

EXECUTIVE SESSION
PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: COREY LEWANDOWSKI

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Washington, D.C.

The interview in the above matter was held in Room HVC-304, Capitol Visitor Center, commencing at 11:00 a.m.

Present: Representatives Conaway, King, Ros-Lehtinen, Stewart, Schiff, Himes, Sewell, Carson, Speier, Quigley, Swalwell, Castro, and Heck.

Appearances:

For the PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE:

[REDACTED]

For COREY LEWANDOWSKI:

PETER CHAVKIN

MINTZ LEVIN

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██████████ Good morning all. This is a transcribed interview of Corey Lewandowski. Thank you for speaking to us today. For the record, I am ██████████
██████████ ██████████ here at the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the majority. There are a number of other folks present in the room who will announce their appearance as the proceedings get underway. And, also, the record will reflect this is Mr. Lewandowski's second appearance before the committee, having also previously appeared on January 19th of this year.

Before we begin, I wanted to state a few things for the record. The questioning will be conducted by members and staff. During the course of this interview, members and staff may ask questions during their allotted time period. Some questions may seem basic, but that is because we need to clearly establish facts and understand the situation. Please do not assume we know any facts that you have previously disclosed as part of any other investigation or review. This interview will be conducted at the unclassified level. We ask that you give complete and fulsome replies to questions based on your best recollection. If a question is unclear or you are uncertain in your response, please let us know. And if you do not know the answer to a question or cannot remember, simply say so.

You are entitled to have counsel present during this interview, and I see that you have done so. At this time, counsel can announce their name for the record.

MR. CHAVKIN: Peter Chavkin, C-h-a-v-k-i-n, from Mintz Levin.

██████████ Thank you. The interview will be transcribed. There is a

reporter making a record of these proceedings so we can easily consult a written compilation of your answers.

Because the reporter cannot record gestures, we ask that you answer all questions verbally. If you forget to do this, you might be reminded to do so. You may also be asked to spell certain terms or unusual phrases.

Consistent with the committee's rule of procedure, you and your counsel upon request will have a reasonable opportunity to inspect the transcript of this interview in order to determine whether your answers were correctly transcribed. The transcript will remain in the committee's custody. The committee also reserves the right to request your return for additional questions should the need arise.

The process for the interview will be as follows: The minority will be given 45 minutes to ask questions. Then the majority will be given 45 minutes to ask questions. We will take any breaks that you desire, after which time, we will continue to 15-minute intervals until questions are complete. Time will be kept by myself for each section with 5-minute and 1-minute marks being provided respectively.

To ensure confidentiality, we ask that you do not discuss the interview with anyone other than your attorney. And you are reminded that it is unlawful to deliberately provide false information to Members of Congress or staff. Lastly, the record will reflect that you are voluntarily participating in this interview, which will be under oath.

Mr. Lewandowski, would you raise your hand to be sworn, sir?

Thank you. Is the testimony you are about to give the truth, the whole, truth and nothing but the truth? Do you swear?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

██████████ Mr. Chairman, over to you, but I believe there may be an opening statement.

MR. CONAWAY: Thank you.

Mr. Lewandowski, thank you for coming back. Appreciate that.

Mr. Schiff, any comments?

MR. SCHIFF: No, chairman. I look forward to the hearing.

MR. CONAWAY: Mr. Lewandowski, I think you said you wanted to make an opening statement. So the floor is yours for a brief statement.

MR. CHAVKIN: With the chairman's permission, if I may. I just wanted to take a couple of minutes to describe how we came about today's appearance. As you may remember, we were here for a very lengthy, at least almost 8-hour appearance, during which time Mr. Lewandowski answered every single question put to him about his time as campaign manager, which is a period of about 18 months.

At that time, we did not prepare for questions about his time after leaving the campaign because we felt it was not relevant to the parameters of the committee. But Mr. Lewandowski pledged to come back to answer all relevant questions.

After we left the first appearance, we discovered two things: First, there was a stunning lack of preparation by the minority in connection with its questioning. The minority did not even know that it had a great number of documents that we had seen and which we even provided a copy of to the committee after that first appearance.

Second, members of the minority mischaracterized Mr. Lewandowski's first

appearance, and that was very troubling on a number of levels. First, he was lumped in with two other witnesses who had invoked executive privilege, which he had not done. He never once invoked executive privilege or, for that matter, any privilege.

Second, members of the minority suggested very pointedly that Mr. Lewandowski was stonewalling the committee at the request of the White House when there wasn't a single bit of evidence to support that. And, indeed, Mr. Lewandowski had testified under oath that he had not been asked by the White House to decline to answer any question put by this committee.

And, thirdly, the minority did not -- members of the minority did not acknowledge that Mr. Lewandowski had answered every single question put to him for 8 hours about his time in the campaign, suggesting that he had avoided answering questions. And to Congressman King's great credit, as he pointed out during the hearing, Mr. Lewandowski's testimony was as detailed or more detailed than any other witness who had come before the committee to that point. None of that, none of that was disclosed to the media. Instead, a skewed portrait of what happened was put out on the airwaves. In addition, no one mentioned from the minority side that Mr. Lewandowski had pledged to return.

Now that would have been troubling if it had been aberrational, but the problem for us was compounded by the fact that this appeared to be part of a pattern. And if I may, Mr. Chairman, I want to just quote from something that Congressman Rooney, who was the chair for our hearing last time, put out bravely and eloquently to The New York Times. As he said, and I quote: The House Russia investigation has just completely gone off the rails politically. It has become a tool for Democrats, whether it be Members or staff, to use to drive the

media of the day. This is no longer an investigation about getting information. This is an investigation to see who can get to the media first to make the other side look bad.

Even a Congressman for which I have great respect, Jim Himes, bemoaned that too much time is being spent in the news. And I wish, although I don't see him here today, that members of the minority -- oh, I guess I do see him -- would embrace what Congressman Heck did last night when Don Lemon on CNN asked him whether Mr. Mr. Lewandowski was coming back today. And Congressman Heck said, with great responsibility, that he does not identify who or when witnesses come before this committee. And, yet, again, Mr. Lewandowski's appearance today, just like his first appearance, was leaked to the press.

So why have we returned? Because the chairman had asked us to return, and we have great respect for that request, and we are honoring it today. But these events lead us to the following: We are not here to replot ground covered in the 8 hours of our first appearance. So we are not going -- I am going to advise Mr. Lewandowski that questions about his time as campaign manager, which was thoroughly exhausted during his first appearance, are out of bounds. Second, we believe that any relevant question or questions should take a good deal south of 1 hour. And, thirdly, I will be advising Mr. Lewandowski not to answer any question that is not pertinent to the purposes of this committee.

And I want to be clear about something before anybody, majority or minority, goes out to the media to characterize this. This is not the invocation of a privilege. This is the invocation of a legal right of every American citizen. It dates back, Mr. Quigley, to 1957, a dark chapter in American history that came out of the House Un-American Activities Committee, when the Supreme Court in

Watkins v. United States made clear the following: The power of the Congress to conduct investigations is broad, but broad as is this power of inquiry, it is not unlimited. Congress is not a law enforcement or trial agency. No inquiry is an end in itself. It must be related to and in furtherance of a legitimate task of the Congress.

And here is perhaps the most important quote: This is a jurisdictional concept of pertinency drawn from the nature of a congressional committee's source of authority. And that's at page 206, 354 U.S., 1957.

Now, pertinency is defined by the purpose of this committee, and fortunately, Congresswoman Speier, we don't have to guess about the purpose of this committee because the committee has made that abundantly clear in its four parameters. The purpose of this committee, as defined by the committee, is to investigate: What Russian cyber activity and other active measures were directed against the United States and its allies? Did the Russian active measures include links between Russia and individuals associated with political campaigns or any other U.S. persons? What was the U.S. Government's response to these Russian active measures, and what do we need do to protect ourselves and our allies in the future? And, finally, the fourth parameter, what possible leaks of classified information took place related to the Intelligence Community assessment of these matters?

As I might remind the committee, which I assume the committee needs no reminding, the House Resolution 658 from 1977, which established the new Permanent Select Committee of the House, states that the purpose is to oversee and make continuing studies of the intelligence and intelligence-related activities and programs of the United States Government. If I may say, as a personal

matter, that does not include smearing the current President of the United States.

As Congressman Rooney put it, before this investigation, quote, "we were there just to find out what our spies were doing and what we are doing in the clandestine world and the Intelligence Community and help them do their job," end quote.

I want to reiterate, when I advise Mr. Lewandowski not to answer a question that's not pertinent, just so we are absolutely 100 percent crystal clear, he is not invoking a privilege; he is being guided by his lawyer on the most basic legal right of every American, which I believe in my heart every member of this committee wants to honor.

Thank you for affording me the time, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CONAWAY: Mr. Schiff, 45 minutes.

MR. SCHIFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Before I yield to my colleague I want to respond to counsel. First of all, that was a very nice speech.

MR. QUIGLEY: Or a lecture.

MR. SCHIFF: There was a stunning lack of preparation before Mr. Lewandowski's last appearance, but it wasn't by the minority. It was by Mr. Lewandowski and yourself. To come before this committee and say, "We are not going to answer any questions, however relevant they may be, as to anything that Mr. Lewandowski saw or heard about the issue of collusion after he left the campaign, because we are not prepared," and that's what you said, was a stunning lack of preparation.

Now, actually, I don't think it was because of lack of preparation. I think you were all too prepared for those questions and had just made the decision that

you were not going to answer them and see if you could get away with the failure to answer those questions.

I am glad that Mr. Lewandowski has come back to answer them, but it was all the more stunning because it wasn't based on any claim of privilege. It was just based on a "I'd rather not answer, I am not prepared to do so." That was stunning. And I think that was stonewalling. You may not want to characterize it that way, but given there is no applicable privilege and given the questions were relevant, it is hard to reach any other conclusion.

I would also say that the coincidence that the point at which Mr. Lewandowski refused to answer questions, that is, after he left the campaign, being exactly the same point at which Mr. Bannon refused to answer questions after he left the campaign was striking to this committee. We know, of course, with respect to Mr. Bannon, that that was at the request of the White House. You have represented that was not true of Mr. Lewandowski, but we asked Mr. Lewandowski about his conversations with the President. And while he answered some of them, he refused to answer a great many others. So we were not able to ascertain what advice he was given or what comments the President or others may have made in anticipation of his testimony. Hopefully, we can rectify that today.

Finally, with respect to your representation that you will instruct the witness not to answer any question that you deem in your own opinion not to be sufficiently relevant, that's not your decision. Relevance is a decision for the committee to make. You may not know why a question is relevant. You haven't sat here and listened to all the other witnesses. And so you are not in a position to lecture us about what is relevant or not. You can advise your client anything you want, and

he can refuse to answer any question he wants.

What you can't do is refuse to answer questions and then go out and tell people you are fully cooperating when you are not and when your client is not.

But your client is here voluntarily. We will proceed on that basis. We have urged, where witnesses refused to answer pertinent questions, that they be subpoenaed. At times, we have done that, and at times, we have not. And I hope, though, that won't be necessary.

And, with that, I yield to my colleague Mr. Quigley.

MR. QUIGLEY: I always appreciate an early morning lecture. I guess the only thing I would have added to the comments would be so you mentioned that his testimony was more detailed than any other previous interview. How in the world would you know that?

MR. CHAVKIN: May I respond, Mr. Chairman?

MR. CONAWAY: Yes.

MR. CHAVKIN: MR. Quigley, if you were listening carefully -- it may be early in the morning for you, but not for me; I have been up for a number of hours -- it was Mr. King's comment. Mr. King has been here for a good number of the hearings. I have no idea how detailed his testimony is compared to any other witness, but I do trust in the judgment of one of the great Congressmen on this committee.

MR. QUIGLEY: So, Mr. Lewandowski, thank you so much for coming back. I appreciate that. I can't guarantee you there won't be -- we are going to try not to -- avoid any duplication. But there will be some that at least have to be referenced to give understanding of the question. And there are issues that have come up since your previous testimony which make questioning about your time

as campaign manager pertinent under anyone's concern. So thank you for being here. When was the last time you spoke with the President?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Monday.

MR. QUIGLEY: And did you talk about your testimony today?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: Have you ever spoken to the President of the United States about your testimony, either before you were testifying or after you testified?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: So the day before you testified the first time, you mentioned that you had a call with the President on January 16th, that, again, the day prior to your interview. Who initiated that call with the President?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: The President.

MR. QUIGLEY: And he called you the day before you testified. Was he calling you from the White House?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I can't answer that question. I don't know where he called from.

MR. QUIGLEY: How long did that conversation last?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know.

MR. QUIGLEY: Minutes, hours?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Minutes.

MR. QUIGLEY: Was anyone else on the call?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I can't answer that question, I don't know.

MR. QUIGLEY: Well, did you hear anyone else's voice on the phone?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: What was that conversation about?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: The conversation didn't pertain to anything about this committee.

MR. QUIGLEY: Well, what did you talk about?

MR. CHAVKIN: I am going to advise my client that he is not going to answer a question that broad. That's a fishing expedition. If you want to ask him whether he discussed any one of the parameters or anything related to those four parameters, that's fair game. But you are not going to go into what his conversations with the President entailed.

MR. QUIGLEY: It gets to where Mr. Schiff was. The conversation could be about a multitude of things, and that would be a fishing expedition -- if I started listing 50 things that, in your mind, may or may not be pertinent: discussions about sanctions, discussions about Russia, discussions about election issues and involvement by other countries. So, if we have to do it that way, it's a much longer fishing expedition. You don't want 8-hour interviews, just answer that question.

MR. CHAVKIN: He's not going to answer a general question about what he talked about with the President that has nothing to do with the parameters of this committee. If you want to start asking him about specifics, whether that came up in the conversation, that's fine.

MR. QUIGLEY: Again, Mr. Chairman, all I can say is I don't know how else to do this, and if the attorney is going to be allowed to dictate exactly how every bit of this testimony goes, it is not going to be particularly productive.

MR. CONAWAY: Michael, all I can say is keep asking the questions that you want answered.

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MR. QUIGLEY: What topics were discussed in your conversation?

MR. CHAVKIN: Again, that's the same question, Mr. Quigley.

MR. QUIGLEY: Did you discuss anything related to your future employment?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: Was the word "Russia" included anywhere in the conversation?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not that I recall, no.

MR. QUIGLEY: Prior to your first interview before this committee, did anyone suggest to you that you not answer any questions beyond your tenure with the campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. CHAVKIN: Other than his counsel.

MR. QUIGLEY: Correct.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: Did anyone before your first interview talk to you about what you should or -- other than counsel, what you should or should not talk about?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: Anyone remotely connected with the campaign or with the White House, no one at all?

