

SIDNEY POWELL'S GREAT TIME MACHINE OF ELECTORAL GASLIGHTING

On January 4, 2017 at 9:43 AM, FBI lawyer Lisa Page emailed her boss, FBI General Counsel James Baker a citation for the Logan Act, referencing some prior discussion in the subject line: "Code section at question."

code section at question

From: "Lisa Page" <[REDACTED]>
To: Baker <[REDACTED]>, James A. <james.baker@[REDACTED]>
Date: Wed, 04 Jan 2017 09:43:45 -0500

18 USC 953

Shortly thereafter, Peter Strzok emailed Page the text of the law, as well as a link to a Congressional Research Service report on the Logan Act. In it, he noted that the legislative history of the Logan Act did not deal with incoming officials (which might suggest that, contrary to all reporting, he was skeptical about its application). Page thanked Strzok, and then she sent the text of the law, but not the other discussion, to someone else.

Later that afternoon, Strzok started messaging FBI agents involved in the Flynn prosecution, asking them to hold open the Flynn investigation, noting that, "7th floor involved."

The next day, representatives from the Intelligence Community briefed Obama on the Intelligence Community Assessment on Russian hacking. After the briefing, several people stayed behind to discuss the Flynn conversations with Sergey Kislyak. National Security Advisor Susan Rice described the meeting this way in a February 2018 letter sent to SJC.

... an important national security discussion between President Obama and the FBI Director and the Deputy Attorney General. President Obama and his national security team were justifiably concerned about potential risks to the Nation's security from sharing highly classified information about Russia with certain members of the Trump transition team, particularly Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn.

In light of concerning communications between members of the Trump team and Russian officials, before and after the election, President Obama, on behalf of his national security team, appropriately sought the FBI and the Department of Justice's guidance on this subject.

Rice's memo to the file, written before FBI had interviewed Mike Flynn about his calls with Sergey Kislyak, described that President Obama, Jim Comey, Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates, Joe Biden, and herself attended the meeting. She recorded that Obama first instructed FBI (as he apparently already had) to do things normally.

President Obama began the conversation by stressing his continued commitment to ensuring that every aspect of this issue is handled by the Intelligence and law enforcement communities "by the book". The President stressed that he is not asking about, initiating or instructing anything from a law enforcement perspective. He reiterated that our law enforcement team needs to proceed as it normally would by the book.

Rice describes how Obama then asked whether there was any reason not to share information with Trump's incoming team.

From a national security perspective,

however, President Obama said he wants to be sure that, as we engage with the incoming team, we are mindful to ascertain if there is any reason that we cannot share information fully as it relates to Russia.

Jim Comey responded with an ambivalent answer, stating that the FBI had not yet found Flynn to be sharing classified information, but observing that the sheer number of contacts between Kislyak and Flynn was abnormal. Comey stated that “potentially,” NSC should not share classified information with Flynn.

Director Comey affirmed that he is proceeding “by the book” as it relates to law enforcement. From a national security perspective, Comey said he does have some concerns that incoming NSA Flynn is speaking frequently with Russian Ambassador Kislyak. Comey said that it could be an issue as it relates to sharing sensitive information. President Obama asked if Comey was saying that the NSC should not pass sensitive information related to Russia to Flynn. Comey replied, “potentially.” He added he that he has not indication thus far that Flynn has passed classified information to Kislyak, but he noted that “the level of communication is unusual.”

On June 23, Mike Flynn prosecutor Jocelyn Ballantine sent Sidney Powell a “page of notes [] taken by former Deputy Assistant Director Peter Strzok.” She described that the page was undated, but that “we believe that the notes were taken in early January 2017, possibly between January 3 and January 5.”

The notes record a meeting that – like the meeting Rice described – was attended by Obama, Jim Comey, Sally Yates, Joe Biden, and Susan Rice.

