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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

KOLAN L. DAVIS, Chief Counsel and Staff Director
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July 20, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Rod J. Rosenstein
Deputy Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Rosenstein,

According to news reports, during the 2016 presidential election, “Ukrainian government officials tried to help Hillary Clinton and undermine Trump” and did so by “disseminat[ing] documents implicating a top Trump aide in corruption and suggested they were investigating the matter...”¹ Ukrainian officials also reportedly “helped Clinton’s allies research damaging information on Trump and his advisers.”² At the center of this plan was Alexandra Chalupa, described by reports as a Ukrainian-American operative “who was consulting for the Democratic National Committee” and reportedly met with Ukrainian officials during the presidential election for the express purpose of exposing alleged ties between then-candidate Donald Trump, Paul Manafort, and Russia.³ *Politico* also reported on a Financial Times story that quoted a Ukrainian legislator, Serhiy Leschenko, saying that Trump’s candidacy caused “Kiev’s wider political leadership to do something they would never have attempted before: intervene, however indirectly, in a U.S. election.”⁴

Reporting indicates that the Democratic National Committee encouraged Chalupa to interface with Ukrainian embassy staff to “arrange an interview in which Poroshenko [the president of Ukraine] might discuss Manafort’s ties to Yanukovich.”⁵ Chalupa also met with Valeriy Chaly, Ukraine’s ambassador to the U.S., and Oksana Shulyar, a top aid to the Ukrainian ambassador in March 2016 and shared her alleged concerns about Manafort. Reports state that the purpose of their initial meeting was to “organize a June reception at the embassy to promote Ukraine.” However, another Ukrainian embassy official, Andrii Telizhenko, told *Politico* that Shulyar instructed him to assist Chalupa with research to connect Trump, Manafort, and the

¹ Kenneth P. Vogel & David Stern, *Ukrainian efforts to sabotage Trump backfire*, POLITICO (Jan. 11, 2017).

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

Russians. He reportedly said, “[t]hey were coordinating an investigation with the Hillary team on Paul Manafort with Alexandra Chalupa” and that “Oksana [Shulyar] was keeping it all quiet...the embassy worked very closely with” Chalupa.⁶

Chalupa’s actions appear to show that she was simultaneously working on behalf of a foreign government, Ukraine, and on behalf of the DNC and Clinton campaign, in an effort to influence not only the U.S voting population but U.S. government officials. Indeed, Telizhenko recalled that Chalupa told him and Shulyar, “[i]f we can get enough information on Paul [Manafort] or Trump’s involvement with Russia, she can get a hearing in Congress by September.”⁷ Later, Chalupa did reportedly meet with staff in the office of Democratic representative Marcy Kaptur to discuss a congressional investigation. Such a public investigation would not only benefit the Hillary Clinton campaign, but it would benefit the Ukrainian government, which, at the time, was working against the Trump campaign. When *Politico* attempted to ask Rep. Kaptur’s office about the meeting, the office called it a “touchy subject.”

Aside from the apparent evidence of collusion between the DNC, Clinton campaign, and Ukrainian government, Chalupa’s actions implicate the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA). As you know, the Committee is planning a hearing on FARA enforcement. Given the public reporting of these activities in support of a foreign government, it is imperative that the Justice Department explain why she has not been required to register under FARA.

FARA requires individuals to register with the Justice Department if they act, even through an intermediary, “as an agent, representative, employee, or servant” or “in any other capacity” at the behest of a foreign principal, including a foreign political party, for purposes of engagement with a United States official.⁸ The registration applies to anyone who attempts to influence a U.S. government official on behalf of a foreign principal in an effort to “formulat[e], adopt[], or chang[e] the domestic or foreign policies of the United States.”⁹ As such, the focus of FARA is to require registration for individuals engaged in political or quasi-political activity on behalf of a foreign government. Likewise, an individual whose activities are subject to registration under FARA and who sends informational material “for or in the interest of [a] foreign principal” with the intent or belief that such material will be circulated among at least two persons must transmit the material to the Attorney General no later than 48 hours after actual transmission.¹⁰ Notably, an ongoing failure to register is an ongoing offense.¹¹

According to documents provided to the Committee, the Justice Department required the Podesta Group and Mercury LLC to register under FARA for working on behalf of the Ukrainian government.¹² Their registration was required even though the client, the European Centre for

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ 22 U.S.C. §§ 611(b)-(c).

⁹ 22 U.S.C. § 611(o).

¹⁰ 22 U.S.C. § 614(a).

¹¹ 22 U.S.C. § 618(e).

¹² Letter from Samuel R. Ramer, Acting Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Dep’t. of Justice to Senator Charles E. Grassley, Chairman, U.S. Senate Comm. on Judiciary (June 15, 2017).

the Modern Ukraine (ECFMU), wrote a letter saying it was not directly or indirectly controlled by the Ukrainian government. That did not matter to the Justice Department because their lobbying activity was not to “benefit commercial interests” of the ECFMU but instead to promote the “political or public interests of a foreign government or foreign political party.” The Justice Department made clear that an individual acting in the political or public interests of a foreign government must register under FARA. As such, because Podesta and Mercury were effectively working on behalf of Ukrainian government interests, they were required to register.