MR. CHAVKIN: One minute.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Other than being told to tell the truth, there was no other conversation about any testimony or information I should share with the committee from anybody associated with the campaign or the White House.

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MR. QUIGLEY: Who told you to tell the truth?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: The President.

MR. QUIGLEY: So when did you talk to the President where he said to tell you -- the truth about this testimony?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know the day.

MR. QUIGLEY: Was it before your first testimony?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It was.

MR. QUIGLEY: If it wasn't the day before, how soon before that day you testified did you talk to the President where he said that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: You know, Mr. Quigley, I know you may not believe this, but I speak to the President on a regular basis, and I don't write down every time I that. And so I can't tell you the specific date I spoke to the President and he said: Make sure you tell the truth.

MR. QUIGLEY: What else in that conversation did you talk to the President about relating to this testimony?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Nothing.

MR. QUIGLEY: So the only thing he said was he just blurted out, "When you testify, tell the truth"?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MR. QUIGLEY: You didn't ask him what you should say? You didn't ask the President of the United States what not to talk about at all any time previous to your first testimony?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I did not.

MR. QUIGLEY: Any time previous to today, did you talk to the President of the United States about any testimony you might give to anybody, special counsel,

the Senate, any House or Senate committees?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Can you repeat the question, please?

MR. QUIGLEY: At any time previous to any testimony you have given or it was suggested you might give, before any House, Senate committees or before the special counsel, your conversations with the President, were there any other times, other than the one you just mentioned where he said, "tell the truth," that you talked to the President about your testimony?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He never instructed me to testify one way or the other, never.

MR. QUIGLEY: But did you talk about it with him?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: About my testimony and what I would say? I did not.

MR. QUIGLEY: Did he talk to you at all about your testimony?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: In all the conversations that you could possibly imagine, remember before your first or second testimony, not just before the House?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my knowledge, no.

MR. QUIGLEY: Did anyone else associated with the campaign or with the White House talk to you before your first interview here or before any testimony you were going to be asked to give about what you should or shouldn't say?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: Did you talk to anyone else, other than your attorney, about what you might say?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I might have told my wife I was coming here because I figured someone would leak it anyways.

MR. QUIGLEY: Before your second -- before today's testimony, anybody associated with the campaign or the White House, before your testimony here or any other testimony you may have given or might give, anyone talk to you about it in any way, shape or form?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: To the best of my recollection, other than counsel, no one has instructed me to testify one way or another on any topic that would be pertinent to this committee, no.

MR. QUIGLEY: Did they talk to you about your testimony?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: They did not.

MR. QUIGLEY: Going back a minute. You mentioned in your first interview that you normally communicated with the candidate at the time in person or by cell phone. You testified that Mr. Trump at the time used a 212 number during the campaign and you would provide us with that number. Do you have that information today?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I do not.

MR. QUIGLEY: Is it your intention to produce that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I think if you want the President's cell phone number, you should call the White House.

MR. QUIGLEY: Again, Mr. Chairman --

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It is not my obligation to provide you with the President's cell phone number. Sorry.

MR. QUIGLEY: It is your responsibility to provide production as requested.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: If you want the President's cell phone number, you can call the White House and get it or call General Kelly. He might be able to share it with you.

MR. CONAWAY: Just keep asking the questions.

MR. QUIGLEY: When was the last time you were at the White House?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yesterday.

MR. QUIGLEY: The day before -- just yesterday, right?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That would be the day before today, right.

Yesterday is how we define that.

MR. QUIGLEY: All right. Who did you talk to at the White House yesterday?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No one.

MR. QUIGLEY: You didn't say a word when you were there the whole time?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That's correct.

MR. QUIGLEY: How long were you there?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Minutes.

MR. QUIGLEY: So what was the purpose of your meeting, your attending the White House?

MR. CHAVKIN: Again, this is not pertinent to the parameters of this committee's investigation.

MR. QUIGLEY: You were invited to some event or a meeting at the White House. Is that correct?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, it's not.

MR. QUIGLEY: You just showed up.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: So what was the reason you went to the White House?

MR. CHAVKIN: Again, the same question, Mr. Quigley.

MR. QUIGLEY: How many times have you been to the White House since the inauguration?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know the answer to that question.

MR. QUIGLEY: One time, 5 times, 10 times, two dozen times. You have to have some ballpark sense of how many times.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: More than 1, less than 100.

MR. QUIGLEY: And how many of those less than 100 times did you talk with the President of the United States?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Probably 70 percent of the time I was at the White House I spoke to the President.

MR. QUIGLEY: And in those meetings, in those discussions, there was never any discussions with you about Russia or sanctions?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: There were no conversations regarding Russian sanctions.

MR. QUIGLEY: Russia or sanctions.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: During my time at the White House, no. There were no conversation I recall about Russia or sanctions?

MR. QUIGLEY: That's a lot of times going to the White House. Do you have an official, unofficial role of some sort there?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I have no role.

MR. QUIGLEY: So, when you are there, you are there advising the President?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: Those were all social visits?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: They vary.

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MR. QUIGLEY: Was yesterday a social visit?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, it was not.

MR. QUIGLEY: So you went there and you didn't meet anyone and you didn't talk to anyone yesterday?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That's an accurate representation. Yes.

MR. QUIGLEY: How many times did you go to the White House where you just showed up, didn't talk to a soul, didn't meet with a soul?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Just yesterday.

MR. QUIGLEY: Just yesterday. No coincidence that you are testifying today and yesterday you were at the White House and didn't talk or meet with anyone?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I see no coincidence to that, no.

MR. QUIGLEY: How are the tours this time of year?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know, but if you would like to get access, I might be able to get you in. There is a long line, though.

MR. QUIGLEY: You don't have a badge to enter the White House?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, sir.

MR. QUIGLEY: But you have to be invited and cleared each time you go since you are not an employee, correct?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe that's the processes, yes.

MR. QUIGLEY: So who authorized you to enter yesterday?

MR. CHAVKIN: Again, what -- the purpose of this committee is not to investigate how the White House conducts its business on a regular basis. It is to investigate what Russia apparently did in connection with the Presidential election. I apologize for the lecture here, Mr. Schiff, but the fact is sometimes it is necessary

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when things are so far off the rails, as Congressman Rooney pointed out.

MR. QUIGLEY: You have got to imagine that what we are talking about here is the possibility of cooperation or collusion with members of this administration. And the fact that you were at the White House yesterday and didn't talk to anyone, didn't meet anyone, you won't talk about any other of these discussions about what the topics were or those that you had with the President of the United States on the day before, it's just -- it strains credibility, and that's why you have to ask these questions because, frankly, you are not answering them.

MR. CHAVKIN: Mr. Quigley, that's not accurate.

MR. SCHIFF: If I could interject here. I think we can see enough that we are going to need to subpoena this witness, and I make the request that we do so.

Counsel, the witness goes to the White House the day before his testimony. He won't tell us why he went. He won't tell us whether he was invited. He won't tell us whether he had a meeting with the President and it was canceled or the President was otherwise busy. He had a conversation with the President the day before his testimony, but he won't tell us what that conversation was about, because you deign it not relevant. Well, we don't know if it is relevant. And you don't know if it is relevant. You think you know it, but we need to test the veracity of this witness.

Now if he testifies that he went to the White House to talk with the President about someone's wedding, fine. Tell us it was somebody's wedding; we won't probe about the wedding plans. But if it is pertinent to this investigation and it is pertinent to us to tell whether Mr. Lewandowski is telling us the truth, we need to get answers. And it isn't sufficient and this committee has never accepted of other witnesses a simple "we'll decide what is relevant and what is not."

So we make that request, Mr. Chairman. We will continue with our questions because I know you want to take that under consideration, but no credible investigation can be conducted if the witness decides what questions he will answer and what questions he won't, particularly ones that are so clearly pertinent to our investigation.

MR. CHAVKIN: That is an especially skewed representation of what this witness has told you. He is prepared to answer whether he had conversations connected with Russia, connected with this investigation, and he answered that.

MR. SCHIFF: That you deem connected.

MR. CHAVKIN: No, no, no. It has to do with what your questions ask.

MR. SCHIFF: Counsel, you are reserving the right to decide without explaining any basis.

MR. CHAVKIN: I am explaining the basis, Mr. Schiff.

MR. SCHIFF: Counsel --

MR. CHAVKIN: -- to test Mr. Lewandowski's --

MR. CONAWAY: One at a time. One at a time.

MR. SCHIFF: Let's just go on with the questions.

MR. QUIGLEY: All right. I know nobody wants to be here 8 hours, so I will go through a punch list of what you -- any time during the campaign, transition, and post-inauguration, did you talk to the President of the United States about Russian investigations in Congress?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: To the best of my recollection, the only conversation I recall having with the President, the President-elect or the candidate would have been me telling him that I was there from the beginning of the campaign and never saw a Russian, never interacted with a Russian. And he

responded, and I paraphrase: I never spoke to a Russian either. You know that. You were there.

That's, to the best of my recollection, the extent of our conversations regarding anything to do with Russia.

MR. QUIGLEY: And Russian investigation?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Including the Russia investigation. Yes.

MR. QUIGLEY: How about Special Counsel Mueller's investigation. Any communication at all with the President?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: To the best of my recollection, I have never spoken to the President about Special Counsel Mueller.

MR. QUIGLEY: Or his investigation?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Or his investigation. That's right.

MR. QUIGLEY: Same question, same timeframe, his policy toward Russia?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Which policy, sir?

MR. QUIGLEY: His foreign policy used toward Russia?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe that my conversations with then-candidate Trump were the same conversations he had in public, which were to have him say: Why can't we have a better relationship with Russia so that we can fight ISIS together in Syria?

MR. QUIGLEY: Did he talk about how he might have that better relationship? What he would have to do to improve the relationship?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: To the best of my recollection, he did not.

MR. QUIGLEY: Improved cooperation, easing sanctions?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, sir. Those conversations never took place

that I am aware of between myself and the principal.

MR. QUIGLEY: Any conversations, communications with the President, with the candidate, the same timeframe, sir, involving former FBI Director James Comey?

MR. CHAVKIN: Again, that is a question that has nothing to do with the parameters of this investigation by this committee.

MR. SCHIFF: Counsel, it has everything to do with the parameters of our investigation and the U.S. Government response to the Russian hacking of our election. So you can instruct your witness not to answer the question, but don't tell us it's not pertinent.

MR. CHAVKIN: I am instructing him on the basis of pertinence.

MR. QUIGLEY: Let's just -- I will play the game. This committee's investigation began with Director Comey announcing that there was an investigation and that -- when it started and why and the fact that there was Russian interference and it was to help one candidate and not another. So that's kind of the crux of why we're here is because of that investigation starting and the fact that Director Comey was the one that announced it to the world and the fact that since then, oh, by the way, he has been fired by the same President of the United States. So, in a million years, I am trying to imagine how you figure that's not pertinent because if that's not pertinent, being here 8 to 10 hours would be a waste of time. If that's not pertinent, you are wasting everybody's time.

MR. CHAVKIN: Obviously, we disagree, Mr. Quigley. Mr. Lewandowski has answered a great number of your questions already.

MR. QUIGLEY: How about how Mr. Comey was fired, Director Comey was fired? Never have a conversation about that?

MR. CHAVKIN: Same point.

MR. QUIGLEY: He's not going to answer that?

MR. CHAVKIN: It doesn't relate to the parameters of your investigation, which is Russian interference, Russian cyber activity.

MR. SCHIFF: Counsel, you are instructing your witness not to answer?

MR. CHAVKIN: I am.

MR. QUIGLEY: How about conversations with Attorney General Jeff Sessions?

MR. CHAVKIN: Conversations between the witness and Attorney General Jeff Sessions?

MR. QUIGLEY: I was going through the checklist of conversations that Mr. Lewandowski may or may not have had with the President of the United States involving these people. So I was going through the checklist to try to do this as quickly as possible.

MR. CHAVKIN: I am instructing him not to answer on pertinence grounds.

MR. QUIGLEY: Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein.

MR. CHAVKIN: Same point.

MR. QUIGLEY: FBI Director Christopher Wray.

MR. CHAVKIN: Same point.

MR. QUIGLEY: How about that same question with anybody else in the White House or related to the campaign?

MR. CHAVKIN: I am not sure I understand the question, Mr. Quigley.

MR. QUIGLEY: Have you had conversations with anyone else in the White House about Russia investigations in Congress? I am going to go through the same checklist, if you want to say that he can't talk about those. I just -- I am

trying to help you get to the point and you are trying to get to the point where he doesn't answer questions. However you phrase this, I am trying to do this a little bit shorthand so we can not beat the dead horse.

MR. CHAVKIN: No, I appreciate that and admire the effort. What I think the last question is a different question from what you have asked before, so could you repeat it, please?

MR. QUIGLEY: Have you had any discussions with anyone at the White House during transition or since the inauguration about the Russian investigations in Congress

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MR. QUIGLEY: And who were those conversations with?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe I discussed it with Ms. Hicks, Mr. Schiller, Mr. Bannon, very likely other members of the communications team of the White House.

MR. QUIGLEY: Can you name some of them?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Could have been Mr. Spicer, Mr. Priebus. Probably Mr. Kelly, Mr. Miller.

MR. QUIGLEY: Is that general?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It is.

MR. QUIGLEY: What was the most recent of these conversations?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: The best recollection that I have is probably some 90 days ago.

MR. QUIGLEY: Who was that with?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Probably Ms. Hicks.

MR. QUIGLEY: And what did you tell her?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I think we were discussing the relevant news of the day and whatever CNN was reporting on the latest Russian hoax.

MR. QUIGLEY: Do you recall what you told her?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't recall specifically, no.

MR. QUIGLEY: Do you know generally what you said?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I probably said this is all bullshit.

MR. QUIGLEY: And do you recall what her response was?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't recall verbatim. No.

MR. QUIGLEY: Did she talk to you about your testimony?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: Did you talk to her about it?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: How about Mr. Schiller?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I can just clarify. Again, I did not speak to anyone from the White House about my testimony. So we can through each individual I just mentioned, but what I am going to say is I think I have answered that question that no one from the White House has instructed me to testify. I will be happy to go through each individual again if you would like.

MR. QUIGLEY: Let's go back to Mr. Schiller about your discussions with him about the Russia investigations in Congress.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Is that a question?

MR. QUIGLEY: Yes.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Is the question?

MR. QUIGLEY: When was that conversation?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Probably the same timeframe, 90 days

approximately.

MR. QUIGLEY: Was there only one conversation with him about that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Probably, yes. One conversation, to the best of my recollection.

