

K. T. MCFARLAND'S BIG FAT EMAIL [UPDATED]

[NB: Update at the bottom of this post.]

I am posting this on the fly, haven't yet fully digested what I just read. All I can really do right now is roll my eyes as I wave my hands in the air and scream about the stupid that burns.

You need to read this article, [Emails Dispute White House Claims That Flynn Acted Independently on Russia](#); this bit in particular just boggles my mind although it's not the only thing in this article which made me ululate.

On Dec. 29, a transition adviser to Mr. Trump, K. T. McFarland, wrote an email to a colleague that [sanctions announced hours before by the Obama administration](#) in retaliation for Russian election meddling were aimed at discrediting Mr. Trump's victory. The sanctions could also make it much harder for Mr. Trump to ease tensions with Russia. which has just thrown the U.S.A. election to him, she wrote in the emails obtained by The Times.

It is not clear whether Ms. McFarland was saying she believed that the election had in fact been thrown. A White House lawyer said on Friday that she meant only that the Democrats were portraying it that way.

Excerpt, The New York Times

And of course it's Obama's or the Democratic Party's fault she was taken out of context here. Uh-huh. And Clinton should be impeached.

This bit is nearly as mind-blowingly whack:

In an interview, Ty Cobb, the White House lawyer handling the Russia inquiry, said there was nothing illegal or unethical about the transition team's actions. "It would have been political malpractice not to discuss sanctions," he said, adding that "the presidential transition guidebook specifically encourages contact with and outreach to foreign dignitaries."

what the actual feck - "the only problem"?
the only problem, Mr. Cobb said, was that Mr. Flynn had lied to White House officials and to F.B.I. agents about what he had told the Russian ambassador. Mr. Flynn's misstatements led to his firing in February and his guilty plea on Friday to charges of lying to federal agents.

Excerpt, The New York Times

“Political malpractice” is not the first thing that comes to mind here, Mr. Cobb.

UPDATE – 9:00 PM EST –

NYT’s Michael Schmidt has now provided K. T. McFarland’s full quote to clarify what was meant in the email.

From @nytmike, here now is the full McFarland quote.
[nytimes.com/2017/12/02/us/ ...](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/02/us/)

My take::

Obama is doing three things politically:

-discrediting trumps victory by saying It was due to Russian interference

-lure trump into trap of saying something today that casts doubt on report on Russia’s culpability and then next week release report that catches Russians red handed

-box trump in diplomatically with russia. If there is a tit for tat escalation trump will have difficulty improving relations with Russia which has just thrown USA election to him.

We’re supposed to believe the context is about spin McFarland anticipated Obama (or the unspecified Democrats in the NYT’s article) would employ against Trump.

However lawyer Ty Cobb’s explainer-cum-apologia doesn’t sound like McFarland and others on the transition team were merely indulging in speculation.

Any time now I expect someone in the administration will not only say openly that Trump authorized the transition team to discuss dropping the sanctions, but that it isn’t illegal when the president does it.

Except in the U.S. we only have one president at a time.