

CHUCK GRASSLEY AND RON JOHNSON PRODUCE A 285-PAGE CONFESSION THEY'RE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE PUBLIC RECORD

Chuck Grassley and Ron Johnson recently released a 285-page report relitigating a story made public in 2017 about how Mueller's team obtained records from General Services Administration. The report adopts an entirely opposite stance as the SSCI Russia Report did. The latter discussed how unheard of it was for an Administration to claim an expansive Transition privilege. Chuck and Ron are outraged that a criminal investigation have access to such files, and similarly outraged that the subjects of an investigation did not get notice that their files had been obtained.

The report also makes clear that, at first, Mueller relied on SSCI's request for its records request, and only later in the summer made their own. In other words, Chuck and Ron have a complaint, in part, with SSCI (though they don't say that).

The report is most useful for revealing which Transition officials Mueller's team was interested in. On August 23, Mueller's team sent a records request for these nine officials closely interacting with Flynn while he was secretly undermining sanctions and other Obama policies in "collusion" with Russia.

The nine Trump for America officials identified by the FBI were Daniel Gelbinovich, Sarah Flaherty, Michael G. Flynn, Michael T. Flynn, Keith Kellogg, Jared Kushner, K.T. McFarland, Jason Miller, and Michael Pompeo.¹¹⁴

Then Mueller's team asked for the records of four more people – which appears to be the people who were at Mar-a-Lago when Flynn was secretly undermining sanctions with Russia.

The four Trump for America officials identified by the FBI were Sean Spicer, Reince Priebus, Stephen Bannon, and Marshall Billingslea.¹²⁵ In the cover email, the FBI explained:

We have an additional four individuals we are currently interested in [sic]. ... If possible, can you at least have their emails downloaded by tomorrow when I pick up the other information? . . . [W]e want to have it available when they swear out a warrant before then.¹²⁶

Note, there's a reference to the DC US Attorney's office, too, so it's possible they also needed these records as part of their investigation into the suspected bribe from Egypt that kept Trump afloat in August 2016.

But the craziest thing is how the report confesses that they are unaware of any legal process for these files.

Although the FBI's August 30, 2017 cover email referenced applying for a search warrant, the Committees are aware of only one court-ordered disclosure of records, specifically, information related to the transition records of Lt. Gen. Flynn, K.T. McFarland, Michael Flynn's son, and Daniel Gelbinovich.¹²⁸

¹²⁸ Order, In re Application of the U.S. for an Order Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2703(d) Directed at Google Related to [the transition email accounts for those four individuals], 1:17-mc-2005 (D.D.C. Aug. 18, 2017) [GSA004400- 4404] (ordering the disclosure of customer/subscriber information but not

content).

At one level, they're being coy in that they claim to be interested in *court-ordered* disclosure. A document recently released via the Jeffrey Jensen review reveals that in February 2017, star witness and pro-Trump FBI Agent was obtaining some of this information using NSLs. Another document explains why, too: because one of the first things FBI had to do to understand why Flynn had lied to them was to determine if he was coordinating his story with those at Mar-a-Lago.

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The lie that he didn't even know Obama had imposed sanctions was not one of Flynn's charged lies, but it was his most damning. He lied to hide that he had consulted with Mar-a-Lago before picking up a phone and secretly undermining sanctions in "collusion" with Russia.

Crazier still, Chuck and Ron didn't go to the first place one should go to understand how legal process worked, the publicly released Mueller warrants. The warrant to access the devices and email of at least the original nine (plus one other person) is right there in the docket.

1:17-mj-00633-BAH *SEALED* USA v. EMAIL ACCOUNTS AND TEN ELECTRONIC DEVICES CURRENTLY LOCATED AT THE FBI WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE	Entered: 08/25/2017	Category: misc-cr
	9:58:05 Filed: 08/25/2017	Event: Application and Affidavit for Search/Seizure Warrant under Rule 41 by USA Document: 1
Application and Affidavit for Search Warrant by USA as to EMAIL ACCOUNTS AND TEN ELECTRONIC DEVICES CURRENTLY LOCATED AT THE FBI WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE. (Attachments: # 1 Affidavit)		

GSA transferred the requested records *to the FBI*, but FBI didn't access them until it had a warrant.

In other words, this 285-page report is effectively a confession from Chuck and Ron that two Committee Chairs and a whole slew of staffers can't figure out how to read the public record.

Maybe that's a hazard of conducting investigations with no Democrats? It makes it harder to read accurately?