MR. QUIGLEY: And what did you communicate to Mr. Schiller?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: The same sentiment which I communicated to Ms. Hicks.

MR. QUIGLEY: And his response?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: "You're right," paraphrased.

MR. QUIGLEY: Let's go to the communication team. What was your -- do you recall when your conversation with Mr. Spicer would have been?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That would have been probably sometime last summer, late spring, before Mr. Spicer departed the building.

MR. QUIGLEY: And the general topic of that conversation and about the Russian investigations, what were you suggesting at that time?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I probably contacted, to the best of my recollection, Mr. Spicer for whatever the relevant news of the day was as he was doing -- providing talking points to surrogates on behalf of the White House.

MR. QUIGLEY: He was providing those or you were helping him come up with --

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He was providing those as the communications director of the White House.

MR. QUIGLEY: And so he wanted you to be one of those?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: To the best of my knowledge, it is a standard document that gets distributed to anybody who may be on television or in the

media.

MR. QUIGLEY: And did he talk to you about what you might communicate?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, sir, not to my recollection.

MR. QUIGLEY: He just said, "If you want to speak on behalf of the White House as a surrogate, you have to fill out this form"?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, sir. He asked me if I wanted the talking points distributed, that they distributed to most of the other surrogates, and I said I did.

MR. QUIGLEY: And what did those talking points include?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I honestly don't recall.

MR. QUIGLEY: Do you still have them?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I do not.

MR. QUIGLEY: Did you use them?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't recall.

MR. QUIGLEY: Your conversations with Mr. Priebus about this, Russian investigations in Congress, when was the last time you talked with him about this?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It would have been prior to Mr. Priebus' departure. He departed the White House I believe in July of last year.

MR. QUIGLEY: You haven't spoken to him since about this?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That's accurate. Yes, sir.

MR. QUIGLEY: And what specifically did you talk about involving these investigations to Mr. Priebus?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe it was my recommendation to have the communications team put together some talking points so that surrogates who were unfamiliar with the topic would have something to say if they appeared on

television.

MR. QUIGLEY: And your conversations with General Kelly, what was the last time you spoke with General Kelly?

MR. CHAVKIN: Are we talking about the topic of --

MR. QUIGLEY: I just want to find out the last time he spoke with General Kelly first.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I spoke with General Kelly on Sunday.

MR. QUIGLEY: And what did you talk about with General Kelly?

MR. CHAVKIN: Again, Mr. Quigley, same rabbit hole. You want to ask a specific question about whether his conversations with General Kelly related to --

MR. QUIGLEY: Well, since it was Sunday, did you talk to him about the special counsel's investigation?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: Did you talk to him about policy toward Russia?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: Did you talk to him about Russian sanctions?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: Did you talk to him about the FBI Director or James Comey at all?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: Did you talk to him about the actions of Attorney General Rod Rosenstein?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: Or the actions and the investigation by Special Counsel Mueller?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: Did you talk to him about the FBI Director?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: Did you talk to General Kelly about Michael Cohen?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: Ever?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't recall ever having a conversation with General Kelly about Michael Cohen.

MR. QUIGLEY: Just so you can say one more time, because we are having to go through this exercise, you talked to General Kelly on Sunday and you didn't talk about the House, this House committee investigating Russia?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That is correct. I did not speak to General Kelly about that.

MR. QUIGLEY: And you can't tell us what you talked to General Kelly about just a few days ago.

MR. CHAVKIN: No, no, that's not --

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Well, I can.

MR. CHAVKIN: He can. He is being advised that that's not pertinent. He has also answered now what looks to me like a dozen questions about what he spoke with Mr. Kelly about.

MR. QUIGLEY: He won't answer the things that --

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: -- General Kelly asked how my trip to Greece was that I had just returned from on Sunday.

MR. SCHIFF: That would have short-circuited --

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It's none of your fucking business why I talked to

General Kelly if it has nothing to with this committee. He wanted to know how my trip was Greece was because I had just gone over and made a speech which is not relevant to anything that transpires here, so why I have to disclose my conversation with General Kelly, which was a personal conversation about how my travel went, is not relevant to the committee's jurisdiction. It's very simple.

MR. QUIGLEY: It makes it a lot easier if you -- no one is going to want to know the details of those, but it answers the questions, and we can move on because the rabbit hole goes on forever if you don't answer it because we have to keep asking to find out if isn't any one of -- we have to negate all the other things it can't be because you won't answer it.

MR. CHAVKIN: Mr. Quigley.

MR. QUIGLEY: It is a deep, deep hole.

MR. CHAVKIN: I don't want to cut you off. Are you finished? Because one thing I have learned about the minority members on this committee is that there is no answer that will be sufficient because the next answer will lead to another question so that you can have your sound byte that Mr. Lewandowski didn't answer some question.

MR. QUIGLEY: I am looking for the cameras.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Oh, I am sure you guys all know where the cameras are.

MR. CHAVKIN: In fact, last time, you managed to see the cameras during Mr. Lewandowski's appearance.

MR. CONAWAY: Gentlemen, let's get back on topic.

MR. QUIGLEY: Have you ever talked to anyone on the majority staff about your testimony?

MR. CHAVKIN: Majority staff of this committee?

MR. QUIGLEY: Yes.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. QUIGLEY: Have you ever talked to the chairman of this committee about the actions of this committee or your testimony before this committee?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Chairman Conaway? No.

MR. QUIGLEY: Chairman Nunes?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I've never spoken to Chairman Nunes in my life.

MR. QUIGLEY: Or his staff.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my recollection, no.

MR. QUIGLEY: Have you made any promises or representations to anyone that you will not put the President in any sort of legal liability with respect to this investigation?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I have not.

MR. QUIGLEY: How much time do we have?

██████████ Eight minutes.

MR. SCHIFF: I just want to ask a few followup questions on Mr. Quigley's line of inquiry. You testified that the President called you the day before your testimony when you last came before this committee. Is that right?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes, it is.

MR. SCHIFF: And you said, during that conversation, the President told you to tell the truth in your testimony. Is that right?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't think it was that conversation, but that was the only conversation I ever had about potential testimony, was he simply said: Tell the truth.

MR. SCHIFF: And how did that come up?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't remember exactly, but he and I were discussing an unrelated topic, and I said to him that I had been asked by the committee to come. I told him that. And his response to me was: Go tell the truth.

MR. SCHIFF: Now I thought that you had written to the committee to say that it was a conversation the day before your testimony before this committee, your prior testimony, that the President had told you to tell the truth.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It may have been on that occasion, but I can't with 100 percent certainty say that was the occasion, but the only time I recall having a conversation with the President about anything relevant to this committee was when I told him I had been asked to come to the committee, and his response was to tell the truth.

MR. SCHIFF: And why did you bring that up with the President?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I thought it would be relevant that he should know that I was going to appear before the committee.

MR. SCHIFF: And why did you think he should know that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Because the news was going to report that I was going to appear.

MR. SCHIFF: And were you looking for his guidance on what you should do in the testimony?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SCHIFF: Did I understand your testimony earlier that you had a conversation with the President about his never meeting any Russians, and you had a conversation with the President about having better relations with Russia.

Was that one conversation or two conversations?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: The conversation which took place about better relations with Russia took place, to the best of my recollection, during the campaign as he was talking about potential relationship with Russia. And it would have taken place on multiple occasions. And it was the same basic conversation, which was, why is it that we can't have a better relationship with Russia so that we can join together to fight ISIS?

██████████ Five minutes.

MR. SCHIFF: And so the conversation you described in which the President said that he had never met any Russians during the campaign, that was the one conversation you had after the campaign with the President on the subject of Russia. Is that your testimony?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: To the best of my recollection, yes.

MR. SCHIFF: So with the President, who talks about Russia literally every day or almost every day, both publicly and reportedly within the White House, in the somewhere less than 100 conversations you have had with him, he only brought it up once. Is that your testimony?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, my testimony is that, during the campaign, we discussed the ability to work with Russia on multiple occasions and partnering potentially with Russia to rid ISIS off the face of the Earth. And following that, there had been very limited, if -- I don't recall many conversations at all about Russia following the campaign, during his tenure as the President.

MR. SCHIFF: Well, I am not sure how to reconcile what you are saying with what you said earlier. Are you saying now that it was only one conversation that you had where he said he had never met a Russian during the campaign, or

are you saying that there were multiple conversations that took place after the campaign on the topic of the Russia investigation?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: We didn't discuss an investigation.

MR. SCHIFF: All right. I don't want to get hung up on the word "investigation." You have testified you talked with him somewhere less than 100 times.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, I said I visited the White House less than 100 times. I didn't say I spoke to him less than 100 times.

MR. SCHIFF: How many times would you say you have spoken to the President since the election?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I can't quantify that number. I don't know.

MR. SCHIFF: But it is would you say dozens of times?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MR. SCHIFF: And in those dozens of times you have talked with the President since the election, is it your testimony that a President that speaks about Russia almost every day has only had one conversation with you on the topic?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't recall multiple conversations with the President on the topic?

MR. SCHIFF: So, in those dozens of conversations since the election, to the best of your recollection, the President has only raised the topic of Russia in any way, shape, or form a single time. Is that your testimony?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No. My testimony is that, as it relates to a Russian investigation, I only recall one conversation directly with the President, which was I initiated the discussion of saying that I was there from the beginning, and I never met a Russian and never interacted with a Russian, and he confirmed

that with his statement, to paraphrase, which he said: You were right. You were there from the beginning. And you know I never met a Russian either.

MR. SCHIFF: Mr. Lewandowski, you seem to be taking the word "investigation" very literally.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I thought that's what we were here for, an investigation.

MR. SCHIFF: Well, we are, but we don't want you to be behind a very strict legalistic interpretation of my question.

Are you saying that you had other conversations with the President since his election that were about Russia but didn't involve the word "investigation"?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I cannot say with 100 percent certainty that, during any conversation I have had since he has become the President, the word "Russia" did not appear in that discussion. I could not say that with 100 percent certainty.

MR. SCHIFF: Could you tell us what other conversations you have had with the President about any aspect of Russian policy, his interactions or that of those of his campaign with Russia or the Russia investigation. Can you tell us about any other conversations you have had with him since he was elected?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Again, there's nothing that immediately comes to mind of a discussion regarding Russian policy or Russia investigation, but that's not to say the term "Russia" never arose in our conversations.

MR. SCHIFF: But you can't give us any specifics. Is that your testimony?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I think -- no, I believe, upon his return from an overseas travel where he met with Vladimir Putin, I think he told me that he met with him, which was widely reported, but that's all. There was no in-depth

conversation.

MR. SCHIFF: And in related to about his meeting with Putin, did he discuss with you their discussion about Russia's role in the hacking of emails?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SCHIFF: Did you ever discuss with anyone at the White House the GOP memo on the FISA application involving Carter Page?

MR. CHAVKIN: We are talking about the recent memo?

MR. SCHIFF: Yes.

MR. CHAVKIN: Okay.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't believe I've had a conversation with anyone at the White House on that, no, sir.

MR. SCHIFF: Have you had a conversation with anyone affiliated with the campaign about the GOP memo?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my recollection, no.

[Recess.]

[12:00 p.m.]

MR. SCHIFF: Ms. Speier.

MS. SPEIER: How much time?

██████████ You have about 30 seconds, ma'am.

MR. SCHIFF: We will send back to you.

MR. KING: Mr. Lewandowski, since you are being asked questions post the election, at any time during the transition, or since the President took office, are you aware of any coordination, conspiracy, collusion between the Trump administration, President-elect Trump, and the Russians?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, sir, never.

MR. KING: Or anyone in the Trump campaign organization during that time, or the White House staff during that time?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, sir.

██████████ Mr. Lewandowski, are you aware of any evidence or information that might be qualified as evidence, whatever your definition of that word may be, that would show that there was any collusion, coordination, or conspiracy between members of the Trump campaign and the Russian Government?

MR. CHAVKIN: Can I just jump in?

██████████ Sure.

MR. CHAVKIN: We're all aware there were a bunch of emails out there with Papadopoulos and Page. We're excluding that, I assume?

██████████ Yes, sir.

MR. CHAVKIN: Okay.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I am not.

██████████ Thank you.

That's it. Back over to you, Ms. Speier.

MR. SCHIFF: Ms. Speier.

MS. SPEIER: Mr. Chavkin, let me just ask you a couple question. Did you talk to any member of the majority staff before the first interview?

MR. CHAVKIN: I'm not here testifying, Ms. Speier.

MS. SPEIER: I know you're not here to testify, but we are -- we do want to know whether or not you had conversations with any members of the majority staff before the first interview?

MR. CHAVKIN: I'm not going to answer questions by the committee at this point. I'm not here as a witness.

MS. SPEIER: Well, you're here representing your client.

MR. CHAVKIN: Absolutely.

MS. SPEIER: So it's conceivable that you had a conversation with the majority staff in terms of representing your client. Did you?

MR. CHAVKIN: I'm not getting into any conversation I did or did not have. I'm not here as a witness, Ms. Speier. I'm here to advise Mr. Lewandowski with respect to your questions.

MS. SPEIER: Okay. You said that you spoke, Mr. Lewandowski, that you spoke to the President on Monday, correct?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MS. SPEIER: And how long was that conversation?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Approximately 5 to 10 minutes.

MS. SPEIER: And who initiated that conversation?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: The President.

MS. SPEIER: And did he complain about the committee to you at that time, the House committee?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: We had no discussion about the committee at all.

MS. SPEIER: He didn't complain to you about this being a hoax?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: We had no discussion regarding Russia or the committee's work at all.

MS. SPEIER: Did he comment on your loyalty?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, he did not.

MS. SPEIER: So when you had this conversation, and you're not clear, to my understanding, whether it was this conversation or the one before your initial interview, and there was a confirmation that you hadn't met with any Russians, and that the President hadn't met with any Russians. Did the President initiate that confirmation statement?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No. I did.

MS. SPEIER: You did. And how did that come up?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That discussion did not take place on Monday. It took place some months ago, and I believe it is when -- I don't recall the exact day of the discussion, but I stated to him -- I was at the campaign from the beginning and was unequivocal, in my belief, that I had never met a Russian or interacted with any Russian during the campaign. And he said, You're right. You were there from the beginning, and I never did either.

MS. SPEIER: And that was just a comment you made apropos of nothing? It just sort of was something that popped into your head? It wasn't part of a conversation about the potential relationship or intervention of the Russians in the campaign or the reference that Director Comey made about doing an

investigation, looking into whether or not the campaign had a relationship with Russian operatives?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That's right.

MS. SPEIER: It just came into your head and you said it?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I was probably responding to a news story and started the conversation, or part of our conversation was related to some topic we saw on the news, and that was why I raised the issue to the President.