Rice → D: Flynn calls. Other contacts
 D: Flynn calls. Other contacts
 Yates
 Biden
 Obama → P: These are unusual times
 P: I've been ~~on~~ on the job since for ten years
 and I never
 P: Make sure you look at things & have the right people on it
 P: Is there anything I shouldn't be telling transition
 team?
 Comey → D: Flynn → Kislyak calls but appear legit
 Apple - Happy New Year. Yeah right

At the meeting, Obama told Comey to, "Make sure you [look at?] things – have the right people on it," an instruction telling the FBI to conduct the investigation normally. Then, Obama asked, "Is there anything I shouldn't be telling transition team?" Comey responded, though his response is unclear: "Flynn > Kislyak calls but appear legit." Certainly, however, Comey's response involves some kind of comment on Flynn's calls with Kislyak. Parts of the discussion before and after this exchange are redacted, with no redaction marks explaining the basis for doing so (though a Bates stamp makes it clear that Mueller's team had this document, so it is in no way "new" to DOJ).

When Sidney Powell released the notes, she asserted that the notes were, "believed to be of January 4," which is not what DOJ told her (they said the notes could be January 3, 4, or 5).

Strzok's notes believed to be of January
 4, 2017, reveal that former President
 Obama, James Comey, Sally Yates, Joe
 Biden, and apparently Susan Rice
 discussed the transcripts of Flynn's
 calls and how to proceed against him.

Powell presents this meeting as new news, even though we've known about the meeting since Chuck Grassley made a stink about it to help her client in early 2018 (ten months before her client reallocated his guilty plea). She did so, in part, to call attention to the comment from Joe Biden apparently raising the Logan Act, then repeated, falsely, that the investigation that had been since August 2016, was then in early January, and would be during his January 24,

2017 interview significantly focused on 18 USC 951, was only investigating the Logan Act.

According to Strzok's notes, it appears that Vice President Biden personally raised the idea of the Logan Act. That became an admitted pretext to investigate General Flynn

According to Powell's narrative, then, Biden mentioned the Logan Act on January 4, which led the FBI to start investigating it the next morning. According to Powell's narrative, then, Biden is responsible for what she falsely claims was the pretext under which her client was interviewed.

To believe that, however, you'd have to believe there were two meetings, both with the same attendees, in both of which Obama first directed the FBI Director to conduct the Flynn investigation normally, and then asked whether he should be cautious about sharing sensitive information with the Trump team. In both meetings, you'd have to believe, Comey provided an ambivalent answer. You'd have to further believe that such an exchange was so concerning to Susan Rice that she would document it on her last day in office, but document only the second instance of such an exchange, not the first one.

Now, perhaps there's some reason Jeffrey Jensen and Jocelyn Ballantine profess uncertainty about when Strzok took these notes. Or perhaps DOJ, which has politicized this process so much already, would like to claim uncertainty so as to suggest that Joe Biden raised the Logan Act before the FBI did, while they're also falsely claiming that Flynn was interviewed only for the Logan Act.

But the simplest explanation for these notes is that the guy who played a key role in investigating the Russian side of the operation seconded Comey for the ICA briefing (he had done at least one earlier briefing at the White House, in September 2016), and then, when

everyone stayed behind to address Flynn – an investigation Strzok was in the management chain on – he remained as Comey's second and took notes of the same exchange that Susan Rice memorialized 15 days later. [See below: Strzok was not at the meeting in question, which would suggest these notes came even longer after the Logan Act had been raised at FBI.]

Which would likewise mean that DOJ, on the eve of a hearing on how DOJ is politicizing everything, fed Sidney Powell with a document she could misrepresent (as she has virtually everything that DOJ has fed her), and have numerous Republicans HJC members similarly misrepresent, all to turn this into a campaign issue.

Ah, well. Now that DOJ has declassified comments (almost certainly covered by Executive Privilege) in which Biden said he had seen nothing like what Flynn had done in the 10 years he was on the Senate Intelligence Committee (Biden was on the Committee during Reagan's crimes), reporters can ask him how unprecedented it is for the incoming National Security Advisor to be wooed by a hostile power's Ambassador during the transition.

Update: Glenn Kessler says Strzok's lawyer says Strzok wasn't at this meeting, which makes the conspiracy around it even crazier.