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<p>2017 (26) 3:8;16:11;17:9; 20:21;25:24;26:17; 33:1,1,12;34:21;37:21; 56:12,15;82:5;85:4,7; 86:3,22;111:4;121:2; 125:8;136:15;140:12; 154:21,25;164:15</p> <p>20th (4) 104:14;111:19; 154:21,25</p> <p>23 (1) 164:15</p> <p>23rd (6) 49:5;57:1;88:5,5,6; 125:15</p> <p>24 (1) 103:4</p> <p>24th (16) 49:15,25;68:16; 87:24;88:1,4,6,6; 116:7;119:3;125:15; 126:18;127:14;128:5; 9:149:13</p> <p>27th (7) 92:9;94:12;95:9; 96:17,20;97:4;108:12</p> <p>28th (4) 92:9;95:10;108:12; 129:23</p> <p>29 (1) 32:25</p> <p>29th (1) 33:5</p> <p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>4 (17) 14:19;22:21;29:24; 30:2,3;45:5;89:18,18; 104:12;115:13;136:10; 150:6,8;152:16,16; 155:5;158:16</p> <p>4:00 (2) 82:18,20</p> <p>4:30 (1) 82:17</p> <p>47 (1) 16:4</p> <p>5</p> <p>5 (8) 28:20;72:22,22; 82:21;98:12;123:7; 137:8;146:23</p> <p>5:00 (1) 82:19</p> <p>5:04 (1) 85:4</p> <p>5th (1) 3:8</p> <p>6</p> <p>6 (10) 94:20,23;95:12,18; 115:25;140:3,4,9; 153:3,4</p> <p>7</p>	<p>129:14</p> <p>8-24 (1) 141:25</p> <p>8-slash-12 (1) 94:13</p> <p>8-slash-16-slash-17 (1) 111:2</p> <p>8-slash-18-slash-17 (1) 38:3</p> <p>9</p> <p>9 (5) 94:24;95:7;100:8; 103:1;104:9</p> <p>9th (17) 15:2;17:4,9;18:15; 25:24;28:17,17;44:3, 14,24;47:25;56:12; 57:4;84:8,21;85:7,17</p>		
<p>3 (8) 10:18;13:24;14:8; 22:21;45:5;69:6;89:1; 95:20</p> <p>3- (1) 45:3</p> <p>3:16 (1) 133:14</p> <p>30 (3) 33:9,14;104:20</p> <p>302 (5) 12:20,21,25;110:8, 14</p> <p>30th (32) 18:25;28:4;30:4,17; 36:11,22;37:14,15; 43:12,23;46:8;49:7; 50:21;55:21,24;57:1; 64:2;69:13;84:23; 87:16;89:22,24;116:8; 117:14;119:2;121:13; 124:23;130:12;133:14; 148:11;149:13,18</p>	<p>7 (6) 33:1,6;100:9,10; 135:10;140:3</p> <p>7th (3) 33:6;86:22;153:12</p> <p>8</p> <p>8 (3) 153:3,18,20</p> <p>8- (1) 87:3</p> <p>8/16 (1) 139:23</p> <p>8-12 (5) 60:14;61:13;92:22; 94:5;130:19</p> <p>8-12-16 (1) 60:25</p> <p>8-16 (6) 118:16;139:12; 140:21;141:2,18,24</p> <p>8-17 (2) 140:1;141:18</p> <p>8-18 (1)</p>			

[REDACTED] Transcript
and Notes
10/05/2017

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 05-14-2018 BY [REDACTED] NSICG

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263D-HQ-[REDACTED]-12

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1 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

2 OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

3
4 -----X
5 IN RE: :

6 INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED] :

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7 -----X
8
9
10 Interview of

[REDACTED] b6 -2
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October 5, 2017

Washington, D.C.

11
12
13 By the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector
14 General, at the Department of Justice Building, beginning
15 at 2:30 p.m. before:

16
17 FOR THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL:

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oversight and Review Division

19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), Oversight and Review Division

20
21 FOR THE WITNESS:

22 NONE
23
24
25

DEPOSITION SERVICES, INC.
12321 Middlebrook Road, Suite 210
Germantown, Maryland 20874
Phone: (301) 881-3344

FBI 18-cv-01766-468

Page 2

1		I N D E X	
2		EXHIBITS	
3	EXHIBIT NUMBER		PAGE NUMBER
4	None.		
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Page 4

1 interview. To protect the integrity of our investigation,
2 we request that you not discuss the substantive nature of
3 our questions and the substantive nature of your answers
4 with others. Is that okay?
5 [redacted] I understand, yes.
6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And we have informed you that our
7 standard practice is to record all interviews with all
8 witnesses, and we are doing that now. And our standard
9 practice is also to have all interviews taken under oath.
10 Do you understand?
11 [redacted] Yes.
12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well, if you're ready, we'll have
13 you sworn in and get started. And let the record reflect
14 that [redacted] right hand is, is raised.
15 Whereupon,
16 [redacted]
17 was called upon by the United States Department of
18 Justice, Office of the Inspector General, to provide a
19 voluntary sworn statement and was duly sworn.
20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Thank you. Can you please give us
21 just a very brief overview of your background with the
22 FBI, approximate positions, and dates?
23 [redacted] Oh, okay.
24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) It doesn't have to be exact, just
25 rough sketch.

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Page 3

1 PROCEEDINGS
2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay, on the record. I am Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I'm an Investigative Counsel with the Oversight
4 & Review Division with the Office of the Inspector
5 General. I am here with Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) who is also
6 an Investigative Counsel in this office too. And it is
7 October 5th, 2017. It is approximately 2:30 in the
8 afternoon. We are in an OIG conference room on the 13th
9 floor at 1425 New York Avenue. And this is an interview
10 with [redacted] is that correct?
11 [redacted] That's correct.
12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Can you please spell your name for
13 the record?
14 [redacted]
15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And can you please identify your
16 current position?
17 [redacted] Currently, I am assigned to FBI
18 Headquarters Inspection Division, Internal Investigations
19 Section, as a Supervisory Special Agent.
20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Thank you. And the matter that we
21 are reviewing, we are reviewing allegations that FBI
22 officials committed misconduct in connection with
23 disclosures of non-public information to the media and
24 subsequent statements related thereto.
25 You are a fact witness. This is a voluntary

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1 [redacted] Yeah, well, I'll, I'll do the best
2 I can with, with the dates, and I'll just round them, up.
3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah.
4 [redacted]
5 [redacted]
6 [redacted]
7 [redacted]
8 [redacted]
9 [redacted]
10 [redacted]
11 [redacted]
12 [redacted]
13 [redacted]
14 [redacted]
15 [redacted]
16 I came to headquarters in [redacted]
17 [redacted]
18 [redacted]
19 [redacted]
20 [redacted]
21 [redacted]
22 [redacted]
23 [redacted]
24 [redacted]
25 There I stayed until approximately [redacted]

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1 [redacted] to the Inspection Division
2 Internal Investigation Section as a Supervisory Special
3 Agent. And that's where I am now.
4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Now I want to ask you a
5 question next about the, the signed sworn statement
6 process that the FBI uses.
7 [redacted] Yes, sir.
8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) At the INSD. I understand there
9 is manuals that go into great detail about, about this.
10 I'm not looking for, well --
11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Manual-level specificity?
12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes.
13 [redacted] Yeah, well, I'm not sure about
14 manuals. We have one Supervisor's Desk Reference that --
15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well --
16 [redacted] -- explains that.
17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- I've heard there could be
18 multiple pages about the process.
19 [redacted] Okay.
20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) More, what we're just trying to
21 get a flavor of is if I were scheduled for an interview
22 with INSD, if you could just briefly sketch out sort of
23 what the process major steps are from my initial interview
24 to me signing a final signed sworn statement.
25 [redacted] Okay. Well, once you're identified

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1 because it's an administrative form that tells the
2 employee exactly why they're there. Second paragraph,
3 first sentence that's underscored says there is an
4 allegation about so-and-so that they allegedly did this.
5 And we inform them, that's what we're talking to them
6 about. We're not, it's not a fishing expedition, not a
7 witch hunt. But we admonish them that if anything comes
8 out of that interview that they take us down a road where
9 there's other allegations of misconduct, we're obligated
10 to pursue it.
11 So we provide that to them, say it's a, it's a
12 Lync interview. We email that to them well in advance.
13 We instruct them to have that in front of them while we
14 connect on Lync. And we have them hold it up. We swear
15 them in at that point, pretty much like you did at the
16 preamble here, we give them the admonishments that the
17 Privacy Act is in force. They're not to discuss this with
18 anyone else other than the two investigators without prior
19 authority from us unless they feel the need to talk to EAP
20 or the Ombudsman, and that's their prerogative. They
21 don't even have to tell us they're doing that. If we
22 stressed them out during the interview, that's their
23 prerogative to talk to them to get some kind of relief.
24 And we explain to them that there will be
25 interview notes taken, and that we will put together their

Page 7

1 as being in a universe of someone with investigative or
2 relevant information for our investigation, whether you're
3 a suspect, a subject, witness, or a victim, or the
4 complainant, we all, when we reach out to the individual,
5 we tell them what role they play. If you're a subject,
6 they've already been noticed.
7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.
8 [redacted] Paper copy, they've been given
9 notice by their division head. So that's not hard to
10 explain to the person who is the subject. They already
11 know that well in advance.
12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
13 [redacted] If it's anyone else, we reach out
14 to them and tell them, we identify them as someone that
15 we'd like to talk to because we believe from our
16 investigation that they may have information that's
17 relevant to our investigation. And we set up an
18 appointment date, whether they come to us or we do it vis-
19 a-vis a SVTC, a Secured Video Teleconference, or a Lync
20 communication, like a Skype, secured Skype.
21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
22 [redacted] And we provide them with an FD-644
23 or an FD-645. That's the form that we use.
24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
25 [redacted] The 645 is what we use primarily

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1 statement for them in the first person. And once we're
2 done, we will provide it to them for review. And we
3 actually email it to them electronically with track
4 changes turned on.
5 And we tell them, this is what we remember you
6 telling us. This is what we had in our notes. This is
7 what we discussed from our point, viewpoint. We encourage
8 them to take ownership of their statement, to read it,
9 understand it. And if there is some modification or
10 correction for, to ensure accuracy or completeness, that
11 the onus is on them to make those corrections. And the
12 corrections will be obvious because track changes is
13 turned on.
14 And we tell them at that point, I even say to
15 them, I said, you know, if I use the word small dog and
16 you want to say puppy, that's your time. Own it. Own
17 your statement. And then they are instructed to send it
18 back to us. We send them Draft 1. They make the changes,
19 save it as Draft 2, send it back to us. We would look at
20 it, review the changes. If they are acceptable to us and
21 we have no questions about what they added, we'll accept
22 the changes, clean up any spacing anomalies that are
23 created because of track changes, email it back to them as
24 Draft Number 3. They'll look at it again. If they make
25 changes, they save it as Draft Number 4, back to us. We

1 accept it, send it back to them. And we keep going back
2 and forth until they're satisfied with the completeness
3 and accuracy.

4 At that point, we bring them back up on Lync.
5 We have the final version in front of us, the final
6 version in front of them. We read it. We ask them did
7 they review or did they read it, or have they been given
8 the opportunity to make changes? They answer in the
9 affirmative. We ask them if there are any more changes
10 they wish to make. They, if they say no, we say, okay, at
11 this point raise your right hand, swear them in. Much
12 like you did, we, do you swear or affirm the information
13 contained in this written statement is true, accurate, and
14 complete to the best of your knowledge?

15 They answer in the affirmative. They sign it.
16 They date it. We ask them to scan and fax, scan and email
17 us a copy and put the original into the Bureau mail. So
18 we get the original along with the originally signed FD-
19 645. And that way we get the originals. When they come
20 to us, we sign them, me and my case agent or co-case agent
21 sign them.

22 [REDACTED] phonetic
23 sp.).

24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) If during the, the revision
25 process, if a witness makes a change that's inconsistent

1 with your recollection or your notes, what happens?
2 [REDACTED] Um-hmm. Well, it depends on the
3 inconsistency. And we even give them that admonishment
4 during the pre-interview stages. And we, we tell them, if
5 we're talking about something and you, for example, make
6 an admission, a substantive admission, and all of this
7 talk about this is your statement. You own it. You can
8 put whatever you want in your statement. You know, you
9 can put pink elephants fly in your statement if you think
10 it will help you. I don't recommend it, but it is your
11 statement at the end of the day.

12 [REDACTED]
13 [REDACTED]
14 [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED]
17 [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]
22 [REDACTED]
23 [REDACTED]
24 [REDACTED]
25 [REDACTED]

1 [REDACTED]
2 Most people understand that. [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED] That has not, that's not what
11 we're there to talk about.

12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

13 [REDACTED] And where somebody will introduce
14 something that we didn't discuss, but it adds to the
15 statement because it gives the reader, the ultimate
16 reader, OPR adjudicator, who is not going to have the
17 benefit of sitting across the table from them, some
18 background. So if they prefaced it by a previous sentence
19 and say I, you know, I've done this, and this is how I
20 found myself to be there, we allow that as well.

21 And even at the end, if somebody wants to put in
22 a statement of remorse, a sentence or two or a paragraph,
23 we allow that. We encourage that. What we don't
24 encourage, and we tell these people, and I know I do,
25 that, that that's encouraged, again, we're not here

1 advocating for you, but we're not persecuting you. If
2 there's something that you think the adjudicators want to
3 know that's important to them, if you want to put
4 something, that's fine. We don't want to have a situation
5 where you have 30 pages of mitigating material and about
6 two paragraphs of what you actually did, and you're taking
7 responsibility for it. And most people take that up.

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

9 [REDACTED] Sometimes, sometimes we get 30-page
10 statements out of a seven-page draft.

11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah.

12 [REDACTED] And, and I'm convinced OPR, when
13 [REDACTED] they have the draft, that's why
14 it's so important for us to keep each draft.

15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

16 [REDACTED] Because if, I'm, I'm sure I've been
17 told this by the OPR adjudicators that when they read a
18 statement, if it looks like it's starting to go off the
19 rails with mitigating information that is just, just
20 awkward, [REDACTED] pull Draft I, and
21 they'll say, what did the agent say you said during the
22 interview? And then they'll compare it to the final draft
23 and say this is already contaminated by your writing and
24 you're, you're sliding things in there that you think will
25 be used to your benefit. And they understand that, and we

1 understand that as well.
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. No, that's helpful. Well,
 3 why don't we turn to the first document.
 4 [redacted] Okay.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) In that stack there. And this
 6 actually, as I understand it, is our notes from an
 7 interview with Mr. McCabe.
 8 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Andrew G. McCabe. And just for
 10 the record, it is a three-page document, handwritten notes
 11 dated in the upper-right corner 5-slash-9-slash-17, 2:30
 12 P, for p.m. I believe.
 13 [redacted] Yes.
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) W-slash-S-C-Morgan.
 15 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you recognize this handwriting?
 17 [redacted] Yes, I do.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Are these your handwritten notes?
 19 [redacted] Yes, they are my handwritten notes.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And do these notes reflect that
 21 you had an interview at which then-section chief Voviette
 22 Morgan (phonetic sp.) was present?
 23 [redacted] That is correct.
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So, was the focus, was one
 25 part of the focus of this interview the, to ask Mr. McCabe

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1 about the Wall Street Journal article that appeared on
 2 October 30th, 2016?
 3 [redacted] That was the secondary focus of
 4 that particular interview.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) What was the primary focus?
 6 [redacted] The primary focus was, this was the
 7 second meeting we were going to have with him that
 8 resulted after us already drafting his draft of his
 9 statement. And we had already provided to him his
 10 statement, and we were waiting for his corrections. And
 11 there's some time elapsed between there. And there's some
 12 conversations that I recall between me and my section
 13 chief that indicated even during the interview with him,
 14 as we were closing it, I gave him the whole monologue of
 15 track changes will be turned on. I'll email it to you.
 16 Save it.
 17 And I could tell, it didn't seem to me like he
 18 was really tracking with track changes, that he didn't, he
 19 wasn't comfortable with that, or he wasn't familiar with
 20 that to the, to the level that he may want it then. So
 21 some suggestion was made that maybe he can make some
 22 corrections, if need be, because he hasn't seen the
 23 statement yet, but make some in the margins or write or
 24 have me come into his office when he's ready and sit
 25 behind the keyboard and just have him tell me what he

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1 wants to change in the statement.
 2 He's the Deputy Director of the FBI.
 3 Absolutely. I've never done that before. People haven't
 4 asked me to do that before, but I understand he's a busy
 5 man and he was doing us a favor. He is the victim in this
 6 case. We're investigating the original [redacted] email.
 7 So, yeah that's, that was the primary focus. We, we came
 8 back to him with the, to get his version of what his
 9 changes were, if there were any. My indication for my
 10 section chief, from Voviette Morgan, was he did make some
 11 changes, some corrections.
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 13 [redacted] And we sat down with them and
 14 talked about those. And he showed me that he had made
 15 some handwritten changes on it.
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So then what prompted you or
 17 Voviette Morgan to discuss the October 30th, 2016 Wall
 18 Street Journal article at this interview?
 19 [redacted] It was Voviette that brought it up.
 20 It was right at the end of the interview, and we were all
 21 set. I already had my marching orders of what he wanted
 22 changed. As I recall, there was only a few changes on it.
 23 There was nothing substantive. It was just some things in
 24 there, and I remember my notes here, I still had something
 25 in there to check with his chief of staff about whether or

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1 not this National Sheriffs Association appearance the
 2 Director had along with the POTUS was on 2-7 or on another
 3 date because our calendars just weren't matching up.
 4 But after we were all done, we're set, Voviette
 5 said, oh, by the way, there's something else we want you
 6 to look at, we want to get your opinion on something. And
 7 she brought out the article from the Wall Street Journal
 8 and handed it to him.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did you know that, did you know
 10 that was coming in advance? Did she talk to you about
 11 that?
 12 [redacted] Yeah, I, I did.
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did she tell you why?
 14 [redacted] There's some background with that,
 15 if, do you want me to go into the background?
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I mean, if there is a --
 17 [redacted] I mean --
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah.
 19 [redacted] If you're asking me when I first
 20 became aware of that, early on I was aware that there was
 21 a Wall Street Journal article.
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.
 23 [redacted] I understand in our deconfliction
 24 meeting in March, I believe. And I have it somewhere in
 25 my notes. (*Indiscernible 16:07). But there was some

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1 talk about who was going to do what. Because at the time,
2 we were looking at --

3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Was this an issue between whether
4 FBI or OIG would take the lead on that?

5 [redacted] Yeah. Exactly. And I didn't bring
6 that. That's a handwritten thing. I think it was like
7 March 14th or something.

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.

9 [redacted] That the decision was made that
10 there was this Wall Street Journal article. I wasn't
11 really familiar what was going on in that Wall Street
12 Journal article, because we were focused on [redacted] different
13 leaks, one of which was the [redacted] part.

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sure.

15 [redacted] And that was clearly assigned to
16 me. And I had, I had oversight over all of them. I was
17 like the point of contact for the section that whether it
18 was assigned to me or not, I was the one providing the
19 update briefings to the front office. So we, they brought
20 it up. OIG brought it up and said we have this other one,
21 and they said they would take it. They would do that one,
22 so my focus was on the ones we were going to work.
23 And then somewhere during that meeting, Aaron
24 Johnson (phonetic sp.) from OIG, from OIG Criminal Branch
25 said well, you know, as long as you're going to be talking

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b7C -2,3
b7E -3

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Plus, the one, one was very specific to one
2 particular item. And the other thing was very specific.
3 So I mentioned that. And, you know, I think I'm well-
4 received in my section. I've been there a while, and I,
5 they come, they've come to me for advice or, or my
6 perception of certain things. And they, they accept my
7 advice. And no different in this case. I said yep, I
8 understand what you're saying. We'll see what happens.
9 For now, we'll stand down on, on doing anything with that.

10 But we may end up with that case as well, which
11 I just have to say that this, even the [redacted] email
12 wasn't that cut and dry, because we had it, had it back
13 and forth three times where OIG wanted it, then they
14 didn't want it, then they wanted it. That day they wanted
15 it back, and then at the end they said, okay, well you
16 guys work it. And so these, this is what we're up
17 against.

18 So when they said well, we're working this one,
19 but go ahead and ask questions about it as well, I was --

20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Let the record reflect that had
21 nothing to do with [redacted] or myself.

22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah.

23 [redacted] And this is, I'm not, it's not a
24 complaint. It's just an observation that it was tenuous
25 at first we're understanding what role we're going to be

b6 -3
b7C -3

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 to McCabe about this, you'll be talking to people about
2 the [redacted] email, you're probably going to ask about
3 this as well, so we'll let you just ask about that and let
4 us know what you find out. And I, I said during the
5 meeting, I'm like, wait. I mean, my Assistant Director or
6 Deputy Assistant Director, the executive management from
7 OIG [redacted] was there, a couple of people from our ESOC
8 program were there.

9 And I said, you know, with all due respect,
10 we're not going to ask about that because, you know, the
11 focus is completely different on these. And we had some
12 conversation with Voviette even after that and with my
13 unit chief saying, hey, my recommendation is, I've been
14 doing this a little while. These leaks are incredibly
15 difficult to work. They're exponentially more difficult
16 if you start lumping them together because you could have
17 different universes of potential players involved.

18 And say we, and this has been my, my take the
19 whole time, if we manage to solve one of these leaks, it
20 had nothing to do, the players in this leak would have
21 nothing to do with this other leak. How are we going to
22 close that part of the case? The case will be handled in
23 its entirety. If every, if everyone is looking at this,
24 it's one person doing all these leaks, in a perfect world,
25 that would be great. That's not been my experience.

b6 -3
b7C -3

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 playing and at what time and how long we're going to have
2 these cases. But even during, when, when Voviette and I
3 got notice, received notice from Mr. McCabe that he's
4 available on that particular date for us to come in on the
5 9th to get his corrections on his statement, Voviette told
6 me in her office before going up, she goes, and I'm going
7 to bring this article, and we're going to talk to him
8 about that article. And I said, I recommend against it.

9 And, you know, we have such a great working
10 relationship, it wasn't like I'm drawing my, a line in the
11 sand, and she wasn't pushing it. But I got the impression
12 that this was something coming from our front office, that
13 they wanted some visibility on this. Or maybe it came
14 from OIG. I don't know. Voviette will probably be able
15 to tell you better. Where that initiative came that we
16 were going to actually do it, and do it during that
17 particular time.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

19 [redacted] So we went through the whole, or we
20 went through the process with Mr. McCabe. He, he showed
21 us his corrections, and I thought we were all done, and we
22 were ready to leave, and Voviette says, oh, by the way,
23 here it is. And I'm like, okay. Let's, let's throw that
24 one out there.

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So roughly how much time has

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 elapsed, if you recall approximately, before the Wall
 2 Street Journal article topic is opened?
 3 [REDACTED]: During that interview?
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes.
 5 [REDACTED]: Oh, that interview wasn't long at
 6 all.
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 8 [REDACTED]: If it was 20 minutes, because there
 9 really wasn't much more to discuss.
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see. Right.
 11 [REDACTED]: It's just sort of by habit, I was
 12 anticipating, and I think Voviette was too, that I was
 13 going to get behind the keyboard and start typing.
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm, um-hmm.
 15 [REDACTED]: And much to my surprise, he had his
 16 changes written. And I said, great, I will take this
 17 down, and I'll have it back to you shortly. I think I had
 18 it back to him within an hour.
 19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 20 [REDACTED]: Maybe a little bit longer because I
 21 gave it to Voviette to look at as well. don't quote me on
 22 that, but he had it down and back probably before the end
 23 of close of business that day.
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you recall, so, I'm not sure if
 25 you put the copy of your notes that I gave you --

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

1 notes, it looks like when the discussion topic of the Wall
 2 Street Journal comes up --
 3 [REDACTED]: Um-hmm.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- it looks like you're directing
 5 his attention to the last page, the first three
 6 paragraphs.
 7 [REDACTED]: Yes.
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And --
 9 [REDACTED]: And I believe that even that
 10 article that we gave him had it highlighted,
 11 electronically highlighted.
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And so, what I gave a copy for you
 13 here, this is the best that I have from the file that you
 14 gave me for Mr. McCabe.
 15 [REDACTED]: This is not highlighted.
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And there is other copies if you
 17 want to see them, the sworn statements for other
 18 individuals, where the, it is highlighted.
 19 [REDACTED]: Okay.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But do you see how this one
 21 document you're looking at --
 22 [REDACTED]: This is not highlighted, yes.
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Not highlighted, but it does
 24 appear to have his initials in the upper right.
 25 [REDACTED]: Yes. And I would venture a guess

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

1 [REDACTED]: Oh, yes.
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- in that stack by accident.
 3 [REDACTED]: I don't know.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Or if you put it underneath one of
 5 those. We could always look off mine (*indiscernible
 6 21:28). There it is. Great. So I think you're
 7 indicating in the upper right that the interview began at
 8 2:30 p.m., is that right?
 9 [REDACTED]: Yes.
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you recall when former Director
 11 Comey was fired when that news broke?
 12 [REDACTED]: I think it was on that day. It may
 13 have been, I learned about Director Comey's firing when I
 14 was at home on Fox News.
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So it would have been after
 16 this interview?
 17 [REDACTED]: It was, it was after that.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 19 [REDACTED]: And I seem to remember even
 20 thinking that there's a lot, there must have been a lot
 21 going on that day when we were talking to Mr. McCabe,
 22 whether he knew or not at that point, because this was,
 23 you know, getting late in the day by the time we're
 24 talking to him.
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So the first page in your

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

1 why. Because this is the one that was provided to him by
 2 Voviette.
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Ah.
 4 [REDACTED]: And she had it with her.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.
 6 [REDACTED]: But once that, you know, once it
 7 became something that we're going to be investigating, I
 8 took it, and I brought it in in a PDF form and highlighted
 9 it so --
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.
 11 [REDACTED]: -- when we're doing the interviews,
 12 it will be this is what we're talking about.
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes.
 14 [REDACTED]: So people aren't mired down in
 15 reading the entire article.
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes, okay. Well that --
 17 [REDACTED]: And try and digest it.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well that's helpful to know. So,
 19 when looking at what you wrote here, correct me if I'm
 20 wrong.
 21 [REDACTED]: Okay.
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But on the first page it looks
 23 like when you're drawing his attention to the last three,
 24 to the last page, the first three paragraphs --
 25 [REDACTED]: Yeah.

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

1 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] -- that he is saying he remembers
2 this and that it was an accurate conversation with Mr.
3 Matt Axelrod, who was then the Principal Deputy Attorney
4 General.

5 [] Um-hmm. Yeah, I think I mention
6 here, read article during interview that he, we paused and
7 let him read, read the article. I mean, he read the
8 article, not just that piece. I think he refreshed his
9 memory and flipped through the article.

10 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] And then do the next two entries
11 in your notes reflect that he, Mr. McCabe stated that he
12 read the article when it came out and he remembered this?