MS. SPEIER: So how did you raise it?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: To the best of my recollection, I said to him, Sir, I was there from the beginning, and I never met a Russian, never saw a Russian, never interacted with a Russian. He said, You're right. You were there from the beginning, and I never did either.

MS. SPEIER: And this news story, what was it about?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It was -- I couldn't speak specifically to the story. I'm sure it was a story on CNN and their incessant coverage of this topic.

MS. SPEIER: Have you spoken to any Members of Congress?

MR. CHAVKIN: About what?

MS. SPEIER: About anything about this committee?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my recollection, no.

MS. SPEIER: So you haven't spoken to Mr. King, for instance?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I've spoken to Mr. King, sure, not about the committee.

MS. SPEIER: Not about the committee? Not about the investigation?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my recollection.

MS. SPEIER: You said you were at the White House yesterday, but you

were there for just minutes. Is that what you said?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It is.

MS. SPEIER: So who do you access in order to get clearance?

MR. CHAVKIN: Again, what purpose does this serve? You've got about 10 minutes left, by my watch, on an hour, and --

MS. SPEIER: Mr. Chavkin, I'm asking the question. If you are urging him not to answer it, go right ahead.

MR. CHAVKIN: It's not pertinent. No reason to answer.

MS. SPEIER: Did you and the President ever talk about George Papadopoulos?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: We might have had a conversation about George.

MS. SPEIER: And when would that conversation have taken place?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Some months ago, probably around the time where it was revealed that George had pled to Mr. Mueller.

MS. SPEIER: And tell me about that conversation. Who initiated that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't recall who initiated that conversation.

MS. SPEIER: And tell us about that conversation. What did you say to the President about George Papadopoulos?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I said, Who the fuck is this guy?

MS. SPEIER: Well, you have had many emails with him, so how could you not know who the fuck she was?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know George Papadopoulos.

MS. SPEIER: Well, you interacted with him in emails.

MR. CHAVKIN: He also got 300,000 emails during the campaign.

MR. SCHIFF: You're not testifying.

MR. CHAVKIN: Well, as a moment ago, you asked me to testify.

MR. SCHIFF: Well, you said you weren't going to testify, so if you could keep your editorializing to a minimum.

MR. CHAVKIN: That's correct.

MR. SCHIFF: And I also want to point out here, this is exactly the problem with the position you've taken. This witness has said he has had no other conversations about Russia. And Ms. Speier asks, have you talked about George Papadopoulos, and the answer is yes. So this is a game of hide the ball. That's clearly pertinent to our investigation.

And your witness would have left a dramatically misleading impression with the committee, based on his prior answers had Ms. Speier not asked specifically about George Papadopoulos. So do we need to go by chapter and verse and name everyone in the investigation to get answers from your client?

MR. CHAVKIN: That's the way it seems like it's most productive to proceed.

MR. SCHIFF: Well, that's the way you hide the ball, Counsel.

MR. CHAVKIN: I don't think so at all.

MR. SCHIFF: And if you want the committee hearing to go expeditiously, that's not the way to do it.

I yield back to Ms. Speier.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: You know, Mr. Schiff, with all due respect, I'm here as a volunteer to answer your questions. I've spent 8 hours already answering questions. I'm here as a volunteer again to try and help you understand that based on my tenure at the campaign, and post that, I saw no collusion, no cooperation, no coordination between the Trumps, the Trump campaign, and the

Russian Government or anybody associated with that, that I'm aware of.

I'm trying to answer your questions in the most expeditious manner, because this is not enjoyable for me. I'd like to leave here. But what I don't want to do is leave here and have you walk out and say, I wasn't cooperative. I didn't answer your questions.

So I'm here for the second time as a volunteer at a fairly significant cost to myself to help your committee get to the bottom that there was no collusion. And so I think a little latitude to understand that would be appreciated.

Furthermore, you may or may not care, but there was a massive snowstorm that took place yesterday in my hometown, so my family has no power. My four kids have no access to heat right now. So I'm here trying to help you while my family is suffering.

I know it's not your problem, but it's my problem. So if I could return to my family sometime in the near future, I'd appreciate that. So if we could expedite this, I'd like that. If not, I understand that too, but I am here as a volunteer. But my priority is my family. But instead, I'm here with you because I made the commitment to be here.

MR. SCHIFF: Mr. Lewandowski, you may find this hard to be too, this isn't fun for us either.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: So --

MR. SCHIFF: And it would expedite matters if we didn't have to play 20 questions. And --

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Mr. Schiff, I've spent 9 hours in front of this committee, okay. I've answered all of your questions as it related to whatever may or may not have taken place during the campaign, I was directly privy to.

And I've testified I saw no collusion, no cooperation, no coordination between Trump campaign and anything I was part of and the Russians. I can't be more clear than that. I can't be more clear than that.

I have been as crystal clear as I can be from the day I started with Donald Trump to the day I left the campaign. I saw no collusion. I saw no cooperation. I saw no coordination at all. I don't recall ever interacting with Russians in any way, shape, or form. I don't recall them trying to influence me or the campaign or any policy on any matter.

So I've been as clear as I can be about that. And if we want to discuss every conversation since I left the campaign -- I'm willing to entertain you, but what I don't understand is if we're trying to find out if the Russians did something to impact the election, if that's what this is -- and I've been very clear -- I'm not on TV as much as you are, but I'm on TV a lot.

And I have said this many, many times: If anybody attempted to or was successful in impacting the outcome of a U.S. election, I hope they spend the rest of their lives in jail. I've been very clear on the record about that, forever. So let's find out if that's what took place because that's what I think we're here for.

MR. SCHIFF: Then let's just answer the questions, okay.

Ms. Speier.

MS. SPEIER: So you talked with the President about George Papadopoulos. What did the President say to you about Mr. Papadopoulos?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: To the best of my recollection, the President said he did not recall meeting Mr. Papadopoulos.

MS. SPEIER: And what did you say to him?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't remember exactly, but I probably said, I

don't remember the guy either.

MS. SPEIER: Did you talk to the President about Mr. Manafort after he was indicted?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I did.

██████████ Five minutes.

MS. SPEIER: And what did you say to him?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: To the best of my recollection, I said, I think Paul is a bad guy.

MS. SPEIER: That he's a bad guy or a mad guy?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Bad with a "B."

MS. SPEIER: Bad guy. And what did the President say?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: To the best of my recollection, the President said he thought he was treated unfairly when the FBI served the no-knock warrant on his house.

MS. SPEIER: Was he astonished by the kind of money he had spent on items?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I have no idea if the President was astonished or not.

MS. SPEIER: So there was a time during the campaign where you were very concerned about Mr. Manafort having a separate funding source, or separate account, if I remember correctly.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That's correct.

MS. SPEIER: And if I recall correctly, you mentioned in your prior testimony that Mr. Manafort insisted on having his own pot of money. How did that discussion arrive? Did you push back on this demand?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I did. Mr. Manafort went directly to candidate Trump and outlined, to the best of my recollection, a plan where he would have one pot of money, and I would have a separate pot of money, both oversaw -- overseen, I guess, by one individual who would have the ability to wire funds, based on preapproved spending.

MS. SPEIER: So after you heard that Mr. Manafort went directly to Mr. Trump, did you challenge Mr. Manafort? Did you go to then-candidate Trump and say, this is not a good idea? I mean, what action did you take?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I was very clear in my concern to Mr. Trump about providing a separate account for Mr. Manafort.

MS. SPEIER: And what did Mr. Trump say at the time?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He ensured me that there were checks in place, checks and balances in place, so Mr. Manafort wouldn't have unfettered access to the money.

MS. SPEIER: Did you say to then-candidate Trump that you were concerned that Mr. Manafort could steal money from the campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I did not say that initially, no.

MS. SPEIER: So you first identified a questionable expenditure of about \$20,000. To the best of your recollection, what was the nature of that transaction?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe it was for a list rental is how it was described in the Federal Elections Commission report.

MS. SPEIER: And what caused you concern about that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: The vendor that was paid that sum was listed in Londonderry, New Hampshire, and it just happened to be a vendor I had never

heard of. I live in the town directly next to Londonderry, and I'm fairly well versed on who the vendors are in that general area.

MS. SPEIER: So did you pursue it any further?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I spoke to Alan Weiselberg about it.

MS. SPEIER: And what was the final result? Was it a legitimate expense?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know the answer to that.

MS. SPEIER: So you didn't follow up on it?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I was only made aware of the expense after it had been publicly disclosed in the Federal Elections Commission report.

MS. SPEIER: Did you talk to then-candidate Trump about the expenditure?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not on that expenditure, no.

██████████ One minute.

MS. SPEIER: The second questionable expenditure you identified was a disbursement to an entity called Left Hand Enterprise. Is that correct?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It is.

MS. SPEIER: And that was for \$730,000 from the campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe that's accurate, yes.

MS. SPEIER: In your testimony, you indicated that this transaction came to your attention through the FEC report. Do you recall how close in time to the transaction you received this report?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I'm not exactly sure of when the report was published to when the expenditure was made, but it was approximately 60 days or less.

MS. SPEIER: What caused you concern about that transaction?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Even for a presidential campaign, it was a fairly -- it was a significant sum for our campaign. \$730,000 was a lot of money based on our standard run rate.

MS. SPEIER: And what was it for?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe it was for mail pieces, pieces of mail.

MS. SPEIER: Did you ever see any of the mail pieces?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I did not.

MS. SPEIER: Did you confront Mr. Manafort about these two expenses?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I did not.

MS. SPEIER: Did you talk to anyone about the \$730,000 expense?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I spoke to the legal counsel of the campaign, Alan Weiselberg, who had authorization over funding. I also spoke to Mathew Calamari about that expense.

██████████ Mr. Chairman, over to you.

MR. CONAWAY: I have no questions. Fifteen minutes.

MS. SPEIER: So was Michael Cohen involved in any of these transactions?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my knowledge, no.

MS. SPEIER: Have you talked to the President about Mr. Cohen?

MR. CHAVKIN: Are we talking about during the campaign? What time period?

MS. SPEIER: Well, during the campaign, after the campaign, relative to the campaign.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Sure. I spoke to the President hundreds of times

about Michael Cohen, as his office was directly next to Mr. Trump's.

MS. SPEIER: So since the election, and more recently, as the disclosure of \$130,000 was made by Mr. Cohen on behalf of himself, have you had a conversation with the President about that transaction?

MR. CHAVKIN: Can I -- I'm really intrigued as how that possibly could relate --

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: The answer is no.

MR. CHAVKIN: -- to this committee.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It has nothing to do with it, but the answer is, no. I haven't spoken to the President about Mr. Cohen or any transaction that Mr. Cohen may or may not have made.

MS. SPEIER: Okay. You also mentioned that Jared Kushner was involved in the investigation into these transactions. To the best of your knowledge, what was his role?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Mr. Kushner was an adviser to the campaign.

MS. SPEIER: So -- but did he have some accounting role, or why is it it was brought to his attention?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He did not have an accounting role, but he was, at the end of the campaign and progressively before the campaign ended, tasked with the allocation of funds for social media activity.

MS. SPEIER: And were either of these transactions about social media though?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MS. SPEIER: So Matt Calamari, who is Matt Calamari?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe his title is the chief operating officer of

The Trump Organization.

MS. SPEIER: Did he have a role in the campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MS. SPEIER: But you raised your concerns -- in your previous testimony, you raised your concerns about the disbursement to Left Hand Enterprises to Mr. Calamari. So why would you have done that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He's a trusted individual to the President.

MS. SPEIER: But he had no role with the campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That's accurate.

MS. SPEIER: So, again, were you wanting him to convey that to the President, then-candidate, I mean?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I thought it was important that I notified individuals who I knew the President trusted, then-candidate Trump trusted, of my concerns about Mr. Manafort and the spending.

MS. SPEIER: So there was a third \$5 million transaction that you previously acknowledged being made. How was the potential for this transaction uncovered?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: To the best of my knowledge, on the day I left the campaign, Mr. Manafort asked for a \$5 million transaction to then Jeff Dewitt, and Mr. Dewitt asked to have Mr. Trump's initial on the piece of paper before he wired the money.

MS. SPEIER: So the money was wired with candidate Trump's initial on it?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: To the best of my knowledge, the \$5 million was never wired.

MS. SPEIER: It was never wired?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Correct.

MS. SPEIER: So it never showed on any FEC report then?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That's accurate.

MS. SPEIER: So do you believe it never was provided, nonetheless?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe the money was never sent.

MS. SPEIER: So in September of 2016, after you left the campaign, Carter Page traveled to Budapest, Hungary, where he presented himself as the member of then-candidate Trump's foreign policy team.

There he held a 45-minute session with Geno Megyesy, M-e-g-y-e-s-y, who was a close adviser to Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Orban, and focuses on relations with the United States. The meeting was held in Sgivney's office in Budapest.

Page held another meeting at a hotel in Budapest, this one with Szemerkenzi, S-z-e-m-e-r-k-e-n-z-i. And he initially met Szemerkenzi at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland. You were at that convention, correct?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MS. SPEIER: Did you meet this individual?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MS. SPEIER: So when did you become aware of Mr. Page's trip to Budapest?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: About 30 seconds ago.

MS. SPEIER: Are you aware of any travel by Trump campaign personnel to any foreign countries during the campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: We made a trip to Mexico. You may recall, it was

live on television.

MS. SPEIER: But there were no other surrogates that made trips, to your knowledge, that may not have been paid for by the campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I couldn't accurately attest to people's travel plans outside the country if they weren't directly under my purview, no.

MR. CHAVKIN: Ms. Speier, just so we're clear, there is a Carter Page request on June 19, 2016, to travel. He made a speech at, I believe, New Economics School. Mr. Lewandowski is aware of that email.

MS. SPEIER: Okay. When we last met, we rattled off a number of ways of communication and you answered yes, but we didn't ask you specifically. So we'd like to go through that specifically.

Have you ever used WhatsApp?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, I don't believe so.

MS. SPEIER: Have you ever used Signal?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MS. SPEIER: Have you used Telegram?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't believe so, no.

MS. SPEIER: Have you ever used the app Confide?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MS. SPEIER: Have you ever used Snapchat?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MS. SPEIER: Have you ever used Twitter?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MS. SPEIER: Any other apps used that you did not -- that I have not mentioned?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Are you asking me are there any other applications on my phone that I use? Yes, there's a number of them. The Wall Street Journal app, The New York Times, I mean --

MS. SPEIER: For purposes of communication.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: There's also a messenger app, which is standard text messaging, yes.

MS. SPEIER: Which one of these apps did you use in the campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Text message would be something I would have used in the campaign, as well as Snapchat.

