even more inconceivable
that a lawyer would tape a client-
totally unheard of & perhaps illegal.
The good news is that your favorite
President did nothing wrong!"

NARRATOR

July 27, 2018 The press reports ...

PRESS

Cohen is willing to inform investigators that Donald Trump Jr. told his father about the June 9, 2016 meeting to get "dirt" on Hillary Clinton.

Trump tweets

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

So the Fake News doesn't waste my time with dumb questions, NO, I did NOT know of the meeting with my son, Don Jr. Sounds to me like someone is trying to make up stories in order to get himself out of an unrelated jam (Taxi cabs maybe?). He even retained Bill and Crooked Hillary's lawyer. Gee, I wonder if they helped him make the choice!

NARRATOR

August 21, 2018 Cohen pleaded guilty in the Southern District of New York to eight felony charges, including two counts of campaign-finance violations based on the payments he had made during the final weeks of the campaign to women who said they had affairs with Trump.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

Cohen at plea hearing

COHEN STEPS FORWARD

COHEN

(at the plea hearing)

I worked "at the direction of" the candidate in making those payments.

NARRATOR

The next day Trump tweets ...

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

I feel very badly for Paul Manafort and his wonderful family. 'Justice' took a 12 year old tax case, among other things, applied tremendous pressure on him and, unlike Michael Cohen, he refused to 'break'-make up stories in order to get a 'deal.' Such respect for a brave man!

NARRATOR

September 17, 2018 The Special Counsel's Office submitted written questions to Trump that included questions about the Trump Tower Moscow project and attached Cohen's written statement to Congress and the Letter of Intent signed by Trump. Among other issues, the questions asked Trump to describe the timing and substance of discussions he had with Cohen about the project, whether they discussed a potential trip to Russia, and whether Trump "at any time direct[ed] or suggest[ed] that discussions about the Trump Moscow project should cease," or whether Trump was "informed at any time that the project had been abandoned."

NARRATOR (cont'd)

November 20, 2018

Trump submitted written responses that did not answer those questions about Trump Tower Moscow directly and did not provide any information about the timing of the candidate's discussions with Cohen about the project or whether he participated in any discussions about the project being abandoned or no longer pursued.

Narrator

Trump meets with his personal attorneys

TRUMP AND HIS PERSONAL ATTORNEYS STEP FORWARD

(show Trump with
lawyers pointing
things out on
statement)

TRUMP

I had few conversations with Mr. Cohen on this subject. As I recall; they were brief, and they were not memorable. I was not enthused about the proposal, and I do not recall any discussion of travel to Russia in connection with it. I do not remember discussing it with anyone else at the Trump Organization, although it is possible. I do not recall being aware at the time of any communications between Mr. Cohen and Felix Sater and any Russian government official regarding the Letter of Intent.

NARRATOR

November 29, 2018

Cohen pleads guilty to making false statements to Congress based on his statements about the Trump Tower Moscow project. In a plea agreement with the Special Counsel's Office, Cohen agrees to "provide truthful information regarding any and all matters as to which this Office deems relevant."

Press reports

PRESS

Cohen pleads guilty.

NARRATOR

Trump to press

TRUMP AND REPORTERS STEP FORWARD

TRUMP

I decided not to do the Trump Tower Moscow project. . . . I decided ultimately not to do it.

(MORE)

TRUMP (cont'd)

There would have been nothing wrong if I did do it. If I did do it, there would have been nothing wrong. That was my business.... It was an option that I decided not to do.... I decided not to do it. The primary reason . . . I was focused on running for President. . . . I was running my business while I was campaigning. There was a good chance that I wouldn't have won, in which case I would've gone back into the business. And why should I lose lots of opportunities? Cohen is a weak person. And by being weak, unlike other people that you watch-he is a weak person. And what he's trying to do is get a reduced sentence. So he's lying about a project that everybody knew about.

TRUMP (cont'd)

About Cohen's written submission to Congress regarding the Trump Tower Moscow project ... So here's the story: Go back and look at the paper Michael Cohen wrote before he testified in the House and/or Senate. It talked about his position. And even if Cohen is right, it doesn't matter because I was allowed to do whatever I wanted during the campaign.

NARRATOR

Special Counsel's seeks information from Trump

SPECIAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE, TRUMP AND TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL
STEP FORWARD

SPECIAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE

In light of your public statements following Cohen's guilty plea that you decided not to do the project, our Office again seeks information from you about whether you participated in any discussions about the project being abandoned or no longer pursued, including when you "decided not to do the project," who you spoke to about that decision, and what motivated the decision.

(MORE)

SPECIAL COUNSEL'S OFFICE (cont'd)

Our Office also again asks for the timing of your discussions with Cohen about Trump Tower Moscow and ask you to specify "what period of the campaign" you were involved in discussions concerning the project.