Unlike that situation where the Podesta Group and Mercury LLC worked for the middleman (EFCMU) and not the Ukrainian government, here Chalupa reportedly worked directly with Ukrainian government officials to benefit Ukraine, lobbying Congress on behalf of Ukraine, and worked to undermine the Trump campaign on behalf of Ukraine and the Clinton campaign. Accordingly, these facts appear to be exactly the type of activity Congress intended to reach with FARA. Please answer the following:

1. What actions has the Justice Department taken to enforce FARA’s requirements regarding Chalupa given the public reporting of her actions on behalf of the Ukrainian government?
2. Why has the Justice Department not required her to register under FARA?
3. Has the Justice Department sent a letter of inquiry to Chalupa? If so, please provide a copy. If not, why not?
4. Under 28 C.F.R. § 5.2, any present or prospective agent of a foreign entity may request an advisory opinion from the Justice Department regarding the need to register. Has Chalupa ever requested one in relation to her work on behalf of the Ukrainian government? If so, please provide a copy of the request and opinion.
5. Please differentiate the facts that required the Podesta Group and Mercury LLC to register with Chalupa’s.
6. Are you investigating the Ukrainian government’s intervention in the 2016 presidential election on behalf of the Clinton campaign? If not, why not?
7. Are you investigating links and coordination between the Ukrainian government and individuals associated with the campaign of Hillary Clinton or the Democratic National Committee? If not, why not?

I anticipate that your written response and the responsive documents will be unclassified. Please send all unclassified material directly to the Committee. In keeping with the requirements of Executive Order 13526, if any of the responsive documents do contain classified information, please segregate all unclassified material within the classified documents, provide all unclassified information directly to the Committee, and provide a classified addendum to the

Office of Senate Security. The Committee complies with all laws and regulations governing the handling of classified information. The Committee is not bound, absent its prior agreement, by any handling restrictions or instructions on unclassified information unilaterally asserted by the Executive Branch.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this request. Please respond no later than August 3, 2017. If you have questions, contact Josh Flynn-Brown of my Judiciary Committee staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

READ: Pelosi letter on whistleblower complaint

Updated 10:36 AM ET, Mon September 23, 2019

In a letter to all members of Congress, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Sunday again called for the administration to allow the whistleblower who has made the complaint to the Intelligence Community's Inspector General to come before Congress. Read Pelosi's letter below:

September 22, 2019

Dear Colleague,

On Thursday, Acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire will appear before the House Intelligence Committee in an open hearing. At that time, we expect him to obey the law and turn over the whistleblower's full complaint to the Committee. We also expect that he will establish a path for the whistleblower to speak directly to the House and Senate Intelligence Committees as required by law.

The Intelligence Community Inspector General, who was appointed by President Trump, has determined that the complaint is both of "urgent concern and credible," and its disclosure "relates to one of the most significant and important of the Director of National Intelligence's responsibilities to the American people."

The Administration's blocking of Acting DNI Maguire from providing Congress with the whistleblower complaint calls upon him to violate the federal statute, which unequivocally states that the DNI "shall" provide Congress this information. The Administration is endangering our national security and having a chilling effect on any future whistleblower who sees wrongdoing.

We must be sure that the President and his Administration are always conducting our national security and foreign policy in the best interest of the American people, not the President's personal or political interest.

I am calling on Republicans to join us in insisting that the Acting DNI obey the law as we seek the truth to protect the American people and our Constitution.

This violation is about our national security. The Inspector General determined that the matter is "urgent" and therefore we face an emergency that must be addressed immediately.

If the Administration persists in blocking this whistleblower from disclosing to Congress a serious possible breach of constitutional duties by the President, they will be entering a grave new chapter of lawlessness which will take us into a whole new stage of investigation.

Thank you for your patriotism.

best regards,

Nancy

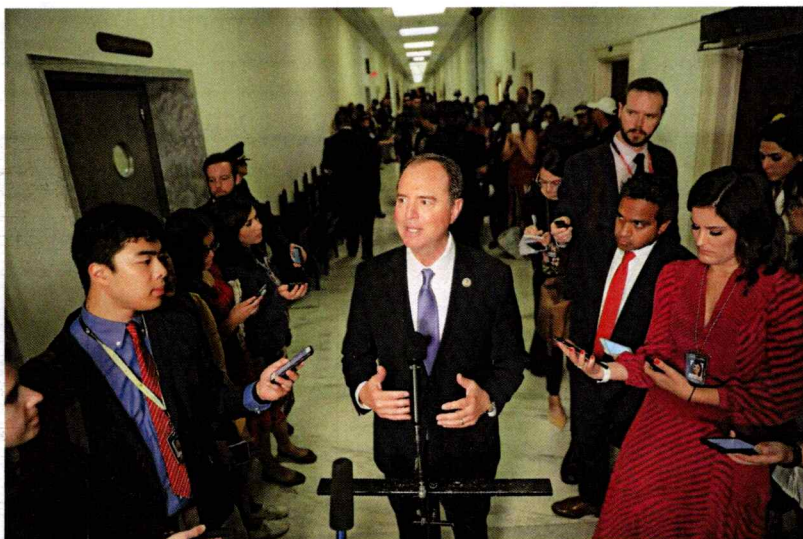
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<https://www.wsj.com/articles/whistleblower-is-expected-to-testify-soon-house-intelligence-committee-chairman-says-11569768797>