MS. SPEIER: And did you use Confide during the campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I did.

MS. SPEIER: So you used Snapchat, Confide, and Signal, did you say?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, I did not use Signal during the campaign.

MS. SPEIER: All right. So text, Snapchat, Confide. Anything else?

██████████ Five minutes.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my recollection. Trust, potentially.

MS. SPEIER: How did you distinguish which of these apps to use? As I understand it, for instance, Confide kind of self-destructs after it's sent. So did you use that app a great deal?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: As it relates to the number of messages I sent and received, it was not a plurality of messages on that application, no.

MS. SPEIER: Did you specifically use that application with certain people?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MS. SPEIER: And to whom would those be?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: The individuals that would potentially prepopulate in my phone who have the application as well.

MS. SPEIER: And who are they?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: They range from media reporters to individuals working on the campaign to friends.

MS. SPEIER: So during the campaign, were there other members of the campaign staff then that you would use Confide?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe so, yes.

MS. SPEIER: Could you -- I guess, the candidate Trump didn't use email?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That's accurate.

MS. SPEIER: Or text?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Accurate.

MS. SPEIER: So he would not have used any of these apps. So would you use it in conjunction with Mr. Manafort?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MS. SPEIER: Would you have used it with Hope Hicks?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MS. SPEIER: Would you have used it with Sam Coats? Is that his name? Clovis. Sam Clovis?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't believe so, no.

MS. SPEIER: Did you use it with General Flynn?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my knowledge, no.

MS. SPEIER: So, so far the only person you used it with was Ms. Hicks?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That's accurate so far.

MS. SPEIER: Well, can you identify anyone else so we don't have to do

this guessing game?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Mr. Scavino would have had -- to the best of my knowledge, Mr. Scavino, Mr. Schiller, potentially Mr. Glassner.

MS. SPEIER: Mr. Glassner?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Glassner, yes.

MS. SPEIER: And can you refresh my memory of who he is?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: The deputy campaign manager.

MS. SPEIER: So it was a -- did you use it with any of the Trump children?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my knowledge, no.

MS. SPEIER: Mr. Kushner?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, ma'am.

MS. SPEIER: Have you ever had a Proton mail account?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know what that is, no, ma'am.

MS. SPEIER: Neither do I.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: So maybe we both have one and don't know.

MS. SPEIER: Okay. Sam Nunberg, did you have -- did you use Confide with him?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I did not, to my knowledge, no.

MS. SPEIER: With George Nater?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know who that individual is.

MS. SPEIER: With Amaroso Matagolf (ph)?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my knowledge, no.

MS. SPEIER: Okay. So how about Kelly Love?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MS. SPEIER: When did you first meet Kelly Love?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe she came to the campaign after I had already left, so it would have been post June 20.

██████████ One minute.

MS. SPEIER: So what was her role? Do you know what her role was?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe she served on the communications team, but I didn't work directly with her.

MS. SPEIER: How about Sam Nunberg's role on the campaign, what was his role?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He was an adviser to the campaign, and an adviser to Mr. Trump prior to us launching the campaign.

MS. SPEIER: So he had worked for Mr. Trump for quite a while at that point, hadn't he?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He had worked for Mr. Trump for a series of years prior to the campaign, yes.

MS. SPEIER: So he knew him pretty well?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MS. SPEIER: So he became involved in the campaign at what point?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Mr. Nunberg was part of the campaign from its inception.

MS. SPEIER: Did you highly regard him?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MS. SPEIER: Who did?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I'm not sure anybody did.

██████████ Mr. Stewart.

MS. SPEIER: Well -- go ahead.

MR. SCHIFF: Chairman, do you want to see -- would you like a break at all?

MR. CHAVKIN: No. We'd like to get this done, but thank you.

MR. QUIGLEY: And for the record, I hope you get home to your family.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Thank you.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: I understand why you do want to get this done. I think many of us share that as well.

I'm going to ask you a series of questions, and I want you to know that in doing so, I'm giving you an opportunity to answer that I wished every witness who had been before this committee had had a chance to answer these questions.

Earlier, you stated, I want to give you a chance to state it again with clarity, while working with the Trump campaign, did you ever participate or witness any collusion or conspiracy between any member of the Trump campaign, including the President himself, and any Russian agents or Russian individuals?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Never, no.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: Never, no, not at all?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Never, sir, no.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: Okay. Have you heard your name publicly associated with some of the allegations regarding conspiracy and collusion?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I have.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: Have you publicly been accused of conspiracy and collusion in some of these interactions that you've seen with individuals, whether it's on television or other speaking or other public interactions?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I have.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: You, yourself, have been accused of these.

Is that not true?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I have.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: As a result of that, has a negative cloud in any way been cast over your reputation?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Of course, sir, yes.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: Has it been cast over, in some ways, the reputation of some of your associates?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It has.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: Or other people around you?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes, sir.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: And I want you to state one more time whether you ever witnessed collusion or conspiracy between yourself or any other individuals in the Trump campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I never witnessed any collusion, conspiracy between myself or anyone else in the Trump campaign.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: And yet, you've been accused of that publicly?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes, sir.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: How have those allegations impacted your personal life?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Well, it's very difficult, more so for my family and -- who doesn't understand the full extent of how unfortunate those allegations are.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: How about your professional life?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It's clearly caused my ability to earn income with certain entities not to be able to materialize.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: You mentioned your family. Do you have children?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I have four children.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: Has it impacted them?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: My oldest daughter, who's 11, has access to the internet and always questions what she sees, if it's true or not. And so she's raised the issue to us, my wife and I, many times.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: So aside from, you mentioned your ability of future earnings and income, has it impacted your financial well being in other ways?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It has.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: Could you elaborate on that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: In addition to my good friend Peter, who I love, who is in not free, look, this investigation has probably cost me north of \$250,000, which is, you know, for a guy who grew up poor in Lowell, Massachusetts, more money than I thought I'd ever make in my life, let alone have to pay in attorney fees.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: All right. And I could go on on this, but I hope I've made my point in this. Again, I ask you these questions -- and I wish we would have been able to ask every witness who appears before this committee those questions -- have you seen evidence? Have you been accused publicly? Has that had an impact on your life, on the life of your family or the people around you?

And, look, I understand that an investigation has to ask difficult questions. I understand an investigation has to bring everyone associated in, and we have to

go through that process. But it's better done if that is done privately, not publicly, and not before the media and not before the cameras.

And I just feel like it's worth making that point that this has had a real impact on individuals' lives, and that that's unfortunate, and sometimes unnecessary.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Thank you.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

MR. KING: Yeah. I would like to emphasize that point. I mean, I've been involved in different investigations over the years, and different people, you know, are bad guys. There's other people you may have questions about. But I think this investigation -- maybe it's true of others. But so many innocent people get swept up into it and people forget, you know, the human cost.

I remember during the Clinton administration, one person happened to be in the Oval Office. When some other meeting was beginning, he was leaving, cost him 100,000 legal fees. He had nothing to do with the first meeting or the second. He happened to be there and his name was listed on the roster.

So I think we should keep that in mind. And just because somebody is near the party, doesn't make them the enemy. And, again, I'm not here to testify, but I'm just saying that I have no reason to doubt any of your testimony.

MR. CONAWAY: Mr. Schiff, 15 minutes.

MR. SCHIFF: Mr. Swalwell.

MR. SWALWELL: Mr. Lewandowski, when we last left off, we concluded with my asking for an email that you referenced about a VIP reception. And your counsel said, Congressman, in the spirit of cooperation, which we really have pledged from the beginning, we'll try to get you access to that.

Did you bring those emails today?

MR. CHAVKIN: Congressman, I'm not sure which email you're referring to. You said VIP --

MR. SWALWELL: We asked about the April 2016 Mayflower event and --

MR. CHAVKIN: We sent that into the committee. That's the attendance list.

MR. SWALWELL: Okay. Well, I mean, we'll have to check on that. I haven't seen that from the majority, and that's a problem separate from what you have sent, but we have not seen that.

MR. CHAVKIN: May I just say, because I have --

MR. SWALWELL: I will just say because I have a limited amount of time.

So, Mr. Lewandowski, have you deleted any email accounts since you started with the campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you been interviewed by Special Counsel?

MR. CHAVKIN: No. We're not -- Congressman Swalwell, I have immense respect for you, but we went through this the first time, and I told you we do not comment about other investigations.

MR. SWALWELL: Mr. Lewandowski, are you refusing to answer that question?

MR. CHAVKIN: He's advised not to.

MR. SWALWELL: I'll correct it. Apparently we do have that document that I earlier referenced, so I appreciate that.

MR. CONAWAY: So the reference to the majority sharing that with you is not right?

MR. SWALWELL: Yeah. I'll withdraw that.

MR. CONAWAY: Thank you.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you bring -- and Mr. Quigley asked you this earlier, but you also did pledge that you would give us the cell phone number for the President?

MR. CHAVKIN: We've been over this.

MR. SWALWELL: And you're refusing --

MR. KING: I would just say, the last thing we need is CNN getting the President's telephone number.

MR. SWALWELL: Thank you, Mr. King.

MR. KING: And I mean that sincerely. This has gone on for too long. And to ask for the President of the United States cell phone number is --

MR. SWALWELL: Mr. King, do you want to sit over there with them?

MR. KING: No. I'm sitting here as a member telling you when it's out of line, because I know exactly what you have in mind.

MR. SWALWELL: Do you want to sit over there?

MR. KING: I'm sitting where I am.

MR. SWALWELL: You can join them, if you'd like.

MR. KING: You don't tell me where to sit. I'm sitting right here. You want to move me?

MR. CONAWAY: Peter. Peter. Can I -- their 15 minutes.

MR. SCHIFF: If I could, Mr. Chairman, we're not interested in the President's current cell phone number. Mr. Swalwell did ask if you were aware of the cell phone number he used during the campaign, and you said you were. And he asked if you would provide it, and you said you would.

We have phone records -- this is more information than you need to know,

but -- that we would like to cross reference and determine whether there were calls made to the President during the campaign. It's very relevant. We're not interested in his current number.

And so the question is, you represented earlier when you testified that you had access to it, would provide it. Are you going to provide it, or have you changed your mind?

MR. CHAVKIN: What Mr. Lewandowski said, Mr. Schiff, is that, get it from the President. Get it from the White House.

MR. SCHIFF: No. No. No.

MR. CHAVKIN: Wait. He said --

MR. SCHIFF: What he said -- Mr. Swalwell said, "Do you still have it on your phone?" Mr. Lewandowski answered, "That's very possible." "Okay. Could you check on that and report back to us and we would redact that from your transcript?" Mr. Lewandowski said, "Yes, happy to."

So that was your testimony when you previously appeared. Are you still willing to do it, or have you now changed your position on that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He said today, was what I was referring, today in this hearing --

MR. SCHIFF: I know, Counsel, and I'm referring to the commitment he made earlier.

MR. CHAVKIN: We got it. We got it.

MR. SCHIFF: So you changed your mind and you're not willing to provide that?

MR. CHAVKIN: He will consider providing it if you first ask Dowd or Ty Cobb or someone connected to the White House for that phone number, and if

they don't want to give it, then we will reconsider it. But it's not appropriate to ask him for the President's cell phone.

MR. SCHIFF: Of course, it is appropriate. So your answer is he won't provide it. He's changed his mind. Okay.

Mr. Swalwell.

MR. SWALWELL: Mr. Lewandowski, did you talk to Ms. Hicks since she -- have you talked to her since she testified to our committee?

MR. CHAVKIN: When did she testify before your committee?

MR. SWALWELL: Mr. Lewandowski, have you talked to her since she testified before our committee?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe I had a conversation with Ms. Hicks.

MR. SWALWELL: Okay. Did you discuss her testimony with our committee?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I did not.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you messaged with her since she last talked to our committee?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you discuss, in your messaging with her, her testimony with our committee?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I did not.

MR. SWALWELL: Did Ms. Hicks ever tell you while she was working for the campaign that her emails had been hacked?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't believe she did, no.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you know that Ms. Hicks had deleted email accounts while she was working for the campaign? Did you have knowledge of

that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I did not, no.

MR. SWALWELL: Were you ever involved while you were working for the campaign, during the transition, and to present day in the facilitation of payments from Donald Trump, anyone at The Trump Organization, or a Trump family member to silence an individual from talking about Mr. Trump?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I was not.

MR. SWALWELL: Do you have any knowledge of any of those arrangements?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I do not.

MR. SWALWELL: Has Donald Trump ever asked you to lie for him?

MR. CHAVKIN: Whoa, this is Groundhog Day. You did this with Hope Hicks apparently, according to the press.

MR. SWALWELL: Mr. Lewandowski, has he ever asked you to lie for him?

MR. CHAVKIN: He's not going to answer a question about whether the President ever asked him to lie. If you want to ask the question about whether the President asked him to lie about his testimony, about Russia, about collusion, fair game.

MR. SWALWELL: Mr. Lewandowski, are you refusing to answer whether Donald Trump has ever asked you to lie for him?

MR. CHAVKIN: Corey, I advise you not to answer.

MR. SWALWELL: For the record, the witness is not answering.

Have you ever seen Donald Trump ask others to lie for him?

MR. CHAVKIN: Again, it's the same advice, Corey. And I will also say, for the record, Mr. Swalwell, you're not trying to narrow that question as you

should appropriately do, as Congressman Rooney told you to do.

MR. SWALWELL: Hey, sit tight, Counsel. I've got more questions.

MR. CHAVKIN: Good.

MR. SWALWELL: Mr. Lewandowski, you've refused to ask (sic) whether the President has asked you to lie or others to lie. Have you ever lied for the President?

MR. CHAVKIN: Again, not -- same question, same advice.

MR. SWALWELL: Mr. Lewandowski, have you ever seen the President ask others to lie about Russia?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Has the President ever asked you to lie about Russia?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever discussed with the President a pardon for any role that you may have had with Russia?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever heard the President discuss with others a potential pardon for any role they may have had with Russia?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SWALWELL: You testified earlier that the President told you that he had never met with, talked to, engaged with, a Russian during the campaign. Do you remember telling us that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I do.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you know that the President had written correspondence with Russians during the campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I did not know that.

MR. SWALWELL: Do you know the Agalarov family?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I do not.

MR. SWALWELL: So if you did know that the President was having written correspondence with Russians, that would change your answer, right?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I'm unaware of any written correspondence the President has with anyone from Russia or Russians.