13 [] Yeah. That he had read it when it
14 came out. That's, that's my recollection now, reading
15 this, that he indicated to me that it's, it's somewhat
16 familiar to him because he read it when it came out, and
17 there was another article that came out about that time
18 about his wife.

19 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] Um-hmm. And he, is he indicating
20 that those, the last three paragraphs that you directed
21 his attention were an accurate conversation?

22 [] Yes. He remembered this, and I
23 even put that in quotations. And accurate conversation,
24 yes.

25 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] So when he said he remembered

1 that would be Mr. McCabe telling us that he had no idea
2 where it came from what the source was from it.

3 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] Did he, did you have any
4 discussion at that, at this May 9th interview with Mr.
5 McCabe about what he said to Mr. Axelrod or any other DOJ
6 officials about the article when they were uncomfortable?
7 [] I remember that it was very, the
8 whole interaction was very short, you know, with, with
9 this article.

10 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] Yeah, if you could, before we get
11 into more substance.

12 [] Yeah.

13 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] How much, because I understand
14 this came up as sort of the secondary focus.

15 [] Um-hmm.

16 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] Roughly how much time was spent in
17 total on this Wall Street Journal article discussion?

18 [] If memory serves me, about five to
19 seven minutes.

20 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] Okay.

21 [] Because we, I, I don't know about
22 Voviette, but I walked in with the anticipation that he,
23 he was a victim of that as well.

24 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] Um-hmm.

25 [] And, you know, I, we present it to

1 this, you think this is the article?

2 [] I think he's talking about the
3 article. Yes.

4 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] Yeah.

5 [] That's what I thought at the time.
6 And that, I continue to think that to this day.

7 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] And then what, can you walk us
8 through what the next entry in your notes is referring to,
9 next day briefing and then the line below it?

10 [] Okay. The accurate conversation,
11 Matt Axelrod, Principal DAG, Sally Yates right hand.

12 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] And the one below that.

13 [] Okay. Next day briefing, DAG, AG
14 uncomfortable. No idea where it came from.

15 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] Yeah. What's that?

16 [] I believe that's my reference to
17 when, after the article came out that Mr. Axelrod had seen
18 it, and there is some conversation or some indication from
19 Mr. McCabe that there was an interaction between them that
20 the DAG, Axelrod was uncomfortable or the, the DAG was
21 uncomfortable, didn't like the nature of the article,
22 didn't like what was inside the article.

23 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] And who is, is anyone saying no
24 idea where it came from? What's that notation?

25 [] I believe, if memory serves me,

1 him, and he said that, no, he, he wasn't aware of the, the
2 nature of it. He wasn't, he didn't know, when he read it,
3 he, or the second time he recognized it, he didn't, he
4 didn't know about the article. He didn't know who gave it
5 out. He didn't authorize it. He didn't direct anybody to
6 give it out. But it was like a flowing, did you, were you
7 aware, did you authorize somebody? It was like a, I
8 didn't even need notes on that part because what I
9 reflected in his statement afterwards, along with his
10 changes, was just like one paragraph that said, hey, we
11 showed it to him, and, and again, he's the victim. He
12 didn't know about this. He didn't authorize it. He
13 didn't know who was the one that, who the source of the
14 article was.

15 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] So a victim of the, of a leak,
16 what seemed to be a leak.

17 [] He never said that. He never said
18 that he was the victim of a leak. He just said that he
19 didn't know, and it was my interpretation that, well if
20 you didn't know, you didn't authorize it. And one of the
21 people around you are telling the media what's going on in
22 these private meetings.

23 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] Well let's go, if you go to, for a
24 moment, this document here.

25 [] Um-hmm.

1 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Let me show you this for example.
 2 So what I'm showing you right now is, it's an email from
 3 you on May 12th, 2017 to Mr. Andrew G. McCabe. And it's
 4 copying [REDACTED] and Voviette Morgan. And it's
 5 saying, actually it was then-Acting Director McCabe, thank
 6 you very much for your time on Tuesday. Please see the
 7 attached revised version of your statement. You will note
 8 that your requested changes have been made, and we added a
 9 short paragraph, in parenthesis beginning on Page 10,
 10 relative to your recollection of circumstances pertaining
 11 to the Wall Street Journal article we reviewed with you.
 12 And so attached to this email is a document that
 13 is 12 pages. And if you go to Page 10, the last paragraph
 14 on the bottom beginning with on May 9th, 2017, and
 15 continuing onto the top of Page 11, if you read that
 16 paragraph, can you tell us if that reflects an accurate
 17 statement of what Mr. McCabe told you at that --
 18 [REDACTED]: Okay. Do you want me to read it
 19 out loud?
 20 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sure.
 21 [REDACTED] 5/9/2017, Section Chief Morgan and
 22 SSA [REDACTED] provided me with a photocopy of a Wall Street
 23 Journal article dated 10/30/2016 and requested I evaluate
 24 and assess the content of the first three paragraphs
 25 appearing on the last page for accuracy. My assessment of

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 the referenced portion of the article is that it is
 2 basically an accurate depiction of an actual telephonic
 3 interaction I had with Department of Justice DOJ
 4 executive.
 5 Since this event, I have shared the
 6 circumstances of this interaction with numerous FBI senior
 7 executives and other FBI personnel. I do not know the
 8 identity of the source of the information contained in the
 9 article. I gave no one authority to share any information
 10 relative to my interaction with the DOJ executive with any
 11 member of the media. I initialed a photocopy of the
 12 article, which is attached to my statement as Exhibit
 13 Number 5. Yes.
 14 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So does that paragraph that you
 15 just read, does that reflect an accurate statement that
 16 Mr. McCabe made to you at the time of the May 9th
 17 interview?
 18 [REDACTED] That accurately reflects the
 19 information that he conveyed to me. That's not verbatim
 20 what he said, but that's what I understood. That's what
 21 I, that was my understanding when I walked out the door.
 22 And that's what I put in. And again, it was like, it was
 23 a short interaction. And I even remember Mr. McCabe, when
 24 I asked him, you know, because we were trying to, as an
 25 investigator, I'm trying to dial down to how many people

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 in this meeting, this isn't like your wrap-up meetings
 2 that we're looking at the [REDACTED] email because we had
 3 a whole cast of characters, executives, senior level
 4 managers in that meeting. This, to me, I just, I just
 5 thought it would be something a lot smaller, a lot
 6 tighter.
 7 But I remember we said, we were going down the
 8 path, like who could it have been? Was this during a
 9 meeting? So there was some indication that it was a
 10 smaller meeting, and there was only a few people around,
 11 and he almost, like, waved away when I said well, there's
 12 no way I can, I can remember how many people were in there
 13 or how many people I told the story to, because I had
 14 related the story so many times that I couldn't, he
 15 couldn't even begin to tell me how many people he told
 16 about. So, it's almost to me got the impression that I'm
 17 not going to get anywhere asking him, well, how many know
 18 of this, because he's told so many people about it
 19 already.
 20 And again, it was still, he's the victim. I'm
 21 not thinking down the road that there is anything more
 22 than what he's telling me that he's trying to be helpful.
 23 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Would it be fair, or, or not fair
 24 to say with respect to the reference that he's told so
 25 many people about this incident that that would be fresh

b6 -3
b7C -3

1 in his mind, a fresh recollection?
 2 [REDACTED] Oh, I don't know. I don't know if
 3 I can go that far to see how fresh it was. I mean, the
 4 article came out a long time before we did that interview.
 5 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm. Okay.
 6 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did Mr. McCabe, so it sounds
 7 like [REDACTED] that he didn't, Mr. McCabe was, didn't have
 8 advance notice that, that Voviette was going to raise this
 9 October 30 article when you guys met with him on May 9.
 10 [REDACTED] Yeah, that was my understanding
 11 that there was no anticipation of that because I certainly
 12 didn't tell him.
 13 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 14 [REDACTED] Because I was still, I was still
 15 unsure whether or not we're actually going to do it, you
 16 know, bring it up as this one, or, my recommendation was
 17 if we're going to work it, let's open it on a separate
 18 case and start fresh with this one with everyone that
 19 we're going to be interviewing. But, yeah. But it was my
 20 impression that this was the first time that he was, this
 21 was brought to his attention by us. And it may have been
 22 a surprise to him, but I don't know.
 23 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So then what he told you was the
 24 May 9th, 2017 interview was consistent with what you
 25 expected he was going to say.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2,4
b7C -2,4

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -4
b7C -4

b6 -2,4
b7C -2,4

b6 -2
b7C -2

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1 [redacted] I wasn't surprised by his response.
2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
3 [redacted] I'll say that.
4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
5 [redacted] You know, given all the other leaks
6 going on about him that the other leak investigations are
7 being handled by OIG and the pre-election campaign and his
8 wife.
9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So on Page 2 of your notes.
10 [redacted] Yes.
11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Going back to that for one second.
12 Is Page 2 him giving you some background on kind of what
13 was going on with the investigations that were the subject
14 of the Wall Street Journal articles? Is that what's sort
15 of being reflected in here?
16 [redacted] Yeah. And he's, here, I'm seeing
17 where it says there is, you know, no DOJ support but can't
18 continue to investigate. So he's, he's kind of putting us
19 in his mindset that he's having this phone call, and, you
20 know, like it says in the article, do you expect me to
21 close a validly predicated investigation, that there is
22 some frustration according to the article with, that, in
23 that response to whoever he's talking to on the telephone.
24 At the time, we didn't know until recently who that person
25 that he was talking to.

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1 That he was trying to give us an idea of the
2 scenario, that he's on the phone. There may have been one
3 or two people in the office, but he's not getting clear
4 direction. Are we investigating, and then there is
5 somebody saying that the Eastern District of New York is
6 still being questioned or asked for assistance by the
7 investigators. And he's trying to resolve that with
8 whoever he's on the phone with.
9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Could you just identify this?
10 Diego reached out to DD. Do you know who Diego refers to,
11 or does it say Diego? I don't know.
12 [redacted] You know, you know, I look at that
13 myself. I can't remember. I just can't remember, unless
14 it's San Diego.
15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh, I see.
16 [redacted] You know?
17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) What about [redacted]
18 [redacted] Yeah. That's a name that he threw
19 out. It wasn't familiar to me.
20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Is it [redacted]? Is that what you
21 wrote there?
22 [redacted] Yeah [redacted]
23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
24 [redacted] So that would have been phonetic.
25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.

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1 [redacted] Because this is just because what
2 we were after is his, whether or not it's accurate because
3 if it's accurate, then it is a leak. If it's not a leak,
4 if it's not accurate then it's either somebody trying to
5 make him look bad or look good or whatever. But we're
6 after his, the accuracy. Is it accurate? Did you put it
7 out? Did you authorize it? Do you know who did? Once
8 those questions are answered, the rest of the stuff is
9 just background that didn't end up in his statement
10 anyway.
11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) On the background, did he, did he
12 give any reaction at the time one way or the other about
13 whether he was upset, or, when he saw the quote?
14 [redacted] No, not at all.
15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
16 [redacted] No, not at all. Very professional.
17 He's always been. Every dealing I've ever had with him,
18 he is very professional, very warm, and receptive.
19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And, and more, more I guess my,
20 what I was wondering was, did he say, hey, I saw this
21 quote of me in, attributed to me from an unidentified
22 source. I didn't authorize it, and that, nor DOJ, and I
23 was annoyed myself. Was there any reflection on, on how
24 he felt about seeing it, or did he not talk about that?
25 [redacted] No, he, we didn't ask him about

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

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1 that. I don't remember him saying that. But I remember
2 him saying it was on the front page here that my
3 recollection is that he was in his kitchen when he
4 received a call from, it might have been, you know,
5 Axelrod or, or somebody after the article came out, and
6 they weren't happy about it. And again, to us, that was,
7 that's not why we were there. We were --
8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
9 [redacted] You know, and even this stuff over
10 on the next page where it says [redacted]
11 [redacted]
12 [redacted]
13 [redacted]
14 [redacted]
15 [redacted]
16 [redacted]
17 [redacted] But again,
18 this, to us, that was, that's good information. I'm going
19 to write it down because it was talked about. But it
20 really, it didn't need to be in the statement.
21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm. Was there any discussion,
22 was there any statements by Mr. McCabe at the time when
23 you're asking him about the Wall Street Journal, the last
24 three paragraphs where he was saying I don't recall, I
25 can't answer about the substance of it?

b6 -2
b7C -2

b7A -1
b7E -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -3
b7C -3

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -1
b7C -1

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1 [redacted] No, no. No, it was clear to me,
2 the message that was conveyed to me was he hadn't seen it
3 before. He didn't authorize it. Didn't know who did.
4 And just, just like [redacted] it was like following
5 that format in the statement.
6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
7 [redacted] Everyone that we talked to, do you
8 know, did you do it? Do you know who did it? And that's
9 the answer that we got. And again, Voviette and I were
10 both like, okay, great. You know, we'll move on. But,
11 you know, he gave us this information. He's a very, he's
12 a very nice man. He's a gentleman. And I think to help
13 us along, he gave us some background to put us in, in his
14 mindset.
15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you have anything on these?
16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Unh-uh.
17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So then I wanted to move
18 on. And feel free to refer to any of these documents.
19 I'm going to ask you to look at the next document after
20 the article. So, what I'm showing you now is a two-page
21 document of handwritten notes dated in the right corner 8-
22 slash-18-2017. Does this appear to be your handwriting?
23 [redacted] Yes.
24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And do these appear to be your
25 notes from the interview held with Mr. McCabe on August

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1 18th, 2017?
2 [redacted] Yes.
3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And it appears that this interview
4 was held with SSA [redacted] in the Deputy Director's
5 office?
6 [redacted] Yes.
7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
8 [redacted] That's kind of my, my protocol
9 when, when I do interviews, on the upper-right corner, the
10 date, the time, where I'm at, who I'm with.
11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) What circumstances prompted this
12 follow-up interview? Do you remember?
13 [redacted] Well, we had been trying to get Mr.
14 McCabe to finalize his statement. I mean, that's always
15 the goal. If we, we write these statements, we want the
16 person to have a chance to look at it. Now, we understand
17 he's busy. Things have been taking a while. And it
18 wasn't, we're not the ones [redacted] and I am not the
19 ones doing the outreach to the office to, to his office or
20 his special assistant or his chief of staff asking to get
21 on his calendar. That's done by my executive management.
22 And they'll tell us when, when he's available.
23 So, we were told sometime before this time that
24 we have him on the schedule, or he has us on his schedule,
25 and he'll be talking to us at 4:30. So [redacted] and I

Page 40

1 made plans to talk to him at 4:30.
2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And what were you told about what
3 the purpose was, the meeting?
4 [redacted] Oh, that was, well, it wasn't a
5 purpose. It was the understanding that we're going to go
6 up and get his statement. He's going to have either
7 revisions in his statement or he's going to have his
8 statement signed, and we'll swear him in, and, and we'll
9 be done with it.
10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And so, when the meeting is
11 scheduled, is it just set for 30 minutes or so, or less?
12 Do you have any idea?
13 [redacted] Well there's, now, that's the
14 Deputy Director --
15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) When he tells you.
16 [redacted] We can stay until -- yeah.
17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
18 [redacted] It's a little awkward because we,
19 we know he's, his time is very valuable, and we just want
20 to go in there and get the information and get out. And
21 we did that with all of the executive managers, the EADs,
22 and the Associate Deputy Director.
23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, you go into this interview,
24 and can you just kind of put us in the room for a moment?
25 [redacted] Sure.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

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1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Are you -- and feel free to, to
2 look at your notes.
3 [redacted] Yeah.
4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Are you basically, are you going
5 over new material, or, or are you just kind of saying,
6 okay, well, you know, can we sign the document?
7 [redacted] Okay. I'll give you a little
8 background before we get to, when we actually get in. We
9 had interviewed [redacted] for his second interview.
10 First interview was strictly about the [redacted] email,
11 and that was early on.
12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
13 [redacted] He was our first interview. We
14 interviewed him again because we introduced the Wall
15 Street Journal article in the interview on the 9th of May
16 with Voviette. So, now we went back to [redacted] to
17 interview him and ask him if he knew anything about that.
18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
19 [redacted] During that time, Voviette and
20 [redacted] well first [redacted] and [redacted] (phonetic
21 sp.), another SSA. I was out of town. [redacted]
22 And they interviewed [redacted] I'm sorry. [redacted]
23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) [redacted]
24 [redacted] Thank you. [redacted] And they got
25 some information that was very enlightening. And I

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2,3
b7C -2,3

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 believe Voviette actually went back to, for a follow-up
2 interview with [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] where [REDACTED]
3 gave, really kind of like draw back the curtain and said,
4 yeah, she knows all about this article. I know this from
5 talking to [REDACTED] and reading the statement. She knows
6 about the article. She was authorized by the Deputy
7 Director and [REDACTED] and her sat down with Devlin, the
8 author of the article in the Wall Street Journal to lay
9 out the information.

10 And she even pointed out that the two people,
11 plural and singular, that's me and that's [REDACTED]. So
12 we had that we're grappling with. Well, we go interview
13 [REDACTED] to get validation to confirm is, is that right.
14 Did you sit down and do this? Well [REDACTED] gives us
15 information that [REDACTED] looks at the article. We show [REDACTED] the
16 highlighted version, and [REDACTED] says, I say well how do you
17 characterize? How do you characterize what you're reading
18 there on the last page or on the third page and
19 highlighted? It's a leak. Why do you say it's a leak?
20 And [REDACTED] says, I asked [REDACTED] why do you, why do you
21 characterize it as a leak? And [REDACTED] gave me the three
22 reasons that are in his statement.

23 So we have that. The next day, or, I believe it
24 was the next day or within the next two days, we're back
25 up in [REDACTED] office because [REDACTED] has some [REDACTED] made [REDACTED]

1 made some corrections. We sent it to [REDACTED] like protocol,
2 made some changes. [REDACTED] made some changes. We accepted the
3 changes, [REDACTED] did. Because [REDACTED] wrote that
4 statement, and she emailed it back to [REDACTED]. And then we
5 were going to go down and sign it, and [REDACTED] had some more
6 changes [REDACTED] wanted to make. So we took those changes, and
7 [REDACTED] had some emails, and [REDACTED] said [REDACTED] look up some more.
8 So we said, okay, we'll just table the signing of the
9 statement.

10 And then we went back, but each time we went
11 back [REDACTED] seemed to step [REDACTED] away from that, oh, that's
12 easy, that's an easy one. That's a leak. Because of the
13 verbiage, it's on a pending case, and we don't use that
14 kind of verbiage about identifying the people in there if
15 it's on background. So we, and [REDACTED] said well, it's
16 possible it could have been this or it could have been
17 that. So [REDACTED] stepping away from this.

18 So now we're at a position where we want [REDACTED] to
19 finally put in [REDACTED] corrections to [REDACTED] statement the way [REDACTED]
20 wants it written. The last time, now we, now we're up
21 into the date that we have that interview or that meeting
22 with Mr. McCabe.

23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) On August 18th?
24 [REDACTED] Yes. So, now August 18th, we get a
25 call from [REDACTED] that says, okay, I, I have some more

1 changes, and I have some emails to show you, to explain my
2 changes. And to us, it's not that common to have people
3 explain their changes. It is what it is. You don't have
4 to sell us your changes. Just make the changes, and then
5 we'll, if we have any questions, we'll ask you. But we
6 were very compliant. We [REDACTED] been a [REDACTED] to us, and
7 we treat all our employees like we'd want to be treated.
8 Say, sure; if that makes you comfortable, we'll come up.

9 We're sitting with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] bringing this,
10 this information out. I didn't know if it really helped
11 the investigation, didn't really draw a finer point on it.
12 But during that time, I left my phone because I know that
13 we're, this isn't, like, I turned my phone off after we
14 started here. It's nothing that we're going to be
15 disturbed with. [REDACTED] had her phone with her. We got
16 called from our unit chief and said we need to get to the
17 Deputy Director's office because he's available now,
18 early, a half-hour early. I think it was 4 o'clock. Well
19 by the time that we got back to our office to get the
20 material we needed for Mr. McCabe, sometime elapsed, and I
21 think it was right around 5 o'clock that we were actually
22 in there. Because normally I have this all prepared, who
23 I'm going to be interviewing, with who, and where. That I
24 was doing on the fly when we were getting in there because
25 we didn't want him to wait.

1 So that's where we are now at the beginning of
2 your question. We come in, and, you know, he apologized.
3 I think he was, you know, apologetic that it's taken so
4 long to get his statement finalized because, you know, so
5 much time has elapsed. And, you know, very cordial, as
6 always, very professional, very, very warm and friendly.
7 And I, I had a copy of the statement. And in light of
8 what has transpired with the [REDACTED] interview and our,
9 the awkwardness of [REDACTED] interview, and the
10 information that's, that's coming out, that I gave him the
11 statement.

12 And I said, you know, here's your statement
13 again. You probably have, and I think you might have a
14 copy on a, or a copy of it or he was looking for it. I
15 turned to the last page. And I, I said, there's something
16 I want you to look at. Or maybe I didn't turn to the last
17 page. I said, there's something in your statement I want
18 you to look at. But before we do that, I want to look, I
19 want to show you this article. And I want to ask you if
20 you remember it. Now, we asked you about this article
21 before. I want to ask you about this article because
22 we're, we're having conflicting information. And so I
23 need to know from you, did you authorize this article?
24 Were you aware of it? Did you authorize it?
25 And he looked at it, and he read it. And as

1 nice as could be, he said yep. Yep, I did. And, you
2 know, that's our, our reaction was, when we first talked
3 to you, we were under the impression, you left us with the
4 impression that you didn't have anything, any knowledge of
5 that article being -- and then we kind of went into a
6 conversation, and the note-taking kind of stopped there
7 because it was like an ongoing --

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sure.

9 [redacted] Not an investigation, it was an
10 ongoing, things had suddenly changed 180 degrees with
11 this. And this is where our protocol is really important
12 for the person on the other side of the table because with
13 any witness or victim, there will be that until the
14 investigator starts feeling well maybe you shouldn't be
15 classified as the victim, or, or a witness. And now it's
16 starting to turn that way to where if, if the line of
17 questioning continues, now it's, it's going to be --

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.

19 [redacted] -- getting, you know, trying to get
20 an admission of something that may have been a misconduct.
21 we stop, that. Right? In our business, we stop and say,
22 look, now, now we're getting into an area for due process,
23 we're going to, we're going to back out, and we're going
24 to, we're going to contemplate what's going on here. And
25 if it turns out that you should be better classified as a

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 find out who amongst your ranks of trusted people would,
2 would do something like that. And he kind of just looked
3 down, kind of nodded, and said, yeah, I'm sorry.

4 And I said, you know, we're not in the business,
5 Inspection Division is not in the business to adjudicate
6 what a senior executive has a right to release to the
7 media. That's none of our business. That's none of our
8 business until somebody reports it as misconduct. We're
9 not the ones that adjudicate that. If it comes to us as a
10 complaint, it is, here, I'm not sure what we have. And he
11 said well, you know, what you told us then isn't what
12 we're here now.

13 And he said something to the effect that well
14 there was a lot going on then. And as a matter of fact, I
15 had been interviewed, this is Mr. McCabe talking, he told
16 us that he had been interviewed recently by, and he
17 couldn't remember Dan Beckhard's name. Dan Becker. And
18 he kept, he threw out a couple names. And I threw out, is
19 it Beckhard? And he says, yeah, that's it. That's him.

20 And I said, well, and [redacted] and I both looked
21 at each other and said well that's unusual because we've
22 gone to numerous, multiple deconfliction meetings on who
23 was going to do what, and, and who is going to address
24 which leak. And he said that he was interviewed by
25 another special counsel. And I asked him if it was Mr.

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 subject, then we would notice that person, give them full
2 right of due process with the courtesy of having an
3 attorney in the room because right now we're working this
4 as an unknown subject.

5 If one of these leaks turns out that you
6 authorized this, then it's either not a leak or it is a
7 leak and then you're the subject of it. But I didn't go
8 into that with him. I was just very careful to say, you
9 know, with all due respect, this is what you told us.
10 This is, this has caused us some kind of, you know,
11 sidetracking here now with some information other people
12 have told us.

13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) With that, with the understanding
14 that you didn't probe it deeply given this new change in,
15 in direction of, of his statements; did he elaborate on, I
16 understand I told you I didn't authorize it on May 9th,
17 and now today on August 18th, I'm saying I authorized it.
18 Did he say what prompted a revision on his part? Or, or
19 a, or --

20 [redacted] No, I remember --

21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- a difference in statement.

22 [redacted] I remember saying to him, at, I
23 said, sir, you understand that we put a lot of work into
24 this based on what you've told us. I mean, and I even
25 said, long nights and weekends working on this, trying to

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Mueller, Special Counsel, and he goes, no, this is a
2 different one. And he said, and they asked me about the
3 [redacted] they asked me about the other leaks, and they
4 asked me about this article. And I said, and that's,
5 again, [redacted] and I are trying to make sense of this and
6 say, why would they be asking you about the [redacted]
7 email? And, and he started to tell me. And I, I stopped
8 him, and I said, hey, with all due respect, during that
9 Special Counsel, did they admonish you not to talk about
10 this? He goes they did. And I said well then don't talk
11 about it.

12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

13 [redacted] Then don't tell me. We'll, we'll
14 have to get, if we need the information, we'll have to get
15 it from them. And he, he understood, and he stopped
16 talking about it.