NATIONAL SECURITY

Whistleblower Is Expected to Testify Soon, House Intelligence Chairman Schiff Says

Adam Schiff says precautions are being taken to protect person's identity



House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff (D, Calif.) said he hasn't set a timetable for concluding the investigation into President Trump. PHOTO: ANDREW HARNIK/ASSOCIATED PRESS

By Josh Mitchell

Updated Sept. 29, 2019 9:50 pm ET

WASHINGTON—The whistleblower at the center of the impeachment investigation of President Trump will testify in the House “very soon,” though in a way that will protect his identity, the Democrat leading the probe said Sunday.

The whistleblower, whose identity hasn't been made public, is a man who works for the Central Intelligence Agency, The Wall Street Journal confirmed last week. The House is waiting for the whistleblower's attorneys to receive security clearances, said Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the House Intelligence Committee chairman.

“We'll get the unfiltered testimony of that whistleblower,” Mr. Schiff said on ABC. “We are taking all the precautions” to protect his identity, he added.

The chairman said he hasn't set a timetable for concluding the investigation into Mr. Trump, a Republican up for re-election next year.

A lawyer for the whistleblower said talks with lawmakers are ongoing. “We continue to work w/both parties in House & Senate and we understand all agree that protecting whistleblower’s identity is paramount,” the lawyer, Mark S. Zaid, wrote on Twitter. “Discussions continue to occur to coordinate & finalize logistics but no date/time has yet been set.”

It isn’t clear how the whistleblower would testify without risking exposure of his identity. Any meeting with lawmakers would likely need to take place in a secure room—known as a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility, or SCIF—given the sensitivity of the information at issue, according to national security lawyers.

While those rooms are available on Capitol Hill, appearing there likely would pose additional challenges to protect the whistleblower’s anonymity given the number of people, especially reporters, in the halls of Congress. One alternative that the whistleblower’s legal team and lawmakers may pursue would be to arrange a meeting in a SCIF at an executive branch agency, people familiar with the matter said.

Stephen Ryan, a lawyer at McDermott, Will & Emery LLP who specializes in congressional investigations, said there are two main hurdles: physically getting the whistleblower into Congress, and then limiting the number of people who hear him testify and read full transcripts.

“You literally have to sneak them into the building—you have to have a cordon that takes them in, perhaps through the House side, under the Capitol, coming out on the Senate side,” he said. “We know how to get people in and out of buildings without being identified. But when you share their identity with a group of people the chances of their exposure increases exponentially.”

Mr. Ryan added, “All you need is one [person] who wants to call a pal in the reporting world or who says something to their spouse or something to their boyfriend.”

The whistleblower’s complaint, released last week, focuses on a July 25 phone call between Mr. Trump and the Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelensky. The complaint alleges that Mr. Trump sought to use the powers of his office to push Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden, and that White House officials acted to conceal evidence of the president’s actions.

Mr. Trump struck out at Mr. Schiff on Twitter Sunday evening, saying the chairman falsely attributed words to him during Mr. Schiff’s opening remarks at the Intelligence Committee’s Thursday hearing with acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire.

“His lies were made in perhaps the most blatant and sinister manner ever seen in the great Chamber. He wrote down and read terrible things, then said it was from the mouth of the President of the United States. I want Schiff questioned at the highest level for Fraud & Treason,” Mr. Trump wrote.

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Mr. Trump also said he deserved to confront not only the whistleblower, who didn't have firsthand knowledge of the telephone call with Mr. Zelensky, "but also the person who illegally gave this information, which was largely incorrect, to the 'Whistleblower.' Was this person SPYING on the U.S. President? Big Consequences!"

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

What measures should be placed, if any, to protect the whistleblower's identity during his testimony? Why? Join the conversation below.

The whistleblower complaint's description of the call with Mr. Zelensky aligned closely with the content of the reconstructed transcript released by the White House. The complaint said it drew from testimonials of more than a half-dozen unidentified U.S. officials who expressed concern about Mr. Trump's conduct.

Mr. Schiff has said his comments at the committee hearing were "at least in part, parody."

"I think the whistleblower did the right thing," Mr. Maguire said during the hearing. "I think he followed the law every step of the way."

Mr. Trump's former homeland security adviser Tom Bossert on Sunday denounced the president for bringing up a debunked conspiracy theory during the call. Mr. Trump asked the Ukrainian leader to do another favor for the U.S. related to the U.S.-based cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike, which conducted forensic analysis of the Democratic National Committee's computer network after it was hacked in 2016.

CrowdStrike concluded the hack was carried out by Russian intelligence officers, a finding corroborated by U.S. intelligence agencies and special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference into the 2016 election. But Mr. Trump has repeatedly cast doubt on the conclusion of Russian involvement in the Democratic hacks, and said in an April 2017

interview that CrowdStrike's findings may not be credible because the company is "Ukrainian-based," which is false.

"The DNC server and that conspiracy theory has got to go, they have to stop with that," Mr. Bossert, the former Trump adviser, said on ABC. "It cannot be repeated in our discourse."