MR. SWALWELL: Once you left in June 2016, up until Election Day, did you ever talk with Donald Trump about the dissemination of hacked DNC emails?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't recall a conversation with Mr. Trump about that.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you ever assist Mr. Trump in crafting a speech where he would discuss the dissemination of hacked Democratic emails?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my recollection.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you ever help Mr. Trump write any tweets during the campaign once you left?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't think the characterization would be accurate to say I helped him write a tweet, no.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you ever advise him on a tweet that he should write?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I think if you allow me the liberty to say that he would ask me if he should put a tweet out or not would be a fair characterization.

MR. SWALWELL: Did he ever ask you about whether he should put a tweet out or not during the campaign with respect to WikiLeaks?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't recall, no.

MR. SWALWELL: How about with respect to Russia?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my recollection, no.

MR. SWALWELL: How about with respect to deleted Hillary Clinton emails?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't believe Mr. Trump ever asked me about those, no.

MR. SWALWELL: Did Donald Trump have any foreknowledge of Russian-hacked emails?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I can't speak to Mr. Trump's knowledge --

MR. CHAVKIN: I'm sorry. Sorry about that. Just to clarify, to the extent Mr. Lewandowski knows about the President's foreknowledge --

MR. SWALWELL: Did Donald Trump ever say anything to you that led you to believe that he had foreknowledge that Russia had hacked DNC, John Podesta, or Hillary Clinton emails?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He did not.

MR. SWALWELL: Once the Billy Bush tape was released, it was followed by WikiLeaks releasing John Podesta emails. What was Donald Trump's reaction to that, if you knew?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: To the Billy Bush tape or to --

MR. SWALWELL: No, the WikiLeaks release within hours of the Billy Bush tape.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know. I was not in New York at that time.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you talk to him about the Wikileaks release of John Podesta emails following the Billy Bush tape?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't believe I did, no.

MR. SWALWELL: Did Mr. Schiller ever talk to you about his trip with

Mr. Trump to Moscow?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He did.

MR. SWALWELL: When did he talk to you about that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It would have probably, to the best of my recollection, been sometime in 2015.

MR. SWALWELL: What did he tell you?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He told me that he and Mr. Trump had gone over to Moscow for, I think it was, a Miss Universe pageant.

MR. SWALWELL: Did Mr. Schiller ever share with you that individuals on that trip had offered Mr. Schiller to send women up to Mr. Trump's room?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He did.

MR. SWALWELL: What did Mr. Schiller tell you about that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He told me they would never do that.

MR. SWALWELL: Can you say that again?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He said they would not do that.

MR. SWALWELL: Who is "they"?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Mr. Trump nor Mr. Schiller wanted any women sent to the room.

MR. SWALWELL: Did Mr. Schiller tell you if that offer was passed onto Mr. Trump?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He did not.

MR. SWALWELL: Did Mr. Schiller talk about any other offers on that trip that were made for Mr. Trump?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my recollection.

MR. SWALWELL: Did Mr. Schiller tell you who had made that offer for

Mr. Trump?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, sir.

██████████ Five minutes.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you talk to Donald Trump after James Comey, James Clapper, and John Brennan went to Trump Tower during the transition? Did you talk to him within that period of time?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I've spoken to Mr. Trump since that meeting, yes, but I --

MR. SWALWELL: I guess, I mean, within like the day or days after that meeting. Did you talk to him --

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I did not.

MR. SWALWELL: Did Mr. Trump ever talk to you about the Steele dossier that he was briefed on by Mr. Comey?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He did not.

MR. SWALWELL: Has he ever talked to you about that dossier?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't recall specific conversation about the dossier, no.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever talked to anyone in the Trump family about that dossier?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not that I recall, no.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you know that Ms. Hicks had been approached in February 2016 by the Russian embassy to connect Donald Trump to Russia Today? Did she ever tell you that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I'm sorry. What was the timeframe?

MR. SWALWELL: February 2016.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: If that's a media inquiry, I'm sure Ms. Hicks would have notified me of that.

MR. SWALWELL: Do you recall being notified of that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't recall that specific outlet, no.

MR. SWALWELL: Were you aware of any approaches that Ms. Hicks had received from the Russians up until Election Day?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't recall specific indications of the Russians attempting to contact Ms. Hicks during the campaign. She probably, other than from a media side, would not have been the principal point of outreach.

MR. SWALWELL: Do you remember -- is there any recollection of Ms. Hicks discussing with you Russian approaches that had been made to her?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not that I recall.

MR. SWALWELL: Did Donald Trump Jr. ever talk to you about fall 2016 conversations he had with WikiLeaks?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He did not.

MR. SWALWELL: Were you aware of any outside efforts to connect Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin during the campaign?

MR. CHAVKIN: Understanding that he's seen emails, right, since he's left the campaign?

MR. SWALWELL: I'm not talking about what you've read in the press, Mr. Lewandowski. I'm talking about emails that you were on or conversations that you had with people.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yeah, I believe there were multiple emails where individuals had recommended Mr. Trump build a relationship with Mr. Putin during the campaign.

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MR. SWALWELL: And I'm not talking about building a relationship. I'm talking about actually meeting with him during the campaign. Were you aware that there were efforts by outside -- multiple outside individuals to make that happen?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I'm aware that Mr. Cohen attempted, or had an email to try and make that happen upon, I believe it was, Mr. Putin's arrival in New York for the UNGA.

MR. SWALWELL: Was Mr. Trump made aware of that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know the answer. I don't know the answer to that.

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MR. SWALWELL: Did Michael Cohen tell you about that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SWALWELL: How did you know?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Ms. Hicks told me.

MR. SWALWELL: When did Ms. Hicks tell you that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It would have been contemporaneously.

MR. SWALWELL: Who else would have had knowledge of that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: At that point, I can't speak to anybody else who would have known.

MR. SWALWELL: What was Donald -- did you talk to Donald Trump after -- President Trump after General Flynn pled guilty?

██████████ One minute.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I have spoken to President Trump after Mr. Flynn has pled guilty, yes.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you talk to President Trump about General Flynn's guilty plea, or did he talk to you about it?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I think the only thing -- the only part of the conversation that I would recall regarding Mr. Flynn was some polling data, which had just been provided showing that, by and large, the Republican base was not in favor of a pardon for General Flynn.

MR. SWALWELL: Who had asked for that polling to be conducted?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know who asked for it to be conducted --

MR. SWALWELL: -- the President talk about that polling?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No. I provided that data to the President.

MR. SWALWELL: Why did you do that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Because, from time to time, I provide the President polling data.

MR. SWALWELL: Was a pardon being considered by the President?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my knowledge, no.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you think that was something he would want to know because he might be considering a pardon?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It was part of a larger context of recent data that I was providing the President.

MR. SWALWELL: I can yield back.

██████████ Mr. Chairman.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: I'm interested -- again, taking a little bit of a different tack. Do you understand the rules of the engagement on this? This is a closed session?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes, sir.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: And being closed is not classified, but it's supposed to be confidential. Is that true?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes, sir.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: There was a bit of a heated line of questioning regarding honesty and the President and some of those communications. Is your fear now that that's going to be leaked, that that will be talked about in the press?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It is, sir.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: So you sit here trying to answer the questions -- some of them may or may not be appropriate -- and your worry is that now someone is going to go to the press and describe that conversation as you

not being honest either with the American people or with this committee. Is that true?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That's accurate, sir.

MR. STEWART OF UTAH: And we hope that doesn't happen, but it does happen. It happens far too often.

MR. CONAWAY: Mr. Schiff, 15 minutes.

MR. SCHIFF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Lewandowski, have you had any conversations with the administration about joining the administration?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MR. SCHIFF: And how recent have those conversations been?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Five months ago.

MR. SCHIFF: That was the most recent conversation was 5 months ago?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MR. SCHIFF: So you haven't had any more recent discussions with the President about whether you might get a job in the administration?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SCHIFF: Have you had any conversations with the President's campaign about serving the campaign in some role, either directly or indirectly?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, sir.

MR. SCHIFF: You testified earlier about discussing Mr. Papadopoulos with the President. Was that at the time of his guilty plea?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It was.

MR. SCHIFF: And who brought up Mr. Papadopoulos in that conversation?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe I did.

MR. SCHIFF: And how did you bring it up?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: To the best of my recollection, I mentioned to the President that Mr. Papadopoulos had pled guilty and said something to the effect of: I don't even know who this guy is.

MR. SCHIFF: And when you brought it up, did the President -- was he already aware that Papadopoulos had pled guilty?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know what he was aware of, sir.

MR. SCHIFF: Did anything he say indicate whether he was aware of it?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: His response was he was aware of it because it was widely distributed on the news media at that point.

MR. SCHIFF: And did he discuss the facts of that guilty plea, that the Russians had told Papadopoulos that they were in possession of stolen DNC or Clinton emails as early as April 2016?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: We did not discuss any of the facts of the plea.

MR. SCHIFF: During the course of the campaign, did it ever come to your attention that the Russians had approached George Papadopoulos?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It did not.

MR. SCHIFF: When was the first time that you learned that they, the Russians or their intermediaries, had approached Papadopoulos?

MR. CHAVKIN: Just to clarify one thing, Mr. Schiff, when you say "Russians approached," do you mean with respect to the emails or just generally Russian outreach?

MR. SCHIFF: Well, I'm referring particularly to the emails.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: To the best of my recollection, I found out about it

when Mr. Mueller indicted Mr. Papadopoulos.

MR. SCHIFF: So no one ever informed you that Mr. Papadopoulos or anyone else from the campaign had been contacted by Russians or Russian intermediaries about stolen DNC or Clinton emails?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my knowledge, no.

MR. SCHIFF: After you learned about this through the Papadopoulos plea and subsequent to that conversation with the President, did you discuss the Papadopoulos interaction with the Russians with anyone else in the administration?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know. I don't recall specific conversations, sir.

MR. SCHIFF: Did anyone in the administration ever indicate to you that they -- not at the time, but after the plea -- that they had been aware that Papadopoulos was having discussions with the Russians?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, sir.

MR. SCHIFF: My colleague asked you about different efforts to set up a meeting between the President and Mr. Putin during the campaign. You attended the NRA dinner during the campaign that the President also attended?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I did. It wasn't a dinner. It was just a speech. He did not sit for dinner.

MR. SCHIFF: And did you observe any interactions between the President and any of the Russian guests who were present for that NRA event?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I wouldn't have recalled any specific interactions that would have been out of the ordinary, no, sir.

MR. SCHIFF: Were you aware at that time of an effort through the NRA to

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establish a channel with the Russians, a back channel with the Russians?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I was not.

MR. SCHIFF: Did it ever come to your attention, either at that time or thereafter, that the Russians might be funneling money through the NRA?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I had no knowledge of that whatsoever.

MR. SCHIFF: No one ever raised a concern to you or alerted you that there might be money going to the NRA from the Russians?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Never.

MR. SCHIFF: Mr. Swalwell.

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[1:00 p.m.]

MR. SWALWELL: Mr. Lewandowski, you talked about that the polling data you provided to the President with respect to pardoning Mr. Flynn was in the context of the larger project. Does that properly characterize that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That was part of a larger poll, and that was one of the questions.

MR. SWALWELL: Were there other questions in that poll about Russia or the Russia investigation?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, sir.

MR. SWALWELL: So the only part of that poll that related to Russia or the Russia investigation or any investigation into President Trump or the campaign was the one question on whether General Flynn should be pardoned?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That's accurate, sir.

MR. SWALWELL: Did anyone ask you to put that in the poll?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No. It wasn't my poll.

MR. SWALWELL: Whose poll was it?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It was shared to me from a common vendor. So it wasn't something I paid for or was privy to prior to it going into the field, but the results were provided to me after they were publicly available.

MR. SWALWELL: Who paid for it?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know the answer to that.

MR. SWALWELL: Who was the vendor?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: McLaughlin and Associates (ph).

MR. SWALWELL: What was the President's reaction when you told him about the polling data with respect to pardoning General Flynn?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It was -- it was -- again, it was part of a larger conversation, and the other data he was more interested in seeing than talking -- we didn't even have a discussion about the Flynn data. I just ran through a series of points, favorable, unfavorable, et cetera, et cetera, and that was just one of the questions.

MR. SWALWELL: And what were the numbers on that?

MR. CHAVKIN: On the Flynn?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I'd have to go back and look, but, by and large, the Republican base was opposed to a potential pardon.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you talk to Donald Trump at all, President Trump at all about the Rick Gates plea?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't believe I have.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you have any knowledge of George -- did you have any knowledge, prior to it being public, that, in January 2017, George Papadopoulos was contacted by the FBI at Dulles Airport?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I had no prior knowledge, no.

MR. SWALWELL: Were you aware of anyone who had prior knowledge of that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, sir.

MR. SWALWELL: Around October 2016, there were public reports that Rudy Giuliani had contact -- through Rudy Giuliani's own press interviews, he was suggesting that the FBI might reopen its investigation into Secretary Clinton. Did Donald Trump have knowledge of this at the time?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I can't speak to that, sir. I don't know.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you have knowledge of that at the time?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SWALWELL: In August 2016, Roger Stone tweeted to the effect: John Podesta is about to spend his time in the barrel.

Did Donald Trump have knowledge of Mr. Stone's tweet, based on your interactions with him?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know, sir.

MR. SWALWELL: What prompted Mr. Schiller to bring up the Moscow offer with you? How did that happen?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't recall. It was -- I think we were on the airplane flying somewhere, and we were just having a conversation.

MR. SWALWELL: Was that the only time Mr. Schiller had ever talked to you about offers of that nature that had been made to Mr. Trump?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you ever talk to Mr. Trump about that offer?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, sir.

MR. SWALWELL: Did Mr. Trump ever talk to you about any plans he had ever had to put a Trump Tower in Moscow?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, sir, I don't believe so.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you know that that was a part of -- that the genesis of that was from the 2013 Miss Universe?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I did not know that.

MR. SWALWELL: Following up on Ms. Speier's questions about Signal, Confide, and Snapchat, I'm only interested if you had conversations with individuals on the campaign using those messaging services if they related to Russia. Did you ever talk to anyone about Russia through those messaging

devices?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, I did not.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you, since the campaign and once this investigation was launched, have you talked to any individuals about the Russia investigation on those messaging devices?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't believe so, no.

██████████ Five minutes.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you have any knowledge of -- let me back up.

As someone who was the campaign manager and followed the campaign once you left, were you aware that the NRA was using independent expenditures to support Donald Trump?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I was not aware of that.

MR. SWALWELL: You never saw any NRA ads or communications during the campaign to support Mr. Trump?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, I was not aware of the independent expenditure program the NRA was running.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you see -- well, aside from the independent expenditure program, did you see television and digital ads that the NRA was running for Mr. Trump?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: If I did, I don't recall them.