17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So he didn't say that the OIG
18 interview had any effect on his memory about the article?
19 [redacted] Well, what he said along those e
20 lines, my recollection is that, our General Counsel, Mr.
21 Baker, had looked at his statement [redacted]

b6 -1,3
b7C -1,3

b6 -2
b7C -2

b5 -1
b6 -2
b7A -1
b7C -2

b5 -1
b7A -1

1 [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]
6 And which caused me other concerns because I'm
7 hearing that he has a, General Counsel, an FBI attorney,
8 looking at something here where just that day we had
9 people from the General Counsel's Office in our shop at my
10 request, because, on this case, another, a witness wanted
11 an attorney to see his statement. And we kind of
12 collaborated on it. And we all thought it would be okay
13 as long as they're not in the interview. We asked OGC,
14 and OGC's opinion is no, it's not okay. If the person, if
15 the employee is not in jeopardy, then why should an
16 outside party be informed about the inner workings of the
17 Bureau?
18 So we put that statement on, and we had OGC come
19 in that day to, to explain why, explain the reasoning to
20 all of the personnel, not just the investigators but the
21 professional staff. And I just found that ironic that
22 here is the day that, or the day after that we have the
23 General Counsel representing or assisting in an
24 administrative inquiry. So, there I had a problem too
25 that, I, I couldn't comprehend all the things that were,

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 that we didn't anticipate happening at this point.
2 And I drew Mr. McCabe's attention to the last
3 paragraph right before in his statement, actually in his
4 statement where it says --
5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) The draft one is there.
6 [REDACTED] The one that you had me read out
7 loud?
8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right, it's --
9 [REDACTED] Well, I brought his attention to
10 it, and I said, well, since your last time we changed some
11 things like Acting Assistant Director, but this is that
12 part that we put in there. And, and he read it while we
13 were sitting there. And he says, I'm not sure if I
14 remember seeing that. And --
15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And just for the record is
16 complete.
17 [REDACTED] Yes.
18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) You're talking about on Page 10.
19 [REDACTED] Starting on Page 10.
20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) The bottom paragraph.
21 [REDACTED] Bottom paragraph.
22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Continuing to top of 11.
23 [REDACTED] Top of 11, and ending where the
24 next paragraph is, I'm willing to voluntarily take a
25 polygraph. To us that's memorable because that's where

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 the statement actually ends. The rest of this is
2 boilerplate that appears in every statement.
3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And so you pointed that --
4 [REDACTED] Yes.
5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- paragraph out to him, and his
6 response was?
7 [REDACTED] Yeah, he read it. And he shook his
8 head, and he goes, I don't remember ever seeing this
9 before. And I told him, I said we sent it to you at least
10 three times or two times. We had them. And he says,
11 well, he doesn't remember seeing it. And I said, okay.
12 He goes, well, I'm going to, I'm going to, I'm going to
13 complete the statement or I'm going to, I'm going to look
14 at the statement and I'm going to make my, my changes and
15 additions. And that's, and, and to me I was satisfied at
16 that point because at this point you're still, you can
17 explain. You know, he said there was a lot going on at
18 that time. Then he can explain in his statement, then we
19 can see it in his own hand as opposed to trying to draw it
20 out of him.
21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.
22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So [REDACTED] to make sure I'm
23 following.
24 [REDACTED] Yes.
25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) When he said sorry, there was a

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 lot going on at that time, was he referring to, to May 9
2 when you interviewed him for the first time about, about
3 the October 30 article, or was he saying there was a lot
4 going on at that time, was he referring to late-October of
5 2016 when the article came out?
6 [REDACTED] I don't know. My, my impression
7 was it's either one or the other. And because of May 9th,
8 that was a pretty important day for our former Director.
9 And maybe there was, maybe that's what it is. But I
10 didn't, I didn't follow up on that to ask him what he
11 meant by that because, again, my mind now is going to be,
12 I may be back, but these questions are going to be more
13 directed at --
14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay, and --
15 [REDACTED] -- the leak itself.
16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And his response to you after you
17 gave him the article and you mentioned that you guys were
18 getting conflicting info, you said his response was yep,
19 yep, I did. What again was the question that you posed to
20 him exactly? Did he authorize --
21 [REDACTED] Yes.
22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- those paragraphs?
23 [REDACTED] Yeah. Did you authorize, and I,
24 the last page that we're looking at, did you, did you, did
25 you authorize that? And he read it, and yes. And he went

1 on to say that he had worked with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
 2 to address the inaccuracies of a previous article. And
 3 this article that we're looking at that, that whole issue
 4 appears on the last page. Even the preceding pages are
 5 what he was directing or, or requesting [REDACTED] to try
 6 to, you know, correct the inaccuracies of the previous
 7 article. And this article was intended to do that.
 8 And then when I asked him about that, that part
 9 there where, you know, about that telephone conversation,
 10 he did say, yeah, he did say that, I don't recall
 11 specifically authorizing that, or telling that, but I said
 12 were you, you know, is that your authorization? And
 13 again, he still, he took, he took responsibility, or he
 14 took ownership of it.
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) In what respect? Just that he,
 16 when you say took ownership, how?
 17 [REDACTED] Well, he didn't seem all that
 18 concerned about it.
 19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 20 [REDACTED] He just is very matter-of-fact.
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 22 [REDACTED] I mean, again, very pleasant. I
 23 mean, there was no change in his demeanor whatsoever.
 24 There was no awkwardness.
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, in the middle page of your

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 notes, there is an asterisk from the August 18th, 2017.
 2 [REDACTED] Um-hmm.
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I believe it says, well, why don't
 4 I have you read that for the record?
 5 [REDACTED] Authorized, and then there's a
 6 hyphen, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for info in Barrett's, you know,
 7 Devlin Barrett's article 10/30/2016.
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Is that essentially, does that
 9 notation reflect what you were just describing?
 10 [REDACTED] Yes.
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And you were referring to,
 12 because it's a long article.
 13 [REDACTED] Um-hmm.
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But you were referring him
 15 specifically to the page at the end that had those three
 16 paragraphs?
 17 [REDACTED] That's where it started. That's
 18 where I referred him to. But then he went back and just
 19 talked about the entire article saying, yeah, this was the
 20 article, this article was intended to correct the
 21 inaccuracies of Barrett's previous article.
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And a couple of lines down from
 23 the asterisk, he, you have in quotes, okay with it?
 24 [REDACTED] Yeah. That's his quote.
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right. Can you just explain that

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 for the record? Is that Mr. McCabe saying he was okay
 2 with those last three paragraphs?
 3 [REDACTED] I think he was okay with the entire
 4 article.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 6 [REDACTED] Including the last three
 7 paragraphs.
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 9 [REDACTED] It says McCabe regarding contents
 10 of the article right after that.
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Was he, and again, I understand
 12 caveating with that, there was a lot of new developments
 13 happening in this, at the moment.
 14 [REDACTED] Um-hmm.
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And you may not have probed it.
 16 But, was there any inquiry about how others in the FBI
 17 management, such as then-Director Comey or senior DOJ
 18 officials would feel or react to seeing his authorization
 19 of internal conversations between him and other managers
 20 at the Department?
 21 [REDACTED] Okay. I don't, I don't know
 22 specifically how they, they would react. You know, I'm
 23 sure they, whoever you'd ask would ask for themselves.
 24 But I remember that Mr. McCabe told us that Mr. Axelrod
 25 called him.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 2 [REDACTED] At his home the day after the
 3 article. And he was, he was upset about the article,
 4 about that particular part of the article. But again, we
 5 didn't go and ask him did you own it? Did you tell --
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.
 7 [REDACTED] -- did you apologize? I mean, we,
 8 those are questions that we, we were thinking, obviously
 9 we wanted to ask that question. But then again, it's to
 10 the point where I'm not looking for an admission from a
 11 subject. I'm looking for closure on this issue to
 12 determine when I go back to tell my management my
 13 recommendation is we kind of, we name somebody in this.
 14 And, and we're at that point. And this is where it kind
 15 of reflects back into the earlier notes from when we
 16 talked to him the first time when the article was brought
 17 up. Because he said that he was in his kitchen at the
 18 time.
 19 My understanding then was that when he was
 20 having the conversation, as reflected in the article, it
 21 was in an office setting with a few people around. And he
 22 couldn't name those, it wouldn't be, it wouldn't be, it
 23 would be futile for him to name them because he's told the
 24 story so many times. So that was my mindset then. What
 25 he's telling us this time is that the call, the actual

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 call took place in his kitchen. It wasn't in a
2 professional setting. And he was on his way to travel to
3 [REDACTED] or somewhere.

4 He went on to, to elaborate on that.

5 And then it kind of took me back, because I
6 remembered, my understanding, either I misunderstood him,
7 which is entirely possible. Or he said something and my
8 interpretation was, was something else. But it sounded to
9 me now he's saying that the conversation he had, you want
10 me to close a predicated investigation, happened in the
11 kitchen, and the call happened later with Mr. Axelrod
12 calling him, upset, happened at a different time, not in
13 the kitchen. It was, it was the other way around.

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Was it -- go ahead.

15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) No, go ahead.

16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Was there any discussion about
17 once he indicated on August 18th that he authorized [REDACTED]
18 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to talk to the reporter for the
19 October 30th article what the scope of that authorization
20 entailed, whether he had documentation of this
21 authorization? Did he get into that detail?

22 [REDACTED] No. I don't, I don't think it did.

23 No. I mean, sitting here, I probably wouldn't have gone
24 to that detail because, again, that would have been a
25 little bit more specific asking, focusing, now the phone,

1 the funnel, the cone on him.

2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Him saying that yes he authorized
3 it, was there any ambiguity at the time about what he was
4 claiming he authorized? In other words, is it, was it
5 clear to you he was referring to that Axelrod call on
6 April 12, on August 12?

7 [REDACTED] It was during most of that
8 conversation. But he did say during that conversation, he
9 goes -- I'm not sure about whether or not he did authorize
10 the call specifically.

11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) That may be in his sworn, in one
12 version of his sworn statement.

13 [REDACTED] No, I don't think we --

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well the sworn statement --

15 [REDACTED] Yeah, we didn't reflect anything
16 from that August -- yeah. I don't see that in my notes.
17 It must have been during that conversation that went back
18 and forth about authorizing them to correct the, the
19 issues on there. But it wasn't specific on what the
20 corrections are going to be, that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are
21 going to sit down and make those corrections. He gave me
22 the impression that it's not specifically saying tell him
23 this, tell him that. Just give him, give him the
24 information that's on background.

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So it was a more general type of

1 authorization than a specific authorization to mention the
2 August 12 call?

3 [REDACTED] Right, right.

4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you know whether or not, or was
5 there any discussion about whether Mr. McCabe notified
6 then-Director Comey that he was giving authority to his
7 staff to, including [REDACTED], to talk to the Wall Street
8 Journal?

9 [REDACTED] I don't know if I remember. I
10 think, I think that did come up. I think [REDACTED] maybe
11 asked him that.

12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

13 [REDACTED] If Mr. Comey was aware. And I
14 don't, I don't specifically recall.

15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Do you have any additional
16 questions?

17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But Mr. McCabe never expressed to
18 you that, that he thought that, that that piece of the
19 October 30 article, the, the three paragraphs on the, on
20 the call with Axelrod, that that was unauthorized? He
21 never said, he never disavowed that?

22 [REDACTED] No, he didn't. No, and that's
23 what's so, you know, when I put in here in quotes, okay
24 with it. It must have been a question something like how
25 do you feel about that now, in hindsight? Well, how do

1 you feel about this, this information and the, and the
2 level of, you know, detail in this? And he said he's okay
3 with it. And I think that's what spawned the conversation
4 that, hey, we're not in the position of saying what an
5 executive manager in the FBI can release and what they
6 can't.

7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

8 [REDACTED] That's not our position here. So
9 if you're okay with it, then, then, you know.

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did he -- sorry. I cut you off.

11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did he, did he ever explain to
12 you what prompted him to now recall this? I know that --

13 [REDACTED] No.

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) You said before that he, he, he
15 apologized and said there was a lot going on, which
16 perhaps was his way of explaining why he didn't remember
17 it then.

18 [REDACTED] And I think --

19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But did he explain what prompted
20 his memory now?

21 [REDACTED] The apology, I don't think it was
22 for that. I think the apology was for my comment of
23 saying, hey, we threw a lot of work into this, a lot of --
24 I think that's what that was for. But no, we didn't ask
25 him, and he didn't clarify, you know, beyond what he said.

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did he articulate that his
 2 relationship with former Principal Deputy Attorney General
 3 Matt, Matthew Axelrod, did he articulate any, what the
 4 nature of that relationship was, good, bad? Was there any
 5 conversation about that?
 6 [redacted] I don't recall. No, I don't. I
 7 don't recall him saying that it was a bad relationship or
 8 there's any kind of animosity between them.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C): The involvement of the General
 10 Counsel and what Mr. McCabe said about how I guess Mr.
 11 Baker recommended that, that the statement be pared down,
 12 is it, was it, I know you said before it was a bit of a
 13 contradiction, but had you ever had an experience where a,
 14 an attorney from the General Counsel's Office, whether it
 15 be the General Counsel or one of the attorneys in his
 16 office, did you ever have an experience before where,
 17 where one of them inserted themselves in providing almost
 18 like legal advice to an employee who is a witness in a
 19 matter?
 20 [redacted] No. That's, that's prohibited.
 21 No. I've never had that experience. I mean, if it's
 22 happened, it's not come to our attention. I mean, if
 23 they're doing it behind the scenes, you know, it's never
 24 brought to my attention because that would have been
 25 something that would be pretty noteworthy. Because even

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

1 in our book, our process when we give personnel
 2 notification they're under investigation, there's IAS
 3 forms. I believe IAS-1, there's IAS-1, 2, and 3; 2 and 3
 4 are nondisclosure agreements that the employee and the
 5 attorney sign.
 6 IAS-1 explains the process, so they know what
 7 they're, they're going to be in store for. Page 2 starts
 8 talking about use of attorneys. And I think in there it
 9 even says can I use a government attorney. And we won't
 10 pay for your attorney. You have to bring your own or
 11 agent's association if they are members, if they are
 12 investigators.
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) [redacted] I have a couple of
 14 questions about the period between the May 12 email that
 15 forwarded the sworn statement to Mr. McCabe --
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- and the interview on, on
 18 August 18. But, if you have more --
 19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do that.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C): Okay.
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) No, no. Do that. Do that.
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Because that's, so I'm going
 23 backwards. Is that okay? Do you --
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do that, yeah.
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do that.
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C): So, you mentioned that Mr. McCabe
 3 apologized for the delay with his sworn statement.
 4 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) When you met with him on August
 6 18.
 7 [redacted] Yeah, I think he said, sorry this
 8 is taking so long.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 10 [redacted] To get this done.
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Can you describe for us the
 12 process? So, so you, so the statement was emailed to him,
 13 I guess the current version, right, was emailed to him on,
 14 on May 12. His interview is --
 15 [redacted] Um-hmm. Yeah.
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- right, three days after May 9
 17 interview. What happened from that point to August 18 in
 18 terms of any efforts undertaken by Inspections to get the,
 19 the, to get Mr. McCabe to focus on his sworn statement and
 20 get it squared away and signed.
 21 [redacted] Okay. So we, we kept our executive
 22 management, my section chief, Voviette, informed of the
 23 process. I had this nice spreadsheet made up of where,
 24 you know, we are on those because I'm trying to track [redacted]
 25 different leaks here. So we told her, and she said she

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2
 b7E -3

1 would, you know, there were a couple of times where she
 2 said she would talk to the Assistant Director, you know,
 3 and Nancy McNamara and say maybe she can reach out to the
 4 Associate Deputy Director and find out if we can, you
 5 know, move this along.
 6 I know that [redacted] actually ran into the
 7 Deputy Director I think at Starbucks and mentioned to him.
 8 And he asked her to send it to, send it to him again. And
 9 fine. I can't even imagine how many emails they have and
 10 maybe he just can't pull it up readily. I remember one
 11 particular time, I was [redacted]
 12 [redacted] I had a presentation to do. And I live in
 13 [redacted] So I work out of the computer-based
 14 training room at the Academy, do my presentation, and
 15 return through the bounds of my day. And I remember that
 16 [redacted] sent it out, but she didn't send it to [redacted]
 17 [redacted]
 18 And we, I noticed it right away. And we sent it
 19 to him, but it was too late because Mr. McCabe already
 20 received it from [redacted] And [redacted] I
 21 pointed out to [redacted] already reached out to
 22 [redacted] and said delete it.
 23 Don't open it. This is official business. He would. He
 24 promised. That's great. But he forwarded it after that
 25 call, forwarded it to Mr. McCabe anyway. So Mr. McCabe

b6 -1
 b7C -1

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -1
 b7C -1

b6 -1
 b7C -1

1 sent me an email and said this is, you know, you know,
2 unfortunate or, you know, this is, you know, this is
3 something that's very, should be very -- and I explained
4 to him, I wrote back an email to him saying that I
5 understand. We identified the issue right away. We took
6 steps to, you know, proactive steps to do this, and it's
7 not going to happen again, and then I let [redacted] know
8 that, you know, he's already aware of it.

9 So he had it then. I, I know he had it then.

10 And the joke --

11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) When was that about would you
12 say?

13 [redacted] I don't know. But I have, I
14 provided that, those three that we sent. It was the
15 second one, I think, the second time that we sent it to
16 him in that version. And we joked around about it too, so
17 if it, if you want to get this thing done, this is, the
18 ball is in your court. You know, we don't have to send
19 this anymore. Let's get this thing done. This is well
20 before I knew these incidents that came up.

21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm. So, so the email that,
22 that was first sent to [redacted]
23 [redacted] that would, that would have been the same
24 day as the Starbucks encounter?

25 [redacted] Yeah. I think it was right after

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 she met him. She came right up to her desk and did as he,
2 you know, requested.

3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm. So it was three times,
4 was it three times prior to August 18 that, that you had
5 submitted the sworn statement to Mr. McCabe electronically
6 by email?

7 [redacted] Yeah. I think it was, well, three
8 times for sure, including the very first one that he got.
9 So, the third time --

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) In April.

11 [redacted] Yes.

12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah.

13 [redacted] The third time I believe was right
14 after we had that interview with him before we went home
15 that day because, again, he asked us to send it to him.

16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. On the 18th?

17 [redacted] Yes.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right after you met with him?

19 [redacted] Yes.

20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Were there any other
21 efforts, so, so other than emailing the sworn statement to
22 him on May 12, and seeing him at Starbucks, and, and
23 resending that again -- [redacted] seeing him in Starbucks.

24 [redacted] Um-hmm.

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Were there any other, were there

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

1 any other efforts made to, to have him sign the sworn
2 statement? I'm just wondering to what, how, how much
3 effort.

4 [redacted] Well, I know my effort, and I'm
5 sure I speak for [redacted] on this point that our
6 interactions with the Deputy Director were always vis-a-
7 vis emails. We didn't call him. We didn't call his
8 secretary. We didn't, this is, we consider this very
9 private, you know, these statements. We wouldn't call the
10 secretary and say, hey, the Deputy Director has a
11 statement to sign. So we let our management do that.
12 And I think a couple times Voviette may have
13 said that she will, she will discuss it with our Assistant
14 Director and through her channels because she meets up
15 there on the seventh floor with these people all the time,
16 and maybe she bumps into him, ask him if there is anything
17 he needs to try to further the process.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Can you speak to what extent the,
19 the management above you, [redacted] had reached out informally
20 or through --

21 [redacted] I, I can't.

22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- assistance?

23 [redacted] I can't. I don't recall if they,
24 they came back to me to tell me, hey, we, we put in a
25 call. But something tells me that Voviette did come back

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 to me at least on a couple of occasions saying, yeah, I
2 talked to Nancy, and Nancy will see if we can't get him to
3 get on the calendar to, to get it to sign. Or at least
4 ask him what the status is of his review. That's
5 basically what it is. Because we're not asking for, hey,
6 when are you ready to sign? It is, what's the status of
7 your review.

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

9 [redacted] We're not rushing anyone. It's,
10 you know.

11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. I think that was all on
12 that.

13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So let's sort of bring us
14 now, go back to the interview on August 18 is ending.

15 [redacted] Um-hmm. Um-hmm.

16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) What happens next?

17 [redacted] We, we left Mr. McCabe's office and
18 came down to our office. And we had a note on [redacted]
19 was told by, by [redacted] phonetic sp., our unit
20 chief, that pulled us out of the [redacted] interview and
21 said, when you're done, brief Nancy McNamara, our AD,
22 about the results of what transpired today. So we went
23 right to her office, and her secretary told us she already
24 left for the day. So we went back to our office, went
25 into our unit chief's office, [redacted] office, and

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -1
b7C -1

1 called our section chief, called Voviette. We were
2 uncomfortable about calling the AD. I didn't know where,
3 you know.

4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

5 [redacted] Normally I'll brief up my section
6 chief, my management, and they'll brief up from there. So
7 we put Voviette on speakerphone, and [redacted] and I
8 briefed her up about the interaction with [redacted] and
9 being called out of the meeting, because she wasn't in
10 that day. She may not have even been in that entire week.
11 And we were called into Mr. McCabe's office and, and he
12 told us that he authorized it. And Voviette was tracking
13 this because she sat in on most of the interviews.

14 There's, you know, just a very few that she didn't sit on.
15 And she even inserted herself on follow-up interviews with
16 [redacted] after [redacted] was done and with, with [redacted]
17 So the three most important ones, the ones that were
18 causing us this epiphany, were [redacted] and [redacted]
19 Well, Voviette was very in tune on that.

20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

21 [redacted] And I know, I remember Voviette was
22 surprised, too, with the information that [redacted]
23 released. And now when we talk to Mr. McCabe, and he told
24 us he authorized it, that she was taken a little aback by
25 it too.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) : And so let me just show you, when
2 you say taken aback, can you just elaborate? Meaning
3 surprised, or?

4 [redacted] Well, yeah, kind of. Like our
5 reaction was. It was a very natural reaction, like, you
6 know, we didn't know what to expect when we went in there,
7 but we went in with the impression that we're not going
8 to, we're not setting anyone up for failure here. I'm not
9 going to let him sign that statement until, you know, take
10 the onus on it and say maybe you misunderstood me. Maybe
11 I didn't write it the way I heard it. And you never gave
12 us back your, your changes, so we didn't know if we were
13 expecting to see changes where he had already talked to
14 the other people and found out that somebody -- we didn't
15 know. So I took the proactive approach and said, here,
16 before you sign your statement, this is what you told us.
17 Here is this article again. Tell us. And that's how we
18 entered into that.

19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

20 [redacted] So, yeah, there was, you know, her
21 reaction was, really? Wow. Okay. Okay, we're going to
22 have to talk about this. It was the same reaction that we
23 had, that it's, it's not as simple as it first appeared.

24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

25 [redacted] It's, it doesn't appear that he is

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 the victim of a leak.

2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.

3 [redacted] Either he is, either it's not a
4 leak and it was, it was authorized, and it's going out, or
5 it's something that he was aware of after the fact and he
6 didn't have a problem with.

7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) If you could look at the next
8 document there.

9 [redacted] Yes.

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) That's an email from you on August
11 18th at 5:04 p.m. to Mr. Andrew G. McCabe, copying
12 [redacted] And you state at the email, it also
13 attaches a 12-page draft statement. Are you familiar with
14 this document?

15 [redacted] Yes. Um-hmm.

16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And it appears this is sent after
17 the interview is completed on August 18th. Is that
18 correct?

19 [redacted] Yes, it is.

20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And so what is your expectation
21 after you send this to him as to what's going to happen
22 next?

23 [redacted] Well, we sent it to him because he
24 requested it.

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] : Because, again, based on the
2 statement that he, it's not at his fingertips or he, it's,
3 it's in his email. Would we be kind enough to send it to
4 him again? Absolutely. As soon as I get back to my desk.
5 And actually, we sent it to him I think before we even
6 spoke to Voviette. And we sent it to him. And my
7 expectation was it was the same statement that we had
8 before that he correct the inaccuracies. I mean, my
9 expectation is there is going to be some correction of
10 that paragraph that you had me read aloud about whether or
11 not he authorized or was aware of who is the source of the
12 information.

13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So it would be, the ball would be
14 in Mr. McCabe's court to make whatever revisions, and then
15 have you and [redacted] or anyone else from your office look
16 at those revisions?

17 [redacted] Yes.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

19 [redacted] We're still in the draft stage at
20 that point.

21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Still in the draft stage. And so,
22 I know you gave OIG a draft version of Mr. McCabe's
23 statement that says current version pending.

24 [redacted] Um-hmm.

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I think I even have it in your

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 stack there here.
 2 [REDACTED] Um-hmm.
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But, is the, is the current
 4 version pending heading, is this document that you're now
 5 looking at with that heading, current version pending, no
 6 different from the document --
 7 [REDACTED] That we sent to him?
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- attached to the August 18, 2017
 9 email?
 10 [REDACTED] I'd have to go through line-by-
 11 line, word-by-word.
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well, I mean, I just don't want to
 13 take up that time now.
 14 [REDACTED] Yeah.
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Not that I don't want to afford
 16 you that opportunity.
 17 [REDACTED] I would think, typically I do this
 18 kind of notation on these cases when the, the statement is
 19 in its most complete form. As far as we're concerned, as
 20 far as --
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.
 22 [REDACTED] -- we're accepting changes, and
 23 changes have been made. We're waiting, we're waiting for
 24 the respondents or the interviewee either to respond to
 25 saying I have more changes, or I'm ready to sign. And

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 this is probably just something that was sitting on,
 2 sitting on the file to let anyone know if I'm out of the
 3 office that say if he needs the current version or
 4 somebody needs to look at it, management, they can pull it
 5 and look at it.
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And also, just so the record
 7 doesn't look like I'm cutting you short.
 8 [REDACTED] Um-hmm.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I want to just bring your
 10 attention maybe to the heart of what we're talking about
 11 here.
 12 [REDACTED] Okay.
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So if you turn to Page 10 in both
 14 of those documents, current, with current version pending
 15 heading and the one attached to the August 18, 2017 email.
 16 [REDACTED] Okay.
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) If you look at the bottom of 10,
 18 the paragraph to the top of 11 --
 19 [REDACTED] Wait.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- stating, on May 9th, 2017. It
 21 doesn't look like there is any change in that paragraph
 22 that we have been focusing on about authorizing or not
 23 this, these statements, in the --
 24 [REDACTED] Yeah. It doesn't look to be any
 25 changes. They appear to be identical.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) [REDACTED] forgive me if you said this
 3 before. But when Mr. McCabe said that he had authorized
 4 the on background discussion --
 5 [REDACTED] Um-hmm.
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- for the October 30 article, he
 7 specifically mentioned [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
 8 [REDACTED] Yes. My recollection is that yes,
 9 he did.
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And I believe it's reflected in
 11 your notes.
 12 [REDACTED] Yes, right here. Authorized [REDACTED]
 13 and [REDACTED] meaning [REDACTED]
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I was going to move on.
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, it's my understanding that you
 17 were not present for the interview conducted of [REDACTED]
 18 on August 7th, 2017, correct?
 19 [REDACTED] Correct. I never had contact with
 20 [REDACTED] on this.
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. But you're familiar with
 22 what facts were being gathered --
 23 [REDACTED] Yes.
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- in that sworn statement?
 25 [REDACTED] Um-hmm.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So then let's segue into
 2 the developments of [REDACTED] final sworn statement
 3 after three interviews in mid-August 2017.
 4 [REDACTED] Um-hmm.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And the next --
 6 [REDACTED] The next attachment?
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah, the next document would be,
 8 I wanted to ask you about, what appears to be your notes
 9 on August 16th, 2017? Is that right?
 10 [REDACTED] Yes, um-hmm.
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Two pages of notes? Is that
 12 right?
 13 [REDACTED] Yes.
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And you attended, or this
 15 interview was attended by you and SSA [REDACTED] is
 16 that right?
 17 [REDACTED] Yes, that's correct, in [REDACTED]
 18 [REDACTED] office.
 19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) In [REDACTED] office. And it
 20 looks like this is where you, you being INSD --
 21 [REDACTED] Um-hmm.
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- is now circling back to [REDACTED]
 23 [REDACTED] to talk to [REDACTED] for the first time about the Wall
 24 Street Journal article that appeared on October 30th,
 25 2016. Is that right?