Rudy Giuliani's Ukrainian Connections



00:00 / 18:38



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Mr. Bossert was forced out of his job in April 2018 after months of internal frustration with his leadership and as the new national security adviser moved to establish power in the White House, the Journal reported last year.

Separately, Mr. Schiff said Sunday on NBC that he and

other Democrats have yet to decide whether to push for the president's personal attorney, former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, to testify in the investigation.

Mr. Giuliani initially said Sunday on ABC that he wouldn't cooperate with Mr. Schiff's probe, accusing the congressman of lacking fairness. But he quickly changed his position, saying he would consider testifying.

"I have to be guided by my client," Mr. Giuliani said. "Frankly, it's his privilege, not mine. If he decides he wants me to testify I will testify."

Mr. Schiff said in an interview on "60 Minutes" Sunday night that the committee planned to issue a subpoena to Mr. Giuliani for evidence. "It's our intention as soon as first thing next week to subpoena him for documents," he said. "And there may very well come a time where we want to hear from him directly."

Mr. Giuliani is a key figure in the impeachment probe and is depicted in the whistleblower complaint released Thursday as eager to thrust himself into U.S. foreign policy. As the president's personal attorney, Mr. Giuliani pressed Ukraine to pursue an investigation of Mr. Biden and his son Hunter, according to the whistleblower's complaint.

Progressive advocacy group MoveOn.org on Sunday solicited donations to help the whistleblower, seeking \$3 contributions it said would be split with Whistleblower Aid, a

nonprofit, nonpartisan legal organization that offers assistance to government employees who expose illegal activity.

Whistleblower Aid operates a separate GoFundMe site seeking donations to assist the whistleblower. By Sunday night the site had raised about \$162,000.

A person familiar with the matter said the whistleblower's attorneys aren't involved in the fundraising and have never communicated with MoveOn. The person said the attorneys are working for the client pro bono, but Whistleblower Aid will be helping them financially.

MoveOn and Whistleblower Aid didn't immediately respond to requests for comment Sunday.

—*Dustin Volz and Alex Leary contributed to this article.*

Write to Josh Mitchell at joshua.mitchell@wsj.com

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POLITICS

Whistleblower reaches agreement to testify, will appear 'very soon,' Rep. Adam Schiff says

Christal Hayes USA TODAY

Published 11:57 a.m. ET Sep. 29, 2019 | Updated 4:42 p.m. ET Sep. 29, 2019

WASHINGTON – The whistleblower who filed an anonymous complaint about President Donald Trump asking Ukraine to investigate a political rival has reached an agreement to testify before Congress, Rep. Adam Schiff announced Sunday.

Talking with ABC News' "This Week," Schiff, the Democrat who chairs the House Intelligence Committee, said the whistleblower would testify "very soon" and the only thing standing in the way was getting security clearances for the attorneys representing the whistleblower so they could attend the testimony.

The whistleblower, whose identity has not been made public, revealed deep concern that Trump "used the power of his office" to solicit Ukraine's help to discredit one of his main political rivals, former Vice President Joe Biden.

The complaint went on to detail efforts by senior White House officials to later "lock down" access to all records of the July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in which Trump urged his counterpart to investigate Democratic presidential candidate Biden and his son Hunter Biden.

The whistleblower's concerns were the tipping point for House Democrats, who formally launched an impeachment inquiry into Trump this week after months of investigating the administration and conduct of the president.

Schiff did not outline a date for testimony and the whistleblower's attorneys said in a statement that they continue to work with the House and Senate about finalizing logistics, adding no date has been set.

Congress is on a two-week recess, but the impeachment inquiry doesn't appear to be slowing down. On Friday, Schiff announced a number of depositions scheduled with State Department officials and a private hearing with the intelligence community's inspector general, the official who received the whistleblower complaint and found it credible and urgent. Schiff also announced Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was being subpoenaed for documents related to the Trump-Ukraine episode.

Schiff said Sunday that the biggest concern with having the whistleblower appear before Congress was protecting the person's identity, noting comments made by Trump at a private event where he suggested the whistleblower had committed treason and should be punished.

'Almost a spy': Donald Trump suggests whistleblower source committed treason as Ukraine firestorm builds

More: 'It doesn't matter': Pelosi not concerned if Democrats lose majority over impeachment

"You know what we used to do in the old days when we were smart with spies and treason, right?" Trump said, according to published reports. "We used to handle it a little differently than we do now."

Schiff said there were a number of "security concerns" that were being worked out to protect the person.

"We are taking all the precautions we can," he said, so that the congressional panel allows the "testimony to go forward in a way that protects the whistleblower's identity."

Throughout the week, a series of developments have deepened this controversy, including the public release of the complaint and a summary of the call Trump had with Ukraine's president.

More: Nancy Pelosi has put the Trump impeachment inquiry on a fast track. Here's the plan, timeline and key players

More: Whistleblower says Trump used 'the power of his office' to solicit foreign help to discredit Joe Biden

Some Republicans have signaled concern as the details have continued to mount, though no congressional Republicans have come out in support of ousting Trump from office.