MR. SWALWELL: Were you aware that the NRA was supporting Mr. Trump during the campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you have any knowledge of the sources of funding that the NRA were using to pay for the digital and television and radio

communications on behalf of Mr. Trump?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No knowledge at all.

MR. SWALWELL: I'll yield back to Mr. Schiff.

MR. SCHIFF: Mr. Lewandowski, I think you said when you testified previously that you were unaware of the June 9 meeting at Trump Tower at the time it was taking place. Is that correct?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It is.

MR. SCHIFF: And when did you first learn about that meeting?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I learned about it from the public media reports.

MR. SCHIFF: Were you a party at all to the discussion about how to handle those news reports that took place between the President, the President's son, Hope Hicks, and others while the President was returning from his trip?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I'm sorry. Can you just repeat that question? I was trying to understand it.

MR. SCHIFF: Yes. Were you a part of the discussions that were taking place at the time the story first became public about how to respond, the discussions between the President, the President's son, Hope Hicks, and others as the President was returning from Europe?

MR. CHAVKIN: I'm going to advise Mr. Lewandowski that that's not pertinent. And let me explain, if I may, Mr. Schiff, why.

Public characterizations of events, how the matter was going to be presented to the public are, in my view, not pertinent. And I say that quite advisedly because I don't think it's just my view.

MR. SCHIFF: Counsel, I'm really -- it is so clearly relevant. I'm really not interested in your --

MR. CHAVKIN: Senator Grassley --

MR. SCHIFF: I'm not interested in what other Members who are not a part of the House might have to say on this subject. I am interested in the answer to the question. And the witness will either answer it or he won't.

But my question stands. It can be read back to you, if necessary. And I would like an answer.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Could you read me the question again, please?

MR. CHAVKIN: Can you just hang on one second?

[The reporter read back the record as requested.]

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SCHIFF: And did you have a subsequent conversation with the President, with Hope Hicks, or others in the administration about how to respond to the revelation of the meeting in Trump Tower?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I probably did have a conversation, but it was after the response had already been drafted, distributed, and the media was reporting on it.

MR. SCHIFF: And how soon thereafter?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It would have been days after.

MR. SCHIFF: And who was that discussion with?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I would have at that time spoken with Reince Priebus, who would have been the White House chief of staff at the time, and I believe Mr. Spicer, Ms. Hicks, but not the President or any of the other parties.

MR. SCHIFF: Have you ever spoken to the President about the meeting at Trump Tower?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I have not.

MR. SCHIFF: Or how the administration responded to the press reports of the meeting?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, sir.

MR. SCHIFF: So you've never discussed that meeting in any way, shape or form with the President?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Other than to say what I've said publicly, which I thought it was politically a very stupid thing to do to have that meeting, and it should have been vetted through the legal team first.

MR. SCHIFF: And when did you have that conversation with the President?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: After the media reports of the story coming out.

MR. SCHIFF: And how soon after that would that conversation have taken place?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Potentially within a week.

MR. SCHIFF: Were you -- where did the conversation take place, over the phone or in person?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe it was a telephone conversation.

MR. SCHIFF: Did he call you, or did you call him?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't remember who initiated that call.

MR. SCHIFF: And who brought up the topic of the meeting at Trump Tower and the administration response?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe Mr. Trump brought that up.

MR. SCHIFF: And what did he say when he brought it up?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He acknowledged it was a short, stupid meeting too and probably shouldn't have taken place.

MR. SCHIFF: What else do you recall him saying about it?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe I responded to him saying that something to the effect of: Donny Jr. should have known better.

And he said something along the lines of: You're right about that, but he was trying to help.

MR. SCHIFF: And what else do you recall the President saying?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't recall much more of the conversation other than the basic parameters are -- were that he outlined to me it was a short meeting, it was dumb to do, and he believed that his son was trying to help.

MR. SCHIFF: Did he bring up the effort to characterize it as about adoptions?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He did not bring that up to me, no.

MR. SCHIFF: Did he give you any indication of whether he knew about the meeting prior to its becoming public?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He did not.

MR. SCHIFF: And when you say he did not, he didn't give you any indication one way or the other?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He never told me that he was aware that the meeting took place prior to it becoming public.

MR. SCHIFF: Did he discuss with you at all what his son had hoped to acquire at the meeting?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He didn't.

MR. SCHIFF: Did he tell you what he thought of the response that the administration had given, the statement that they had issued?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't believe he and I discussed the statement

that was issued ever.

MR. SCHIFF: And what other comments did you make during the conversation?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I think I said: There's no crime in being stupid.

MR. SCHIFF: How did that conversation come about? Did he reach out to you, or did you reach out to him?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't recall who initiated that particular --

MR. SCHIFF: And was the majority of the conversation on that topic?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It was, yes, sir.

MR. SCHIFF: Did you have the impression that this was something he wanted to talk about?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Only in that it was the relevant news of the day, and nothing more.

MR. SCHIFF: Did you speak with Hope Hicks about the -- about the meeting or about the statement that went out characterizing the meeting?

MR. CHAVKIN: Mr. Schiff, I'm going to advise -- we've gone down this. You've asked about the President. Anything else --

MR. SCHIFF: I haven't asked this question, Counsel, so the question stands.

MR. CHAVKIN: I'm advising him not to answer.

MR. SCHIFF: You're advising him not to answer.

MR. CHAVKIN: And I want to just complete the record that you wouldn't let me complete, which is that Senator Grassley --

MR. SCHIFF: Counsel, I'm not interested in your stonewalling.

MR. CHAVKIN: It's not stonewalling.

MR. SCHIFF: It is. It is.

MR. CHAVKIN: When you use terms like "stonewalling," you imply that we're trying to --

MR. SCHIFF: Counsel, yes, that's exactly right. That's exactly right. You are obstructing.

MR. CHAVKIN: And I can quote chapter and verse about -- did I have the floor there, Mr. Chairman?

MR. SCHIFF: No, I have the floor, Counsel, you don't. You can instruct your client not to answer.

MR. CHAVKIN: He's instructed not to answer.

MR. SCHIFF: Okay.

So, Mr. Lewandowski, you won't discuss what Hope Hicks had to say about her role in the creation of the false statement over the meeting at Trump Tower?

MR. CHAVKIN: You've also loaded the word "false statement" in there, right? So --

MR. SCHIFF: Well, Mr. Lewandowski, will you answer this committee's question about your discussion with Hope Hicks about the statement characterizing the meeting in Trump Tower as about adoptions?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Hope simply said to me after the statement was out, we -- she and I had a brief conversation about it.

MR. SCHIFF: And what did she say about it?

MR. CHAVKIN: Corey, I'm advising you not to answer. I believe it's not pertinent at this point.

MR. SCHIFF: And are you going to refuse to answer the question, Mr. Lewandowski?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I'll just take advice of counsel.

MR. SCHIFF: But you do acknowledge talking with her about this meeting and the statement that came out of it?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I do.

MR. SCHIFF: Did you also discuss with Mr. Priebus the meeting at Trump Tower and the administration's response to it?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe I spoke with Mr. Priebus about it as well.

MR. SCHIFF: And would that have been within a week or so of the statement?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe that to be accurate, yes.

MR. SCHIFF: And did he reach out to you, or did you reach out to him?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't recall who -- who initiated that conversation.

MR. SCHIFF: And what was the nature of the conversation? What did you say, and what did he say?

MR. CHAVKIN: Again, Corey, I advise you not to answer.

MR. SCHIFF: So you won't tell us what advice or instructions or message or characterization either Hope Hicks or Mr. Priebus had about the meeting and about the statement that came out of it. Is that correct?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: At the advice of counsel, I'll just take his advice.

MR. SCHIFF: Ms. Speier?

MS. SPEIER: So you were very active in the campaign in early 2016, were you not? You were the campaign manager.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That's accurate, yes.

MS. SPEIER: So, when the candidate Trump went and met with one of the editorial boards -- I think it was The Washington Post, it might have been The New

York Times -- and was asked about his foreign policy advisers, you were prepping him at that point in time, correct?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I'm sorry; I was what?

MS. SPEIER: You would have been in the position of counseling him, advising him, prepping him for that editorial interview?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I was the campaign manager at the time, yes.

MS. SPEIER: So one of the key advisers that was identified by then-candidate Trump was George Papadopoulos, correct?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes, it is.

MS. SPEIER: So where did you get that name?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Dr. Clovis.

MS. SPEIER: So you did not vet him separately?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That is correct.

MS. SPEIER: And as with Carter Page, was Carter Page also identified as one of his chief foreign policy advisers, and was that a recommendation by whom?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe we've gone through this. That recommendation came from Mr. Cox.

MS. SPEIER: Mr. Cox, all right.

So, on May 24th, Mr. Papadopoulos emailed Paul Manafort. You're still the campaign manager at that point in time, correct?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MS. SPEIER: So he sends greetings from Athens: Athens. I'm in town for meetings with Greek Foreign Minister and Defense Minister. I've been told Athens will be sending me an official invitation for Mr. Trump to visit Greece sometime this summer, should his schedule allow. Regarding the forwarded

message, Russia has been eager to meet Mr. Trump for quite some time and have been reaching out to me to discuss. I thought it would be prudent to send to you. I'm free to discuss if you are free.

So why would Mr. Papadopoulos be communicating with Mr. Manafort at that point in time and not you?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That's a question for Mr. Papadopoulos.

MS. SPEIER: So he would have had access to Mr. Manafort's email, much like he had access to your email?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I think all the emails were first initial last name @DonaldTrump.com, so anybody would have access to all of the emails.

MS. SPEIER: So it appears that Mr. Manafort forwarded this email to Rick Gates: Let's discuss. We need someone to communicate that DT is not doing these trips. It should be someone low level in the campaign so as not to send any signal.

Had there been conversations about trips that surrogates could make on behalf of the campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't recall.

MS. SPEIER: So you didn't have any conversations with Mr. Manafort about surrogates taking trips?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: To the best of my knowledge, I did not.

MS. SPEIER: So can you interpret what Mr. Manafort meant by saying it should be someone low level in the campaign so as not to send a signal. What could possibly he have meant?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I have no idea what Mr. Manafort meant.

MS. SPEIER: So, again, you're still the campaign manager on June 7th,

correct?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MS. SPEIER: On June 7, then-candidate Trump had just won the New Jersey primary. Do you recall that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I recall winning New Jersey, yes.

MS. SPEIER: Were you there with him?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe I was, yes.

MS. SPEIER: So he gave a speech that night, and I've actually watched it on YouTube a number of times. He gave a speech that night in which he says he's about to give a major speech about Hillary Clinton in the next couple of days. Maybe he said Monday. What was he referring to?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know.

MS. SPEIER: Well, did you not help him draft the speech?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, I didn't.

MS. SPEIER: Who helped him draft the speech?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Mr. Miller.

MS. SPEIER: So Mr. Miller did?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Mr. Miller was the person who drafted the speeches.

MS. SPEIER: And did you talk to Mr. Miller about what he was talking about about all the things that they were going to be exposing about Hillary Clinton in that subsequent Monday speech?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I'm not sure that the remarks that Mr. Trump made weren't made extemporaneously.

MS. SPEIER: But it appeared that there was something big that the

campaign was about to unload on Hillary Clinton and provide the public with. I would think you would be aware of that, would you not?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: If there was something that was planned, I would have been made aware of it, yes.

MS. SPEIER: So, June 9th, the meeting in Donald Trump Jr.'s office takes place. Both Manafort and Kushner are there. You indicated that you would look back on your schedule to see what you were doing that day. Did you do so, and what did you determine you were doing that day?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe that was the day that we ended up traveling to Florida midday.

MS. SPEIER: You and whom else?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Mr. Trump, Mr. Miller, Ms. Hicks, Mr. Scavino, Mr. Schiller, Secret Service.

MS. SPEIER: I don't -- did you actually check your records?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I thought my record indicated that at the end of that evening we RON'd at Mar-a-Lago.

MS. SPEIER: So that would be at the end of the evening. This was happening at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. What did your schedule suggest you were doing at 4 o'clock in the afternoon?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't keep a detailed schedule of what I do hour by hour.

MS. SPEIER: Well, since this was such an important meeting that was going to provide dirt on Hillary Clinton, and --

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I wasn't made aware of the meeting prior to it being made public.

MS. SPEIER: So were you being eased out of the campaign at that point?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: By June 9th, yes.

MS. SPEIER: When were you being eased out of the campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: My final day was June 20th.

MS. SPEIER: No, I understand that. But when did you start seeing the shift of power to Mr. Manafort?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know what date that would be.

MS. SPEIER: You said you were being eased out by then. I mean, you must have had some notice at that point in time that you were no longer going to be the campaign manager. What happened or what gave you that impression?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: There was a meeting sometime in late, mid to late May of the restructuring of the campaign. And so that would have been made -- I would have been made aware of it at that time.

MS. SPEIER: So that meeting took place where, that restructuring meeting?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: In Trump Tower.

MS. SPEIER: Was it in Mr. Trump's office?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MS. SPEIER: Who was actually running that meeting?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Mr. Kushner.

MS. SPEIER: So was he -- had he had a conversation with you before that meeting on restructuring that you were going to be eased out of your position?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No. It was a -- a new organizational chart was established.

MS. SPEIER: And in that organizational chart, what was your -- where

were you listed?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: As the campaign manager.

MS. SPEIER: So how would you suggest that that was a restructuring then, if you were still the campaign manager?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Well, because the responsibilities were going to shift from day-to-day operations of everything at the campaign to a more limited role, which would have included travel, communications. And the State operations was going to be moved over to Mr. Manafort.

MS. SPEIER: And once Jared had provided that new organization chart, who did you talk to about it?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Probably Mr. Trump.

MS. SPEIER: And what did he say to you?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't recall the exact conversation about it.

MS. SPEIER: But he conveyed to you that you were no longer going to have the chief role as campaign manager?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, I would still have the campaign manager role. Mr. Manafort's title was then campaign chairman.

MS. SPEIER: But your responsibilities were shifting into a much smaller role?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That is correct.

MS. SPEIER: And what did he say about giving you fewer responsibilities and why he was doing that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He didn't necessarily address it. He just said it will be the way it used to be, which is us flying around the plane and me taking care of his schedule and not worrying about the State operations.

MS. SPEIER: So he was basically saying, "You're going to be closer to me in terms of what I'm doing," almost like a body man kind of thing?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I always traveled with the candidate.

MS. SPEIER: So, after that June 7th speech in which he may have or may not have extemporaneously talked about a major speech the next week, you didn't feel compelled to say to him, "What is this going to be on, where are we going to do it, what's the location of this major speech going to be?"

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MS. SPEIER: Why wouldn't you do that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I didn't feel there was a need to do that.