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Um-hmm, yes.
2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And you were drawing [redacted]
3 [redacted] attention to the last three paragraphs on --
4 excuse me. The last page of the article, first three
5 paragraphs, correct?
6 [redacted] Correct.
7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And I think you referenced
8 this earlier, but it appears on your notes reflecting this
9 four lines from the bottom of the first page, or five
10 lines, that [redacted] said it was a leak.
11 [redacted] Yes.
12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And that [redacted] wouldn't do that. Is
13 that what that says, call it a leak [redacted] would not do that?
14 [redacted] Yes, um-hmm.
15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. During --
16 [redacted] And, because that's practice and
17 protocol, underneath in parenthesis.
18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And that's OPA's practice and
19 protocol?
20 [redacted] Yes. Yeah, that's OPA's practice.
21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) During discussion of this, is
22 there any surprise by [redacted]? Is [redacted] familiar with
23 this sort of leak that's been out there? Was [redacted] familiar
24 with it?
25 [redacted] You know, I, I -- yeah, I believe

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] was familiar with the article. I don't, I don't recall
2 specifically if we, I remember [redacted] was taking a lot
3 more notes than I was on this. But I don't think [redacted] was
4 surprised by the article itself or the author of the
5 article. I think they, I think [redacted] elaborated to us that
6 [redacted] knows, [redacted] knows them, and.
7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I mean, I understand there being,
8 and you personally may have been investigating more than
9 one leak, and so I'm not sure if, if FBI managers are, are
10 used to seeing this and so, I mean, is there any type of
11 reaction that's -- well, I guess I should say, what was
12 [redacted] demeanor when you presented this to [redacted]? Was [redacted] what
13 was [redacted] demeanor?
14 [redacted] is a very nice [redacted] And
15 [redacted] was very, to me [redacted] was very business-like, very, you
16 know, we put something in front of [redacted] asked [redacted] to look
17 at it. [redacted] looked at it. [redacted] took [redacted] time looking at it,
18 pondered on it a little while, and very clearly, you know,
19 so what do you call it or characterize it. Oh, it's a
20 leak. And, you know, we were very willing to accept that
21 because that's how we viewed it. And that's when I asked
22 [redacted] specifically why, what, why would [redacted] say that? What,
23 what classifies this or characterizes this as a leak in
24 [redacted] mind? And [redacted] gave us I think the three points of.
25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And maybe that, if we look at this

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 next document here --
2 [redacted] Um-hmm.
3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- labeled Draft 1 up at the top,
4 is that your handwriting?
5 [redacted] Yes.
6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And so Draft 1, as we discussed
7 earlier, this would reflect the draft put together by
8 INSD.
9 [redacted] Yes.
10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And so would you be the author of
11 this, or [redacted] or would it --
12 [redacted] It's hard to say. It's hard to say
13 because it's, typically how we do this is whoever, whoever
14 writes it provides it to the co-interviewer. And, you
15 know, some changes are made or some, you know,
16 clarification is, is garnered, and then it's printed. And
17 since I was the case agent, I was the one that was
18 actually maintaining the file, that I would typically,
19 once we're in agreement, once, and the agreement would be
20 this is what we're sending to the person to read. We hit
21 print, and I will, I would write on it right away so I
22 would know for the file for the I-A that this is, this is
23 what's going to be in there.
24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But both of you would be in
25 agreement?

b6 -2
b7C -2
b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Yes.
2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
3 [redacted] If I, if it's, if Draft 1 is
4 already written on, both of us should have been in
5 agreement on it.
6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And would this document typically
7 be accompanied by an email to [redacted] from your office
8 saying here is Draft 1 for review?
9 [redacted] Yeah. That would be how we deliver
10 it to [redacted]
11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So if you could turn to
12 Page 4.
13 [redacted] Um-hmm.
14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) The second paragraph on that page,
15 the first sentence states, when I look at the highlighted
16 paragraphs in Exhibit 1, I would consider this information
17 to be a media link.
18 [redacted] Leak.
19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Leak.
20 [redacted] Yes.
21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Leak. And I believe this would,
22 I'm show you what appears to be [redacted] initials to
23 Exhibit 1 of what ultimately became his final signed copy.
24 But --
25 [redacted] Yes, and it's dated 8-16, so it

1 would correspond with (*indiscernible 1:29:14).
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And just so you have at
 3 your, have handy --
 4 [redacted] And we had [redacted] actually initial
 5 right above the highlighted portion too, so there is no
 6 discrepancy on what we're asking [redacted] to comment on.
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And so the record reflects, you're
 8 looking at a document that contains the October 30th, 2016
 9 Wall Street Journal article, the last page, the first
 10 three paragraphs are in yellow highlight and have [redacted]
 11 [redacted] initials and dated August 16, 2017. And so the
 12 statement again that I was asking you to look at was, when
 13 I look at the highlighted paragraphs in Exhibit 1, I would
 14 consider this information to be a media leak. Does that
 15 sentence contain an accurate statement made by [redacted]
 16 during the August 16th, 2017 interview with you and Ms.,
 17 SSA [redacted]
 18 [redacted] Yes.
 19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And then, in the -- let me show
 20 you this other document here, Draft 2.
 21 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Again, this, that's your
 23 handwriting up at the top?
 24 [redacted] Yes, it is.
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And so now Draft 2 is going to

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 encompass changes by a witness.
 2 [redacted] Correct.
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And here, this would be changes by
 4 [redacted]
 5 [redacted] Yes.
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And so if you turn to Page
 7 5, you'll see that the reference to media leak is stricken
 8 in track changes. Do you see that?
 9 [redacted] Yes.
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Was there any discussion or
 11 explanation from [redacted] about why [redacted] deleted that?
 12 [redacted] I think this was one of the first
 13 changes that [redacted] made, and that's why we're going back to
 14 talk to [redacted] But, and when we did talk to [redacted] you know,
 15 [redacted] said that [redacted] had the chance to think about it, and
 16 [redacted] said there's nothing hard and fast. There's, there's
 17 always varying degrees. Now you can't, there's never,
 18 never any, like, instance where something couldn't be done
 19 a certain way.
 20 And [redacted] gave some examples that some cases are
 21 helped by releasing information, the issues that [redacted] talked
 22 about before, the direct quote where something is quoted,
 23 [redacted] told us that that's not, that we don't do that on
 24 background because that's like somebody wanting to prove
 25 something. Well, if we're giving, we're the, we're the

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 source, you wouldn't do that on background. Quotations
 2 aren't necessary. That's like somebody really trying to
 3 sell something because they're not sure it's going to be
 4 believed by whoever is receiving it. But then [redacted] said,
 5 well, you know, sometimes we do do that for certain
 6 situations. So each one of them [redacted] kind of like just
 7 brought back and said, well, that's not -- I can't say
 8 it's never done, so.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So that was [redacted] explanation as to
 10 why [redacted] was striking that out?
 11 [redacted] Yeah. I can't remember exactly
 12 why, if we asked them why we struck that out or, you know,
 13 why [redacted] made the change or what [redacted] explanation was for it.
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Because it seems to be a, a
 15 significant change from what [redacted] had told you.
 16 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) In the, in the interview. And in
 18 this draft, it maybe might even be helpful to go to the
 19 final version, which is over there. So the, the document,
 20 this document now I'm showing you is 11 pages. It has a
 21 signature page on Page 11 of what appears. Is that your
 22 signature?
 23 [redacted] Yes, it is. Yep.
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So does this appear to you to be a
 25 true and accurate copy as best you can tell of [redacted]

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] final signed sworn statement on August 24th,
 2 2017?
 3 [redacted] It is, yes.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And if I could direct your
 5 attention to Page 4 on the bottom, there is a statement in
 6 the, in the last paragraph there beginning with when I
 7 look.
 8 [redacted] Um-hmm. Yes.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) The second sentence states, I do
 10 not recall any on background conversation that included a
 11 direct quote, especially regarding what was at the time an
 12 ongoing investigation. Was that one of the criteria that
 13 [redacted] used to describe in [redacted] mind what would be a media
 14 leak?
 15 [redacted] Yes.
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So [redacted] still including at least
 17 one of these criteria.
 18 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So was [redacted] able to explain to you,
 20 here is a criteria I have for characterizing something a
 21 leak, but then still not calling it a leak?
 22 [redacted] Yeah, I think [redacted] did anecdotally.
 23 I mean, each one of those, you know, three different
 24 reasons why [redacted] would consider it a leak. I think each one
 25 of [redacted] gave us examples on when it would be used

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 legitimately.
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm. Oh, I see.
 3 [redacted] Yeah. Yeah.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh, so for, for this sentence that
 5 I just read [redacted] gave you an example of when it could be
 6 done legitimately?
 7 [redacted] Yeah.
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 9 [redacted] I mean, I don't see that in the
 10 statement --
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you recall what that was?
 12 [redacted] No, I don't. I don't. It was
 13 just, it was just [redacted] attempt, and [redacted] kept I think
 14 reinforcing to us that [redacted] wanted to make sure that the
 15 statement is, is, is accurate. [redacted] doesn't want to make
 16 (*indiscernible 1:34:45) this is, this would never happen
 17 because, again, [redacted] under oath. And I think [redacted] started
 18 to second-guess [redacted] after a while that [redacted] sticking
 19 too much out there, drawing a hard and fast line where
 20 there are reasons that are not invalid or, or troublesome
 21 to the FBI or to the Office of Public Affairs that this
 22 would be done on some, some instances. And I think [redacted] was
 23 coming up with areas that would cover that.
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did you determine [redacted] what
 25 prompted [redacted] o, to start second-guessing [redacted]

1 [redacted] No. I don't know why [redacted] ust, it
 2 just is the process was continuing of getting the draft
 3 version through the process of review to the final signed
 4 statement that [redacted] would, [redacted] would initiate calls to
 5 [redacted] and say, hey, I've got some more changes, and
 6 I've got something else I want to show you, and I want to
 7 explain the changes to you, and we're like, sure. We'll
 8 go up. We'll, you know, that's unnecessary. You don't
 9 have to explain the changes because, you know, that's [redacted]
 10 view of what [redacted] telling us. But we were willing, you
 11 know, as colleagues to go up there and listen to [redacted]
 12 changes.
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did you find that change
 14 troubling?
 15 [redacted] I found it, I found his, you know,
 16 kind of pulling back on things that [redacted] old us that [redacted] was
 17 so sure about [redacted] reaction initially, I found that a
 18 little unusual.
 19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 20 [redacted] And I found it noteworthy, and I
 21 know [redacted] does too because we talked about it even
 22 when we walked out of the office. I said, what just
 23 happened? I thought, I thought we had hard and fast that
 24 this, it's a leak. That's what it is. It's what [redacted]
 25 calling it. It is how [redacted] sees it. It's done. Now, not

1 so much. And every time we talk to [redacted] it's less and less
 2 what [redacted] said before.
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) To what extent, you said there
 4 are emails in the file of, of references between, emails
 5 that [redacted] had referencing communications with the
 6 reporter.
 7 [redacted] Right.
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Between the October 24 article
 9 and the October 30 article.
 10 [redacted] Yes.
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) : So were these emails that are in
 12 the file, were they provided to you by [redacted] and to what
 13 extent did that play into any changes in [redacted] statement?
 14 [redacted] Okay. Some of the emails that
 15 that were in there were provided to us from [redacted]
 16 Some of them we had to show [redacted] to help [redacted] reflect [redacted]
 17 memory. It's nothing that we've, we've found something
 18 here that says, hey, you authorized this disclosure. It
 19 wasn't that at all. It was just, this was a conversation.
 20 There was a, I think there was a couple of references to
 21 maybe a phone call or call me at this number or whatever.
 22 They're trying to, there's, it appeared to be some effort
 23 on both their parts to try to link up somehow and have a
 24 communication and say this happened at a certain time
 25 frame around the publication of this article. Does this

1 help you refresh your memory? Do you remember what you
 2 talked about? Do you remember what he asked you? Those
 3 are the, that was the line of questioning.
 4 But there was nothing there that was concrete
 5 that would solve all the questions. And I think [redacted] was
 6 really going out of [redacted] way to find emails to show us that
 7 [redacted] being cooperative and, and trying to help us, but
 8 there just wasn't there. And we asked [redacted] for copies of
 9 notes or records or calendar items that would reflect
 10 bullet points on what they discussed, and [redacted] said that [redacted]
 11 doesn't keep a record of, you know, on background
 12 investigations, or on background interviews with
 13 reporters.
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) : Did [redacted] begin second-guessing
 15 [redacted] in your mind, did [redacted] begin that before or after [redacted]
 16 found or you all showed [redacted] email communications
 17 referencing the reporter or with the reporter?
 18 [redacted] I don't, I can't say that for sure.
 19 My only recollection is that it was very obvious to me [redacted]
 20 started that after [redacted] saw [redacted] statement. It wasn't during
 21 that interview, and then [redacted] said this, and then before [redacted]
 22 left [redacted] started pontificating and saying, no. It's more
 23 like, no, it was hard and fast when we left. When [redacted] got
 24 [redacted] statement, then [redacted] started taking it back with each
 25 progression of, of the drafts.

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And [] go [] statement on
2 August 16?
3 [] The 16th was the interview.
4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right. So --
5 [] Yeah, and the final, the
6 finalization wasn't until later, like the 24th or
7 something.
8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) We might want to see the emails
9 that went with the drafts to [] just before it went, that
10 you were sending out to [] But we can put --
11 [] I don't think, we weren't sending
12 [] emails. We, I think [] had those and showed it,
13 showed [] emails.
14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh, no, no, no. I mean the emails
15 from INSD to [] --
16 [] Oh, okay.
17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- saying here is this draft for
18 you to review, just so we understand the time sequence.
19 [] Oh, okay. All right.
20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Does that make sense?
21 [] Yeah.
22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But --
23 [] And [] is the one sending
24 those out.
25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) We'll put something in an email

b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2b6 -2
b7C -2

1 because --
2 [] Okay.
3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- there's a couple things we
4 might want.
5 [] Okay.
6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Was there ever a time, was, were
7 you ever present when [] searched [] computer for
8 emails?
9 [] I think [] may have gotten behind
10 [] desk to look for something while we were talking on
11 one of the occasions. But I know the last occasion we
12 went to see [] had a stack already printed for us,
13 and [] was walking through and showing us them. But I
14 don't remember there was anything substantive in that. I
15 don't think it really gleaned much information for us when
16 [] and I were talking --
17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) What [] gave you?
18 [] Yeah. And what [] was producing.
19 I, I think there was conversation about there was a
20 meeting, and they were addressing that article talking
21 about an article about, you know, inaccuracies in one
22 article. But as I recall, I think [] actually wrote
23 the statement.
24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
25 [] And she had the, she, she really

b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -1
b7C -1b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -1
b7C -1b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2

1 had the interaction back and forth with [] Yeah,
2 and I'm pretty sure that's how it went.
3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So she had, would you say
4 during this period of August 16th to 18, that, or the
5 24th, whichever the date is on the statement that []
6 signed, [] was taking the lead in interacting with
7 []?
8 [] Yeah, I believe that's how it was.
9 Yeah, I believe that's, I think she wrote the statement
10 and the correspondence was going back and forth from her,
11 and she was collecting the information to take in for, for
12 kind of visual aids during the interview for [] to look
13 at.
14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Your recollection that at one
15 point [] went behind a desk during one of the interviews
16 and, and went onto the computer to check some for
17 something, do you recall whether that was on the 16th or
18 when you met [] on the 17th or the 18th? Do you --
19 [] I don't remember. I think, it
20 wasn't at the last meeting because the last meeting []
21 already had everything that [] could find. And there was,
22 you know, there was a stack of stuff in there. I want to
23 say, it was probably the second meeting, but it was a very
24 short, you know [] looked. [] couldn't find what [] was
25 looking for, or [] was looking for a folder. And [] said

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2

1 that [] told us that [] will continue to look. [] just
2 couldn't find it then. And [] said that [] will find and
3 provide us something that might be able to help us, or at
4 least help [] reflect [] memory.
5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you want me to wait, or do you
6 have --
7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) : No, go ahead.
8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did [] on [] final statement
9 here on the bottom of Page 4, [] references that it's not
10 OPA's practice or protocol to give a direct quote.
11 [] Yes.
12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did [] show you anything written,
13 any written protocols?
14 [] No. No. There was none of that.
15 Yeah, there was no policy or, or protocol statement that,
16 that [] referred to.
17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I was going to move into this,
18 unless you want to do some stuff (*indiscernible 1:43:14).
19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) : The first draft of []
20 statement, you were the original or primary author, and
21 then [] would have reviewed it as well before,
22 before the marking of Draft I was placed?
23 [] So that's what we were saying
24 earlier. I think [] wrote it.
25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

1 [redacted] I think she was the original
 2 author.
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 4 [redacted] If memory serves me, I think she
 5 was.
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But you would have reviewed it?
 7 [redacted] Yes, um-hmm.
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And, and you agreed with, she
 9 prepared it, you reviewed it, and you were in agreement
 10 with her?
 11 [redacted] Yes, yes. And after I had made
 12 some changes. We don't keep those changes. You know,
 13 those are --
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) The internal?
 15 [redacted] Yeah, exactly. Those are, those
 16 are just, once it's resaved, it's, it's captured as a
 17 final product, like a group, like a team product.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Even though [redacted] seemed to
 19 be second-guessing [redacted] and maybe pulling back on some
 20 of the representations [redacted] made to you the first time you
 21 and [redacted] talked to [redacted] about the October 30 article,
 22 did [redacted] ever go so far as, as to say, oh yes, you
 23 know, I or [redacted] or both of us were, were authorized
 24 to go on background with Devlin Barrett in preparation,
 25 you know, prior, or, for purposes of the October 30

1 article?
 2 [redacted] I don't recall that specifically.
 3 I remember --
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) How far did [redacted] go?
 5 [redacted] There was, there was, I believe
 6 there was conversation that [redacted] said that [redacted] had
 7 communicated with Devlin Barrett about inaccuracies of the
 8 article, but I don't, I don't remember it going to the
 9 point where there was any kind of authorization or
 10 direction from, from [redacted] you know, executive structure to
 11 go in and specifically address certain parts of that.
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) : Um-hmm, um-hmm. Was [redacted] still
 13 denying that, that [redacted] had authorization to do that, you
 14 know, as of the date [redacted] signed [redacted] statement?
 15 [redacted] : You know what? I'm going to have
 16 to review [redacted] statement for that question to see if [redacted] --
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) You can look even in this.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) He was still --
 19 [redacted] Yeah, because it says right in [redacted]
 20 statement here -- I'm sorry.
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) No, go ahead. Go ahead.
 22 [redacted] It says, to my recollection there
 23 is no, there were no on background conversations with Mr.
 24 Barrett between 10-24 and 10-30-2016. So.
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes.

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you want to look at the final
 2 version? Are you looking at a draft version?
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) [redacted] was still saying that, that [redacted]
 4 did not believe that [redacted] office, OPA, had any involvement
 5 in the October 30 article.
 6 [redacted] Yeah, and see, this is our first
 7 version where we're saying that that's what [redacted] said. And
 8 [redacted] saying on the final version, I'm, I'm skipping over
 9 the, the one in the middle.
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) What page?
 11 [redacted] Page Number 6, [redacted] said in the
 12 original, to my recollection, there was no. And on [redacted]
 13 final regarding the same point, I do not recall on
 14 background conversations with Mr. Barrett between the 10-
 15 24 and 10-30 articles. So, I think [redacted] is saying to us
 16 there that it wasn't [redacted] If there was a conversation on
 17 background, [redacted] didn't recall it. [redacted] not saying that [redacted]
 18 didn't. [redacted] just saying [redacted] doesn't remember it.
 19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 20 [redacted] Which is, again, what we're walking
 21 into with that interview with Mr. McCabe. We have [redacted]
 22 [redacted] saying I don't recall, but I have Mr. McCabe and
 23 I've got [redacted] saying, oh yeah, we both did it. Why
 24 can't [redacted] remember?
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Although --

1 [redacted] : And not saying [redacted] not being
 2 honest, [redacted] if [redacted] can't remember --
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh, McCabe is saying he did it,
 4 but he --
 5 [redacted] He, yeah, he authorized --
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.
 7 [redacted] -- [redacted] and [redacted] remembers
 8 it well and --
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.
 10 [redacted] -- owns it. [redacted] can't
 11 remember it.
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.
 13 [redacted] Says [redacted] can't remember it, so.
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And McCabe, is it fair to say --
 15 [redacted] So why can't [redacted] remember it?
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right. Mr. McCabe, is it fair to
 17 say he, is it an assumption on his part that he authorized
 18 it, because he doesn't have a specific recollection of it?
 19 But I guess your notes said he authorized it.
 20 [redacted] : Yeah.
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But he doesn't remember it
 22 specifically.
 23 [redacted] : No, I don't remember him saying
 24 that he doesn't specifically remember authorizing it. I
 25 think he remembered authorizing it.

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.
 2 [redacted] I mean, at least that's what I
 3 understood, that he, he looked at it and he says, yes, I
 4 authorized them to correct inaccuracies of the other
 5 statement.
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 7 [redacted] It's that part that I, that I said
 8 earlier that, you know, I remember him saying that. He
 9 goes, well, I don't know about that particular statement.
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Meaning?
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) The quote?
 12 [redacted] The quote.
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay, got it. So the last
 14 document here is that one there. And feel free to look at
 15 the other documents. The email that you sent on August
 16 20th, 2017 to Voviette Morgan, I just wanted to ask you a
 17 couple things about that.
 18 [redacted] Sure.
 19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) On Page 4, the prompt.
 20 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) This is regarding [redacted]
 22 There was an asterisk about [redacted] overall
 23 nervousness.
 24 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And inability to recall specifics.

1 Can you describe what you observed that you're commenting
 2 on here?
 3 [redacted]: Well, it was, if I were to have met
 4 [redacted] one time, and [redacted] behaved a certain way, you
 5 just, you know, what are you comparing it to? Right?
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 7 [redacted] But I've dealt with [redacted] from the
 8 earliest interview on this, very, very, [redacted]
 9 Very, you know, eager to help and, and, and professional
 10 and courteous, warm. But as we saw that, as the
 11 progression of that draft stage from that interview that
 12 happened on the 16th and the progressive meetings with [redacted]
 13 to explain those changes [redacted] demeanor changed. [redacted]
 14 was still nice. [redacted] was still very friendly, very
 15 welcoming. [redacted] wasn't, [redacted] didn't look like [redacted] bared a
 16 grudge against us at all or was unhappy to see us. But [redacted]
 17 just appeared nervous to me.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 19 [redacted] just looked nervous. [redacted] looked
 20 unsure of [redacted] fiddling around with [redacted] emails.
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) That's what I was going to ask
 22 you. Were there any physical body gestures that you
 23 observed that reflected in your experience nervousness?
 24 [redacted]: No, I think it was more, I think it
 25 was more in [redacted] speech that [redacted] I don't want to say [redacted] was

1 stammering because [redacted] wasn't. It wasn't that noticeable.
 2 But it just wasn't the same [redacted] that I've dealt
 3 with in the past. And it, and I don't want to read too
 4 much into it. I don't want to say that's an indicative,
 5 design of some kind of, you know, deception or anything,
 6 but it just seemed to me that [redacted] was frustrated, but not
 7 with us.
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 9 [redacted]: That [redacted] was just, inability to find
 10 things and, you know, commenting a couple of times. [redacted]
 11 said [redacted] should have just taken notes. [redacted] should take
 12 notes during these meetings, that [redacted] should have, you
 13 know, had something written down somewhere. I think
 14 Voviette even commented to us once that she went to talk
 15 to [redacted] with [redacted] for a short time, and she made a
 16 comment, too, like [redacted] was a wreck. [redacted] was a nervous
 17 wreck. And I'm like, you know.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) When was this?
 19 [redacted] I don't, I don't remember. It was
 20 just one of the conversations that, because she was
 21 relating to me what [redacted] had said.
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Can you bring us sort of, again,
 23 sort of the, the -- as I understood, was [redacted] last
 24 interview wrapping up or in the middle while you then were
 25 summoned to go talk to Mr. McCabe?

1 [redacted] It was hard to tell, because we
 2 weren't getting anywhere. We were, we were not, you know,
 3 we were still fumbling around through the emails and
 4 stuff. It wasn't, we weren't, we weren't going to end it
 5 then. We were going to continue on.
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay, right. So can you just put
 7 us into that room in the sense of what the dynamics were?
 8 Was, were you just in the middle of listening to [redacted]
 9 description of what changes [redacted] wanted to make, or what was
 10 happening?
 11 [redacted] I think that's what it was. I
 12 think [redacted] was looking at [redacted] statement, and [redacted] had, at that
 13 point [redacted] was made. [redacted] had already made some changes, and
 14 and [redacted] was showing us what [redacted] was striking out and
 15 bringing out an email to say I think this is what this had
 16 to do with. I think this helped me. And there was still
 17 nuance changes that really wasn't, wasn't that
 18 substantive. It just wasn't, it just seemed like there
 19 was a lot there that just didn't, it didn't progress the
 20 process any, any more.
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And it was at that point that you
 22 were then summoned to go talk to Mr. McCabe?
 23 [redacted]: Yeah, it was right, it was right,
 24 that's what ended the interview where [redacted] her phone
 25 is ringing, and she answered it. And she excused herself

1 for a second. And she came back and said we've got to go
2 because the Deputy Director is waiting for us. And, and I
3 was taken a little bit aback, and I said is that -- I
4 didn't know it was our unit chief calling. I thought that
5 was the Deputy Director's Office saying, hey, come up now.
6 And I thought that was a little awkward because, God,
7 we're not done here.

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

9 [redacted] You know, everybody, we had
10 appointments, but.

11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did Mr. McCabe know that you were
12 meeting with [redacted] at the time?

13 [redacted] I don't know. I don't know.

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) While [redacted] was making
15 these, or giving, providing explanations to you about [redacted]
16 reasoning behind why [redacted] wanted to do some of the changes,
17 did you ask [redacted] why [redacted] wanted to give all these
18 explanations? Was there any discussion about what was
19 behind all this, or?

20 [redacted] No. No, we just accepted it as we
21 don't know, you know, when [redacted] called us and said [redacted] got
22 something to show us, we were, were eager. Yeah, great.

23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

24 [redacted] You've got something that you
25 found. That could help us out here. Fantastic.

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Was there any conversation or
2 reference to, you know, whether [redacted] was, at that point
3 there was some inconsistencies in [redacted] stories, whether [redacted]
4 had other objectives in making these changes, or?

5 [redacted] Like [redacted] protecting someone?

6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sure.

7 [redacted] Okay. All right. When [redacted]
8 took the phone call, she went out in the hallway. And,
9 and I took it as an opportunity, because you know, to me
10 [redacted] looked nervous. [redacted] looked like [redacted] was, you know,
11 troubled. And I said to [redacted] I said, look, I told [redacted], I
12 said, I've known you for a long time. I've known of you.
13 You know, we haven't worked together. I haven't had, you
14 know, the necessity to talk to you in these circumstances,
15 but, and I told [redacted] you're very well respected, and
16 that's how we still feel.

17 And you're, you know, the job that [redacted] done for
18 the Bureau is, is, has got to be pretty good because they

19 [redacted]
20 [redacted]
21 [redacted]
22 [redacted]
23 [redacted]
24 [redacted] And this was
25 during the earlier part of this investigation. And that's

1 when I took my statement up to [redacted] and said, hey, as long
2 as I'm here, [redacted] because, you know, we're
3 going. So we had a pretty good relationship.