Trump's former homeland security adviser Tom Bossert on Sunday acknowledged the reports were not good news for the president.

"It is a bad day and a bad week for the president and for this country if he is asking for political dirt on an opponent," he told "This Week" anchor George Stephanopoulos.

But, Bossert, who left the administration in April, noted that the allegations lodged against Trump were "far from proven," especially when it comes to whether military aid was being kept from Ukraine in exchange for an investigation into Biden. He urged caution and a refrain from rushing to judgment.

More: What's going on with Trump and Ukraine? And how does it involve Biden and a whistleblower complaint?

More: Read the summary of President Trump's call with Ukraine president about Biden Bossert voiced frustration, specifically, for Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, who went to Ukraine multiple times to investigate Biden and a theory that Ukraine meddled in the 2016 elections. Bossert said he explained to Trump multiple times that this theory was "not only a conspiracy theory, it is completely debunked."

"I am deeply frustrated with what (Giuliani) and the legal team is doing and repeating that debunked theory to the president," Bossert said. "It sticks in his mind when he hears it over and over again."

More: Whistleblower says Trump used 'the power of his office' to solicit foreign help to discredit Joe Biden

Schiff confirms tentative agreement for whistleblower to testify before House Intelligence Committee

By [Pamela Brown](#) and [Kevin Bohn](#), CNN

Updated 4:44 PM ET, Sun September 29, 2019

Washington (CNN) — There is a tentative agreement for the anonymous whistleblower who [filed a complaint](#) containing allegations about [President Donald Trump's conduct](#) to testify before the House Intelligence Committee, Chairman Adam Schiff said Sunday, confirming [CNN's previous reporting](#).

CNN reported on Wednesday that the potential testimony is dependent on the whistleblower's attorneys getting security clearance.

Asked on ABC's "This Week" whether he had reached an agreement with the whistleblower and his attorneys to come before the committee, Schiff said: "Yes, we have."

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"And as (acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph) Maguire [promised during the hearing](#), that whistleblower will be allowed to come in and come in without ... a minder from the Justice Department or from the White House to tell the whistleblower what they can and cannot say. We will get the unfiltered testimony of that whistleblower," he said.

The California Democrat added that his committee is currently "taking all the precautions we can to make sure that we do so -- we allow that testimony to go forward in a way that protects the whistleblower's identity, because as you can imagine, when the President is showing threats like, 'We ought to treat these people who expose my wrongdoing [as we used to treat traitors and spies](#),' and we used to execute traitors and spies. You can imagine the security concerns here."

The whistleblower is at the center of a fast-moving scandal in Washington surrounding a complaint made about Trump's communications with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. According to their complaint, Trump pressured

Ukraine to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden -- his potential 2020 political rival -- and his son, Hunter Biden, though there is no evidence of wrongdoing by either Biden. The complaint also alleges a coverup by the White House of the July 25 phone conversation.

Democratic House leaders opened an impeachment inquiry into Trump in the wake of the complaint.

Schiff said Sunday on ABC, as well as NBC's "Meet the Press," that he expects the whistleblower to testify "very soon," adding that the committee is now focused on the security clearances for the whistleblower's attorneys as well as the [whistleblower's protection](#).

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Related Article: Whistleblower tentatively agrees to testify, attorneys say, as long as they get appropriate clearances to attend hearing

lawyers for the whistleblower and House and Senate officials about testimony by the person.

Zaid said "protecting whistleblower's identity is paramount" and that "discussions continue to occur to coordinate & finalize logistics but no date/time has yet been set."

During his interview with ABC, Schiff said, "We will keep, obviously, riding shotgun to make sure that the acting director doesn't delay that clearance process."

Schiff wrote a letter to Maguire making the clearance request on Wednesday, after the whistleblower's lawyers agreed to meet with lawmakers if the security clearance condition is met and requested assistance from the acting DNI.

The process is already underway to ensure the lawyers have access to any relevant classified information, a source familiar with the situation previously told CNN.

CNN's Greg Clary, Zach Cohen, Gloria Cat and Devan Cole contributed this report.

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Intelligence panel has deal to hear whistleblower's testimony

By

Felicia Sonmez and Mike DeBonis

September 29, 2019 at 9:17 p.m. EDT

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam B. Schiff said Sunday that his panel has reached an agreement to secure testimony from the anonymous whistleblower whose detailed complaint launched an impeachment investigation into President Trump.

The announcement from Schiff came on the same day that Tom Bossert, a former Trump homeland security adviser, delivered a rebuke of the president, saying in an interview on ABC's "This Week" that he was "deeply disturbed" by the implications of Trump's recently reported actions.

Those comments come as members of Congress return to their districts for a two-week recess, during which they will either have to make the case for Trump's impeachment or defend him to voters amid mounting questions about his conduct.

In appearances over the weekend, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) offered a preview of the Democratic message, casting the impeachment inquiry as a somber task that she chose to endorse only as a last resort.

"I have handled this with great care, with great moderation, with great attention to what we knew was a fact or what was an allegation," Pelosi said Saturday at the Texas Tribune Festival in Austin. "This is very bad news for our country, because if it is as it seems to be, our president engaged in something that is so far beyond what our founders had in mind."