MS. SPEIER: You were the still the campaign manager. No comment?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Your statement is accurate. I was still the campaign manager.

MS. SPEIER: But as the campaign manager, aren't you supposed to be in the know about major speeches that are going to be given and what they're going to be about? I mean, don't you sort of plan that out?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MS. SPEIER: And that wasn't happening as to this speech that was going to take place the following week?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: There was no decision to make a major speech other than the extemporaneous words that Mr. Trump gave that night.

MS. SPEIER: So, as campaign manager earlier in the campaign, you no doubt did opposition research on Mr. Trump?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, that's not accurate.

MS. SPEIER: Most campaigns do that.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: We're not most campaigns.

MR. SPEIER: I understand that. So there was no opposition research done by the campaign on the candidate?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That's accurate.

MS. SPEIER: Was there opposition research done on Hillary Clinton?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MS. SPEIER: Were you ever familiar about the sale of the mansion in Florida by Mr. Trump to Mr. Rybolovev?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MS. SPEIER: It never came up?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MS. SPEIER: He never bragged about making \$45 million on a sale when you'd fly down to Mar-a-Lago?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MS. SPEIER: Was -- Cohen was identified as being part of the campaign in the early days.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I'm sorry, who?

MS. SPEIER: Cohen, Michael Cohen. Was he just kind of an add-on, or on did he sit in on meetings?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Michael Cohen had no role in the campaign.

MS. SPEIER: Did he sit in on meetings?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MS. SPEIER: So he was never at campaign-related events?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I didn't say that. I said he didn't sit in on meetings.

MS. SPEIER: Any strategy meetings, he didn't sit in on strategy meetings?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, he did not.

MS. SPEIER: All right.

MR. SCHIFF: Mr. Lewandowski, if I could, just one other followup question before I yield to Mr. Swalwell.

Regarding the statement that was produced about the Trump Tower meeting, did you ever discuss that with Mr. Corello (ph)?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I did not.

MR. SCHIFF: There have been public reports that Mr. Corello (ph) was concerned that the statement that they were putting out might constitute an act of obstruction of justice. Did you ever discuss that issue with Hope Hicks?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I didn't -- to the best of my knowledge, I didn't discuss any conversations that Ms. Hicks might have had with Mr. Corello (ph) at all.

MR. SCHIFF: Did you ever discuss a concern whether putting out a false statement about the meeting in Trump Tower might constitute an act of obstruction? Did you ever discuss that with Hope Hicks or anyone else?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my knowledge, no.

MR. SCHIFF: I yield to Mr. Swalwell.

MR. SWALWELL: Did Mr. Trump know Erik Prince?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you ever see them together?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my recollection.

MR. SWALWELL: Has he ever talked about Erik Prince?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't remember a direct conversation about Mr. Prince, no.

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MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever met Erik Prince?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you work with him during the campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SWALWELL: When did you first meet Mr. Prince?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Sometime probably mid last year to March, April, May of last year.

MR. SWALWELL: What was that in the context of?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He asked me to get a cup of coffee with him at the hotel, Trump Hotel.

MR. SWALWELL: In Washington?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: What did you discuss?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He discussed a new strategy for Afghanistan.

MR. SWALWELL: Was he making a pitch to you about a strategy for Afghanistan?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: His recommendation is -- was to reduce the number of troops in Afghanistan and use a different type of force there. And so he walked through what he thought would be a better, different strategy than what the administration was pursuing.

MR. SWALWELL: And was he asking you to pass along that to Mr. Trump?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He didn't directly ask me that, no.

MR. SWALWELL: Was it implied that he wanted you to pass that along to Mr. Trump?

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MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know if it was implied, but my guess would be that he told me just in case I was asked of a potential strategy for Afghanistan.

MR. SWALWELL: By Mr. Trump?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Or someone else in the administration, yes.

MR. SWALWELL: Were you aware of any efforts Mr. Prince had undertaken to establish a back channel between Russia and the United States in January of 2017?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I was not.

MR. SWALWELL: Did Mr. Prince talk to you at all about his trip in January 2017 to the Seychelles?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He did not.

MR. SWALWELL: Has Donald Trump ever talked to you about Erik Prince's travel in January 2017 to the Seychelles?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you talked to anyone in the Trump family or White House about Erik Prince's travel to the Seychelles?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I have not.

MR. SWALWELL: When did you first learn that Erik Prince had gone to the Seychelles?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I learned from public reports.

MR. SWALWELL: Were you aware of a December 1st, 2016, meeting between Jared Kushner and Michael Flynn with Ambassador Kislyak?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I would only have been made aware of that through the public media reports.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you ever talk to President-elect or President Trump

about that meeting?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't believe I did, no.

MR. SWALWELL: Did you ever talk to Ms. Hicks about a communication strategy about explaining that meeting?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my knowledge, no.

MR. SWALWELL: Were you aware of a December 2016 meeting between Jared Kushner and VEB Bank Chairman Sergey Gorkov?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I was not.

MR. SWALWELL: Do you know if Donald Trump was aware of that meeting?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I do not know.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever talked to Donald Trump about that meeting?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I have not.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever talked to Ms. Hicks about a communication strategy with respect to answering questions about that meeting?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I have not.

MR. SWALWELL: Are you familiar with a meeting at Trump Tower during the transition that included Jared Kushner, Michael Flynn, Steve Bannon, and UAE officials?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I am not.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever talked to Donald Trump about that meeting?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I did not.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever talked to Ms. Hicks about a

communication strategy to respond to that meeting?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I have not.

MR. SWALWELL: Are you aware of communications that General Flynn had in December 2016 with the Russian Ambassador about a U.N. Security Council resolution?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Only from the public reports.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever talked to Donald Trump about General Flynn's role during that time of the transition with the Russian Ambassador?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I believe I had a conversation with the President, and part of the discussion was about -- after the public reports were made about General Flynn. I believe it was actually after he had already left his position in the White House. And the President asked me something along the lines of, what is the big deal of the incoming National Security Advisor to talk to other governments?

MR. SWALWELL: When was that conversation?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It would have been after Mr. Flynn had left the White House. So that would have been sometime in probably March or April of 2017.

MR. SWALWELL: Did President Trump tell you whether he knew that General Flynn was having those conversations at the time?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He did not.

MR. SWALWELL: Did President Trump tell you whether he knew that General Flynn had lied about those conversations to the Vice President or Vice President-elect?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He did not.

MR. SWALWELL: Did President Trump tell you whether he knew that General Flynn had been interviewed by the FBI with respect to these conversations?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: He did not.

MR. SWALWELL: Were you aware that, on December 29, 2016, General Flynn had another conversation with the Russian Ambassador about Russia's response to Obama administration sanctions for Russian interference?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I was not.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever talked to President-elect or President Trump about what the U.S. response should be for Russian interference?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I have not.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you ever talked to President-elect or President Trump about sanctions against Russia?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Back to Mr. Prince. Did you know that he had a relationship with UAE?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I did not.

MR. SWALWELL: When Paul Manafort was brought on board, did Donald Trump have knowledge of Mr. Manafort's prior work with Ukraine?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't know the answer to that.

MR. SWALWELL: It's something that Mr. Trump never brought up to you?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: That is correct.

MR. SWALWELL: Were you aware of Mr. Manafort's prior work with Ukraine?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Was there any vetting done on Mr. Manafort prior to him coming on board, meaning besides what was available in a Google search?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Why was Mr. Manafort working for free?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I can't answer that question.

MR. SWALWELL: Were you working for free at that time?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Was there anybody as senior as you or in the C-suite level of the campaign who was working for free at that time?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Mr. Kushner.

MR. SWALWELL: Was it unusual to you that Mr. Manafort, that his arrangement was to work for free?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MR. SWALWELL: Why?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Just based on the number of hours that someone would put into a campaign, you would traditionally want to be compensated for that, regardless of your standing.

MR. SWALWELL: Do you know if that was Mr. Manafort's decision or Mr. Trump's?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It was Mr. Manafort's decision.

MR. SWALWELL: Did that strike you as unusual, that somebody would offer to do all that work for free?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Mr. Manafort portrayed himself as a very wealthy individual and didn't need the compensation.

MR. SWALWELL: Now, you said earlier that if somebody worked with

Russia to affect the outcome in a U.S. election, they should go to jail for the rest of their life.

Would it surprise you now, knowing what you know about Mr. Manafort, if you learned that he had worked with the Russians?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't think right now, what I've learned about Mr. Manafort, anything would surprise me.

MR. SWALWELL: And any reason that you say that with respect to the Russians and Mr. Manafort?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Just the emails which have been produced where Mr. Manafort offered to have private discussions with people overseas and brief them on the campaign.

MR. SWALWELL: Are you referring to emails where Mr. Manafort is trying to pass messages along to Olig Deripaska?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Those emails I'd be referring to, yes.

MR. SWALWELL: Do you know if Mr. Trump, if President Trump is aware that Mr. Manafort had done that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I do not know.

MR. SWALWELL: I yield back to Mr. Schiff.

MR. SCHIFF: Have you had a chance to read General Flynn's guilty plea and the statement that he submitted at the time?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I have not.

MR. SCHIFF: In that statement, he acknowledges that he briefed certain senior transition officials on his discussions with Ambassador Kislyak. Do you know who those senior transition officials are?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I do not know for certain, no.

MR. SCHIFF: Have you discussed who those senior transition officials might be with anybody in the administration?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not to the best of my knowledge, no.

MR. SCHIFF: Did you discuss any of the facts of that plea with the President at the time --

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I have never, no.

MR. SCHIFF: I think you said earlier you did not know who George Nadir (ph) was. Is that correct?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: It is.

MR. SCHIFF: Since it became public within the last week or so that he may have been present at a meeting in Trump Tower with representatives of the UAE as well as a meeting in the Seychelles with Erik Prince, have you discussed that issue with the President?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No, I have not.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you discussed it with anybody else in the administration?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SWALWELL: At one time, there was a Ukraine peace proposal. It's been described as presented by Felix Sater or presented to Felix Sater and Michael Cohen from a Ukrainian Parliamentarian. Were you aware of that at the time it was going on?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I was not.

MR. SCHIFF: When did you first become aware of that?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Only through public accounts.

MR. SCHIFF: And have you discussed that proposal or that meeting or

that presentation of documents with anybody in the administration?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I have not.

MR. SCHIFF: And I think you said earlier, but just for the record, are you refusing to answer questions about conversations you had with the President about the firing of James Comey?

MR. CHAVKIN: I'm advising him that that's not pertinent.

MR. SCHIFF: So you're refusing to answer those questions?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I'm taking the advice of counsel.

MR. SCHIFF: You've probably seen public reports that the President met in the Oval Office with Russians and discussed having gotten rid of James Comey. Did you discuss that meeting with the President?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: You mean the meeting as it related to the public reports of Russians in the Oval Office? I never discussed that meeting with the President, no.

MR. SCHIFF: Did you discuss that meeting with anyone else in the administration?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Not that I recall, no.

MR. SCHIFF: It was reported this week that the President instructed Mr. McGahn to publicly state that he had never ordered Bob Mueller's firing and that Mr. McGahn told the President that he wouldn't because that wasn't true. Did you ever discuss that with the President?

MR. CHAVKIN: That statement that he told McGahn?

MR. SCHIFF: The interaction that he had with Mr. McGahn about the Comey firing -- I'm sorry, about the potential of firing Mueller.

MR. CHAVKIN: Again, Mr. Schiff, that is exactly the same as the Comey

question, and I'm advising him not to answer.

MR. SCHIFF: No, I'm asking about Bob Mueller.

Did you ever -- let me put it this way: Did you ever have any conversation with the President about the possibility of firing Bob Mueller?

MR. CHAVKIN: I'm advising him not to answer.

MR. SCHIFF: Are you refusing to answer questions about the conversations you had with the President about firing Bob Mueller?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I'll take advice from counsel.

MR. SCHIFF: Earlier my colleague asked if you had been asked to lie on behalf of the President. It was recently reported, as I mentioned earlier, that Mr. McGahn had been asked by the President to represent publicly that he had never been told to fire Bob Mueller.

Had you ever been given instructions by the President to say something publicly, as a commentator in your current position, that wasn't true that had a bearing on any of the questions we've asked you today?

MR. CHAVKIN: That's a pretty broad --

MR. CONAWAY: Mr. Schiff, narrow it down into something that the witness can talk about specifically with respect to our four questions, please.

MR. SCHIFF: Well, has the President ever asked you to communicate publicly, through your appearances on television, something pertinent to the Russia investigation as we have discussed during the hearing today that wasn't true?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SCHIFF: Did Mr. Deripaska ever come to your attention during the campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SCHIFF: Was the first time you heard his name after the campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MR. SCHIFF: And when did you first learn of Mr. Deripaska?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Just through public reports.

MR. SCHIFF: Did you ever discuss Mr. Deripaska with the President?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Never.

MR. SCHIFF: Did you ever discuss him with anyone else in the administration?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SCHIFF: Let me just do a final review and I think we may be done.

Have you had any conversations with Mr. McGahn since you left the White House -- or, I'm sorry, since you left the campaign?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Yes.

MR. SCHIFF: And have these conversations been pertinent to any of the questions we've asked you today?

MR. CHAVKIN: Again, if I may adopt what the chair has suggested, you mean relating to the Russia parameters?

MR. SCHIFF: Well, not as you define them, Counsel, but as we have defined them through our questions today.

So have you discussed any of the matters that have been covered by your testimony today with Mr. McGahn?

MR. CHAVKIN: I'm going to advise him not to answer that.

MR. SCHIFF: That's absurd, Counsel, with all due respect. What we've been asking about has been directly pertinent to the investigation, and I don't want

to get caught in a word game with you about using the word "investigation."

So have you discussed the matters that we have asked you about today with Mr. McGahn?

MR. CHAVKIN: I'm going to advise him not to answer.

MR. SWALWELL: If I may, Mr. Schiff.

MR. SCHIFF: Mr. Swalwell.

MR. SWALWELL: Mr. Lewandowski, have you spoken with Mr. Futerfas, Alan Futerfas?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: No.

MR. SWALWELL: Have you spoken with the lawyers of any -- have you spoken with any lawyer representing a witness who has been interviewed in the Russia investigation?

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: Have I spoke with, I'm sorry, any lawyer representing anyone who has been interviewed? Is that --

MR. SWALWELL: In the Russia investigation.

MR. LEWANDOWSKI: I don't believe so.

MR. SWALWELL: I yield back.

MR. CONAWAY: Mr. Lewandowski, thank you very much. We are done. Appreciate it.

[Whereupon, at 1:46 p.m., the interview was concluded.]