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Trump on Ukraine call: Impeachment for that? 1:33

House launches Trump impeachment inquiry

By Veronica Rocha, Fernando Alfonso III, Meg Wagner, Mike Hayes and Amanda Wills, CNN

Updated 10:40 a.m. ET, September 26, 2019

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What you need to know

- **"There was no quid pro quo":** President Trump, speaking at a news conference, denied that he tried to pressure Ukraine's president "to do things that they wanted under the form of political threat," adding that he didn't threaten anyone.
- **Rough transcript:** The White House [released a rough transcript](#) of President Trump's phone call with the [Ukraine's leader](#). It shows Trump pushed Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden. You

- **The whistleblower complaint:** The complaint, which deals, at least in part, with the [phone call Trump had with the Ukrainian leader](#), was [hand-delivered](#) to Capitol Hill this afternoon for lawmakers to review.
- **Impeachment inquiry:** House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has announced a [formal impeachment inquiry](#) into President Trump.
- *Our live coverage has ended, but you can scroll through the posts to read more.*



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10:10 a.m. ET, September 25, 2019

Trump hasn't talked to attorney general about having Ukraine investigate Biden, DOJ says

The Department of Justice said President Trump has not asked Attorney General William Barr to contact Ukraine.

Here's the full statement from Justice spokesperson Kerri Kupec:

The Attorney General was first notified of the President's conversation with Ukrainian President Zelensky several weeks after the call took place, when the Department of Justice learned of a potential referral. The President has not spoken with the Attorney General about having Ukraine investigate anything relating to former Vice President Biden or his son. The President has not asked the Attorney General to contact Ukraine -- on this or any other matter. The Attorney General has not communicated with Ukraine -- on this or any other subject. Nor has the Attorney General discussed this matter, or anything relating to Ukraine, with Rudy Giuliani

A Department of Justice team led by U.S. Attorney John Durham is separately exploring the extent to which a number of countries, including Ukraine, played a role in the counterintelligence investigation directed at the Trump campaign during the 2016 election. While the Attorney General has yet to contact Ukraine in connection with this investigation, certain Ukrainians who are not members of the government have volunteered information to Mr. Durham, which he is evaluating.



1:16 p.m. ET, September 25, 2019

Trump pushed Ukraine to investigate Biden, White House transcript shows

From CNN's Pamela Brown, Evan Perez, Betsy Klein, David Shortell



President Trump repeatedly pushed for the Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky to reopen an investigation of his potential 2020 rival, former Vice President Joe Biden and his son, and asked the Ukrainian leader to work with Rudy Giuliani and Attorney General William Barr on the issue, according to a transcript of the July call.



10:04 a.m. ET, September 25, 2019

Intel inspector general asked Justice Department to investigate if President's push was campaign finance violation

From CNN's Evan Perez and David Shortell

The Intelligence Community Inspector General in late August referred a criminal complaint to the Justice Department to investigate whether the President's pushing for Ukraine to

The Justice Department's criminal division last week determined to not open a formal investigation of the president for possible campaign finance violations.



9:59 a.m. ET, September 25, 2019

White House aides see Trump's meeting with Ukraine president as a way to counter accusations of wrongdoing

From CNN's Kevin Liptak



The meeting today between President Trump and Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelensky at the UN General Assembly was arranged well before the whistleblower controversy exploded into public view, according to people familiar with the plans.

Aides initially did not view the meeting as a major highlight of Trump's UN agenda, which they expected would focus heavily on Iran and not on the questions of abuse of power that are now swirling.

Democratic accusations of wrongdoing, particularly because they believe the transcript that will be released ahead of the meeting won't be the smoking gun that some are expecting.

One official said there have not been extensive conversations between US and Ukrainian officials about what each leader will say during the open-press part of the meeting, though could not rule out more informal discussions.

Trump signaled Monday he believes Zelensky will back him up: "They don't know either what the big deal is," he said, referring to the Ukrainians, in a tweet.



9:56 a.m. ET, September 25, 2019

Here's what Freshman House Democrats are saying about the impeachment news

From CNN's Lauren Fox and Alison Zaslav



Pelosi Photo by Win McNamee/Getty Images

Rep. Abigail Spanberger, a former CIA officer and moderate, said that she hopes the Democrats take this process seriously, saying they “have a responsibility to be as thoughtful as possible in this process.”

