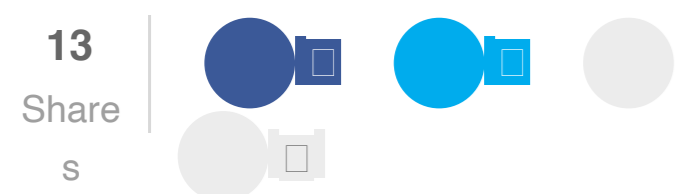
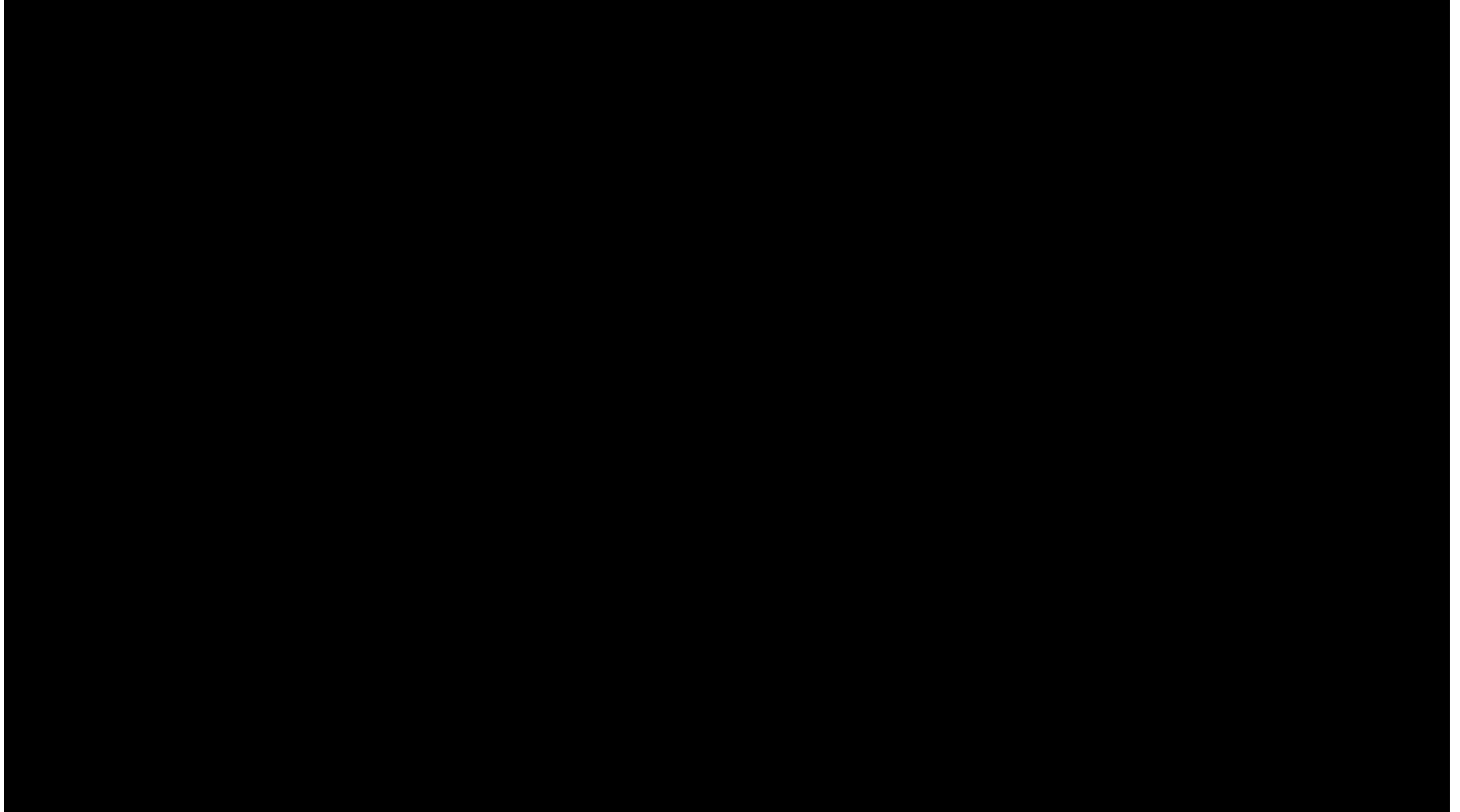


VP Mike Pence disputes impeachment testimony in exclusive WISN interview

WISN 12's Matt Smith asked Pence about the impeachment testimony of U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland.



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□ SHOW TRANSCRIPT

MARINETTE, Wis. — Vice President Mike Pence spoke exclusively with WISN 12 News on Wednesday during his visit to Wisconsin.

Pence toured the USS Cooperstown and spoke at Fincantieri Marinette Marine in Marinette.

He visited the Badger State to tout the USMCA, the agreement drafted to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement that has not yet been considered by Congress.

WISN 12's Matt Smith asked Pence about the impeachment testimony of U.S. Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland.

Sondland testified he told Pence that he had concerns that the delay in U.S. aid to Ukraine was tied to investigations into the Bidens.

"Everyone was in the loop," Sondland told the House Intelligence Committee.

Smith asked Pence if Sondland lied in his testimony under oath.

"I made no comments in my meeting with President Zelensky concerning any investigations or tying investigations to U.S. aid to Ukraine," Pence told WISN 12.

Earlier in the day, Pence's chief of staff issued a statement in response to Sondland's opening testimony.

Marc Short said Pence "never had a conversation with Gordon Sondland about investigating the Bidens, Burisma, or the conditional release of financial aid to Ukraine based upon potential investigations."

Pence told Smith he did not remember the conversation in question.

"I had no recollection of any discussion with Ambassador Sondland before that meeting," Pence told WISN 12. "There have been two people who have now testified under oath at no point before, during or after my meeting with President Zelensky did those topics come up."

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Pence's aide testified Tuesday that she put a transcript of President Donald Trump's phone call that sparked the impeachment inquiry in a briefing book for Pence before his meeting with Zelensky in September.

"I have heard that it was in a briefing book," Pence told Smith. "I have no recollection of seeing a transcript of the call. I was not aware of the allegations that U.S. aid to Ukraine was tied to investigations at any point before those matters become public in September."

Short said Sondland was never alone with Pence during Pence's trip to Poland.

"This alleged discussion recalled by Ambassador Sondland never happened," Short said. "Multiple witnesses have testified under oath that Vice President Pence never raised Hunter Biden, former Vice President Joe Biden, CrowdStrike, Burisma, or investigations in any conversation with Ukrainians or President Zelensky before, during, or after the September 1 meeting in Poland."

Pence said he was focused on supporting Zelensky's anti-corruption efforts during his visit to Ukraine.

The vice president tried to focus most of his interview with WISN 12 News praising the president's efforts in supporting Ukraine.

He also criticized Democrats for their "endless investigations in an effort to overturn the results of the 2016 election."

Pence vowed to make more visits to Wisconsin before the 2020 election.

"We'll be back again and often," Pence told WISN 12 News. "We love being in the Badger State."

He flew into Green Bay Austin Straubel International Airport aboard Air Force Two on Wednesday morning and departed for Indianapolis in the afternoon.

The vice president's visit was postponed from earlier in the month after the president asked him to travel to Turkey.



Sondland hearing takeaways: 'Everyone was in the loop'



Impeachment hearings: EU ambassador says everyone was aware of conditions in Ukraine call



President Trump responds to Sondland's testimony, insists he wanted 'nothing' from Ukraine



Vice President Pence pushes USMCA during stop in Marinette