While privately favoring a rapid probe confined to the Ukraine allegations, Pelosi said Saturday that the investigation would last "as long as the Intelligence Committee follows the facts."

On a conference call with House Democrats on Sunday afternoon, Pelosi told her colleagues that public sentiment — something she had frequently cited as an obstacle to pursuing impeachment — had begun to swing around.

"The polls have changed drastically about this," she said, urging a careful approach, according to notes taken by a person on the call: "Our tone must be prayerful, respectful, solemn, worthy of the Constitution."

In an interview broadcast Sunday on CBS's "60 Minutes," Pelosi summarized her message to Trump and his aides: "Speak the truth, and let us work together to have this be a unifying experience, not a dividing one for our country. Don't make this any worse than it already is."

In an appearance on ABC News's "This Week," Schiff (D-Calif.) echoed Pelosi's message. He also said he expected the Intelligence Committee to hear from the whistleblower "very soon" pending a security clearance from acting director of national intelligence Joseph Maguire.

"We'll get the unfiltered testimony of that whistleblower," Schiff said, noting that Maguire said in a hearing Thursday that he would allow the whistleblower to testify privately without constraints.

One of the whistleblower's attorneys, Mark Zaid, said in a statement that bipartisan negotiations in both chambers are ongoing "and we understand and agree that protecting the whistleblower's identity is paramount." He added that no date or time for the testimony has been set.

Andrew P. Bakaj, another lawyer representing the whistleblower, sent a letter Saturday to Maguire expressing fears for his client's safety, citing remarks Trump made Wednesday calling the whistleblower "close to a spy" and alluding to the death penalty.

"Unfortunately, we expect this situation to worsen, and to become even more dangerous for our client and any other whistleblowers, as Congress seeks to investigate this matter," Bakaj wrote.

In a separate letter, Bakaj urged the leaders of the congressional intelligence committees to "speak out in favor of whistleblower protection and reiterate that this is a protected system where retaliation is not permitted, whether direct or implied."

Most Republican lawmakers and White House aides, meanwhile, continued to voice support for the president, even as they faced particularly tough grilling by hosts on the morning news shows over their efforts to discredit the unidentified whistleblower and keep the focus on former vice president Joe Biden and his son Hunter Biden.

Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) pointed to an initial finding by the intelligence community inspector general stating that while the complaint was credible, the whistleblower had an "arguable political bias."

"He had no firsthand knowledge. . . . And, second, he has a political bias," Jordan said on CNN's "State of the Union." "That should tell us something about this guy who came forward with this claim."

Host Jake Tapper repeatedly pushed back against Jordan's assertions. "There is no evidence of that," he said in response to Jordan's claim of political bias, noting that the language used by the inspector general in describing the whistleblower "could mean that he interned for John McCain 20 years ago. We have no idea what it means."

White House senior adviser Stephen Miller went even further in an at-times heated interview on "Fox News Sunday."

Miller dodged several questions from host Chris Wallace about allegations surrounding the president's actions, such as Trump's decision to use not the federal government but rather his personal attorney, Rudolph W. Giuliani, to obtain information on the Bidens' activities in Ukraine.

He also declined to answer when asked by Wallace to outline how, in his view, the Bidens broke any laws. And he disputed the use of the word "whistleblower" to describe the person who sounded the alarm about Trump's actions, arguing that the complaint was a "partisan hit job" by a "deep-state operative" — even though Maguire said in congressional testimony last week that he thinks the whistleblower "is operating in good faith and has followed the law."

As both sides sparred, Trump largely stayed out of public view. The president spent the weekend playing golf at his club in Sterling, Va., and occasionally attacking Democrats and the news media online. On Sunday morning, he sent more than 20 tweets and retweets slamming Fox News Channel host Ed Henry's performance during a segment with conservative commentator Mark Levin.

Later Sunday, Trump tweeted that he wants Schiff "questioned at the highest level for Fraud & Treason" for his remarks at last week's hearing where Maguire testified. And Trump demanded to meet the whistleblower as well as the person's sources.

"In addition, I want to meet not only my accuser, who presented SECOND & THIRD HAND INFORMATION, but also the person who illegally gave this information, which was largely incorrect, to the 'Whistleblower,' " Trump tweeted. "Was this person SPYING on the U.S. President? Big Consequences!"

House Democrats last week began an impeachment inquiry into Trump's actions after the release of the whistleblower complaint as well as a rough transcript of a July phone call in which Trump repeatedly urged Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate Biden, who is leading in polls for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

Hunter Biden served for nearly five years on the board of Burisma, Ukraine's largest private gas company, whose owner came under scrutiny by Ukrainian prosecutors for possible abuse of power and unlawful enrichment. The former vice president's son was not accused of any wrongdoing in the investigation.

As vice president, Biden pressured Ukraine to fire the top prosecutor, Viktor Shokin, who Biden and other Western officials said was not sufficiently pursuing corruption cases. At the time, the investigation into Burisma was dormant, according to former Ukrainian and U.S. officials.

Trump's handling of the matter appears to have alarmed voters. An ABC News-Ipsos poll released Sunday showed that 63 percent of adults say it is a serious problem that Trump pushed Zelensky to look at Hunter Biden.