4 But I could tell that, you know [redacted] is putting a
5 lot of pressure on [redacted] I don't know if it was
6 internal. I don't know if we were causing this pressure.
7 Because we were as friendly to [redacted] as we are right now. I
8 mean, we're, you know, we weren't just firing questions at
9 [redacted] We were trying to understand. And I said to [redacted] I
10 said, look. I said, is it possible that something got out
11 of control or something happened, somebody unilaterally
12 made a decision to, to give something they shouldn't have,
13 and once the horse was out of the stall that you found
14 yourself in this position that, that you're actually in a
15 position that, that you were aware of this and you're
16 protecting someone?

17 I just threw it out there. I mean, because I
18 wanted to know.

19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

20 [redacted] Because if I'm not going to ask,
21 [redacted] not going to offer it up. And I thought maybe I
22 could take advantage of that right there where there's a
23 break, and [redacted] is, is, like, the door is still open,
24 so [redacted] I think we could still see her. And [redacted] just,
25 [redacted] looked at me, and then [redacted] came in, it's the

1 Deputy Director, we've got to go. And I looked at [redacted]
2 and I said we'll be back. And I gave [redacted] something to
3 think about.

4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

5 [redacted] You know [redacted] didn't blurt anything
6 out like yeah, you got me. But then when we were walking
7 out of Mr. McCabe's office, [redacted] right there.

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

9 [redacted] Across the hall in the other room
10 looking at us. And [redacted] looked like [redacted] was in good
11 spirits [redacted] was smiling. [redacted] was happy. And, and we
12 just, we just left. We didn't continue. We didn't go
13 back to do the interview at that point.

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm. This might be getting too
15 far afield, but was the, was there enough time, if this
16 was so far from the truth, would there have been enough
17 time for [redacted] to have said, oh, absolutely not, in response
18 to your question?

19 [redacted] Yeah, I guess [redacted] could have blurted
20 that out, but we were, you know, when [redacted] came in,
21 her tone of her voice and her, her message was so, you
22 know, it was, it was pretty, pretty important. It wasn't,
23 it was like, come on, we've got to go. The Deputy
24 Director wants us in his office. It was, I think we could
25 both tell this is something that was pretty important.

1 This is urgent. And that's how we took it. And I said,
 2 okay, we'll be back. We'll talk to you later. And then I
 3 did revisit that issue with [redacted] the next time we were, the
 4 next time when we're signing the statement.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh, okay. Then what happened?
 6 [redacted] Well, [redacted] clearly said no,
 7 absolutely not.
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh, okay.
 9 [redacted] I mean, as clear as [redacted]
 10 comfortable. There's no more nervousness. There's no
 11 more going on. And I said, I, you know, I told [redacted] I
 12 said I left at an untimely moment when I asked you a very
 13 important question. And I just want to make sure that you
 14 understand how important it is to us. And I'm going to,
 15 you know, I'm ready for your answer. And [redacted] said no,
 16 absolutely not. I'm not covering for anyone. I don't
 17 know anything about this, and it wasn't me, and, okay.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) You know, give me one second. Let
 19 me just check something.
 20 [redacted] You might well imagine, at that
 21 point, you know, we have somebody saying, yeah, that's us.
 22 We did it together. You know, I thought our process could
 23 have been is it possible that [redacted] did it unilaterally, and
 24 now [redacted] trying to get people to say, yeah, it was
 25 authorized? So we don't know where we are. Here's a [redacted]

1 that's looking at us and saying no, I don't.
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well, what's interesting is that
 3 if you look at, so if you look at Draft 2.
 4 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Which contains --
 6 [redacted] changes.
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) [redacted] changes, as well as your
 8 original to the extent there's no track, there's no cross-
 9 off.
 10 [redacted] Right.
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So if you look at Page 6 of 13.
 12 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) The paragraph that is beginning in
 14 part on the top of the page.
 15 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) The fourth line down from the top,
 17 the statement is it appears to me that someone
 18 unilaterally took it upon themselves to provide
 19 information to Mr. Barrett. Do you see that?
 20 [redacted] Yes.
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And then [redacted] says I don't know who
 22 that could possibly be.
 23 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) If you go to the final version on
 25 Page 5, it's the main paragraph on Page 5 starting with I

1 would have been. And if you see in the middle of the
 2 paragraph, that statement is still there. Do you see
 3 that? It appears to me that someone unilaterally took it
 4 upon themselves to provide information to Mr. Barrett.
 5 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I don't know who that, I don't
 7 know who that could possibly be.
 8 [redacted] Yes.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I mean, that's sort of consistent
 10 with what you were saying earlier.
 11 [redacted] Yeah.
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Not everything, but that, not that
 13 covering for anyone, but that is, [redacted] can't remember.
 14 [redacted] Sure. [redacted] distancing [redacted] from
 15 it. Yeah.
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah. [redacted] can't remember. [redacted] has
 17 no recollection.
 18 [redacted] But it happened.
 19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) It happened.
 20 [redacted] But --
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And as best [redacted] can make sense of
 22 it, someone who [redacted] doesn't know unilaterally did this.
 23 [redacted] Yeah, because I think the
 24 assumption there was it was accurate, and it wasn't made
 25 up. It wasn't, like anybody could have said it because

1 it's not true, and you don't have to have information if
 2 you're making things up. I think the, the acquiescence
 3 was already it was true, it obviously was published. It
 4 got out. It was without my authorization, without my
 5 knowledge. I think that's what [redacted] conveying to us. So
 6 it must have been unilaterally because those kind of
 7 disclosures to the media, whether it's done by a division
 8 head or done by an executive manager, are, according to
 9 [redacted] come through [redacted] office.
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.
 11 [redacted] So [redacted] got some kind of,
 12 some kind of awareness, some kind of visibility on what's
 13 released in case of future articles coming out for
 14 additional questions.
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right. So, if all of that is
 16 true, you would think [redacted] would have done something about
 17 some statement that was made at the time that [redacted] didn't
 18 authorize.
 19 [redacted] Um-hmm. Well --
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did [redacted] say that [redacted] could find such
 21 efforts?
 22 [redacted] No. Not, not that I recall. [redacted]
 23 didn't say that. And it's also clear that nobody from OPA
 24 or the seventh floor reported that to us as misconduct,
 25 as, as a leak, like they did with the [redacted] That

1 came from the front office. Hey, look into this because
2 this, this is bad. This is, this is misconduct. Somebody
3 is out there releasing information from executive level
4 meetings.

5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And --

6 [REDACTED] This one didn't come to us like
7 that.

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right. Right. Again, I
9 understand, do you know how it came to the attention of
10 OIG and/or FBI at the, at the very inception?

11 [REDACTED] It was my understanding that our
12 Assistant Director had it, found it, discovered it, or
13 maybe OIG and Nancy McNamara, you know, together, you
14 know, simultaneously found it and discussed it before we
15 had our meeting.

16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Going back to your email.

17 [REDACTED] Yes.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) On that same page, Page 4 of the
19 August 20th email, there under overall problematic issues
20 noted.

21 [REDACTED] Yes.

22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) There is one, two, three, fourth
23 down.

24 [REDACTED] Um-hmm.

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) There is a discussion about

1 carte blanche ability to walk in and out of his office.

2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

3 [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]
5 [REDACTED]
6 [REDACTED]
7 [REDACTED]
8 [REDACTED]
9 [REDACTED]
10 [REDACTED]

11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Was that expressed by more than
12 one person, this?

13 [REDACTED] Yeah. That was expressed by a
14 couple of people. I think on my spreadsheet that I had in
15 there, I had a column in there that said, that didn't
16 appear in their statements because they didn't want them
17 in their statements, and we considered investigative
18 leads, who they suspected. And I think she was suspected
19 by a couple of people about not only this leak but the
20 leak about the [REDACTED] email.

21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.

22 [REDACTED] Which made almost no sense to me
23 until it was explained to me by the person we were
24 interviewing, you know, it's clearly this is a, this, this
25 [REDACTED] email that came out to pundit.

1 perceptions that some folks may have that [REDACTED]

2 [REDACTED]
3 [REDACTED] Um-hmm. Yes.

4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Can you describe what the basis of
5 that perception was?

6 [REDACTED] Sure.

7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) For those who expressed it to you
8 and what was meant by [REDACTED]?

9 [REDACTED] Yeah. Okay. You have, and maybe,
10 you know, in hindsight I could have worded that
11 differently because it's not Mr. McCabe's [REDACTED]

12 [REDACTED] It would be [REDACTED]
13 purported --

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

15 [REDACTED]
16 [REDACTED] We, during our interviews, we had, you know,
17 someone tell us that, you know, in great detail, somebody
18 in a position to know that their, their assessment, not
19 ours, their assessment of watching [REDACTED]

20 [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED] And I think
22 the person went out so much to say that he felt that there
23 was some sort of [REDACTED] to Mr.
24 McCabe. And she kind of like exercised some kind of, like
25 [REDACTED]

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.

2 [REDACTED] That was very derogatory towards
3 the Deputy Director.

4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.

5 [REDACTED] But [REDACTED] was, [REDACTED] was convinced that
6 that was probably her too because she knew, in [REDACTED] mind,

7 [REDACTED] And that's my
8 reaction, for the record, the knitted brow from [REDACTED]
9 that, when that was told to us, that was, that was almost
10 diabolical. That's almost, you know, something that you
11 would see on some television show or something.

12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did you just say, and I just want
13 to make sure I understood this, that even Mr. McCabe
14 thought?

15 [REDACTED] No.

16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

17 [REDACTED] No, not Mr. McCabe.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.

19 [REDACTED] The person that we were
20 interviewing.

21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.

22 [REDACTED] Yeah. Mr. McCabe never brought [REDACTED]
23 up as, as --

24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see. Okay.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2,3
b7C -2,3

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2
b7C -2

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1 [redacted] -- any concern whatsoever.
2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) see. Okay. Roughly how many
3 people do you recall had this perception that you just
4 described that, of [redacted]? I mean, [redacted] I'm
5 sorry.
6 [redacted] I think there were two, and I
7 didn't bring, I didn't bring my spreadsheet with me, but I
8 think there was two. [redacted] (phonetic sp.).
9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
10 [redacted]
11 [redacted]
12 [redacted]
13 [redacted] chose not to. I can't remember.
14 There is somebody else. [redacted] I think may, may have been
15 one. But as we, as this started to unfold, we shared this
16 with our management.
17
18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
19 [redacted] With, with Voviette and with, with
20 our Assistant Director. And Voviette came back a couple
21 of times with, you know, I wouldn't say rumors, but things
22 that she's heard from other people on the seventh floor
23 that this is, has been an ongoing problem. This is
24 something that she's surrounded with trained observers,
25 right?

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1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
2 [redacted] And people have made that, come to
3 that conclusion as well that they don't like, you know,
4 [redacted]
5 [redacted] And that's the [redacted] that I'm
6 referring to, because think of, remember the audience on
7 this. This is the audience on here is Voviette. Voviette
8 is on board on all of this, and all of these interviews.
9 So when I say that, she knew exactly what I was talking
10 about. There was no need for elaboration.
11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you want to, I'm going to move
12 on.
13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I may have had one. I guess to
14 some extent [redacted] I think you may have addressed some of
15 this previously in, in how you described to us your
16 question to [redacted] about whether or not [redacted] was protecting
17 somebody.
18 [redacted] Um-hmm.
19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But maybe this is a slightly
20 different question. Did you ever through your interviews
21 or otherwise, come to suspect or be concerned that, that
22 the key witnesses [redacted] McCabe, [redacted] or any
23 combination, that they were coordinating or colluding with
24 one another in terms of what information they were
25 providing to Inspections?

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

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1 [redacted] There was nothing overt, nothing
2 obvious that made me think that way other than the fact
3 that, you know, I made, I mentioned it to, to [redacted] I
4 said isn't it odd that we get this information, and then
5 all of a sudden [redacted] tell us something that we're
6 going to rely on because it's, you know, if we look at it
7 one way, it's a statement against self-interest.
8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.
9 [redacted] If we're not going to, if it's not
10 against self-interest since she's authorized and she did
11 nothing wrong, then she's under oath, so we're going to
12 rely on her because she is under oath, and it's a truthful
13 statement, that, you know [redacted] it would be easy
14 for [redacted] to say the same thing. And it's, it's, it was a
15 wonder to me why [redacted] isn't remembering that. And then when
16 you get to Mr. McCabe, all of a sudden, the timing of
17 this, all of a sudden he's taking ownership of it. And,
18 which led me to make the comment to, to [redacted] that,
19 boy, we should have started with [redacted] I mean, she's
20 on the list.
21 She wasn't prioritized because, again, we
22 started with the [redacted] email and who was in the, the
23 close-out meetings. And surely she was, but the people
24 would have this information, we're going to, we're going
25 to try to eliminate first the people who can tell us under

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -1,2
b7C -1,2

b6 -3
b7C -3

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1 oath, no, it wasn't me. And we got such strong denials, a
2 couple of times, you know, Voviette even told us, well
3 let's stand down for now because I think we're, we're not
4 getting anywhere, and we're pulling all these executive
5 managers off on this case. And then we introduce the Wall
6 Street Journal article, and then we kind of breathe more
7 light into it.
8 I think we were probably pretty close to closing
9 that, that part anyway about the [redacted] email. It
10 wasn't panning out. I mean, the people we talked to
11 clearly told us that was never said, things like that are
12 never said on the seventh floor. [redacted] *indiscernible
13 2:11:39) even told us that would have been a defining
14 moment in [redacted] career if [redacted] ever heard any talk like that
15 on the seventh floor. I mean, we can't get any clearer
16 than that, and we can't ask, well are you sure you didn't.
17 No, it was pretty clear to us every executive manager told
18 us that. Even the people that were retired told us the
19 same thing.
20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Just a close-up question.
21 [redacted] Sure.
22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Is there anything that we haven't
23 discussed that you'd like to add or that you think would
24 be helpful?
25 [redacted] You know, I've been thinking about

b6 -2,3
b7C -2,3

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 that all along, even on the way over here, because I
 2 anticipated some of these questions, especially with this
 3 email because, you know, take it for what it's worth.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 5 [redacted] Through observations. And I can't
 6 think of anything else that we have that we could offer
 7 you other than the fact that our next step would have been
 8 to get authorization to interview Mr. Axelrod and what
 9 happened during that conversation, whether it was
 10 (*indiscernible 2:12:32) before, or the conversation that
 11 actually, that was reported in the article, did it happen
 12 in his kitchen? Was he on his way traveling, or did that
 13 complaint from Mr. Axelrod happen in the kitchen? And
 14 when he complained to Mr. McCabe, as Mr. McCabe put it,
 15 that he was, he was, he was upset, what did Mr. McCabe say
 16 to him? Did he take ownership? Did he say sorry, that,
 17 that one got by us? That's what I'd want to know.
 18 I mean, that's what we would want to know
 19 because if, if Mr. McCabe did take ownership of that and
 20 apologize, then, then we're, then we'd have to leave it up
 21 to somebody at a greater pay grade than mine to say is
 22 that really a leak then? Apparently it was true. It
 23 happened. And apparently there was stress and pressure
 24 put on our management by DOJ. Nobody refutes that.
 25 And there was a question asked, do you want me,

b6 -2
 b7C -2

1 what are you telling me? Do you want me? I mean, you
 2 know, these are our managers and, you know, I can't be,
 3 you know, I've got to be honest with you that when, when I
 4 heard that, when I read that, when I read that I'm like
 5 well that kind of balances things out, doesn't it, I mean,
 6 with all these other leaks. But it's still unfortunate
 7 that it's coming from our shop, because who else would
 8 have known that but another executive manager. And that
 9 just, that riles me. That's just a very, the very thought
 10 of our executive managers talking about what's happening
 11 inside.
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah. On that point, there
 13 doesn't, and I understand you didn't dig deep into it, but
 14 it, it, does it, is, does it strike you as -- I'm trying
 15 to think of the right word, but, maybe I'll just say it
 16 more directly.
 17 [redacted]: Sure.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) There doesn't seem to be, as I've
 19 seen in your notes of statements that were made by Mr.
 20 McCabe or [redacted] I guess [redacted] has less recollection,
 21 not much recollection, if any, or [redacted] about any --
 22 remorse is probably too strong, but the fact that they are
 23 airing dirty laundry about FBI and DOJ interactions to a
 24 reporter.
 25 [redacted]: No, I don't remember any of that.

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

1 I don't remember anybody, you know, bringing up that that,
 2 that's, that's something that shouldn't have happened, or,
 3 you know, other than [redacted] saying that that, you
 4 know, that's, we don't do that.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And so does the fact that that
 6 wasn't expressed, I don't know, strike you as unusual, or?
 7 [redacted] Well, it didn't after we spoke to
 8 Mr. McCabe at that last meeting. It made sense to me --
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well, why is that?
 10 [redacted] -- at that point because, well,
 11 he's not upset with it. He, it was his comment that was
 12 leaked. And he's --
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.
 14 [redacted] -- he doesn't seem to be upset with
 15 it. Compare that, again, with our mindset through this
 16 whole time was that [redacted] email that made, that was
 17 very derogatory towards the Deputy Director.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.
 19 [redacted] Everyone was, you know, you know,
 20 indicating what you're asking. Did anybody say anything
 21 that would have been very bad or, or a negative reflection
 22 on the FBI? Oh, yeah, everybody. They looked at that and
 23 said, that's, that's ridiculous. We would never do that.
 24 But, you know, when we bring this up to [redacted] and [redacted]
 25 [redacted] and, and the Deputy Director, there was none of

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2,3
 b7C -2,3

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

1 that, well, this shouldn't have been released because it's
 2 just not right. There wasn't any of that.
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 4 [redacted] And that's why, to answer your
 5 question, did we think people were talking? You know
 6 what? I don't know. And, and that's what I hope you can
 7 determine because, you know, we admonish everyone not to
 8 discuss these cases and this, this information. But you
 9 know, the possibilities are limitless, right? [redacted]
 10 may have just been off her, off her game and maybe told
 11 us, or maybe she was afraid of losing her Bar license to
 12 say, this is what happened. It is what it is.
 13 And, now all of a sudden, the person that would
 14 be easy, like [redacted] easy to say yes, I was
 15 authorized to do that, [redacted] could have just simply said
 16 that or was there something behind the scenes saying that
 17 we're not going to, you know, this is what we're going to
 18 release. I don't know. I don't know. But as
 19 investigators, we're always thinking that. So I don't put
 20 any weight on that.
 21 But that's where I would be going if I was
 22 looking at this investigation and say, what did you
 23 discuss with who? And, you know, in my, even in my email
 24 I say is there some, is this something that Mr. McCabe
 25 finds himself conflicted, that maybe, maybe [redacted] did

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

b6 -2
 b7C -2

1 unilaterally put this out. And then she came to him and
2 told him, I did this. And then he sat back and said,
3 well, I already told them I, I didn't know anything about
4 this.

5 But everything we've heard about Mr. McCabe from
6 people who worked with him from when he was a supervisor,
7 street supervisor, was he stands by his people. He's a
8 good man. If somebody needs him, his, I think his stock
9 in trade back when he had a field desk was he would never
10 go home at night until his last person was done speaking.
11 And people would take advantage of him. If they had
12 something they wanted to talk to him, he's that kind of
13 leader.

14 And I never worked for the man, but I hear it so
15 many times from so many different people, I have to
16 believe it's pretty accurate. And he strikes me as that
17 kind of person too that, you know, when you're talking to
18 him, you have his undivided, 100 percent attention.
19 Maybe, you know, and that's what I alluded in there. I
20 said, maybe there's something else going on that maybe
21 there's, there's, he's conflicted now, but he's going to
22 try to protect someone. I don't know. That's, that's a
23 possibility.

24 Maybe they went too far. Maybe he said go
25 ahead, clean up these inaccuracies that they threw that

1 out there, and now he looks at it, and he's like, what?
2 What is this? It is what it is and can't go back. But
3 now they're going to have to address it. Those are just
4 things that are playing in everyone's mind, you know. Not
5 just mine. I mean, it's --

6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But no one brought up at the time
7 other than [REDACTED]

8 [REDACTED] We're okay.

9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh, yeah. We'll stop in one
10 minute.

11 [REDACTED] No, we're okay. We're okay.

12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Other than Mr. Axelrod from the
13 Department calling and being upset about this quote
14 appearing in the Washington, Wall Street Journal article,
15 there, you didn't hear about any FBI senior managers at
16 the time being upset about seeing that quote appear?

17 [REDACTED] I remember talking to people. You
18 know, I can't remember who it was, but they, they
19 expressed that, you know, when we're, we're looking at
20 this, and they say, well, it's got to be one of the people
21 on the, are close to them that are in these meetings. I
22 mean, it can't be that many people. And it's, it's a
23 dirty shame that people would release something like that.
24 But it wasn't the, you know, it wasn't, it was like, it's
25 something that you would naturally say when you look at,

1 when I looked at it. I'm like, oh, well that, on the one
2 hand it makes us look good. On the other hand, that makes
3 us look bad that we can't even trust the people around us.
4 I mean, how do you keep this stuff in?

5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

6 [REDACTED] I mean, how do you swear people to,
7 to silence? A couple of people expressed that, but not
8 the people that, like the victim in this case. You know,
9 not, not Mr. McCabes, not the [REDACTED] that, hey, somebody
10 went around me. Hey, somebody released something I said.
11 We're not getting it from them.

12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Well, we will stop now.
13 We're almost at 4:50. We want to thank you very much for
14 all of your time today and cooperation.

15 [REDACTED] You're very welcome.

16 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)
17
18
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24
25

1 CERTIFICATE

2 DEPOSITION SERVICES, INC. hereby certifies that
3 the foregoing pages represent an accurate transcript of
4 the electronic sound recording of the proceedings before
5 the Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General in
6 the matter of:

7
8 Interview of [REDACTED]
9
10
11
12

13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Transcriber
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October 24, 2017

Date

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b7C -2

b6 -1
b7C -1

b7A -1
b7E -1

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b7c -2

47:16;53:7;75:20



b6 -2
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Interviews, Signed Sworn Statement, and Notes

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263D-HQ-



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1 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
2 OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
3

4 -----X
5 IN RE: :
6 INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED] :
7 -----X

b6 -2
b7C -2

8 September 7, 2017

9 Washington, D.C.

10 Interview of

11 [REDACTED]
12

b6 -2
b7C -2

13 By the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector
14 General, at the Department of Justice Building, beginning
15 at 9:45 a.m. before:
16

17 FOR THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL:

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oversight and Review Division

19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), Oversight and Review Division
20

21 FOR THE WITNESS:

22 [REDACTED] Esquire
23
24
25

b6 -3
b7C -3

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Phone: (301) 881-3344

1 tenure, those emails were never recovered, but we knew
2 they were on a BlackBerry server. And so the thinking
3 being, like, oh my God, well what if it's that? Like,
4 that would be, you know, hugely, or the potential to be
5 hugely impactful because, you know, if there was a
6 conspiracy to mishandle or there was purposeful intent to
7 use a server in order to, you know, be what, do whatever,
8 one would expect that happens at the beginning, you know,
9 as decisions are being made.

10 And so sort of those two facts are what in my
11 mind sort of put it over the edge. And so that evening,
12 we brief the Director. I'm sorry --

13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) October 27th?

14 [REDACTED] I'm sorry. We brief the Deputy
15 Director.

16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) On which date? The 26th?

17 [REDACTED] No, 26th.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

19 [REDACTED] It was Wednesday night. We informed
20 the Director -- oh, I did it again. Sorry. We informed
21 the Deputy Director, and he says, yeah, we've got to get
22 this in front of the Director tomorrow. And so that gets
23 scheduled for the next day. Andy is leaving town that
24 next day, unfortunately. So he, Andy is out of town
25 Thursday through Sunday of, in October. So the, whatever

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 the date is now. So the 27th through that Sunday, Andy is
2 not, not in D.C.

3 So the meeting gets scheduled for the Director
4 so we can tell him what we found and what the team thinks,
5 which is certainly we need to go get a warrant for this
6 information.

7 [REDACTED] But does Andy attend the meeting on
8 October 27th, or?

9 [REDACTED] No, he does not.

10 [REDACTED] Okay.

11 [REDACTED] Well, he tries --

12 [REDACTED] Was he on the phone, or?

13 [REDACTED] Well, so that's a little more
14 complicated.

15 [REDACTED] Okay.

16 [REDACTED] And it requires taking a few steps
17 back in time to October 23rd or 24th, which is, either the
18 23rd or the 24th, the Wall Street Journal publishes an
19 article alleging that Andy's wife, Andy should have --
20 alleging that Andy had sort of essentially engaged in
21 misconduct in the Clinton Foundation case and had told him
22 to stand down and all manner of other incorrect
23 information. And had done so because of a sort of
24 conflict of interest formed by his wife [REDACTED] who ran for
25 state senate and received substantial donations to her

b6 -2
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b6 -2
b7C -2

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b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -3
b7C -3

1 campaign from both the Virginia Democratic Party and also
2 the PAC controlled by Governor Terry McAuliffe.

3 So that article comes out on, I think it's that
4 Sunday. It could be Monday, but I don't know with one
5 print edition or --

6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.

7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- sort of whatever, so.

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So that article comes out on Sunday.

10 And it is like an enormous fire storm. It is hugely, you
11 know, it's not only all over the news, but there's just a
12 lot of swirl and churn associated with that fact coming
13 out. And so that is essentially Monday, for lack of a
14 better, for purposes of the work week. Right? And, in
15 the meantime, I understand both from Andy and partly from
16 Baker that Baker and the Director, and Rybicki to sort of
17 a lesser extent, are, are pretty concerned about the, the,
18 not so much the allegations but the calls for recusal.

19 Grassley immediately puts out a letter calling
20 for his recusal, and saying the entire has been tainted
21 and, you know, blabbity, blabbity-blah. And so that's all
22 happening, and there are clearly conversations happening
23 between the Director and Jim Baker and I think Rybicki
24 about -- well, let me take a step back. So then, so
25 that's Monday. Wednesday, we sort of have, he learns this

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 information which is like, okay, we're going to need to
2 reopen. This is, this is significant. Or we're going to
3 need to at least seek a search warrant to sort of look at
4 this material.

5 And so Thursday he calls into the, to the 10
6 o'clock call, and, at the 10 o'clock meeting with the,
7 with the Director.

8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) This is the Director briefing
9 then?

10 Correct. Uh-huh. 10 o'clock on, 10
11 o'clock Thursday morning, the whole team assembles, the
12 original Midyear team is back again, and, to talk about
13 what to do about it. Andy calls in and we sort of start
14 talking about what it is we found and, you know, and very
15 soon thereafter, like within probably minutes, Baker says,
16 well, hold on. Can we pause for a second? And sort of
17 turns to the Director and said, you know, I know you are
18 still sort of, we haven't quite decided the recusal issue
19 and whether Andy should recuse himself or not and what we
20 should do about this. And so, you know, should he just,
21 you know, out of abundance of caution, sort of not be on
22 the call right now.

23 And the Director says, yeah, I think that's
24 right. Andy, you're okay with that? And Andy's like,
25 well I guess. What are you going to say if the Director

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 wants you to get off the call? And so he says I guess so.
2 And so Andy got off the call.

