

IMPEACHMENT HEARINGS: DAY 5 - A TOUGH HILL AHEAD?

[NB: Updates to this post will appear at the bottom. /~Rayne]

The last of this week's scheduled hearings begins at 9:00 a.m. ET. Here's the schedule according to NPR:

Thursday, one panel only at 9 a.m. ET

- *Fiona Hill, formerly the top Russia specialist on the National Security Council, testified last month that she registered concerns about the parallel foreign policy channel that Giuliani was using to impact policy in Ukraine. She told investigators that she discussed her concerns with then-National Security Adviser John Bolton, who said that Giuliani was "a hand grenade that is going to blow everybody up."*
- *David Holmes, a State Department aide who overheard a phone conversation between Sondland and the*

president on July 26. Holmes appeared in a closed-door interview on Friday, but several Democrats who listened to his testimony indicated that they wanted him to appear in a public hearing.

Hill's October 14 deposition was interrupted by the House GOP loudmouth Matt Gaetz before he was booted out because he wasn't a member of the committees in the deposition. What was it about her deposition and her anticipated testimony that encouraged Gaetz to interject himself into the closed door session?

Ditto for Laura Cooper who testified last night. Something about her role must worry them and the White House so much that they'd coordinated their SCIF-storming tantrum to suck up media bandwidth while curtailing her October 23 deposition behind closed doors.

Was it because these two women may be able to pin point when Trump dictated the hold on aid and Ukraine's representatives became aware there was a hold for political reasons? Was it because they could detail how different this hold was from other holds, departing sharply from recent U.S. foreign policy?

You'll recall Holmes was added to the schedule on Monday; Republicans said they were 'shaken' by his deposition. Holmes will be able to validate the July 26 phone call between Sondland and Trump as well as some of the content and context of the call, putting to rest GOP claims of hearsay evidence regarding this call the day after the Trump-Zelensky phone call.

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To follow along via streaming:

For folks who can't stream, you can follow these live Twitter threads:

Marcy's live twitter thread

Brandi Buchman-Courthouse News's thread

Aaron Rupar-Vox's thread contains video snippets

My Trump-Russia Twitter list which includes most of the above folks.

Here's CNN's live update page for today's hearings.

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Trump's minders lost control of him this morning:

I have been watching people making phone calls my entire life. My hearing is, and has been, great. Never have I been watching a person making a call, which was not on speakerphone, and been able to hear or understand a conversation. I've even tried, but to no avail. Try it live!

— Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump)
November 21, 2019

Tsk-tsk. Don't play poker, dude.