TRUMP'S PERSONAL COUNSEL

We decline to provide additional information from Trump. Trump has fully answered the questions at issue.

NARRATOR

In the weeks following Cohen's plea and agreement to provide assistance to this Office, Trump repeatedly implied that Cohen's family members were guilty of crimes.

December 3, 2018, after Cohen files his sentencing memorandum, Trump tweets ...

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

Michael Cohen asks judge for no Prison Time. You mean he can do all of the TERRIBLE, unrelated to Trump, things having to do with fraud, big loans, Taxis, etc., and not serve a long prison term? He makes up stories to get a GREAT & ALREADY reduced deal for himself, and get his wife and father-in-law (who has the money?) off Scott Free. He lied for this outcome and should, in my opinion serve a full and complete sentence.

NARRATOR

At this point in Mueller's report a portion is redacted due to HARM TO ONGOING MATTER.

December 12, 2018

Cohen was sentenced to three years of imprisonment.

NARRATOR (cont'd)

The next day Trump issues a series of tweets

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

I never directed Michael Cohen to break the law. . . . Those charges were just agreed to by him in order to embarrass Trump and get a much reduced prison sentence, which he did-including the fact that his family was temporarily let off the hook. As a lawyer, Michael has great liability to me!

NARRATOR

December 16, 2018

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

Remember, Michael Cohen only became a 'Rat' after the FBI did something which was absolutely unthinkable & unheard of until the Witch Hunt was illegally started. They BROKE INTO AN ATTORNEY'S OFFICE! Why didn't they break into the DNC to get the Server, or Crooked' s office?

NARRATOR

January 2019 the press reports

PRESS

Cohen will provide public testimony in a congressional hearing.

NARRATOR

Trump makes public statements

TRUMP AND PUBLIC STEPS FORWARD

(Trump makes public comments)

TRUMP

Cohen's family members have committed crimes.

NARRATOR
January 12, 2019 Trump TV interview

TRUMP AND TV HOST STEP FORWARD
(Fox host Jeanine
Pirro)

TV HOST
Are you worried about Cohen's
testimony?

TRUMP
In order to get his sentence reduced,
Cohen says "I have an idea, I'll ah,
tell-I'll give you some information
on Trump." Well, there is no
information. But he should give
information maybe on his father-in-
law because that's the one that
people want to look at because where
does that money-that's the money in
the family. And I guess he didn't
want to talk about his father-in-law,
he's trying to get his sentence
reduced. So it's ah, pretty sad. You
know, it's weak and it's very sad to
watch a thing like that.

NARRATOR
January 18, 2019 Trump tweets ...

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP
Kevin Corke, @Fox News 'Don't forget,
Michael Cohen has already been
convicted of perjury and fraud, and
as recently as this week, the Wall
Street Journal has suggested that he
may have stolen tens of thousands of
dollars....' Lying to reduce his jail
time! Watch father-in-law/

NARRATOR
January 23, 2019
Cohen postponed his congressional
testimony, citing threats against his
family.

The next day Trump tweets ...

TRUMP TWEETING STEPS FORWARD

TRUMP

So interesting that bad lawyer Michael Cohen, who sadly will not be testifying before Congress, is using the lawyer of Crooked Hillary Clinton to represent him-Gee, how did that happen?

NARRATOR

In January 2019 Giuliani gives press interviews

GIULIANI AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

(in press interviews)

GIULIANI

It's our understanding that discussions about the Trump Moscow project went on throughout 2016. Weren't a lot of them, but there were conversations. Can't be sure of the exact date. But Trump can remember having conversations with him about it. Trump also remembers-yeah, probably up-could be up to as far as October, November.

NARRATOR

In another interview

GIULIANI AND PRESS STEP FORWARD

(New York Times)

GIULIANI

Trump says that the discussions regarding the Trump Moscow project were going on from the day I announced to the day I won.

NARRATOR

January 21, 2019 Giuliani issues public a statement

GIULIANI STEPS FORWARD

GIULIANI

My recent statements about discussions during the 2016 campaign between Michael Cohen and candidate Donald Trump about a potential Trump Moscow project were hypothetical and not based on conversations I had with Trump.

NARRATOR

End of Act 10

Pages 151 to 155 of Volume II of the Mueller report outlines the relevance of the evidence presented in Act 10 to the elements of the case for obstruction of justice. The analysis includes the principles of an Obstructive Act, Nexus to a proceeding, and Intent. The audience is encouraged to review that analysis

END OF ACT 10

NARRATOR

Our disclaimer. While The Play interprets Mueller's report to provide an active dialogue of its contents, you should read the Mueller report to develop your own interpretation of its findings.

This play is not meant to provide any legal or other consulting advice. All information is provided without any warranty, expressed or implied, as to their legal effect and completeness. There is no guarantee, express or implied, about the accuracy or usefulness of this play and its contents herein.