3 And I, for reasons I don't necessarily probably
4 totally thought out, but because I work for Andy raised,
5 like, well should I step out too? Do you, you know, what,
6 I don't know exactly what the thinking is between the
7 Director and Jim because I'm either hearing it secondhand
8 through Andy or sort of in, in somewhat veiled terms from
9 Jim Baker, and so I just sort of say like do you want me
10 to step out? And Jim says, yeah, you know, while we're
11 working this out, why don't you step out?

12 So I leave. So I am actually not privy to any
13 of the rest of the discussion on the 28th, so. I of
14 course here after the fact some of what happens, but I am
15 not privy to sort of the decision to seek the search
16 warrant, the decision to write the letter to Congress,
17 the, you know, I understand that there was robust
18 disagreement, and it was very much a split vote, but I am
19 not present for any of it and do not participate in any of
20 that decision-making.

21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So you leave the October
22 27th Director briefing --

23 28th.

24 MS. JEFFRESS: 27th?

25 27th. Shoot. I just screwed up

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Pete opposed it. Like, Steinbach opposed it. And I can't
2 remember [REDACTED] I can't remember where [REDACTED] was. And
3 Baker supported, Bowdich supported. I can't remember who
4 else I'm missing. Moffa supported. I mean, so it was
5 just a split, that was, that was the readout that I, I
6 got.

7 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. How did, how do you that those
8 were the -- who did you hear that from, that those were
9 each of the positions that they took?

10 [REDACTED] I think, I think Pete and Moffa. I
11 think I talked to both of them afterwards.

12 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I just want to go back quickly.

13 [REDACTED] Sure.

14 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I haven't looked at the October
15 24th Wall Street Journal article in a long time.

16 [REDACTED] Um-hmm.

17 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But what I recall is that there
18 was discussion of a so-called stand-down order --

19 [REDACTED] Stand-down, yep. Yep.

20 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- in the Clinton Foundation
21 case. And what we've been told is that there was a
22 discussion at some point with Axelrod in which the
23 direction not to take investigative activity until after
24 the election, it was discussed in connection with both
25 Clinton Foundation and one of the Russia cases. Is that

b6 -1
b7C -1

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 incorrect?

2 [REDACTED] That's totally incorrect.

b6 -2
b7C -2

3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay, so --

4 [REDACTED] Yeah. And the stand-down, is a, is
5 a, is a garble of a different -- yes. That's incorrect.
6 And it's a super-garbled --

b6 -2
b7C -2

7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sure.

8 [REDACTED] -- set of circumstances.. And
9 ultimately, I, because the original article is so both
10 one-sided and inaccurate, I work with [REDACTED] Andy
11 directs me to work with [REDACTED] on a follow-up story
12 with Devlin Barrett.

b6 -2
b7C -2

13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

14 [REDACTED] So I am a source on background with
15 Devlin at Andy and [REDACTED] direction in order to try to
16 correct the inaccurate sort of representations in that
17 article.

b6 -2
b7C -2

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Is that, is that like --

19 [REDACTED] It's the 30th or something.

b6 -2
b7C -2

20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (*Indiscernible 5:15:18.)

21 [REDACTED] Uh-huh. Exactly. Like, it was at
22 the 30th-ish, 29th, something like that.

b6 -2
b7C -2

23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

24 [REDACTED] So what, what is your understanding
25 of the policy regarding overt investigative activity .

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 before an election?

2 [REDACTED] I do not have an understanding of the
3 policy.

b6 -2
b7C -2

4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

5 [REDACTED] It's sort of not, not at all relevant
6 to the, this part of the discussion that --

b6 -2
b7C -2

7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

8 [REDACTED] This thing with respect to the
9 Clinton Foundation in all of this.

b6 -2
b7C -2

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sure.

11 [REDACTED] So, the answer is I don't know what
12 the policy is off the top of my head.

b6 -2
b7C -2

13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Now, what about, for example, in
15 Midyear, with the reopening, seeking a search warrant
16 several days before the election, is there a policy that
17 speaks to whether --

18 [REDACTED] I don't know.

b6 -2
b7C -2

19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

20 [REDACTED]: And if they talked about it, I wasn't
21 there.

b6 -2
b7C -2

22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) You weren't there. Right.

23 Okay.

24 [REDACTED]: So the, in August, well, so, I'm
25 going to skip ahead to like Andy becoming Deputy Director.

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 At some point, relatively early, I don't remember when the
2 Clinton Foundation case starts. [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]

b7A -1
b7E -1

4 [REDACTED] And

5 as, as has been briefed to me, as I participated in
6 briefings on the topic, all were fairly stagnant.

7 At some point, I don't remember exactly when,
8 but maybe -- I don't know. [REDACTED]

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b7A -1
b7E -1

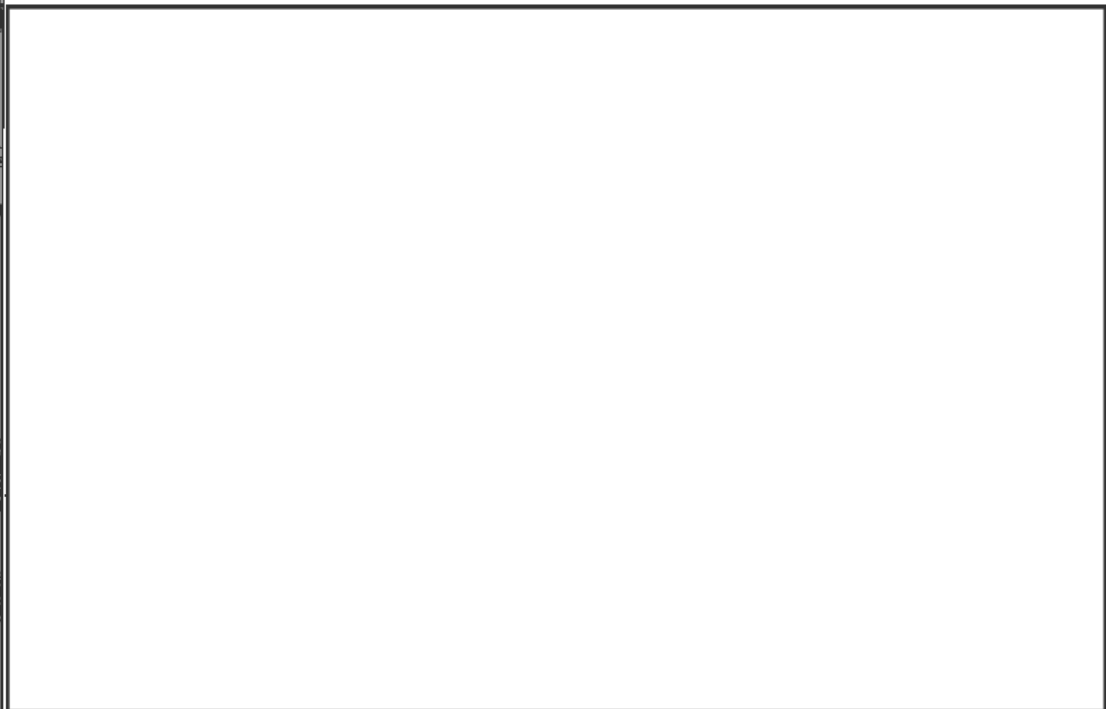
1 [REDACTED] And I'm not there, but [REDACTED] is there. And I
2 remember she gives me a readout because she was like so
3 unbelievably embarrassed and appalled.

b6 -1
b7A -1
b7C -1
b7E -1

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b6 -1
b7A -1
b7C -1
b7E -1


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b7A -1
b7E -1

And so, they are taking these steps. And meanwhile, my understanding is New York, being New York pitches SDNY, and SDNY says no, and pitches EDNY, and EDNY says no. And they sort of tell Axelrod, you know, the FBI is still sniffing around on this. And that prompts a call on August 12th, which I only know because I had to look at this for something else, between Axelrod and Andy. And this is where the are you telling me to shut down a validly predicated investigation --

Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

 -- sort of that statement comes from. And so, Axelrod is fuming, and he is saying I, you know, I thought that, you know, we weren't going to pursue this investigation. And Andy said, no, you said the Department

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 isn't going to support it, and that's fine. And I can't
2 make the Department support it. But the FBI can take
3 investigative steps. Are you telling me to shut -- and,
4 and Axelrod is super-pissed off.

5 And Andy is saying, are you, are you telling me
6 to, to shut down a validly predicated investigation? And
7 Axelrod is, you know, no, I'm not saying that. Blah,
8 blah, blah. But the, the readout that I get from, like
9 that, the discussion is not about, at that time is not
10 about proximity to the election. It's not, like this is
11 August. But this is talking about activity which has
12 occurred in the past. It's just that Axelrod is now
13 finding out that the FBI still has this case open.

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.

15 [redacted] And appeared to be under the
16 impression that the case was closed. And Andy, as I said,
17 Andy said, no, you guys aren't supporting it. That's
18 fine. But I'm not closing a validly predicated
19 investigation. They have predication. I've told them do
20 what you can do within the authorities that you, that we
21 as FBI agents have. Right? [redacted]

22 [redacted]

23 Now, the reality was they didn't do much. There
24 wasn't much to do. But that's not, you know, that's not,
25 that's not Andy's fault.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b7A -1
b7E -1

1 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.

2 [REDACTED] That's not Andy -- the stand down is,

b6 -2
b7C -2

3 I think, a garble of a conversation that Andy has when he

4 [REDACTED] essentially reflecting, like,

b7A -1
b7E -1

5 you're not, we're not going to go to the Department.

6 Like, I don't, I'm not sure that the word stand-down ever
7 happens, but, i.e., like, stop with the pursuit. Like,
8 I'm not going to help you fight the Department. You go
9 build a better case. Come back to me with stronger
10 predication or with whatever else it is you have built,
11 and then we'll go back to the Department, and we'll, and
12 we'll, you know, I'll fight your cause, essentially, and
13 so.

14 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm. And when was that
15 conversation?

16 [REDACTED] Earlier. I don't remember. It's
17 whenever the, I don't remember [REDACTED]

b6 -2
b7C -2

18 [REDACTED]

b7A -1
b7E -1

19 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

20 [REDACTED] Whether it's in that time frame.

b6 -2
b7C -2

21 It's, I don't know. I just don't remember. I can't, I
22 would be totally guessing to pick out a date.

23 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

24 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So there are a handful of texts.

25 And in the interest of time --

1 [redacted] Yeah.

b6 -2
b7C -2

2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- we don't need to go through
3 them unless you need to refer to them, where you're
4 talking, you know, you say you're on the phone with Devlin
5 Barrett.

6 [redacted] Uh-huh.

b6 -2
b7C -2

7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Who I guess is the Wall Street
8 Journal reporter. And you don't feel so bad about
9 throwing Matt --

10 [redacted] Right, right.

b6 -2
b7C -2

11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I guess Matt Axelrod was who you
12 were throwing under the bus.

13 [redacted] Yes.

b6 -2
b7C -2

14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Is that referring to the October
15 30th or 31st Wall Street Journal article?

16 [redacted] Yes. Exactly.

b6 -2
b7C -2

17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And you said that, you
18 said that Andy had authorized you to provide that
19 information.

20 [redacted] Um-hmm.

b6 -2
b7C -2

21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay, so including, like,
22 information about the August 10th call?

23 [redacted] Yes. I didn't know it, but, or --

b6 -2
b7C -2

24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay..

25 [redacted] Or, the 12th I think it is. I, yeah,

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 I didn't know it before Andy telling it to me.

2 [REDACTED] Okay.

3 [REDACTED] So, so yeah.

4 [REDACTED] So that's something you're doing
5 at his direction?

6 [REDACTED] Correct, correct.

7 [REDACTED] Okay.

8 [REDACTED] So did he specifically tell you tell
9 the Wall Street Journal about the October, about the
10 August 12th call?

11 [REDACTED] The, the answer was the first article
12 is inaccurate. We are going to paint a fully accurate
13 picture.

14 [REDACTED] Okay.

15 [REDACTED] Because part of the, the -- the
16 earlier date, whatever it is, the 23rd or whatever it is,
17 contains information that is probably from the Department
18 that frankly we thought was inaccurate. And so, like, you
19 know, he says we are going to fix this story and give a
20 complete picture. And the stand down was not, you know,
21 was not Andy shutting down the Clinton Foundation case.
22 Quite the contrary. The stand down was I'm not going to
23 fight the Department and, you know, insist that they sort
24 of support this with prosecutorial resources. But, nor am
25 I going to shut down the investigation, you know, although

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 I think that's what the Department wants.

2 [REDACTED] So, I'm sorry if you already answered
3 this, but, or already said this, but you, you were not a
4 part of the August 12th conversation?

5 [REDACTED] No.

6 [REDACTED] You didn't hear any of it or weren't
7 present for it?

8 [REDACTED]: Not to my recollection.

9 [REDACTED] So when was it that Andy told you
10 about that conversation?

11 [REDACTED] I don't remember.

12 [REDACTED] Okay. So did he tell you about it in
13 the context of you clarifying this article, or was it
14 before then?

15 [REDACTED] No, no, no. Oh, no. My recollection
16 is that after it happens, he tells me because Matt is, was
17 a challenging partner to work with at the Department. And
18 so, you know, he regularly would talk to me about, like,
19 frustrating things that might be happening. And so,
20 sometime after the call, he tells me about the call with
21 Matt in which, you know, he's like, ugh (phonetic sp.).
22 You know, like it's just sort of, he wants Andy to shut
23 the investigation down. But of course he's not going to
24 ask for it because he knows that's a completely untenable
25 thing to ask for.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 And so instead, he's doing this sort of mealy-
2 mouthed, like, well you're, you said you weren't going to,
3 you know, do anything. And he's like, no, I did not. I
4 specifically said that they can take whatever
5 investigative steps they're going to take. We're not
6 going to come to you. And yeah, New York went to the U.S.
7 Attorney's Office, and he chided them for doing that
8 because he's like we're not going to venue shop. Stop
9 doing it. I told you what we're going to -- you know,
10 like, so there was all that back-and-forth as well.

11 But, but ultimately, what was your -- oh, no.
12 I, I learned about the fact of the call sometime after the
13 call.

14 [REDACTED] Okay.

15 [REDACTED] I just surely had forgotten it by the
16 time I was engaging with Devlin two months later. But as
17 a part of the sort of here's the, here are the things that
18 we think are wrong in the article, I think it was
19 discussed again.

20 [REDACTED] Okay.

21 [REDACTED] Although I don't have a precise
22 recollection of that.

23 [REDACTED] So you --

24 [REDACTED]: About that, excuse me.

25 [REDACTED] So you have a conversation with Andy

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 where he tells you to, where he instructs you to have this
2 background conversation with Devlin --

3 [redacted] Correct.

b6 -2
b7C -2

4 [redacted] -- Devlin Barrett.

5 [redacted] Correct.

b6 -2
b7C -2

6 [redacted] And was [redacted] there for that
7 conversation as well?

8 [redacted] Uh-huh. Yep.

b6 -2
b7C -2

9 [redacted] Okay. Was anyone else there other
10 than you and [redacted]?

11 [redacted] Me and [redacted] yeah.

b6 -2
b7C -2

12 [redacted] And so, and he is, and, and --

13 [redacted]: I had two conversations, actually,
14 with Devlin. But, go ahead.

b6 -2
b7C -2

15 [redacted] Okay. And so Andy tells you to have
16 a background conversation to clarify or to correct the
17 October 24th Wall Street Journal article.

18 [redacted] Correct.

b6 -2
b7C -2

19 [redacted] And what specifics does he tell you
20 to clarify? Does he give you the specifics to clarify?

21 [redacted] I don't, I don't think it's quite
22 that, quite that direct. I mean, part of it is I knew the
23 facts myself. Right? And so, I knew, and I don't
24 remember, like, when we have a particular conversation
25 about it. But I, on the, you know, so I have the 23rd

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 article, just simply reading it, there are things in there
2 that are clearly inaccurate. Right? And so, I'm certain
3 after getting the article, Andy and I sat down as we would
4 and said, like, well that's totally not true, because
5 remember blah, blah, blah happened. It's like, yeah,
6 right. And that's when you had this conversation with so-
7 and-so. And so, my recollection is it would have
8 happened -- what I don't recall happening is, okay [REDACTED]
9 so, we're going to need to say --

b6 -2
b7C -2

10 [REDACTED] Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sure.
11 [REDACTED] -- blah, blah, blah, blah, blah,
12 blah, blah. I mean, that's just sort of how we worked.
13 And so it would have just been, my speculation, although I
14 don't have a precise memory, is here's the article. We
15 would have talked about it. This is what's not right
16 about it. You know, and then engage with Devlin in that
17 capacity.

b6 -2
b7C -2

18 Just so you know, because I have read the
19 article recently, there is a whole slew of stuff in the,
20 the 30th about the Weiner laptops and what we found and
21 all of that. I am not the source of that stuff. So I
22 don't know. But that was all out at that point anyway,
23 and the letter to Congress had gone out. But, the only
24 stuff that I'm really on that I believe that I am the
25 source of is the stuff sort of related to the, the call

1 with, with Matt Axelrod and like a few other sort of
2 corrections with respect to the Clinton Foundation, yes.

3 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] Okay. And during the meeting where,
4 where McCabe tells you and [] to provide the
5 information to clarify, does, does, I assume, so based on
6 what you're saying, does he specifically bring up the
7 August 12th meeting as part of that conversation?

b6 -2
b7C -2

8 [] I'm sure he did. Yeah. I don't
9 remember in this exact moment, but.

b6 -2
b7C -2

10 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] Okay.

11 [] I don't think I would have remembered
12 that on my own.

b6 -2
b7C -2

13 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] To bring, to kind of bring this
14 back around, and with the understanding that you were not
15 in the October 27th meeting about the statement, are you
16 aware if the handling of the Clinton Foundation case or
17 the ongoing Russia investigation was discussed in
18 connection about whether to make a statement?

19 [] I am unaware.

b6 -2
b7C -2

20 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] Okay.

21 [Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)] So just one more question on the, on
22 the August 12th. Why was it necessary to, to specifically
23 talk about the August 12th conversation and what Matt
24 Axelrod said to clarify the October 24th Wall Street
25 Journal article?

1 [REDACTED] I would have to look at the October,
2 I don't remember exactly, but I, my recollection is it's
3 as [REDACTED] described it. There was a, a, a confluence, or a
4 mix-up of what, of what this sort of stand-down thing was.
5 And so the only way to explain, to separate out what the
6 misunderstanding was, was to explain there are two
7 different conversations. There are two different
8 incidents which that represents. And so the only way,
9 because the way that the journalist was representing it
10 was the way that the New York case, presumably that the
11 New York Office was representing it, which was Andy McCabe
12 ordered a stand-down of the Clinton Foundation case. Ø

13 That's why this was so explosive, because the
14 suggestion is his wife gets a ton of money from McAuliffe.
15 And he tells New York, shut down Clinton Foundation. And
16 that's totally inaccurate. And so in order to correct
17 that representation, we had to, we have to separate out
18 what the two sort of misunderstandings were.

19 [REDACTED] Okay.

20 [REDACTED] Does that make sense?

b6 -2
b7C -2

21 [REDACTED] Yeah, sure. I mean what, so, was
22 this something, was communicating with the media something
23 that you commonly did for Andy?

24 [REDACTED] Oh, sorry. That was the first time I
25 had ever done it.

b6 -2
b7C -2

C E R T I F I C A T E

DEPOSITION SERVICES, INC. hereby certifies that
the foregoing pages represent an accurate transcript of
the electronic sound recording of the proceedings before
the Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General in
the matter of:

Interview of

b6 -2
b7C -2

Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Transcriber

October 4, 2017

Date

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

-----X
IN RE: :
INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED] :
-----X

b6 -2
b7C -2

October 26, 2017
Washington, D.C.

Interview of
[REDACTED]

b6 -2
b7C -2

By the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector
General, at the Department of Justice Building, beginning
at 12:20 p.m. before:

FOR THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL:

Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oversight and Review Division
Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oversight and Review Division
Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oversight & Review Division
Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oversight & Review Division

FOR THE WITNESS:

[REDACTED] Esquire

b6 -3
b7C -3

Page 2

1		I N D E X	
2		EXHIBITS	
3	EXHIBIT NUMBER		PAGE NUMBER
4	None.		
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Page 4

1 [REDACTED] I reread my, the statement I provided
2 to the Inspection Division related to this. I also looked
3 at the attachments related to this in the Inspection
4 Division matter, but also the 10/23 article, which I had
5 not looked at prior to my Inspection Division interview or
6 prior to sort of preparing for, for this interview.
7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Anything else?
8 [REDACTED] I don't think so.
9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And when you say the 10/23
10 article, you're referring to the October 23rd, 2016 Wall
11 Street Journal article?
12 [REDACTED] Correct.
13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did you have any conversations
14 with anyone about this upcoming interview other than your
15 attorney?
16 [REDACTED] Not to my recollection, no.
17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) No conversations with anyone at
18 the FBI?
19 [REDACTED] I mean, I know Jim Bakers knows I'm,
20 I'm coming back here today. I mean, so, I think people
21 know that I've, I'm coming back to the IG.
22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) With the, with the exception of
23 telling folks at the FBI that you have an interview here
24 today and that's where you would be, did you have any
25 other discussions with anyone at the FBI?

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

Page 3

1 PROCEEDINGS
2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay, on the record. My name is
3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I'm an Investigative Counsel in the
4 Oversight & Review Division. I'm here with Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
5 who is also an Investigative Counsel in the Oversight &
6 Review Division. We are joining an interview that's in
7 progress. The time now is approximately 12:20. We're at
8 the same location, 1425 New York Avenue, in the Oversight
9 & Review Division conference room. Those who were present
10 earlier are all still here. That includes Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and the witness [REDACTED] Is that
12 correct?
13 [REDACTED] Yes.
14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And you are a fact witness in the
15 review that we are looking at. We are looking at
16 allegations regarding disclosures of nonpublic information
17 to the media and subsequent statements related to those
18 disclosures. You're still under oath, and to protect the
19 integrity of our focus here, we request that you not
20 discuss the substantive nature of our questions and the
21 substantive nature of your answers with others with the
22 exception of your attorney. Is that okay?
23 [REDACTED] Yes.
24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) What did you do to prepare for
25 this portion of the interview?

b6 -2,3
b7C -2,3

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

Page 5

1 [REDACTED] I think I told Jim that I'm going
2 back today, but it's not on, it's on stuff related to
3 Andy.
4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see. Did you tell him what
5 specifically?
6 [REDACTED] No, I don't, I don't think I had to.
7 I think he knew what it related to.
8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Any other conversations?
9 What about with Mr. McCabe? Is he still your -- excuse
10 me. Is he still your supervisor?
11 [REDACTED] Not exactly. I mean, I'm working for
12 Jim Baker right now.
13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
14 [REDACTED] I don't think I -- no, I don't think
15 so.
16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And just so I'm clear --
17 [REDACTED] Sorry. No, I don't think I had any
18 conversations with Mr. McCabe about my presence here
19 today.
20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Well --
21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh, I was just wondering, and does
22 that include you didn't have any conversations with Mr.
23 McCabe about the events that we're going to be talking to
24 you about?
25 [REDACTED] Oh, no. Correct.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [REDACTED] Okay.
 2 [REDACTED] Right.
 3 [REDACTED] I just want to make sure we're
 4 clear.
 5 [REDACTED] Well, why don't we jump right into
 6 your sworn statement to the FBI's Inspection Division.
 7 And I will get that for you here. So, I think the first
 8 one, I don't think, so I attached these to, the tabs there
 9 refer to Exhibits 4 and 6. Exhibit 4 is the, is the
 10 article, the October 30th, 2016 Wall Street Journal.
 11 Exhibit 6 Tab are your notes that you gave to Inspection
 12 Division. And, there is one other thing I was going to
 13 tell you, but it slipped my mind. Well, we'll just get to
 14 it. So I will point out, the only thing I haven't
 15 highlighted is if you look at Exhibit 4, you may recall
 16 when you interviewed and when you signed your sworn
 17 statement that on the last page of Exhibit 4, the
 18 Inspection Division highlighted the three paragraphs --
 19 [REDACTED] Um-hmm.
 20 [REDACTED] -- to identify where you had
 21 identified that you were a source for those statements.
 22 But we'll, we'll jump into that. But I just wanted to
 23 point out, that's the only highlighting that I have not
 24 done that you'll see today.
 25 [REDACTED] Okay. Can I actually -- well, go

1 ahead.
 2 [REDACTED] No, please.
 3 [REDACTED] So I was just going to, because,
 4 because I have re-reviewed it, when, when I was first
 5 asked by Inspection to come and talk, it was obviously
 6 about this [REDACTED] article that was referred I believe
 7 by Andy to Inspection Division because it was a leak that
 8 we believed came out of his RAP (phonetic sp.).
 9 [REDACTED] Yes.
 10 [REDACTED] So when they asked me to return for
 11 some follow-up, I believed it to be follow-up with respect
 12 to the [REDACTED] article. When I got there, it was on
 13 this new topic, the Devlin Barrett article.
 14 [REDACTED] Um-hmm.
 15 [REDACTED] And so, the answers I gave then, as
 16 well as the answers I gave to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
 17 [REDACTED] in my last OIG interview were done without the
 18 benefit of having looked at the 10/23 article since
 19 essentially it came out, so eight or 10 months ago. So my
 20 recollection was that that article had references to a
 21 stand-down --
 22 [REDACTED] Right.
 23 [REDACTED] -- which was the reason that Andy had
 24 asked me to engage with Mr. Barrett and [REDACTED]
 25 That's obviously not the case. And so I know now -- I now

1 know that, that my recollection was faulty with respect to
 2 that point because I have actually seen the article. So I
 3 just wanted to kind of clarify that point because I know
 4 it to be incorrect now.
 5 [REDACTED] Yes. No, I appreciate you
 6 clarifying that. So that's, that's helpful. And it, and
 7 you helped me remember what I wanted to say, was that we
 8 are not going to focus on the first part of what your
 9 sworn statement is about.
 10 [REDACTED] Right.
 11 [REDACTED] The (*indiscernible 06:12) e-mail.
 12 So we are, there might be some general statements before
 13 that topic in that, in, in your sworn statement. But,
 14 we're primarily going to be focusing on the Wall Street
 15 Journal part of it, so.
 16 [REDACTED] Understood.
 17 [REDACTED] So, turning to Exhibit 4, which
 18 is, should be your first red tab I believe. As I
 19 understand it, that was the first time you were authorized
 20 to communicate with reporters on background. Is that
 21 right?
 22 [REDACTED] That's correct.
 23 [REDACTED] And Mr. Andrew McCabe authorized
 24 you to go on background for that purpose, for this
 25 article?

