

MUELLER OFFERS TRUMP AN OPEN BOOK TEST — TRUMP SHOULD REFUSE

Someone (possibly named Rudy 911) leaked the questions Robert Mueller wants to ask Trump to the NYT. The NYT, as they've been doing for some time, are presenting the president's exposure in terms of obstruction.

What Mueller Wants to Ask Trump About Obstruction, and What It Means

Except that of 44 questions as presented by NYT, 13 are explicitly *not* about obstruction, and several of the obstruction questions are, I'm fairly sure, about "collusion."

1. What did you know about phone calls that Mr. Flynn made with the Russian ambassador, Sergey I. Kislyak, in late December 2016?
2. What was your reaction to news reports on Jan. 12, 2017, and Feb. 8-9, 2017?
3. What did you know about Sally Yates's meetings about Mr. Flynn?
4. How was the decision made to fire Mr. Flynn on Feb. 13, 2017?
5. After the resignations, what efforts were made to reach

out to Mr. Flynn about seeking immunity or possible pardon?

6. What was your opinion of Mr. Comey during the transition?
7. What did you think about Mr. Comey's intelligence briefing on Jan. 6, 2017, about Russian election interference?
8. What was your reaction to Mr. Comey's briefing that day about other intelligence matters?
9. What was the purpose of your Jan. 27, 2017, dinner with Mr. Comey, and what was said?
10. What was the purpose of your Feb. 14, 2017, meeting with Mr. Comey, and what was said?
11. What did you know about the F.B.I.'s investigation into Mr. Flynn and Russia in the days leading up to Mr. Comey's testimony on March 20, 2017?
12. What did you do in reaction to the March 20 testimony? Describe your contacts with intelligence officials.
13. What did you think and do in reaction to the news that the special counsel was speaking to Mr. Rogers, Mr. Pompeo and Mr. Coats?

14. What was the purpose of your calls to Mr. Comey on March 30 and April 11, 2017?
15. What was the purpose of your April 11, 2017, statement to Maria Bartiromo?
16. What did you think and do about Mr. Comey's May 3, 2017, testimony?
17. Regarding the decision to fire Mr. Comey: When was it made? Why? Who played a role?
18. What did you mean when you told Russian diplomats on May 10, 2017, that firing Mr. Comey had taken the pressure off?
19. What did you mean in your interview with Lester Holt about Mr. Comey and Russia?
20. What was the purpose of your May 12, 2017, tweet?
21. What did you think about Mr. Comey's June 8, 2017, testimony regarding Mr. Flynn, and what did you do about it?
22. What was the purpose of the September and October 2017 statements, including tweets, regarding an investigation of Mr. Comey?
23. What is the reason for your continued criticism of Mr. Comey and his former deputy, Andrew G. McCabe?

24. What did you think and do regarding the recusal of Mr. Sessions?
25. What efforts did you make to try to get him to change his mind?
26. Did you discuss whether Mr. Sessions would protect you, and reference past attorneys general?
27. What did you think and what did you do in reaction to the news of the appointment of the special counsel?
28. Why did you hold Mr. Sessions's resignation until May 31, 2017, and with whom did you discuss it?
29. What discussions did you have with Reince Priebus in July 2017 about obtaining the Sessions resignation? With whom did you discuss it?
30. What discussions did you have regarding terminating the special counsel, and what did you do when that consideration was reported in January 2018?
31. What was the purpose of your July 2017 criticism of Mr. Sessions?
32. When did you become aware of the Trump Tower meeting?
33. What involvement did you have in the communication

strategy, including the release of Donald Trump Jr.'s emails?

34. During a 2013 trip to Russia, what communication and relationships did you have with the Agalarovs and Russian government officials?
35. What communication did you have with Michael D. Cohen, Felix Sater and others, including foreign nationals, about Russian real estate developments during the campaign?
36. What discussions did you have during the campaign regarding any meeting with Mr. Putin? Did you discuss it with others?
37. What discussions did you have during the campaign regarding Russian sanctions?
38. What involvement did you have concerning platform changes regarding arming Ukraine?
39. During the campaign, what did you know about Russian hacking, use of social media or other acts aimed at the campaign?
40. What knowledge did you have of any outreach by your campaign, including by Paul Manafort, to Russia about

potential assistance to the campaign?

41. What did you know about communication between Roger Stone, his associates, Julian Assange or WikiLeaks?
42. What did you know during the transition about an attempt to establish back-channel communication to Russia, and Jared Kushner's efforts?
43. What do you know about a 2017 meeting in Seychelles involving Erik Prince?
44. What do you know about a Ukrainian peace proposal provided to Mr. Cohen in 2017?

Indeed, the questions seem almost an attempt to pit Trump's word against Jim Comey's (questions 6 through 23) as a way to lure him into answering questions that even as written will sink Trump. And that's assuming there's not some ulterior motive to the question (and for some of the most open-ended questions – like 33,39, 40, and 41 – I suspect, there is).

So yeah, if Trump has any lawyers still working for him, they should advise him not to take this interview.

But when that happens, it should badly undercut Trump's claims there was no collusion.