

AND NOW AKMETSHIN, OR WHY THE HELL *DIDN'T* OBAMA 'TAPP' TEAM TRUMP?

A couple days ago Marcy pointed out that Donnie Trump Jr.'s meeting with Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya on June 9, 2016, offered proof the Obama administration didn't 'wiretapp' the Trump campaign.

Which is all fine and dandy until today's revelation that a former-GRU-agent-cum-campaign-hacker-now-lobbyist present at the same meeting.

What. The. Actual. Fuck?

It's bad enough contacts with foreign nationals have to be teased out one by one from Team Trump, but to appear to hide *multiple* Russian contacts attending one meeting, particularly those with background in military and/or intelligence, is utterly ridiculous.

If this meeting was completely on the up-and-up, wouldn't Junior have included the names of ALL the attendees in his online spill-fest?

It's almost as if Junior and the rest of Team Trump knew that the presence of more than one Russian, particularly Rinat Akhmetshin, wasn't a good thing.

It's almost as if Natalia Veselnitskaya knew Akhmetshin's presence wasn't a good thing, either, since the communications Junior dumped online don't indicate her intention to bring Akhmetshin with her to the June 9th meeting.

Read the AP's reporting and see if you don't come away with a bunch of new questions about Junior's meeting. I sure did...

– Did Veselnitskaya leave documents with Junior and the rest of Team Trump? Akhmetsin is very sketchy on this point.

– Did any U.S. law enforcement or intelligence agency have any indication that Akhmetshin as well as Veselnitskaya were in NYC let alone at Trump Tower? Keep in mind the Evgeny Buryakov case and the “others known and unknown” who had been supporting Buryakov and two other Russian spies in 2013.

– Were members of the Gang of Eight, including Mitch McConnell and Devin Nunes, told last summer before the election of the multiple Russians meeting with Junior and Team Trump, even without any ‘wiretapp’ used on foreign national attendees? Is this one of the issues which riled up former Sen. Harry Reid, encouraging him to send a letter to former FBI Director Jim Comey to ask for an investigation?

– Are U.S. intelligence agencies not following Akhmetsin because he was *believed* to be a registered lobbyist, in spite of the fact he’s accused of being a hacker AND the U.S. government had been repeatedly hacked by Russia in 2015-2016?

– Has Team Trump been in contact with DHS’ Mike Kelly at all about Akhmetsin, especially since Sen. Chuck Grassley sent a letter to Kelly [pdf] in April this year asking for more information about Akhmetsin?

If I think about this much longer, I’m sure I’ll come up with a few more questions. I don’t know how there wasn’t some form of ‘tapp’ following so many Russians in one spot, considering the Prevezon money laundering case was still open in the background. I get it – wiretapping defense lawyers is a no-no. But a meeting at which Rinat Akhmetsin was present, in a building where Russian money laundering had been conducted?

The whole situation stinks like a week-old kulebyáka left in the sun.