1 [REDACTED] Yes. That's correct.
 2 [REDACTED] How did he convey the scope of
 3 your authorization?
 4 [REDACTED] That's a good question. Maybe, can
 5 you clarify what you mean?
 6 [REDACTED] Well, specifically, to start with,
 7 I'm wondering was it written, was it oral?
 8 [REDACTED] Oh, oh. No, I think we would have
 9 had a conversation. So I, I, I knew that the 10/23
 10 article had come out. My recollection is that it was not,
 11 it didn't tell us what, a complete picture of sort of --
 12 or, no. I guess maybe, actually, that's probably not
 13 right.
 14 I actually think it's that probably following
 15 that article, Barrett starts to get information with
 16 respect to maybe Clinton Foundation or, which I think it's
 17 after that happens that [REDACTED] must approach, I suspect
 18 [REDACTED] approaches Andy. [REDACTED] approaches Andy
 19 McCabe to say that they're making, that the reporter is
 20 making this connection between McAuliffe and the Clinton
 21 Foundation and had, you know. And so Andy authorizes me
 22 to sort of help clarify those facts.
 23 [REDACTED] Okay. So, let me just unpack a
 24 couple of things. As I understood what you said, the same
 25 reporter who had done the initial story on October 23rd,

1 2016, reaches out to [REDACTED] and that's [REDACTED]
 2 who is the head of the Office of Public Affairs at the
 3 FBI?
 4 [REDACTED] That's my belief, yes.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And then [REDACTED] talks to you
 6 and/or Mr. McCabe about Mr. Barrett doing a follow-up
 7 story?
 8 [REDACTED] That's correct.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 10 [REDACTED] That's my belief. I don't recall
 11 personal discussion at that point with, with [REDACTED]
 12 But I think because we see that he's now trying to make a
 13 connection between McAuliffe and the Clinton Foundation
 14 [REDACTED] that's why I'm engaged,
 15 to sort of help clarify those facts.
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And so, at what point or what
 17 prompts Mr. McCabe to bring you into sort of the
 18 interaction with the reporter? It's my understanding that
 19 [REDACTED] was the only one who interfaced directly with
 20 the reporter for the prior article, the October 23rd
 21 article. Is that right?
 22 [REDACTED] I'm not sure. Actually, I, I don't
 23 know whether Mr. McCabe interfaced with --
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh, okay.
 25 [REDACTED] -- Mr. Barrett as well.

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But, but --
 2 [REDACTED] I, I did not.
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) You didn't?
 4 [REDACTED] Yes. That's correct.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And, and so what, what prompts Mr.
 6 McCabe, or who is the one who, who asks for your
 7 assistance with the follow-up story?
 8 [REDACTED] Who asks? I assume Andy tells [REDACTED]
 9 to talk to me about the sort of substantive underlying
 10 facts, but I don't know precisely who spoke to whom and,
 11 and how that came to be.
 12 MR. BORODIN: Um-hmm. And more I'm just trying
 13 to figure out the circumstances, as I understand what you
 14 described there.
 15 [REDACTED] Um-hmm.
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) The reporter reaches out to
 17 presumably [REDACTED] Says he's going to do a follow-up
 18 story. And I'm just trying to understand better how is it
 19 that you get roped in, if you know, or if you recall?
 20 [REDACTED] I don't really. I just know that I
 21 do.
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Okay.
 23 [REDACTED] Yeah.
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So you're roped in. And do you
 25 get the authorization to speak on background orally from

1 Mr. McCabe?
 2 [REDACTED] Yes. Again, but it's, it's less
 3 formalistic than you are -- I think he just says talk to
 4 [REDACTED] and, you know, there's this reporter who has
 5 questions about the McCabe and Clinton Foundation. And
 6 again, it's, it's pretty general, is my recollection.
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well, how is it you know that
 8 you're to go on background? Does he instruct you or tell
 9 you, hey, [REDACTED] I'd like you to go on background
 10 with [REDACTED] to talk to this reporter and help clear things
 11 up?
 12 [REDACTED] No. I get that information from
 13 [REDACTED] at the outset of the call with, well, before
 14 the call with Devlin Barrett --
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 16 [REDACTED] -- sort of describes the, the ground
 17 rules.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But even before that, as I
 19 understand that, you are not authorized in your position
 20 to talk directly to the media, is that right?
 21 [REDACTED] That's correct.
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So you need to be authorized by
 23 some official at the FBI who has authority to do that.
 24 [REDACTED] That's correct.
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So who was that with respect to

1 the October 30th, 2016 article?
 2 [REDACTED] Mr. McCabe.
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay, and help us understand how,
 4 what exactly does he say that in your mind signifies I am
 5 now authorized to talk to a reporter on background?
 6 [REDACTED] So I don't remember the precise words
 7 that he used, but it was talk with [REDACTED] and work with
 8 this reporter on this issue.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 10 [REDACTED] I don't remember anything more
 11 specific than that.
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 13 [REDACTED] But.
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Was it --
 15 [REDACTED] But, but the, I do not think that
 16 Andy would have said on background or, you know, off the
 17 record or whatever, you know, that would have been Andy's
 18 sort of, the language that Andy used or even the sort of
 19 thing that Andy was communicating.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And --
 21 [REDACTED] That's OPA's job to figure out how
 22 that engagement happens.
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right. And so because this was
 24 the first time, this being the October 30th article, first
 25 time that you talked on background with someone from OPA

1 and a reporter, you have never heard Mr. McCabe say go
 2 work with [redacted] and a reporter? That, that
 3 conversation never happened before?
 4 [redacted] With me?
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes.
 6 [redacted] No. No.
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Was your authorization ever
 8 memorialized in a written record?
 9 [redacted] No.
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did you take notes in the, during
 11 the conversation where you understood Mr. McCabe to be
 12 authorizing you to work with [redacted] on background?
 13 [redacted] No.
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So if it wasn't written in any
 15 shape or form, how, how did you, under, what did you do to
 16 determine or ensure that your future steps would be within
 17 the scope of your authorization on background?
 18 [redacted] I guess I wasn't thinking about it
 19 given that this was my first engagement with OPA, I, I
 20 don't think I was thinking about in such formal terms. I
 21 understood generally the, the topics to be covered. And
 22 my recollection in talking to, to [redacted] was that that
 23 first engagement with Devlin was sort of in receive mode.
 24 So Devlin has a story. He's going to sort of tell us what
 25 he's hearing. And then we'll essentially figure out the

1 this?
 2 [redacted] I think the foundation and some
 3 connection back to McAuliffe and his wife's run, I think,
 4 and I could be conflating that now because my original
 5 recollection was wrong, so I've been trying to kind of
 6 reconstruct my recollection. So, I, that's my, that's my
 7 best guess, but I'm not positive.
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And the broad, when you say the
 10 broad topics, was that from -- who relayed that
 11 information to you? Was that [redacted] to you from Barrett,
 12 or Mr. McCabe to you?
 13 [redacted] I don't remember.
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 15 [redacted] I'm sorry.
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) That's okay. The details of the
 17 August 12th, 2016 conversation between Mr. McCabe and Mr.
 18 Axelrod, which is highlighted on Page 7 to 8 of your
 19 statement. Does Mr. McCabe instruct you to provide that
 20 information, or was that your decision?
 21 [redacted] I think he, I don't really remember.
 22 I think what happened is that we [redacted] and I have the
 23 initial engagement with Barrett. And that engagement, I
 24 think during the course of that engagement, that's where
 25 he first raises the, the, Andy ordered people to stand

1 response once we hear sort of what the facts are. So I
 2 can't, I can't say that I gave greater thought to the
 3 scope of my authorization beyond my general knowledge that
 4 it was about the McAuliffe, Foundation, Clinton e-mail,
 5 some version therein. But I don't, in advance, I'm not
 6 sure that I knew more than that.
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay, so --
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Go ahead.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Take us back to that day. Can you --
 10 [redacted] Which day, I'm sorry?
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) When Mr. McCabe first says to you I
 12 want you to talk to [redacted] and work with [redacted] on this
 13 article, what more did he tell you about what he wanted
 14 you to do? Did you ask questions about --
 15 [redacted] I don't, I don't remember.
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- what do you want me to do? How
 17 long did that conversation last?
 18 [redacted] Oh, I mean, probably a minute-and-a-
 19 half. I really, I don't remember, I don't remember it
 20 being deeply substantive beyond sort of the, the broad
 21 topics. And then, I think I had some understanding that
 22 we would learn more sort of what the, the story that,
 23 that, that, that Devlin Barrett was developing was.
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And what did he tell you the
 25 broad topics were going to be that would be involved in

1 down, if I'm not mistaken. Is that right? I can't, I
 2 didn't --
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I --
 4 [redacted] I haven't looked at my notes. Yeah,
 5 I think that's right. I just couldn't, I haven't looked
 6 at my notes again recently, recently. And so, I think,
 7 I'm pretty sure I follow up with, so we have the first
 8 conversation with Barrett in which I, my recollection is
 9 we're mostly I think in receive mode. And then, I think I
 10 follow up with Andy to sort of relay the, the substance of
 11 the discussion. And I think he reminds me of the, how can
 12 I have, how can I have been trying to stand down the
 13 Clinton Foundation case when I have that back-and-forth
 14 with Axelrod, which I am pretty sure I already knew of. I
 15 learned in real-time, you know, thereabouts.
 16 Sort of as you, in my inspection statements as,
 17 like, my recollection is I generally knew that he had had
 18 that back-and-forth with Matt Axelrod at the time that it,
 19 that it actually happened, or, you know, on or about
 20 August 12th, or around there. And so, my recollection is
 21 that Andy probably reminds me of the, that engagement,
 22 which is directly contrary to an order to essentially
 23 stand down the investigation. So I don't, to answer your
 24 question more specifically, I don't think that he directs
 25 me to say it. He just sort of reminds me of, of that

1 salient fact.
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And when you were mentioning a
 3 minute ago that you were learning about the August 12th
 4 call in real time, what, what was going on that, at the
 5 time that prompted Mr. McCabe to give you a readout of
 6 what had happened during that call?
 7 [redacted] Nothing -- what do you mean what was
 8 going on?
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I mean, was there anything
 10 specific that led him to share those details with you?
 11 [redacted] I don't think so. Those are typical
 12 of the types of details he would share with me.
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) As, as I understood from some of
 14 your prior testimony, I thought you may have said
 15 something to the effect of you only knew about the call
 16 because you had to look at it for something else. Does
 17 that refresh your recollection about anything, or no?
 18 [redacted] I'm sorry? Wait, about the Axelrod
 19 call?
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.
 21 [redacted] That I was looking at -- I don't
 22 remember saying that. I'm sorry. Can you direct me to --
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well, if that's your prior
 24 testimony --
 25 [redacted] Yeah, um-hmm.

b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2

1 know that this happened on August 12th because I had to
 2 look at it for something else. The something else being
 3 the Inspection Division interview of myself.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay..
 5 [redacted] That's why I had that --
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Got it.
 7 [redacted] -- recall the date which I ordinarily
 8 wouldn't have.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Got it.
 10 [redacted] Yeah. Sorry.
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) No, that's helpful. So, Mr.
 12 McCabe, as best you understand it, reminds you about this
 13 August 12th call with Mr. Axelrod. Does he give any
 14 specific detail, does he highlight any specific details
 15 about the call for you?
 16 [redacted] I, I don't recall. My, my, my guess
 17 is no, that he doesn't need to. And again, this is just
 18 speculation. But because I have at the top of my notes
 19 this random Friday, August 12th with Axelrod, I think that
 20 was all I needed to jog my recollection of the
 21 conversations.
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, so let's turn to that for a
 23 moment now.
 24 [redacted] Sure.
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So you're looking at Exhibit 6 of

b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- being on 276, Lines 15 to 18.
 2 And it may have just been an indefinite reference --
 3 [redacted] Yeah.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- that I read into.
 5 [redacted] No, let me check.
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) 276, Lines 15 to 18.
 7 [redacted] Oh. I think I'm, I might be
 8 referencing the date, but I don't, I don't recall any, any
 9 particular thing --
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 11 [redacted] -- which had me look for that.
 12 Yeah. My, my recollection is, as I've --
 13 [redacted] Date?
 14 [redacted] The date, that's what I'm saying. I
 15 think that I went back and looked because on my notes I
 16 have that, at the top of the page it says.
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes.
 18 [redacted] So I think I'm explaining it to my
 19 interviewers.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.
 21 [redacted] I only know that right now.
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I see.
 23 [redacted] Like, I have recall of August 12th,
 24 which is a weird date to sort of randomly recall. I think
 25 what I'm doing is explaining to my interviewers I only

b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -3
b7C -3b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2

1 your statement, Page 3 of your notes, right?
 2 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And this is at the top, there's a
 4 note which says Friday, August 12th with Axelrod. So,
 5 when you, when you were just saying a moment ago that you
 6 wrote that up there to jog your memory, do you believe you
 7 are expressing this statement on October 27th?
 8 [redacted] I think that -- I think. Again, I'm
 9 not positive. I think that what my notes reflect, and I
 10 mostly think this simply because of the different colors,
 11 because I wouldn't change color during the course of a
 12 single conversation unless my pen ran out of ink. It
 13 doesn't look like my pen ran out of ink. So, I think that
 14 the, the portions which are in black is again me in
 15 receive mode taking on materials from Devlin Barrett, you
 16 know, the information that, that he was conveying to us.
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And when you say, I know exactly
 18 what you're saying, but just so it's clear for the record.
 19 [redacted] Yeah.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) When you say portions in black in
 21 receive mode, you're talking about roughly the first page,
 22 the first, the bottom of Page 1 --
 23 [redacted] And --
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- through the almost --
 25 [redacted] Three-quarters of Page 2, yeah.

b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Correct. And then it transitions
2 to red ink.
3 [redacted] Correct.
4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And who is that? What is that?
5 [redacted] I think that's -- again, I, I, this
6 is my speculation, but I think that's me after the call.
7 Maybe during the call, but I think after the call jotting
8 down my own thoughts. I think.
9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well, maybe just take a moment to
10 scan it now and see if your, you have any --
11 [redacted] I have.
12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) You have? Okay.
13 [redacted] I just don't --
14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay, okay.
15 [redacted] I don't remember with precision.
16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
17 [redacted] But, and then I think that the black
18 ink is probably talking to Andy, but I'm not positive.
19 And the reason I hesitate a little bit is because this,
20 this part here that's still in red ink, so maybe it's on
21 two different occasions --
22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) When you say the black ink, which
23 one --
24 [redacted] I'm sorry. This is the, now the
25 bottom quarter of Page 3.

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Same ink --
2 [redacted] And the black ink at the top that has
3 Friday, August 12th with Axelrod.
4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
5 [redacted] I think those are discussions with
6 the Deputy. And the, the only reason I hesitate is
7 because this, the fact, the very last fact that's in red
8 ink that starts with the words Mark, colon.
9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes.
10 [redacted] That is a reference to Mark Giuliano,
11 the prior Deputy Director.
12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
13 [redacted] And I didn't know this fact. So,
14 that's the only reason I hesitate a little bit about what
15 the notes actually represent because I had learned this
16 from Andy. At least, I presume. I, I can't think of
17 anybody else I would have learned it from. And so, that's
18 the only reason I hesitate a little bit with respect to
19 what pieces I wrote, when.
20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. So, I'm just going to
21 summarize, and I want you to correct me --
22 [redacted] Okay.
23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- if I've gotten what you best
24 believe what this reflects. Just so I'm clear.
25 [redacted] Um-hmm.

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So the first page and three-
2 quarters, going to the very bottom of 2, before the red
3 ink, that reflects receive-mode, Devlin Barrett's comments
4 giving his account to you and [redacted]?
5 [redacted] Of that I am certain, yes.
6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Then it transitions to red
7 ink. And you believe that that reflects after the call
8 ended with Mr. Barrett, you are writing down your
9 thoughts.
10 [redacted] I think so.
11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
12 [redacted] Although it is possible this is also
13 a discussion with Andy.
14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
15 [redacted] And the only reason I, or maybe part
16 of it, you know, because there's a line there.
17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes.
18 [redacted] And so, maybe that line is to
19 distinguish for myself that, from below the line, again,
20 the line is right above the, the statement that begins
21 Mark in red ink. So, I think it's entirely possible, I
22 just don't have a precise recollection that below the line
23 is a conversation with Andy. So maybe it happens at two
24 different times, which is why there's two different inks.
25 But my, my best belief, as I sit here today, is that most

1 of the red represents my thinking on the matter.
2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And are you doing any of this
3 thinking with [redacted]?
4 [redacted] wouldn't know the substance of
5 it, so it's totally possible that I am talking him through
6 my suggested response, which would have, the salient facts
7 which rebut some of what Mr. Barrett had just said.
8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
9 [redacted] Totally. I surely would have talked
10 to [redacted] in advance of our next call for Barrett. So
11 whatever happened at the time that I'm writing these
12 notes, or whatever happened later, I, I surely would have
13 talked to [redacted], so [redacted] sort of knew, hey, this is
14 generally like this is why this isn't true. This is why
15 that isn't true. And sort of got a, gave [redacted] a feel for
16 it. But I don't recall whether I'm doing it with [redacted] in
17 that moment. You know, because again, [redacted] these are
18 substantive responses, and, and like, it doesn't
19 substantively, you know, wouldn't substantively know any
20 of this.
21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) When you're in this first call
22 with the reporter, Devlin Barrett, you're with [redacted]
23 [redacted] Correct.
24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Was there anyone else in the room?
25 [redacted] No.

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Is anyone else from the FBI
 2 listening?
 3 [redacted] Not to my knowledge.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So just you two?
 5 [redacted]: As best I know, yeah.
 6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Is [redacted] also taking
 7 notes during this call?
 8 [redacted] I don't think so. [redacted] not a big
 9 note-taker. And if [redacted] when [redacted] does, it's like four words
 10 on a page, so. I don't, I don't think so is the answer.
 11 But I don't really remember.
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So while we're with, with the
 13 notes. Above it -- I'm sorry. Let me start over. On
 14 Page 3 -- actually, I did highlight it for you. That's
 15 good.
 16 [redacted] Ah, yeah.
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So the highlight that Andy got in
 18 trouble for it. What, what is that in regards to?
 19 [redacted] Hmm. Sorry. Let me just reread
 20 them. So, I can certainly explain the prior. Right.
 21 So -- huh. I'm wondering if this is with Devlin. I
 22 really am not sure. I'm sorry. But anyway, so, so the,
 23 the lead bullet there, which reads can't explain why they
 24 have the wrong idea about something. This is because
 25 there was a long back-and-forth. And so maybe part of

b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2

1 this occurs with Barrett. I just don't, I'm not sure
 2 whether I'm conflating the first call and the second call,
 3 which is the reason I'm, I'm hesitating. But he was very
 4 adamant that --
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Who is he?
 6 [redacted] I'm sorry. Thank you. Devlin
 7 Barrett was very adamant that the sources he spoke to,
 8 which I presume are case agent or sort of low-level
 9 supervisors, are adamant that they were told to stand down
 10 on the Clinton Foundation case. And I keep pressing,
 11 again, I don't know whether it's in this conversation or
 12 the following one, that, that, I don't, I don't, I can't
 13 tell you why they have this impression.
 14 I can't tell you where this garble would have
 15 happened. Devlin certainly well, knows the FBI well
 16 enough to know that we are astronomically hierarchical.
 17 And so this purported order coming from the Deputy
 18 Director potentially had to travel through seven, eight,
 19 nine people for the people you are talking to, to say
 20 stand down. What I'm telling you is that doesn't make any
 21 sense in light of the August 12th Axelrod call.
 22 And so this is my, -- I'm not sure what the Andy
 23 got in trouble for it meant. I think it's -- again, I'm
 24 speculating. I think we heard, I think, maybe it's a
 25 reflection of the article, but I think we had heard at

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 that point this claim that like people think he's trying
 2 to kill the Clinton investigation. I'm sorry, the Clinton
 3 Foundation investigation. And so people are, you know,
 4 pissed at him. But, I'm really speculating because I
 5 don't, I don't have a precise recollection of what I'm
 6 thinking about or talking about there.
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So if we turn then to the next
 8 page, page 4 of your notes.
 9 [redacted]: Um-hmm.
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) That was --
 11 [redacted] With the Post-It note?
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes.
 13 [redacted]: Okay.
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So that, as I understand, from
 15 what you wrote from a little note there, that Post-It note
 16 was on Page 3, is that correct?
 17 [redacted] Correct, yeah.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 19 [redacted]: Yeah, it was, it was, when I went to
 20 go copy these notes.
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 22 [redacted]: Which, of course, I haven't looked at
 23 probably since I made them, which following my Inspection
 24 Division interview, I went to go copy these notes, and I,
 25 this Post-It was on it. And so I don't really remember

b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2

1 what the purpose of it was. But since it was there, sort
 2 of to be as transparent as possible, I made a copy of it.
 3 So it's clearly related, but I don't remember what these
 4 random dates and notations are, are referencing back to.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Can you, and if you want to
 6 look to, I'm going to segue to it soon, but if it helps
 7 you to look at the second page of your notes as well. Can
 8 you put us in the room in terms of how the conversation
 9 went when you're providing the details regarding the
 10 August 12th call between Mr. McCabe and Mr. Axelrod? How
 11 does that conversation go?
 12 [redacted]: Wait, wait. I'm sorry. You're
 13 talking about my recounting back to Devlin Barrett?
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes.
 15 [redacted]: Oh, okay. Sort of as I just
 16 described it to you, which is it's, it's entirely provided
 17 as a rebuttal to the claim that Andy is trying to kill the
 18 Clinton Foundation case because Barrett keeps coming to us
 19 with this, my, you know, my guys are, my sources are
 20 certain that they got the instruction to stand down. And
 21 I kept responding, I, I believe in their certainty.
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 23 [redacted]: What I'm telling you is that not only
 24 did it not happen, it's inconsistent with the fight that
 25 he has with Matt Axelrod about the fact that New York

b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2b6 -2
b7C -2

1 agents are continuing to investigate the Clinton
2 Foundation matter in August. And so, you know, I recount
3 the, the substance of the conversation as I recall it
4 with, I'm sorry, to Devlin Barrett in an attempt to
5 demonstrate that he cannot simultaneously be trying to
6 kill the investigation while he is fighting with Axelrod
7 about allowing the New York agents to take the
8 investigative steps that they deem necessary without
9 engaging prosecutorial resources.

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And are you the only one who is
11 sharing these details regarding the conversation, the
12 August 12th call, or is [redacted] also participating?

13 [redacted] No. I mean [redacted] doesn't
14 have any substantive knowledge to my knowledge, so.
15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, so the quotes attributed to
16 Mr. McCabe that actually appear in the article on the last
17 page.

18 [redacted] The highlighted stuff? Uh-huh.
19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) The highlighted on the Exhibit 4,
20 those would have come directly from you?

21 [redacted] I believe so. I don't know anybody
22 else it could be, so.

23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

24 [redacted] To the best of my, I mean, I'm not
25 Devlin Barrett, but --

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.

2 [redacted] I think that's me. Yeah. As I said
3 in my Inspection interview.

4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right. And one of the reasons I
5 did, I am asking is, I think your statement on the bottom
6 of 9 said something to the -- well, let's go right to it.
7 Last line on 9, I presume --

8 [redacted] Um-hmm.

9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- the portions of those
10 paragraphs. And I understand what you just said. You
11 don't know all his sources. But, do you recall --

12 [redacted] I definitely said that, so.

13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

14 [redacted] I, I, it's in all likelihood me. But
15 again, I don't know who else he's talking to.

16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Can I ask one question here?

17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) You can ask more than one
18 question.

19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sure. In those paragraphs that are
20 highlighted --

21 [redacted] Um-hmm.

22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- in the article.

23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Here. Sorry.

24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) What Mr. Barrett writes is that in
25 that final, in the third paragraph that's highlighted --

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] Oh, actually. Can I --

2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Go ahead.

3 [redacted] Just --

4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sure.

5 [redacted] Go ahead. Sorry.

6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And where he has this direct quote
7 from Mr. McCabe, it says according to people familiar with
8 the conversation.

9 [redacted] I don't know who people, I mean, if
10 that's what you're asking me.

11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But, what is in question is if he,
12 if you know, was he attributing that to you and to [redacted]

13 [redacted] ?
14 [redacted] I, I, I don't know. I can't answer
15 that.

16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Do you know of anyone other
17 than yourself that was familiar enough with this
18 conversation to confirm that for Mr. Barrett?

19 [redacted] I, I don't know, but it doesn't mean
20 that there aren't other people. I just, I don't know.

21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

22 [redacted] Sorry. The one thing I was going to
23 flag is that partly I think because the question with
24 Inspection was not totally precise. So, just to be
25 totally clear.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sure.

2 [redacted] The first line of the first of the
3 three highlighted paragraphs. So it reads, according to a
4 person familiar with the probes, on August 12th, a senior
5 Justice Department official called Mr. McCabe to voice his
6 displeasure at finding that New York FBI agents were still
7 openly pursuing the Clinton Foundation probe during the
8 election season. I do not recall during the election
9 season being an issue that was ever brought up between Mr.
10 Axelrod and Mr. McCabe.

11 So that little fact there is not me because the
12 only facts that I recall the frustration about was, was it
13 being related to Clinton Foundation and the quality of the
14 investigation which I agree was probably not particularly
15 strong. But I don't recall ever, when, when Andy first
16 tells me about the back-and-forth with he and Axelrod --

17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes.

18 [redacted] -- tying it to the period of time is
19 not something that comes up.

20 [redacted] It's under incoming.

21 [redacted] Is it? I don't remember that.

22 [redacted] (*Indiscernible 38:13.)

23 [redacted] No, that, that, that's Devlin saying
24 it.

25 [redacted] Right, exactly.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2,3
b7C -2,3

b6 -2,3
b7C -2,3

b6 -3
b7C -3

b6 -2,3
b7C -2,3

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2,3
b7C -2,3

b6 -2,3
b7C -2,3

Page 34

1 [redacted] Yes.
2 [redacted] So that's, I think that's where,
3 so you said that before you talked to him?
4 [redacted] Correct. Correct. Yeah. So,
5 because that's what he --
6 [redacted] That being Devlin?
7 [redacted] What Devlin says to us --
8 [redacted] : Correct.
9 [redacted] -- is well it's, it's SOP during
10 election season. And in fact, I think my response is
11 they're not taking overt steps. So I don't, that's not
12 ever something that comes up in the conversation between
13 Andy and Axelrod. And I'm pretty sure I said I think
14 that's sort of convenient after-the-fact justification to
15 explain this unpleasant-looking matter, which is that they
16 don't think the Clinton Foundation is, you know, worth its
17 salt. And, but they don't have the authority -- well,
18 they do have the authority to shut it down, but they won't
19 want to exercise that authority.
20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) There is, as you were mentioning,
21 there's a lot of notes regarding stand-down and what it
22 meant.
23 [redacted] Uh-huh.
24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Primarily on the first, on October
25 27th. And that would also be on October 28th as well.

b6 -2
b7C -2

Page 35

1 Why wouldn't it have been sufficient to simply deny that
2 any stand-down had been issued by Mr. McCabe?
3 [redacted] Well, because there was direct
4 evidence to the contrary. So, I mean, a denial doesn't
5 really get you very far. So, a denial is sufficient, and
6 of course we did deny that it occurred. But I think
7 presentation of a fact which is in direct contraction of
8 the activity which purportedly occurred is the best
9 evidence to demonstrate the erroneousness of the stand-
10 down statement.
11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And when you say direct evidence,
12 you're referring to what exactly?
13 [redacted] The conversation between Axelrod and
14 Mr. McCabe.
15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh. To rebut the alleged
16 statements by the FBI agents?
17 [redacted] No, no. The statements from other
18 FBI agents purport Mr. McCabe --
19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm. Um-hmm. Right.
20 [redacted] -- trying, ordering a stand-down --
21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes.
22 [redacted] -- of the Clinton Foundation matter.
23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Correct.
24 [redacted] : And so, simply saying -- the question
25 I think you asked me was why is a denial not sufficient?