However, less than half of the public, 43 percent, said Trump's action was "very serious." And just about half of Americans said they are "not surprised at all" to hear of Trump's actions.

Among those expressing concern Sunday was Bossert, a rare official with ties to Trump to take on the president.

Bossert said he was "deeply disturbed" by the implications of Trump's call to Zelensky and strongly criticized the president for seemingly furthering an unfounded theory that cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike played a role in shielding emails sent by Trump's 2016 Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton, and circulating allegations of Russian hacking.

The U.S. intelligence community has concluded that the Russians did hack Democratic sources in an effort to swing the election to Trump.

"That conspiracy theory has got to go," Bossert said on ABC News's "This Week," explaining that Trump was motivated to spread the "completely debunked" theory because he had "not gotten his pound of

flesh yet” over accusations that he had Russian help in winning the 2016 election. “They have to stop with that. It cannot continue to be repeated in our discourse. . . . If he continues to focus on that white whale, it’s going to bring him down.”

But Bossert said he was not convinced that Trump had leveraged U.S. aid to Ukraine for political dirt, noting that the president had other potential legitimate reasons to withhold the aid.

Both sides continued to dig in as scrutiny of Trump intensified.

Democrats argued that the documents the Trump administration released last week reveal that the president was misusing his office.

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) said the president’s call clearly showed an abuse of power that justified impeachment proceedings. In an appearance on “State of the Union,” he referred to “The Godfather,” saying Trump used a “high-pressure tactic” by asking for an investigation of the Bidens.

“It was an offer that the Ukrainian president could not refuse,” Jeffries said.

Republicans, meanwhile, escalated their attacks on the whistleblower and dismissed the individual’s claims as invalid.

“You can’t get a parking ticket conviction based on hearsay,” Sen. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) said Sunday in an interview on CBS’s “Face the Nation.” “Donald Trump is still an American. Every American deserves to confront their accuser. So this is a sham as far as I’m concerned.”

In a combative appearance on “This Week,” Giuliani was asked at one point whether he would cooperate with the House Intelligence Committee’s probe. Giuliani initially said he would not unless its leadership changed, calling Schiff “illegitimate” and accusing him of having “prejudged the case.”

But Giuliani then backtracked and said he would “consider it,” based on the direction of Trump. “If he decides that he wants me to testify, of course I’ll testify,” he said.

Schiff disputed Giuliani’s characterization of his role, telling host George Stephanopoulos: “My role here is to do the investigation, to make sure the facts come out. What we have seen already is damning.”

Giuliani was somewhat more subdued in a separate appearance on Fox News Channel’s “Sunday Morning Futures,” during which host Maria Bartiromo pressed him on criticism from some Republicans that his frequent television appearances were not helping the president.

“What am I supposed to do, keep silent?” Giuliani asked.

Shane Harris contributed to this report.

Schiff: Panel will hear from whistleblower

Deserve to meet accuser, his sources, Trump tweets

by Compiled by Democrat-Gazette staff from wire reports | September 30, 2019 at 7:15 a.m.

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WASHINGTON -- House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff said Sunday that he expects the whistleblower at the heart of impeachment proceedings against President Donald Trump to testify "very soon."

"All that needs to be done, at this point, is to make sure that the attorneys that represent the whistleblower get the clearances that they need to be able to accompany the whistleblower to testimony," said Schiff, D-Calif., "and that we figure out the logistics to make sure that we protect the identity of the whistleblower."

As Democrats and the director of national intelligence worked out key arrangements, Trump's allies took part in a surge of second-guessing and conspiracy theorizing across the Sunday talk shows. One former adviser urged Trump to confront the crisis at hand and get past his anger over the probe of Russian election interference.

"I honestly believe this president has not gotten his pound of flesh yet from past grievances on the 2016 investigation," said Tom Bossert, Trump's former homeland security adviser. "If he continues to focus on that white whale," Bossert added, "it's going to bring him down."

The investigation in Ukraine produced what the Russian probe did not: formal House impeachment proceedings based on the president's own words and actions.

The White House last week released a nonverbatim memorandum of Trump's July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, as well as the whistleblower's complaint alleging the U.S. president pressured his counterpart to investigate the family of former Vice President Joe Biden, who is seeking the Democratic nomination to challenge Trump's re-election next year.

In a series of tweets Sunday night, Trump said he deserved to meet "my accuser" as well as whoever provided the whistleblower with what the president called "largely incorrect" information. He also accused Democrats of "doing great harm to our Country" in an effort to destabilize the nation and the 2020 election.

Trump has sought to implicate Biden and his son Hunter Biden in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine. Hunter Biden served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company at the same time his father was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Kiev. There has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either of the Bidens.

The House forged ahead, with Schiff's committee leading the investigation. Democrats are planning a rapid start to their push for impeachment, with hearings and depositions starting this week. Many Democrats are pushing for a vote on articles of impeachment before the end of the year, mindful of the looming 2020 elections.

'COULD NOT REFUSE'

On a conference call later Sunday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi D-Calif., who was traveling in Texas, urged Democrats to proceed "not with negative attitudes towards [Trump], but a positive attitude towards our responsibility," according to an aide on the call who requested anonymity to share the private conversation. She also urged the caucus to be "somber" and noted that polling on impeachment has changed "drastically."

