

LEV PARNAS WOULDN'T REVEAL WHETHER HE HAS RECEIPTS ON BILL BARR

After a week of Lev Parnas' media campaign, the entire point of it begins to make more sense.

AS ACCUSED CO- CONSPIRATORS, DONALD TRUMP AND LEV PARNAS SHOULD BE TREATED WITH SAME SKEPTICISM

Donald Trump and Lev Parnas are both defending themselves against serious allegations of criminal wrong-doing. But just one of them has released evidence to substantiate their defense. And the press ought to take that into account when deciding who is more credible.

KEVIN DOWNING WAS "IN THE LOOP" OF SILENCING LEV PARNAS

ON OCTOBER 8

Lev Parnas appears to believe he was arrested when and how he was to keep him silent.

THE PROCEDURAL WEAKNESS OF SIDNEY POWELL'S ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP MIKE FLYNN'S PLEA DEAL

Sidney Powell has been planning the high stakes bid to overturn Flynn's plea for six months. But she still doesn't seem to have come up with a good reason for it.

IT WAS ALL [FRUMAN'S] CONTACTS IN UKRAINE

In the story Lev Parnas is currently selling to the press, he only got meetings with corrupt Ukrainians by invoking Trump's name. But he let slip last night that Igor Fruman's network has an important role, too.

PARNAS' THREE-WAY:

JOHN DOWD HAS ALREADY CONFIRMED A KEY PART OF LEV PARNAS' STORY

John Dowd confirmed in October that some of the more inflammatory allegations Lev Parnas is making are true.

LEV PARNAS' CLAIMS TO BE FOLLOWING THE OPINION OF HIS CLIQUE ON YOVANOVITCH ARE DEMONSTRABLY FALSE

Parnas' claims to have followed the opinion of those around him rather than led pretty demonstrably conflict with the way he incited Trump to fire Marie Yovanovitch a year before Trump ultimately did so.

GAO'S DETERMINATION THAT TRUMP BROKE THE LAW RAISES THE STAKES OF SENATE

EXONERATION

GAO unsurprisingly came to the same conclusion that Mick Mulvaney confessed to back in October: by withholding the Ukraine security support without telling Congress, Trump broke the law. Sadly, that won't affect Republican actions in the Senate impeachment trial.

THE PARNAS FILES RAISE THE IMPORT OF DOJ'S FAILURE TO CONNECT-THE-DOTS ON THE WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT

Last night, HPSCI released some of Lev Parnas' files that were seized as part of the investigation into Rudy Giuliani and his grifters.

The most important document, for the legal impeachment case against Donald Trump, is a letter Rudy sent to Volodymyr Zelensky stating clearly that he was contacting the Ukrainian president as Trump's personal lawyer, not a government lawyer.

Just to be precise, I represent him as a private citizen, not as President of the United States.

It makes it clear that – contrary to the Republican cover story – Rudy and Zelensky both knew they were negotiating a personal benefit for Trump, not a benefit to the US.

But the most important files showing Trump's

abuse of power are texts between Parnas and a thoroughly American grifter, Robert F. Hyde, who appears to have had people on the ground in Kyiv surveilling Marie Yovanovitch in the days before she was recalled. He not only appears to have known precisely where she was, but he seemed to suggest to Parnas that he could have her assassinated for a price. "Guess you can do anything in the Ukraine with money," he quipped.

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Robert F Hyde
She under heavy protection outside Kiev
Status: Read
Platform: Mobile
3/23/2019 8:42:45 PM(UTC+0)

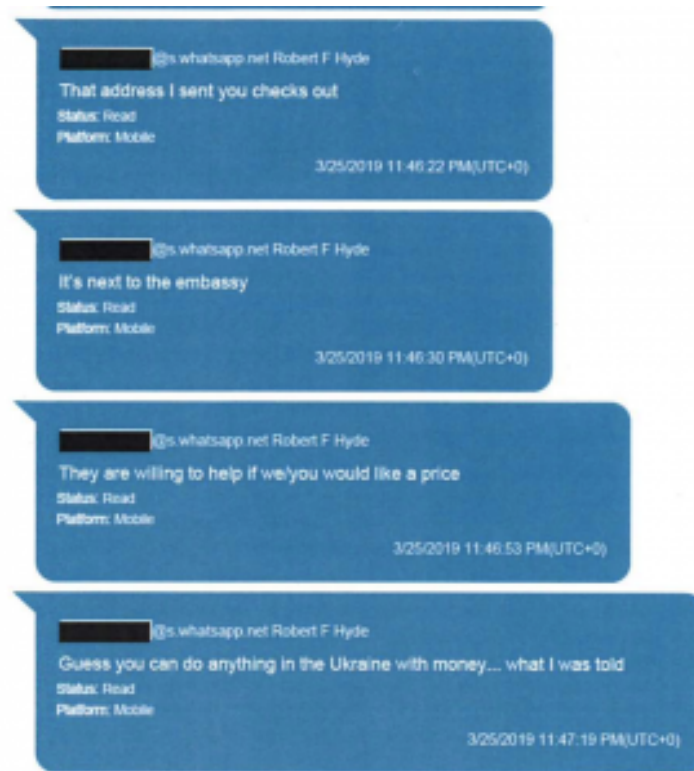
[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Robert F Hyde
My guy thinks maybe FSB..?
Status: Read
Platform: Mobile
3/23/2019 8:50:23 PM(UTC+0)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Robert F Hyde
They are moving her tomorrow
Status: Read
Platform: Mobile
3/25/2019 9:58:41 PM(UTC+0)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Robert F Hyde
The guys over they asked me what I would like to do and what is in it for them
Status: Read
Platform: Mobile
3/25/2019 9:59:03 PM(UTC+0)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Robert F Hyde
Wake up Yankees man
Status: Read
Platform: Mobile
3/25/2019 9:59:13 PM(UTC+0)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Robert F Hyde
She's talked to three people. Her phone is off. Computer is off.
Status: Read
Platform: Mobile
3/25/2019 11:39:42 PM(UTC+0)



