

COMMITTEE SENSITIVE

EXECUTIVE SESSION

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,

JOINT WITH THE

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT,

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: JAMES A. BAKER (DAY 2)

Thursday, October 18, 2018

Washington, D.C.

The interview in the above matter was held in Room 2141, Rayburn House Office Building, commencing at 10:01 a.m.

Present: Representatives Meadows, Jordan, Ratcliffe, and Gaetz.

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GOVERNMENT EXHIBIT

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government had some kind of electronic communication with some organization, some business associated with the Trump family or the Trump organization?

Mr. Baker. Yes, sir. And there was some effort -- there was some belief that this was a -- being conducted in a way so as to make it a covert communications channel.

Mr. Jordan. Okay. And my first question would be how'd you get this? Did you ask that question?

Mr. Baker. I did ask that question at a high level, yes. And he explained that he had obtained it from, again, cyber experts who had -- who had obtained the information, and he said that the details of it would explain themselves. That's my recollection.

Mr. Jordan. And was he representing a client when he brought this information to you? Or just out of the goodness of his heart, someone gave it to him and he brought it to you?

Mr. Baker. In that first interaction, I don't remember him specifically saying that he was acting on behalf of a particular client.

Mr. Jordan. Did you know at the time that he was representing the DNC in the Clinton campaign?

Mr. Baker. I can't remember. I have learned that at some point. I don't -- as I think I said last time, I don't specifically remember when I learned that. So I don't know that I had that in my head when he showed up in my office. I just can't remember.

Mr. Jordan. Did you learn that shortly thereafter if you didn't know it at the time?

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Mr. Baker. I wish I could give you a better answer. I just don't remember.

Mr. Jordan. I mean, I just find that unbelievable that the guy representing the Clinton campaign, the Democrat National Committee, shows up with information that says we got this, and you don't ask where he got it, you didn't know how he got it. But he got it from some, you know, quote, expert.

Mr. Baker. Well, if I could respond to that.

Mr. Jordan. Sure.

Mr. Baker. I mean, so I was uncomfortable with being in the position of having too much factual information conveyed to me, because I'm not an agent. And so I wanted to get this -- get the information into the hands of the agents as quickly as possible and let them deal with it. If they wanted to go interview Sussmann and ask him all those kind of questions, fine with me.

Mr. Jordan. Did that happen?

Mr. Baker. I don't know that. But I -- I mean, I -- well, A, I did hand it off to the -- to the investigators.

Mr. Jordan. I think you told us you handed it off to Mr. Strzok and Mr. Priestap?

Mr. Baker. My recollection is Mr. Priestap.

Mr. Jordan. Okay. And you don't know if they followed up or not?

Mr. Baker. Bill Priestap told me that they did follow up extensively.

Mr. Jordan. And back to a question I asked earlier. This was

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