Spanberger, who supports impeachment with the condition that the allegations related to Ukraine are true, said when asked about concerns that Speaker Pelosi announced her support for an impeachment inquiry before the transcript was out, she said “it’s one element of evidence not end all not just one piece of evidence necessary responsibility to be as thoughtful as possible.”

Liberal member Rep. Rashida Tlaib, who famously told a crowd earlier this year that she wanted to impeach that (expletive), said she’s pleased Pelosi is finally there.



“Really excited I think for my residents there has always been a need to hold this president accountable.”

Asked what this really changes, she said “[President Trump] can’t abuse the power he has this is the only option we have left.”

When asked about what the tipping point was for moderate colleagues, she responded that “many of them though they see a national security risk.. I think that’s what pulled them all on board.”



9:52 a.m. ET, September 25, 2019

Pelosi won't give details about her phone call with Trump

From CNN's Haley Byrd



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi this morning declined to offer details of her phone call yesterday with Trump regarding impeachment.

She spoke to reporters as she arrived to this morning's meeting with her caucus.

“I would never say anything that the President says in a call. I might tell you what I said, but I won't tell you what he said,” she said. “At some point I'll talk about what that is and relationship to the new level of lawlessness to which the President has resorted in his asking a foreign government to manufacture wrongdoing to benefit his campaign. That's really kind of the essence of all of this.”

Asked what Democrats need to see beyond the whistleblower complaint in their investigation, Pelosi responded: “There's nothing beyond. The President admits that he made the statement.”



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9:46 a.m. ET, September 25, 2019

The White House is doing damage control this morning

From CNN's Kylie Atwood



Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

Senior Trump Administration officials are doing damage control on a call with outside allies, according to a source who was invited and shared the invitation with CNN.

They are billing it as a call "to discuss news of the day."



9:43 a.m. ET, September 25, 2019

Schiff sends letter to attorney general demanding information on the handling of the whistleblower complaint

From CNN's Manu Raju



Samuel Corum/Getty Images

House Intelligence Committee Chair Adam Schiff has sent a letter to Attorney General Bill Barr demanding information and records about the handling of the whistleblower complaint.

Schiff claims that should the Justice Department's previously stated position — which said “the disclosure in this case did not concern allegations of conduct by a member of the Intelligence Community or involve an intelligence activity under the DNI's Supervision” — be allowed to stand, it could have “serious corrosive consequences for whistleblowing within the IC and the Committee's exercise of its lawful oversight duties”

Schiff gave Barr until this Friday to produce “any legal opinion, legal analysis, or factual analysis” by the Justice Department related to the whistleblower complaint, and until Tuesday to produce additional material requested, including any DOJ communications with the White House regarding the complaint.



9:39 a.m. ET, September 25, 2019

whistleblower complaint

From CNN's Ted Barrett and Zachary Cohen

The Senate [unanimously approved](#) a resolution urging the Trump administration to provide the full whistleblower complaint to Congress.

The measure was authored by Minority Leader Chuck Schumer. He said the resolution was "aimed at a recalcitrant executive branch, which has blocked the ability for the committees to see the complaint, even though the law requires it."

McConnell said Republicans would go along with the resolution in the spirit that it would assist the Intelligence Committee conduct its investigation.

About the complaint: The Trump-Ukraine drama was first triggered by a whistleblower, who filed a complaint about Trump's contact with a foreign leader. After that, allegations surfaced that Trump threatened to withhold \$400 million in military and security aid from Ukraine to force Kiev to open an investigation into his potential 2020 rival Joe Biden and his son, Hunter.





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Trump sets out to undercut Pelosi's impeachment gamble

Analysis by Stephen Collinson, CNN

Why public support for impeachment may grow

Analysis by Harry Enten, CNN

List: The 199 House Democrats calling for an impeachment inquiry into Trump

By CNN

What Pelosi's impeachment move means in the legal fight over Trump's records

By Katelyn Polantz, CNN

Trump paints Democrats as fixated on impeachment after Pelosi announces inquiry

By Caroline Kelly, CNN

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