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

Page 36

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.
2 [redacted] And so we did deny it, and we said
3 stand-down didn't happen. But it's, it's insufficient
4 because you can, we can demonstrate with, you know,
5 evidence as I refer to it, the conversation between Mr.
6 Axelrod and Mr. McCabe, that's better than a blanket
7 denial, which could be true and could not be true. You
8 have him taking active steps to push back on Axelrod's
9 desire for this case to be closed, which is in direct
10 contradiction of a purported order to stand down the case.
11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And did you talk to Mr. McCabe about
12 that before you provided this information to Devlin
13 Barrett about the conversation?
14 [redacted] : I think as I said earlier, when I, I
15 believe when I sort of came back to him to give him the
16 kind of run-down of the conversation with Barrett, he
17 reminded me, which again is what I think that notation at
18 the top of the notes on Page 3 is a reference of, of the
19 stand-down. I mean, I'm sorry. Gosh. Of the Axelrod,
20 you know, are you, are you asking me to shut down a
21 validly predicated investigation conversation.
22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm. And you understood from him
23 raising that that he wanted you to provide that
24 information to Mr. Barrett?
25 [redacted] Yeah. I think so. I don't think

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

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1 that he explicitly said go tell this to Barrett, right?
2 But in my back-and-forth in describing, again, this is, I
3 don't have a precise recollection of this, so this is a
4 little bit of me filling in the gaps here. But in
5 describing, like, having a huge focus on stand-down, you
6 know, I probably gave more color to sort of what the, the
7 focus is, he would have reminded me of, well that's
8 ridiculous. We had that whole conversation with Axelrod
9 in, in August, so.
10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you confirm --
11 [redacted] He's not named. (*Indiscernible
12 42:53) in the actual call.
13 [redacted] Oh. (*Indiscernible 43:00.) Oh, I'm
14 sorry.
15 [redacted] Your notes may have, but I'm not
16 sure you named him, if these are your notes from what you
17 told Devlin.
18 [redacted] Um-hmm.
19 [redacted] I'm not sure you named him.
20 [redacted] Oh, I'm not sure if I did or not.
21 I'm sorry. Yeah, I don't recall whether I used Axelrod or
22 not. I'm sorry.
23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah, at any time as we're going
24 through --
25 [redacted] Yeah.

b6 -3
b7C -3

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -3
b7C -3

b6 -2,3
b7C -2,3

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] -- feel free to cut us off if you
 2 want to --
 3 [redacted] No, I appreciate that. No.
 4 [redacted] Do you, you were describing that
 5 after these calls with Mr. Barrett, you would, you would
 6 give a readout to Mr. McCabe on what transpired? Is that,
 7 is that right?
 8 [redacted] I, I don't have a specific
 9 recollection of having done so, but I, that would be
 10 totally my state or practice, so I'm sure that I did.
 11 [redacted] Did you confirm from Mr. McCabe
 12 that you provided the details on the August 12th call?
 13 [redacted] I don't remember.
 14 [redacted] Okay; let's go to the next, the
 15 last two pages of your notes.
 16 [redacted] Okay.
 17 [redacted] So this is, as I understand it,
 18 this would be October 28th, 2016.
 19 [redacted] Correct.
 20 [redacted] And so, looks like we only have
 21 one color of ink. So I'll let you interpret what that
 22 means.
 23 [redacted] Your guess is as good as mine. I,
 24 this is -- no, I, because it says lead --
 25 [redacted] Yes.

1 [redacted] -- this is clearly Devlin telling me
 2 and [redacted] here is what I think, this is, this is what the
 3 story is going to look like. And so I think this is me.
 4 sort of taking those, those notes.
 5 [redacted] And so you see I highlighted --
 6 well, first, there's some notations in the margin that are
 7 highlighted. Can you tell us what that says and what
 8 notes that, those, what specific notes those apply to?
 9 [redacted] What notes it applies to?
 10 [redacted] Well what --
 11 [redacted] Oh --
 12 [redacted] What --
 13 [redacted] I think this is just an aside that he
 14 agrees to take out --
 15 [redacted] So that first --
 16 [redacted] Mr. McCabe's, I think --
 17 [redacted] It says take out --
 18 [redacted] Take out Mr. McCabe's role.
 19 [redacted] Role, okay.
 20 [redacted] On easy with the investigation. I'm
 21 not sure what that means, on easy. I think that's what
 22 that says. I, I think all of this is receive mode.
 23 [redacted] Okay.
 24 [redacted] So that's, my guess is that I kind of
 25 put that on, on an aside. Like, my guess is, again, I'm

1 very much speculating. But [redacted] you know, it's
 2 [redacted] job to sort of manage the, like, what's, how it's
 3 going to be referenced. You know, can you include this?
 4 Can you exclude that? Kind of, that's sort of the OPA,
 5 how stories get made.
 6 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 7 [redacted] Sausage making.
 8 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 9 [redacted] So maybe that's [redacted] saying that.
 10 I'm not, I'm not really positive. But, I don't think this
 11 is, has anything to do with me, at least.
 12 [redacted] Do you have any idea what it
 13 means, take out Mr. McCabe's role? What does the role
 14 refer to? Any sense?
 15 [redacted] Can I just look at my notes for a
 16 second? No, I'm not really sure.
 17 [redacted] What about the notes in the margin
 18 that I highlighted below that? What is, can you make out
 19 what that says and what that --
 20 [redacted] So, so this is, this is definitely
 21 Barrett, because I remember this, this, I think it's in
 22 the story, which is why I remember it. For agents already
 23 concerned, comma, uneasy with Mr. McCabe's -- oh. Maybe
 24 that goes up to --
 25 [redacted] Okay.

1 [redacted] -- there. Maybe that, that's what
 2 that little arrow is.
 3 [redacted] Okay.
 4 [redacted] Well, that doesn't really follow. In
 5 August -- oh, that's, that's the senior DOJ. Sorry.
 6 Sorry. So back to, for agents already concerned, comma,
 7 uneasy with Mr. McCabe's role. Oh, I see role is actually
 8 down there in the paren at the bottom there.
 9 [redacted] So his role meaning his oversight,
 10 perhaps?
 11 [redacted] Oh, yeah. Oh, that's probably right,
 12 yeah.
 13 [redacted] Okay. And so the, the line that I
 14 highlighted in the notes for you, the, and as I interpret
 15 it, I think it says, the notes there say in August, senior
 16 DOJ official calls Mick (phonetic sp.) for McCabe.
 17 Unhappy to hear that agents in New York are still pursuing
 18 the, the CF probe. Is that right? Is that, is that what
 19 that says?
 20 [redacted] Yes.
 21 [redacted] And does CF refer to --
 22 [redacted] Clinton Foundation, yes.
 23 [redacted] Is that a common way that it's
 24 referred?
 25 [redacted] Yes.

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) In the FBI?
 2 [redacted] have no idea in the FBI, but in my
 3 notes.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Okay. And so, by virtue of
 5 the fact that this notation is in, on the, on, in your
 6 notes on October 28th, does that mean you probably
 7 provided this information to Mr. Barrett before October
 8 28th?
 9 [redacted] That's a good point. Yeah, possibly.
 10 Huh.
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Which would be consistent with the
 12 notation up above.
 13 [redacted] That's totally fair. Again, I'm just
 14 guessing that --
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.
 16 [redacted] -- that's what that notation above
 17 means. That's a really good point. I, I am not sure.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you recall more than two calls
 19 with Mr. --
 20 [redacted] No.
 21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- Barrett.
 22 [redacted] I do not. And then I gave to your
 23 colleagues, but obviously I have these couple of e-mails,
 24 which these reflect the two calls that I recall having
 25 with [redacted] and Mr. Barrett.

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And was [redacted] present for the
 2 entirety of both of those calls?
 3 [redacted] Yes.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And can you tell us how long each of
 5 those calls lasted? Do you remember?
 6 [redacted] I'm guessing maybe 30 minutes to 60
 7 minutes. I'm sort of speculating, but an hour at the
 8 most.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So just one, two questions on the
 11 notes in format, again. On --
 12 [redacted] God. I'm sorry.
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So, in the beginning of the
 14 Exhibit 6.
 15 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Page 1 of your notes, there's a
 17 big, blank space.
 18 [redacted] Yes.
 19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Why is that?
 20 [redacted] That's because I have notes there
 21 that are not at all relevant to the inquiry from which
 22 Inspection Division asked me to produce notes.
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. ♪
 24 [redacted] So I redacted them. The way I take
 25 notes is a single day has a running set of everything that

1 happens with different readings separated by sort of two
 2 spaces usually. So, whatever happened in the morning on,
 3 on 10/27 was not relevant to the, to what Inspection
 4 Division was looking at.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Was it relevant at all to the Wall
 6 Street Journal article?
 7 [redacted] No.
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And that being the October
 9 30th article.
 10 [redacted] No. Yes.
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) What about --
 12 [redacted] If, if it was, I would have produced
 13 it.
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. What about at the end of
 15 Exhibit 6? Similar question. There's a big blank.
 16 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Actually, it's farther down, blank
 18 at the end of this. Last page.
 19 [redacted] Oh, I see. Yes.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So this is the end of October
 21 28th, 2016. Was that redacted too?
 22 [redacted] Yes.
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did it relate at all to the Wall
 24 Street Journal article?
 25 [redacted] No.

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. I'm going to circle back
 2 now, unless you want to have a couple additional things.
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well, I was just wanting to make
 4 sure that I had it right in my head what the timeline is
 5 here. So the article is published on the 23rd in the Wall
 6 Street Journal.
 7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) 30th.
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh, no, no. The first one.
 9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay, sorry. Sorry.
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) The first one.
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And then at some point subsequent to
 13 that, you have a conversation with Mr. McCabe where he
 14 says I want you to work with [redacted] on a follow-up
 15 article.
 16 [redacted] Yes.
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And then after that, you meet
 18 with [redacted]?
 19 [redacted] I'm sure that I did, yes.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. In advance of actually
 21 getting on the phone with the reporter?
 22 [redacted] It might be immediately in advance
 23 of.
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 25 [redacted] So I don't know whether, I don't

1 recall when I had the conversation with Andy, so I don't
2 recall whether following that conversation I had, I guess
3 I probably had some, if nothing else, a logistical sort of
4 planning with, with [REDACTED] But I'm sure before the,
5 the back-and-forth with -- I'm sorry, before the
6 engagement with Devlin Barrett [REDACTED] and I would have had
7 some amount of conversation. But I don't remember if that
8 happens that, you know, early in the week or whether we
9 sit down before we make the phone call.

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And can you remember the details of
11 that conversation?

12 [REDACTED] No. I mean if, I -- only because
13 I've now done this with [REDACTED] I suspect [REDACTED] would sort of
14 just be giving, like, hey, we're going to have this, we're
15 going to talk to him. It will be on background. Like, I
16 think [REDACTED] would have just sort of set sort of general
17 ground rules. And if [REDACTED] already knew substantive
18 information [REDACTED] may have communicated it. But I don't
19 have any specific recollection.

20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And when you get on the call
21 with Mr. Barrett.

22 [REDACTED] Um-hmm. Yes.

23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And then after that, you have a
24 follow-up conversation with Mr. McCabe?

25 [REDACTED] I believe so.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

2 [REDACTED] Again, this is, as I think I've
3 explained, that's my speculation purely because I'm trying
4 to figure out what my notes mean and why the colors
5 change. So my best guess is that I have a conversation
6 with Andy. And I expect that I would. I mean I, I have
7 no reason to believe that I didn't, I guess would probably
8 be the best way to say that. I don't have a precise
9 recollection, but, that would totally have been my, my
10 normal practice, and he would have been interested to know
11 what he had said. So I'm sure that I did. And I think
12 maybe that the notes after the line, as I've described,
13 the red line on the first set of notes, maybe reflects
14 that. But I'm really not positive.

15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And then, do you remember if
16 [REDACTED] was a participant in the conversation you had
17 with Mr. McCabe?

18 [REDACTED] I don't remember. I would think not,
19 but I don't remember.

20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. And then there was another
21 phone call with --

22 [REDACTED] Can we just, can I have a couple
23 minutes just to share something?

24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sure.

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (*Indiscernible 54:06.)

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -3
b7C -3

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm, yeah.

2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay, yeah. You can use those
3 too.

4 [REDACTED] Okay.

5 [REDACTED] Okay. (*Indiscernible 54:13.)

6 [REDACTED] Yeah, it's possible.

7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) If that helps. I'm just, I'm just

8 trying to --

9 [REDACTED] I don't, I don't have any precise
10 recollection, so.

11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah.

12 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So is that, you are showing her
13 texts that --

14 [REDACTED] Yeah.

15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- may reflect she was in a
16 meeting with all three of them?

17 [REDACTED] Yes.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. On October 25th?

19 [REDACTED] Right.

20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

21 [REDACTED] So that seems like it would have been
22 in, that's in advance maybe setting this sort of, Devlin
23 has this story, He's going to run this, whatever. But I,
24 I don't have any precise recollection. That is just
25 speculating.

b6 -2,3
b7C -2,3

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -3
b7C -3

b6 -3
b7C -3

b6 -3
b7C -3

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you recall on the exact, do you
2 recall the date that Mr. McCabe said, hey, [REDACTED] I need
3 you to work with [REDACTED] to go on background on this story.

4 [REDACTED] No, I do not.

5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Were any talking points prepared --

6 [REDACTED] Can I --

7 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Go ahead.

8 [REDACTED] That, no, that no talking points were
9 prepared. The other thing I would just note on that,
10 while it's entirely possible that is Foundation-related,
11 it also just might be [REDACTED] coming in to talk about some
12 other thing in the news. Right? That's --

13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yeah.

14 [REDACTED] And just to sort of be clear because
15 I don't have a precise recollection of that meeting.

16 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. I mean are, were there other
17 times as sort of your regular duties that you met with
18 McCabe and [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED] Absolutely.

20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Oh, okay.

21 [REDACTED] Yeah.

22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Because I sort of got the feeling
23 from your, from what I've read previously that this was
24 the very first time that substantively you were tasked
25 with working with [REDACTED] on a story for a reporter.

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [redacted] That's correct. But it was totally
 2 common, if I was in Andy's office, and [redacted] was coming
 3 in to convey such-and-such is in the news. Here's an
 4 article I want you to read. This news outlet just called
 5 me about X topic. I would, I would be present for lots of
 6 conversations like that. I had never personally engaged
 7 with a reporter on background before this engagement.
 8 But, simply being present in a meeting with Andy and [redacted]
 9 [redacted] was, is totally commonplace.
 10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did you schedule the call with
 12 Devlin Barrett?
 13 [redacted] No.
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) That would be [redacted] role?
 15 [redacted] I have no idea how to get in touch
 16 with Devlin Barrett.
 17 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Would, were you, were you and [redacted]
 18 [redacted] equally engaged during the calls? How did that
 19 flow work?
 20 [redacted] No. I was mostly engaged because it
 21 was a communication of substantive information back and
 22 forth. So, [redacted] might interject at moments, but I would,
 23 I would say that I was most engaged of the two of us.
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And going back to the article,
 25 October 30th article, Exhibit 4 in your statement, the

1 I don't recall any election timing being a part of the
 2 conversation between Axelrod and Andy on the August 12th
 3 call.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So on that, on the call, the
 5 particulars of it, you, you aren't present from the call,
 6 as I understand it.
 7 [redacted]: I actually don't recall. I think my
 8 Inspection lays out three possibilities, which is, I'm
 9 sorry. I don't think that I was. But I don't have a
 10 precise recollection of, because it's possible -- I should
 11 take this back. I was not on the call. That's probably I
 12 think what you're asking. So, I was not one of the three,
 13 hello [redacted] was on this call participants. But it is
 14 possible, although I'm just not sure that I was present in
 15 the room in real-time when the call is happening. I don't
 16 think that's true. But that has certainly happened a
 17 number of times with me and Andy where he gets a, a sort
 18 of unscheduled phone call, and I would simply stay for the
 19 pendency of the call, and then we would finish whatever we
 20 were doing.
 21 So, but I do recall in relatively close time
 22 simply because this -- well, go ahead.
 23 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Well, you can finish your thought.
 24 [redacted] This is not a, Axelrod, this would
 25 not be surprising to people who worked with Matt Axelrod

1 highlighted portions that the Inspection Division
 2 highlighted for you, this would be the second paragraph.
 3 [redacted] Um-hmm.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you recall telling Mr. McCabe
 5 that you informed Devlin Barrett that the Justice
 6 Department official was very pissed off?
 7 [redacted] No, I don't, I don't recall what I
 8 said back to Andy, I think you're probably going to ask me
 9 whether I had done that. And I don't, I don't recall that
 10 I went back and said, hey, I told them about whatever. I
 11 imagine I, broadly speaking, described the conversation.
 12 I think that's normally what I would have done. I don't
 13 have a specific recollection. Can I just flag one thing?
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Yes, please.
 15 [redacted] I guess it's obvious, but I guess
 16 I'll just be clear. That second line in the second
 17 paragraph.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Um-hmm.
 19 [redacted] Others said, that's not me. I
 20 presume that's Matt Axelrod. Others said the Justice
 21 Department was simply trying to make sure FBI agents were
 22 following long-standing policy not to make overt
 23 investigative moves that could be seen as trying to
 24 influence election. That's analogous to the answer I gave
 25 with respect to the first line of the first paragraph that

1 that he would call in a fury and flustered and mad and,
 2 you know, blustery about something happening. That's a
 3 pretty common Axelrod reaction. So, him communicating
 4 that to me was not because -- Andy communicating that to
 5 me would not have been necessarily out of a, like, you
 6 know, substantive need for me to know, but more out of a,
 7 oh, I got a, you know, angry phone call from Matt today,
 8 and sort of more in a, there's not a lot of people
 9 obviously that he can share that type of detail with
 10 because he wouldn't want to affect the relationship
 11 between his other executives and the, the PADAG at the
 12 Department. And so that's the type of thing that he might
 13 share with me.
 14 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) When you say PADAG, you're
 15 referring to the Principal Deputy --
 16 [redacted] Principal Associate Deputy Attorney
 17 General, yes.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 19 [redacted]: Which was Matt Axelrod's role.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And so, as I understand what
 21 you're saying, is it fair to say that the call that
 22 happened on August 12th wasn't the first time Mr. McCabe
 23 had a call like that with Mr. Axelrod?
 24 [redacted] Not in substance.
 25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right.

1 [redacted] But one in which Matt Axelrod was
 2 calling over mad about something that the Bureau was
 3 doing yes.
 4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Let me ask you a question. You had
 6 said that the second sentence in this middle paragraph --
 7 [redacted] Yes.
 8 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) -- others said the Justice Deputy
 9 Director was simply trying to make sure that FBI agents
 10 were following long-standing policy. You had said that
 11 you presumed that Matt Axelrod was the source for that.
 12 Did Devlin Barrett tell you he was talking to Matt Axelrod
 13 for this?
 14 [redacted] No, he did not.
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Then why do you presume that he was
 16 the source for that?
 17 [redacted] Because he has the most at stake in
 18 this back-and-forth statement. And I don't know, if it's
 19 not Matt, it's somebody -- I guess I should -- at the
 20 Justice Department who has spoken to Matt because they are
 21 the only two people on the conversation on August 12th.
 22 So, there would not be another person who is, has, is
 23 privy to this information.
 24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. I was just wondering if Mr.
 25 Barrett had said to you, you know, I was told blah, blah,

1 [redacted] I have a pretty good memory.
 2 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So you're relying on your memory?
 3 [redacted] Again, I don't recall whether Andy
 4 and I re-discussed the substance of the call when he
 5 reminded me of it. It's possible that we did. I just
 6 don't remember. But either way, I remember the substance
 7 of the conversation being in the context of FBI agents,
 8 you know [redacted]
 9 [redacted] And so when that
 10 got back to Axelrod, he was pissed, as it says in here,
 11 because he believed that the investigation was essentially
 12 to be, you know, made dormant. And that's not ever the
 13 sort of communication that we had had with respect to
 14 Clinton Foundation as, as my, my prior statement says.
 15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Prior statement or OIG interview?
 16 [redacted] I'm sorry. My OIG -- thank you.
 17 Sorry. Right.
 18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) On September 7th?
 19 [redacted] Yes, my OIG interview says there was
 20 a meeting early on, I don't remember when, in which
 21 [redacted]
 22 [redacted] And so, my guess is that
 23 Axelrod was under the impression that that meant that it
 24 was dead. This is just my speculation. When, in fact,

1 blah.
 2 [redacted] Oh.
 3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) To elicit a response from you.
 4 [redacted] Oh, yes. I think that's reflected in
 5 my notes. He did say I was told that that engagement is
 6 simply, you know, a concern about the election season.
 7 And my response back would have been that's not what was
 8 said on the call. I think that's a convenient explanation
 9 being generated after the fact. But that's not what
 10 happened at the time.
 11 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.
 12 [redacted] Yes, he did.
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) When you said Mr. Axelrod has the
 14 most at stake, what did you mean by, what does that mean
 15 at stake?
 16 [redacted] Well, this is not a particularly
 17 positive reflection of Mr. Axelrod. So I would imagine
 18 that he would want to provide a response which puts him in
 19 a better light.
 20 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) But how did, with the call, the
 21 August 12th call, how did you ensure, other than the, the
 22 notation in your notes, in Exhibit 6, Friday, August 12th
 23 with Axelrod, how did you ensure the details you were
 24 providing regarding the details you were providing
 25 regarding the details of that call were accurate?

1 the communication back from Andy to Randy Coleman and
 2 therefore to the team was I'm not going to fight for DOJ
 3 resources this time.
 4 [redacted]
 5 [redacted]
 6 [redacted]
 7 [redacted]
 8 [redacted] And
 9 so, you know, in fairness to, to Mr. Axelrod, my, my guess
 10 is that he thought [redacted]
 11 [redacted] that maybe the
 12 case was dead when in fact it was not.
 13 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Let me ask you a question about when
 14 media coverage for the Clinton Foundation more broadly.
 15 I'm wondering if you know whether or not this October 30th
 16 article was the first time that, that that, that the
 17 existence of that investigation was confirmed in any way
 18 by the FBI.
 19 [redacted] I have no idea. I'm sorry. I
 20 haven't otherwise followed -- excuse me -- followed news
 21 reporting with respect to the Clinton Foundation.
 22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Do you remember having any
 23 conversations with [redacted] about whether that had been
 24 revealed yet or not?

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 [] I don't remember having conversations
2 about it.

b6 -2
b7C -2

3 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Or the need to prevent there from
4 being any kind of implicit FBI acknowledgment about an
5 ongoing investigation?

6 [] I don't remember having a
7 conversation about it. I -- no, I don't remember having a
8 conversation about that.

9 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

b6 -2
b7C -2

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did Mr. McCabe ever tell you not
11 to discuss something with the reporter?

12 [] Not to my recollection. But I don't,
13 again, I don't remember having a deeply substantive
14 conversation with him about what I would and wouldn't say.
15 I think he just sort of knew I had a general knowledge of
16 the facts. So, I don't, I don't recall a substantive
17 back-and-forth with him about it.

18 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) And again, there was no written e-
19 mail, hey, Andy or Mr. McCabe, this is what I intend to
20 say?

b6 -2
b7C -2

21 [] No.

b6 -2
b7C -2

22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) What about []? Did you,
23 did [] ever tell you not to discuss something?

b6 -2
b7C -2

24 [] Not to my recollection, no.

25 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Was Mr. Comey aware of the

b6 -2
b7C -2

1 decision to call the Wall Street Journal reporter in
2 advance of the first call?

3 [] I don't know.

b6 -2
b7C -2

4 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) How about Jim Rybicki?

5 [] I don't know.

b6 -2
b7C -2

6 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Anyone other than Mr. McCabe or
7 []? Do you know if any other FBI official knew of
8 these calls in advance?

b6 -2
b7C -2

9 [] I don't know.

10 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did Mr. McCabe confer with the New
11 York Assistant Director in Charge in advance of the call
12 saying, hey, I'm going to talk about the Clinton
13 Foundation investigation?

b6 -2
b7C -2

14 [] I don't know. I doubt it.

15 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) So no notification that you're
16 aware of?

b6 -2
b7C -2

17 [] There wouldn't need to be one, so I,
18 I just don't know. So.

19 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay.

b6 -3
b7C -3

20 [] Do you mind if I just talk to her
21 for a minute?

22 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Sure.

b6 -3
b7C -3

23 [] Okay, okay.

24 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Let's stop for one second.

b6 -3
b7C -3

25 [] Yes.

1 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Right around 1:30.

2 [] Thanks.

b6 -3
b7C -3

3 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off
4 the record and back on the record.)

5 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Okay. Back on the record after a
6 short break. It is around 1:37. So I just want to be,
7 have a clear understanding. Before, either before any
8 engagement with Mr. Barrett or after the first call when
9 you were in receive mode and understood what his story was
10 intending to, to discuss, what was the, what was the FBI's

11 goal or Deputy Director McCabe's goal in having you and
12 [] speak to the reporter? What, what did the,
13 what was the Deputy Director trying to accomplish?

b6 -2
b7C -2

14 [] Well, I think he was, for lack of a
15 better expression, trying to thread the needle, right? I

b6 -2
b7C -2

16 think he, I think we understood that there was, you know,
17 obviously there was a claim that he's trying to kill a
18 valid investigation for presumably inappropriate, improper
19 reasons. And so part of it is to insure, you know, the
20 American public that, like, that doesn't happen at the
21 FBI; and that this is a validly predicated investigation;
22 and if the agents believe there are necessary
23 investigative steps, then they should take those, those
24 steps.

25 At the same time, trying to be responsive, or

1 for lack of a better term, to the Department's view that
2 they were not interested. You know, that whatever
3 predicated sort of level they had, we, you know, there's,
4 there's, there's predication somewhere between what the
5 FBI needs to investigate and what the Department needs
6 to sort of prosecute or, you know, support that
7 investigation.

8 And so, you know, we were in this sort of gap.

9 And so, he wasn't, um, he was respectful of the fact that,
10 like, it is the Department's prerogative to say that they
11 don't think that there was sufficient evidence for the
12 Department to sort of continue, or to support the
13 investigation. But that alone is not a reason for the FBI
14 not to continue taking investigative steps that are within
15 its, you know, rules, or whatever.

16 And so, I think the goal was to essentially
17 communicate that. That, like, investigations don't get
18 shut down for improper reasons. And this investigation
19 was in fact not shut down or stood down, you know, to sort
20 of use the terminology that the reporter used.

21 Per OIG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Did you understand from anything
22 that Mr. McCabe said to you that he was under pressure
23 from others within your office, even the Director or, you
24 know, anyone else, to convey that message; you know, we
25 need someone to get out there and say, we just don't do