On the call, Democratic Caucus Chairman Hakeem Jeffries of New York urged the caucus to talk about impeachment by repeating the words "betrayal, abuse of power, national security." At the same time, the Democrats' campaign arm was mobilizing to support the candidates, according to a person on the call who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the details.

In an appearance on CNN's State of the Union, Jeffries invoked a line from The Godfather, saying Trump used a "high-pressure tactic" by asking for an investigation of the Bidens.

"It was an offer that the Ukrainian president could not refuse," Jeffries said

In an interview Sunday on CBS' 60 Minutes, Pelosi summarized her message to Trump and his aides: "Speak the truth, and let us work together to have this be a unifying experience, not a dividing one for our country. Don't make this any worse than it already is."

In an appearance on ABC News's This Week, Schiff echoed Pelosi's message. He also said he expected the Intelligence Committee to hear from the whistleblower "very soon," pending a security clearance from acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire.

"We'll get the unfiltered testimony of that whistleblower," Schiff said, noting that Maguire said in a hearing Thursday that he would allow the whistleblower to testify privately without constraints.

GOP DEFENDERS

Republicans offered a televised array of strategies to a president who spent the day at his golf club in Virginia and prefers to handle his own communications.

Stephen Miller, the president's senior policy adviser, called the whole inquiry a "partisan hit job" orchestrated by "a deep state operative" who is also "a saboteur."

"The president of the United States is the whistleblower," Miller said.

And House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy of California said Trump had done nothing impeachable.

"Why would we move forward with impeachment? There's not something that you have to defend here," McCarthy said.

Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, the No. 2 Republican in the House, repeatedly changed the subject Sunday when Chuck Todd, the moderator of NBC's Meet the Press, pressed him on whether he believed a memo of the Ukraine call merited further investigation.

"Well, they've been investigating President Trump for two years, making way for baseless allegations," Scalise finally said. "They're investigating everything."

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., suggested that Trump appoint a special prosecutor to look into Biden's role in the firing of a former prosecutor in Ukraine, and said he had no problem with the president's call.

"I'm openly telling everybody in the country I have the president's back because I think this is a setup," he said on CBS' Face the Nation.

Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, pointed to an initial finding by the intelligence community inspector general stating that while the complaint was credible, the whistleblower had an "arguable political bias."

"He had no firsthand knowledge. ... And, second, he has a political bias," Jordan said on State of the Union. "That should tell us something about this guy who came forward with this claim."

State of the Union host Jake Tapper repeatedly pushed back against Jordan's assertions. "There is no evidence of that," he said in response to Jordan's claim of political bias, noting that the language used by the inspector general in describing the whistleblower "could mean that he interned for John McCain 20 years ago. We have no idea what it means."

Miller went even further in an at-times heated interview on Fox News Sunday.

He dodged several questions from host Chris Wallace about allegations surrounding the president's actions, such as Trump's decision to use not the federal government but rather his personal attorney Rudy Giuliani to obtain information on the Bidens' activities in Ukraine.

Giuliani, who has been encouraging Ukraine to investigate both Biden and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, promoted a debunked conspiracy theory, insisting that Ukraine had spread disinformation during the 2016 election.

Bossert advised that Trump drop that defense

"I am deeply frustrated with what he and the legal team is doing and repeating that debunked theory to the president. It sticks in his mind when he hears it over and over again," said Bossert, who also was an adviser to President George W. Bush. "That conspiracy theory has got to go, they have to stop with that, it cannot continue to be repeated."

Giuliani not only repeated it but also brandished what he said were affidavits that support them and claimed that Trump "was framed by the Democrats."

Schiff said in one interview that his committee intends to subpoena Giuliani for documents and may eventually want to hear from Giuliani directly. In a separate TV appearance, Giuliani said he would not cooperate with Schiff, but then acknowledged he would do what Trump tells him. The White House did not provide an official response on whether the president would allow Giuliani to cooperate.

"If they're going to obstruct," Schiff warned, "then they're going to increase the likelihood that Congress may feel it necessary to move forward with an article on obstruction."

Two advisers to the Biden campaign sent a letter Sunday urging major news networks to stop booking Giuliani on their shows, accusing Trump's personal attorney of spreading "false, debunked conspiracy

theories" on behalf of the president. The letter added: "By giving him your air time, you are allowing him to introduce increasingly unhinged, unfounded and desperate lies into the national conversation."

Biden advisers Anita Dunn and Kate Bedingfield sent the letter to the presidents of ABC News, NBC News, CBS News, MSNBC, CNN and Fox News as well as executive producers and anchors of their news shows. The advisers also asked that if Giuliani continues to appear, the networks give equivalent time to a Biden campaign surrogate and admonished the networks for giving Giuliani time in the first place, calling it "a disservice to your audience and a disservice to journalism."

Information for this article was contributed by Laurie Kellman, Kevin Freking, Eric Tucker, Mary Clare Jalonick, Bill Barrow and Emily Swanson of The Associated Press; by Sheryl Gay Stolberg of The New York Times; and by Felicia Sonmez, Mike DeBonis, Scott Clement and Christopher Rowland of The Washington Post.