Viewed in isolation, these comments are (at least) a chilling indication of the lengths to which Trump supporters will go to push his conspiracies.

But viewed in light of Trump's comment to Zelensky about Yovanovitch – "Well, she's going to go through some things" – it suggests a direct tie between Trump and the more sordid things that Parnas was doing.

Which makes DOJ's remarkable failure to connect the dots on the whistleblower complaint all the more damning.

As I have laid out, by August 15, top people at DOJ knew of the complaint and knew that Trump had invoked the Attorney General in his comments to Zelensky. Perhaps ten days later, DOJ got the full complaint from the whistleblower, discussing the call itself but also the larger context. Based on a claim that there was no first hand reporting in the complaint, DOJ evaluated just the MEMCON in their review of whether or not a crime was committed, not the complaint as a whole. (Not only was the claim that the whistleblower offered no first hand information false – he was in the loop on the

July 18 call and July 23 and 26 meetings about withholding aid – but the complaint included concerns about withholding funding not mentioned on the call.) They quickly publicly declared that the call did not constitute a campaign finance violation, and then did not share the complaint with the FEC (which could have imposed civil penalties) and tried to prevent Congress from obtaining the complaint.

By reviewing the MEMCON instead of the full complaint, DOJ avoided doing what would be normal connect-the-dots database searches on all the names included in it, which – because the whistleblower included multiple references to and a link to this article, would have included searches on Parnas and Igor Fruman. As this table makes clear, if DOJ had done that basic connect-the-dots work they do when assessing tips, they would have found the investigation at SDNY – which Bill Barr had been briefed on when he was confirmed as AG and Jeffrey Rosen probably knew about as well.

| Date | Location | Information |
|--|--|--|
| Prior to February | SDNY | March 3, 2018: Igor Fruman attends event April 11, 2018: GEP created Early May, 2018: Fruman and Parnas attend White House event May 17, 2018: GEP donates \$325,000 to American First Action June 21, 2018: GEP donates \$50,000 to Ron DeSantis June 25, 2018: Fruman and Lev Parnas max out to Pete Sessions |
| After February 14 | Barr | Briefing on SDNY investigation |
| May | Unknown | Rudy dossier including anti-Yovanovitch material sent from White House to Mike Pompeo, including draft John Solomon column emailed to Joe DiGenova, Victoria Toensing, and Lev Parnas |
| June 20 | SDNY | Parnas vehicle Aaron Investments receives \$1,260,329.80 wire transfer, marked GEP, from a Miami real estate attorney named Russell Jacobs who specializes in laundering foreign money |
| August 15 | John Demers (NSD), then Jeffrey Rosen, Brian Benczkowski | Multiple people had raised concerns about Mr. Trump's call Contents of transcript, including Trump's invocation of Bill Barr and Rudy Giuliani and requests for dirt on 2016 and Biden |
| Late August | Public integrity | Complete whistleblower complaint, including concerns about OMB withholding aid and repeated references (though not by name) to profile on Parnas and Fruman |
| Unknown date (several weeks before October 18) | Brian Benczkowski Fraud prosecutors | Rudy and two other lawyers pitch bribery defendant |

And had DOJ tied the call to Zelensky – with its reference to potential violence targeting Yovanovitch – it would have immediately implicated Trump far more deeply in some really corrupt shit.

As if by magic, DOJ failed to do those searches, and therefore failed to obtain official notice that the President was personally involved with a grift that SDNY was close to indicting.

HOW PUTIN GOT IN TRUMP'S (AND SO, ALL OF OUR) HEAD

The way in which Trump's retweet of a Putin headline has gone viral was utterly predictable.